

PUBLICK OCCURRENCES

Both FOREIGN and DOMESTICK

Boston, Thursday Sept 25th 1690.

It is designed, that the Country shall be furnished once a month (or if any Glut of Occurrences happen, oftener,) with an Account of such considerable things as have arrived unto our Notice.

In order hereunto, the Publisher will take what pains he can to obtain a Faithful Relation of all such things; and will particularly make himself beholden to such Persons in Boston whom he knows to have been for their own use the diligent Observers of such matters.

That which is herein proposed, is, First, That Memorable Occurrences of Divine Providence may not be neglected or forgotten, as they too often are. Secondly, That people every where may better understand the Circumstances of Publique Affairs, both abroad and at home; which may not only direct their Thoughts at all times, but at some times also to assist their Businesses and Negotiations.

Thirdly, That some thing may be done towards the Curing, or at least the Charming of that Spirit of Lying, which prevails amongst us, wherefore nothing shall be entered, but what we have reason to believe is true, repairing to the best foundations for our Information. And when there appears any material mistake in any thing that is collected, it shall be corrected in the next.

Moreover, the Publisher of these Occurrences is willing to engage, that whereas, there are many False Reports, maliciously made, and spread among us, if any well-minded person will be at the pains to trace any such false Report so far as to find out and Convict the First Raiser of it, he will in this Paper (unless just Advice be given to the contrary) expose the Name of such person, as A malicious Raiser of a false Report. It is supposed that none will dislike this Proposal, but such as intend to be guilty of so villanous a Crime.

THE Christianized Indians in some parts of *Plimouth*, have newly appointed a day of Thanksgiving to God for his Mercy in supplying their extrem and pinching Necessities under their late want of Corn, & for His giving them now a prospect of a very Comfortable Harvest. Their Example may be worth Mentioning

'Tis observed by the Husbandmen, that altho' the With draw of so great a strength

from them, as what is in the Forces lately gone for *Canada* made them think it impossible for them to get with through the Affairs of their Husbandry at this time of year, yet the season has been so unusually favourable that they scarcely find any want of the many hundreds of Heads, that are bred from them, which is looked upon as a Merciful Providence

While the barbarous *Indians* were lurking about *Chelmsford*, there were missing about the beginning of this month a couple of Children belonging to a man of that Town one of the aged about eleven the other aged about nine years, both of them supposed to be fallen into the hands of the *Indians*.

A very Tragical Act was happened at *Wester-Town*, the beginning of this Month an Old man, that was of some hat a Spleen and Morose Temper, but one that had long enjoyed the reputation of a *Serious* and a *Sober* Man, having newly turned his Wife, The Devil took advantage of the Melancholy which he thereupon fell into, his Wives discretion and industry had long been the support of his Family, and he seemed furnished with an impetinent fear that he should come to want before he dyed though he had very careful friends to look after him who kept a strict eye upon him, lest he should do himself any harm. But one evening coming from them into the Cow-house, they there quickly followed him found him large as by a Rope, which they had used to tie their Cows withal, he was dead with his feet near touching the Ground

Epidemical Fevers and *Agues* grow very common, in some parts of the Country, whereof, tho' many die now, yet they are sorely unfit for their employments, but in some parts a more malignant Fever seems to prevail in such sort that it usually gets thro' a Family where it comes, and proves Mortal unto many.

The Small-pox which has been raving in *Boston*, after a manner very extraordinary is now very much abated. It is thought that far more had been sick of it than were visited with it, when it raged so much twelve years ago, nevertheless it has not been so Mortal, The number of them that have

died in *Boston* by this last Visitation is about three hundred and twenty, which is not perhaps half so many as fell by the former. The Time of its being most General, was in the Months *June, July, and August*, then 'twas that sometimes in some one Congregation on a Wednesday there would be Bills desiring prayers for above an hundred Sick. It seized upon all sorts of people that came in the way of it, it infected even Children in the bellies of Mothers that had themselves undergone the Distemper many years ago, for some such were now born full of the Distemper. 'Tis not easy to relate the Trouble and Sorrow that poor Boston has felt by this Epidemical Contagion. But we hope it will be pretty nigh Extinguished, by that time twelve months when it first began to spread. It now unhappily spreads in several other places, among which our Garrisons in the East are to be reckoned some of the greatest Sufferers.

Altho' Boston did a few weeks ago, meet with a Disaster by Fire, which consumed about twenty Houses near the Milk-Creek, yet about midnight, between the sixteenth and seventeenth of this Instant, another Fire broke forth near the South-Meeting-House, which continued about five or six houles and had almost carried the Meeting house it self, one of the fairest Edifices in the Country if God had not remarkably assisted the Endeavours of the People to put out the Fire. There were two more considerable Circumstances in the Calamities of this Fire, one was that a young man belonging to the House where the Fire began, unappoly perished in the Flames, it seems that tho' he might sooner awake than some others who did escape, yet he some way lost those Wits that should have taught him to help himself. Another was that the best furnished PRINTING-PRESS, of those few that we know of in America, was lost, a loss not pretently to be repaired.

There lately arrived at *Ipswich*, one Fox from *Penobscot*, in a small Shallop, wherein he had used to attend upon the pleasure of *Custion*, but took his opportunity to run away, and reports that a Vessel of small Bulk bound from *Bristol* to *Virginia*, having been so long at Sea, till they were press with want, put in at *Penobscot* instead of *Piscataway*, where the *Indians* and *French* seized her, and butchered the Master, and several of the men: but that himself who belonged unto the Ships Crew, being a *Frenchman*, was more favourably used, & found a way to advantage to make his Escape.

The chief business of this month has been about the Affairs of the Western Expedition against the *Algonians*, *New York* and the *Northern* *Indians*, in the *West*, had long been pressing of the *Massachusetts*, to make an Expedition by Sea, into *Canada* and still made us believe, that they seized upon us, and that while we assaulted

Quebeck, they would pass the *Lake*, and by Land make a Descent upon *Mount Royal*. Accordingly this Colony with some assistance from our kind Neighbours of *Lincoln*, fitted out an Army of near five and twenty hundred men, and a Navy of two and thirty Sail; which went from hence the beginning of the last *August*, under the Command of the Honourable Sir *William Phips*.

In the mean time the *English* Colonies & Provinces whereof the West raised Forces the Numbers whereof have been reported five or six hundred. The Honourable General *Winthrop* was in the Head of these, and advanced within a few miles of the *Lake*; there had some good Number of *Algonians* to join his Forces, but contrary to his Expectation, it was found that the Canoes to have been ready for the Transportation of the Army over the *Lake*, were not prepared, and the other Nations of *Indians*, that should have come to this Campaign, sent their Exultations pretending that the small party was among them and some other Trifles. The General Meeting with such vexing disappointments called a Council of War, wherein it was agreed, that it was impossible for them to prosecute their Interdred Expedition. However he dispatched away the *Algonians* to the *French* *Interdred*, who returned with some Success, having slain several of the *French*, and brought home several Prisoners, whom they used in a manner too barbarous for any *English* to approve. The General coming back to *Albany*, there happened a misdeed arising between him and the Lieutenant Governour of *New York* which occasioned much discourse, but produced not those effects which were feared of it. Whereas the bottom of these miscarriages is variously conjectured, if any people further West than *Albany* have been tampering with the *Indians*, to defeat the Intents of *Canada*, we hope time will discover it. And if Almighty God will have *Canada* to be subdued without the assistance of those miserable Salvages, in whom we have too much considered, we shall be glad, that there will be no Sacrifice offered up to the Devil, upon this occasion. God alone will have all the Glory.

'Tis possible, we have not so exactly related the Circumstances of this business, but this Account, is as near exactness, as any that could be had, in the midst of many various reports about it.

Another late matter of discourse, has been an unaccountable destruction befalling a body of *Indians*, that were our Enemies. This body of *French* *Indians* had a Fort somewhere far up the River, and a party of *Algonians* returning from the *West* *Country*, where they have at a great rare pursued and terrified those *Indians* which have been invading of our *North-East* *Plantations*, and killed their General *Hopewell* among the rest, resolved

to visit this Fort; but they found the Fort ruined, the Canoo's cut to pieces, and the people all either Butchered or Captived, This gave them no little surprize, and they give the *English* this account of it. That a body of *Miqua's* lately returning from the Spoil of *Canada* brought several *French Prisoners* with them; That calling at this Fort in their way, the *Indians* there seeing themselves unable to resist them did pass divers Complements with them and partake of their Booties, That a *French* Captive after this, escaping from the *Miqua's*, informed the *French* that these *Indians* had revolted unto the *Miqua's*, and hereupon the *French* or their *Indians* made a sudden Sally forth upon them, and utterly destroyed them, tho' they were in reality of their own party still.

Two *English* Captives escaped from the hands of the *Indians* and *French* at *Pequannock*, came into *Purysmouth* on the sixteenth Instant & say, That when Capt *Mason* was at *Port Real*, he cut the faces, and ript the bodies of two *Indians*, and threw a third overboard in the fight of the *French*, who informing the other *Indians* of it, they have in revenge barbarously Butcher'd forty Captives of ours that were in their hands.

These two Captives escaped in a shallop, which our *Enemies* intended to have set out with all the Circumstances of a Fishing Shallop but to have indeed find it with *Indians* that should have Clapt on board any *English* Vessel that came in their way; They say that about three or four weeks ago, some *Indians* were coming this way to War, but crossing a path which they supposed to be of the *Miqua's*, they followed it until they discovered a place where some Canoo's were making, whereupon twenty *Kennebeck* Indian Warriors went to look further after the business, who never yet returned Which gives hope that they may come short here but upon this the *Savages* are sent to the *English*, and the men stand on their Defence.

Purysmouth Sept 20. Two days since arrived here a small Vessel from *Beverly*, in which is a Letter to Captain *H. K.* of 19th *August* that speaks thus,

Christophers is wholly taken from the *French* as also a small Island call'd *Stacia*; we are very strong in Shipping, and our Ships of War are now gone for *Laboga*, a very good place to shelter from any Storms, after the suspicious months are over, they will Attack the rest of the *French* places We have News here that *K. William* is safe arrived in *Ireland*, and is march'd with one hundred and forty thousand Foot and Horse. Himself leads the Body, Duke *Scoburgh* the right Wing, and the Earl of *Oxford* the left Wing, Duke *Hamilton* of *Scotland* leads the forlorn Hope with ten thousand men under him. Great victory they say, they have, and much people daily come in to him, with submission. He has

200 Shipping with him of one sort or other, above one hundred Sail daily run between *Ireland* and *England*, with meat for Man and Beast; His Majesty being unwilling to trust false *Ireland* for it France is in much trouble (and fear) not only with us but also with his Son, who has revolted against him lately, and has great reason, if reports be true, that the Father used to lie with the Sons Wife He has got all the *Hugonots*, and all the dissatisfied Papists, with the great force of the *D. of Lorraine*, and are now against him, resolving to depose him of his life and Kingdom.

It's Reported the City of *Cork* in *Ireland*, has proclaimed *K. William*, and turned their *French* Landlords out of Doors, of this there wants further Confirmation.

From *Hilmsouth* Sept. 22. We have an Account, that on *Friday* the 12th Instant, in the night, our Forces Landing privately, forthwith surrounded *Pegysco* Fort; but finding no *Indians* there, they March'd to *Amomscuggin*. There on the Lords day, they kill'd and took 15 or 16 of the Enemy, and recovered five *English* Captives mostly belonging to *Ojstewick*; who advised, that the men had been gone about ten days down to a River, to meet with the *Enemy*, and the *French* *Indians*; where they expected to make up a Body of 300 men and begin first against *Wells* or *Rissegua*.

On *Tuesday*, the Army came to our Vessels at *Maquost*, but one of the Vessels touching a Ground stopt a Tide, by which means, young *Bracke*, who was a considerable distance up the River, above *Amomscuggin* Fort, being advised by an *Indian* that ran away from *Amomscuggin*, that an *English* Army was there, attempted his Escape, and came down to the Sloop just as they came on their Sail

On *Thursday*, they landed at *Saco*; a Scout of 60 men of ours discover a party of the Enemy, and had the Advantage of killing three of them, and of taking one *Cahoon*, and an *English* captive named, *Thomas Bell*, who informed, that the Enemy had left a considerable Plunder at *Pegysco*-Plains, which he supposed the Enemy was gone to secure Whereupon the Army immediately embark'd, and arriving there that night, the next morning found the *Beaver*-Plunder accordingly.

While our Vessels were at Anchor in *Cascoe-Bay*, our Auxiliary *Indians* lodging on shore, and being too careless in their Watch, the Enemy made an Attack upon them. The *English* forth with repair'd to their Relief, but were sorely galled, by an Ambuscado of *Indians*, The Enemy soon quitted the Field, escaping with their Canoo's, whereof ours took several. In the Surprize, we lost 9 men, and had about 20 wounded, the blow chiefly fell on our dear Friends, the *Plymouth Forces*, 15 being kill'd and wounded of Captain *Southworth's* Company