

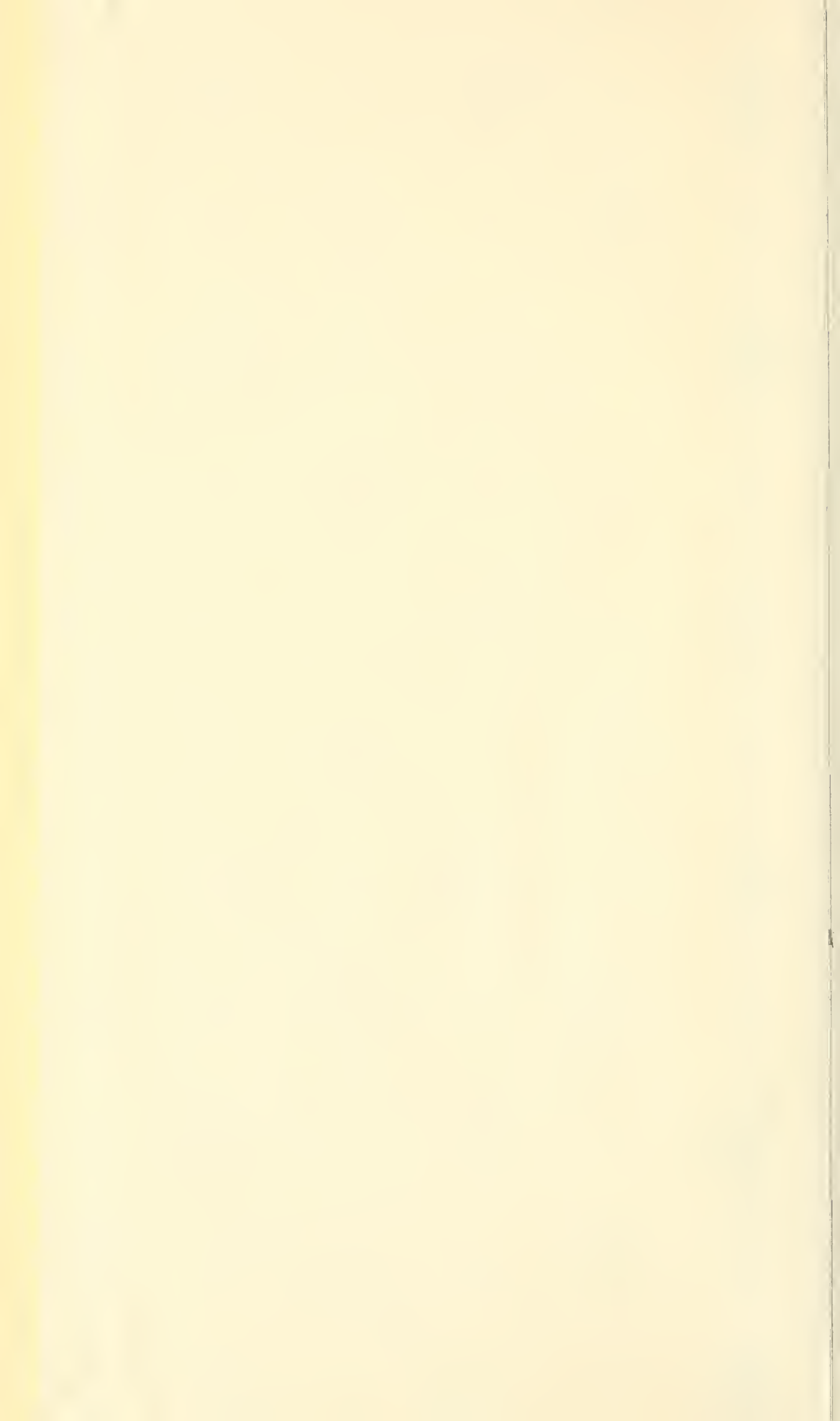
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REPORT

ON

AMERICAN HISTORIES;

BY MARCIUS WILLSON,

AUTHOR OF

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JUVENILE AMERICAN HISTORY,

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES,

AMERICAN HISTORY,

AND

COMPREHENSIVE CHART OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

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# REPORT

ON THE

## SUBJECT OF AMERICAN HISTORIES.

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As the author of the accompanying REPORT has recently presented to the public a history for competition with those here reviewed, it is proper that the following statement should be made, showing the true character of the Report, and the manner in which it was first brought before the public.

In 1844, the "NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF TEACHERS AND FRIENDS OF EDUCATION," appointed a "Book Committee" of 23 members, comprising many of the most prominent "friends of education" throughout the state. This large committee was divided into sub-committees, among which latter was a "Committee on Histories," consisting of the following individuals:—Mr. M. Willson, of Newark; Rev. Dr. Murray, of Elizabethtown; Rev. Mr. Scott, of Newark, and Mr. Cook, then Principal of a Female Seminary at Bloomfield, and now Principal of the Mechanics' School, New York city. Mr. Willson was specially appointed chairman of the Historical Committee, it being known to the society that he was then engaged in the compilation of a history of the United States—he having previously read in public some criticisms on the subject of American history.

At a quarterly meeting of the society, held in December, 1844, a resolution was passed, requesting from the Historical Committee a report on the subject of Histories, at the next meeting of the society.

Mr. Willson, at the request of the sub-committee, of which he was chairman, prepared a report, called the members of the committee together and submitted the same to them. The report was approved by them, and ordered to be laid before the large State Committee for its action. At a meeting of the State Committee, held prior to the March quarterly meeting of the society, said report was presented, approved, and ordered to be read before the society.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the society, held March 7th, 1845, the State Committee was called upon for reports, when said committee submitted the report on Histories, which was read by Mr. Willson. Said report being then before the society, a motion was made, and adopted unanimously, that said report be published,—or so much of the same as Mr. Willson should think desirable. About one-third of said report was published in the Biblical Repository for July, 1845, and at the same time nearly one half of the entire report was published in pamphlet form;—the same portion of the report that is embraced in the following pages.

☞ Of the *Errors of Fact* contained in the several histories alluded to, about *one half* only, of those specified in the original report presented to the society, have been published in the pamphlet Review. Since the Review was first published, the errors pointed out by it have been corrected in several of the works referred to, while most of the errors not thus exposed are still retained in them.



[From the Biblical Repository of July, 1845.]

## A CRITICAL REVIEW OF AMERICAN COMMON SCHOOL HISTORIES :

*As embraced in a Report submitted to the "New Jersey Society of Teachers and Friends of Education," at a quarterly meeting held March 7, 1845.*

BY M. WILLSON, N. Y.

THE Report, from which the following article is abridged, was prepared for the New Jersey Education Society, by its request; and in accordance with a resolution of the Society, the same is now submitted to the public.

The importance of the subject announced will be manifest, when it is remembered that it is from our *common school* histories, those unassuming companions of the school-room, and not from those more elaborate writings which grace the libraries of the men of wealth and the professional scholar, that the great mass of our citizens must ever derive their knowledge of the character, toils, and privations of our fathers, and of the origin and nature of our free institutions.

It is the object of the following article, to give our prominent school histories such a review, as will enable all who feel an interest in the subject, to judge more understandingly of their comparative merits, and of their relative claims to the confidence and the patronage of the public. The task that we have undertaken is, of itself, a delicate one; and the more so, from the circumstance, that the reviewer exposes himself to become the reviewed. The spirit of searching criticism, however, has already gone abroad among teachers and friends of education; and who shall check its progress? It is the ordeal through which every important school-book must hereafter pass to public favor. The able and critical discussions upon the merits of school-books, recently called forth in the Educational Society of New Jersey, are indications of the same spirit; and we begin

to have some confidence, that the popularity of a school-book will, at no distant day, depend upon its intrinsic merits; and not, as heretofore, upon the favor of popular names, the wealth and enterprise of publishers, and the chance condition of getting it into certain fortunate channels of trade.

The subject of school histories will be examined under four heads: Arrangement, Anachronisms, Accuracy, and Literary Merits.

1. *Arrangement.* Two different plans of arrangement have been adopted by American historians, in treating of our early colonial history. One plan is that of particular or individual history; the other, that of common, or general history. The former, technically speaking, is history *ethnographically* arranged, or according to nations and tribes: the latter is history *chronographically* arranged, in which events in different nations are brought together and given in the order of time in which they occurred. The first of these methods, as applied to our own country, pursues the history of each colony separately down to the period of the French and Indian War, in 1754, after which, the separate and individual history of each colony is abandoned, and all are united in one common history. This arrangement has been adopted by Hale and Olney; and by Frost, with respect to all the colonies except those of New England.

The other plan of arrangement carries along together the contemporary events which happened in different colonies, and thus, as far as possible, blends the whole in one common history. This latter plan has been adopted by Goodrich, Grimshaw, Mrs. Willard, and in the Pictorial History of S. G. Goodrich, the author of Peter Parley's Tales.

It is obvious that the history of a colony may be learned much more readily where the events are narrated in one unbroken series, and in one chapter, than where the series is frequently interrupted, and the events are found dispersed through a dozen chapters. Let any one search for the colonial history of Virginia in the volumes of Bancroft, and he will find a little here, and a little there; and unless he

should read the three volumes through, he will be likely to omit some portion of Virginian history. Let it not, however, be supposed that we depreciate the value of Bancroft's History. We regard it as the best, for its purposes, that has yet been written. In our view, it is well adapted to those already familiar with the separate history of each colony, but exceedingly unfit for a school-book. Circumstances in the history of one colony are often narrated by Bancroft in connection with those of another colony, for the purpose of elucidating some important principle. They are links taken from the chain of particular history, and, for especial purposes, formed into new series; and unless the reader can restore them to their proper places, the histories to which they belong must appear incomplete and broken. More fully to show the faultiness of this mode of arrangement for a school-book, we refer to Mrs. Willard's History, and to Goodrich's Pictorial History, in both which this plan is adopted.

Of those histories that have adopted the other plan of arrangement, the well-known and early work of Hale yet stands preëminent in this particular, and greatly in advance of any of its competitors.

In some of our school histories, a highly important feature has recently been introduced, which may properly be noticed under the head of arrangement. We allude to the introduction of maps.

There are those living who recollect the time when geography was studied in our schools without the aid of maps; but how preposterous would now appear the attempt to teach a child a knowledge of localities by description only. We believe the day is not far distant, when the attempt to impart a knowledge of history, without the aid of historical maps, will be deemed almost as great an absurdity. Will it be said that our ordinary school atlases furnish all the necessary aids? Without stating other numerous objections, we remark that the reader may search in vain, on modern maps, for the names of numerous places, familiar in history, but forgotten in modern topography, because important only



in the remembrance of what they have been. But one or two dilapidated dwellings now mark the site of Jamestown, and among the ruins of the fortress of Louisburg, the once called Gibraltar of America, a few sheep roam for pasturage, and a few fishermen's huts now grace the site where once frowned the royal batteries. In the topography of the present, the monuments of the past are fast wasting away, and if we would restore their already half-effaced inscriptions, like Old Mortality, we must chisel them anew. No American school history should be written without its historical maps, on which should be given, with enlarged plans when necessary, the localities of all places distinguished in our history; such as Ticonderoga and Crown Point; Lexington and Bunker's Hill; Forts Stanwix and Schuyler; Forts Washington, and Lee, and Edward; Forts Clinton and Montgomery, Stony Point, Valley Forge and Wyoming, and the names of numerous other places not found on common maps.

In our school histories, historical maps have been introduced only in those of Mrs. Willard, and in the Pictorial History of Goodrich.

2. *Anachronisms.*—The length of a year was fixed by Julius Cæsar at 365 days and six hours, which is about eleven minutes and a fifth more than the true solar year, amounting in 130 years to one entire day, and a small fraction over. At the time of the Council of Nice, in the year 325, it was found that the vernal equinox had changed from the 25th to the 21st of March, and there it was fixed by the Council, but in 1582, it had receded to the 11th. To bring it back therefore, Pope Gregory decreed that ten days should be taken out of the month of October, 1582; and that what would otherwise have been called the 10th should be called the 20th. It was, moreover, decreed that to prevent the accumulation of the same error in future, three days should be abated in every 400 years, by restoring leap years to common years at the end of three successive centuries, and making leap year again at the close of every fourth century. In other words, the

year 1600 should be leap year as usual, but 1700, 1800, and 1900, the first three successive centuries, although their numbers are divisible by 4, should be common years, allowing February but 28 days; while the year 2000, being at the close of the 4th century, should be leap year; and thus in every subsequent 400 years. This correction leaves but a small error, amounting to less than a day and a half in 5000 years.

As different European nations then commenced the year at different periods, some on the 1st of January, some on the 25th of March, and others on the 25th of December, Pope Gregory, in order to produce uniformity, adopted the Roman method and decreed that the year should commence on the 1st of January. Catholic nations and Catholic writers immediately adopted these regulations of the Pope, but they were for a long time rejected by Protestants. The Scots, who from time immemorial commenced the year on the 25th of March, adopted the Gregorian style in 1599, but the English, with wonderful pertinacity, held out against these wise regulations during more than 150 years; during which time all their historians retained the old style in their dates. In 1751, the English Parliament enacted that the year should commence on the 1st of January, and that the 3d of September of that year should be called the 14th, thereby striking out eleven days, which the English calendar then required to reduce it to the Gregorian.

As most of our colonial history is embraced between the time of the Gregorian reformation in 1582, and its adoption by the English Parliament in 1751, and as our historians have taken their materials partly from Catholic, and partly from Protestant writers, as might be expected, a great confusion of dates has arisen, and we frequently find, on the same page, even in our best histories, part of the dates in old style, and part in new. More particularly is this the case in regard to the dates in the days of the month, for in most cases recent historians have made the change with respect to the date of the year.

During most of the period of our colonial history, a French colony occupied Canada on our North, while French and Spanish colonies were seated in Florida and Louisiana, on our South and West. These were Catholic colonies, and their histories, intimately connected with ours, have been written by Catholic writers, who adopted the Gregorian or new style. Our colonial writers, on the contrary, retained the old style. That our modern compilers, in taking their dates from these two sources, have not been at all careful to distinguish between these two styles, and that they thus present a great confusion of dates, we shall show by examples.

In the accounts given of the destruction of Salmon Falls in 1689, Mather's *Magnalia*, vii. 68, Belknap's *New Hampshire*, i. 132, Williamson's *Maine*, i. 618, and Holmes's *Annals*, i. 431, following the English authorities, date the event March 18, being old style; while Drake's *Indian History*, B. iii. 118, and Bancroft, iii. 182, both following Charlevoix, ii. 51, give the date according to new style, with the exception of an error of one day. Thus, in the different accounts of this event which American writers give, we find a discrepancy of ten days in the date. It may be remarked that, on the same page with the foregoing, Bancroft dates the destruction of Schenectady according to old style, thus changing his mode of reckoning within the compass of a few lines. All our histories, however, date this event according to old style, because they take the date from the English writers, for although Charlevoix gives a minute account of this transaction, he omits the date. The most particular account we have is from Colonel Schuyler, then mayor of Albany, who wrote it nine days after the event, under date of 15th Feb., 1689, equivalent to 25th February, 1690.

Bancroft, iii. 184-185, gives the events of the expedition of Sir William Phipps against Port Royal and Quebec in 1690, according to the French dates, (see Charlevoix ii. 82-87,) while Holmes's *Annals*, i. 432, Williamson's *Maine*, i. 598, and other works, give the English dates, a difference of ten days. Thus Bancroft dates the summons for the surrender of



Quebec, Oct. 16th, the landing of the troops Oct. 18th, and their reëmbarkation Oct. 21st; while Holmes dates these events Oct. 6th, 8th, and 11th. It may be remarked here that Murray's *British America*, Edinburgh edition, a valuable English work, follows the new style throughout in its history of Canada. The singular fact is presented that all the histories of Canada under the French, give the dates in new style, while all the histories of the contemporary English colonies retain the old style.

The account of Frontenac's expedition against the Onondagas, in 1696, is taken exclusively from the French authorities, from Charlevoix, ii. 168 to 175, and here all our histories follow the new style. All our accounts of the massacre of the French by the Natchez Indians, in 1729, being taken from French writers, follow the new style. Charlevoix, ii. 457, dates the event Nov. 28th. Thus also Holmes, i, 545, and Bancroft, iii. 350, etc.

Holmes, Hutchinson, Belknap, Trumbull, Smith, etc., in the accounts which they give of the expedition of Nicholson against Port Royal in 1710, give the dates in old style. Bancroft, iii. 218, gives the marginal dates according to both modes, old style and new. Charlevoix's account is in vol. ii. 343-345, where, as usual, the dates are given in new style.

All our histories, with one exception, follow the old style in giving an account of the conquest of New Amsterdam, (now New-York,) by the English in 1664. The articles of capitulation, as given in full in Smith's *New York*, i. 19-21, are dated thus, "August the 27th, old style, 1664." Bancroft is the only writer who dates this event according to new style; but, strange to say, his account of the surrender of Albany a few days later, and of the reduction of the Swedes on the Delaware, retains the old style.

Important European treaties likewise have received different dates from our best writers. Thus the treaty of Ryswick, which closed King William's war, is dated in some of our histories, Sept. 10th, 1697, and in others Sept. 20th, the former being old style, and the latter new. The treaty of

Utrecht, which closed Queen Anne's war, is dated by Holmes and by most American writers, March 31st, 1713; but by Bancroft it is dated April 11th; which is the date given by French writers. All our school histories which give the date, retain the old style, although even here they commit an error of one day, dating March 30th, instead of March 31st.

Examples of this kind might be greatly multiplied, but those already given are sufficient to show the numerous discrepancies in dates among our best writers. Not one of them appears to have endeavored to make his dates correspond to either style throughout, and in most cases not the least attention, apparently, has been given to the subject, the author having taken his dates indiscriminately from such authorities, either Catholic or Protestant, as best suited his convenience. It might be supposed that the highly valuable and otherwise accurate history of Bancroft, would not have overlooked this matter, and that the dates would have preserved a uniformity either according to old style or new. But while Bancroft, the same as most other writers, always changes the date of the year from old style to new, he sometimes changes the date of the day of the month and sometimes he does not. We have given a few examples in which he has made the change. We will notice a few in which he has not. Throughout our colonial history, generally, he has not made the change. The dates in the New England history are mostly in old style. The landing of the Pilgrims is dated December 11th, etc. In the following cases, among many others, the date of the year is correctly changed, but the date of the day of the month is not.

The adoption of the early constitution of Connecticut stands on the records of the colony, January 14th, 1638. See Trumbull's Connecticut. As this was inserted according to old style, when the year commenced on the 25th of March, the true date in new style is Jan. 24th, 1639, a year and ten days later. But Bancroft, i. p. 402, instead of dating it Jan. 24th, says Jan. 14, 1639.

The patent, incorporating the Providence and Rhode Island Plantations, is dated in the original March 14th, 1643. See Knowles's Roger Williams, Appendix. This is equivalent to March 24th, 1644, new style. But Bancroft, and most of our recent writers, retain the March 14th, while they change the year.

The articles by which Virginia submitted to Parliament are dated March 12, 1651, equivalent to March 22, 1652. Holmes, Bancroft, and others, change the year, but not the day.

The original grant of Carolina to Lord Clarendon, is dated March 24th, 1662. In the *Memoirs de l'Amerique*, iv. 554 to 585, it is found in French with the date in new style (with an error, however, of one day), viz., April 4, 1663. Bancroft, Holmes, etc., change the date of the year, but not of the day.

The date given to the first constitution of New Jersey, as found in full in Smith's *New Jersey*, Appendix, p. 512 to 521, is "Feb. 10th, 1664." This, according to our mode of reckoning, would be previous to the grant to the Duke of York, and before there was any such province as New Jersey. Gordon, in his history of New Jersey, Note, p. 24, supposes therefore that Smith's history, and other authorities which he had consulted were wrong. But had he known or reflected that this date is in old style, making the true date a year and ten days later, the whole difficulty would have been removed. Bancroft, ii. 316, retains the Feb. 10th, but changes the year to 1665.

The charter or fundamental laws of West New Jersey, as given in full in Smith's *N. Jersey*, Appendix, p. 521 to 539, are dated March 3, 1676. This being old style, the date in new style would be March 13, 1677. Bancroft, ii. 358, accordingly dates it 1677, but he retains the March 3, instead of giving March 13.

We should here remark that in England, previous to the civil war, which resulted in the subversion of monarchy in 1649, public documents, charters, deeds, etc., did not usually



receive the date of the year of our Lord, but the date of the year of the King's reign. Thus the charter of Mass. Bay colony is dated in this manner. "Witness ourself at Westminster the fourth day of Marche in the fourth yeare of our raigne." After the subversion of monarchy, the date of the year was given according to old style, previous to 1751. The examples we have just quoted are such as received the date of the year.

If the confusion and discrepancies which we have noticed are found in American histories, where there seems to be so little occasion for them, it might be interesting to inquire how it is with European histories, where Catholic and Protestant writers give an account of the same events. An examination will show that in French and in English histories similar and even greater discrepancies prevail. The histories of England and France are intimately connected toward the close of the 17th century, and during the first half of the 18th, and although during this period the French writers generally followed the new style, while the English retained the old, yet the writers on either side frequently abandon their system, when they are obliged to go to the opposite side for authorities. We will compare a few dates as given in the French History of D'Anquetil, and the English of Smollet.

The naval battle of La Hogue in 1692, is dated by Smollet May 19th, by D'Anquetil May 29, the former in old style, the latter in new.

Battle of Hoch Stadt in 1704, both agree.

Battle of Turin, Sept. 7, 1706, both agree.

Battle of Malplaquet, July 11, 1709, both agree.

Treaty of Aix la Chapelle in 1748, Smollet says Oct. 7, D'Anquetil Oct. 18.\*

Let us, however, return to American common school histories, and witness the effect there produced by such discrepancies. Notwithstanding the comparatively few dates that are retained in these works, there is enough to show the sources from which they originated. Our English histories of France

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\* Most of the examples of this class are omitted.—ED.

present these same discrepancies, giving dates, part of them in old style, and part of them in new, showing that the authorities relied on were mostly English. Our common school histories of the United States have adopted the old style throughout our colonial history, except in a few instances, some of which we will now notice. Events pertaining to Canadian history alone, are generally given in new style, when the dates are mentioned. It is well known that the eastern coasts of America were granted away by series of patents both by the English and the French monarchs. Our histories give the dates of the French patents in new style, and those of the English patents in old style.

Some of our school histories date the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Dec. 11th, 1620. This is old style, and is the date given by Hale, Webster, Frost, and Grimshaw, and the date probably designed by Mrs. Willard. Both Olney and Goodrich, however, date this event Dec. 22d, a date which they erroneously supposed to correspond in new style with Dec. 11th, old style. In the same verse with this date, Olney says the Pilgrims arrived at Cape Cod Nov. 9th. Yet Nov. 9th is the date in old style. Here are then two dates, only two lines apart, one in old style, and the other in new. Goodrich, with the exception of the date of the landing of the Pilgrims, gives all the other dates, throughout the colonial history, in old style. The Pictorial History, by S. G. Goodrich, the author of Peter Parley's Tales, throughout the whole account of the voyage, landing and first winter of the Pilgrims, gives the dates accurately in new style; but throughout all the other colonial histories, it gives the dates in old style. Why these changes, this want of system, of uniformity, we leave to others to explain as best they can. But let them not judge our common school histories too severely, for we have shown that our large and best histories are equally, if not even more censurable.

It has been observed that Olney and Goodrich date the landing of the Pilgrims Dec. 22d. This is the date which most of our modern writers give, when they attempt to

change the date of this event from old style to new. Holmes, in his *Annals*, vol. i. p. 163, speaking of this event, says, "The 22d of December, new style, *corresponding* to the 11th, old style, has long been observed at Plymouth, and occasionally at Boston, in commemoration of the landing of the Fathers." The 22d of December has indeed long been observed in this manner, yet it can easily be shown that it is not the anniversary of the event which it is designed to commemorate. The true anniversary is the 21st of December, and not the 22d. This may be shown, both by actual computation, and by reference to the decree of Gregory, in 1582. At this date, the revision of the calendar required *ten* days to be struck out for its correction, and as, at the rate of eleven minutes and a fifth per year, it would require an addition of 130 years for the error to amount to an entire day, eleven days should not be struck out until the year 1712. Gregory, however, decided that the change should be made in the year 1700. Ten days, therefore, and not eleven should be struck out in order to change dates from old style to new between the years 1600 and 1700. For 1620 the change can be only ten days. The error of the New England people, and of the historians who have copied it, arose from not reflecting that the decree of Parliament, abating *eleven* days, was inapplicable to events that occurred prior to the year 1700.

3. Having completed our examination of the ARRANGEMENT and ANACHRONISMS of our several school histories, we shall now proceed to examine their claims to ACCURACY IN THE STATEMENT OF FACTS. Under this head, we do not know that we can do better than to point out briefly the errors, whether of ignorance or of carelessness, into which we believe they have fallen, giving at the same time, whenever necessary, our authorities for their correction. We shall quote from all our prominent school histories indiscriminately, arranging the supposed errors according to the dates of the events to which they refer. We commence with the year 1497, the year of the discovery of the North American continent.



Hale, Goodrich, Olney, Webster, Grimshaw, and Mrs. Willard, have adopted an error of early writers in supposing that Newfoundland was the first land discovered by the Cabots in 1497. It is now conceded we believe, by all modern writers of repute, that the land first discovered was the coast of Labrador. See Memoir of Sebastian Cabot, p. 51. Murray's British America (Edinburgh Edition), ii. 277. Also Bancroft, i. p. 9, etc.

In Webster's history, pp. 76, 77, it is stated that the Cabots discovered "Prima Vista," supposed to be Newfoundland, in 1494 or 5, and that during the *second* voyage, in 1498, the *first discovery* of the continent was made, June 11th, old style. It is now a well established fact that the Cabots sailed on their first voyage in May, 1497, instead of 1494 or 5, as Webster states, and that they discovered land on the 24th of June, old style, of the same year. See with reference to this supposed voyage, in 1494 or 5, Bozman's Maryland, i. 11, Note, in which the account is shown to be unworthy of credit; see also Appendix 1st, establishing the date of the patent to the Cabots.

Frost, p. 21, says that Cabot discovered the continent June 14. On the contrary, the true date is June 24th, old style, or July 3d, new style. See in Hakluyt, iii. 6, the words of Sebastian Cabot himself, "Die 24 Junii," etc. "Hanc autem appellat terram primum visam." Of course, Cabot dated according to old style.

Mrs. Willard, in giving an account of the expedition of De Soto, who landed in Florida in 1539, states, that after his death "the officer who succeeded him in command lost no time in conducting the poor remains of the army down the Mississippi, *and thence to Cuba.*" The same general statement is made in Goodrich, p. 17, Goodrich's Pict. Hist., p. 22, and Olney, p. 28. The error is probably taken from Belknap's Biography, article De Soto. Belknap inadvertently states that the remnant of the party *embarked for Cuba*, but his authorities state differently. Instead of the statement being true that the party *lost no time* before they

embarked on the Mississippi, they actually spent six summer months in attempting to penetrate to Mexico by land, after which they returned to the Mississippi and there passed the winter; so that it was *a year and forty days* after the death of De Soto before they embarked on the Mississippi, and then instead of returning to Cuba, as is stated, after leaving the Mississippi they turned to the right, followed the coast and terminated their voyage at the river Panuco, *in Mexico*. The party did not return to Cuba at all. The materials for obtaining a correct knowledge of the facts are sufficiently ample. Besides the original Portuguese and Spanish narrations, which are mostly copied by Herrera, Purchas, Harris, and others, an account of this expedition, given with great minuteness of detail, may be found in Theodore Irving's "Conquest of Florida."

Mrs. Willard, on p. 20 of the Abridgment, enumerates the Cherokees as belonging to the Mobilian family of tribes. But we believe that no other writer has thus classed them. They formed a distinct nation, speaking a language which had no affinity to the Mobilian or Muskogee—Choctaw. See Galatin's Synopsis in vol. ii. of *Archæologia Americana*, and other works on Indian history.

Frost, p. 51, speaking of Port Royal, says, "It was the oldest Christian settlement in North America, having been founded in 1605." Yet the Spaniards had settlements in Mexico nearly a century previous, and St. Augustine, in Florida, was founded in 1565, thirty-nine years before Port Royal.

Goodrich's Pictorial History says, the design of the Virginia colony which settled at Jamestown, was to settle on Roanoke *river*. On the contrary, they designed to settle on Roanoke Island.

Grimshaw, p. 82, in speaking of the respective claims of the French and the English to American territory, adduces as an argument in favor of the French claim, that Quebec was settled before Jamestown. Yet, on the contrary, Jamestown was settled about fifteen months before Quebec.

Some of our histories state that the master of the *Mayflower* having been bribed by the Dutch, intentionally carried the vessel further north than Hudson river, etc. See Hale, p. 28, and Grimshaw, p. 46. These statements are now generally conceded to be erroneous. The New York historians reject the idea of treachery. See also Bancroft, vol. i. p. 309, who says, "Not by the treachery, but rather by the ignorance and self-will of their captain." See also Gordon's *New Jersey*, p. 7, who says, "The allegation that the captain was bribed by the Dutch, is not entitled to credence."

Mrs. Willard, p. 38, states that "Weston's colony," which settled at Weymouth, came out in the fall of 1621. Mrs. Willard likewise states that they passed the *winter* with the Plymouth colony, enjoying their hospitality, etc. Both are errors. The colony came out in the summer of 1622, and removed to Weymouth in the autumn of the same year. See Bancroft, vol. i. p. 318, Morton's *New England Memorial*, p. 79, Baylie's *Memoir of Plymouth colony*, vol. i. p. 93, Holmes's *Annals*, p. 177, and Prince's *Chronology*, p. 204.

Hale, p. 32, Frost, p. 93, and Olney, p. 58, date the banishment of Roger Williams from Massachusetts Bay colony in 1634. Yet the decree of banishment was given in the latter part of 1635, and he did not leave the colony until the beginning of the year 1636. Olney, in a biographical note, p. 71, gives the correct date. Holmes's *Annals*, vol. i. p. 225, gives the wrong date. See Bancroft, vol. i. p. 377, and Baylie's *Memoir of Plymouth Colony*, p. 221.

All the common school histories that we have examined, and which give the date, viz. Hale's, Olney's, Goodrich's, Grimshaw's, Frost's, Mrs. Willard's and Goodrich's *Pictorial History*, date the settlement of Delaware by the Swedes, in 1626 or 7, except Webster, who says between 1630 and 1637. Although the statements found in the first seven of our school histories just mentioned, are such as are given by all early writers on American history, yet later writers have conclusively shown that they are errors, and that the Swedish



colony was not planted until 1638, eleven years after the time usually stated. Gordon's New Jersey, p. 10, says the common date "is an error, arising from the historian having inferred that a colony had been established immediately after the proposition for forming it had been published in Sweden." Moreover, it is known that the settlement was not made until after the death of Gustavus Adolphus, which occurred in 1632. Gordon's authorities are very satisfactory, but Bancroft, ii. 286, is even more explicit, and removes all doubt about the date. It is surprising that none of our common school histories have made the correction. Mrs. Willard, p. 77, commits a still further error, by stating that the Swedish colony settled on the *east* side of Delaware river, calling the country New Sweden. On the contrary, as is well known, the colony settled on *Christiana Creek*, near Wilmington, in the present state of Delaware. *East* of Delaware river would have been in New Jersey; but it was Delaware, and not New Jersey, that was called New Sweden. Moreover, Mrs. Willard is giving an account of the first settling of Delaware, and her account presents the singular inconsistency that the first settlement in Delaware was made in New Jersey. And to show that the mistake in the location of the colony is not a typographical error, it may be mentioned that the writer soon after speaks of a Dutch colony being planted "on the *west* side of the *same* river." Moreover the chronological table in the large work gives the following items: "1627, Swedes and Fins colonize the *east* side of the Delaware river." For authorities with respect to the Swedish settlement we refer to Gordon's New Jersey, p. 9, Gordon's Pennsylvania, 15-16, Dunlap's New York, i. 50, Bancroft, ii. 281, and other recent histories.

The result of the examination given to eight of our most prominent school histories, shows a list of more than TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY ERRORS;\* allowing for those that are

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<sup>1</sup> Want of room has obliged us to exclude, from this article, the greater portion of the errors enumerated in the manuscript.—Ed.

repeated by different writers; and, of these errors, the most numerous and most important are found in Mrs. Willard's Abridgment. A large number of those enumerated, consist of errors in dates; and when it is considered that comparatively few dates are found in most of our school histories, the number we have presented, of this class of errors, must appear surprisingly large. In numerous instances, erroneous dates might with justice have been inferred from the context, and from the order of narration; but these we have in most cases passed by. In no case have we enumerated as errors, dates given accurately either in old style or in new. With one exception, that of the Pictorial History of Goodrich, the works reviewed have been before the public from nine and ten to twenty-five years; during which period abundant time has been allowed the authors and publishers for their correction. One of these works has recently made its appearance as "Revised and enlarged from the *one hundredth* edition;" in which, however, notwithstanding the *revision*, the old errors have been stereotyped anew. If authors will not take the trouble to correct their own works, how much are they indebted to those who will do the labor for them!

4. We now come to the fourth and last division of our subject, the LITERARY MERITS of our several common school histories. Here we must be brief, and without any remarks on what we regard the appropriate style for different kinds of school-books, and on the importance of always placing in the hands of youth, work both grammatically and rhetorically correct, we shall proceed to notice only such things in our school histories, as require little comment, and about which we believe there can be no diversity of opinion.

The writers of some of our school histories have not been sufficiently careful to avoid the introduction of language which cannot readily be understood either by teachers or pupils. We give a few examples, without specifying authors.

In a well known and popular school history we have the following account of a naval battle. "In five minutes the *main-*

*top-mast* was shot away, and falling down with the *main-top-sail-yard*, across the *larboard fore* and *fore-top-sail yard*, rendered her *head yards* unmanageable during the rest of the action. In two minutes more her *gaff* and *mizzen-top-gallant-mast* were shot away." The author has here incorporated part of the official account of a naval battle, into a school-book designed for the reading of children. Although doubtless sufficiently intelligible to a seaman, few of the pupils in our schools could understand it. And why fill their heads with sounds without meaning?

From another work we quote the following. "Talleyrand demanded a *douceur* of 250,000 dollars for himself," etc. "A *quo warranto* was issued against the company of Massachusetts Bay," etc. "The French Charge d'Affaires at the Hague," etc. "The number placed *hors du combat* was four hundred and fifty." Why not say in these cases Talleyrand demanded a present, gift or bribe, etc.; a writ or inquiry or *an order was issued; the number disabled or wounded*, etc.; the French minister at Hague?—for these terms would have been intelligible to all.

We do not say that these things are characteristic of any of our school histories, but we believe that Hale's history is the only one that is entirely free from unexceptionable expressions. The language of Hale, although generally censured as being tame and spiritless, we believe to be far superior to that of any school history yet published.

Mrs. Willard's history has received the highest commendations both for its accuracy and its high literary merits. Of the character of its claims to accuracy, we have given abundant examples. Its claims to literary excellence we shall now proceed to examine with that brevity which the space already occupied by our extended review demands.

In the following sentence, on p. 17, the figurative and the literal are so combined as to render not only the rhetoric but the grammar also faulty. "Of these *branches* of the Delaware or the Algonquin race, the first *who figure* in the early history of our nation were the *Powhatans*." This analyzed



gives the following. The first *branches who figure* were the *Powhatan Indians*. The relative *who* here refers to *branches*; *branches* are said to *figure*; and then we are told these *branches* are certain Indians.

This is exceedingly awkward: "The authorities of Hull in the meantime *got notice*; and the Dutch commander, at the sight of a large armed company, having a fair wind, with oaths, hoisted anchor, and sailed away." p. 52.

The following are obscure and inelegant owing to the frequent repetition of the pronoun, and the frequent transition from one person to another. "Miantonomoh sought the life of Uncas, because *he* was aware that *he* could not make *him* unite in a conspiracy which *he* was exciting against the whites. A Pequod whom *he* hired, wounded the Mohegan chief, and then fled to *him* for protection. *He* refused to surrender the assassin, but dispatched *him* with his own hand." p. 101. Again, "They set fire to Charlestown. The Americans await their approach in silence until they are within ten rods of the redoubt. Then taking a steady aim they pour upon them a deadly fire. They are thrown into confusion and many of their officers fall. They are twice repulsed. Clinton now arrives and they again rally," etc. p. 197. On p. 198 we have the following language relating to those accused of witchcraft. "The unhappy persons were confronted with those who accused them, and asked 'Why do you afflict those children?' *If answered I* do not afflict *them*, *they* commanded *them* to look upon the children, at which *they* would fall into fits, and then declare *they* were thus troubled by the persons apprehended." After supplying a very awkward ellipsis we will construe this sentence. If *they* (the accused, in the plural form) answered *I* (singular form) do not afflict *them* (the children), *they* (the judges) commanded *them* (the accused) to look upon the children, at which *they* (the children) would fall into fits," etc.

Of the numerous examples of faulty construction we select the following: "By means of his acquaintance with the Narragansetts, Williams learned that a conspiracy was form-

ing to cut off the English, headed by Sassacus, the powerful chief of the Pèquods." p. 67. The construction here implies that the *English* were headed by Sassacus.

"They reached through many discouragements, by disaster, treachery and climate, the great Illinois." p. 119. The construction and the punctuation of this sentence express the meaning that the *means used* in order to reach the Illinois were disaster, treachery, and climate; whereas, the meaning intended was, that there were discouragements by disaster, treachery, and climate. The sentence should have been expressed thus. Through many discouragements by disaster, treachery, and climate, they reached the great Illinois.

"To survey the estates of Lord Fairfax, then residing in Virginia, he first began his career of active life." p. 154. This states that he first began his career of active life *in order to* survey the estates of Lord Fairfax. On the contrary he began by surveying, etc. The adverb *first* is superfluous. *He began*, is sufficient.

"He then revealed a conspiracy which the Indians had formed and requested him to join." p. 60. By the construction the verb *requested* is in the imperfect tense, having for its subject the pronoun *he* understood; whereas, the meaning intended requires it to be in the pluperfect tense agreeing with Indians.

"New Plymouth now began to flourish. For the land being divided, each man labored for himself and his family. *Their* government was a pure democracy." p. 60. In this extract there is nothing to which the pronoun *their* can refer. Instead of *their government*, it should have read *the government of the colony*. On pages 176 and 183 may be found examples in which the construction requires a meaning different from that intended.

"Yet they never repined *or* repented of the step they had taken." p. 58. *Never* should have been followed by *nor*. *Or* gives an antithesis of sentiment not intended, and renders the latter part of the phrase an affirmative declaration.

"They saw neither sun, moon *or* stars." p. 52. Again, "They neither ate, slept *or* labored, *or* even worshipped God in the sanctuary without arms and ammunition at hand." p. 72. *Neither* should always be followed by *nor*; *either* by *or*.

Speaking of an error of sentiment and feeling which the Puritans indulged, the writer says, p. 114, "This produced uncharitableness towards others, and the bad effects of the religious sentiment perverted." We suppose the writer designed to speak of a perversion of religious sentiment.

The following requires no comment. "We have already mentioned Colonel John Washington. Lawrence Washington was *his* son; Augustus Washington *his*." p. 153.

"He gave them their choice, to labor *for* six hours a day or have nothing to eat." p. 42. The unnecessary introduction of the word *for* here conveys an idea of *price* which was not intended. The following is somewhat objectionable for a similar reason. "East Jersey, the property of Carteret, being exposed to sale, Penn purchased it for twelve Quakers."

We give a few examples of the wrong use of words. Speaking of the claims which the Dutch made to the country bordering on the Connecticut river, the writer says, p. 47, "The court of England *disowned* those claims," meaning probably, that the court of England denied the justness of the claims of the Dutch. The meaning of *disown* is *not to admit as one's own*. One person cannot disown the claims of another.

Again: "The Indian chief freely gave land to Williams, whose *neighborhood* he now coveted." p. 67. *Neighborhood* signifies either a community of neighbors or the place they occupy, and the word cannot be appropriately applied to proximity of person.

Again: "The governor left the province, and Leisler *assumed to administer* the government." To *assume to do* a thing is an impropriety of speech. Again: "The son of Pocahontas survived and reared an offspring *which is perpetu-*



*ated* in some of the best families of Virginia." p. 45. Surely that identical offspring could not have been perpetuated. Characters, principles, races, &c., may be perpetuated, but that persons may be perpetuated is a new thing in Philosophy.

We select a few examples which show an occasional lowering of the style unbecoming the dignity of an historian.

"At last a few followers having joined him, he *fixed* at Seekonk, since Rehoboth, within the limits of the Plymouth colony." p. 67. "Afterwards they changed their location and *fixed* where Albany now stands." p. 92. "Soon after this Zeisberger led a party who *fixed* for a time on the Alleghany river," etc. etc. p. 260. "They gave notice that Massasoit, the Sachem of the Pokanokets, was *hard by*." "The *high manner* of Vane, his profound religious feeling, and his great knowledge so *wrought* in his favor," &c. p. 65. "This would naturally *breed* quarrels and bloodshed." p. 15.

We close by noticing a few strictly ungrammatical phrases.

"He therefore sent out two ships laden with conscientious Huguenots." p. 27. (There is no such participle as *laden*.)

"The natives were as *kindly* as their climate and soil." p. 34.

"The admiral, with Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George Somers, *were empowered* to govern the colony until his arrival." p. 43. (That is, *the admiral were empowered*.)

"Before spring, half of their number, among whom *was* the governor and his wife," etc. p. 58.

"The whole settlement, thus constantly excited, *were* in the feverish condition of intense and continual fear." p. 72.

"Fear and terror *was* on every side." p. 124. "Every *one* of Dade's army *were killed* on the fatal field." p. 322.

"If force *was* employed against them, they would repel it by force." p. 176.

"A large *quantity* of ammunition and stores *were* deposited at Concord." p. 193.

We add from the questions, a few examples of the use of the wrong case of the pronoun.

“Who did he send as leader of the colony?” p. 26.

“Who did the Plymouth company send out?” p. 37.

“What did the proprietors obtain?—Who make governor?”  
p. 63.

“Who did he send to take the country?” p. 95.

“Who did he send over as governor-general?” p. 110.

“Who did king William send over in 1790?” p. 122.

“Who did Fletcher succeed?” p. 133.

“Who did Queen Anne make governor?” p. 134.

“Who did Sir Henry Clinton authorize?” etc. p. 238.

“Who did they make treasurer?” p. 241, etc., etc.

We might have made a much larger collection of similar examples. Those we have selected are taken exclusively from the common school edition of Mrs. Willard's works, although we notice, generally, the same, and even more numerous errors in the larger history, called the library edition. We ought, perhaps, here to remark, that Mrs. Willard's history is not a recent work, as many suppose; and that the sentences we have selected have not, therefore, gone forth in haste from the hands of the writer, without sufficient time for their revision. The original work, if we mistake not, was published more than fifteen years ago; but in the changes through which it has passed, to its present *improved form*, well may we ask, where are the corrections?

In our remarks, we trust we have not gone beyond the legitimate province of the reviewer; we have spoken of works, now the property of the public, with that freedom which we believed the subject demanded; and should the cause of education gain any thing by our efforts, we shall deem ourselves most amply rewarded.

## AN APPENDIX,

*Containing an additional list of the Errors found in our Common School Histories.*

[The following comprises only about one-half the errors enumerated in the manuscript Report; the whole of which, with a large list of errors selected from other than school histories, we purpose giving to the public at some future period. If the researches of others should convict *us* of having committed errors, we shall ever feel grateful for any information that may lead to the truth.]

Frost, p. 94, says, "*Pokanoket*, Massasoit and Canonius welcomed Roger Williams to their wigwams," etc. *Pokanoket* was the name of a *place* and not the name of an Indian. Thus Blake, "Massasoit had several places of residence, but the principal was Mount Hope or Pokanoket."

Goodrich, p. 25, and S. G. Goodrich's Pictorial History, p. 69, say that the celebrated Pequod fort, surprised by Captain Mason in 1637, was "in the present town of Stonington." This is an error. The town of Stonington is on the east side of the Mystic river, and the Pequod fort was on the west side, in the present town of Groton. See Col. of the R. I. Hist. Soc. vol. i. p. 25. Trumbull's Connecticut, vol. i. p. 83, and Barber's Hist. Collections of Connecticut, p. 312.

In Goodrich's Pictorial History, it is stated, p. 59, that John Mason, the early proprietor of New Hampshire, "was the same Captain Mason who afterwards commanded in the Pequod war." This is an error. Mason died November 26 (O. S), 1635, before the Pequod war commenced. Governor Winthrop, in his journal, under date of July 31, 1636, says, "The last winter Captain Mason died." See also Williamson's Maine, i. 259, Bancroft, i. 329, and Belknap's Biography, article Gorges and Mason.

Hale, Grimshaw, Goodrich and Olney erroneously state that for some time previous to 1639, the Virginians had been, by royal authority, deprived of the privilege of electing representatives to their Colonial Legislature. For the correction of this error we refer to Bancroft, vol. i. p. 199, note, and numerous authorities.

Hale, p. 24, Olney, p. 43, and Grimshaw, p. 37, speaking of the naval force of Parliament sent out in 1652 to reduce the colonies to submission, have fallen into the error that Berkeley (Gov. of Virginia) opposed this force, but after making a gallant resistance was defeated, etc., and forced to yield. This error has been incorporated in many, but not in all of our early histories. Bancroft, i. 223, quoting from Clarendon, says, no sooner had the fleet arrived than "all thoughts of resistance were laid aside." Again, the statement of Hale and Olney that during the existence of the English commonwealth the liberties of Virginia were checked, and restrictions imposed on her commerce, is also erroneous. Bancroft says, that during this period Virginia enjoyed liberties as large as the favored New England. See the authorities in Bancroft, i. 224. Again, Hale states that "during a period of nine years, governors appointed by Cromwell presided over the colony." Olney and Grimshaw make similar state-



ments. Bancroft, giving as authority Hening's statutes of Virginia, says that "Cromwell never made any appointments for Virginia," and that "not one governor acted under his commission."

Hale, p. 24, asserts that at the time of the death of Gov. Matthews of Virginia, which is known to have occurred in March, 1660, no intelligence of the death of Cromwell had been received in Virginia. Yet Cromwell died in September, 1658, fifteen months before the death of Matthews, and it is well known that Matthews himself announced the event to the Virginia Legislature. Hale also says that the death of Cromwell occurred soon after this event, that is, soon after the death of Matthews. Page 24 in Hale's History is almost an entire tissue of error.

Grimshaw, p. 71, under date of 1664, states that a war having commenced between Great Britain and the commonwealth of Holland, the king of England assigned to his brother the territories embraced in New Netherlands, etc. Yet it is well known that no war existed between the two countries at the time.

Hale, p. 69, says that in 1664 Charles II. granted to his brother "all the territory between Nova Scotia and Delaware Bay;" Olney says, "All New England and the territory then in possession of the Dutch." Both these statements are erroneous. The country granted was from the St. Croix to the Kennebec, and then omitting most of New England, from the Connecticut to the Delaware. See the boundaries as described in Trumbull's Connecticut, i. p. 266, also in Proud's Pennsylvania, i. 121, and in Williamson's Maine, i. 407.

Mrs. Willard has fallen into an error with respect to the first settlements in the Carolinas. In North Carolina two separate colonies were formed:—the Albermarle County colony, in the northeastern part of the State, and the Clarendon County colony, farther south, on Cape Fear River. But Mrs. Willard, on p. 95 of the large work, and also on p. 121 of the Abridgment, by a marginal note, describes the colony on Cape Fear River, as being the first in *South Carolina*. That this is not a typographical error may be shown from the fact that the writer speaks of these settlements as *the Carolinas*; meaning thereby, North and South Carolina; and besides she speaks of no other settlement being the first in South Carolina.

Hale, p. 67, and Olney, p. 93, state that (in 1664-1665) the assembly of Rhode Island passed a law granting to all Christian sects "except Roman Catholics" the right of voting, and that they authorized the seizure of the estates of Quakers, who refused to assist in defending the colony." The first assertion, which is found in Chalmers and many other writers on American history, has given rise to much controversy, but there are sufficient reasons for believing that no such law was ever passed in Rhode Island. See Knowles's Roger Williams, pp. 321 to 325, also Bancroft, vol. ii. pp. 65, 66. See also the supposed law in Holmes's Annals, i. 336.\* With regard to the second assertion, no doubt of its error can now be entertained. No law was expressly directed against the Quakers. A law was indeed passed, of a very mild nature, requiring all the inhabitants to yield "due obedience unto the laws established from time to time." To this the Quakers objected that it required them to yield obedience to

\* Dr. Coit, in his History of Puritanism, charges this supposed law upon the people of Rhode Island as though it were an admitted fact. He argues simply from the repeal of this supposed law by the Rhode Island Legislature in 1783, as contained in the Mass. Hist. Coll. 3d series, Vol. V. pp. 243, 244. That this "repeal" is evidence quite insufficient to establish the fact, see the arguments in Bancroft, ii. 65, 66, and authorities there referred to.

the militia laws. The next year the law was changed and even a Quaker was elected Deputy Governor. A disposition was at all times manifested to consult the feelings and respect the rights of the Quakers. See Knowles, p. 324.

Mrs. Willard, p. 94, large work, and p. 120, Abr., dates the second grant of Carolina to Lord Clarendon and others in 1667. The true date is June 30, old style, 1665. Bancroft says June 13, but in the charter in Williamson it is written in full, June thirtieth. Mrs. Willard is likewise in an error with respect to the extent of the grant on the south. See Williamson's North Carolina, vol. i. pp. 86, and 230, also Bancroft, vol. ii. p. 137.

Frost, p. 158, says, "The first *effective* settlement in Carolina was made at Port Royal in 1670." Hale, p. 100, says, "The first *permanent* settlement was made at Port Royal in 1670," etc. The same in Olney, Goodrich, etc. These authors also date the founding of old Charleston, in 1671. But Hewatt's South Carolina, p. 49, says, "*On Ashley river* the first settlement was made that proved permanent." Bancroft, p. 167, says, "There is no evidence that the ships did more than sail into the harbor of Port Royal, and after a survey sail out again." Wilson, in his Carolina, p. 7, says, "Ashley river was first settled in 1670." Dalcho, in his history of the Protestant Episcopal Church in S. C., says that a codicil to Gov. Sayle's will is dated in Old Charleston September 30, 1670. It also appears from Hewatt, i. p. 89, and Archdale, p. 14, that there was no settlement at Port Royal in 1684, when the Scotch commenced a settlement there, which was broken up by the Spaniards in 1686. Thus it appears that the first permanent settlement in South Carolina was made at Old Charleston on Ashley river in 1670, and that Port Royal was not settled till many years later.

Goodrich, p. 64, calls Philip of Mount Hope grandson of Massasoit. He was a *son* of Massasoit. See Blake's Indian Biography, b. ii. ch. 2, and b. iii. ch. 2. Gallatin's Synopsis in Archæologia Americana, ii. 40, and all the more recent histories. The error first occurred in Josselyn's account of two voyages to New England, but has long been known and rejected.

Goodrich's Pictorial History says that in 1674 the province of New Jersey was divided into East and West Jersey. On the contrary, the division was made by deed dated July 1, 1676. See Gordon's New Jersey, p. 38.

Frost, p. 110, speaking of King Philip's war, says, "The tribes bordering on Maine and New Hampshire abandoned the war on receiving the news of Philip's death." Erroneous. Philip's death occurred August 12 (O. S.), 1676. The eastern Indians continued the war, and in July of the following year, 1677, killed and wounded sixty men in battle, and surprised twenty fishing vessels on the coast. Peace was not concluded with them until April, 1678. See Belknap's New Hampshire, vol. i. p. 128, and Williamson's Maine, i. 533 to 553.

Goodrich says, p. 83, that "in 1686, both the Jerseys and New York were annexed to New England." This error has probably arisen from confounding the two commissions granted to Andros. In 1686 Andros was appointed governor of all New England. In 1688 he received a second commission extending his government over New York and New Jersey. See Graham's Colonial History, b. ii. ch. 5, and Bancroft, vol. ii. p. 427, etc.



Frost states on p. 111 that Andros arrived at Boston as Governor of New England in 1685. Yet the true date is December, 1686.

Nearly all our common school histories have committed errors in their accounts of the administration of Leisler, who assumed the government of New York on the news of the accession of William and Mary to the throne of England in 1688. Mrs. Willard has the following language: "The people of Albany, in the meantime, were determined to hold the garrison and city for King William, independent of Leisler, but Milborne, son-in-law of Leisler, *undertook its reduction*, and the distress of the country in consequence of an Indian irruption, gave him the desired success." Frost says, "Milborne, the son-in-law of Leisler, was dispatched to Albany to dislodge them, and an irruption of French and Indians *happening at the same time*, they gave up the fort."

But Milborne did *not* undertake the reduction of the fort by force, as the language cited would intimate, nor was his small party by any means sufficient for that purpose. He arrived at Albany November 9 (O. S.), 1689, but returned to New-York without accomplishing his object, nor was it until the spring of the following year, some months after the invasion by the French and Indians, which resulted in the destruction of Schenectady, that Albany voluntarily submitted to the authority of Leisler.

Again, we find the following errors relative to the conduct of Leisler on the arrival of Sloughter. Hale, p. 75, says, "Leisler, when informed of the appointment of Sloughter, ought to have relinquished the authority he had exercised, but he was weak, intoxicated with power, and determined to retain it. Although twice required, he refused to surrender the fort, but sent two persons to confer with the governor, who, declaring them rebels, arrested and confined them. Alarmed by this measure Leisler attempted to escape, but was apprehended, with many of his adherents, and brought to trial."

Frost says, p. 132, "He finally abandoned his desperate design of defending the fort," &c. Olney says, p. 51, "Leisler disputed his authority, but after several vain attempts to maintain his power," &c.

Such accounts are entirely erroneous. On the arrival of Sloughter, Leisler acknowledged him as governor, and sent to him for orders, nor does he appear to have entertained the most distant idea of holding the fort against him. Yet the weak-minded and vicious governor, influenced by the enemies of Leisler, imprisoned him, and, on the charge of treason, he was condemned to death. A simple merchant, possessing the confidence of the great mass of his fellow-citizens, Leisler found himself foremost in the ranks of those who, on the news of the revolution in England, raised the standard of William of Orange. He appears to have acted with an honest endeavor to promote the public welfare; and although he was guilty of some acts of indiscretion, and was denounced by his enemies as a rebel and a traitor, yet his loyalty to his sovereign cannot be questioned. He was doubtless an honest man, although not a great man, and it is just that his name should be rescued from the obloquy which has long rested upon it. For a full account of the administration of Leisler, see Dunlap's New-York vol. i. from p. 153 to 211. See also Bancroft, vol. iii. p. 52. Smith's New-York, from which the errors originated, is not in this part entitled to credit. The "Act for reversing the attainder of Leisler and others," found in Smith, vol. i. Appendix, p. 389, gives a brief but true statement of the facts in the case.

Mrs. Willard, on page 97 of the larger work, and 124 of the Abridgment, in giving an account of the expedition of Sir William Phipps against Quebec, which occurred in 1690, describes the event, according to the marginal dates, as happening in 1691, and she likewise erroneously supposes that the taking of Port Royal occurred during the same expedition. Port Royal, however, was taken by the same commander during a previous expedition in May of the same year. See Bancroft, iii. 184; Holmes's Annals, i. 431-2, &c.

Mrs. Willard, p. 96, large work, and 123 Abridgment, says, "In 1686 the fort built at Pemaquid was taken by Castine, and thus the French claimed as Acadia all Maine east of the Kennebec." This is also placed among the events of that date, but it is ten years in advance of its proper place in the history. The facts are as follows; From 1677 to 1689 Pemaquid was in the possession of the English, and during this time peace continued. At the latter date, 1689, it was taken by the Indians: but it was not until 1696, ten years later than the date given by Mrs. Willard, that Castine took it. See a minute history of all these events in Williamson's Maine, vol. i. pp. 581 to 645. Also, Bancroft, iii. 189.

Goodrich, p. 98, says the treaty of Ryswick was concluded December 10th, 1697. Goodrich's Pict. Hist. also says *December*. Yet the treaty was concluded on the 20th of September previous. See Smollet, Phil. Edit. p. 135, and the French of D'Anquetil, x. 190. Also Bancroft, iii. 192; Holmes i. 464, &c. The news of the treaty arrived at Boston the very day on which Goodrich says the treaty was concluded. Webster, p. 117, erroneously dates this very treaty in 1698.

Errors of the following nature, frequently found in our school histories, sometimes occasion the reader much perplexity. Hale, p. 77, says, "The next year (1698) the Earl of Bellamont was appointed governor of New-York." The truth is, Bellamont was appointed in 1695, but did not arrive in New-York until April, 1698. The error appears at first to be of a trifling nature, but should the reader take the date of Bellamont's appointment as given by Hale, and then read in another history that Bellamont, *as Governor of New-York*, was directed to take active measures for the suppression of piracy, and that for this purpose he in connexion with others actually sent out a vessel under Captain Kid, in 1696! that is, according to Hale, *before he was appointed Governor*, he would perceive a discrepancy which he could not reconcile. Had it been stated that Bellamont received his commission in 1695, and that Kid was dispatched from England, no confusion would have arisen. Nearly all our common school histories that have mentioned this affair of Kid, give the account as though Kid was dispatched from New-York by Bellamont himself, after the arrival of the latter in the province. See Hale, p. 77; Olney, p. 51; Mrs. Willard, p. 134, &c. Mrs. Willard states, p. 134, that Kid was executed in 1699. He was arrested in that year, but was not executed until May 12th (O. S.) 1701. See Dunlap's New-York, vol. i. pp. 231 and 246, and Barber's New-York Historical Collections, p. 536.

Goodrich, p. 98, gives a lengthy account of an Indian attack "on Haverhill, *New Hampshire*," in 1697. Yet it was not the Haverhill in New Hampshire that was attacked, but the Haverhill in Massachusetts. See Mirick's History of Haverhill, p. 86. On p. 96 Goodrich also locates the village of Salmon Falls in New Hampshire; whereas the settlement destroyed was on the east side of the Piscataqua, in the present



town of Berwick, Maine. See Williamson's Maine, vol. i. p. 21, 243 and 618, and vol. ii. 77.

In the chronological table of Mrs. Willard's larger work, among the events recorded as happening in 1692, is mentioned, "The Jersey's united and joined to New-York." The same error is found in the margin of the Abridgment, p. 134, while in neither work is the date given in the text itself. The true date of this event is *ten years later*, viz. 1702, as all other histories state.

The plot of the Corees and the Tuscaroras to destroy the settlers of North Carolina, is placed by Mrs. Willard, p. 110 large work, and 137 Abridgment, Frost, p. 157, and Goodrich, p. 106, under the date of 1712. And yet the celebrated massacre by the Indians occurred September 22d (O. S.), 1711. See Williamson's North Carolina, vol. i. p. 193; Bancroft, vol. iii. p. 320, and Gallatin's Synopsis in Arch. Am. ii. 82. The date in Holmes's Annals, vol. i. p. 506, and the brief account there given of the war under date of 1712, may have caused the error. The only important events of the war occurred in 1711 and 1713.

Hale, p. 105, and Olney, p. 102, state that the Georgia charter, given in 1732, embraced the territory now constituting the State of Georgia. On the contrary it embraced none of the country south of the Altamaha. See Holmes, i. 553; Bancroft, iii. 419, and the charter itself in McCall's Georgia, i. 328-356. The country between the Altamaha and Florida was annexed to Georgia after the treaty of 1763, by which Florida was ceded to England. See Hewatt, ii. 264, where likewise the boundaries of the two Floridas are given. Also Holmes, ii. 115, 116.

Although the text should not be burdened with dates, yet the following facts show the importance of introducing them either in the margin or at the bottom of the page.

The celebrated "Negro Plot" in New-York, occurred in 1741. Hale introduces the account of it in this manner: "About this time a supposed Negro Plot," &c., p. 82. Should the question arise, what time? the writer furnishes us no means of ascertaining it. The last preceding date is 1736, and the date first following it is 1740. The reader therefore would erroneously infer that the "Negro Plot" occurred between the dates 1736 and 1740.

Hale, p. 108, speaking of the Spanish invasion of Georgia in 1742, says, the Spanish fleet "sailed up the river *Altamaha* and landed on the island of St. Simons," &c. This is an error. The Altamaha enters the ocean north of the island of St. Simons, but the fleet entered St. Simon's Sound south of the island, and did not reach the Altamaha.

After describing the events of 1746, Hale says, p. 83, "Early in the next year a treaty was concluded," &c. Yet the treaty referred to was not made until 1748; and had the writer been careful to place the date in the margin, probably the error would not have occurred.

Mrs. Willard in both works dates the departure of Washington on his journey to the French forts in 1753 on the 31st of November. It should be 31st of October. November has but thirty days.

Mrs. Willard says in a note, p. 128, large work, that in the capitulation of Fort Necessity Washington signed a promise "not to bear arms for a year against the French." The nearest that any thing in the capitulation comes to this, is a clause requiring that those men whom the English should leave behind to look after their effects should "not work upon any buildings in this place, or on this side of the mountain during a

year," having reference to the erection of Forts, &c. in the disputed territory. (The articles of capitulation are in Mante's History of the French and Indian War, p. 42, 4to. London, 1772.)

Hale, p. 113, says that the expedition against Nova Scotia in 1755, arrived at its place of destination in *April*. On the contrary it sailed from Boston May 20th (O. S.), and arrived in *June*. See Mante's History, p. 17, 18; Murray's British America, ii. 139; Holmes's Annals, ii. 59. Some of the histories say that Gen. Winslow commanded the expedition, others say Generals Monckton and Winslow. The British Lieutenant Colonel Monckton was the commanding officer. See the same authorities.

Webster, p. 171, says that *General Webb* commanded Fort William Henry during the siege, and at the time of the surrender of that place in 1757. Should be Colonel Monro. Gen. Webb then commanded at Fort Edward.

Mrs. Willard in both works erroneously dates the surrender of Louisburg in 1758, on July 6th. The correct date is July 26th. Mante, p. 153; Holmes, ii. 81, &c.

Goodrich, p. 137, mentions that *three islands* were surrendered to the English at the taking of Louisburg in 1758, viz., Isle Royal, St. Johns, and Cape Breton. On the contrary, Isle Royal and Cape Breton were one and the same island, Isle Royal being the French name.

Goodrich, p. 139, has the following language: "It was determined that three powerful armies should enter Canada by different routes, and attack at nearly the same time all the strongholds of the French in that country. These were *Ticonderoga* and *Crown Point*, Niagara and *Quebec*." Is it not strange that the author should locate *Ticonderoga*, *Crown Point* and *Niagara*, in Canada?

Several errors are found in the accounts generally given of the siege of Quebec by Wolfe in 1759: Thus the language of Goodrich, p. 141, and we believe of all our other school histories, implies that in the attack on the French camp, all the troops engaged crossed the Montmorenci in boats, many of which grounded, &c. On the contrary, those which crossed in boats *crossed the St. Lawrence from Point Levi*, while the troops which crossed the Montmorenci *forded* the stream near its mouth at low water, where the tide overflows. Goodrich says, "Montcalm's party had now landed, and were drawn up on the beach in order." We suspect that instead of the name of the French General, *Montcalm*, the author designed to write the name of the British General *Monckton*, for that would have been the truth. Goodrich says, after the retreat, Wolfe "returned to his quarters on the Isle of Orleans." So likewise Holmes, in his Annals, ii. 91. We believe, however, that his quarters were at that time at the camp on the east side of the Montmorenci. Mrs. Willard says, p. 168, "Wolfe broke up his camp at Montmorenci and returned to Orleans." On the contrary, in the language of Mante, "The troops and artillery there were re-embarked and landed at Point Levi." The project of ascending the heights of Abraham, &c., is generally ascribed to General Wolfe. But the plan was proposed by the three brigadiers, Monckton, Townshend and Murray, and it is said was first suggested by General Townshend. See Mante, p. 232—268, containing a circumstantial account of the siege, and a map; also Murray's British America, i. 176.

Frost, p. 197, says, "In the spring of 1764 the famous stamp act was

passed." This is an error. On the 10th of March, 1764, the House of Commons voted a *resolution* purporting that it was proper to change certain stamp duties in the colonies and plantations, but the act was not passed until the following year, March, 1765. On p. 186 of Frost, the *resolution* here noticed is erroneously referred to as having been passed in 1763. The two consecutive errors appear to forbid the supposition that either was merely typographical. See Pitkin, vol. i. pp. 163 and 171; Botta, vol. i. p. 39 and p. 54; Holmes, ii. 124 and 133, and all other histories.

All our common school histories which have treated of the subject at any length have fallen into an error respecting the celebrated resolutions introduced into the Virginia House of Burgesses by Patrick Henry, on the arrival of the news of the passage of the stamp act. It is generally stated that *five* resolutions were introduced by Henry, and that all passed, but that the fifth was rescinded on the day following the passage. The truth appears to be, that seven resolutions were introduced and five only passed, and the fifth was afterwards rescinded. The two most objectionable resolutions were not passed, and yet several of our common school histories have quoted the sentiments of these two as among those which passed. Grimshaw, p. 90, speaking of the resolutions which were adopted, quotes the language of the seventh, which was *not* adopted.

So likewise Mrs. Willard, p. 150, large work, and p. 179 Abridgment, says, the fifth resolution "declared in express terms, that they were *not bound to obey* any law imposing taxes unless made by their representatives." But this was the language of the sixth resolution and was not adopted. See Pitkin's Political and Civil History, vol. i. pp. 173—177; Wirt's Life of Henry, pp. 74 to 83; Gordon, vol. i. p. 118, and S. F. Wilson's American Revolution, p. 62, 63, 64. Marshall's account is not fully to be relied on.

The errors into which most of our historians have fallen in this matter, have arisen from the circumstance that the whole *seven* resolutions were circulated together, and published in the papers of the day, as having been passed by the Virginia Assembly. Even Botta, vol. i. p. 64, copies the whole as having passed, but says that the last two were afterwards rescinded. Mr. Wirt supposes that *only five* resolutions were offered, but the fifth does not contain the language quoted in our school histories. Whether five or seven resolutions were *offered*, it is certain that those charged as being so objectionable never *passed*. The manuscript journal of the Virginia Assembly is lost.

Hale, p. 132, speaking of the first colonial Congress which assembled at New-York in 1765, says, "Delegates from *six* provinces only were present." Frost, p. 187, gives but eight, omitting Maryland. Both are errors. Nine colonies were represented. See Pitkin, vol. i. p. 186.

Hale, p. 139, has the following error: "While these events were transpiring in the colonies, an attempt, supported by the prime minister, was made in England to repeal all the laws for raising a revenue in America." The prime minister referred to was Lord North, and the time 1770. We are not aware that any attempt was made to repeal *all* the laws for raising a revenue, and if any such proposition was ever *suggested*, it was certainly *not* supported by the prime minister, who declared that "a total repeal could not be thought of until America was prostrate at the feet of the British Parliament." All the duties were repealed *except* the duty on tea. See Pitkin, vol. i. p. 244.



Mrs. Willard, p. 174, large work, and p. 200 Abridgment, has the following under date of 1775. "Orders were given to the British naval commanders to lay waste and destroy all such seaports as had taken part against Great Britain. In consequence *Falmouth in Massachusetts* was burned by the orders of Captain Mowatt, of the British navy." There is but one Falmouth in Massachusetts, which is a seaport in Barnstable county. The place burned was no other than the present Portland, in the State of Maine, which was then included in the town of Falmouth, from which it was set-off; July 4, 1786; see Williamson's Maine, vol. ii pp. 434 and 527. It is no excuse for the error that Maine was *then* included in Massachusetts; as the statement given must inevitably lead the pupil astray.

Goodrich, p. 174, states, that the assault made on Quebec by Montgomery occurred on the 5th of December, 1775. It was the 31st of December, as other histories relate.

In Mrs. Willard's Abridgment, p. 108, the small map of the vicinity of Boston contains three important errors. *Dorchester heights* are represented as being west of Dorchester Bay, whereas they are north of the bay, and are included in what is now called South Boston. On the same map Stony Brook, or Muddy river, which falls into Charles river west from Boston is called Neponsett river; whereas Neponsett river falls into Boston harbor, near the village of Dorchester, four miles south from Boston. On the same map also, the localities of Bunker's Hill and Breed's Hill, have been made to exchange places, each receiving the name that belongs the other.

On map No. 6 of Mrs. W.'s Abridgment, and also on No. 6 of the large work, St. Simon's Island, on the coast of Georgia, is erroneously placed some distance north of the mouth of the Altamaha river, whereas it should be south. Dover in New Hampshire is placed on the east side of the Piscataqua, and the fort of Pemaquid, in Maine, is, in the maps of both works, erroneously placed on Penobscot Bay. On map No. 6th of the Abridgment, the founding of Montreal is dated 1680, but in the history itself, p. 115, in 1640.

Frost, p. 226, speaking of the attack on Fort Moultrie, 1776, says, "Some hundreds of the troops landed on Long Island, which lies on the *west* of Sullivan's Island," &c. Long Island is east of Sullivan's Island. See maps.

Goodrich, p. 176, says, "While affairs were proceeding thus in the north, an attempt was made in *June* and *July* to destroy the fort of Sullivan's Island near Charleston." The attack was made the 28th of June, not in July.













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