

the date of the Colonial license; which is probably not the fact. The book was printed, though perhaps only the first part, and circulated before March 19, 1676-7. Under this date John Cotton writes from Plymouth to Increase Mather, as follows:

I could have desired to have kept your booke a few days longer whereby it might have bin filled with marginal notes of Erratas. Our Gov^r & Magistrat[es] had some cursory perusall of the booke, the mistakes are Judged to be many more than the truths in it. Our Gov^r & Mag's doe affirm that Alexander was got home before he dyed.¹

By the light of subsequent letters, it is certain that the book here referred to was Hubbard's Narrative; and it is equally clear that it was not in manuscript, though it may have been an advance copy. This free expression of opinion by Cotton caused some hard feeling toward him on the part of Hubbard, and occasioned a sharp correspondence. The author of the Narrative was desirous to obtain from the Plymouth authorities an approval of his work, similar to that given by the Colony of Massachusetts, but the wish was not gratified.

I am aware that the date "April, 1677," appears in the text of the first part, near the end, which at first sight would indicate that the book was printed after that time; but a double-leaded space immediately before this date, in connection with the foregoing facts, leaves it a fair inference that these few lines were added after the main portion of the first part had appeared.

In the Boston edition of the Narrative are two lists of *Errata*, — one of them appearing near the beginning of the book, and the other at the end. In the London edition there is no similar list, though the corrections for the most part have been duly made, which shows that the English printers had the benefit of them both.

¹ Collections, ~~third~~ ^{fourth} series, VIII. 232.