

## SIMON WOLCOTT AND MARTHA PITKIN.

Mercy Colton's mother, Abiah Cooley, daughter of Joseph and Mercy (Gunn) Cooley (mar. 28 May, 1713), was granddaughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Wolcott) Cooley. Elizabeth was daughter of Simon Wolcott and that famous Martha Pitkin (born England, 1638), sister of William Pitkin, Attorney-General of Connecticut, whom she came to the New World to visit in 1661. Martha came, expecting that her brother would return with her at the end of her visit, "not once supposing he intended to remain in the wilderness." But (so writes Rev. Thomas Robbins), "this girl put the colony in commotion." She was of such grace, beauty, and refinement, she won all hearts, and the young Puritans decided she must not be permitted to leave their new home. It would never do to allow such a much-desired element to be lost to the colony. Therefore, the choice of a young man who might be a suitable match, and able to obtain her hand in marriage, became a matter of general consultation.

"For her fame had run  
From door to door upon the lips  
Of our forefathers, than whom none  
Knew better the born majesty  
Of gentle blood, and gave it due."

The selection was made, and Simon Wolcott, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Saunders) Wolcott, was the fortunate man. They were married 17 Oct., 1661.

This Mistress Martha (Pitkin) Wolcott became the honored ancestress of seven governors.