

## LIFE OF GOVERNOR JOSEPH DUDLEY.

[Continued from page 196, No. II.]

MR. W. B. O. PEABODY, in his Life of Dr. Cotton Mather, among other similar things, says:—

“Gov. Joseph Dudley took early steps to release himself from the clergy, whom he treated with respect, while he steadily refused to consult them. This was not pleasant to the Mathers, who conceived themselves entitled to consideration, the father from his public, and the son from his personal services, and who were not prepared for the sudden change from unbounded respect and confidence, such as had been given them by Phips, the poor witch-hater, ‘to alienation and disregard.’

“The early years of his administration were full of trouble, arising partly from the unprosperous state of the country and partly from his collusion with some of the representatives of the people, who steadily opposed him in all his public designs. \* \* \* \* \* In 1707, at the death of Samuel Willard, President of Harvard College, if learning alone had been a sufficient qualification, Cotton Mather would have been selected to fill the vacancy; and he was so confident of receiving the appointment, that he observed days of fasting, after his usual manner, to solicit the divine direction. But Gov. Dudley prevailed on Judge Leverett, who was one of the Council, and, in every respect fitted for the trust, to accept the office, which he filled with usefulness and honor for many years. This disappointment was a signal to the Mathers that their influence was at an end, and they made no secret of their displeasure. While President Leverett was in the chair they seldom, if ever, attended the meetings of the Overseers. Cotton Mather was not honored with a place in the corporation; while he was compelled to see Dr. Colman and Mr. Brattle, men with whom he was not on friendly terms, members of the board, and holding the concerns of the institution in their own control.

“Though many, who admitted the attainments of Cotton Mather, were disappointed at his not receiving the charge of the College, the general sentiment approved the conduct of Gov. Dudley in