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THE

HISTORY OF PORTLAND,

FROM ITS

FIRST SETTLEMENT :

WITH

NOTICES OF THE NEIGHBOURING TOWNS,

AND OF THE

CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT IN MAINE.

IN TWO PARTS.

BY WILLIAM WILLIS.

Part I & II

PART II.—From 1700 to 1833.

PORTLAND:

CHARLES DAY & CO....PRINTERS.

1833.

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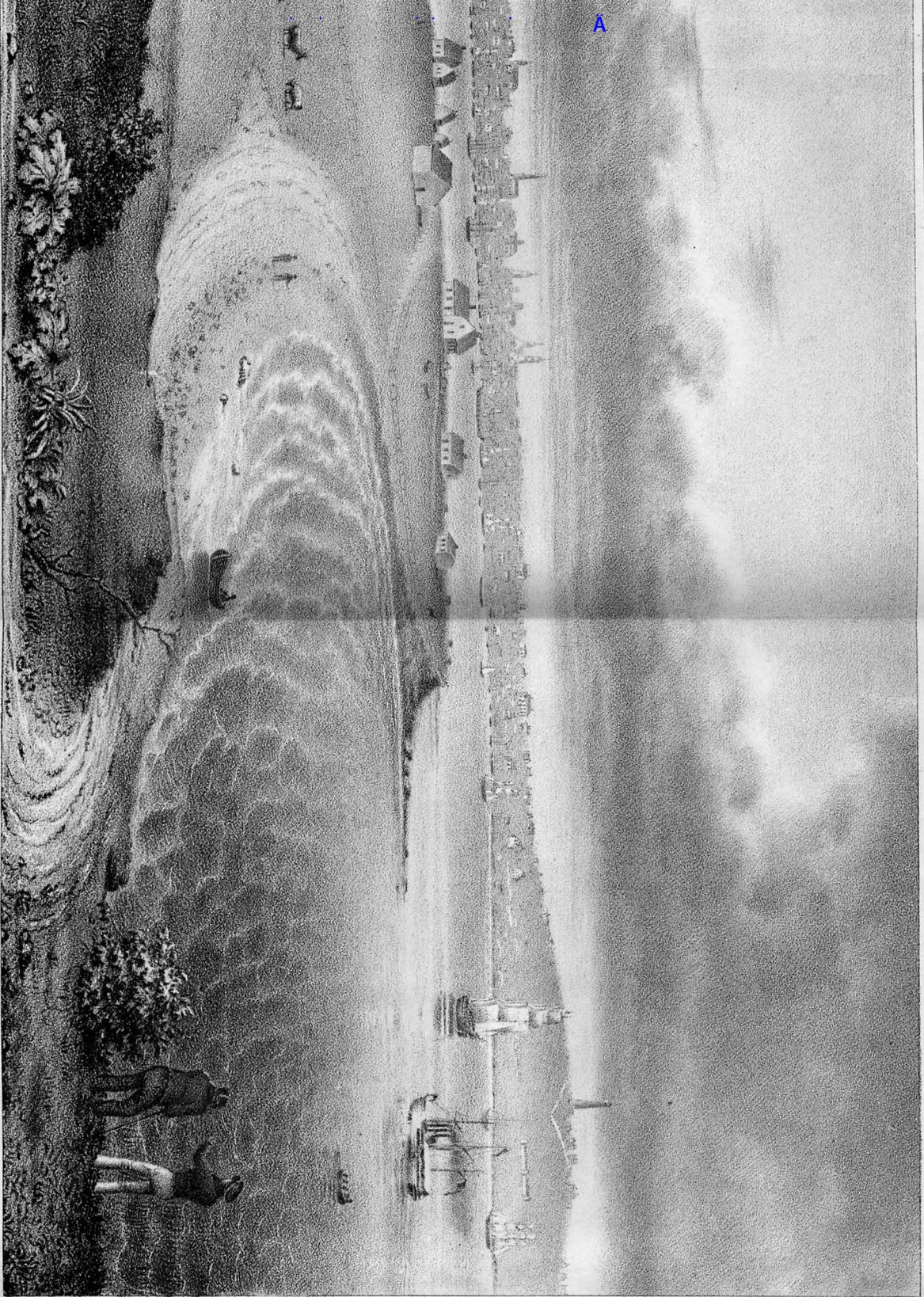


J. H. Bufford del. From a sketch by J. A. Tilton, R.S.M.

S. E. VIEW OF PORTLAND IN 1832,

TAKEN FROM

FOR WILKINS'S HISTORICAL



Pendleton's Lithography, Boston.

TAKEN FROM FORT PREBLE, ON PURPOODUCK POINT.

For Wilks's History of Portland.

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PART I.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Falmouth originally contained within its limits the present towns of *Falmouth*, *Cape-Elizabeth*, *Portland* and *Westbrook* ; and embraced a number of large and valuable islands lying in *Casco Bay*. It is proposed in the introductory chapter of the following work, to present a cursory view of the settlements made, and attempted to be made, on the coast of Maine, previous to that of *Falmouth*. After which my attention will be more exclusively confined to that town, until *Portland* was separately incorporated ; this latter town will then receive more exclusive notice.

The various changes in the government of the country, especially during the early period of its history, will be briefly alluded to, as they had an immediate influence upon the happiness and prosperity of the inhabitants.

The work will be divided into two parts : the *first* will bring the history down to the close of the 17th century, the *second*, to the present time.

The entire loss of the records in the destruction of the town by the Indians in 1690, has deprived me of many valuable materials for the present work, and rendered my task at the same time more difficult and more unsatisfactory. But this consolation has accompanied me, that whatever facts I could glean from the State and county records and other scattered sources of information, become more valuable and more interesting, by the unfortunate events which have destroyed the more ready and minute aids to historical accuracy.

It is known to most readers, that previous to 1752, the year commenced on the 25th day of March ; consequently the time between the first day of January and that day, was reckoned with the former year, and it was usually expressed by a double date ; an instrument for instance, bearing date January 15, 1640, according to our calendar, would be expressed Jan. 15, 1639—40. Sometimes only 1639. In such cases I have invariably adapted the date to the present mode of computation, so far as regards the year. The day of the month by the new style, may be ascertained by omitting 10 days in the 17th century, 11 in the 18th, and 12 in the 19th. The alteration was made in England by a statute passed in 1751, to take effect January 1, 1752, and which authorised the omission of the 11 intermediate days of the calendar, from the 2d to the 14th day of September of that year.