

pended judgment until that time. Mr. Pynchon returned to England that year.\*

The Court proceeded no further, he being beyond their reach, and very likely were influenced by Sir Harry Vane and others to commit no further religious excesses. In the 31st Volume Massachusetts Historical Collections, page 35, is the following "copy of a letter to Sir Harry Vane:"

*Honored Sir*—We received your letter, bearing date the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 1652, written in the behalf of Mr. William Pincheon, who is one that we did all love and respect. But his book, and the doctrine therein contained, we cannot but abhor as pernicious and dangerous; and are much grieved that such an erroneous pamphlet was penned by any New England man, especially a Magistrate amongst us, wherein he taketh upon him to condemn the judgment of most, if not all, both ancient and modern divines, who were learned, orthodox and godly, in a point of so great weight and concernment as tends to the salvation of God's elect, and the contrary which he maintains to the destruction of such as follow it. Neither have we ever heard of any one godly, orthodox divine that ever held what he hath written; nor do we know any one of our ministers, in all the four jurisdictions, that doth approve of the same, but do all judge it as erroneous and heretical. And to the end that we might give satisfaction to all the world of our just proceedings against him, and for the avoiding of any just offense to be taken against us, we caused Mr. John Norton, teacher of the church at Ipswich, to answer his book fully, which, if it be printed, we hope it will give your honored self and all indifferent men full satisfaction.

Mr. Pincheon might have kept his judgment to himself, as it seems he did above thirty years, most of which time he hath lived amongst us

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\* Mr. Stearns says that, on his return, he was accompanied by Rev. Mr. Moxon, the clergyman of Springfield, and his family. Mr. Pynchon's family remained, and Henry Smith returned next year. It may be noticed, that I have said Mr. Moxon returned with Mr. Smith, but Mr. Stearns is probably correct.