

The fact is many of the people wanted no more of St. George, or his rule here. They had long ruled themselves under the old charter of Winthrop, Endicott and Dudley, the pilgrims. The populace were prejudiced against the English religion, and some of the brightest politicians hated a foreign hierarchy. They understood their natural rights. We must not blame Gov. Joseph Dudley too much. He was more practical, and saw that the defence of the Provinces against other nations depended mostly upon Great Britain's protection. He realized that discretion was then better here than the impotent valor of a handful of Democrats, however right their principles might be. Gov. Dudley was understood and approved by many of the best and truest friends of liberty. Among them were Mr. Brattle, Dr. Coleman, and Mr. Leverett, President of Harvard College, son of the pilgrim, Gov. Leverett. Gov. D. was in great favor also in New Hampshire, where the people were ever an independent and freedom-loving race.

But his enemies tried to stir up the wrath of the people against him all they could. They got up a false accusation, that he was secretly encouraging an illicit trade with the French possessions in North America, although there was not the slightest foundation for such a libel. He had been active and energetic in all his doings to protect the provinces as far as his jurisdiction extended. He had inspected all the Eastern frontiers as far as Pemaquid, having with him members of the Mass. General Court. He had visited and tried to keep the good will of the Indian tribes and make them keep the former treaties.

England had, under Queen Anne, declared war against France, involving these provinces in a French and Indian war. He had in 1703, conferred with the Indian chiefs, as before recounted, when they assured him they thought not of breaking the peace which "should continue as long as the sun and moon." Yet, in a few weeks after, they had attacked all the settlements from Casco to Wells, burning and pillaging as they went.

All through those struggles, Gov. D., lost no opportunity to strike them and protect the inhabitants.

Here is one of his letters to Winthrop Hilton of New Hampshire, the great Indian warrior, who, at last, in 1710, fell by the hands of the red rangers :

" BOSTON, 8 Jan. 1704.

SIR :—I am not willing to pass the winter without a march to the Indian headquarters. I have 200 men with you already. I will take