

learn how he was betrusted and rewarded by his Royal master. Upon the Restoration, we are told, he was offered an earldom, but feeling unable to support that dignity, spoke in the interest of his son George, who, we know, was created Earl of Dartmouth. Sir Lawrence Washington, the Register of Chancery, actually died in Oxford, 1643, while it was held by the King's forces, having gone thither to attend the Royal Seal, as we are informed by Sir John Tirrell of Springfield, knight, who married Martha Washington, his daughter, and who was himself forced to pay a fine of eight hundred pounds in compounding for his own loyalty. Spencer, Earl of Northampton, whose grandfather had taken, for a second wife, one of the Spencer family of Althorp, and whose own mother was also a Spencer, of another branch, was one of the most distinguished of the Royalists, as were all his sons. He was mulcted most heavily for the part he had taken against Parliament, although an attempt seems to have been made to relieve his estates in Bedfordshire, by putting forward evidence to show that his agent collected the rents of these estates not for him, but as agent, really, of Sir John Washington, "by vertue of an extent w^{ch} the said Sr John Washington had upon the estate of the said Earle in the said County of Bedford." As to the Anderson family, we have seen that the kinsman and friend of our Parson was knighted. His son and heir, Henry Anderson, was created a Baronet by Letters Patent, dated 3 July, 1643 (see Chauncy's Herts), and we find that he also was obliged to compound for his loyalty in 1646.

I might extend this list, but I think I have given enough to show what the surroundings of our Washington family were in that respect; and I am quite sure I have seen enough myself to lead me to form the opinion that there was quite a nest of Royalists in that part of Herts and Bedfordshire, and I have little doubt that it was largely on that account that Lawrence Washington, the royalist clergyman, was led to seek that neighborhood and stay there. He must have died, as we have seen, before 1655. His wife was buried 19 January, 1654-5, and their children were thus left orphans. Their eldest son, John, was about twenty-three or twenty-four in 1657; for it is to be presumed that Mr. Washington did not marry until he had resigned his Fellowship in March, 1632-3 (according to Col. Chester), and Lawrence, we know, was twenty-two in 1657. Supposing them to have been young men of only ordinary enterprise and ambition, with the desire to get on in the world, what chance had they in England at that time, known as belonging to a royalist family, with all, or most, of their friends, to whom, in happier conditions, they might have applied for influence, royalists like themselves, and Cromwell then most firmly seated in his Protectorate? The chances would seem to be utterly against them. No wonder their thoughts turned to Virginia, that transatlantic haven and place of refuge for defeated royalists, which perhaps then first