

justice for a most honorable reason, to prevent a suspicion, that his political course was influenced by the hope of office. In the revolution his sense of duty restrained him from espousing the cause of independence. Leaving his country he embarked for England, and was shipwrecked on the coast of Holland and lost in Sept. 1777; his infant son was saved. A monument to his memory in Westminster abbey exhibits the melancholy scene of his last moments. He was a man of talents, and eloquence, and many virtues. He published Reasons for not concurring in the non importation resolution, 1769.

WRIGHT, Nathaniel H., a poet, was born in Concord, Mass. in 1787, and educated as a printer in Boston, where he edited the Kaleidoscope, and died May 13, 1824, aged 37. He published the fall of Palmyra, a poem; Boston, or a touch at the times, a small pamphlet.

WYLLIS, George, governor of Connecticut in 1642, came from England to Hartford in 1638 and died in March 1644. He was eminently pious, and from regard to the purity of divine worship left a fine estate in the county of Warwick and encountered the hardships of a wilderness. His descendants are distinguished in the civil history of Connecticut. His son, Samuel, died May 30, 1709; the charter in the time of Andros was concealed in a hollow oak, standing in front of his house, called *charter-oak*. Hezekiah, the son of Samuel, was secretary, and died in 1734. George, the son of Hezekiah, died Apr. 24, 1796, aged 85, being annually chosen secretary 61 years till his death. Samuel, the son of George, died June 9, 1823, aged 65. He also was secretary from 1796 to 1809,—the family holding the office 98 successive years. He was besides, in the rank of colonel, a soldier of the revolution, and maj. gen. of the militia. Col. Hezekiah W. died in April 1827, aged 80.

WYNNE, J. H., published a General History of the British Empire in America, 2 vols. 8vo. 1770.

WYTHE, George, chancellor of Vir-

ginia, and a distinguished friend of his country, was born in the county of Elliza- beth city in 1736. His father was a respectable farmer, and his mother was a woman of uncommon knowledge and strength of mind. She taught the Latin language, with which she was intimately acquainted, and which she spoke fluently, to her son; but his education was in other respects very much neglected. His parents having died before he attained the age of twenty one years, like many unthinking youths he commenced a career of dissipation and intemperance, and did not disengage himself from it before he reached the age of thirty. He then bitterly lamented the loss of those 9 years of his life, and of the learning, which during that period he might have acquired. But never did any man more effectually redeem his time. From the moment, when he resolved on reformation, he devoted himself most intensely to his studies. Without the assistance of any instructor he acquired an accurate knowledge of the Greek, and he read the best authors in that as well as in the Latin language. He made himself also a profound lawyer, becoming perfectly versed in the civil and common law, and in the statutes of Great Britain and Virginia. The wild and thoughtless youth was now converted into a sedate and prudent man, delighting entirely in literary pursuits. When the time arrived, which heaven had destined for the separation of the wide, confederated republic of America from the dominion of Great Britain, he was one of the instruments in the hand of providence for accomplishing that great work. He took a decided part in the very first movements of opposition. Not content merely to fall in with the wishes of his fellow citizens, he assisted in persuading them not to submit to British tyranny. With his pupil and friend Thomas Jefferson, he roused the people to resistance. As the controversy grew warm, his zeal became proportionably fervent. Before the war commenced, he was elected a member of the Virginia assembly. After having been for some