


and prayer to Almighty God, that he would look in mercy upon us his Wilderness people."

The intimate connection between Church and State brought ecclesiastical matters occasionally before the Court, the payment of the rates being made very unwillingly in some cases; and the liberty of the inhabitants to leave one church in Hartford and go to the other was questioned.



In 1698 William Whiting was High Sheriff, and under his direction a new prison-house was ordered to be built in Hartford. The Sheriff of Hartford County was then a very important official, almost next to the Governor in dignity, and the position was usually held by some prominent man. Colonel Whiting held the office for many years, also represented Hartford in the General Assembly, and frequently led the colonial troops in the French and Indian wars. In 1708 he received from the Assembly the sum of £30 for his good services in the county of Hampshire, and in this colony. He was a son of the Rev. John Whiting, minister of the First Church in Hartford, afterward first pastor of the Second Church. This family is prominent in our military annals, and many of its members held high civil positions.

The War of the Spanish Succession in Europe, in 1702, again set the colonists in battle array. As usual, a requisition was made from Massachusetts for aid, and a committee of war was appointed with plenary powers to send troops into Massachusetts and the frontier towns of Connecticut. Jan. 1, 1704, four hundred men were ordered to be raised by the committee, to be in readiness upon any sudden occurrence, to have 12s. per week, furnishing themselves with arms, ammunition, snow-shoes, and Indian shoes. The committee of war for this county consisted of Nathaniel Stanly, Esq., of Hartford, Mr. William Pitkin of East Hartford, Major John Chester of Wethersfield, Major William Whiting of Hartford, Captain Cyprian Nichols of Hartford, Captain Matthew Allyn of Windsor, and Captain Aaron Cook of Hartford,¹—all prominent men in the colony. In 1707 the colonists were again alarmed by rumors of another French and Indian invasion, and on the 6th of February a council of war was convened at Hartford, the governor and principal military men of the colony being present. Measures of defence were organized, more especially against the Indians within our borders. The sum of £50 was allowed out of the treasury for procuring dogs, in the northern frontier towns, "to hunt after the Indian enemy;" and the committee of war in Hartford County were directed to obtain as many dogs as that sum would allow, to be always ready for the service. Indian methods of warfare were adopted in allying the savages with the colonial soldiers. A scouting-party was sent out, in 1710, towards "the lake,"² consisting of four or five Englishmen and sixty Indians; and they were to receive from the treasury £10 for each scalp they should bring in.

In 1711 a large expedition for the reduction of Canada was raised, and sanguine expectations were cherished of its success. A general fast was appointed throughout the colony, Aug. 15, 1711, to be followed by fasts on the last Thursday of every month "until the present expedition to Canada be ended." The major of Hartford County was

¹ Colonial Records, vol. iv. p. 21.

² Lake George.