

in the course of time there were many amongst them of a very different character. Many worthless adventurers, tempted by the great profits made on the valuable skins which were supplied by the Indians in exchange for knives, muskets, or blankets, were now to be found in every infant settlement. These men would not work, and as they could only dispose of their rich furs by sending them to Europe, they had a long time to wait before they could receive payment for them. In the mean while, many of them fell into the most miserable and wretched condition, and some, to procure their daily food, became servants to the Indians: others abandoned themselves to riot and dissipation, and their conduct affected the well-being of the whole community. Some did not scruple to cheat and deceive the Indians whenever it lay in their power, and great offence had been frequently given by the white men's disturbing the tombs of their ancestors. This in the first instance, was done out of curiosity, and afterwards from mere wanton disregard to the feelings of those poor savages, whose veneration for the dead was mixed with many superstitions. They believed, amongst other absurdities, that if a grave were rudely disturbed, the spirit of its inhabitant would return from the pleasant hunting grounds of Indian paradise, and cry on earth for revenge.

Thomas Morton, in his book called "New English Canaan,"* relates the following incident in these words:—"In the first settling of Plymouth some of the company, in wandering about upon discovery, came to an Indian grave, which was that of the mother of Chicataubut. Over the body a stake was set in the ground, and two bear-skins, sewed together, spread over it; these the English took away. When this came to the knowledge of Chicataubut, who was a chief, or in their language, a *sachem* of the Massachusetts Indians, he complained to his people, and demanded immediate vengeance. When they were assembled round him, he thus harangued them: "When last the glorious light of all the sky was

* Published at Amsterdam in 1637.