

mander of the Fort at that time, was the uncle of John, and was most wickedly killed by a British officer, who plunged a sword into his bosom.

2. The grandfather of John, about whom I must say a few words, was a native of England, where he was bred a merchant. At length, however, he removed to America, and for a time, lived on Long-Island. Afterwards he removed to Groton, and at a still later date, to the city of Hartford, where he ended his days.

3. The father of John, who bore the same name, early followed the sea; and, at length, became the captain of a vessel, engaged in the West-India trade. He was a man of good character, and industrious habits. Unfortunately for his family, he died at the early age of thirty-five, leaving John, with several other children, destitute of the wise counsel and good example of a worthy father.

4. It is generally a serious misfortune to a youth to lose a father, qualified and disposed to bring up a son to habits of virtue and industry. Such an event often changes the whole prospect and course of life of a young man.

Happy indeed is it, when a mother is able to supply the place of a father.

5. This was eminently the case with Mrs. Ledyard, the mother of John. She was well informed, resolute,