

built near Rankokas creek, and another at Trenton¹.

A number of families removed from Windsor in Connecticut to the east side of the river, and began the settlement of East Windsor².

M. de la Sale, having undertaken a farther discovery of the Mississippi, had, the preceding year, built a fort on the river Illinois, and called it Crevecoeur³. He now sent out M. Dacan with father Hennepin, to trace the Mississippi, if possible, from its confluence with the Illinois, up to its source. These two voyagers left fort Crevecoeur on the twenty-eighth of February, and ascended the Mississippi to the forty-sixth degree of north latitude; where they were stopped by a fall in the river, to which father Hennepin gave the name of the Fall of St. Anthony⁴.

A great comet surprized and terrified the people of New England⁵.

Josiah Winslow, governor of Plymouth, died, in the

¹ Smith, N. Jersey, 114. The inhabitants of W. Jersey had hitherto either pounded their corn, or ground it with handmills.

² Coll. Hist. Soc. v. 169. Fifteen years they passed the river in boats, to attend public worship on the west side. lb.

³ "Heart breaker," on account of troubles he met with there.

⁴ Charlevoix, *Nouv. France*, i. 460; ib. *Fastes*, Chron. 35. Harris, *Voy. ii.* 900. Du Pratz, *Louisiane*, i. 5.

⁵ Mather on Comets, 123. Hutchinson, i. 348. It was seen in N. England from 18 November to 10 February. It was also seen in Europe; and Henault, [ii. 192.] says, that it was the largest comet, which had ever been seen; and that this phenomenon struck a great terror into the minds of the people in France; "but," he justly remarks, "we are too much astonished at uncommon events, and not enough at those, which happen every day." It was by observation on *this comet*, that the great Sir Isaac Newton ascertained the parabolic form of the trajectory of comets; and demonstrated their regular revolutions round the sun. This admirable discovery, while it made a new epoch in astronomy, contributed to the removal of those terrors, which the appearance of a comet had always excited. This phenomenon, in all ages, and among all nations, had been previously viewed as a presage of some direful event. It has since been considered as a constituent part of an august system, which, whether examined by vulgar or by philosophic eyes, ought to lead man to "wonder and adore." The learned professor Winthrop [On Comets, Lect. II. p. 44.] says, "No comet has threatened the earth with a nearer approach than that of 1680; which, had it come down to the sun a month later, would have passed as near the earth as the moon is." They, who are curious to know what opinions learned men of ancient times entertained concerning comets, are referred to Aristotle, *Meteorol.* cap. v, vi, vii; Seneca, *Natur. Quæst.* lib. vii; and Travels of Anacharsis, ii. 195, 196. I cannot forbear to subjoin the following remark of Seneca [ut supra, p. 759.] on this subject; because it has been so exactly verified, since the discovery of Newton: "Veniet tempus, quo ista quæ nunc latent, in lucem dies extrahat, et longioris ævi diligentia. Ad inquisitionem tantorum ætas una non sufficit, ut tota cœlo vacet. Veniet tempus, quo posteri nostri tam aperta non necesse inquirentur."