

Book II. tions. They formed an alliance with the Mohegans at
Ch. 2. the Narragansetts, and marched, with nearly all the force
A. D. they could raise, against the Pequod warriors. The colo-
1636. nists were commanded by John Mason, a man of military
Attack of the Pequods. experience, assisted by Captain Underhill, with twenty
 men from Massachusetts. The Indians were entrenched,
 in great numbers and considerable strength, upon a hill;
 and, feeling secure, had abandoned themselves to feasting
 and revelry. But in their fancied security, before day,
 when overcome with sleep, they were unexpectedly at-
 tacked, and their fort was fired. So successful was the
 assault, that six hundred of the Pequods perished, many
 of them by fire, while only two of the English were
 killed.

Their complete destruction.

As morning dawned, three hundred more Indians were
 seen to advance from another fort. But these were easily
 defeated. What could undisciplined savages, with only
 bows and arrows, do when opposed by Europeans, equipped
 with fire-arms? The scattered warriors of the great Pe-
 quod tribe retired to their forests and morasses, but they
 were pursued and hunted like wild beasts. Their wig-
 wams were burned, and every trace of their settlements
 destroyed. The few who survived surrendered in des-
 pair, and were either doomed to slavery, or incorporated
 with the Mohegans and Narragansetts.

Effect of the war.

The successful termination of this first Indian war
 struck terror into the hearts of the Red men, and secured
 a long interval of peace and prosperity. It was doubtless
 attended with severities which it is hard to reconcile with
 Christian magnanimity. Yet it can scarcely be doubted
 that a rigorous policy was wise, and peculiarly demanded
 by the circumstances of the times. Had not the Pequods
 been destroyed, it is probable that dangerous conspiracies
 and combinations would have been formed with other

jealous and hostile tribes, and a long contest ensued, Book II.
 which would have sapped the energies and damped the Ch. 2.
 ardour of the colonists. Results, at least, prove the wis- A. D.
 dom of the course, since no serious war again occurred 1637.
 for nearly forty years.

Charles I., engrossed by his troubles with Parliament, Prosperity of the colo-
 had not much leisure or inclination to interfere with the nists.
 affairs of the colonies; and Massachusetts silently ad-
 vanced, and had scope to organize its social institutions
 on a firm basis. The good people of the colony turned
 their attention to the establishment of a system of educa-
 tion, to the conversion of the Indians, to the settlement
 of controverted points of faith, and to the exclusion of
 offensive sectarians from their midst. This period is
 memorable, therefore, for the founding of Harvard Col-
 lege, for the labours of Eliot among the Indians, and
 for the Cambridge platform, which limited political power
 to church members alone, as well as established a theolo-
 gical creed which was essentially similar to that framed
 by the famous council of divines at Westminster.

Winthrop and Dudley, distinguished as governors of Death of
 the infant settlement, died within three years of each Win-
 other, and just before the ascendancy of Cromwell. Their throp.
 authority devolved on Endicott, who was re-elected to
 office, with the exception of a single term, for fourteen
 successive years. During his long administration, Mas-
 sachusetts had still greater scope for establishing the prin-
 ciples of self-government. Cromwell favoured the Puri-
 tan settlers, and allowed them to manage their own affairs.
 In the course of this period, the clergy exercised great
 authority, and took part in all the political discussions of
 the day. It was also during this period that those dis- Growth of the colony during the time of Crom-
 graceful persecutions of the Quakers commenced, which, to well.
 this day, have furnished a fruitful subject of reproach to

Book II. all who hate the principles and revile the memories of the
Ch. 2. Pilgrim Fathers. As a separate chapter will be devoted
A. D. to the history of religious persecutions and dissensions, no
 1640 further notice need now be taken of the crusade against
 to the followers of Fox—a crusade, however, in which they
 1660. alone did not embark, either in America or in England.

Progress
of the co-
lonies.

On the restoration of Charles II., in 1660, the spirit of Puritanism began to decline, in America as well as in the country which gave it birth. New ideas and new habits arose, not so favourable to religious growth or moral elevation of sentiment. With the decline of the primitive grandeur of the Puritan character, also passed away many of the asperities which unfortunately had marred its beauty. The people became more prosperous, from the absence of external dangers, from habits of industry and severe morality, and from unbounded scope in self-government. But prosperity, while it caused the wilderness to rejoice, and added to the resources, numbers, and wealth of the colony, dried up some of the springs of spiritual life, and unloosed some of the ties which had bound the hearts of all together in one harmonious bond of union.

Their
conflicts
with
royal go-
vernors.

Moreover, we now begin to observe the influence of commercial restrictions which the mother country imposed, and which were unfavourable to all interests but those of agriculture. Opposition to royal governors, and contests for freedom, also commenced, and were continued until the people were prepared for their great revolutionary struggle. But these will not here be traced, and allusion will only be made to those general events, not of sufficient importance for separate chapters, which took place until the accession of William and Mary to the throne of the Stuarts.

Charles II. was not proclaimed in Boston until 1661, when the colony sent Bradstreet and Norton to England

as agents to secure the favour of the monarch, and a con-
 tinuance of its privileges. The king confirmed the charter, and promised oblivion for all past offences; but demanded the toleration of the Church of England, the repeal of the law which confined the elective franchise to members of the Church, and, finally, the admission of all persons of honest lives to the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Though there was a strong party in favour of the royal demands, the majority was still inclined to support the theocratic system. An intermediate party had, however, grown up, which advocated moderate measures, among which were Bradstreet, Norton, and Increase Mather. This party had supported the "half-way covenant," by which the children of church members received the spiritual benefits of baptism, and the civil privileges of church membership.

In 1662, the colonies of Rhode Island and Connecticut obtained liberal charters from Charles II., which gave to the freemen the right of choosing their governors, magistrates, and representatives, with judicial and legislative authority. And it is a matter of surprise that such privileges should have been conceded by a prince of the house of Stuart. But the inconvenience of such independent governments had not then been experienced. In Rhode Island, the privileges of freemen were restricted to freeholders and their eldest sons. The qualifications required by the charter of Connecticut were, property to the amount of twenty pounds, and "civil, peaceable, and honest conversation." New Haven, at first, was unwilling to accede to the charter, inasmuch as it inclined, like Massachusetts, to a spiritual rather than a property qualification; but the fear of being absorbed in the colony of New York, and the judicious conduct of some of its prominent men, led to the consolidation of the colony in

Book II.

Ch. 2.

A. D.
1662.

The
half-way
cove-
nant.

Charters
granted
to Rhode
Island
and Con-
necticut.

Their
provi-
sions.

BOOK II. 1667, which then contained four counties — New Haven, Ch. 2. Hartford, Middlesex, and New London. Of the new A. D. consolidated colony of Connecticut, John Winthrop, a 1664. man of great experience and wisdom, was chosen governor, and held that post for fourteen years.

Royal commissioners sent to Massachusetts to inquire into its affairs.

In 1664, various complaints having been made in England against the colony, the king resolved to send out commissioners to examine into its affairs, and settle conflicting claims and interests. Massachusetts remonstrated against their appointment and powers, and its magistrates treated them in a manner which soon led to bitter altercations. The commissioners, unable to come to an understanding, proposed at length to sit in form. The General Court prohibited this procedure as contrary to the charter, and invasive of the liberties which it guaranteed. The commissioners, without a military force, were obliged to yield, but complained of ill-treatment, and threatened the king's displeasure. They moreover outraged the social habits of the people by convivial pleasures on Saturday evenings, which led to still greater mutual animosity. But they were sustained by the royal government, and Massachusetts was required to send five men to England, to answer for its conduct. The demand, of course, excited no little alarm. The General Court was convened, which voted to send an address to his Majesty, and made great professions of loyalty, but neglected to obey the royal command. As Charles, at this time, was hard pressed by domestic difficulties, the disobedience of the colony went for a while unnoticed and unpunished.

1675. King Philip's war.

And the colonists themselves were soon diverted from distant, to immediate and more pressing dangers. In 1675, the most disastrous and desperate contest with the aborigines which ever afflicted the Puritan settlers of New England, broke out; and the struggle was not ended until a

tenth of all the houses in the colony were burned, a million of dollars expended, and six hundred people had perished,—to say nothing of the still greater misfortunes which befell their savage enemies. This was the famous war against the Narragansetts, in which King Philip figured as the most intrepid of the Indian heroes. But this disastrous contest will be further presented in the chapter on Indian wars.

Soon after the termination of Indian hostilities, 1677, the province of Maine, which had been granted to Gorges and Mason, was purchased by Massachusetts for 1200*l.*, and added to its jurisdiction, which naturally drew the attention of the English government once more to the colony.

The English merchants and manufacturers made loud complaints of Massachusetts for its disregard of the laws of trade. The Committee on Plantations, to whom these complaints were referred, suggested "a governor wholly supported by his Majesty." Randolph, a kinsman of Mason, was sent over to Boston, 1680, with a commission as collector of the customs of New England, and he made a vigorous attempt to exercise his office, but the whole population was against him. Perplexed and involved in lawsuits, he returned to England; but soon came back with a royal letter which demanded the immediate appointment of agents empowered to consent to a modification of the charter.

The colonists dared not disobey a direct royal command, and proceeded to the appointment of agents; but authorized them, 1682, merely to lay certain concessions before the king. Charles threatened a writ of *quo warranto*, unless they were furnished with more ample powers. The General Court accordingly authorized its agents to make any concessions consistent with the charter. This of

Book II. course did not satisfy an arbitrary royal government, and
 Ch. 2. the writ was accordingly issued. The people refused to
 A. D. surrender the charter; but it was nevertheless declared to
 1684. be forfeited by the English courts of law, and the barrier
 fell, 1684, between the people of Massachusetts, and the
 will of the English King. Soon after Charles II. died,
 and was succeeded by James II., whose inflexible temper
 and tyrannical principles were fully known, and were soon
 verified by the appointment of a special commission for
 the government of the New England colonies. Against
 this government the General Court of Massachusetts pro-
 tested, while it obeyed its directions. But the rule of the
 royal commissioners was mild and conciliatory, in com-
 parison with that of the governor whom James soon after
 sent over to supersede them. This agent of royal tyranny
 was Sir Edmund Andros, who was empowered, with the
 consent of a board of councillors named by the king, to
 make ordinances for the colonies, and raise taxes for their
 support.

Dissatis-
 faction
 in the
 colony.

Andros
 govern-
 or of
 New
 Engl'nd.

The whole legislative and executive authority was now
 in the hands of persons appointed by the king, not merely
 in violation of the original charter of the colonies, but of
 the fundamental laws of England. Andros, on his arrival
 at Boston, caused the Episcopal service to be performed
 in the old South church; he abolished the General
 Court; he refused to permit the solemnization of mar-
 riage, except by clergymen of the Church of England; he
 increased the fees of all public officers; he attempted
 to take away the charters of Rhode Island and Connecti-
 cut, and abolished the regular governments of those pro-
 vinces; he prohibited town meetings for the election of
 town officers; he questioned the validity of titles, and issued
 new grants of property,—in short, he compelled the people
 to submit to grievous extortion and gross injustice.

His dis-
 graceful
 conduct.

At length, the smothered rage of the people broke
 forth. As soon as the tidings of the deposition of James
 II. reached Boston, a general insurrection of all classes
 took place. The governor and all obnoxious persons were
 seized, a committee of safety appointed, the old magis-
 trates were reinstated, and liberty was restored. The
 other colonies followed the example of Massachusetts.
 The charter of Connecticut reappeared from its conceal-
 ment in the old oak-tree. Rhode Island acted as if its
 own had never been relinquished. New Hampshire re-
 annexed itself to Massachusetts, and all things returned
 to the state they had been in prior to the death of
 Charles II.

William and Mary were proclaimed in Boston with the
 same enthusiasm that they were in Virginia; and consti-
 tutional liberty received a confirmation from the English
 Parliament—henceforth, in reality, the supreme power in
 England, as, heretofore, it had been in theory.

But the accession of William and Mary involved the
 English nation in wars, which also affected the condition
 and welfare of the colonies. Before the effect of these
 wars can be traced, as well as sundry other matters of
 importance, the settlement of other colonies demands our
 attention. We take leave of the New England settle-
 ments when their institutions were established upon a
 permanent basis, when the population had extended for
 more than one hundred miles into the interior, and when
 they began to claim, from their inherent importance, the
 attention of the English nation.

Book II.
 Ch. 2.
 A. D.
 1688.
 Insur-
 rection.

Liberty
 of New
 England
 respect-
 ed.

Prospe-
 rity of
 the colo-
 nies.