

1623.

labours, had nothing to giue men for their necessities, therefore could not so well exercise that command them therein as formerly they had done; especially considering that selfe-loue wherewith euery man (in a measure more or lesse) loueth and preferreth his owne good before his neighbours, and also the base disposition of drones, that as at other times so now especially would be most burdenous to the rest; It was therefore thought that euery man should use the best diligence he could for his owne preservation, both in respect of the time present and to prepare his owne Corne for the yeare following and bring in a competent portion for the maintenance of publique Officers, Fishermen, &c. which could not be freed from their calling without greater inconuenience. This course was to continue till harvest, and then the Governours to gather in the appointed portion, for the maintenance of themselves and such others as necessitie constrained to exempt from this condition. Onely if occasion served vpon any speciall service they might employ such as they thought most fit to execute the same, during this appointed time, and at the end thereof all men to be employed by them in such service as they thought most necessary for the generall good. And because there is great difference in the ground, that therefore a set quantitie should be set downe for a person, and each man to haue his fall by lot, as being most iust and equall, and against which no man could except.

At a generall meeting of the Company, many courses were propounded, but this approued and followed, being the most likely for the present and future good of the Company; and therefore before this moneth began to prepare our ground against seed-time. In the midst of Aprill we began to set, the weather being then seasonable, which much encouraged vs, giuing vs good hopes of after plentie: the setting season is good till the latter end of May. But it pleased God for our further chastisement, to send a great drowth, insomuch, as in sixe weekes after the latter

Apr. 11.

May 11.

Drowth July 11.

latter setting there scarce fell any rayne, so that the stalke of that was first set began to tene north the eare before it came to halfe growth, and that which was later, not like to yeeld any at all, both blade and stalke hanging the head, and changing the colour in such manner, as wee iudged it vtterly dead: our Beanes also ran not vp according to their wonted manner, but stood at a stay, many being parched away, as though they had beene scorched before the fire. Now were our hopes overthrowne, and we discouraged, our joy being turned into mourning.

To adde also to this sorrowfull estate in which we were, we heard of a supply that was sent vnto vs many moneths since, which hauing two repulses before, was a third time in company of another ship three hundred Leagues at Sea, and now in three moneths time heard no further of her, onely the signes of a wrack were seene on the coast, which could not be iudged to be any other then the same. So that at once God seemed to depriue vs of all future hopes. The most couragious were now discouraged, because God which hitherto had beene our onely Shield and Supporter, now seemed in his anger to arme himselfe against vs; and who can withstand the fiercenesse of his wrath.

These, and the like considerations moued not onely euery good man privately to enter into examination with his owne estate betweene God and his conscience, and so to humiliation before him: but also more solemnly to humble our selues together before the Lord by fasting and prayer. To that end a day was appoynted by publique authoritie, and set a-part from all other employments, hoping that the same God which had stirred vs vp herunto, would be moued hereby in mercy to looke downe vpon vs, & grant the request of our dejected soules, if our continuance there might any way stand with his glory and our good. But oh the mercy of our God! Who was as readie to heare as wee to aske: For though in the morning when we assembled together, the heavens were as cleare and the drought as like to continue as euer it was: yet (our exer-

Good Newes from New-England.

cise continuing some eight or nine hours) before our
 departure the weather was over-cast, the clouds gathered
 together on all sides, and on the next morning distilled
 such soft, sweet, and moderate showers of rayne, continu-
 ing some foureteeene dayes, and mixed with such season-
 able weather, as it was hard to say whether our withered
 Corne, or drouping affections were most quickned or
 revived. Such was the bountie and goodnes of our God.
 Of this the *Indians* by meanes of *Hobbamock* tooke notice:
 who being then in the Towne, and this exercise in the
 midst of the weeke, said, it was but three dayes since Sun-
 day, and therefore demanded of a boy what was the rea-
 son thereof? Which when he knew and saw what effects
 followed thereupon, he and all of them admired the good-
 nesse of our God towards vs, that wrought so great a
 change in so short a time, shewing the difference betweene
 their comuration, and our invocation on the name of God
 for rayne; theirs being mixed with such stormes and tem-
 pests, as sometimes in stead of doing them good, it layeth
 the Corne flat on the ground, to their prejudice: but ours
 in so gentle and seasonable a manner, as they neuer obser-
 ved the like.

Pascataquack.

At the same time *Captaine Standish* being formerly im-
 ployed by the Governour to buy provisions for the re-
 freshing of the Colony, returned with the same, accompa-
 nied with one *M^r David Tomson*, a Scotchman, who also
 that Spring began a Plantation twentie five leagues north-
 east from vs, nere *Smiths* Isles, at a place called *Pascataquack*,
 where he liketh well. Now also heard we of the third re-
 pulse that our supply had, of their safe though dangerous
 returne into *England*, and of their preparation to come to
 vs. So that having these many signes of Gods favour and
 acceptation, we thought it would be great ingratitude, if
 secretly we should sinooother vp the same, or content our
 selves with private thanksgiving for that which by private
 prayer could not be obtained. And therefore another so-
 lemne day was set a-part and appoynted for that end,
 wherein