

**A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY
ON GOVERNOR
HUTCHINSON'S
HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS**

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A bibliographical essay on Governor Hutchinson's historical publications by Charles Deane

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BY CHARLES DEANE.



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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE following bibliographical memoranda may possibly interest some of the readers of Hutchinson, who are not already familiar with the details there given: they may at least serve to gratify the curiosity of some future antiquary and book collector.

This Essay was first printed in the *Historical Magazine* for April, 1857. It has since been revised, with a few additions; and fifty copies are reprinted in this form for private distribution.



HUTCHINSON'S
HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS.

GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON possessed rare opportunities for writing the history of his native State; and his qualifications in every respect admirably fitted him for this labor. The motives which led him to undertake the work, and the materials he used in preparing it, are thus stated in the Preface to his first volume:

“The repeated destruction of ancient records and papers by fire in the town of Boston, first inclined me to endeavour the preservation of such materials as remained proper for an History of the Massachusetts colony. Many such came to

me from my ancestors, who, for four successive generations, had been principal actors in public affairs; * among the rest, a manuscript History of Mr. William Hubbard, which is carried down to the year 1680, but after 1650 contains but few facts. The former part of it has been of great use to me. It was so to Doctor Mather in his History, of which Mr. Neale's is little more than an abridgement. I made what collection I could of the private papers of others of our first settlers, but in this I have not had the success I desired. The descendants of some of them are possessed of many valuable letters and other manuscripts, but have not leisure or inclination to look into them themselves, and yet will not suffer it to be done by others. I am obliged to no person more than to my friend and brother, the Rev. Mr. Mather, † whose library has been open to me, as it had been before to the Rev. Mr. Prince, who had taken from thence the greatest and most valuable part of what he had collected."

* For genealogical notices of Gov. Hutchinson's family, see Farmer's General Reg. pp. 155, 156; N. E. Hist. & General Reg. i. 297-310.

† Rev. Samuel Mather, son of Cotton Mather; he married Hannah Hutchinson, a sister of the Governor.

Some idea of the extent and value of the materials used by Hutchinson in preparing his first volume, may be formed by referring to the Appendix to that book, and also by consulting the volume of Original Papers, afterwards published by him. It is a little singular that he did not consult or make use of Governor Winthrop's History, while writing his work. Nearly ten years before its publication, Prince had announced, on the cover of the first part of the second volume of his Annals, that he had lately received this "most authentic and valuable journal" of Gov. Winthrop; so that Hutchinson could not have been ignorant of its existence. He, however, had the benefit of this History at second hand, through Hubbard. X

Our chief purpose here is to furnish an account of the different editions of Hutchinson's History, copies of each of which now lie before us, and to include a brief notice of his miscellaneous publications.

The first volume of the History was