

MAJOR-GENERAL DANIEL DENISON.

FOR one who was so conspicuous in the early history of the colony of Massachusetts Bay as Major-General Daniel Denison, there is little left upon record. We glean the following from an article in the "Genealogical Register of New England," by Dr. Daniel Denison Slade of Boston, published in 1869.

"There is much uncertainty as to the origin of the family name. It is variously spelt Denison, Dennison, Denyson, Dennistown. It is unquestionably of ancient and probably of Norman origin. In the "Patronymia Britannica" is the following notice: 'The Dennistowns' of that ilk have an extraordinary way of accounting for their surname. * One Danziel, or Daniel (say they), probably of Norman extraction, settled in Renfrewshire, and, calling the estate Danzielstown, assumed therefrom his surname. The family are unquestionably ancient, the name appearing in the Charter of King Malcolm I., who died in 1165, but the Norman Danziel is probably a fiction. The English Denisons are said to have sprung from a cadet of this ancient house, who went from Scotland in the time of Charles I., who fought at Marston Moor."

Daniel, the oldest son of William and Margaret Denison, was born in England in 1612, and came to this country probably in the ship *Lion* in 1631, with his

* Burke's "Book of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain" gives this as true, and says the Norman's name was "Danziel." He called his place "Danzielstoun" and from this came Denison. He was a full-blooded Norman.