

daring. He had a garrison on his farm, and his neighbors relied upon him for counsel and protection in the great trials of that time.

The dates of his first commissions are not preserved, says Kelley, but he is slightly mistaken, for I have several of his commissions. The one for captain, from Gov. Joseph Dudley, is dated Oct. 7, 1703. I have another for his son Winthrop Hilton as lieutenant, from Gov. B. Wentworth, dated Sept. 18, 1754. Col. Hilton was directed by the Governor, under his official seal, to "fight, take, kill and subdew any of the subjects or vassals of France and Spaine, and the Indian rebels and murtherers."

On the 31st of January, 1704, he received Gov. Dudley's commission appointing him major in the expedition against the Eastern Indians, and led three companies upon snow-shoes into the Indian country, but searched the woods in vain for the enemy, and returned to his home at Newfields, as his place was called. This great winter march gained him honor and £12 gratuity from government.

In the Spring of 1704 Gov. Dudley resolved on a strong attack against the wild enemy, and he wrote to Major Hilton to take to his assistants, Gilman and Coffin, his "very good officers," and raise a number of volunteers to be ready to range the Eastern shore to destroy the enemy.

Of this expedition Col. Church was appointed to the chief command. Hilton's commission under Church was dated May 1, 1704. Major Hilton met the Governor at Portsmouth on the 19th of May and there joined the expedition with his Exeter volunteers. He was gone all summer, and June 13 he wrote his wife that since his last letter they had taken and killed thirty-six French and one Indian, and secured many stores. They swept the seashore from New Hampshire to Nova Scotia. Several towns were destroyed and many enemies, even to the gates of Port Royal. Church lost but two men and proved himself brave and efficient, and Hilton gained the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was requested by the Governor to raise a company of 60 volunteers and accordingly he marched with 270 men to Norridgewock, nearly 200 miles, upon snow shoes, the snow being four feet deep. The Indians fled upon Hilton's approach, and he burnt their French chapel and the Indian wigwams, and returned without encountering the enemy.

In the spring Colonel Hilton commanded an expedition to Winnepisiogee and Pemigewasset, and all the frontier from Massachusetts to Maine. It was an indispensable service, but very hard and unwelcome.

Gov. Dudley would not trust any one but Hilton with that business, and he wrote him "keep close to my orders and they will keep you." But "there's a divinity that shapes our ends." The dauntless hero was at last destroyed by the revengeful and deter-