

THE BEERS.

THIS early Colonial family was from Yorkshire, England. The name was originally O'Beare or Beare, of the O'Beares and O'Sullivan's of Castle Beare—Haven, Ireland.

In 1563, it was decreed that this castle should be allotted to O'Donnell, fourteenth Lord of Beare and Bantry. Dermod, born 1526, thirteenth Duke of Beare and Bantry, served in all the wars against Queen Elizabeth. At the head of a large force from his Dukedom, he crossed the channel to England, accompanied by his nephew, Donnell. This particular rebellion, as usual, proving unsuccessful, the forces dispersed, Donnell escaping to Spain, dying there in 1626.

The celebrated French Marshal, McMahon, claimed descent from the O'Sullivan Beares.

Daniel O'Sullivan Beare, father of (School) Master Sullivan, of Berwick, N. H., the grandfather of General John Sullivan, of Revolutionary fame, later Governor of that State, was of this family. Master Sullivan was a rebel by birth and training. After untiring efforts to restore the Stuarts to the English throne during 1716-1721-1723, he left his native Ireland for the new world. It is related that his wife, on shipboard, being asked "What will you do in America?" answered, "Raise Governors." Strikingly coincidental is the fact that her son John became Governor of New Hampshire, 1786-87-89, and James became Governor of Massachusetts in 1808; and a grand-son, early in this century, Lieutenant Governor of Ohio. Master Sullivan was an accomplished scholarly gentleman and maintained himself by teaching, dying in 1795 at the age of one hundred and five years.

It will be readily understood how the ancestors of JAMES (1) and Richard Beers found themselves in England, and how it became much to their interest to change their religion and modify their ideas of loyalty. Inheriting an adventurous spirit, it is easy to see that their descendants might seek their fortunes in America as many others were doing.