

**THE HISTORY OF KING
PHILIP'S
WAR. ALSO, A HISTORY
OF THE SAME WAR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649753307

The History of King Philip's War. Also, a History of the Same War by Increase Mather & Cotton Mather & Samuel G. Drake

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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INCREASE MATHER & COTTON MATHER & SAMUEL G. DRAKE

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Miss
Mary Mathew

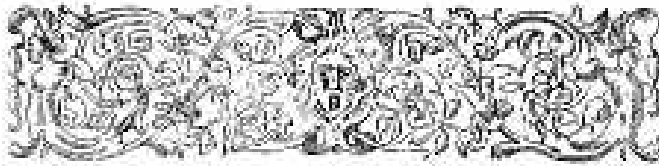


John Bull.

TO
WINSLOW LEWIS, M.D.

THE HONORARY AND TRUSTED MEMBER
PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY,

THIS WORK IS INSCRIBED BY
THE EDITOR.



PREFATORY BY THE EDITOR.



THE very great Scarcity of the *Brief History* of Philip's War, by the REV. INCREASE MATHER, D. D., has long been experienced, and a Desire has often been expressed by Many that it should be reprinted. So great indeed was its Scarcity, that even historical Students could seldom obtain even the Sight of a Copy; it existed in so few Libraries, public or private. Small Editions were probably published, and these only in pamphlet Form; very Few had the Fortune to put into other than frail paper Covers. These Circumstances will principally account for the very great Rarity of the Work. So that for many Years Copies have not been for sale, excepting in a few Instances, and these have commanded Prices far beyond the Means of ordinary Students. When Copies have at any Time

appeared in the Market they have been purchased by the opulent Class of Collectors, or by Institutions, and are thus out of the Reach of the Majority of working Students in History. Hence we hear of *twenty-five* and even *fifty Dollars* having been offered for a Copy without obtaining One.

The Work was a hurried Performance; written out as the News arrived at the Capital from the Forest in which the War Operations were performed. This must be apparent to every Reader when it is considered that the War was not ended until the Autumn of 1676; that the Work went through the necessarily slow first Printing-press of Boston the same Year; and that before the End of the Year a Copy crossed the wide Atlantic in a slow sailing Craft of those Days, and was reprinted in London before the End of the same Year.

That the Author was a little hurried in the Matter of getting out his Work is quite apparent, from his Knowledge of the Fact that the Reverend Mr. Hubbard of Ipswich was diligently employed in a Work upon the same Subject. There was then but one printer in Boston—JESUS FOSTER by name—and he must print both Works. Dr. Mather's was first in the Hands of the Printer, and consequently appeared first before the Public.

Prefatory by the Editor. vii

It is not proposed by the reproduction of this Work of Dr. Mather to supply its Deficiencies in the Occurrences of Philip's War. To attempt that would be entirely inexpedient. A complete History of that War has never been written, much less published. To attempt it by attaching Notes to any one or to all of the early Tracts and Chronicles would be a Failure. Even were it possible to bring all the Facts belonging to the War into Notes, the amount of Notes thus required would render the Work awkward for Consultation, immethodical, out of chronological Order, and not unlike a Ship rendered valueless because irrecoverably stranded under the Weight of a valuable Cargo. And I may add further, that the impracticability of supplying all Deficiencies in such Works by Notes, arises in some Degree from the many Errors and Omissions in them. These Errors and Omissions were unavoidable at the Time, because the earliest Accounts of such Transactions are never entirely reliable, as we witness every Day in the Progress against the present Rebellion, with all our modern Means of acquiring and conveying Information.

Those acquainted with the Work of Dr. Mather, only by Extracts from it, have probably but a faint Idea of its real Value. I would be understood by

its *Value*, to mean, as compared with what is elsewhere to be found concerning Philip's War, and especially as compared with the Work of Mr. Hubbard. To form a Kind of comparative Estimate of the Importance of the *Brief History* in that Relation it may be observed, that while there never has been an Edition of it since the Year of its first Publication before mentioned, to the present Time; yet the Work of Mr. Hubbard had passed through seven Editions many Years ago. And it should be remembered too, that Mr. Hubbard did not Write under the Advantages possessed by Dr. Mather. The former resided a long Day's Ride from Boston where all the Information, especially official, centered; while the latter resided in Boston, and by his Position had Access to the best Sources of Information. Hence, these Circumstances taken into Account, one might be led to expect a much more full and accurate Work from Dr. Mather than Mr. Hubbard. But the historical Value of the two Works are strongly in the inverse Ratio, as will be inferred from what has just been said. Unfortunately for the Reputation of Mr. Hubbard's Work, none of the Editions of it since the second have been accurately reprinted. The third Edition was printed here (in Boston) in 1775. This was so mutilated by Omissions and