

CHAPTER I.

COLONIAL BEGINNINGS.

"A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation."

ISAIAH, lx. 22.

The planting of New England took place within a period of twenty years. It began with the settlement at Plymouth in 1620, and ended in 1640, when the meeting of the Long Parliament stopped the tyrannies of Strafford and gave to Englishmen hopes of a better government without crossing seas to find it. For eight years Plymouth colony was alone, meeting hardships, testing new conditions, and developing a community on the ideas and convictions that brought the Pilgrims hither. At the end of this time they numbered only three hundred, but they had solved the problem and the way was open for other colonies.

In 1628 Endicott came with three hundred to Salem. By 1630 the several places about Boston were occupied, Charlestown, Dorchester, Watertown, Roxbury, Medford and Weymouth. In 1634-5 settlers pressed into the interior, to the Connecticut valley, and established themselves at Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford. A year later, Roger Williams, with an independence too radical even for the Puritans, was sent out of Massachusetts and began the colony at Providence; and in 1637 pioneers wintered in New Haven. Within ten or eleven years two hundred ships crossed the Atlantic and twenty thousand Englishmen forsook their old homes to make new ones in the wilderness.

They were a choice stock. No other would have dared what they did. Most of them had been accustomed to material comfort; not a few to luxury. Among them were owners of large estates, shrewd merchants, able lawyers, learned and eloquent ministers, attractive teachers, scholars of high rank at Oxford and Cambridge; while the rest were mostly thrifty farmers, with here and there a skilled artisan.

Pioneers are usually men of force. These were; but with other rarer qualities added. They had beliefs, and these so woven into

their texture as to command them. They came with a moral purpose and with no thought of going back—not as bands of adventurous men eager for exploits, or fame, or gold—but bringing their wives too, their boys and girls, helpless babes, and household treasures, to plant themselves permanently in the unknown land.

This made the New England settlements wholly unlike those of Canada, the West Indies or South America. Those started with men. These started with families. Those yielded not a little to the barbarism they found. These kept their civilization and made it virile. They were great as progenitors. It was the greatness of the Hebrew patriarchs. Their intelligence, love of freedom and fidelity to conviction would have been short-lived but for the vigorous family life that prevailed. They perpetuated themselves in children. The children married, blending diverse social elements, and transmitting commingled traits to a multiplying people. The twenty thousand became millions, keeping still the forceful character of the first colonists, but unfolding it in expressions infinitely varied.

In the sister colonies many of the conditions were similar. Sires of noble lineage in Virginia made the homes out of which came in due time Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, and their great associates. Penn and his Quakers gave to Pennsylvania its character of thrift and stability. The Dutch planted themselves in New York, and there came to the Carolinas Scotch-Irish, French Huguenots and Protestants of other nationalities, led thither by the spirit of freedom and the purpose to rear their children in the fear of God.

These were the seed widely scattered that were to grow together into a new and strong nation.

The first permanent settlement in the neighborhood of Boston was that of Dorchester. The colonists, one hundred and forty in number, gathered with no little care from Devon, Dorset and Somersetshire, in England, had among them two magistrates and a church already organized with two ministers. The Sunday after landing, June 6, 1630, services of gratitude and praise were held under the open sky and the community was formally inaugurated. Four or five years later there was a movement to plant a colony in the fertile valley of the Connecticut, which resulted in the removal of most of the Dorchester people, with their minister, Rev. John Warham, to Windsor. At the same time many ships

were arriving with fresh immigrants from England, and a ready sale was found for the improvements they had made. Of the new settlers the most important was a company who came in 1635 with Rev. Richard Mather from Bristol, in the ship "James." Mr. Mather was chosen minister of the settlement; and the changes had been so great that a newly organized church was instituted under an especially prepared covenant, which reads as follows:

"Dorchester, the 23th day of the }
6th moneth, Anno. 1636. }

Wee whose names are subscribed being called of God to joyne o'selves together in Church Comunion, from o' hearts acknowledging o' disability to keepe coven^t wth God or to p'fourme any spirituall duty w^{ch} hee calleth us unto, unlesse the Lord Jesus do enable us thereunto by his spirit dwelling in us. Doe in the name of Cht Jesus o' Lord and in trust and confidence of his free grace assisting us freely Coven^t & bind ourselves solemnly in the presence of God himselfe, his holy Angells and all his servants here present that wee will by his grace assisting us endeavour constantly to walke togeather as a right ordered Congregacon of Cht. according to all the holy rules of a church-body rightly established, so farre as wee do already know it to bee o' duty or shall further und'stand it out of Gods holy word: Promising first & above all to cleave unto him as o' chiefe & onely good. and to o' Lord Jesus Cht as o' onely spirituall husband and Lord, & o' onely high priest & Prophet and King. And for the furthering of us to keepe this blessed Comunion wth God and wth his sonne Jesus Cht and to grow up more fully therein, wee do likewise promise by his grace assisting us, to endeavour the establishing amongst o'selves of all his holy ordinances w^{ch} hee hath appointed for his churches here on earth, and to observe all and every of them in such sort as shall be most agreeable to his will; opposing to the utmost of o' power, whatsoever is contrary thereunto, & bewayling fro o' hearts o' owne neglect thereof in former tyme, and our polluting o'selves therein wth any sinfull inventions of men.

And lastly wee do hereby Coven^t & p'mise to further to o' utmost power, the best spirituall good of each other, and of all and every one that may become members of this Congregacon, by mutuall Instruction reprehension, exhortacon, consolacon, and spirituall watchfulnes over one another for good; and to bee subject in and for the Lord to all the Administracons and Censures of the Congregacon, so farre as the same shall bee guided according to the rules of Gods most holy word.

Of the integrity of o' heartes herein wee call God the searcher of all hearts to witnesse; beseeching him so to blesse us in this and all o' Enterprises, as wee shall sincerely endeavour by the assistance of his grace to observe this holy Coven^t and all the branches of it inviolably forever; and where wee shall fayle there to wayte upon the Lord Jesus for pardon and for acceptance and healing for his names sake."

The name of Thomas Dickerman first appears in the annals of Dorchester on the roll of the church and among the earliest sub-

scribers to this covenant. It seems likely that he was of Mr. Mather's company and came with him from England. This is not proved, however; nor do we find any traces of his previous history. The records of that period have been diligently searched, both in this country and in England, but without success.

The name, taken by itself, would seem to indicate a German origin, being compounded of the two words *bid* or *bider* and *mann*, meaning *stout man*. It belongs, also, to many German families at the present time; and several representatives of these families have been among the recent immigrants from that country to America.

This suggestion offers a wide scope for fancy. Our ancestor may have been in the great struggles for religious freedom on the continent before he joined the Puritans. Possibly he fled from oppressions there in the hope of finding a freer air in Protestant England; and, disappointed in this, united his fortunes to those who were looking to lands beyond the seas.

In this uncertainty, a single fact seems to give us a glimpse into the heart of the man. It is the name he gave his son, born not long before he sailed. That name was taken from the earliest adventurer for conscience sake who left his fatherland and "went out not knowing whither he went." One can hardly suppose that this child, at such a crisis in the family life, was called "Abraham" without thought of what the name stood for. Rather it is to be taken as the sign that his parents adopted for themselves the motives and purpose of the patriarch.

We may infer a like religious meaning in the baptismal names of their later children "Isaac" and "John." They had by heart the Genesis tale of Isaac—that long promise fulfilled, the sacrifice at Moriah, choosing Rebecca, digging the Philistine's wells, and winning peace. They knew of John—fisherman, aspirant for a right hand place, beloved disciple, evangelist and revelator. In giving their boys these names they had reasons. Parents in 1635 did not go over the Atlantic and put their families in cabins among Indians and wolves for a conviction, and then do such things as this without meaning.

We know it was a habit throughout New England to give to children Bible names. But do the names lose their rich suggestiveness on this account? Is it not truer to recognize in them the unfolding flower of a loving familiarity with Scripture story which everywhere prevailed?

The new settlers in Dorchester were soon as much at home there as those who had been longer on the ground. The country was new and wild, but not so wild as it had been. Energy and thrift showed their effects. Better houses were built, streams were bridged, roads opened, fences made and more land brought under cultivation. At first the lands were obtained of the town for the asking. But it was not long before they began to have market value. One of the earliest entries in the records reads,

"It is generally agreed that whosoever doth not mowe his owne lott shall not sell it to any for above Two pence an acre."

But in *October, 1636,*

"It is ordered euery p'ticular inhabitant shall take a viewe of his house and garden and hoame lotts how they lye bounded (towards other mens, or towards the commons) according to the poynts of the compasse, and so of their great lotts and medow ground as they lay bounded euery way, and the number of acres of all such lands."

And a few months later, *January 16,*

"It is ordered that whosoever breaketh open any pale shall pay fve shillings and that all the hoame lotts be sufficiently paled by the first of March.

It is ordered that all the land both of the great necke and about the Towne and of both sides the Riuer of Naponsett which is not already allotted out shall be deuided into p'priety to each hoame lott according to p'portion agreed upon."

Now come two entries relating to Thomas Dickerman as follows:

January, 1637. "It is ordered that all the land in common within Dorchester one both sides the Riuer Naponset shall be deuided according to the rule alredy agreed vpon for deuideing the necke all convenient watering places to be left common and this diuision to be according to states and p'sons as it stands now 16 January the tyme of the making this order. The 20 men to Judge of Circumstances in setting downe mens estates.

March 18th. The Proportion which each man is to haue in the necke according to the rule agreed on for deuideing the same as here vnder foll

The Proportion which each man is to haue of the Cowes Pasture and other land according to the same rule of deuision for euery on this side the Riuer.

	akers	quarters	rodes	akers	quarters	rodes
Thos: Dickerman	3	1	17	3	2	37"

There are one hundred and four names in all.

April 1st, 1640. "It is ordered that Thomas Dickerman, Henry Wright and Thomas Sampford shall haue each of them one aker and halfe of marsh in M^r. Hawkins neck which was formerly granted them and not booked."

With this growth there was shown care for other interests, particularly for education. Dorchester is said to have been the first community known, to make public provision for a free school by direct tax on the inhabitants.

"It is ordered the 20th of May 1639, that "there shalbe a rent of 20^{li} yeerely foreu^r imposed vpon Tomsons Iland to bee payd p' eñy p'son that hath p'rtie in the said Iland according to the p'portion that any such p'son shall frō tyme to tyme injoy and posesse there, and this towards the mayntenance of a schoole in Dorchest^r this rent of 20^{li} yeerly to bee payd to such a schoolemaster as shall vndertake to teach english latin and oth^r tongues and also writing the sayd^d schoolemaster to bee chosen frō tyme to tyme p' the freemen and that is left to the discretion of the elders and the 7 men for the tyme beeing whether maydes shalbe taught with the boyes or not."

After a short trial it was found that collecting so many rents was difficult and it was thought best to have the land conveyed to the town,

"Whereas the Inhabitants of Dorchester haue formerly ordered, Consented and agreed that a Rente of Twentie pound p' ann. shall issue & be payd by the sayd Inhabitants & their heires from & out of a Certaine porcon of land in Dorchester called Tomsons Iland for & towards the maintenance of a schoole in Dorchester aforesayd. And that vpon experience it is found to be a matter of great labour & difficultie to collect the sayd rent from soe many severall p'sons as ought to pay the same according to their seuerall p'portions the p'sons that haue title to land in the sayd Iland & who therefore ought to pay the sayd rent, being noe lesse in number then sixscore or therabout. And inasmuch as the sayd rent of Twentie pound, when it is duly Collected & payd, is not of it self sufficient maintenance for a schoole without some addicon there vnto. For the augmentinge therefor of the sayd rent & to the intent that the same may hencforth be more readily collected and payd, It is heerby ordered and all the p'sent Inhabitants of Dorchester aforesayd Whose names are heervnto subscribed doe for themselues & their heires heerby Covenant, consent and agree thatt from hencforth the sayd Iland and all the benefitt & p'fitts therof and all there right & Interest in the same shalbe wholly & for euer bequeathed and given away from themselues & their heires vnto the Town of Dorchester aforesayd for & Towards the maintenance of a free schoole in Dorchester aforesayd for the instructinge & Teachinge of Children & youth in good literature & Learninge.

* * * * *

In witness wherof the p'sent Inhabitants have heervnto subscribed ther names the Seaventh day of the Twelfth moneth in the yeare 1641."

Among the seventy-one signatures is that of

Thomas Dickerman

There are connoisseurs of autographs who think they can read a man's character in his handwriting. What is the character in these ink lines of two hundred and fifty years ago? Plain, bold, rugged, a little angular, perhaps, but transparent and easy to read. It shows best among the seventy others with which it stands in the manuscript—a collection not so elegant as may be found in a modern album yet with quite as much manhood back of them—and, such as they are, we do not find one with which this will not bear comparison.

Frontier life has quite a range. Look at this list of payments for services to the town, and see how teacher Hallett, nurse Pope, cattle tender George, with the hunters of wolves and the repairers of the meeting house, have all been occupied.

"An Account of the Rates gathered In the yeare 1651 For the Vse of the towne of dorchester

	<i>li</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
It. scoole Rate	30	00	00
It. towne Rate	20	00	00
It. Rate for powder and the castle	35	00	00
It. Rate for the garison debt	24	00	00
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
some Total	109	00	00

Disbursed as followeth :

	<i>li</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
To M ^r hallett a dew to her husband	19	00	00
It. to her 40 ^s allowed by the towne for spoile in his books	02	00	00
It. to Alce pope for laks child 3 ^{li} 14 ^s and for cloths 10 ^s	04	04	00
It. for glasse For the meeting house	01	12	00
It. to John Smith For wood for m ^r hallett	01	10	00
It. abated and of those removed out of towne uoted not to pay	01	14	07
It. to m ^r phillips of boston for chardges In sute for the Iland	03	03	05
It. to Nico : Georg for the yeare 1650	02	15	00
It. to Tho : burch for Iron work for the meeting house	00	04	00
It. to W ^m Robinson for a wolfe killing	01	00	00
It. to bro. Clark for bartholomew	00	06	00
It. to bro Dickerman For timber for the meeting house	00	07	00
* * * * *			
It. to an Indian for a wolf of nico woods	01	00	00
Itm. to Peter Lyon for a wolfe	1	00	00
Itm. for worke which brother Clarke did at the scowle howse and tymber and Carting	00	9	00
Itm. vnto brother Dickerman for more boutes by brother Clarke	00	7	00"

One other clause in these town records is of interest as showing the position our ancestor held in the esteem of the colonists.

" 1 of the 10 m^e 51 At the meeting for the Choys of towne officers for the
 yeare insewing there is Chosen for Select men

* * * *

Raters

John Capen
 Thomas Dickerman
 William Sumner Sen^r "

The church records speak only of the baptism of his two sons, Isaac, 1637-8, and John, 29, 7 mo., 1644 (Oct, 29, 1644), and of the dismissal of his widow after his death, 14, (4) 1663 (July 14, 1663), to the church in Meadfield where her second husband, John Bul-
 lard, lived. There is a note about Isaac written later, "Removed
 to Connecticut;" but this is doubtless an error, confusing
 him with his brother Abraham. There is also a mention of
 Sarah Dickerman in a list of "young Maids in Dorchester" in
 1676, and her age is given as 20. She was probably the daughter
 of Thomas Dickerman, of Malden, born Oct., 1653, and her enroll-
 ment with the Dorchester maids may have occurred while on a
 visit.

In the records of Dorchester births, marriages and deaths are
 the following :

" Isaac, the son of Thomas Dickerman & his wife was Born (9th) 1637. (Dec.,
 1637.)

Thomas Dickerman Deceased this life the 3 : 11 : 1657. (June 11, 1657.)

Abraham Dickerman was Married unto Mary the daughter of John Coop^r. by
 Major Atherton 2. 10. 58. (January 2, 1658, old style, or 1659 new style.)*"

What other knowledge we can gain of this earliest home is
 derived from four papers which are given below : the first and
 second, deeds of property in Boston ; the third, a deed of the
 homestead in Dorchester ; the fourth, an inventory of Thomas
 Dickerman's estate.

From Suffolk Deeds, Lib. I., 280.

" Bee it knowne vnto all men by theis p'sents y^t I Willm Phillips Marriner
 for good & valluable Consideracon by me in hand Recd, haue bargained &
 sould and by theis p'sents do bargaine and sell my hose and ground & all
 appertenances apptaining therevnto lately belonging to Mr. Bartholomewe Bar-
 nerd which house is near the New meeting house Zacha : Phillips Joyning to

* It is to be kept in mind that previous to 1752 the legal year began on the 25th of March, so that
 April was the first month and March the twelfth, and dates in January, February and March have
 to be written according to old style in one year, and according to new style in the year following.
 In this work both dates will be given : thus, "Abraham Dickerman was married Jan. 2, 1658-9."

the Norward, and goodman Dickerman Southward All wth my appertenances house ground Leanetow I do acknowledge to haue sold to my father William Phillips Inholder in Boston But in Case that I the said Willm Phillips do pay seauenty pounds sterling money at or before the 20th may next in Boston at my fathers dwelling house thene my house is my owne againe. But if not thene the house and all belonging vnto it is my fathers owne To haue & to hold for euer his heires & executo^{rs} & assignes for euer And y^t I do further Covenant that he shall quietly enjoy the same wthout the molestacon of any Whatsoeuer witnes my hand & Seale this first of January 1652.

p me Willm Phillips & a seale

Sealed & deliuered in the pⁿce of,

Nicho : Phillips, Zacha : Phillips

This deede of sale or Mortgage was acknowledged by Willm Phillips Junior to be to the vse of his father Willm Phillips this 13th of the 11th mo 1652 before me Willm Hibbins.

Entred & Recorded the 13th february 1652

Edward Rawson Recorder."

From Suffolk Deeds, Lib. IV., 78.

" Know all men by these presents that I Bartholomew Barnard of Boston in New England Carpenter for Considerations me thereunto mooving haue sold vnto Thomas Dickerman of Dorchester in New England Taylor one parcell of Ground Conteyning forty foote in breadth on the foreside & thirty sixe foote on the bakeside & fifty foote in length more or lesse lying in Boston by the highway that Comes vp from the waterside by Isaacke Cullemores house which is now in the possession of John farneham, striking ouer the feilds towards charles Towne fery place being bounded on the East side by the highway on the west side by Goodman Martjn on the North side by that which was late in the possession of Willjam Phellips. on the south side by the said Bartholomew Barnard in which m^r Mayho Now liues, for & in Consideration of the some of tenn pounds to me in hand pajd and sattisfied for the wth some I the sajd Bartholomew doe bind me my heires execcuto^{rs} administrato^{rs} and Assignes firmly by these presents that he the sajd Thomas, his heires execcuto^{rs} administrato^{rs} and Assignes shall from tyme to tyme & at all tymes hold & quietly possesse & enjoy the same foreuer wthout the lett hinderance or molestation of any person or persons that might heretofore or shall hereafter lay any Clajme or right to the same In Witnes whereof I haue heerevnto set my hand and Seale, this 26. of the $\frac{6}{mo}$ 1656 :

Wittnes Edw Ting

Christophe^r Gibson

his m^rke

Bartholomew B Barnet & a

seale: wth som wax :

Alice the wife of the aboue mentioned Bartholomew Barnard did acknowledg hir free & voluntary Consent to the Sale of the within mentioned p^rmisses & freely yielded vp hir right by dowry or otherwise, to the wthin mentioned Grantee this 28. $\frac{6}{mo}$. 1656, before me

Humphrey Atharton

Entred & Reco^ded this 23^d January 1662

p Edw. Rawson Recorder."

From Suffolk Deeds, Lib. IV., 301-303.

"To all Xpian people to whome this p^rsent writing shall Come John Bullard of Medfeild in the Countie of Suffolke, in the Massachusetts Colonie of New England husbandman & Ellen his wife the relict & Administratrix of Thomas Dickerman Late of Dorchester in the said Countie deceased Send Greeting Know yee that the said John Bullard & Ellen his said wife for & in Consideracon of sixtie five pounds, whereof twentie Shillings in Siluer in hand payd by Jacob Hewens of Said Dorchester husbandman, the other Sixtie Fower pounds by him secured to be payd according to agreemt, Have given granted bargained Sold Enfeoffed & Confirmed, & by these p^rsents doe giue grant bargain Sell Enfeoffe & Confirme vnto the Said Jacob Hewens his heires & assignes foreuer, All that dwelling house in Dorchester aforesaid, w^{ch} was the dwelling house of the said Thomas Dickermā deceased, with a Barne two smale Orchards & fūe acres of Land more or Lesse about the Said house, most of w^{ch} being inclosed the said Orchard being pt of the said fūe acres bounded on the one Side with the high way East, on the other side with the land of William Turner west, one end with the Land of the Said Jacob Hewens Southerly, the other end, with y^e brooke called Roxbury brooke Northerly also fower divisions of Woodlands in the Comons of Dorchester aforesaid, being already devided & all other right of Comons as yet undevided belonging to the Said house part of w^{ch} said dwelling house and Land did belong to Abraham Dickerman one of the Sonnes of y^e said Thomas Dickerman deceased And vpon the remouall of him the said Abraham, the said Ellen his Mother purchased all his right & interest, in the said houce lott Barne Orchards & all the Comons & appurtenances belonging, as by note vnder his hand bearing date the tenth of the Sixth month One thousand Sixe hundred fifty nine, witnessed by William Clarke more fully appeareth. The residue of the said Estate hereby Sold properly belonging to the said Ellen as p Agreemt of division between her & her Children the youngest of w^{ch} having attained to the age of one & twenty yeares, as by the aforerecited note appeareth. To haue and to hold y^e aforebargained p^rmisses with the appur^{tes} & euy pt & pcell thereof vnto the said Jacob Hewens his heyres & assignes to the only prop^r vse & behoofe of the said Jacob Hewens his heyres & assignes foreuer. And the said John Bullard & Ellen his Said Wife pties to these p^rsents for them Selues theire heires Executors & Administrato^rs doe Covenant & grant too & with y^e said Jacob Hewens his heyres & assignes by these p^rsents, That they the said John Bullard & Ellen his said wife or the one of them at the time of theire sealing deliuy hereof is are & stand rightfully & Lawfully seized of the Said p^rmisses, hereby mentioned to be bargained & Sold & eu^y pt & pcell thereof in a good pfect & absolute estate of Inheritance in fee simple & that they or one of them haue full power, good right & Lawfull Authority to grant Bargaine Sell Convey & assure y^e same in manner & forme aforesaid And y^e he y^e said Jacob Hewens his heires & assignes & euery of y^m them Shall and May foreuer hereafter peaceably & quietly haue hold & enjoy y^e aforebargained p^rmisses with the appur^{tes} thereof as aforeSaid free & Cleere, & Cleerely acquitted & discharged of & from all form^e & other bargaines & sales gifts grants estates & incombrances whatsoever had made Comitted, & done or Suffered to be done, by them the said John Bullard & Ellen his Said wife or either of them theire hejres or assignes or any pson or psons, Claymeing by from or vnder them, or either of

them. And that they the said John Bullard & Ellen his said wife Shall & will vpon reasonable & Lawfull demand acknowledge this p'sent deed, for further Confirmation thereof according to y^e Lawes of the Said Massachusetts Jurisdiction In Witness Whereof the said John Bullard & Ellen his Said wife haue herevnto put their hands & seales the sixe & twenty day of february in the yeare of our Lord, one thousand Sexe hundred Sixtie & three

In the p'sence of
Joseph Bullard
Ralph Wheelocke
This deed acknowledged
by John Bullard & Ellen
his wife, being Examined
did freely Consent hereto
29th : 4 : 1665

Rich^d Bellingham Gov^r
Entered & Recorded this 29th June 1665

John Bullard & a seale
his \neg X m'ke
Ellen Bullard
her O m'ke & a seale

p Edw. Rawson Record^r "

"An Inventory of the goods & Estate of Tho: Dickerman who deceased the third of the Eleventh month 1657 prized by a just and true value, by us whose names are underwritten y^e 15 of the 11th mo: 1657

Imprimis.

in Books	2 ..	03 ..	—
It. in thread and Leather	— ..	08 ..	—
It. 5 sheets	1 ..	14 ..	—
It. one Table Cloth	— ..	10 ..	—
It. two pillow be's	— ..	07 ..	—
It. three napkins	— ..	03 ..	—
It. wearing apparrell	3 ..	— ..	—
It. one smale featherbed and boulster an old Trutull bedstead	1 ..	18 ..	—
It. one Chest and meale trough	— ..	10 ..	—
It. one keeler and halfe hogst. & two old sickles	— ..	03 ..	08
It. hempe drest and undrest	— ..	02 ..	06
It. one feather bed in the Lower roome and two boulsters & two pillowes one greene Rugg a ¶ of sheets & one blankett }	6 ..	10 ..	—
It. one bedstead in another roome & y ^e pillow & y ^e clothes y ^e to belonging }	1 ..	— ..	—
It. one Chest	— ..	06 ..	—
It. two old wheeles and a churne	— ..	08 ..	—
It. One Table and two old Chaires	— ..	12 ..	—
It. wooden dishes and bowles and trenchers and an old forme and a measuring pecke }	— ..	04 ..	—
It. 4 pewter dishes and one drinking bowle and spoons, & a pewter Chamber pott }	— ..	17 ..	—
It. two keettell one warming pan one brass skillet one skimer	1 ..	14 ..	—
It. one brasse pott one Iron pott & one frying pan	1 ..	— ..	—
It. 3 Earthen dishes one hower glasse & one brush	— ..	04 ..	—

It. one paire of pinsers, one old hammer a drawing knife	— ..	02 ..	02
It. one swoad and belt	— ..	15 ..	—
It. worke unfinished and a paire of sheeres	— ..	10 ..	—
It. one Ⓕ of Andirons a Ⓕ tongues a frying pan and gridiron & potthookes & potthang'es, one spitt & Iron foote	}	— ..	16 .. —
It. one smoothing Iron			
It. two Cowes one yeere old Calfe & y ^e haye p'vided for them one hogg & two piggs	}	10 ..	12 .. —
It. the dwelling house and barne and orchards, & about 6 Ackers of Land about the house, & before the house of Jacob Hewens, and the Comons belonging to it, and the twentie Acre Lott and one Acre of land lying in the little woods			
It. the house and Land at Boston		150 ..	— .. —
It. In debts and things forgott		2 ..	— .. —

John Capen

W^m Clarke

Ellen Dickerman deposed before the Court that this is a true Inventory, of hir late husbands Jn^o (Thomas) Dickermans Estate to the best of hir knowledge, that when she knows more she will discover it 25: 11^{mo}: 1657

Suffolk Probate vol. III pp. 110-111 "

From these papers it appears that Thomas Dickerman was a tailor and that he also cultivated a farm. He had a homestead in Dorchester where he owned land as early as 1636, to which an addition was made in 1637. He also owned a house and land in Boston Neck where he began to acquire property as early as 1652, to which he added in 1656. This constituted the more valuable part of his estate, and was appraised at 150£ (\$726.00), while the farm and buildings at Dorchester were set down at 47£ (\$221.60), and the entire property at 235£ 11. 04. (\$1130.72). Both of these places were within the limits of what is now Boston. The homestead was on the west side of the highway just before it crossed Roxbury brook, the boundary between Dorchester and Roxbury, ground now lying on Dudley street between North avenue and Brook avenue. The place in the Neck was on the south side of Summer street near the present junction of Bedford street. What use was made of this Boston property we can only guess. Quite likely the tailoring house was here. The additional land he bought of Bartholomew Barnard less than a year before his death, which indicates plans that he did not live to carry out.

We should like to see those books, the first item in the Inventory, valued at 2£. 03. (\$10.30); not a large library, we may think ;

but holding a high place in a house where all the rest of the furniture was appraised at less than \$100.00. In how many houses to-day would the books be appraised at a tenth of all the furniture? Boston people had not yet gone into the publishing business and there was no occasion for international copyright. Every printed page had to be brought from the other side of the sea. But already the habit of "plain living and high thinking" was in some of these cabins, and books were as essential as daily bread.

Two years after Thomas Dickerman's death, Sep. 10, 1659, his widow, Mrs. Ellen Dickerman, bought of the other heirs their rights in the Dorchester homestead. John had died before this time, Isaac had recently come of age, and Abraham was married. Of Abraham we know that he removed at once with his wife to New Haven, and we have a full narrative of his life there. There are no vestiges of Isaac, after this for sixty years, till in 1720 his name appears in the Boston records. There is some uncertainty about the connection of Thomas Dickerman of Malden with this family. No documents identify him with them; and yet there is hardly room for a doubt that he was the elder son of Thomas of Dorchester. The name was too unusual, not only in the colonies, but in England, to think of the two being of different families. And there was the Boston property, so much the larger part of the estate—how can we better account for its disposal than by assuming that it went into the hands of the two brothers Thomas and Isaac, and that Isaac continued to live in Boston till we find him and his son there long afterwards?

Thomas Dickerman, Jr., is identified with Malden, where he lived and reared his family. A deposition taken in 1658 speaks of him as "aged about 35." This fixes his birth at about 1623; and, on the arrival of the family in New England, he was probably about twelve years old—old enough to be useful, and perhaps to earn his own living. This will account for the absence of all reference to him in the Dorchester records.

CHART I.

OUTLINE OF THE EARLY FAMILY.

