

degree, to be imputed to ourselves. If our governours withheld those informations, which their duty required them to have given, persons of private character ought to have undertaken that useful and necessary task. But, except some accounts of the settlements in the Massachusetts Bay and Virginia, all the other histories of our plantations upon the continent are little else than collections of falsehoods, and worse than none. That this charge against those published concerning this province, in particular, can be fully supported, I persuade myself, will incontestably appear from the following summary, concerning which I shall say a few words.

Having been formerly concerned, according to an appointment by act of assembly, in a review and digest of our provincial laws, it was the duty of myself, and my partner in that service, to peruse the minutes of the council, and the journals of the general assembly, from the glorious revolution, at the accession of king William, to the year 1751 : and as an acquaintance with our publick transactions, was a branch of instruction, of which a student for the profession of the law ought not to be ignorant, I have since re-examined those entries, beginning with the first minutes of council, and read over many of the records in the secretary's office. From these authentick materials, the following pages were, in a great measure, compiled. For many of those parts, which concern our affairs with the French and the Indians, antecedent to the peace of Ryswick, in 1697, I am bound to make liberal acknowledgments to Dr. Colden, the author of the history of the Five Nations.

Mr. Alexander, a gentleman eminent in the law,