

Thomas Dudley was not behind his times. He was older than most of the pilgrims, but not more benighted or old fashioned.

He never condemned a witch. He would have left that business with Satan. It was a time of more ignorance here when the Salem witches were discovered and hung in old Gov. Phipps' administration. The Puritans had then degenerated a little since the first settlement. Their blood was growing cold and poor in this dry climate. It needed doctoring by such men as Dr. Franklin, Dr. Warren, and Dr. Channing.

I have studied Gov. Dudley's character and principles. They were shown by him in many difficult cases where he sometimes stood almost alone in some enlightened and correct actions. For instance, when he insisted upon having the national flag displayed at the time Gov. Endicott had cut out the cross, and refused to display it upon the castle; and again when the Court of Assistants refused to give any apology or satisfaction to Plymouth for the murder of Hocking at Casco.

I cannot think he would have allowed Margaret Jones to be hung as a witch, as Winthrop did in 1648, when he was Governor; or as Gov. Endicott did in 1656, when Mrs. Ann Hibbins was executed. He never inflicted quite so inhuman a punishment when he was Governor, as cutting off the ears of Quakers or hanging them, which were done a few years after Dudley's death. The noble training of his youth would have saved him from such unfortunate proceedings.

Though the Colonial Governors did not have the power to veto acts of The General Court, or judicial decisions, yet they might refuse, or neglect to order executions, or they might reprieve culprits and postpone the punishment, as Gov. Andrew did in our own time.

Let us take a retrospect of the acts under Gov. Dudley's administration.

Thomas Dudley was chosen Governor, May 14, 1634, and took the oath of office in presence of the General Court. Now the "Freeman's Oath" was firmly established, binding the citizen to support the "government of this commonweal and to be true and faithful to the same, and to give his vote and suffrage, as he shall judge, in his own conscience, may best conduce to the public weal of the body, without respect of persons, or favor of any man."

It is now also agreed and enacted that "none but the General Court hath power to choose and admit Freemen. That none but the General Court hath power to make and establish laws, or elect and appoint officers, as Governor, Deputy Governor, Treasurer, Captains,