

MATHER:—Cotton, Boston, eldest son of Increase, freeman 1680, when he was only 17 years old, so that he came forward with strange rapidity (having joined the church of his father 1679), which is the more striking, as his father was never admitted freeman that we find; and if his course at college were a full one he must have entered at 11½ years. Yet more than two or three have been ministers in Boston younger than he; but with less sagacity than his father he was ordained at Second Church, colleagues with him, 1685; distinguished as a scholar above most of his contemporaries, but known in modern days chiefly as author of the *Magn.* in seven books, London, 1702, a work of no little value, yet more curious than valuable. Died 1728. He married, 1686, Abigail, daughter of John Phillips of Charlestown, who died 1702, having born to him 9 children, of whom 5 died young, three before baptism; and he married, 1703, Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. John Clark, widow of Richard Hubbard, mariner, with a good estate, had 6 more children, of whom Rev. Samuel 1706, Harvard College, 1723, attained no humble share of celebrity, and she died 1713. He next married, 1715, Lydia, daughter of Rev. William Lee, widow of John George, who long survived. 12 of his children with dates of baptism and names, are in the appendix to Rev. Chandler Robbins's *Hist. of the Second Church*, but 6 of them are by the second wife. In the pious labor of his son, Rev. Samuel, on the biography of his father, he is more copious than exact. The most agreeable of all the copious writings of Mather will, perhaps, be found in some apologies designed to magnify the merits of his father in obtaining the new charter, for which, however, little favor was found in the mind of Calef. They may be seen in 3 *Mass. Hist.*, Call. I, 126, 133. But his epistolary exercises are more frequently referred to, and they are very numerous. As the sample of his style, and also highly illustrating the politics of the day, that his father was too much engaged in for the larger part of his life. See letters in I *Mass. Hist. Coll.*, III, admonish. Gov. Dudley by father and son, each, as if in rivalry, more venomous than the other.

MATHER, ELEAZER, Northampton, son of Richard; was the first minister at M. ordained, 1661; married, 1659, Esther, youngest daughter of John Warham; had Eunice, born 1664; Warham, 1666; H. C., 1685; and Eliakim, 1668; and died 1669, only three months after his father. His widow married Rev. Solomon Stoddard, outlived him, and died 1736, in her 92d year.

MATHER, INCREASE, Boston, younger brother of Eleazer, having taken at Harvard College his A. B., went at 18 years of age to his brother Samuel at Dublin, and studied there for his A. M. in 1658; preached in several places, as Co. Devon and Isle of Guernsey, leaving the latter after the restoration, but returned at the end of August, 1661, to New England. He was chosen president of the college, 1685, and filled the office until 1701, when the increase of dissatisfaction long prevailed, at his refusal to give up the pulpit in Boston and reside at Cambridge, compelled his resignation. Next year he feared the glory of New England was departing and that the college under the direction of Willard of the Old South Church should "become a nursery, not of plants of renown, but of degenerate plants, who will forsake thou holy principles of truth," etc., etc. But his talents had new scope in the intermediate time, for in the last dangerous year of Sir Edmund Andros, he was sent in disguise on board a ship, to intercede with King James, and sailed 1688, being absent from his college

duties, on political engagement, until 1692, when Sir William Phips, the Governor of his own nomination, landed with him, bringing the new charter of William and Mary. Unhappily the desire to manage state affairs ever afterward possessed him, and lessened his usefulness, beside embittering his life. He died 1723, and was buried with the greatest marks of esteem and affection. He married, 1662, Mary, sometimes spelled Maria, daughter of famous John Cotton, who died 1714; had Cotton, Harvard College, 1678, before mentioned, born 1663; Maria, 1665; Elizabeth, 1667; Nathaniel, Harvard College, 1685, baptised, 1669, whose great promise of distinguished talents was cut off 1688 at Salem; Sarah, 1671; Samuel, Harvard College 1690; Abigail, 1667; Hannah, 1680; Catharine, 1682, died soon; and Jerusha, 1684. He married second wife, 1715, Ann, daughter of Thomas Lake, widow of Rev. John Cotton of Hampton, who outlived him and died at Brookline, 1637.

MATHER, NATHANIEL, Dorchester, son of Richard, born at Toxteth, near Liverpool, Eng.; went some years after his graduation at Harvard College to England; had the living at Barnstable, 1656, by presentation of Oliver Cromwell, it is widely said, meaning, perhaps, by his recommendation for ecclesiastical patronage had ceased, ejected 1662; preached at Rotterdam; after some years was at Dublin, successor to his brother Samuel, whence he sent contributions for relief to the sufferers in Philip's war, 1676, and last in London, 1697; had served at the altar 47 years, in England, Holland, Ireland, and England again.

MATHER, RICHARD, Dorchester, son of Thomas, born 1696, of an ancient family, as his grandson Cotton in *Magn.*, III, c. 20, assures us, at Lowton, in the parish of Winwick, Lancaster; was employed in teaching a school some years before going to the university, but at length, 1618, was entered of Brazen Nose College, Oxford, yet soon called to Toxteth, where he had taught the school, preaching his first sermon 30th November of that year. There most faithful he served 15 years, and was then suspended for non-conformation, and feeling the true sense of his office, resolved in expatriation. In disguise he embarked at Bristol in the *James*, arriving 1635, after peril in the remarkable storm Aug. 15, and two months later with wife Catharine joined church of Boston. He had married, 1634, that daughter of Edmund Holt, Esq., of Bury, in Lancaster; had Samuel, born 1626, Harvard College 1643; Timothy; Nathaniel, 1630, Harvard College 1647, before mentioned; and Joseph, who died in childhood; after coming to N. E. had Eleazer, 1637, Harvard College, 1656, and Increase, 1639, Harvard College, 1656, before mentioned. He was a man of excellent discretion, of less learning, it is probable, than his ambitious son, Increase, and less brilliancy, it is clear, than his eccentric grandson, the never-dying author of *Magnalia*, but in true service as minister happier than either and better than both. He was settled at D. 1636; his wife died 1655, and he married, 1656, Sarah, widow of his great friend, John Cotton, and died 1669.

MATHER, SAMUEL, Dorchester; eldest son of of the first Richard, born in England, freeman 1648; after large preparation for his profession went home, preached in England, Scotland, and Ireland; settled in Dublin, was made a fellow of Trinity College; then, says family tradition, married a sister of Sir John Stevens, and died 1671.

MATHER, TIMOTHY, Dorchester, son of Richard, born in England; married Catharine, daughter of Hum-