

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OF

JAMES WHITE, ESQUIRE

A. D. 1762-1783.

EDITED BY REV. W. O. RAYMOND.

INTRODUCTORY.

A number of letters and documents connected with the business transactions of James Simonds and his partners, Samuel Blodget, William Hazen and James White, at the mouth of the River St. John have been already printed in the Collections of the New Brunswick Historical Society,* and a good deal of information is to be found in them as regards the origin and progress of the first permanent English settlement at St. John. The Simonds letters and documents are now supplemented by a selection from the papers and correspondence of James White, which will be found of equal interest and value. Mr. White filed away amongst his correspondence copies of many of his own letters; these copies were evidently hastily written, and with the extravagant use of capital letters, formerly so common; the phraseology, while not always strictly grammatical, was in a great measure sanctioned by the usage of the day. Making due allowance on these points, it will be found that Mr. White's letters do him no discredit, and the writer has, therefore, no hesitation in giving them *verbatim et literatim* — the only safe rule to follow in such matters.

While not very much is known of the early life of James White, the following brief sketch may serve as an introduction to the letters and documents that follow: He was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, about the year 1738, and was a lineal descendant of the Worshipful William White, one of the well-known founders of Haverhill. His

* See pp. 160-192, Vol. I., of the Society's Collections.

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