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For a long time doubt existed and still exists as to which of the early Higginson clergymen is represented by the frontispiece here given. There are three of these portraits which I am inclined to believe to be of Francis and not of his son, John.

1. One of these, in the Boston State House, is pronounced by experts to be the original, though having an unexplained date upon it which has always cast doubt over the identity of this portrait.

2. There is another at the Essex Institute in Salem which was given to it by my father in 1835 and was regarded in his day, as it is even now by many, as a portrait of the Rev. John, the son of Francis.

3. There is yet another at Worcester, in the possession of the American Antiquarian Society which is obviously a copy of that in Boston, yet is believed in Worcester to represent Francis Higginson, the first immigrant.

The best authority on the whole subject should be the Rev. Dr. William Bentley, of Salem, Mass., the most esteemed of all antiquarians in his day. He, it was, who gave this third copy to the American Antiquarian Society and who in his "Description of Salem" (Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections for 1799, p. 275) says:—"There is an half-length painting of Francis Higginson in the council chamber, at Boston, in the old state-house". Farther tradition as to the details relating to these three portraits may be found in my "Life of Francis Higginson", pp. 131-133.

T. W. H.