

SKETCH OF NICHOLAS DUDLEY.

Nicholas Dudley (his autograph.)

NICHOLAS^d DUDLEY, son of Stephen,^s son of Rev. Samuel^e Dudley, was born August 27, 1694, at Exeter, N. H. He married Elizabeth Gordon of Exeter, daughter of Nicholas, who was born March, 1665-6. Mr. Gordon died 1748. Mr. Dudley had his share of his father's estate, and, to that, added considerably by shrewd bargains and good management.

He always maintained a good standing in the church and among the people.

By order of the Government, he fortified his house in Brentwood against the Indians, and kept it as a safe refuge for the neighbors in case of an attack upon the settlement.

He dealt considerably in real estate, and showed much careful prudence in obtaining good, clear titles. I have several of his original deeds, bonds, &c. One from his brother "True. Dudley, husbandman," dated 1726, conveys to him the twelfth part of a saw mill in Exeter, known by the name of "Deer Hill Mill." This deed is written very strongly, and is a warranty deed with all the legal technicalities. Capt. True. Dudley signs his large, clear autograph (see page 298), and Hannah Dudley, with Edward Colcord, are witnesses to it.

Another deed, from Nicholas Gordon, conveys to Nicholas Dudley one-eighth part of the Deer Hill Mill, in 1717. This deed is written by Mr. Gordon.

In 1713, his father, Stephen Dudley, gives him by deed, for love and affection, certain tracts of land, lying and being upon a place called Deer Hill Plain, this being the same that Stephen and his son Samuel bought of Jeremiah Connor; also another half of one-half part of the land said Stephen Dudley bought of Clement Moody, adjoining to Deer Hill Mill, being called part of said mill-grant, and together with all the privileges and appertenance thereunto belonging.

Here is another paper in the interest of Mr. Nicholas Dudley, a bond from Samuel of Brentwood, his eldest brother, who died in 1718: