

teachers; but our own judgment and reason will never be superseded by any teacher. They must be cultivated and strengthened by constant use at all times and places.

I wish I knew what religious creed is true of all in the world, or whether any one is right. It is most probable that no one is exactly correct. So we will not launch into that subject. 'Tis an unknown sea, and I am not a Columbus.

About 1856 the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register was published by Mr. Prince of Roxbury, and he wished to relinquish the publication of it. John Wingate Thornton, Esq., was very much interested in that magazine, being, one of the founders of the N. E. Historic Genealogical Society, and he asked me to undertake the publication and editorship of their journal. I thought quite favorably of it, but knew there would not be much profit in the work, as Mr. Drake had informed me all about that matter. We had many interviews; but finally the society concluded to carry it on themselves, and they have ever since. I have inserted a good portrait of Mr. Thornton in this number of my history. He was a great antiquary and a prolific writer of New England history. Being a descendant of Gov. Thomas Dudley and Gov. Bradstreet, and a friend to me, it would be strange for me not to give any sketch of him. He used to invite me to his house in Roxbury and talk historic genealogy by the hour. He said his wife, who was then present, called him crazy. She was a fine, sociable lady, but did not feel much interested in his hobby. I was often at his office in Tudor's building, Court square. His law practice never was extensive, but I think he was an able lawyer. Mr. Thornton was well educated, active and enthusiastic in his researches. He collected a splendid library of valuable historical works relating to America. When he wrote a book it would be crammed full of quotations from his books and papers. He seemed over anxious to prove his case by such evidence, and he aimed to be a critic and discoverer in his line, which was local and New England history.

He always encouraged me to persevere in my Dudley family investigations. But he died too soon. I do not believe there was need of his leaving us at so early an age. He must have worked too hard or not taken sufficient care of his health. He died at Scarborough, Me., June 6, 1878, aged 60 years. He was only five years older than I was. Mr. Thornton had looked up his ancestral pedigrees and he showed me the chart of his forefathers back to the first comers to our shores, in nearly every line. He was a member of our Dudley Association, and wrote me often in regard to those matters.