

THE NARRATIVE OF WALTER BATES.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY DAYS OF THE REVOLUTION, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE SUFFERINGS OF THE LOYALISTS.

Having through age and other infirmities been much longer with the former portion of my subject than I at first anticipated, I must therefore of necessity be very brief in what follows, hoping that my infirmities in so doing may not be viewed with severity.

It is now my desire to give a narrative of events connected with the rise and progress of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Kingston, New Brunswick, recording facts but not inventing anything, rescuing many valuable facts from oblivion. The work in a few minor details may possibly be not always correct, yet in the main it is unaffected—a body of facts, many of which in our day are entirely new and the whole is no where else to be found in so convenient a form. The work has been prepared at great expense of time, under the pressure of many cares not unmingled with sickness, pain and sorrow.

In the words of Bishop Bramhall: "No man can justly blame me for loving my spiritual mother, the Church of England, in whose womb I was conceived, at whose breasts I was nourished, and in whose bosom I hope to die."

I must only give a brief statement of what took place after the return of those five gentlemen in Orders under the patronage of the society in old England for promoting Christian Knowledge. Whereupon the Episcopal church increased mightily in Connecticut. Several of the Presbyterian ministers went to England and obtained Episcopal ordination and soon after their return churches were built in almost every town in Connecticut, to the great annoyance of the old Puritans who cherished

great jealousy against the Church of England, inherited from their ancestors.

They asserted that the Episcopal clergy were guilty of writing home amazing falsehood and that it would seem to be an agreeable office to distinguish the innocent from the guilty. About this time mobs were assembled for persecuting the loyal element in Connecticut.

Every town which did not subscribe for support of Boston was styled a Tory town, which they spared not to insult.

As on one hand rebellion raised her crest in Connecticut with more insolence than in other parts, so loyalty has there exhibited proofs of zeal and fortitude beyond example to be found elsewhere. In particular the clergy by their steady adherence to their oaths and firmness under the assaults of their enemies were a conspicuous example of fidelity. Not one among them all in their fiery trial have dishonoured the King or the Church of England. The suffering of some of them within my memory I cannot wholly pass over in silence.

As a resolute antagonist of the Puritan party, and a zealous supporter of the loyal cause, the Rev. Mr. Peters stood conspicuous. Many were the attempts to ruin him and his character. In carrying out their systematic plan of persecution, the doors of the prisons were opened, and prisoners became the leaders of mobs, composed largely of negroes, vagabonds, and thieves. The governor and council finally entered the lists, and anxious at all events to get rid of so formidable an opponent, accused him of being a spy of Lord North