

1866

Address delivered at the site of the Popham  
Colony: near the mouth of the Kennebec, in New  
England : before the Maine Historical Society, on  
the 28th August, 1863

George Folsom

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# ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

28TH AUGUST, 1863.

BY GEORGE FOLSOM.

To, Geo. H. Moore Esq.

Siberian Ry. Hist. Society,

with the respects of the Author.

Evian, Les-Bains, Haute Savoie,

Aug. 27, <sup>th</sup> 1888.

# ADDRESS

DELIVERED ON THE

SITE OF THE POPHAM COLONY,

NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE KENNEBEC,  
IN NEW ENGLAND,

BEFORE THE MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

ON THE 28TH AUGUST, 1863,

BY

GEORGE FOLSOM.  
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VENTNOR:

PRINTED BY FLETCHER MOOR,  
1866.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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A FEW words are sufficient to explain the printing of this address in England. It was delivered in the summer of 1863, by the invitation of the Historical Society of the State of Maine, and although the printing of it was called for by the Committee of the Society, it was withheld chiefly for the want of time and inclination to devote to its publication.

Taking advantage of the leisure afforded me by a quiet winter on this lovely Island, for the benefit of the health of one of my daughters, I now give it to the press, slight as is its value as a historial document; trusting that it may prove a source of trifling gratification to those interested in the subject.

G.F.

*Ventnor, Isle of Wight,  
March 6th, 1866.*

## ADDRESS.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Summer of 1863 is fast approaching its close, and will be soon numbered with the seasons that are past. The early flowers of June have shed their fragrance and lost their glowing beauty. Mid-summer has come and gone with its ripening sun and teeming fields, while the drowsy days and sultry heats of August drive us for refuge to the ocean breezes on some rock-bound coast.

At this inauspicious period in the progressive year, you have come down from your cultivated homes to this, at other times, bleak and deserted spot, where a little more than two centuries and a half ago old England planted its first colony in this part of the New World. You have come to commemorate the services of those pioneers of civilisation, who landed on these rugged shores, and commenced the work of plantation and settlement, alas, too soon to be abandoned.

You have all read the story of their adventures— for has not our friend, the orator of last year, laid before you, in his own felicitous language the details of the arrival and debarkation of Old Popham and

his companions upon this very spot, beneath this sunny sky, and on this very day of the month of August, in the year of our Lord, 1607, when the whole continent of North America north of Florida, did not contain a moiety of the number of white men assembled here to-day. I do not say *white women*, for not one then blessed all New England with her presence ! Was it strange that under such circumstances these desolate shores had a most forbidding aspect, and did not present attractions strong enough to these strangers to keep them here longer than a single winter. For had they not left all behind, were they not separated by the same old ocean that rolls before us to-day, for some thousands of miles, from all the comforts of an English home, cheered and illuminated by woman's influence and presence.

It is not strange then, I repeat, that thus situated with the dreary winter ocean interposed between them and their fair countrywomen, those early colonists soon wearied of the hardships of their solitary life, and abandoning the prospects of the future, resolved to return by the first ship to Old England, leaving the New to take care of itself.

But the great mistake that thus assisted in breaking up the Popham Colony was not committed by the Pilgrims or the Puritans in theirs ; and although they too suffered the hardships incident to a New England winter, their determination was not shaken for they had brought their families with them.



The history of American Colonisation is full of interest and importance. Confining our attention, however, to North America, and commencing with the discoveries of the Cabots in the reign of Henry VII. we come down quite a century to the times of James I. before a permanent English Colony is found on any part of this grand division of the globe. The Cabots themselves had plans of settlement connected with their second expedition, but the royal patent authorising and encouraging this project remained a dead letter, so far as is now known. Many long years elapsed before any attempt whatever was made by England to take advantage of the important discoveries of the Cabots in her service; nor was it before some time in the reign of Queen Elizabeth that public attention began to be directed towards projects of settlement and colonisation on the North American Continent. The well-known enterprises of Sir Humphrey Gilbert and of his step-brother, Sir Walter Raleigh, towards the end of that reign, seem first to have excited a spirit of maritime adventure in the mercantile community, but the want of success in their projects changed zeal into lukewarmness, and discouraged for some time any further enterprises to the American coast.

The services of Sir Walter Raleigh, although unsuccessful, and to some extent disastrous, led to a better knowledge of the maritime parts of Virginia and the Carolinas, than was before



possessed, and prepared the way for their early settlement. Indeed, within the short space of fifteen or twenty years from the date of Sir Walter's last Colony in North Carolina, a numerous, respectable, and wealthy company was raised in London and the west of England for establishing Colonies in North and South Virginia, that is, in New England and Virginia of the present day. A charter was granted by King James to this company, dated April 10th, 1606, by which it was divided into two portions, the one composed of "noblemen, gentlemen, and merchants in and about London," and the other of "knights, gentlemen, and merchants" in the west of England, as described in the charter.

The lands lying between thirty-four and thirty-eight degrees of north latitude were appropriated exclusively to the London Company, and those situated between forty-one and forty-five degrees of north latitude were granted to the western or Plymouth Company. The same year the London Company despatched an expedition to South Virginia, and established a colony at Jamestown in the spring of the following year, 1607; while the Plymouth Company, a few months later, sent out a band of colonists, about one hundred in number, under Capt. George Popham, who landed at this place, then called Sabino, and made preparations for a permanent settlement. Both colonies, the one at Jamestown, and the other at Sabino, were

founded in the same year; the former in the spring of 1607, and the other in the month of August following, in the same year.

The way had been prepared for the location of these colonies by several exploring voyages a few years previous, from which much information had been obtained, especially concerning the northern or New England coast. We are indebted to Samuel Purchas, a clergyman of the Church of England, who flourished early in the seventeenth century, for the preservation of original accounts of some of these voyages; but it is to be regretted that more were not contained in his great work, as he mentions having several in his possession, but forbore publishing them on account of fearing not to meet the tastes of his readers. The voyages of Captains Gosnold and Weymouth, the former in 1602 and the latter in 1605, fortunately were not omitted, and several others were preserved, which throw much light on the explorations of that period immediately preceding the settlement of the country.

Gosnold's voyage extended to the southern part of Massachusetts, and the names of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Elizabeth Island were derived from him. It was his intention to leave a small number of his party at some convenient point on the coast to form a settlement, but this plan was finally abandoned, after building a storehouse and fort, of which some remains have been seen of late

years on one of the Elizabeth Islands, by Dr. Belknap and others. But the principal object of Gosnold in this voyage was to attempt a shorter route to Virginia (where he had been in the service of Sir Walter Raleigh), than that usually taken by the Canaries and the West India Islands. He successfully accomplished this object by boldly striking across the ocean at a much higher latitude, thereby shortening the voyage by about fifteen hundred miles in distance, in which he was afterwards followed by other navigators. This was an important point gained by increasing the facility of intercourse between the two continents, and thus diminishing the formidable character of such enterprises.

The voyage of Capt. George Weymouth in 1605, under the patronage of two distinguished noblemen, the Earl of Southampton, the friend of Shakespeare, and Lord Arundel, of Wardor, was undertaken for the discovery of a north-west passage to the East Indies. In returning from the coast of Labrador, Weymouth is said to have entered the Penobscot river. Such has been the received account of his purpose and the discovery made in this voyage, but late writers who have closely investigated the matter, amongst whom I am happy to mention the Rev. Mr. Ballard, our indefatigable secretary, assert with great plausibility that this expedition was sent to explore the coast of New England, and ascended the Kennebec instead of the Penobscot.

But what added very much to the importance of this voyage was Weymouth's taking on his return to England several Indians from this coast, a part of whom, on his arrival at Plymouth, he committed to the care of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, then governor of the fort at that place, who was pleased to receive them into his family, where they remained during a period of three years. "This accident," says Gorges in his description of New England, "must be acknowledged the means, under God, of putting on foot, and giving life to all our plantations." He adds that he endeavoured to elicit from them as much information as possible respecting their native country, and that the longer he conversed with them, the better hope they gave him of those parts where they inhabited, as well fitted for the purposes of settlement, "especially when he found what goodly rivers, stately islands, and safe harbours those parts abounded with."

Thus was the attention of Sir Ferdinando Gorges first directed to the colonisation of the northern coast of the present United States, and especially of this State, of which he afterwards obtained a grant and was made Lord Proprietor under the Crown. For a period of more than forty years he was engaged in promoting the colonisation of New England, until, at last, he became involved in the civil wars, and sacrificed his life in the cause of his royal master.

The early history of Maine is indissolubly con-



nected with the career of Sir Ferdinando, and her sons have reason to thank Heaven that her political history can be traced to so honorable a source. It must be acknowledged that full justice has not been done to her early annals by American historians, especially by those who have undertaken to describe the origin of the New England States. It has been the lot of Maine to be thrown quite into the shade by this class of writers, whose talents and ingenuity have been uniformly applied to the exaltation of the original Puritan colonies, as if they alone deserved the credit of colonising the country and spreading the seeds of civilisation along its coasts. By this means Maine has fallen far behind her sister states in public estimation, and her most flourishing settlements, towns, and villages, have been involved in one general term of reproach, as situated a great way "down east," and as subsisting chiefly on fish, with a moderate allowance of *pork and molasses*! But I need not say to this audience that *down east* is as respectable as *down south*, at least in the present state of the country, and as to *pork and molasses*, although not a common dish in Maine, it is yet quite equal, under certain circumstances, to the *hog and homony* of other portions of the country.

The magnificent sea-coast of Maine, which first attracted the attention of European navigators, gives it superiority as a commercial state over most others, and as she bounds forward in the career of

prosperity her citizens may well point with pride and exultation to the days of small things when her whole provincial territory was sold by the heirs of Gorges for the small sum of six thousand dollars !

The choice of location for the seat of the northern colony was decided in England from information of the coast derived from former voyages. This appears from the recently discovered work of William Strachey, secretary to the colony of South Virginia, edited from the original MS by R. H. Major, of the British Museum. It is to this work that we are indebted for the first particular account of the expedition that conveyed the northern colony across the ocean, and landed them on this spot. None of our historians have possessed this volume, or the information it contains, only the general fact that such a colony was attempted and failed, and a few particulars besides ; but Strachey gives quite a minute description of their operations while on this side of the water. —He states that the expedition was planned to settle a plantation in the river of Sagadehoc, as the lower part of the Kennebec was then called. Two expeditions with this destination were fitted out under the auspices of Chief Justice Popham, the first of which sailed in 1606, and fell into the hands of the Spaniards ; but not discouraged, "the Chief Justice," says Strachey, "would not give over his determination for planting a colony within so goodly a country



upon the river Sagadahoc, but against the next year prepared a greater number of planters and better provisions, which in two ships he sent thither; a fly-boat, called the Gift of God, wherein a kinsman of his, George Popham, commanded; and a good ship, called the Mary and John, of London, wherein Raleigh Gilbert commanded; which with one-hundred and twenty persons for planters, brake ground from Plymouth in June, 1607.".....The expedition arrived among the islands on this coast about the 1st of August, where they were visited by a party of savages, eight men and a boy, three of whom remained on board all night; the rest departed and went to the shore, shewing by signs that they would return the next day."

A day or two after the pilot, Capt. R. Davies, with twelve others, rowed into the bay wherein their ship rode, and landed on a gallant island, where they found gooseberries, strawberries, raspices, herts, and all the island full of huge high trees of divers sorts; after they had delighted themselves there awhile they returned aboard again, and observed the place to stand in  $44^{\circ}$  one third. This island is generally taken to have been Monhegan, though the latitude would carry it as far east as Mount Desert Island. Among the Indians who visited them on board the ships, were two named Skidwares and Nahanáda, who had been in England, and could speak English; they were of the party taken thither by Weymouth. Nahanáda, it now appears, was a Sagamore.

A visit was not long after made by Capt. Raleigh Gilbert, with fourteen persons, accompanied by the Indian Skidwares, to the river of Pemaquid. Skidwares, acting as guide, brought the party to the houses of the savages, where they found a hundred men, women, and children, and their Sagamore among them, the same Nahanáda, who had been carried by Weymouth to England. "On the first coming of the party, the Indians betook them to their arms, their bows and arrows; but," says Strachey, "after Nahanáda had talked with Skidwares, and perceived that they were Englishmen, he caused them to lay aside their bows and arrows, and he himself came unto them, and embraced them, and made them much welcome, and entertained them with much cheerfulness, as they did likewise him; and after two hours thus interchangable spent, they returned aboard again."

On the 15th August, Strachey states that the wind came fair for them to go for Sagadehoc, "the river (he adds) whither they were bound to, and enjoined to make their plantation in; the whole party were unable to get into the river before the next day, and on the 17th, Capt. Popham, in his pinnace, with 30 persons, and Capt. Gilbert, in his long boat, with 18 persons more, went in the morning from their ship into the river Sagadehoc to view the river, and to search where they might find a fit place for their plantation. They sailed up the river near 40 leagues, and found it to be a

very gallant river, very deep .....whereupon they proceeded no farther; but in their return homewards, they observed many goodly islands therein, and many branches of other small rivers falling into it. They all went ashore, and there made choice of a place for their plantation at the mouth of the river, on the west side (for the river bendeth itself towards the north-east end by east) being almost an island, of a good bigness, being in a province called by the Indians Sabino, so called of a Sagamore or chief commander under the grand Bassaba." Such is Strachey's description of the spot selected for the seat of the colony, to which the present site, where we are now assembled, corresponds with remarkable accuracy. The next day the colonists again landed and took formal possession of the ground, in the name of the king of England. On this occasion, their chaplain, the Rev. Richard Seymour, read the service of the English Church, and preached a sermon. After the religious exercises were concluded, the patent of the colony, the President's Commission, and a code of bye-laws for the government of the colony were read in the hearing of all. By these ceremonies, the northern or Plymouth Company, sometimes called the Council of Plymouth, was put in possession of the territory granted to it on the part of the crown, and the colony of Sabino became the first English Colony on the soil of New England. The government of the colony was then

constituted, consisting of George Popham, as President—and five others as the Council or assistants, at the head of whom, was Raleigh Gilbert.

It appears from this simple and unembellished account of the ceremonies attending the taking possession of this spot of ground in the name of the crown of England, that not the least interesting of them all, was the part borne by the venerable Service of the Church of England. Of the clergyman who officiated on that occasion, the Rev. Richard Seymour, whose probable relationship to "Gorges, the projector of the colony, to Popham the patron, to Popham, its president, and to Gilbert, its admiral, all through the common link of the family of his mother," has been so clearly established by Bishop Burgess, as to leave a reasonable conviction of its truth in the minds of those who have read the Bishop's paper on the subject; nor is this all that is established by that paper, which also shows the chaplain's connection with one of the most elevated families in the British peerage; but the greatest honor to which Richard Seymour can lay claim, is not derived from his illustrious descent, but, says Bishop Burgess, "from the place assigned him by the Providence which presided over the destinies of this now Christian land. He was the first preacher of the gospel in the English tongue within the borders of New England, and of the free, loyal, and unrevolted portion of these United States."



The next day, the 20th August, all went ashore again, and there began to entrench and build a fort and a store-house, so continuing the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th. On the 28th, whilst most of the hands laboured hard about the Fort, and the carpenters about the building of a small pinnace, the President overseeing and applying every one to his work, Capt. Gilbert departed in the Shallop, upon a discovery to the westward, and sailed all day by many gallant islands. "He proceeded somewhat to the west of Cape Elizabeth, but encountering a strong head-wind, he turned back and ran before the wind homewards, sailing by many goodly and gallant islands; for betwixt the said headland (Cape Elizabeth) and the river of Sagadehoc is a very great bay, in the which there lyeth so many islands, and so thick and near together, that can hardly be discerned the number, yet may any ship pass betwixt, the greatest part of them having seldom less water than eight or ten fathoms about them. These islands are all overgrown with woods, as oak, walnut, pine, spruce trees, hazel nuts, sarsaparilla and hurts in abundance, only they found no saxafras at all in the country, and this night they arrived at the Fort again." This description of Casco Bay with its numerous islands is so graphic as to be recognised at once, but another object has since grown up not far from Cape Elizabeth, which now would attract the attention of the passer-by, as being one of the

handsomest and most imposing cities in the country (Portland). Little did our colonists imagine that in the lapse of time a community so populous, and towns and cities so grand and flourishing, would occupy the ground where all was then so wild and uncultivated, and so destitute of inhabitants.

Soon after their first arrival, while the building of the Fort and store house was making progress, one of the ships, the *Mary and John*, Capt. Robert Davies, master, was despatched back to England to give information of their safe and prosperous condition, and the forwardness of their plantation within the river Sagadahoc, with letters to the Chief Justice, soliciting supplies to be sent to them early the next year.

After the departure of Capt. Davies, with a considerable number of the original party, those who remained fully finished the Fort, says Strachey, "trencht and fortified it with twelve pieces of ordnance, and built fifty houses therein, besides a church and a storehouse; and the carpenters framed a pretty Pynnance of about thirty tonne, which they called the *Virginia*; the chief shipwright being one Digby of London." The Fort took the name of Fort George.

The health of the colonists during the following winter appears to have been good. The President, Capt. Popham, is stated to have been the only one who succumbed to the privations and exposures they suffered, as the winter was one of unusual severity



both in Europe and America. So intense was the frost that they were unable to make many explorations of the country either by land or water, and in the middle of the winter their storehouse containing much provision was destroyed by fire.

When Capt. Davies returned from England in the spring, his ship was loaded with supplies, but he brought the unwelcome news of the death of the great patron of the colony, Chief Justice Popham, which was a great blow to the enterprise, and produced a most discouraging effect upon all. Besides the death of the President, already mentioned, and a seeming necessity of Raleigh Gilbert's return to England, on account of the death of his brother, combined with the hardships of the season, strongly disinclined the colonists to remain, when so good an opportunity was offered for them to recross the ocean and seek their homes in England. The result was, that all abandoned Fort George and embarked with Capt. Davis, taking with them the new pinnace, the *Virginia*, the only fruits of their winter's sojourn on the peninsula of Sabino. "And this," says Strachey, "was the end of that northern colony upon the river Sagadahoc."

In this connexion, I cannot refrain from repeating what I remarked on a former occasion before this society—"How superior was the spirit exhibited, twelve years later, by the Pilgrim emigrants at Plymouth, nearly one half of whose number perished within four months after their

landing, yet animated by a settled religious purpose, no one of the survivors entertained a thought of relinquishing their design. Had a tithe of their energy and resolute spirit animated the Kennebec colonists, whose resources were so much superior, a more grateful task might have awaited the pen that should relate the story of this enterprise."

The enquiry may be raised as to the character and position of the pseudo-colonists who expected to find the comforts of home in the American wilderness, now for the first time thrown open to and occupied by civilized man. When they arrived, summer still lingered on this beautiful but rugged coast, and the warm sun of August was tempered then, as now, by the cool sea breeze on this lovely peninsula of Sabino. But as the winter approached, a change came over the scene, and a sharp north-wester gave animation, if not comfort, to the white-faced visitors, and soon snow began to diversify the landscape, and the cold to increase. The out-of-door *pic-nic* was over, the freezing chill that overspread the scene banished the merry laugh, and contracted the features into a rueful expression of unhappiness. The ephemeral colonist, taken all aback by the change, wished himself at home again by his comfortable fireside. What were the resources of his situation under these circumstances? Work! work! to which, probably, he had never been accustomed, and

which he could not relish now. Occasionally relief, such as it was, came in the shape of a visit from a party of neighbouring Indians, of which a sample is given by Strachey, in the following description:—  
 “On the 5th September, about noon, there came into the entrance of the river Sagadehoc, and so unto the Fort, as our people were at their work, nine canoes, with forty savages in them, men, women, and children, and amongst them, Nahanáda and Skidwáres (who had been in England.) They came up into the Fort, and the President gave them meat and drink, and used them exceeding kindly. Two or three hours they remained there, and then they parted.”

The pleasure afforded to our Englishmen by such a visit from a motley assemblage of men, women and children, may be easily conceived, especially when their entertainers were freshly arrived from the polite circles of Bristol, Exeter, and Plymouth, in the west of England. The prospect of any social enjoyment by intercourse with these, their only neighbours, could not have afforded much satisfaction, and even this, such as it was, could not be enjoyed in winter, owing to the extremity of the frosts and the difficulty of penetrating the snows, or crossing the ice. Is it strange that when Capt. Davies arrived in the spring from Topsham, the sea-port of Exeter, his ship laden with stores of good things for the comfort of the colonists, such as could not have been procured in all America,

that the whole population of Fort St. George, wearied with suffering and privations, should at once seize the opportunity to return to the land of plenty, from Captain Raleigh Gilbert, to the most insignificant member of the colony, whose home was in England.

But the course pursued by those men, after their return to the old country, deserves the severest censure. It is certain that they repaid the generous and noble-minded patrons of the enterprise, at whose private expense it had been fitted out and sustained, by misrepresenting and abusing the country as uninhabitable on account of the intolerable cold of the climate and the sterility of the soil. Sir Ferdinando Gorges was almost the only one of the Plymouth Company who remained undiscouraged by these false representations. Though he sincerely lamented the loss of George Popham, and the death of his brother, the Chief Justice, who had so zealously joined him in these, hitherto, fruitless but expensive undertakings; yet, as to the coldness of the climate, he said he had too much experience in the world to be frightened with such a blast, as knowing many great kingdoms and large territories more northerly seated, and by many degrees colder, were plentifully inhabited, and divers of them stored with no better commodities than these parts afford, if like industry, art, and labor be used."

A well-known historical writer, who has done



some good service in exploring the antiquities of the country, endeavours to make it appear that these colonists were no better than they should have been, and were, in fact, graduates of English prisons, who had been gathered by Chief Justice Popham from that class of persons, as good enough for the purpose of settling in America. This statement has however, no other foundation than some general and contumelious aspersions upon the American character, in which the English press for a long period indulged, in its hostility to our political institutions, and which were so well answered and refuted by Robert Walsh (*clarum et venerabile nomen*) in his well known work, an "Appeal from the judgments of Great Britain," published about forty years ago, since which but little has been heard of them. Whatever may have been the character of these colonists before they left home, however, it is of little importance to enquire now, as they all left the country in less than one year after they had landed on our coast. But the writer, whose remarks have been alluded to, only follows in the wake of an English review, which, some years ago, thus described the American character :—"The Americans are the modern Jews, possessing all the qualities of the ancient, under different masks.... . . . . . Mr. Fox has had ample experience of the tribes of Israel ; let him beware of the refined and complicated cunning of that race whose Adam and Eve emigrated from Newgate."

So Dr. Johnson is reported by Boswell to have said, "The Americans are a race of convicts, and ought to be thankful for anything we allow them, short of hanging."

It is remarkable that such aspersions on the character of English emigrants to America and their descendants, have never ceased to be cast by some portions of the press in Great Britain down to the present day. Even prominent persons concerned in promoting the colonisation of this country have not always been spared, as if guilty of raising up a rival power against the Mother land. Amongst those who have been thus maligned, I may mention as one of the most eminent and distinguished, Chief Justice Popham, an active and munificent patron of American Colonisation.

It has been discovered of late years, and is made a subject of reproach, that the Chief Justice presided in the Court that tried and found guilty no less a person than Sir Walter Raleigh, but the Court consisted of a special commission of eleven persons, men of elevated rank and otherwise high position in the community ; and in passing sentence upon Sir Walter, the Chief Justice manifested much feeling and regret. The jury was composed of knights and gentlemen, whose integrity has never been questioned, and the only person whose conduct towards the prisoner can be deemed to have been harsh and reprehensible, was Sir Edward Coke, the great lawyer, in his official character, as Attorney-Gener-



ral. The Chief Justice certainly deserves not to share the blame justly attached to the king's prosecuting attorney, a man who has ever been regarded as the boast and embodiment of English law.

But the most serious charge against the Chief Justice, is that he was wild and profligate in his youth. He received his education at the University of Oxford, but is said to have preferred theatres and gaming houses to his books, and after leaving college, there is a story of his having been guilty of taking part in robberies on the highway; like Henry V., however, he is said afterwards to have taken formal leave of his wicked companions, and then to have applied himself vigorously to the study of the law. In the opinion of Sir Edward Coke, he became a consummate lawyer, and his professional career was one of great distinction. After filling the high offices of Solicitor-General, Attorney-General, and Speaker of the House of Commons, he was appointed Chief Justice of England, and a Member of the Privy Council. Queen Elizabeth, from whom he derived his honors, showed the utmost respect for his character as an upright and indefatigable judge. He was a terror to evil doers, and so exacting and severe in the discharge of his judicial duties, as well as uncompromising towards public offenders, as the state of the country, at that period, imperiously demanded, that he gained the

*sobriquet* of the *hanging judge*. But the government and all good citizens sustained him in his course, and he died at an advanced age, with the reputation of having been "one of the most upright and able judges that ever sat upon the English bench." Whatever may have been the youthful indiscretions, or even criminalities of the Chief Justice, it is satisfactory to those who feel an interest in his subsequent career, to know that no evidence of them exists, except what is found in the rambling gossip of Aubrey, to which little weight deserves to be attached.

As to the general character and standing of the colonists, some reference may be made to the South Virginia Colony, established at Jamestown. That expedition, it has been already stated, left England only a few months prior to that of Sagadehoc, and, probably, was composed of similar materials, having been collected by a branch of the same company, for a similar purpose, and under the same circumstances. The names of most of the individuals composing that colony at the outset are preserved, and a particular account of their doings, on their arrival in Virginia, still exists. Their squadron consisted of three small vessels, the largest not exceeding 100 tons in burthen. The colonists were but 105 in number, of whom it is stated that 48 were gentlemen, 12 were laborers, four carpenters, one a blacksmith, one a bricklayer, one a tailor, one a mason, one a barber, one a

drummer, one a sailor, two surgeons, or physicians, and four were boys. Simms, in his excellent memoir of Capt. John Smith, remarks that "the exceeding disproportion between the gentlemen and the mechanics and labourers, reminds one irresistibly, of the limited allowance of bread to sack in the domestic economy of Falstaff." The difficulties encountered by that colony were of the most discouraging nature, and more than once they were on the point of abandoning the country; in one case they had already commenced their departure, when meeting on the way to the sea a ship loaded with supplies just arrived from England, they turned about and went back to Jamestown. One man, the celebrated Capt. John Smith, was several times the means of saving the colony from destruction. Yet it struggled on, and we all know what its history has been.

The almost daily occurrences in the colony of Jamestown have been handed down to us, from which it is easy to see that its internal affairs were the constant subject of dissension and disorder, growing out of the difficulties of their position and the rivalries of those who wished to govern and direct what should be done. Doubtless, similar scenes took place in this colony, but the authority of Popham, while he lived, and that of Raleigh Gilbert, afterwards, was probably unquestioned; at least, there is nothing to show the contrary. On the other hand, the departure and abandon-

ment of the colony seem to have been accomplished without opposition or objection.

Some time after their return, the Plymouth Company published a manifesto, setting forth a statement of their own doings in consequence of this abandonment of the enterprise, from which it appears that Sir Francis Popham, a son of the Chief Justice, took advantage of the means provided by his father for the continued support of the colony, and kept up a private intercourse with this coast by forwarding ships and men for trade and fishing for several years.

Another consequence of the abandonment of the colony is stated in the same document of the Plymouth Company, which says, "The French immediately took the opportunity to settle themselves within our limits." Whereupon, measures were taken in South Virginia to oust them from their settlements in this quarter, and Sir Samuel Argall was despatched with a force to displace them. This he succeeded in doing at Mount Desert, St. Croix, and Port Royal; these points were never afterwards occupied by the French, and the Kennebec no longer served as a boundary line between New England and New France. Mr. Poor has devoted much attention to the subject of the French title in this part of the country, and I take great pleasure in referring you to his oration, as printed, for information respecting it, rendering anything further from me entirely unnecessary and superfluous.



I have already spoken of the distinguished man who devoted life and a large fortune to the cause of American colonisation—I refer to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, of Ashton Phillips—the name of his manor in the town of Long Ashton, about five miles from the city of Bristol. During the war with Spain, in the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Ferdinando served in the navy, and after its close was rewarded with the post of Governor of the Fort at Plymouth, which he held for many years. The family of Gorges was one of high rank and great antiquity in the west of England; the parish of Wraxall, in Somersetshire, in the neighborhood of Bristol, was an early seat of the family, and in the Church at that place may be seen a large altar tomb with figures of Sir Edmund Gorges and Anne, his wife, who was a daughter of John Howard, Duke of Norfolk. It appears also that the family of Gorges intermarried with that of the Russells, better known as the present house of Bedford. A cousin of Sir Ferdinando, Lord Edward Gorges, of Wiltshire, was President of the Council of Plymouth, and took an active interest in the cause of American colonisation. I mention these circumstances in order to show that the zealous and devoted Founder of this State was not a mere adventurer, as described in some quarters, but a substantial Englishman of rank and fortune, whose interest in this country was founded in the ambitious hope of establishing here

a permanent organisation of government on English principles. That this was an ambition worthy of an Englishman, though not in accordance with the notions that afterwards prevailed, nor agreeable to those of the present day, cannot be denied. It was with these views that Sir Ferdinando received a grant from the Crown of the Province of Maine, of which he was made Lord Palatine, with the same powers and privileges as the Bishop of Durham, in the County Palatine of Durham. In virtue of these powers he constituted a government within his said Province, but the exactions and restrictions were so numerous, and so onerous on the inhabitants, especially when compared with the rest of New England, that the population of the Province did not increase as rapidly, nor were the settlements as flourishing, as was anticipated. But the civil wars in England led to the neglect of the colonies, and the death of Sir Ferdinando, then Lord Proprietor of Maine, caused his heir, a grandson, to transfer the entire Province to the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, with which it became connected as a government dependency, until the American Revolution made it an integral part of the State, and it finally became, as it now remains, one of the separate, and, at the same time, *United States of America*. Such may she ever continue to the end of time! The unsurpassed heroism displayed by her sons in defending the National Union, is an enduring pledge of her



fidelity to the principles of universal freedom which lie at the foundation of our government.

While on a visit to England in the summer of 1851, during the season of the great Exhibition I took occasion to make an excursion to the city of Bristol and its vicinity, for the purpose of examining any antiquarian remains relating to the early colonisation of this country, more particularly in reference to Sir Ferdinando Gorges. It will be remembered that in the history of old Pemaquid, two English merchants, named Robert Aldworth and Giles Elbridge, of Bristol, are mentioned as concerned in some early voyages to that part of the coast, and as having acquired a patent of lands lying there, which they sent over a considerable number of persons to occupy. While at Bristol, I visited St. Peter's Church, and saw a splendid and costly monument near the Altar, which I ascertained to have been erected in honor of Robert Aldworth, who, having been an opulent merchant, was thus kept in memory for "his public spirit and munificent charities." Here then I recognized a proud memorial of the man, who, in the early days of our country, had interested himself in planting inhabitants on these shores, whose descendants founded the town of Bristol, forming a portion of old Pemaquid, and deriving its name from the city of Robert Aldworth's residence. It is said that at the present day many of the inhabitants of the town of Bristol, in Lincoln County,

are descendants of the first settlers of the colony, of Aldworth and Elbridge, from Bristol, in England.

The town of Long Ashton, the residence of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, is a pleasant drive of four or five miles from the city of Bristol, and is a great resort in the summer for its uncommonly large and fine strawberries, a fruit which is not surpassed by any other in the world, and is almost worthy of a voyage to England to be enjoyed. In this village, or near it, we found the remains of Ashton Phillips, the old manor house of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, whose ruins appear to have been rebuilt and are now inhabited. The manor is, at the present time, merged in that of Ashton Court, one of the finest estates in England. Ashton Phillips is sometimes called the Lower Court, and its ruins were described fifty years ago as having formed, when complete, a structure of considerable extent and grandeur. The chapel is in tolerable preservation, although no longer preserving its sacred character, yet contains an altar of stone in its pristine state, with a niche or receptacle for holy water, a remnant of Romish times. Such was the residence of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, although a considerable part of his life was passed at the Fort of Plymouth, of which, as has been already stated, he was Governor. I need not say that the visit to this memorable spot was full of the most hallowed interest and afforded the keenest enjoy-

ment. Here in this lovely and retired valley, not far from the banks of the Severn, and near the pretty village of Long Ashton, dwelt the man whose life was devoted to the colonisation and settlement of our country, then new and uninhabited, and in honor of whom the Government of the Union, I am happy to say, is now erecting a proud and enduring monument!\* in honor of the man, who, when he found that his own schemes for attracting settlers did not fully answer the purpose, held out the right hand of fellowship to others of a different faith from himself, and encouraged the coming of Brownists and Puritans to Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay, to unite in the good work. Such was the great and good man whose name we honor to-day! Such was Sir Ferdinando Gorges, the ancient Lord Proprietor of Maine, whose character for bold resolution and undaunted enterprise, and whose efforts to plant the soil of the new world with the seeds of civilisation and the principles of religion, claim our love and veneration, and deserve to be held in undying remembrance in the land of which he was so distinguished a benefactor.

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\*It consists of a noble fortification, now nearly, if not quite completed, in Portland Harbor, called Fort Gorges, the work of the Federal Government.

