

[treaty or conference was thought expedient to confirm them in their friendship with the English, and, if possible, to draw them from the Roman Catholic to the Protestant religion.

(*Anno* 1717.)—The governor, therefore, the first summer after his arrival, in August, attended by several of the council both of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and other gentlemen, met the Indians at Arowsick island. At the beginning of the conference he delivered them an English and an Indian bible, which he told them contained the religion of the English, and at the same time recommended to them Mr. Baxter, a minister who went down as a missionary, and told them he would explain the bible, and instruct them in the principles of religion. They were at no loss for an answer. "All people, they said, loved their own ministers; and as for the bible, they desired to be excused from keeping it: God had given them teaching, and if they should go from that they should displease God." They were fixed in their religion, and it would have been a loss of time to attempt to move them. The rest of the conference was upon the right of the English to settle in that part of the country. Upon complaint made by the Indians of encroachments upon their lands, the governor produced one of the original deeds which had been given by their sachems. They acknowledged the lands to the w. of Kennebeck belonged to the English, but they were sure no sale had ever been made of any lands to the e. The governor told them the English would not part with an inch of land which belonged to them. The Indians were so offended that they rose immediately, and, without any ceremony, took to their canoes and went to another island where they had their head-quarters, leaving behind an English flag which the governor had given them. In the evening several of them returned to Arowsick with a letter from Rallé to the governor, acquainting him, that the French king did not allow that in any treaty he had given away the land of the Indians to the English, and would protect the Indians against the English encroachments. The governor let them know, that he highly resented the insolence of the Jesuit, and the next morning ordered the signal for sailing. Rallé, in his letters, often laments the unsteadiness of the Indians. They were afraid at this time of a new war. The old men were loth to quit their villages at Norridgewock and Penobscot, where they lived at ease, and encamp in the woods, or, which was much worse, depend upon the French, who, they would often say, treated them like dogs when

there was no immediate occasion for their service. This consideration induced them to send two of their number with a message to the governor, acknowledging that yesterday they had been rude and unmannerly, and earnestly desiring to see him again. He let them know he would see them upon no terms, unless they quitted their pretensions to the lands which belonged to the English. This the messengers promised should be done, and desired that the English colours which they had slighted might be returned them. In the evening they came again to the conference, and appointed a new speaker as a mark of resentment against the former, who, they said, had behaved ill the day before, and, without entering into any dispute about particular limits or bounds, declared they were willing the English should settle where their predecessors had settled, desired to live in peace and to be supplied with necessities, in a way of trade, confessed that some of their inconsiderate young men had offered injuries to the English, and violated the treaty of Portsmouth in 1713. After renewing that treaty, the conference ended.

The beginning of an administration in the colonies is generally calm and without ruffle. Several months passed, after Colonel Shute's arrival, without open opposition to any measures. The town of Boston, at the first election of their representatives, left out such as had been bank men, and chose such as were of the other party, but Mr. Cooke, who was at the head of the first party, had interest enough to obtain a place in council. It was, soon after, insinuated that the governor was a weak man, easily led away, and that he was in the hands of the Dudleys, men of high principles in government, and it behoved the people to be very careful of their liberties. Mr. Cooke, who had the character of a fair and open enemy, was free in expressing his sentiments, and the governor was informed of some contemptuous language in private company, with which he was so much offended as to procure Mr. Cooke's removal from the place of clerk to the superior court. A dispute happening about the same time between Mr. Bridges, surveyor of the woods, and the inhabitants of the province of Maine, concerning the property of the white pine trees within that province; Mr. Cooke immediately inserted himself in the controversy, publicly patronized the inhabitants, and in a memorial to the house of representatives charged the surveyor with mal-conduct in threatening to prosecute all who without licence from him shall cut any pine trees in their own ground, which Mr. Cooke alleged they had good right to do, and]