

**LETTERS OF HUGH EARL
PERCY,
FROM BOSTON AND
NEW YORK, 1774-1776**

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Letters of Hugh Earl Percy, From Boston and New York, 1774-1776 by Charles Knowles Bolton

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CHARLES KNOWLES BOLTON

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PERCY,
FROM BOSTON AND
NEW YORK, 1774-1776**



HUGH EARL PERCY.

ENGRAVED BY WILLIAM J. FOX
SCULPTOR

Letters
OF
HUGH *EARL* PERCY

from
BOSTON and NEW YORK
1774-1776

Edited by
CHARLES KNOWLES BOLTON



BOSTON
CHARLES E. GOODSPEED
1902

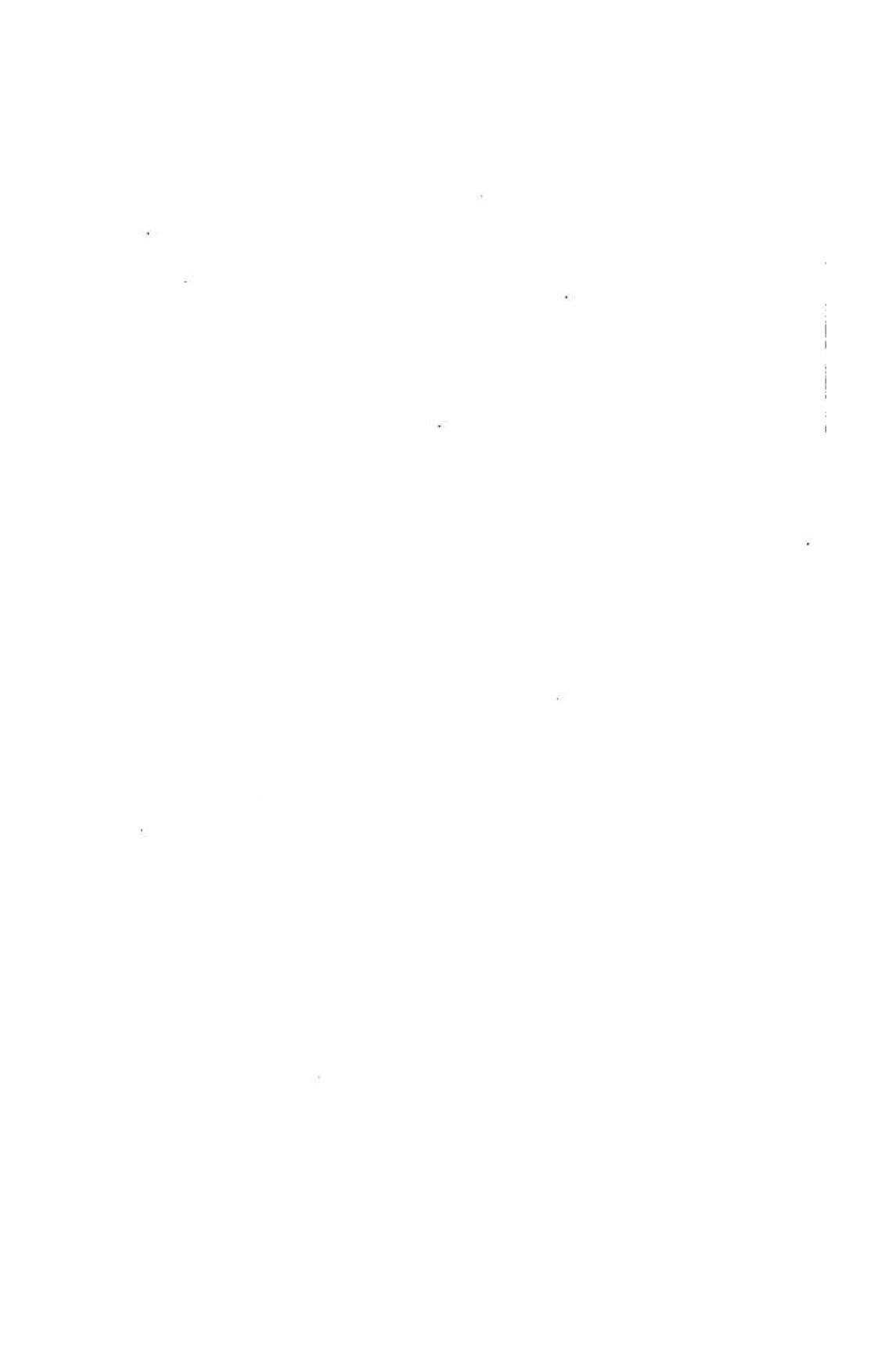
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In Memory of
THE REV^d EDWARD GRIFFIN PORTER



PREFACE

THE letters which are printed in this volume have been gathered from several sources. Those from the reports of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts are indicated by footnotes. Letters numbered i, ii, x, xii, xvi, xxiii, xxvii, xxviii, and xxix are from the manuscripts owned by the Boston Public Library and are reprinted by permission of the Trustees from the Bulletin for January, 1892. The letters not referred to above were copied by the Rev. Edward Griffin Porter during a visit of a few days in 1878 to the late Duke of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle. To Miss Gertrude Montague Graves I am indebted for bringing these letters to my notice, and for the following account of Mr. Porter's stay at Alnwick, as described by him before the Abigail Adams Chapter (Boston) of the Daughters of the American Revolution:

“While preparing a history of Lexington, Massachusetts, for the Centennial Celebration of the battle of Lexington, the late Edward G. Porter, pas-

PREFACE

tor of the Hancock Church in that town, entered into correspondence with the Duke of Northumberland. Through this correspondence, a mutual regard grew up between Mr. Porter and the Duke, which resulted in a visit by the former to Alnwick Castle.

“While a guest there, a certain alcove and shelf were pointed out to him; after glancing over numerous books, he espied, in an obscure corner, what proved to be a tin box covered thickly with dust, and tied with a frayed blue ribbon. In answer to inquiry, the Duke’s Librarian told him that the box contained letters, but he never remembered to have seen it opened. It was dusted and opened forthwith, disclosing a budget of faded and yellow letters, the veritable ones that Earl Percy had written to his father, beginning at the moment of his landing in Boston, and ending at the time of his return to England. Mr. Porter had the satisfaction, with the permission of his host, of spending that day and the two succeeding ones in copying these letters.”

Mr. Porter wrote a letter to the *Lexington Minute-Man*, dated at Alnwick September 27,