General Oglethorpe.

BOOK IV.

CHAPTER I.

DOMESTIC HISTORY UNTIL THE OLD FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR.

The history of the colonies during the reign of George I. and the first twelve years of George II. is not particularly eventful or important. Yet, during this period, the population and resources of the colonies rapidly increased, and a theatre was preparing for great developments of action and passion.

A. D. 1715.

War with the Yamassees.

In 1715, two years after the peace of Utrecht, which closed the second intercolonial war, South Carolina was reduced to the brink of ruin by an extensive conspiracy of the Indians. The Yamassees, a powerful tribe on the Savannah River, were the chief promoters of it. Encouraged by the Spaniards in Florida, who were jealous of the English settlements, they united with the Creeks and Cherokees, and inflicted, suddenly and unexpectedly, great barbarities upon the settlers of Pocotaligo and its vicinity, and advanced upon Charleston. A panic spread throughout the colony, for all the Indian tribes south of the Savannah River had united together to exterminate the civilized invaders. But Craven, the governor, by making extraordinary exertions, raised a considerable force, and

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advanced to meet the Indian warriors. A bloody battle was fought on the banks of the Salke-hachie, in which the savages were completely routed. But they were not driven out of the colony until four hundred of the inhabitants had lost their lives. Property to the amount of 100,000*l.* was destroyed.

Revolution in South Carolina.

The war with the Yamassees was followed by a domestic revolution. Since the people had defended themselves without the aid of England, they resolved henceforth to govern themselves and have no more to do with the proprietaries. Accordingly they elected a governor of their own—James Moore, and, without bloodshed, palatines, landgraves, and caciques, together with all those feudal institutions which the proprietaries had sought to revive, passed away for ever. The Carolinians sent an agent to England to defend their course, and obtained their end.

The old charter was abrogated, Carolina became a royal province, and Sir Francis Nicholson was sent out to govern it in 1721. The assembly which he called confirmed the late revolutionary proceedings, regulated the administration of justice, reduced official fees, and established a system of local electioneering.

Mississippi company.

About this time New Orleans was founded by the French, and that famous scheme for improving the French provinces was projected by John Law, which had so great an influence on the settlement of Louisiana. It was called the Mississippi Company, and was closely connected with the royal bank of which Law was the director, and had for its object the parcelling out of the Valley of the Mississippi among stock-jobbers and commercial gamblers, in order to raise money for the French government, deeply embarrassed by the extravagances of the court and the old wars of Louis XIV. It does not fall within the limits of this history to detail the acts and misrepresentations by

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which the Mississippi stock rose in value, and by which the debts of government were shifted from individuals to a company of its own formation. But during the height of the delusion which afterwards, when dispelled, brought such calamity on the commercial classes of France, the Valley of the Mississippi was visited by thousands of Frenchmen with a view of making their fortunes; for Louisiana was supposed to abound not merely in the precious metals, but in everything which constitutes a paradise on earth. On the downfall of Law and the bursting of his bubble, 1720, Louisiana was already planted, and French settlements extended, at intervals, nearly the whole length of the Mississippi. Although the French suffered frequent wars with various tribes of Indians, the population in 1740 was not far from ten thousand people, about a third of whom were negro slaves.

Failure of the scheme of Law.

1720. to 1740.

Bills of credit in the colonies.

One of the evils of this period was the depreciation of paper money. The colonies were poor. They had but little gold and silver. And yet they were obliged to raise large sums to defray the expenses of their numerous military expeditions. They could not make a forced loan without exciting clamour. They could not wait to collect taxes, for the enemy was at the door. They had to resort to bills of credit. These rapidly depreciated in value, since they could not be redeemed. In order to get rid of this calamity, public banks were instituted in nearly all the colonies, which gave a temporary impulse to trade, but ultimately increased the difficulties. No issues were large enough to satisfy the people. Every increase of paper led to a new issue, and every new issue raised the comparative value of the precious metals, and consequently led to a depreciation of paper money. In 1738, the New England currency was worth but one hundred for five hundred dollars; of South Carolina, one for eight; while in Lon-

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don the paper of North Carolina was worth but one for fourteen.

A. D. 1729.

English exactions.

England undertook to fix the value of colonial paper, which was practically impossible, and led to disputes and collisions. But this was not the only subject of contention. The royal officers claimed for the British navy all pine trees of the province of Maine which were fit for masts. The English government also forbade, 1725, the assembling of a synod of Congregational ministers in Massachusetts to establish points of discipline and faith. It attempted to enforce in Connecticut, 1728, the laws of primogeniture. It resolved to make the royal governors independent of all legislative influence by securing them permanent salaries. In Massachusetts the legislature was in the habit of voting yearly such a grant as the services of the governor seemed to require, which England affected to regard as an attempt to shake off an obedience to the crown. In all the provinces there were constant subjects of complaint and contention. Nor did Pennsylvania escape. Even in that colony, Logan wrote to the proprietary, "faction prevails among the people, whose constant cry is liberty and privileges." In Maryland, Lord Baltimore was insolently treated by some of the assemblies. The spirit of insubordination to royal authority was manifest for half a century before the great rebellion.

Duties on colonial produce.

There were contests not only for the enjoyment of greater liberty, but for the sake of commercial gain. Nothing irritated the colonies more than the duty imposed by Parliament, 1733, on molasses, rum, and sugar, which were brought from the French and Dutch West India Islands. And nothing was a more fruitful source of ill-feeling towards the colonies than the complaints of British merchants whenever the colonies engaged in any article of manufacture, however necessary. The whole object of

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British legislation with regard to America was to raise up a nation of customers for the merchants and manufacturers of the parent state. But this selfish policy need not here be further enlarged on.

A. D. 1728.

Bishop Berkeley.

The colonies about this period received a visit from one of the most distinguished of the English philosophers, Dr. Berkeley, afterwards Bishop of Cloyne. He conceived a plan of improving colonial education and converting the Indians, and with this view repaired to Rhode Island, 1728, to lay the foundation of a college; expecting a large grant from the British government, as George I. had approved his scheme, and directed Sir Robert Walpole, his prime minister, to recommend it to the notice of the House of Commons. The minister was not favourably inclined, and when George II. came to the throne he felt relieved from all obligation. Berkeley, disappointed in receiving aid, returned to England, leaving his library to Yale College and the people of Rhode Island.

1740. Jonathan Edwards.

But a greater philosopher than Berkeley soon after appeared in New England, whose influence on the American mind was more marked and permanent. This was Jonathan Edwards, the minister of Northampton, and a native of Massachusetts. His Treatise on the Will has placed him in the first ranks of metaphysical writers of any age or country. But it was not as a scholastic and religious metaphysician that his influence was most remarkable in his day, but rather as the leader of a great religious revival. George Whitefield was his illustrious coadjutor in this religious excitement, which has had no parallel in the religious history of the country, 1740.

1742. David Brainerd.

Chauncey and other eminent divines of the latitudinarian party opposed the movement as fanatical, but it was sustained by a great majority of the more earnest and religious. Among the fruits of this revival were new

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efforts to convert the Indians. David Brainerd, 1742, distinguished himself as a missionary among the Delawares; and even Jonathan Edwards himself, obliged to leave Northampton by reason of his unpopular attempts to enforce religious discipline, became a preacher to the Housatonic Indians at Stockbridge. It was here, in this lonely retirement, that the most able of his metaphysical treatises was written. At Lebanon, Connecticut, Eleazar Wheelock established an Indian missionary school, 1754 which was subsequently removed to Hanover, New Hampshire, and became Dartmouth College.

Foundation of Dartmouth College.

Columbia College.

Nearly contemporaneous with the foundation of this institution was the establishment of King's College in New York, now called Columbia, and of Nassau Hall at Princeton, 1748. Education in Pennsylvania at the same time received an impulse from Benjamin Franklin, then the editor of the first American periodical magazine, and the free academy which he projected finally settled into the University of Pennsylvania. In 1752, Franklin made those electrical discoveries which gave him a European reputation, and laid the foundation of his lasting fame; next to Washington, the most distinguished person born in America before the Revolutionary War, but already famous when Washington was a boy.

Settlement of Vermont

A little while before the "great awakening," a fortification was built on the Connecticut River, 1724, where Brattleborough now stands, the oldest English settlement in Vermont, years before it was merged into a state. Meanwhile, another colony which demands our attention, was struggling for existence on the banks of the Savannah.

CHAPTER II.

SETTLEMENT OF GEORGIA.

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The thirteenth and last of the colonies settled by the English in North America was Georgia. It owed its colonization, in part, to the jealousy of the English government of the Spaniards in Florida, and in part to the philanthropic efforts of Col. Oglethorpe to ameliorate the condition of poor debtors. A great part of the territories of South Carolina remained unoccupied, and that especially which had been the scene of Indian wars, between the Savannah and the Altamaha, and which formed the southern frontier, was peopled only by Indians. It seemed necessary for the security of South Carolina, as well as the general interests of Great Britain, that a settlement should be made in the southern part of the country before the Spaniards should attempt to annex it to Florida, or the French to Louisiana. But it was not easy to find men ready to embark their fortunes in the attempt to colonize a region peculiarly unhealthy, and exposed to hostilities from Indians, French, and Spaniards. Some motive more powerful than the love of gain was needed in this emergency.

Causes which led to colonization of Georgia.

General Oglethorpe.

Fortunately, the zeal of a few benevolent individuals, bent on removing a great social evil, accomplished what the desire for wealth could not. No colony ever was founded upon principles more completely philanthropic than the one designed by Oglethorpe. He, the descend-

ant of an ancient and honourable family, educated at Oxford, a military officer of rank and fame, a member of Parliament, and a man of great practical benevolence, had his attention particularly directed to the condition of those unfortunate persons who were immured in prison for small and trifling debts, which they, in their poverty, were unable to discharge. The foulness of jails and the cruelty of imprisonment were among the many social evils of the age. The sordid principles of commercial thrift outweighed the love of liberty and regard for the great rights of man. Decency, charity, and freedom were all forgotten by a nation devoted to commercial enterprise. The legislation of England seemed to be mainly directed to secure the rights of property. A trifling theft sentenced a needy beggar to the gallows. An inconsiderable debt was punished with a thraldom as vile as the bondage of the greatest culprit in our age. Misfortune in trade was more to be dreaded than exile and slavery, for it also brought social disgrace as bitter as the penalty which was expiated in a filthy dungeon. No pictures of misery can be more revolting than those which have been handed down to us of the interior economy of prisons in England in the eighteenth century.

Visits the prisons.

State of jails in the eighteenth century.

It so happened that the reverses of fortune consequent on the commercial gambling which prevailed in England during the South Sea mania, filled the jails with unfortunate prisoners. Many of them had enjoyed high social positions and envied wealth; were people of taste, culture, and intelligence, but doomed, alas, from the effect of national delusion—the hope of enormous gains for small investments, to blighted hope, mortified pride, and actual suffering. The great increase of prisoners multiplied the horrors of confinement. Moreover, the corrupting influence of imprisonment rapidly undermined all the moral

sentiments and corrupted those who before their imprisonment were pure.

Oglethorpe obtains a royal charter for Georgia.

The evil was so great that it was brought to the notice of Parliament, and James Edward Oglethorpe had the honour of being chairman of a committee of inquiry. He had already conceived the idea of transporting to America the unfortunate debtors, and proposed to the government to found a colony between Carolina and Florida for the objects of his benevolence. Parliament entered into his design, and granted him 10,000*l.* in aid of his object. Other benevolent individuals co-operated, and, when the plan was matured, applied to King George II. for a charter, which was readily granted, by which the territory between the Savannah and the Altamaha was erected into a royal province, under the name of Georgia, and was vested in twenty-one noblemen and gentlemen, of whom the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Percival, Lord Tyrconnel, and Colonel Oglethorpe, were the most distinguished. Lord Percival was chosen president of the corporation, and Oglethorpe volunteered to accompany the emigrants and exercise the functions of provincial governor.

Donations from benevolent individuals.

Large donations to the enterprise were obtained from public-spirited individuals throughout the kingdom, as well as from the House of Commons and the Bank of England, and preparations were actively made for the settlement of the colony, whose seal bore the device of a representation of silk-worms, with the motto "Non sibi sed aliis"—not for ourselves, but others; the emblem of disinterested benevolence. Moreover, the culture of silk was contemplated by the corporation, and considerable pains were taken to procure worms and mulberry trees, which, it was supposed, would flourish as well in Georgia as in Italy.

On the 6th of November, 1732, the first company of

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colonists, consisting of one hundred and sixteen persons, embarked under the command of Colonel Oglethorpe. They first landed in Charleston, where they were hospitably received by the people and the Legislature. The latter voted them a large supply of cattle and provisions, and the emigrants soon after departed for their new abode. They selected a high bluff on the Savannah for a settlement, which they called after the name of the river, and, having conciliated the favour of the Indians by presents and friendly intercourse, laid the foundation of a new State. The infant colony was soon after reinforced by new emigrants, and the benevolent governor returned to England to secure its defence and further welfare.

The first colonists of Georgia.

Code of laws.

By the code of laws which the trustees had adopted, fifty acres of land were allowed to every indentured servant, and to every emigrant sent out by the corporation. No grants of over five hundred acres of land were permitted to any individual. The use of rum was prohibited, as well as negro slavery. Women were not allowed to inherit land—an arrangement meant to prevent a plurality of allotments from subsequently falling into the possession of a single individual. In default of male heirs, estates were to revert to the trustees. The whole code showed but little common sense, and was difficult to be enforced; it evinced benevolent intentions, rather than enlarged views of human nature and happiness. It was peculiarly unpractical, and unfitted for the condition of an infant colony.

Immigrants to the new colony.

Oglethorpe was well received in England, and obtained benefactions from the king and parliament. He induced a company of Moravians to emigrate to his new colony, where so much was promised, and so little was realized. He also led thither another reinforcement of three hundred persons, 1736, among whom were John and Charles

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Wesley—young enthusiasts, who contemplated the conversion of the Indians, as well as the religious growth of the colony. But the age of religious enthusiasm had passed away. Mystic piety found no admirers in a colony of discharged debtors; and the great founder of Methodism, after an unhappy sojourn of two years, during which he was involved in constant controversy, unappreciated by the people and unsupported by the governor, melancholy, homesick, and suffering from ascetic duties, was glad to return to England. There, however, he succeeded in kindling a religious life among the middle and lower classes, and in establishing a discipline for the members of his association, which, for wisdom and effectiveness, has had no parallel in the history of religious legislation.

John and Charles Wesley.

Second emigration to Georgia.

In the second emigration, more regard was paid by the trustees to the physical strength and condition of those who embarked. One hundred and fifty Highlanders, soon after joined by others from the north of Scotland, gave energy and security to the colony, and proved among the most laborious and industrious of the people.

Difficulty with Carolina.

The regulation of the trustees respecting the suppression of all trade in rum, nearly produced a rupture between Georgia and Carolina. The Carolinians attempted to store a considerable quantity of this liquor at Augusta, a fortified post on the Savannah, for the purpose of trade with the Indians; but, as the vessels laden with it were passing Savannah, it was seized and destroyed. The act was, however, explained satisfactorily, and a mutual understanding between the colonies took place, which resulted in the agreement of the Carolinians not to smuggle strong liquors among the settlers in Georgia.

The people of Georgia were not long satisfied with the laws which the trustees had imposed. It was perceived

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that Carolina had greatly the advantage, both on account of a more liberal tenure of land, and of the use of negro slaves. They therefore demanded of the trustees the liberty to import negroes, without which they predicted the utter desertion of the colony. The Moravians and the Scotch Highlanders, however, strongly protested against the introduction of slavery; but all the complaints of the settlers were alike disregarded by the trustees.

Opposition to slavery.

Georgia threatened by the Spaniards.

Meanwhile, the injuries inflicted upon British commerce by the Spaniards, and the arrogant claims they put forth respecting Georgia, involved England in a war with Spain, in 1739; and effectual measures were adopted to secure the new province to the English crown. Oglethorpe was made a general, and commander-in-chief of the united forces of South Carolina and Georgia; while a regiment of six hundred troops was sent to the colony, together with a grant of twenty thousand pounds.

Spanish intrigues.

The Spaniards intrigued to raise a conspiracy among Oglethorpe's soldiers, and also to seduce the negro slaves, who now numbered, in South Carolina, forty thousand. Partial success attended these efforts, and five hundred negro fugitives reached Florida, and were formed into a regiment. But Bull, the governor of South Carolina, vigorously attacked them, and easily dispersed a body, unused to fire-arms, and abandoned to intoxication.

St. Augustine invested.

In the mean time, a regiment of troops was raised in Virginia, and North and South Carolina, to co-operate with Oglethorpe. It was resolved to commence offensive operations, and St. Augustine was invested with an army of two thousand men. The invasion was unsuccessful. The Spanish garrison was well defended, and, in addition, received a powerful reinforcement; while the colonial troops, enfeebled by the climate, by fatigue, and by

CHAPTER III.

THE THIRD INTERCOLONIAL WAR.

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War of the Austrian succession.

While the colonies were rapidly advancing in population and commercial importance, a new war broke out between England and France, and involved the colonies in fresh troubles. This war grew out of the question of the Austrian succession. On the death of the Emperor Charles VI., the male line of the house of Hapsburg became extinct. By the Pragmatic Sanction, the empire devolved on Maria Theresa, eldest daughter of the late emperor. The sovereigns of Spain, Saxony, and Bavaria, disputed the rights of the Austrian empress to this great inheritance, and presented rival claims. France interfered in the contest, and opposed the succession of Maria Theresa, from jealousy of her great power. The aid of England was invoked by the empress, and was granted, not so much from a regard for her rights, as from opposition to France. The subsidies of England to Austria irritated France, and provoked her to a declaration of war. All the powers of Europe were thus involved in the contest which grew out of the troubles of Maria Theresa—a contest which did not terminate until more than a million of lives had been sacrificed, and one hundred millions of pounds sterling had been expended by Great Britain.

Nor was the war confined to Europe, but extended to all the colonies of France, Spain, and England. In the East, the commercial companies of France and Eng-