

**LIBRARY OF NEW-ENGLAND
HISTORY, NO. IV.
PLAIN DEALING; OR, NEWS
FROM NEW ENGLAND**

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Thomas Lechford

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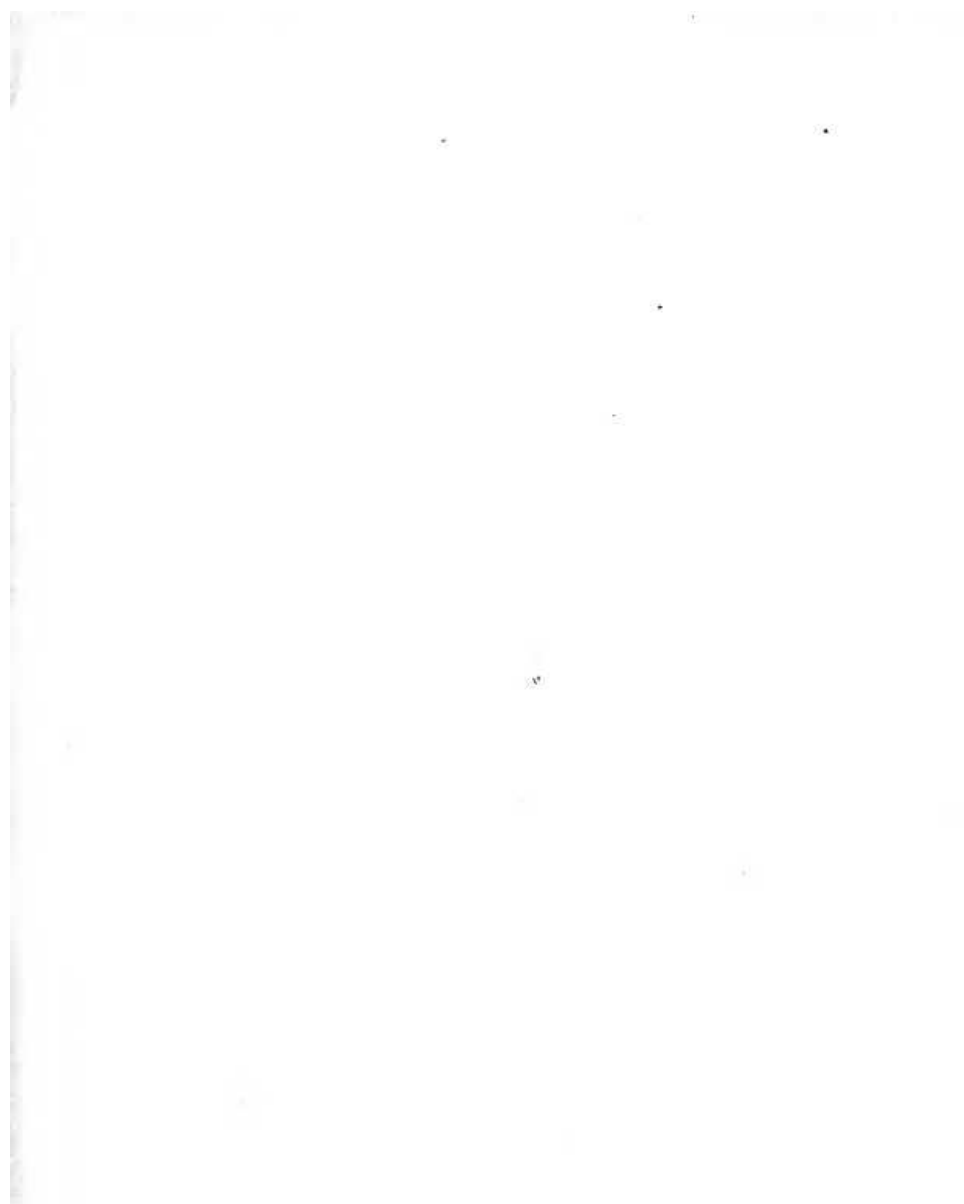
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TO

GEORGE BRINLEY, ESQ.,

OF HARTFORD.

A SUCCESSFUL COLLECTOR AND A CAREFUL READER OF ALL THAT ILLUSTRATES
THE EARLY HISTORY OF NEW ENGLAND,

WHATEVER THERE MAY BE OF VALUE IN

This Edition of "Plain Dealing,"

THE PREPARATION OF WHICH WAS UNDERTAKEN ON HIS SUGGESTION,

IS,

IN SLIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MANY OBLIGATIONS,

DEDICATED

BY HIS FRIEND,

THE EDITOR.





INTRODUCTION

BY THE EDITOR.

In the year 1858, the late Samuel Jennison, Esq., of Worcester, — for many years an officer of the American Antiquarian Society, and well known as a diligent and successful student of the history of New England, — invited me to examine a manuscript volume of which he had become the possessor. Of this volume, its authorship and contents, Mr. Jennison wrote the following account : —

“It is now some time since a friend, knowing that I had some curiosity in relation to matters of antiquity, and thinking I might find something to gratify it in a small folio, in manuscript, in broken but venerable binding, which was then in his possession, placed the same in my hands. He did not know the writer or the contents ; for the style of penmanship was that of more than two centuries ago, and although not unusually indistinct for its kind, could not easily be read by one unaccustomed to the chirography of the time. It proved, on inspection, to be a journal-book kept by THOMAS LECHFORD, whose claim to the reputation of having been the *first Boston lawyer* is, I believe, unquestioned. It contains a record of the business transactions in which he was, from day to day, engaged, commencing with his settlement in Boston, and continued until his return to England ; embracing many facts of historical and genealogical interest. I have awaited a season of leisure and relief from other occupations to transcribe and prepare it for publication.”

It is much to be regretted that the work of transcription and preparation, commenced by Mr. Jennison, was laid aside before being completed, and the public thereby deprived of the valuable