

ADDRESS.

THE first settlers of Boston styled themselves "children of the Church of England," and counted it their glory to be called after her name, and before the *Arbella* left Yarmouth, on the 8th of April, 1630, the Governor, John Winthrop, with the ministers and magistrates of the new Colony, desired the prayers of the Bishop of London, and of the rest of their brethren in and of the Church of England. But, after they arrived here, they not only neglected to make any provision for the English Church, according to their charter, but denounced the Book of Common Prayer as a sinful violation of the worship of God. A fine of five shillings was imposed upon any one who observed Christmas Day, or the like festivals, and a similar fine upon any one who did not resort to their meetings on the Lord's Day, and on the days of Fasting and Thanksgiving appointed by authority, and no days commanded to be observed by the Church of England were regarded. No attention was paid to the requisition of Charles II., that "such as desire to use the Book of Common Prayer, and perform their devotions after the manner as established in England, be not denied the exercise thereof;" and the Commissioners, whom he sent over to remonstrate with the General Court, brought back the reply that they refused to be dictated to in religious matters. It was not until 1677 that the severity of the laws was so far relaxed as to permit divine service to be performed after the manner of the English Church. The Rev. Robert Ratcliffe arrived in the *Rose*, frigate, on the 15th of May, 1686, and officiated in the library at the east end of the