

## Holderness : Royalists and Baptists.

**H**ISTORY is often over-simplified, so that main currents may be followed, while backwaters and eddies remain to be explored. The adventurous canoeist up these streams may be richly rewarded.

New England is well known, and deserves its reputation in many ways. It was never Royalist, and it fiercely opposed Baptists, excluding Rhode Island from its early confederacy, deposing a president of Harvard because he became Baptist, accepting endowments from Hollis of London, but levying taxes on his fellow-believers to support Congregational worship, right down to 1833.

New Hampshire has quite a different story, which has never been trumpeted abroad, but has many points of interest. Settlement began three years after the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth, by fishermen who settled on the river Piscataqua, founding Dover and Portsmouth; Hampton and Exeter speedily followed. The English statesmen who were concerned with emigration were of two types, and while the Earl of Warwick from his seat at Leez in Essex directed Puritans to Massachusetts Bay, Ferdinando Gorges and Mason directed Royalists northwards. They quite deliberately opposed a one-sided partisan scheme of colonies. But they presumably did not expect some of their settlers to flirt with Baptist principles, as did happen before 1640. One of these, Hanserd Knollys, was in episcopal orders, and when he found that Old England would now tolerate him, he returned to a variegated career in London, fairly well known to us. Others remained, but Massachusetts profited by the English civil war to assert authority over the northern colonies, and she made it most uncomfortable for the Baptists. It worked out as in the days of Stephen and Saul; they left the harsh rule of the Company, went down to New Jersey and founded a new Piscataway, which is proud of its history then and afterwards.

Settlers went up the original river to the lake whence it flowed. They tapped a regular lakeland, for in New Hampshire as it is delimited to-day there are more than five hundred sheets of water. Surveyors soon followed, chose a huge boulder in one lake, and carved on it one of the oldest inscriptions; the interpreter with the Indians was one of Dunster's students. English notions of the geography were still vague, and it was

thought the continent here was about the breadth of the isthmus of Panama; so, on a fancy map, lines were ruled east and west, giving the colony all the land to the Pacific!

A century passed before English statesmen paid much attention to the district. Then for the second time they awakened to its importance, appointed a governor with orders to live in the province and develop it. A site was chosen for a new capital, on Lake Squam, near where the White Mountains begin to tower up, culminating in a peak over 6,200 feet high. Roads were laid out to it from two ports, and a lively young lady amused herself with imagining how this was to be the seat of an aristocracy, to counterbalance the sour Puritans at Boston. The Secretary of State in England then was the Earl of Holderness—whose very existence is probably unknown to-day, even at Bridlington and Hull. So the new capital was christened after him, and a vast estate was laid out on paper in sixty-seven lots. One was reserved for a clergyman in episcopal orders, another for a glebe, another for a school, a fourth for the High Church Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, three for the Governor, who bore the very Royalist name of Wentworth. The rest were sold; but the noble purchasers had no intention of working with their own hands, and the actual farmers by no means shared their views, political or ecclesiastical. However, a clergyman was at last found willing to go up to the new capital, and conduct Church of England services. Nothing availed to make the settlers build a town; they lived on their farms, and before long were free from all fears, whether at the hands of the Indians or the French. Forty years did the solitary rector neglect his work, at Holderness and another endowed parish; nor was there any other of his cloth to keep him in countenance for scores of miles around, still less any bishop to keep him up to the mark.

Not far below, the Indians had built weirs for their fishing; and when George III insisted on imposing taxes in the colonies to help pay for the French wars in Canada, the first armed resistance was made in this Royalist area, a year before the Bostonians held their tea-party. Then down at Portsmouth, Fort William-and-Mary was captured, long before the much-vaunted ride of Paul Revere to Concord, where Massachusetts at length followed the New Hampshire lead.

Round the Royalist capital there was never any serious fighting. Records were kept steadily, headed in three successive years—Province of New Hampshire, New Hampshire, State of New Hampshire—for which a republican capital was chosen elsewhere. At Holderness itself, the chief proprietor never swerved from his attachment to Britain; and even in the 1812

war this was a Tory centre. It speaks well for him and for his neighbours that he was never rabled, nor driven away, as a United Empire Loyalist, to exile in Upper Canada.

The Episcopal clergyman had no taste for "enthusiasm," and merely jogged between his two parishes at a slowly slackening pace. Something more exhilarating and more satisfying was desired by his neighbours. It was supplied by Benjamin Randall, an ardent evangelist, who seems to have been like Melchizedek, without any ecclesiastical pedigree. Nourished on the Bible alone, he naturally became a Baptist; witnessing constant conversions, he naturally believed in Free Will. Thus there arose a new denomination, which soon over-spread these old Royalist provinces of New Hampshire and Maine; and the death of the endowed clergyman after forty years removed the one trace of the anomalous hopes cherished by the founders of Holderness. To-day the district shows the vitality of the doctrine and zeal of our Dan Taylor, over an area far larger than he ever influenced, with the reminiscent names of Kingston (not on Hull) and Beverly. The Free Baptists built up a system of education, which caught English attention when Bates College conferred a D.D. on John Clifford. They see no reason why they should remain aloof from those of Calvinistic descent, and unite in organisation. Of this a striking example and result is that the Associate Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance is from their ranks.

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*Supplement to Peake's Commentary*, edited by Principal A. J. Grieve, M.A., D.D. (T.C. & E. C. Jack, Ltd., 2s.)

Seventeen years have passed since the publication of Peake's invaluable Commentary, and developments in Biblical study made this Supplement needful. Its editor was Dr. Peake's principal colleague in the production of the Commentary, and he has well maintained the spirit and worth of the original work. Among his seven collaborators is Dr. Wheeler Robinson, who contributes three chapters. Those who have the Commentary will be eager to get the Supplement; and the *corrigenda* relating to sixty of the original entries will occupy a spare hour.