

REV. JACOB BAILEY.

MISSIONARY OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND ON KENNEBEC RIVER.

1760—1779.

HIS CHARACTER AND WORK.

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If American History, in that process of re-writing which now seems to be taking place, is to be correctly written, many fallacies or fictions, as well as much prejudice in the mind of the average American, must be outgrown. History can never be correctly written while hatred for even a greatly mistaken political or religious enemy or opponent exists in the mind of the chronicler, or is cherished by his readers.

By no means least among our hatreds, as a people, is that which has been for so many years cherished against those people who, at the time of the war for American Independence, remained firm in their loyalty to their English Sovereign, and who have long been known as Loyalists, sometimes derisively as Tories, or sympathetically as Refugees. And why? Since at the outbreak of hostilities, all colonists were so loyal that they fought the battles of Lexington and Concord, and of Bunker Hill in the name of their sovereign, it being with them a sort of legal fiction that they were only contending against the illegal acts of the parliament and of the king's officers, and not against their lawful ruler.

My present paper will deal with one such Loyalist, the Rev. JACOB BAILEY, the first Missionary of the Church of England, on Kennebec river; and I trust that I may not be thought disloyal to that government which I had the honor, in a humble way, to aid in defending in the civil war of 1861, if I affirm that an examination of what remains of the vast volume of papers which he left, has caused me to become very much his champion, and to sympathize with him most fully. When Rev. Mr. Bartlet wrote the "Frontier Missionary" some forty years ago, much material he could not use had he wished to, be-