

of it, and an estimate of the number of acres. Pray let the Maj. have the refusal of it.

The God in heaven delight in you, to improve you, protect you, and return you. Dearest sir,

Your true friend and faithful servant,

W<sup>M</sup>. SROUGHTON.

P. S.—I hear nothing of my worthy friend, Mr. Saltonstall; pray remember me most affectionately to all in Paternoster Row.

The inhabitants of Braintree wrote in Aug., 1683, to their Honored Agents, Joseph Dudley and John Richards Esqs., at London:

“The body of the town are one soul as to satisfaction in the present government.”

King Charles II. was “greatly provoked,” because this colony had so long delayed sending its agents. It had already been resolved to abolish the old charter. So all that could be done was to wait, and work for a new one, endeavoring to have it made as favorable as possible to the rights of this country. Dudley and Richards came home in a few months. He now became a candidate for the Chief Magistracy, seeing that there would be need of a good New England man to rule under a new and untried system of government. This was patriotic. There is no need of attributing any bad motive to him as some have done. He always desired as much liberty for his native colony, as he thought possible to hold under the inevitable British Sovereignty. This mission proving unsuccessful, and returning home in 1683, their proceedings were so unsatisfactory that Dudley lost his election, as Assistant in 1684. This is the statement of J. B. Moore, Esq.

During his sojourn in England he made many friends, and it was suspected that he had played the courtier for his own interest, rather than that of the colony. At this time, his old friend, Rev. John Higginson, of Salem wrote him the following letter, saved from the ravages of time, with some obliteration of words, which I will try to supply in brackets:

*Salem, May 14, 1684.*

HONORED AND DEAR SIR:

It was my desire to get an opportunity of some converse with yourself when I was at Boston, but being deprived of it by the ingratitude of a popular faction, which put such an indignity upon you. After my return home I could not satisfy myself without a few lines, wherein I desire to present my service, due respects and unfeigned love to yourself, with my thankful acknowledgement of the good and