

SKETCH OF HONORABLE JOHN<sup>S</sup> DUDLEY.

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With some additions and alterations.

(See autograph, p. 298, back of title, No. 9, and pedigree p. 16.)

It has been lately reported that a gentleman in Massachusetts of the name of Dudley (Col. Joseph Dudley, of Roxbury, born 1780 and died 1827), is heir at law of the Earldom of Leicester; and some very sage estimates of the value of his inheritance have appeared in our newspapers.

There have been Dudleys in this country who would not exchange the titles and privileges of an American citizen for the brightest coronet that glitters in Europe; and we trust there are many of that name still among us who prefer the title of a *free-man* to that of a *lord*, and would rather till the soil of a republic than cringe in the courts of kings or rule in a court of their own. \* \* \*

Governor Thomas Dudley came with the first settlers of Massachusetts to this country in 1630. \* \* \* "He was," says Dr. Cotton Mather, "a gentleman whose natural and acquired abilities, joined with his excellent moral qualities, entitled him to all the great respects with which his country on all opportunities treated him."

Rev. Samuel Dudley, son of Governor Dudley, received his education in England, and was settled in the ministry at Exeter, in this State, in the year 1650, where he spent the remainder of his days in usefulness and honor, and died in 1683, aged 72. His son, Stephen Dudley, married Sarah Gilman, daughter of Hon. John Gilman, of Exeter, December 24, 1684. Mr. Gilman was of the Royal Council for the Province. His father, Edward Gilman, came into this State soon after its first settlement, and among his descendants in every generation have been men who have done honor to their country, and whom their country has delighted to honor. James Dudley, the third son of Stephen Dudley, was born June 11, 1690. He married Mercy Folsom, of Exeter, where he lived and died. He had four sons and four daughters, whom he educated in habits of industry and morality.

The Hon. John Dudley, the principal subject of this article, and the third son of James Dudley, was born April 9, 1725. His parents were enabled to afford him the advantages of what is now