

"day of December, in the Year of our Lord,
 "1538, the 30th of the reign of King Henry
 "VIII."

This inscription is engraved in the style and spelling which prevailed at that time.

The Coffin family has been allied by inter-marriages, with the Honourable Houses of Chudleigh, Carey, Courtney, Beaumont, Prideaux, Clifford, &c. &c. and even with Royalty, having married grand-daughters and great-grand-daughters of William the Conqueror, Henry I. and Edward I.

The following account has been given to the compiler of this Memoir as the reason of the exile of this fine old family, from its native land.

In the troublesome time of the Stuarts, the members of the family devoted themselves to the cause of the people, and thus at the restoration were fated to lose all they had. On the return of Charles II. to England, Colonel Tristram Coffin of Brixton, near Kitley, county Devon, being then Governor of Plymouth, and expecting nothing but persecution from Charles, resigned the command of the citadel, embarked for America, and on his arrival in that country, settled with his family at Newbury Port.