

The Collins Family in America.

EDWARD AND JOHN COLLINS.

EDWARD COLLINS.

THE eldest son of John and Abigail. He married Martha (family name unknown). They came to New England prior to 1640, and settled at Cambridge, Massachusetts. He held many offices of public trust and was active and enterprising in both private and public affairs. A personal friend of the Regicides, he corresponded with them in cipher, and was the medium through whom money was supplied to them for their support while they were refugees in New England. Cotton Mather says of him, that "he lived to see several worthy sons become very noted in their generation".

THE CHILDREN OF EDWARD AND ABIGAIL.

John—Born in 1633; he graduated from Harvard College in 1649; went to England in 1653; was a Puritan minister, and appointed by Cromwell as chaplain to a council one of whom was General Monk. He was silenced by the "Act of Uniformity" in 1662, and died March 3, 1687. The sermon preached at his funeral was published, entitled "The English Nation Weakened by the Death of Rev. John Collins".

Samuel—Born in 1636. He represented Middletown, Connecticut, in the General Assembly of 1672.

Nathaniel—Born March 7, 1641; he graduated at Harvard College in 1660. Married Mary Whiting August 3, 1664. He was ordained pastor of the Congregational Church of Middletown, Connecticut, November 4, 1668, and died December 28, 1684. Cotton Mather, in his *Magnalia*, Volume II, Chapter 8, says, regarding his death, that "there were more wounds given to the whole colony of Connecticut in our New England than the body of Cæsar did receive when he fell wounded in the Senate House". He also says that "the Church at Middletown, upon the Connecticut River, was the golden candlestick from whence this excellent person illuminated more than that whole colony; and that Connecticut would not forget Rev. Nathaniel Collins and his father-in-law, Rev. William Whiting, till she forgot herself and all religion".

Other children were Daniel, Martha, Abigail, Edward and Sybil.