

said: 'there were canting Puritans, but Puritanism was not canting hypocrisy.'

"The prejudice against the Book of Common Prayer abated early here. In 1707, Episcopalians held regular services, and the honored dust of two of their clergy, peacefully mingles with that of their Puritan brothers in the old common ground. Rev. James Sayre, an able and sincere divine who, though thought to sympathize with the enemy in 1779, vainly endeavored to stay the destructive hand of Gen'l Tryon, and who preserved much of the property of his neighbors, though his own shared the burning. Rev. James Lamson, an efficient and worthy worker for his church, who was content to lay his bones in the conservative field that eliminates sects and knows no distinctions among the children that share the long rest in its bosom.

"With a brevity that is reluctant but compulsory, let me recall something of the laymen that have peacefully abode there. Hon. Ebenezer Silliman heads an illustrious line, that claims a large tribute in this rebuilding. Born here in 1708, he graduated at Yale College, was for 27 consecutive years Representative at the Legislature, and for 23 years Judge of the Superior Court. He was conspicuous in public life for nearly half a century and commanded universal respect and esteem in both public and private life. He lived on Holland Hill, died in 1775, and on his tomb is this suggestive epigram: 'I have said ye were gods, but ye shall all die like men.' General Gold Silleck Silliman, his son, was born in Fairfield, 1732, graduated at Yale, 1752, was made General in 1776, and served with distinction in the Revolution; an honored descendant is Benjamin Silliman, L.L.D., the well-known professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy at Yale College; and whose absence from 'the pious work of rebuilding the tombs of our ancestors,' (his own words.) is occasioned solely by the 'strenuous rain' of to day. Col. David Burr, who has handed down a record too familiar to require word of mine, was the progenitor of the families that uphold the good old name in every quarter of our town, and with due regard, a characteristic reminiscence. When *ye Prime Antient Church* was built, he generously offered to paint the pulpit, and the following permission is officially recorded: 'whereas, Col. Burr has offered to paint the pulpit in the meeting house at his own expense, he has liberty to do the same, *provided it be of a light stone color.*'* Captain Smedley who,

* Old Records of Fairfield.