

C H A P. V.

N E W - E N G L A N D .

**H**A V I N G completed our Account of the Sufferings of this religious People in *England* and *Wales*, let us cross the Seas to the *American* Plantations, and take a View of the Variety of Afflictions to which many of the same *Christian* Confessors were exposed in those Parts of the World; where they had Trial of cruel Mockings and Scourgings, yea moreover, of Bonds and Imprisonment; and particularly in *New-England*, where several of them were put to Death, and underwent the utmost Trial of their Faith and Patience with *Christian* Courage and Magnanimity. In that Province were sitting at the Helm of Government a Set of Men, making high Pretensions to Religion, and such as had loudly cried out against the Tyranny and Oppression of the Bishops in *Old-England*, from whom they had fled, professing themselves \* *pious and peaceable* Protestants, driven by Severity to leave their Native Country, and seek a Refuge for their Lives and Liberties, with Freedom for the Worship of God, in a Wilderness in the Ends of the Earth; yet, when invested with Power, we find them exercising a cruel Dominion over the Faith and Consciences of others; in which they appear not to us so inconsistent with themselves as some have thought, because when, under Oppression, they pleaded for Liberty of Conscience, they understood it not as the natural and common Right of all Mankind, but as a peculiar Privilege of the *Orthodox*. They had, long before any of the *Quakers* came thither, viz. in the Year 1646, made a Law or Order for Uniformity in Religion, by imposing a Penalty of five Shillings per Week on such as came not to hear the Established Ministers: Thus they early begun to intrench themselves against any farther Discoveries of Truth and Religion by a Penal Law: And as to the *Quakers*, they had received an unreasonable Prejudice against them, as appears by their rigid Treatment of the first of them who came into that Country.

Description of the Professors in New-England.

ANNO 1656. When in the Fifth Month called *July*, two Women of that Persuasion arrived in a Vessel from *Barbadoes* in the Road before *Boston*: Intelligence of their Arrival being given to *Richard Bellingham*, the Deputy-Governour, (the Governour himself being out of Town) he immediately ordered them to be detained on board, and sent Officers who searched their Trunks and Chests, and took away about an Hundred Books, which they carried on Shore. The Danger which was apprehended from the Arrival of these Women, and the spreading of their Books, produced the following Order, viz.

Arrival of two Quakers at Boston.

“ At a Council held at Boston, the 11th of July 1656.

“ **W**H E R E A S there are several Laws long since made and published in this Jurisdiction, bearing Testimony against *Hereticks* and erroneous Persons, yet notwithstanding *Simon Kempthorn*, of *Charles-Town*, Master of the Ship *Swallow*, of *Boston*, hath brought into this Jurisdiction, from the Island of *Barbadoes*, two Women, who name themselves *Anne*, the Wife of one *Austin*, and *Mary Fisher*, being of that Sort of People commonly known by the Name of *Quakers*, who upon Examination are found not only

Order of Sessions respecting them.

VOL. II.

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\* See the Introduction to *Cotton Mather's Magnalia Christi Americana*, printed at London, ANNO 1702.