

wire-pulling was preferable to this praying at a candidate, however good Mr. Higginson might have been.\*

\* Now here it needs to be noted that the Mathers, especially Cotton Mather was an old coadjutor of Judge Sewall in the persecution of the witches at Salem. The Judge condemned them, or at least, sat in judgment against them and was backed up by Mather. Between Sewall and the guilt of shedding innocent blood, stood Cotton Mather's gospel.

This is a critical position for the Judge. The meddling, stinging minister must be treated tenderly; else he will not help bear the horrid burden. Christian sympathy is growing scarce for such a burden as this, and it will not do to lose it. Such was doubtless the reflection of Sewall.

The diary continues.—At this time, I said I desired the Governor's patience to speak a word. I said I had been concerned about the vote, passed Nov. 1. "At the Conference, Your Excellency was pleased to say, that every one of the Council remained steady to his vote, and every word of it. This screwing the strings of your lute to that height has broken one of them, and I find myself under a necessity of withdrawing my vote. And I do withdraw it."

That was precisely what he tried to do with the hanging of the witches. He tried to withdraw it, but was *too late* for a full effect, except to save his own soul, as he hoped. "The Governor often says that if anybody would deal plainly with him he would kiss him; but I received many a bite, many a hard word from him."

Gov. Dudley wrote Hilton about this time:

"SIR:—You surprise me to send your warrants, for money due out of your Treasury, to me. You must solicit it at home where it is due. I desire you to keep out your scouts at the lake and elsewhere to discover the Enemy at a distance; and wherever they light, it will be but at one place, while so many French are with them, and therefore, I desire you, with the best half of Hampton and Exeter and Portsmouth, to follow and oppose them and immediately to send to Kingston, Exeter, Cocheco and Nechawanock to desire them to come into your assistance—horse and foot. The gentlemen of the Council write me they are getting provision. You must have flesh and bread to follow them. I pray you, sir, to shew yourself in this occavent. I suppose Lt. Gov. Usher will be soon with you, upon whom you will wait and shew him what I write.

I am, sir, your affectionate uncle,

J. DUDLEY.

Your bill is again inclosed.  
16 Aug., 1708."

BOSTON, 26, Sept. 1708.

EVENING.

SIR:—The Enemy, now at Haveril, certainly past on you back from Casco Bay, and must return again that way. Give orders everywhere to have your people well guarded and take what men you can rayse to two Hundred and march into the woods to their passes and lye there a few days. Your servant,

Col. Hilton.

J. DUDLEY.

[*Superscription.*]

On Her Majesty's Especial Service.

To Col. Winthrop Hilton,

Exeter.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, SS.

HAMPTON, 20, Nov. 1708.

SIR:—I do hereby desire and direct you forthwith to give orders to your several Captains and other chief officers of the several companies, that they take especial care that all the snow shoes belonging to their several companies be repaired, or new provided, so as to be in readiness for the service by the tenth of December next, and that you strictly pursue the law in case of any neglect or failure herein, it being for her Majesty's especial service.

To Lt. Colonel Hilton,

Exete

Given under my hand,

J. DUDLEY.