



CHAPTER II.

King Philip War — Company of Horse — Town Affairs — Sir Edmund Andros — Military Company — Canadian Expedition — Local Matters — Town Boundaries — New Precinct — Dr. White — Town Regulations — Parsonage Property — Pigwacket Indians — Town Commons — Throat Distemper — French and Indian Wars — French Neutrals — Dr. Tufts — Highways — South Precinct.

KING PHILIP WAR. — During the period from 1651 to 1675 the town had been steadily growing in population and wealth, and laying the foundations of future prosperity, unconscious of the dark days before it. The people were upon the shore of the bay, far removed from danger of savage beasts or men; but trouble was gathering, and the ill-feeling between the white settlers and the Indians on the southern borders had risen to that point that it needed but an event of small importance in itself to bring about an outburst of hostilities. Such an event happened in the murder of a white man by an Indian, and the execution of the offender. This was an opportunity too favorable to be resisted by the young braves, and the attack upon Swanzey, June 24, 1675, was the result.

Upon this practical declaration of war, sides were at once taken, the savages eagerly thirsting to obtain their long accumulation of revenge, while the colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay joined hands for mutual aid and defence. Troops were quickly mustered and took the field in hope of a speedy crushing of their terrible foe.

But they reckoned without their host. Philip of Pokanoket was no ordinary opponent, and the events of

