

## THE FOLSOM FAMILY.

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ON the 26th of April, 1638, the ship "Diligent, of Ipswich," Eng., of 350 tons burden, John Martin, master, set sail from the mouth of the Thames for Massachusetts Bay, having on board nineteen families and six or eight single persons, in all one hundred and thirty-three. Twelve of these families, numbering eighty-four souls, were from old Hingham, the rest from the immediate vicinity; and they had all embarked for the purpose of joining a colony settled in Hingham, Mass., 1633-37 (consisting of ten families and five single persons, in all forty-nine), who had been their friends and neighbors in old Hingham. Among those now emigrating were John Foulsham of Hingham, then twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, and his young wife, to whom he had been married about a year and a half. They were attended by two servants. His wife's father and mother, Edward and Mary Clark Gilman, of Hingham, three younger brothers, Edward (not quite twenty-one years old), John and Moses; two younger sisters, Sarah, and Lydia (who married Daniel Cushing, 1645), and three servants of the family, were fellow-passengers. The rector of the parish, Rev. Robert Peck, with his family, consisting of wife, two children and two servants, also formed part of the company. The immediate occasion of their departure seems to have been trouble in ecclesiastical matters. Their rector, doubtless with the sympathy and aid of most of those constituting the emigrating party, had pulled down the rails of chancel and altar, and levelled the latter a foot below the church, as it remains to this day. Being prosecuted by Bishop Wren, he left the kingdom, together with his friends—who sold their estates at half their real value—promising to remain with them always.

In an account of the family, published forty or fifty years ago in the "Exeter News Letter," from which a large portion of names and dates in the present record has been taken, there is mentioned a tradition that "as several John Smiths were in the company, one of them who came from the town of Foulsham was, for the sake of being distinguished from the others, familiarly called 'John Foulsham,' and by this name, on his arrival in New-England, he chose to be known. So it became his and his posterity's name." Now there may be a real fact of a change or abridgment of name lying at the basis of the tradition. There is presumptive evidence, nay, fair proof of it, in an attestation, given by the compiler of the Exeter News Letter Genealogy, of his inspection of a deed signed by John Foulsham, 1672, and recorded in vol. xi. p. 287, in the Registry of Deeds for the Co. of Rockingham, in which some property is conveyed by John Foulsham to his daughter, commencing thus: "Whereas there is an Intent of marriage between George March, the son of Hugh March of Newbery and Mary Foulsham the daughter of John Foulsham, *alias* Smith, of Exeter."\* Why the "*alias*" there, unless he had once borne the name "Smith," and now wished to make the bequest to his child forever indisputable? Assuming this to

\* A friend and kinsman, Nathaniel Shute, Esq., of Exeter, has kindly inspected this deed for us, and we give from his pen a more exact transcript in the text than the News Letter contains, together with the closing portion, here in this note.

"Know ye all men by these presents, that I the said John Foulsham in consideration of