

CHAPTER III.

Representatives meet at Boston, and induce the Governor and Magistrates to continue in office—King and Queen proclaimed—A general gaol delivery—Orders received from England for the local authorities to retain the Government until further instructions—Anxiety in America as to the convention of Parliament—Doubts of the Tories and scruples of the Prelates—Conduct of the Whigs—Macaulay's definition of the "essence of politics"—The report of the Commons, and the declaration of rights read with great interest by Provincials—Political influence of the commercial party in England—Its conduct towards the plantations—Prerogative described—Its effects in America—Blackstone's definition and Bacon's views of it—Local assemblies imitate the declaration of rights—Cause of the loss of the old colonies 257

CHAPTER IV.

Effect of toleration on the Ministers—Cotton Mather's attempt to raise a revival of bigotry, by spreading alarm about witches—His books and sermons—Preface by Richard Baxter—Exorcises a child at Boston—Salem delusion—Special Court, its proceedings—Executions—Case of the Rev. Mr. Burrows—Sudden change of public opinion—Mather falls into contempt—Decline of Congregationalism—Arrival of Sir William Phipps with the new Charter 277