

valuable advice and service to his country and deserved the favor and honor of the highest place.

The elders, being met at Boston, to consider this question, sent a committee to the old Governor, to inform him of their desire and the reasons moving them thereto, thus relieving themselves of all appearance of dislike of his government, and assuring him of their respect.

He kindly received and concurred in their proposition, declaring that he should be glad to have more freedom and leisure for his private affairs, in which, as they well knew, he had lately much suffered. For his bailiff whom he had trusted with his farm, had run him into debt £2500, without his knowledge or consent.

So, at the next election, there was a more popular representation, Deputies being chosen by the freemen and sent from all the towns in the colony to constitute the General Court of Elections and for other colonial transactions.

Mr. Dudley was, in May, elected Governor for 1634. He was re-elected three times afterwards, viz.: in 1640, 1645, and 1650; and he was Deputy Governor thirteen years. When not Governor he was generally Deputy Governor, but sometimes Assistant. He held that office five years. Before 1634, the Court of Assistants chose the Governor and Deputy. Therefore we may conclude that Mr. Dudley was a leader in this democratic reform, since he was the first Governor selected by the representatives of the people. Perhaps this plan was adopted by his advice. This would be in keeping with his advice to Theophilus Clinton, when he stood so bravely for the people of England against the encroachments of King Charles I.

This was the beginning of a republic. Three delegates from each of the towns were in attendance, and the session lasted three days. Winthrop says, "all things were carried very peaceably notwithstanding that some of the Assistants were questioned by the freemen for some errors in government" &c.

The powers of the General Court were now defined, the trial by jury ordained, and orders made respecting future elections of Representatives. It was enacted that there should be four General Courts every year, the whole body of freemen assembling at the Court of Election; and the other three Courts should be held by Deputies, two or three from each town.

The cause of this advance in free government was probably that the leaders wanted less responsibility and the people a larger share in legislation. The towns were highly gratified with the plan, and chose all the Deputies they were entitled to. It was at this session that a military commission was established with almost unlimited authority,