

LETTER

OF THE

"WORSHIPFUL MAJOR" JOHN PYNCHON,
TO HIS SON, JOSEPH PYNCHON, THEN IN LONDON, IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THE BURNING OF SPRINGFIELD, BY THE INDIANS,
IN OCTOBER, 1675.

[Several towns had been destroyed by the Indians, under King Philip. Brookfield, Deerfield, Hatfield, Hadley, and other towns in the Valley, were either burned or threatened with complete annihilation. Major Pynchon was in command of the troops at Hadley, and fighting the Indians which infested it, when he was summoned home. Marching down Main street, he passed Ferry, now Cypress street. On the south-west corner of Main street (the spot now occupied by Clark Holbrook's meat market and Alexander's stove store), he found the house of Miles Morgan, as of all others, with one exception, in ruins. Continuing his march down to the old fort—his home—corner of Main and Fort streets (where Fort block now stands), he found it filled with women and children, all his barns, mills and outhouses burned, and most of the town in smoking ruins. It was under these disheartening circumstances that he penned the following letter, which I have thought worthy to be preserved by his descendants.]

SP., OCTO., 1675.

DEAR SON JOSEPH :

The sore contending of God with us, for our sins, unthankfulness for our former mercies, and unfaithfulness under our precious enjoyments, hath evidently demonstrated the He is very angry with this Country. God having given the heathen a large commission to destroy this People—And exceeding havock have they made in this Country, destroying two or three small places above Northampton and Hadley, and lately