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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE REV. JOHN WISWALL, M. A.

A LOYALIST CLERGYMAN IN NEW ENGLAND AND NOVA
SCOTIA

1731-1821

BY REV. E. M. SAUNDERS, D. D.

(READ BEFORE THE NOVA SCOTIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.)

On a marble table affixed to the walls of the Middleton Episcopal Church is the following inscription :

“ Sacred to the memory of the Rev. John Wiswall, A. M., who was born at Boston, U. S., 3rd April, 1731, ordained by the Bishop of London, 1764. He left his native land in 1775 in consequence of the revolutionary struggle, and was appointed rector of the parish in Wilmot in 1789, where he continued until his death, 2nd December, 1821. He was the first clergyman of any denomination who settled in this place.”

Ichabod Wiswill, or Wiswall, as the Rev. John Wiswall uniformly wrote it, was born in Lancashire, England, in 1636. When an infant he came with his father and four or five brothers to New England. In 1652 he entered Harvard, but on account of some changes which took place in the government of that school, he, with the rest of his class, withdrew from the institution, and consequently did not receive the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He became a Puritan preacher of some note, and, as was common for clergymen in that day, took a prominent part in the political affairs of the American-English colonies.

NOTE.—The chief authorities used in the preparation of this paper were Van Tyne's *Loyalists of the American Revolution*, Fisher's *True History of the American Revolution*, the MSS of the Rev. Jacob Bailey, now in the possession of the N. S. Historical Society, and the MS journal of the Rev. John Wiswall. This consists of one large folio volume in a state of excellent preservation; it is in the custody of the Wiswall family, and has been drawn on largely.—E. M. S.