

**THE ANDROS TRACTS: BEING A COLLECTION
OF PAMPHLETS AND OFFICIAL PAPERS
ISSUED DURING THE PERIOD
BETWEEN THE OVERTHROW OF THE ANDROS
GOVERNMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE SECOND CHARTER OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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W. H. WHITMORE

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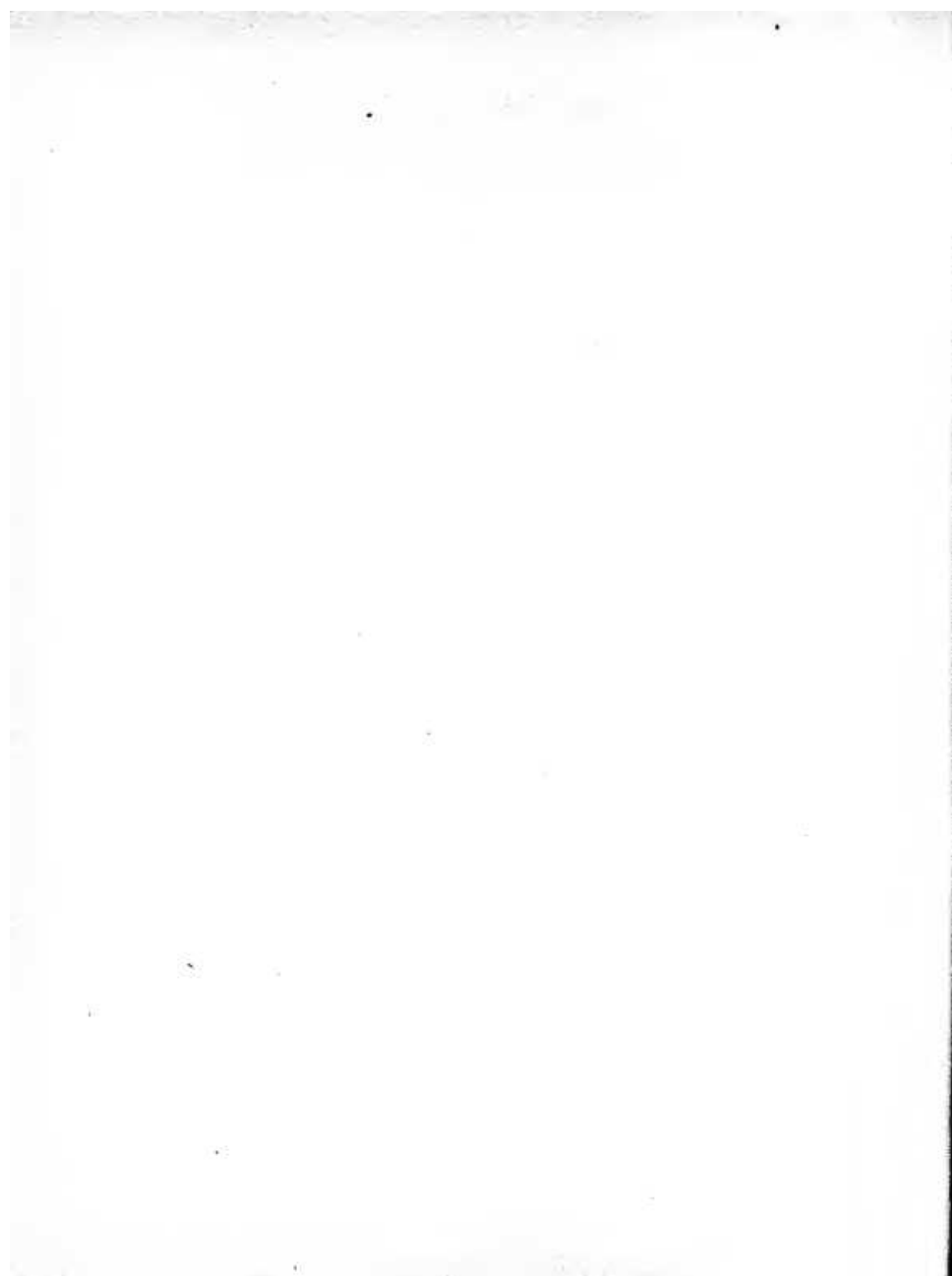
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INTRODUCTION.



THE third volume of these Tracts is but a continuation of the discussion of the matters comprised in the first two volumes. No opportunity arises for the memoir of a new character, for the chief actors are still Andros, and Increase Mather. We may, however, be allowed here to say that the criticisms upon the preceding volumes have not shaken our belief that the view we have taken in regard to Andros will be found to be nearer the truth than are the current ideas as to his acts and character. We regard Andros as an able and conscientious agent of the Crown, by no means rapacious or over-bearing, a good soldier and administrator, and the first official who saw the political advantages to be derived from alliances with the Indians to counteract French intrigues. It was his misfortune that, being a Churchman, he was sent to the stronghold of Congregationalism; that, as the agent of the Crown, he was made governor over a number of disfranchised colonies; that, as a soldier and a courtier, he was placed in a community in which the Puritan clergy still usurped a commanding