

but without success; for king Charles was then meditating extensive plans of reformation for New England¹.

Connecticut contained, at this time, twenty-six small towns; in which there were twenty-one churches; and in every one, excepting two newly planted, there was a settled minister. The value of its annual exports was judged to be nine thousand pounds. It owned twenty-four small vessels. There were in the colony twenty merchants, some of whom traded to Boston; and some, to the West Indies and to other colonies. There were few servants, and not more than thirty slaves. The militia amounted to two thousand five hundred and seven.

¹ Chalmers, i. 98. The agent died; and the papers were lost. The Address of the general court to Charles II. is inserted ib. 108.

² Chalmers, i. 307—310, where are Answers of the assembly to the Inquiries of the lords of the committee of colonies, which disclose a variety of curious particulars of the State of Connecticut at the end of 44 years. The date is 15 July, 1680. Some other articles are subjoined. "We have, for the present, only one troop, which consists of about 60 horse; but we are upon raising three more. Our forces are train bands: in each county there is a major, who commands its militia, under the general.

In Hartford county there are - 835 New Haven - - - 623
New London - - - 509 Fairfield - - - 540

The whole militia, 2507. The number of our planters is included in our trainbands; which consist of all from 16 to 60 years of age. We have one small fort at the mouth of Connecticut river. As for our Indian neighbours; we compute them to be about 500 fighting men. We are strangers to the French; and know nothing of their strength or commerce. There are but few servants, and fewer slaves; not above 30 in the colony. There come sometimes three or four blacks from Barbadoes, which are sold for £2 each. The increase [of inhabitants] is as follows: The numbers of men, in the year 1671, were 2050; in 1676, were 2303; in 1677, were 2362; in 1678, were 2490; in 1679, were 2507. Our buildings are generally of wood; some are of stone and brick; and some of them are of good strength and comely, for a wilderness. The commodities of the country are provisions, lumber, and horses. The property of the whole corporation doth not amount to 110,788 £ sterling. There are no duties on goods, exported or imported, except on wines and liquors; which, though inconsiderable, are appropriated to maintain free-schools. The people are strict congregationalists; a few more large congregationalists; and some, moderate presbyterians. There are about 4 or 5 seven day men, and about as many quakers. Great care is taken of the instruction of the people in the Christian religion, by ministers catechizing and preaching twice every sabbath, and sometimes on lecture-days; and also by masters of families instructing their children and servants, which the law commands them to do. Every town maintains its own poor: but there is seldom any want, because labour is dear; being from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. a day for a labourer; because provisions are cheap; wheat is 4 s. a bushel Winchester, pease 3 s. Indian corn 2 s 6 d. pork 3 d. a pound, beef 2 d. 1-2 a pound, butter 6 d. and so other matters in proportion. Beggars and vagabonds are not suffered; but, when discovered, they are bound out to service; vagabonds, who pass up and down, are punished by law."

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