

CHAPTER XXVI.

REVEREND JACOB BAILEY.

REV. JACOB BAILEY was born at Rowley, in 1731. The State of Maine at that time was the northeast corner of the State of Massachusetts. His parents were Puritans, belonging to the Congregational denomination. They emigrated to America thirteen years before the Pilgrims of Plymouth Rock. It was an age of inconceivable ignorance, bigotry and narrowness of mind. The refugees of European nationalities came to America to escape from the tyranny of the ruler, and exactions of the Church, to encounter poverty and hardships before which the amenities and decencies of life vanished. Politeness and civility became a sin, while old customs and a stupid exactness ruled in the field, the home and the meeting as the rule of life. New England has not a fertile soil nor genial climate,—the poverty of the soil and the people corresponded. The father of Jacob Bailey was David Bailey. The family of brothers and sisters were large; their means limited. In an age where all were poor, constant toil and rigid economy only brought the necessities of life. Education was confined to the few who had means. The privations endured seem incredible, and that people could exist under such circumstances appear impossible. Mr. Bailey says that as soon as he learned to read he had an unquenchable desire to travel in foreign countries. The conditions of his life were such that these aspirations could not be expressed, and it was not till after his tenth year that his instincts found expression from the adverse influences that surrounded him. He had but few books, and little time for recreation. His leisure hours, few as they were, were spent in scribbling. It happened when doing this one evening he was called away and left his writing uncared for. A person picked it up and was so impressed that he showed it to others. Finally it reached the parson of the parish. He was also pleased, and called upon his father and wished to see him also. Bailey had such a respect for the minister that he could not enter his presence without fear and trembling. He hid, making no appearance until the minister had left. His father told him that the minister had offered to take him into his family for a twelve month, giving him instructions without consideration. This was the generous