

PREFACE.



It has been the growing conviction of the author of these pages, that there is much in the early history of New England suited to effect the happiest results ; that it contains numerous incidents highly adapted to exhibit God in a most glorious and delightful view ; to give us admiring thoughts of his wisdom, benevolence, and faithfulness ; to inflame the love, strengthen the faith, and awaken the gratitude of his people ; to interest and instruct the mind, and to promote morality and religion in the community.

With this impression, it seemed exceedingly desirable that these incidents should be extensively read. But hitherto they have been confined to a few rare works, so that, to most persons, they have been inaccessible, and to a great degree unknown. The design of this volume is, to embody these incidents, and present them to the reader in one view.

Selections have been made from the following works, viz. Mather's *Magnalia*, Winthrop's *Journal*, Morton's *New England Memorial*, Prince's *Chronology*, Hubbard's *History of New England* ; the *Histories of Hutchinson, Trumbull, Belknap, Williams,*