

P R E F A C E .

AS this translation into the Mohawk Language of the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England, has been revised and reprinted at the expense of the Company, commonly called the New England Company, a brief statement of the origin and objects of that Corporation and of their introduction to the present Canadian Mohawks, may form an appropriate preface.

The Company was originally constituted a corporation under the name of "The President and Society for the propagation of the Gospel in New England," by an ordinance issued in 1649. Under the authority of this ordinance a general collection was made in all the Counties, Cities, Towns, and Parishes in England and Wales, and lands were purchased with the money so collected.

On the Restoration a Royal Charter dated 7th February, 14 Car: 2d was issued, erecting the Corporation anew by a title which it still bears, "The Company for the propagation of the Gospel in New England and the parts adjacent in America."

Amongst the purposes of this Society the Charter states it to be "for the further propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ amongst the heathen natives in or near New England, and the parts adjacent in America, and for the better civilizing, educating, and instructing of the said heathen natives in learning and in the knowledge of the true and only God, and in the Protestant Religion already owned and publicly professed by divers of them, and for the better encouragement of such others as shall embrace the same, and of their posterities after them, to abide and continue in and hold fast the said profession."

The Honourable Robt. Boyle, a man not more distinguished as a Philosopher than as a Christian, was appointed the first Governor, and held that office for about 30 years. Under his will a handsome annuity was settled on the Company, and their means were subsequently increased by other pious and well disposed persons, especially by a bequest from an eminent dissenting minister the Rev. Dr. Daniel Williams.

It was this Company, composed as it always has been, partly of members of the Church of England and partly of Protestant dissenters, which supported various missionary undertakings in New