

embarrassing circumstance transpired that was successfully managed by the prudence of the Governor. One of Lord Say and Seal's men by the name of Hocking, was slain at Kennebec by some Plymouth men, who were there trading with the Indians. This was a thing that might greatly offend the Lord Say and Seal, who, being one of the leading patrons of New England, must be pacified by strict justice and fair dealing in the case.

This matter being discussed by the Massachusetts Magistrates, Mr. Dudley differed from all the others upon the question of what should be done; yet in the end it turned out that he was right and was so acknowledged. Great trouble was avoided by his firm and steadfast judgment and persistent adherence to his convictions. Lord Say and Seal was better known to Dudley than to any of the other Magistrates, and therefore he knew better how to proceed, and yet he was not swayed in the least from justice, but followed the reasonable and right course. He bore the opposition of his associates on the bench with patience, and wrote to the Plymouth people.

The following is Mr. Dudley's letter addressed to Mr. Bradford, the ancient Governor of Plymouth Colony, though not holding that office at that time.

"Sir: I am right sorry for the news which Capt. Standish and other your neighbors and my beloved friends will bring unto Plymouth, wherein I suffer with you, by reasons of my opinion which is different from others who are Godly and wise amongst us here; the reverence of whose judgements causeth me to suspect mine own ignorance, yet must I remain in it till I be convinced thereof. I had thought not to have shewn your letter to any but to have done my best to reconcile differences betwixt us in the best reason and manner I could; but Capt. Standish requiring an answer thereof publicly in the court, I was forced to produce it and that made the breach so wide as he can tell you. I propounded to the court to answer Mr. Prince's letter your Governor, but the court said it required no answer, it being an answer to a former letter of ours. I pray you certify Mr. Prince so much and others whom it concerneth that no neglect or ill manners be imputed to me thereabout.

The late letters I received from England wrought in me divers fears of some tryals which are likely to fall upon us; and this unhappy contention, between you and us, and between you and Piscataqua will hasten them if God with an extraordinary hand do not help us.

To reconcile this for the present will be very difficult, but time cooleth distempers and a common danger, approaching to us both, will necessitate our writing again. I pray you, therefore, Sir, set your