

THE STRANGE NARRATIVE

Of Walter Bates, Esquire, Subject of the King,

FORMERLY OF NEW ENGLAND

Sometime High Sheriff of the County of Kings,

BIOGRAPHER OF THE NOTORIOUS HENRY MORE SMITH.

In These Chronicles, Now Given to the World for the First Time, is Told the Tale of the Loyalists, and Their Amazing Trials Amid the Enemies of His Majesty in the Colonies.

Year by year the task of collecting reliable information regarding the early history of this province becomes increasingly difficult.

Already through indifference and neglect much valuable information has been irreparably lost. It therefore becomes a matter of some importance to preserve in a more permanent form such trustworthy records as are yet in existence.

It is by no means improbable that much material of real value to the future historian lies hidden from the light of day in many an old dwelling in this province. Old family documents and letters—faded and musty—consigned in numerous instances to the attic or the lumber-room are capable of supplying here and there a missing link or throwing light on some obscure point in our provincial history.

The publication of the following extremely interesting narrative of the late Walter Bates, Esq., of Kingston, will be especially valuable if it should prove the means of arousing a spirit of inquiry and investigation amongst the possessors of old papers and documents.

A brief biographical sketch may here be given of the author of the old manuscript which now for the first time appears in print.

Walter Bates was the fourth son of John and Sarah (Bostwick) Bates. He was born March 14, 1760 in the eastern part of the town of Stamford, Connecticut—now known as Darien. The story of his early manhood is given in a very entertaining form in the narrative that follows.

After his arrival in Kingston, A. D. 1783, he soon became quite a prominent personage in the land of his adoption. Indeed during the later years of his life the name of "Sheriff Bates" was familiar in Kings county as a household word.

A man of strict integrity and good ability, he naturally took a leading position in civic affairs. For many years he filled the position of sheriff of Kings county with much efficiency and fidelity.

He was ever a loyal British subject, and a faithful and devoted member of the church of his fathers, in whose welfare he took the liveliest interest.

As a writer, he was possessed of no mean ability. Indeed, it is probable that in no other way will the name of Walter Bates be more widely known or longer remembered than as the author of that remarkable and popular book, *The Mysterious Stranger, or Memoirs of the Noted Henry More Smith*—a book first published by Barnes & Co., of this city, and which has passed through many subsequent editions by George W. Day.

Walter Bates died, at Kingston, at the advanced age of 82 years.

This very year old Trinity church, in whose erection he greatly rejoiced, commemorated the centennial of its existence. It stands as a faithful sentinel amongst the silent graves of its builders—those hardy pioneers beneath whose axes the giant trees of a primeval forest rang 100 years ago. And there, beneath the shade of the old church he loved so well, the old Loyalist rests from his labors. A square freestone column bears the following inscription:

In Memory of
WALTER BATES, Esq.,
High Sheriff of this County,
Who died
Feb. 11th, A.D. 1842,
Aged 82 years.

In Memory of
MRS. ABIGAIL BATES,
Wife of WALTER BATES, Esq.,
Who died
July 6, 1820, in the 58th year of her age.

It seems undoubtedly to have been the intention of Mr. Bates to publish the old manuscript, but increasing years and infirmities prevented the consummation of his wishes. In 1840 he drew up the following prospectus.

Nearly ready for the press—published by subscription—A brief historical sketch of the seven ministers who first, at the commencement of the rebellion against King Charles the First, embraced the doctrine of predestination and free will election, and to escape from the king's displeasure fled to New England, and there proclaimed themselves Puritans. . . . With a brief extract of their first Blue Laws; contrasted with those church ministers and loyal British subjects who were persecuted in the times of the late rebellion in New England, and who on the declaration of Independence fled from persecution into the wilderness of Nova Scotia, A.D. 1783, and established the Church of England in Kingston.

The volume to contain more than 100 pages. Price to subscribers, 2s. 6d.

Passing over for the present the former part of Mr. Bates's manuscript, which is in some places incomplete, I proceed to take up that portion which will be of special interest. W. O. RAYMOND.

The Narrative of Walter Bates.

Having through age and other infirmities been much longer with the former portion of my subject than I at first anticipated, I must therefore of necessity be very brief in what follows, hoping that my infirmities in so doing may not be viewed with severity.

It is now my desire to give a narrative of events connected with the rise and progress of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Kingston, New Brunswick, recording facts but not inventing anything, rescuing many valuable facts from oblivion. The work in a few minor details may possibly be not always correct, yet in the main it is unaffected—a body of facts, many of which in our day are entirely new and the whole is no where else to be found in so convenient a form. The work has been prepared at great expense of time, under the pressure of many cares not unmingled with sickness, pain and sorrow.

In the words of Bishop Bramhall: "No man can justly blame me for loving my spiritual mother, the Church of England, in whose womb I was conceived, at whose breasts I was nourished, and in whose bosom I hope to die."

I must only give a brief statement of

of some of them within my memory I cannot wholly pass over in silence.

As a resolute antagonist of the Puritan party, and a zealous supporter of the loyal cause, the Rev. Mr. Peters stood conspicuous. Many were the attempts to ruin him and his character. In carrying out their systematic plan of persecution, the doors of the prisons were opened, and prisoners became the leaders of mobs, composed largely of negroes, vagabonds, and thieves. The governor and council finally entered the lists, and anxious at all events to get rid of so formidable an opponent, accused him of being a spy of Lord North's and the bishops, and proclamation was made to that effect in every Republican pulpit in the colony on Sunday, the fourteenth day of August, 1774. This encouraged an armed mob of "patriots" to surround his house the same night in a tumultuous manner, ordering gates and doors to be opened.

Mr. Peters, from his window, asked if they had a warrant from a magistrate to enter his house. They replied, "We have Joice's warrant, which Charles the traitor submitted to, and it is sufficient for you."

Finally, it was agreed that a committee, composed of the most respectable men in the party, should read all the papers belonging to Mr. Peters. Accordingly, after inspecting all his papers as much as they pleased, they reported that they were satis-

the sheriff of Litchfield county could not withhold his interference, by whose timely assistance Mr. Peters was finally set at liberty and his life providentially saved. Half naked and wounded, he fled to the royal army at Boston, from whence he went to England, by which means he preserved his life, but not his property, from the rapacity and bloody hands of his cruel countrymen.

After such an experience, it is not to be wondered at that Mr. Peters had but a poor opinion of Republican liberty, or that he should have penned the following recipe:

Take the herb of Hypocrisy and root of Pride three handfuls—two ounces of Ambition and Vainglory—pound them in the mortar of Faction and of Discord—leave over the fire of Sedition until you perceive the Scum of Deceit at the top—strain it through the clogs of Rebellion—put it in the bottle of Envy—stop it with the cork of Malice till settled—then make it into pills of Conspiracy—take nine when you go to bed—say a long prayer that may be heard in the street—then go to sleep if you can, and it will be sure to have the due effects. All the next day you will be well disposed to censure the church, burn all the Bishops, murder the King, plunder the nation and cut the throats of all honest men.

(To be Continued.)

To Boom Old Kings.

The Rev. Henry Howe, formerly curate-in-charge of Shelburne, N. S., is canvassing the people of New Brunswick, on behalf of King's College, Windsor. There are many Kingsmen in the diocese and they ought to make his work light as well as fruitful. His Lordship the Metropolitan



DISTRACTED ATTENTION.

what took place after the return of those five gentlemen in Orders under the patronage of the society in old England for promoting Christian Knowledge. Whereupon the Episcopal church increased mightily in Connecticut. Several of the Presbyterian ministers went to England and obtained Episcopal ordination and soon after their return churches were built in almost every town in Connecticut, to the great annoyance of the old Puritans who cherished great jealousy against the Church of England, inherited from their ancestors.

They asserted that the Episcopal clergy were guilty of writing home amazing falsehood and that it would seem to be an agreeable office to distinguish the innocent from the guilty. About this time mobs were assembled for persecuting the loyal element in Connecticut.

Every town which did not subscribe for support of Boston was styled a Tory town, which they spared not to insult.

As on one hand rebellion raised her crest in Connecticut with more insolence than in other parts, so loyalty has there exhibited proofs of zeal and fortitude beyond example to be found elsewhere. In particular the clergy by their steady adherence to their oaths and firmness under the assaults of their enemies were a conspicuous example of fidelity. Not one among them all in their fiery trial have dishonoured the King or the Church of England. The suffering

fied Mr. Peters was not guilty of any crime laid to his charge. On Sunday, the 4th September, the country was falsely alarmed by reason of Colonel Putnam's declaring Admiral Graves had burnt Boston, and that General Gage was murdering old and young, except Tories and churchmen.

The governor seized this opportunity to set the mobs with redoubled fury upon Mr. Peters and the loyalists of Hebron, whom they called "Peterites." On this occasion intoxicated ruffians spared neither houses, goods nor persons. Some had their bowels crushed out of their bodies. Others were covered with filth and marked with the sign of the cross, in token of loyalty to bishops and kings, who, they said, designed to crucify all good people. Even women were hung up tarred and feathered. The Rev. Mr. Peters, with his gown torn off, was treated in the most insulting manner. His mother, daughter, two brothers and servants wounded, one of his brothers so badly that he died soon after, and these fiends dragged Mr. Peters almost naked from his dwelling, in spite of the cries and tears of his mother and sisters, which might have melted the heart of a savage, though it produced nothing but peals of laughter which rent to the skies. While they were dragging him to their "Liberty Pole," with intent of hoisting him up and down, as was their manner of treatment, so extremely cruel and barbarous was their usage that

and Bishop Kingdon have given liberally, and the Metropolitan has given Mr. Howe a warm letter to the clergy and laity of the diocese. The Collegiate school, of Windsor, under the headmastery of Mr. Arnoldus Miller is making strides advancement. Two full-rigged ships, the work of two of the boys, Smith and Raddin, are set up in the school with every separate part named accurately. The healthy interest taken in the school and the school work by both masters and boys is very encouraging.

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True Enough.

Perhaps you do not know, but it is a fact, that the average St. John newspaper man does an amount of work and absolute drudgery which his conferees in larger cities would not think of undergoing. When you see him walking around town at his leisure smoking a cigar, which perhaps he bought and perhaps he did not, he does not seem a very hard worked individual; but see him later and you will change your mind. They are a hard working lot and on the whole their work is good work.—Fredericton Capital.

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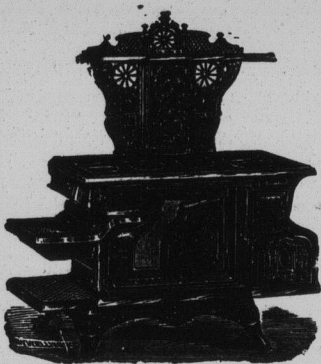
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