

Trials of the Early Settlers.

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ABOUT two hundred years ago a few lonely farm-houses scattered over a most unpromising surface of rough rocks on the bleak wild shores of New Hampshire, called themselves a village and were incorporated under the Indian name of Coheco; which name, however, was soon after changed for that of Dover. From its settlement till the year 1675, its industrious inhabitants appear to have lived generally in peace with the savages who wandered in the neighborhood. But the treacherous character of the Indians was too well known to allow any village to be without its little stockade and some well garrisoned houses; or perhaps the goodly men of Dover had a secret misgiving that the Indians had suffered some wrong at their hands; that they had a little over-reached their red brethren in their bargains, as their worthy neighbours of Springfield did, when they purchased nine square miles for a wheelbarrow. But a history of wrongs and sufferings which could only be read by those who committed them must be an unwelcome record, so no such journal was kept.

Who were the first aggressors, or what the provocations on either side were, cannot now be decided; but at about the time we have mentioned the Indians became more troublesome than usual, now and then entering an undefended house and helping themselves very freely to whatever they could lay their hands on; nor did they