

when he chose the place of his abode, and did not sufficiently regard the spiritual dangers to which he might expose himself. The soil of Sodom was indeed rich, but its people were wicked; and if the luxuriance of the country produced him abundance, yet the guilt of its inhabitants brought utter ruin on them and him. We may look at the local situation of Mrs. Swanton's residence, that we may understand how she met with the calamities following a fatal Indian assault.

The place of her habitation was that which is now occupied by the busy population of Portland. This is a peninsula extending into Casco Bay, but protected from the violence of the ocean by Cape Elizabeth, and by numerous islands, which form a wall, unbroken, in appearance, against the winds and the waves of the great deep. Here, therefore, was a favorable place for light Indian canoes to float securely on the water, or for their temporary wigwams to be erected on the land. Only about six thousand Indians obtained a miserable, scanty subsistence in all