

## LIFE OF LIEUT. JAMES' DUDLEY.

(See his autograph No. 17, and pedigree at p. 16.)

LIEUT. JAMES DUDLEY, son of Stephen and Sarah (Gilman), was born June 11, 1790, and died at Exeter, his native town, in 1746. His only wife (who survived him), was Mercy Folsom, daughter of Deacon John Folsom of Exeter, son of John Folsom, the pilgrim, and his wife Mary Gilman, daughter of Edward Gilman, the pilgrim. He was one of the original purchasers of Gilmanton, N. H., as were also his brothers Nicholas, Trueworthy and Joseph; but I think none of them ever lived there.

He purchased one-eighth part of Freetown from Col. Stephen, his brother, in March, 1718. Some of the same land has ever since been in possession of the Dudleys, descended from Lieut. James. James Tucker Dudley (son of Sally (Dudley) Tucker, yet living there, aged 90 years), is of the 4th generation from Lieut. James, whose son Judge John gave it to his son Moses, Esq., and he gave it to his son Elbridge Gerry, a lawyer, who told me that he could not be a farmer there, and so in order to keep the estate in the name of Dudley, as his father desired, he got his sister's son to take it and make a little change in his name. Instead of J. Dudley Tucker he is called J. Tucker Dudley. This is just as well; because he is a Dudley by blood as much as any one. Elbridge Gerry, Esq., left no son. I am heartily glad so good a man has the old homestead of our fathers. I have visited it, and walked over it among the hills and stone-walls and vales watered by crystal streams. James, son of Moses, Esq., was with me and pointed out the location of the house of my grandfather, where my father was born, the old mill site of Samuel, son of Lieut. James, where Judge Dudley's sons Nathaniel and Moses used to saw lumber in their youth, and the grist-mill which Moses, Esq., used to tend in his old age when he did any work, at the same time keeping his books there in his hands, so as not to miss a moment's opportunity to read. In the days of 1776, when the old Judge was off working with all his might to oust King George, his young boys were, some of them, carrying on the farm and running the mills.

The old deed from Col. Stephen to Lieut. James is still in existence, though some parts of it are worn out or torn off. The estate purchased by Lieut. James was "three miles in width on both sides of the river by the bridle-path."