

A

BOSTON MERCHANT

OF 1745.

James Gibson was born in London about the year 1700, and belonged, so says the inscription on his coat of arms, "to the ancient and honorable family of Gibson, of Cumberland, Essex, and London," and relative of Edward Gibson, the eminent antiquarian, and Bishop of London.

When a young man, he held a commission in the royal army, which was ordered to the island of Barbadoes. Here he remained some time, and married a young and wealthy widow, in the month of October, 1730. The original of the following certificate is now in the hands of the writer :

"These are to certify to whom it may concern, that Mr. James Gibson and Mrs. Thomazine Barton, widow, of this parish, were joined together in the holy state of matrimony, according to the canons of the Church of England, on the 30th day of October, 1730. by me,

"THOMAS WARREN, Curate.

"Barbadoes, Parish of St. Michael."

Through this connection, James Gibson became possessor of a large plantation in the island of Jamaica. After a few years, he retired from his situation in the army, and remained in the West Indies.

Having often heard of the new colonies, and becoming acquainted with merchants who visited the islands for the purpose of trading, he was induced to come to New England with his lady; and, being pleased with the thriving appearance of the northern colonies, he brought his wealth and family to Boston, and became an extensive trader between that place and the islands of Barbadoes and Jamaica.

Mr. Gibson was also a stockholder in the enterprise of building long