

CHIEF JUSTICE PAUL^s DUDLEY (*Gov. Joseph,*²
*Gov. Thomas*¹).

[See Portrait opposite page 184.]

HON. JUDGE PAUL DUDLEY, son of Gov. Joseph, was born at the homestead of his father and grandfather Dudley, on Dudley Street, Roxbury, Sept. 3, 1675, being the fourth son of the second Gov. Dudley. But the three older sons dying early and unmarried, Paul became the oldest heir of his family. He was sent to the best schools, and at the early age of 11 years, being found well prepared, entered Harvard College, from which he graduated in 1690, taking his Master's degree in 1693. He studied law here for several years, and then was sent to London to finish his law education at the Inner Temple. There he graduated and was called to the bar. About 1701 he returned home with a Royal Commission as Attorney General of the Province. His father was made Governor of Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire. Paul was also appointed Attorney General by the Governor and Provincial Council. This office of Attorney General he held till 1718, when he was appointed to the Bench of the "Superior Court of Judicature"; and, in 1745, promoted to be Chief Justice upon the decease of Benjamin Lynde, C. J. This high post he held with great honor till his death in 1751.

At the time of his return from England, and for several years after, he had to contend against much opposition from the enemies of his father. In 1706-7, when his father refused to endorse one of the Mathers for the Presidency of Harvard College, the strife with them and their partisans was hot and long continued; but Paul Dudley constantly grew in the esteem of the people in spite of the demagogues and zealots. He conducted himself in the line of his profession and in every position with great candor and fidelity, and came to be regarded as a lover of his country, and one who spared no pains to serve its interests. He was elected to many offices, some of which were, Provincial Executive Counsellor, Representative, and, in 1739, Speaker to the House of Deputies. In his early career, he maintained the principles of those who favored the Royal Prerogative, and esteemed the home-government as worthy of the loyalty and favor of the Colonies.