

[1686.

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1687.]

AMERICAN ANNALS.

397

A small brick church was built in School Street, in Bos-  
ton, by some French protestants; who, on the revocation  
of the edict of Nantz, sought an asylum in New England<sup>1</sup>.

1687.

The attorney general received orders from king James,  
in April, to issue a writ of *quo warranto* against the charter  
of the proprietor of Maryland; but no judgment was ever  
obtained<sup>2</sup>.

Sir Edmund Andros went, in October, with his suite and  
more than sixty regular troops, to Hartford, where the as-  
sembly of Connecticut was then sitting; demanded the char-  
ter; and declared the government to be dissolved. The as-  
sembly, extremely reluctant and slow to surrender, or to  
produce, the charter kept the subject in debate and suspense  
until evening; when the charter was brought and laid on  
the table, where the assembly was convened. The lights  
were now instantly extinguished. There was no appearance  
however of disorder. The candles were relighted; but the  
patent was gone. Sir Edmund assumed the government;  
and the records of the colony were closed<sup>3</sup>.

An

an extract of Mrs. Norton's deed, and how 'twas built by particular per-  
sons, as Hull, Oliver, 100 l. apiece, &c." "Friday, March 25, 1687.  
The Governour has service in the South meeting house. Goodm. Need-  
ham, though had resolved to the contrary, was prevailed upon to ring the  
bell and open the door at the Governour's command, one Smith and Hill,  
joiner and shoemaker, being very busy about it."

1 Ibid. 261. There was a contribution in New England for their relief.  
In Salem 26 l. were contributed in September. "The greater part went  
to the southern states, particularly to South Carolina." Ibid. vi. 263.

2 Chalmers, i. 371.

3 Chalmers, i. 298. Trumbull, i. 390, 391. Captain Wadsworth of  
Hartford silently carried off the charter, and secreted it in a large hollow  
tree, which, to this day, is regarded with veneration, as the preserver of  
the constitution of the colony. Trumbull, *ibid*. The venerable oak stood  
in front of the house of the honourable Samuel Wyllys, esquire, then one  
of the magistrates of the colony. It still remains within the enclosure of  
the old family mansion; and is in little danger of injury, except from time,  
while under the auspicious care of the Wyllys family. In reply to an in-  
quiry concerning this tree, a daughter of the present Secretary Wyllys of  
Connecticut wrote to me, from Hartford: "That venerable Tree, which  
concealed the Charter of our rights, stands at the foot of Wyllys Hill.  
The first inhabitant of that name found it standing in the height of its  
glory. Age seems to have curtailed its branches, yet it is not exceeded in  
the height of its colouring or richness of its foliage. The trunk measures  
21 feet in circumference, and near 7 in diameter. The cavity, which  
was the asylum of our Charter, was near the roots, and large enough to

admit