

## CHAPTER XI.

### SLAVES, WITCHES.

WARNING OUT. SMALL POX. FIRST SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. THE SOCIAL LIBRARY. THE ADAMS LIBRARY. THE NORTH CHELMSFORD LIBRARY. THE MONUMENT ASSOCIATION. PRINTING. THE VILLAGE CLOCK. WATERING TROUGHS. MATCHES. WATER DISTRICTS. TOWN FARM. TRAINING SCHOOL.

#### NEGRO SLAVES.

**S**LAVERY, which had existed from the early days in Massachusetts, was legal after 1641, but practically ceased before the Revolution. The State never explicitly abolished it, though the slave trade was prohibited in 1788, and, on account of the declaration of human rights in the Constitution of 1780, a number of slaves were declared free.

In 1754, there were reported 8 negro slaves over 16 years old in Chelmsford. The number in Middlesex County was 361. In Boston, 989. In 1764-5, the number in Chelmsford was 11—7 male negroes and mulattoes, and 4 females.

Between 1745 and 1767, the baptisms of 11 negroes are recorded in the church records. In 1772, 1 negro marriage, and 1 in 1782, are recorded in the Town records. 36 deaths of negroes are recorded between 1747 and 1830 in the church records.

Rev. Ebenezer Bridge owned a negro woman named Venus.

Dr. Nehemiah Abbott owned a negro man named Cato, and a negro woman named Zube.

Phillis and Dinah belonged to Joseph Moors.

Colonel Stoddard, Benjamin Walker, Timothy Clark, William Campbell, Widow Elizabeth Fletcher, Benjamin Byam, Joseph Pierce, Samuel Adams, Gershom Procter, Deacon Ephraim Spaulding, Widow Rebecca Parker, Capt. John Butterfield, Eleazer Richardson, Capt. Jonathan Richardson, Josiah Fletcher, Ephraim Blood and Henry Spaulding owned slaves. At the end of lists of births, marriages and deaths in the printed Vital Records of Chelmsford will be found the names of negroes in this Town.