

An Unredeemed Captive

Chapter I

Of the Settlement of Deerfield—John Eliot and the Indians—The Purchase of the Deerfield Grant from the Savages by Major Pynchon—The First Minister and the First Tavern

THE old French and Indian wars began in the year 1689 and continued with only two or three short intermissions of peace until 1763. During all this long period of seventy-four years the weakling colonies of New England were constantly harassed by raiding parties of the enemy; and it is probable no English town in the colonies suffered more in the struggle for race supremacy from the depredations of the French and Indians than Old Deerfield. It was one of the New England outposts and its position in the Connecticut valley made it easy of access by one of the natural routes from the