

guardians of these children June 24, 1777.

The Dr. and Mrs. Daggett (Frances Bannister) lived in Newport, in full enjoyment of the wealth and society of the city, when his death separated them. She continued her residence in Newport, seeking condolence in love of her children. The Daggetts, in envious or religious mind, did not approve of this bringing up of children; they thought they should be trained to usefulness, or rather their ideas of usefulness, and to carry out their belief they caused the two daughters, Martha, aged 12, and Lydia, aged 8, to be stolen from their mother. Martha was taken to Rehoboth and Lydia to Swansea, Mass., where they were kept in close seclusion. Nothing is known of what became of their brother, Joseph, nor did they ever see their mother again, as she soon died of grief at the loss of her dear ones and the cruelties of her Puritan relations.

After a separation of considerable time, as it is related to us by the children of Lydia (Daggett) Butts, one of the actors in this actual drama, a visitor came to the house of John Wood, where Lydia was kept, of whom she learned his name was Daggett, and in an unguarded conversation she became convinced that he came from where her sister Martha was held, or, that he knew something of her. When he left the house, which was near sunset, Lydia was soon mounted on a horse and in close pursuit. She succeeded in keeping him in view, although he often seemed to be aware of her pursuit and tried to escape, but the mystery had grown in her imagination, and she rode fearless in the determination not to be outridden. It was near morning when a halt was made at a farm house, and seeing her consort enter the dwelling, she quietly secreted herself until daybreak, when her thoughts were realized by seeing her sister proceed to the barn

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