

COLLECTIONS

OF THE

NEW HAMPSHIRE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

VOLUME III.

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CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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1. The object of the New Hampshire Historical Society shall be to discover, procure and preserve whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary and ecclesiastical history of the United States in general, and of this State in particular.

2. The Society shall consist of resident and honorary members, the former to be persons residing in the State of New Hampshire; the latter, persons residing elsewhere. The number of resident members shall not exceed fifty; the number of honorary members shall not exceed the number of the resident.

3. The election of members shall be by ballot at the annual meetings. No member shall hereafter be elected by less than six votes; and, in all cases, the votes of two thirds of the members present shall be necessary to a choice.

4. Each member (honorary members excepted, with whom it shall be optional) shall pay, before the annual meeting next following his election, the sum of five dollars. The Society may assess taxes at the annual meetings, on each resident member, not exceeding three dollars in one year. Any person neglecting to pay the aforesaid sum of five dollars, or any tax, for the term of two years, shall cease to be a member.

5. The annual meeting of the Society shall be holden at Concord, on the second Wednesday in June. Other meetings may be held at such times and places as the Society may from time to time direct. It shall be the duty of the President, and in his absence, of one of the Vice-Presidents, upon the application of three members, to call a special meeting of the Society, of which notice shall be given in a newspaper printed in Concord, and another printed in Portsmouth, at least fifteen days before the meeting.

6. The officers of the Society, to be elected at the annual meeting and by ballot, shall be: a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Librarian, who shall hold their offices for the term of one year, and until others are elected in their places; provided, that the first election of officers under this Constitution shall be made at such time and place as the Society may direct.

7. The Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, as the Society shall deem proper, by the votes of two-thirds of the members present; provided, notice of the proposed amendment shall be given in writing, and entered on the journal at the preceding annual meeting.

A true copy of the Constitution of the Historical Society,  
adopted June 13, 1823.

Attest:

JOHN KELLY, *Rec. Sec'ry.*

## RESIDENT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

Those with \* prefixed have died; those with † have resigned, or removed from the State.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Time of Election.</i>
Benjamin Abbot,	Exeter,	Original Member.
Samuel Abbot,	Wilton,	15 June, 1827.
Ebenezer Adams,	Hanover,	Original Member.
*Nathaniel Adams,(1)	Portsmouth,	ditto.
Daniel Adams,	Mont-Vernon,	9 June, 1831.
Charles H. Atherton,	Amherst,	9 June, 1824.
David Barker, Jr.,	Rochester,	Original Member.
Ichabod Bartlett,	Portsmouth,	ditto.
James Bartlett,	Dover,	ditto.
Richard Bartlett,	Concord,	ditto.
Samuel Dana Bell,	(then of) Chester,	14 June, 1826.
Rev. Nathaniel Bouton,	Concord,	9 June, 1831.
*Rev. Federal Burt, (2)	Durham,	8 June, 1825.
Peter Chadwick,	Exeter,	Original Member.
Levi Chamberlain,	Fitzwilliam,	10 December, 1828.
Henry B. Chase,	Warner,	9 June, 1824.
Samuel E. Coles,	Portsmouth,	10 June, 1829.
Rev. Jaazaniah Crosby,	Charlestown,	10 June, 1829.
Charles W. Cutter,	Portsmouth,	Original Member.
*James Freeman Dana,(3)	(then of) Hanover,	9 June, 1824.
Moses Eastman,	Concord,	10 June, 1829.
John Farmer,	do.	Original Member.
Asa Freeman	Dover,	ditto.
Salma Hale,	Keene,	9 June, 1824.
Matthew Harvey,	Hopkinton,	8 June, 1825.
*Nathaniel A. Haven,(4)	Portsmouth,	Original Member.
†Rev. Hosea Hildreth,	(then of) Exeter,	ditto.
Henry Hubbard,	Charlestown,	15 June, 1827.
John Kelly,	(then of) Northwood,	Original Member.
George Kent,	Concord,	ditto.
Alexander Ladd,	Portsmouth,	ditto.
Moses Long,	Warner,	9 June, 1831.
Stephen C. Lyford,	Meredith,	14 June, 1826.
†Jeremiah Mason,	(then of) Portsmouth,	Original Member.
Stephen Mitchell,	Durham,	ditto.
Jacob B. Moore,	Concord,	ditto.

(1) Died at Exeter, while attending his duties as Clerk of the Superior Court, 5 Aug., 1829, at the age of 73. See page 110 of this volume.

(2) Died in the ministry, at Durham, 9 Feb., 1828, aged 39. See page 207 of this volume.

(3) Died in the city of New York, 15 April, 1827, aged 33. See Memoir of him in Vol. II, 290-300.

(4) Died at Portsmouth, 3 June, 1826, aged 36. See Memoir, Vol. II, 229-275. Also, the Memoir in his Remains, XI-XL.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

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Parker Noyes,	Franklin,	Original Member.
Daniel Oliver,	Hanover,	15 June, 1827.
Rev. Nathan Parker,	Portsmouth,	Original Member.
Joel Parker,	(then of) Keene,	9 June, 1831.
†Oliver W. B. Peabody,	(then of) Exeter,	ditto.
Andrew Peirce,	Dover,	Original Member.
William Plumer,	Epping,	ditto.
William Plumer, Jr.,	do.	ditto.
William Prescott,	Gilmanton,	15 June, 1827.
Rev. Israel W. Putnam,	Portsmouth,	Original Member.
William M. Richardson,	Chester,	9 June, 1824.
Jeremiah Smith,	Exeter,	Original Member.
*William Smith,(1)	do.	ditto.
†Samuel Sparhawk,	(then of) Concord,	9 June, 1824.
Rev. Moses George Thomas,	Concord,	9 June, 1831.
†Rev. Bennet Tyler,	(then of) Hanover,	Original Member.
†Rev Thomas C. Upham,	(then of) Rochester,	9 June, 1824.
Timothy Upham,	Portsmouth,	Original Member.
Richard R. Waldron,	do.	9 June, 1824.
Stephen P Webster,	Haverhill,	10 June, 1829.
John W. Weeks,	Lancaster,	14 June, 1826.
James Wilson, Jr.	Keene,	9 June, 1831.
†Levi Woodbury,	(then of) Portsmouth,	Original Member.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

Rev. Timothy Alden,	Meadville, Pa.,	14 June,	1826.
Rev. William Allen, D. D.	Brunswick, Me.,	8 do.	1825.
Hon. Francis Baylies,	Taunton, Ms.,	9 do.	1831.
James Bowdoin, Esq.	Boston, Ms.,	9 do.	1831.
*Nathaniel H. Carter, Esq.(2)	New York, N. Y.,	8 do.	1825.
Hon. Lewis Cass,	Washington, D. C.,	9 do.	1831.
Hon. John Davis, LL. D.	Boston, Ms.,	9 do.	1831.
Hon. Edward Everett, P. D.,	Charlestown, Ms.,	15 do.	1827.
Rev. Thaddens M. Harris, D. D.	Dorchester, Ms.,	14 do.	1826.
Rev. Abiel Holmes, D. D., LL. D.	Cambridge, Ms.,	8 do.	1825.
*Hon. Enoch Lincoln,(3)	Portland, Me.,	15 do.	1827.
C. C. Rafn, P. D., F. S. A.	Copenhagen, Den.	10 Dec.,	1828.
Hon. James Savage,	Boston, Ms.,	8 June,	1825.
Lemuel Shattuck, Esq.	Concord, Ms.,	9 do.	1831.
William R. Staples, Esq.	Providence, R. I.,	9 do.	1831.
Rev. Thomas C. Upham,	Brunswick, Me.,	9 do.	1831.
Mr. Thomas Waterman,	Boston, Ms.,	9 do.	1831.
Joseph G. Waters, Esq.	Salem, Ms.,	9 do.	1831.
Hon. Daniel Webster, LL. D.	Boston, Ms.,	8 do.	1825.
Joseph Willard, LL. B.	Boston, Ms.,	14 do.	1826.
Joseph E. Worcester, A. A. S.	Cambridge, Ms.,	10 Dec.,	1828.

(1) Died 29 March, 1830. (2) Died at Marseilles in France, 2 Jan., 1830, aged 43.

(3) Died 8 Oct., 1829, aged 41.

## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FROM ITS ORGANIZATION.

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<p style="text-align: center;">PRESIDENTS.</p> <p>William Plumer, 1823-1825                      Levi Woodbury, 1825-1826                      Ichabod Bartlett, 1826-1830                      Salma Hale, 1830</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1ST VICE-PRESIDENTS.</p> <p>Levi Woodbury, 1823-1825                      William Plumer, jr., 1825-1829                      Salma Hale, 1829-1830                      Matthew Harvey, 1830</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2D VICE-PRESIDENTS.</p> <p>Bennet Tyler, 1823-1826                      Salma Hale, 1826-1829                      Matthew Harvey, 1829-1830                      Charles H. Atherton, 1830</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECORDING SECRETARIES.</p> <p>John Kelly, 1823-1831                      Moses Eastman, 1831</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.</p> <p>Nathaniel A. Haven, jr., 1823-1825                      John Farmer, 1825</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TREASURERS.</p> <p>George Kent, 1823-1825                      Samuel Sparhawk, 1825-1830                      George Kent, 1830</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIBRARIANS.</p> <p>Jacob B. Moore, 1823-1830                      Moses Eastman, 1830</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STANDING COMMITTEES.</p> <p>Nathaniel Adams, 1823-1826                      Nathan Parker, 1823-1826                      Hosea Hildreth, 1823-1825                      Oliver W. B. Peabody, 1825-1829                      Matthew Harvey, 1826-1829                      Henry B. Chase, 1826-1829                      Parker Noyes, 1829-1830                      William Prescott, 1829                      Richard Bartlett, 1829-1830                      James Bartlett, 1830-1831                      Alexander Ladd, 1830-1831                      Andrew Pierce, 1831                      Henry B. Chase, 1831</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMITTEES OF PUBLICATION.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For Vol. I.</i></p> <p>William Plumer, jr.,                      Parker Noyes,                      John Farmer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For Vol. II.</i></p> <p>William Plumer, jr.,                      Richard Bartlett,                      Jacob B. Moore,                      James F. Dana.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For Vol. III.</i></p> <p>Richard Bartlett,                      John Farmer,                      Jacob B. Moore.</p>
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## COLLECTIONS.

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MEMOIR OF THE LIFE OF THE HON. SAMUEL DANA, LATE OF AMHERST, IN THE COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH, STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. BY HON. CHARLES H. ATHERTON, OF AMHERST.

SAMUEL DANA was first admitted an attorney in the courts of this State in the county of Hillsborough. He came to the Inferior Court of Common Pleas in the autumn of 1781, when he was 42 years of age. He was admitted an attorney of the Superior Court of Judicature, September Term, in 1783, and continued in the practice of law at Amherst, until the time of his death, the second day of April, 1798, when he had passed, but a few months, his fifty-ninth year. The circumstances which led him to enter the profession of law at such an advanced age will appear in the following sketch of his life.

His father was a respectable mechanic in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with a numerous family. Samuel, his second son, was born January 14, 1739, O. S., in that part of Cambridge now Brighton, and was the favorite selected by his parents for a liberal education and for the ministry. He was placed under the tuition of the famous master Minot, of Concord, and in 1751 was admitted a member of the freshman class in Harvard University, at the age of twelve years; a convincing proof of the aptitude of his mind to acquire instruction; for, with all the modern improvements in education, it is difficult to fit a boy for college at that early period. In the year 1755 he was

regularly graduated in that celebrated class of which John Adams, late President of the United States, was a member.

In pursuance of his original destination, Mr. Dana qualified himself for the ministry in the desultory manner, then but too common, by availing himself of the books and advice of the neighboring clergymen. He began to preach early, and the popularity of the young clergyman soon secured him a call. He was settled in the ministry at Groton, Massachusetts, June 3, 1761, the successor of the Rev. Caleb Trowbridge.

Having now, as he supposed, secured to himself a permanent establishment, and consulting alike his own happiness and his ministerial usefulness, he in the succeeding year (1762) united himself in wedlock with Miss Anna Kenrick. Years of sincere and zealous devotion to his sacred trust, on his part, and of confidence and affection on the part of his parish followed. Respected by his brethren of the clergy and caressed by his people, his prospects in life seemed settled, clear, serene. How little could it then have been apprehended, that he was to terminate his life a member of the profession of the law in a neighboring State? The respect and esteem of the clergy he never lost; but the affection and confidence of his people were soon to fail him. Even then a storm was gathering which was to darken his prospects and blast his hopes.

The encroachments of the mother country and the rights of the colonies soon became the topics which occupied all minds, and overpowered and absorbed all other considerations. Such was the jeopardy in which the country was placed, and such the excited state of the popular feeling, that all other ties yielded to the more intense grasp of political ties. The language of the people was, "he who is not for us is against us," and Mr. Dana, if not a royalist, was at least lukewarm in the cause of the revolution.

The determined and zealous principles of the Whigs early developed themselves in the town of Groton. It scarcely need be added that the caresses and confidence of his parochial flock were converted into coldness, and then into distrust, irritation and bitterness. His usefulness was at an end. He perceived it, he felt it, and, faithful to his principles, on the 15th day of May, A. D. 1775, without the intervention of a regular ecclesiastical council, he relinquished his charge, and was released by the town from his duties as their minister, after having served them in that capacity fourteen years. There was nothing peculiar in the state of feelings at Groton. Almost every clergyman in New England whose sympathies were anti-revolutionary shared a similar fate. For the crisis was so replete with awful consequences on one hand, and magnificent results on the other, that the majority thought it unsafe to tolerate freedom of opinion, especially in those whose opinions had influence, or to regard neutrality in any other light than treasonable.

The period has, however, now arrived when we can think dispassionately, and may speak with impartiality of such of the anti-revolutionists as were non-combatants. Was Mr. Dana really an enemy to his country? Was he unfriendly to its liberties? To answer these questions in the affirmative would be harsh and unjust. The truth is, he only reasoned differently from a majority of the compatriots of his day. Ardently attached to the principles of civil liberty, and deeply sensible of the wrongs inflicted upon the colonies by Great Britain, he believed that he saw, in all the movements around him, a tendency to bring the question to the decision of force. And such were his views of the power and resources of Great Britain, he was fully persuaded that this appeal would be fatal to the hopes

and rights of America; that we should share the fate of the subjugated, and be doomed to wear chains not made lighter by the prospect of shaking them off. He was governed by his dread of greater restraint and more accumulated oppression, while others were actuated by the hope of an entire freedom, not only from present, but apprehended wrongs. Such in general was the origin of that difference in character and conduct that constituted the Whig and Tory of our revolution.

Thus relieved, not only from the duties but the emoluments of his ministerial office, Mr. Dana had recourse, as a matter of necessity, for a livelihood, to the cultivation of his small farm. This he did with his own hands, like a peaceful citizen from whom the republic need fear no harm.

Neither the times nor the jealousy with which Mr. Dana was regarded made it advisable for him to attempt the reinstatement of himself in the ministry. At the solicitation, however, of a few of his old parishioners, who, not being pleased with his removal, had formed a separate society, he officiated as their clergyman a few months in the year 1780-1. The writer recollects often to have seen, in passing, their house of worship. Its external appearance was that of an unfinished barn. During this interregnum of his life, if so it may be called — that is, from 1775, the time of his leaving the pulpit, to 1781, the time of his access to the bar — he adventured in trade with his brother, Captain William Dana, of Amherst, N. H., but the anxieties and hazards attending a business in which he had no active concern, soon induced him to dissolve the connection.

We are more the creatures of accident than we generally suppose or are willing to allow. Now it happened that just before his relinquishment of the pastoral office, he was appointed executor of the will of John Bulkley,

Esq., an attorney of law in Groton. This brought him in contact with a law library, which for convenience he had removed to his own house. To this occurrence may be traced his future success and distinction in life. In searching these law books he spent many of his leisure hours, and either discovered or formed his taste for the investigation of legal subjects. One more lucky occurrence only was wanting which should give him some knowledge of office business, in order to fix Mr. Dana a candidate for the bar. For this he did not long wait, and it was probably of his own procuring. Thomas Coleman, Esq., who, in 1779, succeeded Mr. Bulkley as an attorney in Groton, had his residence and office in the house of Mr. Dana, and under these favorable circumstances he acquired some knowledge of the practice of law. Thus did Mr. Dana pick up his qualifications as a lawyer, as he had those of a clergyman, with great ease and little cost. Having determined upon the law as his vocation in life, Amherst presented strong inducements as the place of his future residence. Here was his brother in trade, whose influence and business would be useful to him. His legal education had not been such that he could regularly claim to be admitted as an attorney, but the rules of admission here were less rigidly observed than in Massachusetts. He had occasionally made long visits to Amherst during the year 1780-1, and had availed himself of the law library of Joshua Atherton, Esq., an attorney in that place, as a student in his office. In the fall of 1780, he purchased of Mr. Atherton a small tenement adjoining his homestead on the north, and in the spring of 1781 moved into it with his family. In the fall of the same year, by the friendship of Mr. Atherton, who felt a strong sympathy in misfortunes so like his own, he was admitted to practice in the Court of Common Pleas.

A connection in business formed between them was of short duration, Mr. Dana soon discovering that he required no such adventitious aid to insure success in his new profession. His reputation for talents and integrity, the general affability and gravity of his manners, with the perspicuity and fluency with which he spoke, soon raised him to full practice in the county, so that the number of his engagements on the court dockets were for many years among the highest, and sometimes took the lead. Several years, however, before his death (1798) his business had considerably declined. This was owing to the admission to the bar of younger and more aspiring men, who came forward under greater advantages and better disciplined than those who had been educated and formed to the practice under the new order of things introduced by the revolution, when the law here was in its feeblest state of infancy. These young members of the bar were his son Samuel Dana, Jeremiah Smith, William Gordon and Timothy Bigelow, Esqs. The wings of the old practitioners were clipped, and the mastery remained with the young aspirants.

The public testimonials of the confidence placed in Mr. Dana by the Executive of the State, and the esteem of his fellow citizens, are not wanting. In November, 1782, he was chosen by the town of Amherst a delegate to the convention for the formation of a plan of government to be submitted to the people, and which resulted in the constitution of 1783; immediately after the adoption of which he was commissioned one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, but declined the appointment. In 1785 he was appointed Register of Probate for the county of Hillsborough, and held the office till January 9, 1789, when he was appointed to the office of Judge of Probate for the county, left vacant by the death of the Hon. Jona-

than Blanchard. Finding that the emoluments of this office bore no proportion to its responsibilities and labors, he resigned it at the close of the year, soon after the establishment of the constitution of 1792, and was succeeded by the Hon. Ebenezer Champney, in Feb., 1793. In the winter session of the legislature for the political year 1793, he was called to fill a seat in the Senate of this State, vacated by the resignation of the Hon. Joshua Atherton, who had accepted the appointment to the office of Attorney-General. Mr. Dana had been a candidate before the people, and received the highest number of votes next to Mr. Atherton. Here he took an active and leading part in the law abolishing the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, passed Feb. 21, 1794. Judge Dana, for such had now long been his familiar appellation, had witnessed with feelings of honest indignation the irregularities and imperfections of this branch of our judicial establishment. A court so numerous and of such little responsibility as to verify the old proverb, "What is everybody's business is nobody's business;" a court so fluctuating as to change its members from day to day, and where the Justices who patiently kept the bench during any whole trial were likely to be those who had taken a lively interest on one side or the other, presented no very strong claims for support to any one who had formed correct views of the administration of justice. He was a candidate for the office of Senator the next year (1794), but the Hon. William Gordon was elected. As a delegate to the convention to form a plan of government, although he could not have been otherwise than respected, it is not known that he particularly distinguished himself. The duties of the office of Judge of Probate he discharged with a conscientious regard to equity and the rights of all parties in interest, content-

ing himself to do the formal part of the business in the imperfect manner established by his predecessors. We do not recollect that there was more than one appeal from his decrees during his administration of the Probate law in this county.

It had long been the established custom in this State, as well as in Massachusetts, to consider a Judge of Probate as *ex-officio* the counsellor and guide of all the widows, orphans, administrators and guardians within his jurisdiction. This was in effect to turn his private dwelling into a court room from the beginning of the year to the end of it, and to subject his time to incessant encroachments. For the time thus consumed, and this advice, so cheap and useful to the applicants, and so kindly and impartially given by the Judge, it was customary, no doubt, to make some small compensation. But by the constitution of 1792 it is established "that no Judge or Register of Probate shall be of counsel, act as advocate, or receive any fees as advocate or counsel, in any Probate business which is pending or may be brought into any Court of Probate in the county of which he is Judge or Register." This law of the constitution did not abate the expectations and claims of the public upon the officers of Probate. The compensation only was prevented. In point of principle the view taken of this subject by the constitution is undoubtedly correct, for it is inevitable that when any thing done by the advice or direction of a Judge shall be made a question before him, he will come to its decision with a mind preoccupied. The only apologies that can be offered for this usage of advising with the Judges of Probate, are its cheapness and convenience to the suitor, and, principally, the very few cases in which any contest arises compared with those in which there is no dispute. The public will probably soon perceive that the impropriety is similar with that of advis-

ing with any other Judge on a subject that is to come judicially before him, and will desist from these applications. It was this claim, as a matter of right, upon the time, talents and learning of Judge Dana, for advice and direction in all matters of Probate jurisdiction, and in all questions of law directly or indirectly connected, now that he could not conscientiously receive any remuneration, however trifling and willingly bestowed, that induced him to resign his office of Judge of Probate.

It may seem a little extraordinary that Mr. Dana, with the political bias of which we have spoken, and which expelled him from the ministry in Groton, should in 1782, before peace was established, be the subject of a popular election to aid in forming a Constitution for the State of New Hampshire, "as a sovereign and independent body politic." This requires some explanation. After the capture of Burgoyne in the autumn of 1777, Mr. Dana's fears of the subjugation of the revolted colonies ceased. He was then satisfied that the power of the country was competent to sustain their declaration of independence, and became a temperate and uniform supporter of all the measures calculated to ensure its acknowledgment by the enemy. His eldest son, Luther Dana, since distinguished as a mariner and for various excellent traits of character, but then a youth, was permitted by his father to enter the naval service of the United States during the war. And as the people grew more confident of success and the American cause wore a less alarming aspect, to their honor be it spoken, they gradually relaxed in their feelings of unkindness and severity towards those who had not, in the times that tried men's souls, cordially coöperated with them. While his election to such a trust may under these circumstances cease to give us surprise, it will at the same time satisfy us, considering he had been a citizen of this State

and an inhabitant of the town less than a year, of the respectability of his character and the popularity of his talents.

We come now to speak of Judge Dana as a lawyer and advocate, and this, though the most difficult part of our labor, we shall aim to do with the truth and impartiality of history. To say that he was a great lawyer, or statesman, would be a misuse of language. Neither the structure of his mind, nor his advantages or associations, qualified him for such high praise. Indeed, besides the loss of the better part of his life for high attainments in law, his pursuits as a clergyman had an influence directly unfavorable to them. The fact is more easily stated than accounted for, that the more deeply engaged a man has been in the ministerial office the further removed he is from a natural and correct conception of legal subjects. But considering his prior destination, and the late period of life in which he turned his attention to the law, Mr. Dana by the native force of his genius effected wonders. For, as a lawyer, he rose above mediocrity in the courts of his county. I here speak of them not as they now are, but as they were in his day. Unlawyerlike in his phraseology and arrangement, nor greatly skilled in the forms and technicalities of legal proceedings, his special declarations and pleas would be unsafe precedents to follow. The strong point to which he owed his distinction was that of an advocate before the Jury. Not a very safe Counsellor, for he was too prone to think the cause of his client a good one,—he had a happy faculty of making the worse appear the better cause. Well acquainted with all the springs of human feeling, he sometimes touched them with a masterly hand. His manner, too, was peculiar and impressive. The tones of his voice were grave, distinct and clear. To say there was solem-

nity in them would hardly reach the mark. Sanctity would come nearer to it. They sometimes degenerated to a cant and even a whine. Could a person have been so placed, when Mr. Dana was addressing the Jury, as to hear him without distinguishing his words, not a shadow of doubt would remain upon his mind that he was listening to one engaged in devout and earnest prayer. And could the person see the speaker at the same time, he would not be undeceived; the reeling of the body and the attitude of Mr. Dana, which was always with the knees partially bent, would fully sustain the illusion. These peculiarities had a wonderful influence in the first years of his practice. The people thought there had, at last, appeared upon the earth, a happy union of religion and law. But as his manner at length became familiar to the Jurors, and was found to be the same on all occasions, great and small, and in all causes, good and bad, it gradually lost its effect, and brought him down to the common level of success.

Notwithstanding Judge Dana's gravity, he was a good story-teller, and without disturbing his own, could easily put to flight the gravity of others. He had great control over his passions, and could smile and be smooth when others were insolent and boiling with rage. He had, too, at his command a sly and biting humor in which he sometimes indulged. The writer recollects, that when a collegian was attempting to amuse and edify a mixed company in which Judge Dana was present, by scanning some of the best sounding lines in Homer and Virgil, the Judge, apparently gratified with this exhibition of vanity, repeated with the Greek accent as follows:

Hand-i | ron bel | lows ca | nister have | gone to the | own er.

This passed with the young tyro for a good hexameter, although he could not recollect in what part of Homer it was to be found.

His religious feelings and principles were of the most rational and liberal cast, and such as would not make him a welcome communicant in most of the orthodox churches of the present day. He ever preserved his friendship for the clergy, and treated them with great kindness and hospitality. Averse to religious disputations, he seldom went further on that subject than to put a troublesome question accompanied with a smile. Amiable in all the private relations of life, he was also a good townsman and a kind and uniform friend to the Rev. Jeremiah Barnard, who was the settled clergyman of Amherst before Mr. Dana was an inhabitant. As ex-clergymen seldom make good parishioners, this is no ordinary praise.

In person, Judge Dana was a tall, spare man and very erect, excepting the inclination of his knees which never deserted him when in a standing position. He had a blemish occasioned by the small-pox, in one of his eyes, which without disfiguring his countenance had extinguished the sight, and gave him the appearance of cunning and a little indirection, and there were those, for he did not get through life without his enemies, who affected to consider these as parts of his character.

The year after his removal to Amherst, he purchased (1782) the farm of Samuel Stewart, on which he lived till the close of his life. The buildings and part of the farm, very much improved, are now (1827) occupied and owned by Doct. Matthias Spalding. Although his real estate rose in value very much after the purchase, he did not acquire a great portion of worldly substance.

As a history, in part, of the profession of law in the county of Hillsborough, from the year 1780 to the year 1798, it may be gratifying to the members of the bar to learn, that Mr. Dana's clear estate at the time of his death did not exceed seven thousand dollars, a small part of which

he brought from Groton, and a considerable part of which was the increased value of his real estate. Such were the fruits of sixteen years, devoted uninterruptedly to the practice of law. To give its just weight to the above fact, other circumstances should be considered. His family were numerous, but the most rigid economy, frugality and industry prevailed throughout the whole of his domestic establishment. He kept, it is true, a horse and chaise, but he was expensive in nothing, regular in his habits, an early riser, a judicious manager of his affairs, attending to them personally in their minutest details, a severe economist and a good farmer. This sparing of expense extended even to the education of his children. Neither of his sons had a liberal education. Luther, his eldest son, of whom we have already spoken, entered the active scenes of life with scarcely common school instruction. Samuel, his second son, now of Groton, and who has been a distinguished citizen of Mass., both in her courts of law and halls of legislation, entered his father's office as a student at law with a preparation that would hardly qualify him to enter college. James-Green, the youngest son, was fitted for the counting-room, but eventually established himself in the profession of law in Frankfort, in Kentucky, where he was the editor of a paper and maintained a respectable standing. Besides, Judge Dana's emoluments for legal tuition must have been something: for the Hon. Jedidiah K. Smith, the Hon. Silas Betton, the Hon. Reuben Kidder and the Hon. Samuel Bell fulfilled their term of legal study in his office. When it is considered that during Judge Dana's practice the costs taxable in court were more than double what they are at present, and that the honorary fees are about the same, it seems to me that no high expectations of wealth ought to be inspired in the minds of my younger brethren of the bar. The dreams of fame may still flatter them,

but the dreams of avarice must give way to sober realities. It should be added that several daughters were fitted out at a moderate expense, and that Mr. Dana had the reputation of working cheap.

His wife and 8 children survived him, to wit, Luther, Samuel, James-Green, Amelia, Thesta, Nancy, Mehetabel Bowen and Abigail. Of his sons we have already spoken with sufficient particularity for the purposes of this memoir. Of the daughters it remains to say, that Amelia married Jonathan Smith, Esq., of Amherst, Thesta married Aaron Brown, Esq. of Groton, and Mehetabel married the Hon. Samuel Bell, of Chester, late Governor of the state of New Hampshire, and now a member of the Senate of the United States. The widow and daughters have all passed to the land of forgetfulness, but not where they are yet forgotten.\* The sons still remain (1827) active sharers in the busy scenes of life.

His estate was distributed by a will, executed 1795, particularly remarkable for this, that it did not contain the usual invocation of the Deity, nor his religious creed, nor any bequests of his soul or body. This, it is believed, is the first instance in the county of the omission of all these supposed essentials to the validity of a will. It begins thus: "I Samuel Dana, of Amherst, in the county of Hillsborough, and State of New Hampshire, Esq., being in good health and as sound in mind and memory as I ever expect to be, thinking it expedient and proper to leave some directions concerning my estate, and convinced that

\*The following note on some of the members of Judge Dana's family is added by the editors. Madam Anna Dana was the daughter of Mr. Caleb Kenrick, of Newton, Massachusetts, where she was born April 30, 1742. She died at Amherst, October 16, 1810, in the 69th year of her age. Mrs. Mehetabel Bell, wife of Hon. Samuel Bell, died at Amherst, August 17, 1810, aged 30 years. Mrs. Brown died at Groton a few years after, and Mrs. Smith died about the year 1826, in the city of New York, whither she had gone to reside with her son, Charles W. Smith. Nancy and Abigail died unmarried, the former at Groton, and the latter while on a visit at Salem, in 1803, at the age of 18.

a time of sickness is not the most proper for such a purpose, do now make this my last will and testament." While this is no impeachment of his piety, it is strong evidence of his good sense, for what has religion and a creed to do with a will, more than any other instrument of conveyance? To my apprehension the mind that has familiarized itself to the contemplation of the Deity, death and judgment, will not feel any peculiar propriety in coming out with its religion on the occasion of making a will. It would be natural only to those who require such an occasion to call forth such contemplations. The bequest of the soul is quite useless, as we have no tribunals here to carry it into effect, and may as well therefore be omitted.

A few years before his death, which was caused by a typhus fever violent in its attack and rapid in its progress, he had procured the establishment at Amherst of a lodge of Free Masons, of which he was the worshipful master. His remains were interred with masonic honors in the family tomb, April 4, 1798, when Timothy Bigelow, Esq., of Groton, a brother mason, delivered on the occasion a funeral eulogy, which is in print.

The recent much lamented death of Professor James-Freeman Dana, who was grandson of the subject of the above memoir, and son of Capt. Luther Dana, has produced from some pen the genealogy of the Dana family, [See Coll. N. H. Hist. Society, Vol. II, p. 290,] from which I subjoin the following extract: "Their great ancestor, Richard Dana, who came to Massachusetts before the year 1649, settled in Cambridge, where he died in 1695, leaving four sons and three daughters, from whom the numerous families of Dana in New England are descended. The ancestors between him and Judge Dana were Caleb, Caleb and Daniel."

MEMOIR OF WYSEMAN CLAGETT. BY THE HON. CHARLES H. ATHERTON, OF AMHERST.

WYSEMAN CLAGETT, from the time of his first arrival at Portsmouth, in this state, in the year 1758, to the time of his death, at Litchfield, in the county of Hillsborough, on the 4th of December, 1784, when he was sixty-three years of age, occupied a wide space in the public consideration, having been a favorite of the Crown under the Provincial Government, and a favorite of the people under that of the Revolution.

He was a native of Bristol in England. Of his ancestors little can be said; the means of information not being within reach. There is no doubt, however, that he was of an ancient and respectable line, collaterally allied to families of considerable wealth. His father, Wyseman Clagett, was a Barrister at Law, occupied a large estate at Bristol, called the Manor of Broad Oaks, had a mansion with twelve chimneys, lived in style, kept a coach and not less than eight servants. By the ease of his disposition, his liberality and extravagance, the amount of his debts at the time of his death equaled the full value of his property, which went to mortgagees instead of his heirs.

But his only son Wyseman, the subject of this memoir, had received a liberal education, was qualified for the profession of the law at the Inns of court, and admitted a barrister of the King's Bench. I would not be understood to mean that he was graduated at either of the universities; but that he had received an early classical education and had that intimate and familiar knowledge with the Latin and Greek languages which the English schools are so distinguished for imparting and to which so few attain in our

own country. He was also a good belles-lettres scholar, and when he came to the province of New Hampshire was well grounded in the principles of the common law of England. Thus without patrimony was he prepared to seek his fortune in the world. His three sisters, neither of whom were ever married, resided at Bristol in ease and affluence on an estate for which they were indebted to the bounty of their aunt, Mrs. Clifton.

In the year 1748, when about twenty-seven years of age, he determined to establish himself in his profession in the island of Antigua, in the West Indies, a colonial possession of the British crown. Preparatory to this enterprise, he was appointed a notary public, a dignity of no small consideration at that period. His commission for this office is a curiosity, and therefore here inserted :

“THOMAS, by divine providence archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England and metropolitan by authority of Parliament lawfully empowered for the purposes herein written ; to our beloved in Christ, WISEMAN CLAGETT, gentleman, born in the Diocese of London, health and grace ; We being willing by reason of your merits, to confer on you a suitable title of promotion, do create you a public notary : previous examination and the other requisites to be herein observed having been had ; and do, out of our favor towards you, admit you into the number and society of other notaries ; to the end that you may henceforward in all places exercise such office of notary. Hereby decreeing that full faith ought to be given as well in judgment as thereout to the instruments to be from this time made by you ; the oaths hereunder written being by us, or our master of the faculties, first required of you, and by you sworn.

“I, WISEMAN CLAGETT, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to his majesty King George the second. *So help me God.*

“I, WISEMAN CLAGETT, do swear, that I do from my heart abhor, detest and abjure as impious and heretical, that damnable doctrine and position, that Princes excommunicated or deprived by the Pope or any authority of the See of Rome, may be deposed or murdered by their subjects, or any other whatsoever; and I do declare that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or potentate, hath or ought to have any power, jurisdiction, superiority, pre-eminence or authority, ecclesiastical or spiritual, within this realm. *So help me God.*

“I will faithfully exercise the office of a notary public. I will faithfully make contracts wherein the consent of parties is required, by adding or diminishing nothing without the will of such parties, that may alter the substance of the fact. But if in making any instruments wherein the will of one partie alone is required, this I will also do, to wit: I will add or diminish nothing that may alter the substance of the fact, against the will of the partie himself. I will not make instruments of any contract in which I shall know there is violence or fraud. I will reduce contracts into an instrument or register, and after I shall have so reduced the same, I will not maliciously delay to make a public instrument thereupon against the will of him or them on whose behalf such contract is to be so drawn, saving to myself my just and accustomed fee. *So help me God.*

“Provided always, that these presents do not avail you anything unless registered and subscribed by the clerk of his majesty for faculties in chancery.

“Given under seal of our office of faculties, this thirty-first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty-eight. And in the second year of our translation.

“G. PAUL, *Register.*

“The 1 February, 1748.

“Registered by Wm. Talbot, clerk of his majesty for faculties in chancery.”

At Antigua he resided about ten years. What his success was there we have no means of ascertaining. But that he was in good favor, and considered a valuable acquisition to the Island, may fairly be inferred from the following circumstance: John Weeks, Esq., of that island, by his will, which was proved Nov. 7, 1750, settled upon “Wyseman Clagett, of the said island, gentleman, an annuity of fifty pounds sterling during life.” There is not the least evidence that this bounty was prompted by any consideration other than the esteem entertained by the donor, a man of property, for the services and character of Mr. Clagett. The annuity was paid with great punctuality up to his death, that is, for thirty-four years, by James Nibbs, the executor and residuary legatee.

He came to Portsmouth, in the then humble province of New Hampshire, with a heart full of loyalty to his King, with high raised expectations, and with extravagant views of his own relative importance. He was a notary public, an English barrister, and inflated with lofty notions of the dignity of his profession. His person was tall and robust, his countenance stern and severe, with a strong brow, devouring black eyes, and a voice like Stentor himself. He was also peculiar by a convulsive twitch of the mouth, by which it was drawn to the ear, as if he would engulf it, accompanied by a strong muscular motion of his bushy brow, and a snap of the eye, appalling to the beholder, and

indicative of any thing but placidity and mildness. With this forbidding exterior, however, he was a wit, fond of conviviality and not insensible to the charms of female beauty.

Immediately after his arrival he was admitted to the bar of the superior court, soon appointed one of his majesty's justices of the peace, and united in wedlock, agreeably to the forms of the Episcopal church, to Miss Lettice Mitchel, a young lady of Portsmouth, about eighteen years of age, celebrated for her beauty, and with handsome expectations of property. This marriage was solemnized on the 14th day of August, 1759, about one year after his arrival in the province, and when he was 38 years of age.

Being congratulated by a companion for having married a fortune, he replied, "I have not married a fortune, sir. I have only married one of fortune's daughters; that is, sir, I have married a Miss-fortune." What was wit at the time proved in the end to be prophecy, for the connection was not a fortunate one. This lady lived six years a widow, then became the wife of Simon M'Question, and died, at last, a widow, April 2, 1827, at Bedford, N. H., aged 85 years.

Of the dignity which he attached to the profession of the law, a pleasing specimen is given in a few lines addressed to Samuel Livermore, then an attorney at Portsmouth, subsequently chief justice of the state, and the father of the present race of Judges by that name. Mr. Livermore having occasion to change his place of business, advertised in the "Gazette" the removal of his office, adding at the close of his advertisement, "also to be had here, tickets in the New-Market Lottery." Mr. Clagett, who thought advertising derogatory to the profession and appertaining only to merchants and mechanics, inserted in the next paper the following *jeu d'esprit*:

## ON AN ADVERTISEMENT OF S. L., ESQ.

"Pray, is it not a thing *surprising*  
 To see a *Lawyer* advertising?  
 Tho' Law's the plea and the intent,  
 Yet *Lawyers* should quote *precedent*.  
 True it is, there's no dispute on't,  
 A tree's known best by the fruit on't.  
 So he that sells the choicest wine,  
 Need have no bush, (that is) no sign.  
 But with the *Lawyer* we agree,  
 The end of Law's a *Lottery*."

It was as a magistrate and a public prosecutor that he was most distinguished.

On this subject tradition is replete with anecdotes, abounding in a singular mixture of the solemn and the ludicrous. He was a most persevering searcher out of petty offences against the dignity of the crown and peace of the province. That the authority of the king might be represented with sufficient dignity in his person when in the exercise of his magisterial office, he had fitted up a courtroom, in which was placed an elevated seat, like a throne, for his honor. On one side was seated his clerk, on the other was stationed his sheriff. When things were in readiness and the accused brought to the bar, Justice Clagett would enter and ascend his throne, with a dignity that we can only associate with majesty itself, and with a sternness and severity of manner that made the criminal quake before him. If he were not an encouragement to those who do well, there can be no doubt he was a terror to evil doers. There was no escape for the violators of the law, and the statutes against small offences were executed in their utmost rigor. In common parlance, the word "Clagett" became synonymous with the word "prosecute," and "to be Clagetted" meant the same as "to be prosecuted."

His first commission as King's Attorney-General for the province is dated March 5, 1765, and is signed by Governor Benning Wentworth. His second commission for this office bears date January 12, 1768, signed by Governor John Wentworth. The duties of this high and responsible office he discharged with fidelity to his king and honor to himself.

He conducted the prosecution against Ruth Blay, of South Hampton, who was indicted for concealing the death of a bastard child, whereby it might not be known whether it was born alive or not, or whether it was murdered or not. The statute of May 14, 1714, in the 13th of Queen Anne, taken from the statute of the 21st James I., prescribed the penalty of death for this offence. It was on this statute that Ruth Blay was indicted and convicted before the superior court at August term, 1768, and executed December 30th of the same year. This blood-written law was not repealed, even in this state, till 1792, when a milder punishment was substituted for that of death. The exordium of Mr. Attorney-General Clagett in the above prosecution is still remembered for its pompous solemnity: "He called heaven to witness that he was discharging a duty that he owed his country, his King and his God."

In 1769 he, with his family, visited England. In the "Gazette," the following respectful notice is taken of his sailing:

"Portsmouth, June 5, 1769.

"Yesterday, Wiseman Clagett, Esq., with his lady and family, embarked on board the Brigantine Adventure, Ichabod Libbey, master, for Bristol. This gentleman has resided in this province above ten years past, and sustained the commissions of attorney-general and an acting magistrate; which important trusts he discharged with fidelity to his royal master, with satisfaction to the people, and with much honor to himself."

His friends and relations were very desirous of retaining him in England, and made to him, for that purpose, advantageous proposals, which he would gladly have accepted if the consent of his lady could have been procured. She most obstinately persisted in her resolution to return to New Hampshire.

Soon after his return to the province, it was very apparent that he was losing the confidence of the government. If he had not already taken a decided part with the whigs, he had been too vacillating in the measures which then began to agitate the public mind, to preserve the favor of the crown. As early as 1766, Justice Clagett was the magistrate selected by the people of Portsmouth to administer to George Meserve, who had been appointed agent for distributing the stamps, an oath that he would not directly or indirectly attempt to execute his office. This transaction, while it shows the spirit of liberty that pervaded the province, was attended with those tumultuary proceedings for which the populace of Portsmouth have so often been distinguished, and it cannot be surprising if, after this, the government should have cast an eye of jealousy on Mr. Clagett, a magistrate, and the king's attorney-general.

Whether he was superseded in his office of attorney-general, or whether it was vacated by his voyage to England, or by his resignation, is not clear; but it is certain that as early as August in the same year (1769) Samuel Livermore was attorney-general for the province, which office he held till the dissolution of the provincial government, in April, 1775.

He remained in England till some time in the year 1771, his family having returned to Portsmouth prior to that time. In his absence, he associated with the friends of America at Bristol, and immediately on his return he be-

came identified with the cause of the people against the usurpations of the crown, and ever after remained the firm and steady friend of American liberty.

In December, 1771, he purchased a farm on the Merrimack, in Litchfield, acting on the calculation, no doubt, that Litchfield would become an important place in the newly established county of Hillsborough. To this place he removed with his family in 1772. In a register for New England for 1774, he is called of Litchfield, and ranked as a Barrister at law of New Hampshire, in 1773, with Samuel Livermore of Londonderry, Noah Emery and William Parker of Exeter, John Sullivan of Dover, John Pickering of Portsmouth, Joshua Atherton of Amherst, and Simeon Olcott of Charlestown. In his commission of the Peace and the Quorum, signed by John Wentworth, and dated May 2, 1772, he is also called of Litchfield.

Here he found for neighbors Major William M'Queston, a man of sense and integrity, between whose family and his own the most intimate relations afterwards took place, and Doct. Jonathan Parker, a man of wit and learning, who could repeat as well as relish Shakspeare with him. On the opposite side of the river, in Merrimack, was his compatriot, the venerable Matthew Thornton, and Colonel Edward Goldstone Lutwyche, a gentleman of fine literary taste, and Joshua Atherton, fresh with all the literary and legal advantages then furnished by our elder sister, the province of Massachusetts. Although most of these gentlemen did not accord with him in his political views, there was a great prevalence of good humor and friendly intercourse between them. The society, taken together, constituted an unusual constellation of wit and learning, for so recent a settlement. *Vive la bagatelle* was the order of the day, aided as it was by the jolly clergyman of the

place, the Rev. Samuel Cotton, who, if not a wit himself, was the cause of wit in others. Different from our own days, each seemed to preserve the original peculiarities of his character. This very variety gave relish to their intercourse, and forces upon us the reflection that there is something in modern education and refinement that smooths men down to the same uniform surface of insipidity.

Among the pleasantries of Mr. Clagett, we think the following ought to be preserved. Doct. Jonathan Parker had lodged in his office for collection a small account against John McClench. In the mean time McClench hauled a load of wood to the Doctor, which he was willing to accept in satisfaction; and not having time to write a receipt, he took from his desk a psalm-book, having his name in the title-page, and told McClench to hand it to Clagett as a token that the account was settled. On the receipt of which, Mr. Clagett addressed to him the following lines:

WYSEMAN CLAGETT, ESQ., TO DOCT. JONATHAN PARKER, OF LITCHFIELD.

A certain Doctor keeps a psalter,  
Which pious Watts was pleas'd to alter  
With hymns and some addition;  
But guess ten times and you'll not hit  
Upon the use that's made of it,  
By our said good physician.

What use, you say — why sure, to sing.  
Alas! you're out — 'tis no such thing.  
But here your doubts shall end all;  
He ne'er, as I've a soul to save,  
Regards or sings a single stave,  
With Cotton\* or with Kendall.†

But when M'Clench hauls wood oaken,  
The Doctor sends his book for token,  
To have Mac's credit saved.  
In title page whereof you can  
Discern the name of Jonathan  
Fast by his old friend David.

\*Minister of the parish.

† Deacon.

As a public prosecutor, his reputation stood high. Soon after the formation of the revolutionary government for this colony, viz., January 22, 1776, he was appointed by the council and assembly, Attorney General, or Solicitor General, as this officer was then called. This office he held till the establishment of the State constitution of 1783. General John Sullivan succeeded him as public prosecutor, having been appointed to that office in December, 1784, after the decease of Mr. Clagett.

He represented the classed towns of Litchfield and Nottingham-West in the assembly for the year 1776, and afterwards he was chosen for Litchfield and Derryfield. On one occasion, having been left out by the town of Litchfield, he received great personal gratification by being elected a member of the assembly for the towns of Merrimack and Bedford. He was also chosen by the assembly a member of the council for 1776, and appointed for the same year a member of the committee of safety.

The press of criminal business was so great, that he made application to the council and assembly for the appointment of assistants, which I believe was not granted. The prosecutions were generally for petty offences. Violations of the rights of property did not then as at the present day constitute the great mass of criminal complaints. Most of the indictments were for assaults and batteries; and especially for fornication, against females, under the statute of the 14th June, 1701, the 13th of William III., which subjected both parties to a fine not exceeding fifty shillings, or whipping, not exceeding ten stripes. While the oath of the female was not sufficient to convict her companion in crime, she bore, in her pregnancy, the public confession of her own guilt. The consequence was, that the man escaped detection, and the vengeance of the

Public Justice was wreaked exclusively on the female. The form of the indictment itself was an acknowledgment of this, for the words usually were "that she suffered some male person, to the jurors unknown, to have carnal knowledge of her body, and thereby beget her with child of a bastard."

In this way was much of the time and labor of the solicitor-general occupied in sustaining the morals of the people and preserving the republic from detriment. But judgment was usually tempered with mercy. The fines were trivial, considering the aggravation of the crime; and we do not believe that in any case whipping was resorted to. Nor are we aware that the relaxed state of the law, as enacted February 16, 1791, which considered fornication as a crime only in the male, has contributed in any degree to encourage incontinence. The statute, however, of January 2, 1829, has again made both parties criminal, increased the fine, and substituted imprisonment for whipping. From this we infer, that the legislature, while they continue to feel a just abhorrence of the offence, do not consider it any objection that the law, from the circumstance above mentioned, should, in its operation, be an enactment almost exclusively against the weaker and least sinning party.

It remains for me now to introduce the reader to a more personal acquaintance with the subject of this memoir.

Eccentric and overbearing, he was a strange mixture of severity and indulgence, alternately betraying strong passions and weak feelings. Sanguine and despondent, by sudden changes of his mind, for which no reason could be assigned. Rough and boisterous in his manners, they were rendered still more offensive by a profanity as reckless and extravagant as can well be conceived. These manners,

added to his horrific physiognomy and the stateliness of his person, made him an object of terror to children, among whom there would be a sad scampering when it was announced that old Clagett was coming.

But with all this rough and unpromising outside, he possessed real kindness of heart, had no malice, and delighted in acts of liberality and kindness even towards his political enemies.

He knew little of farming or the cares of a family and housekeeping. Unfortunately, his wife was as destitute of this useful knowledge as himself, and the interior of few houses was more comfortless in its appearance than his own. His disposition to hospitality, however, continued to the last. His guests were usually entertained at the neighboring tavern, and at his own house, however destitute in other respects, there was never any want of New England rum.

The education of his family was very much neglected. It is believed their only advantages in this respect were such as the schools of Litchfield afforded. Perhaps his son Clifton ought to be mentioned as an exception. He was intended for the bar, and received in his father's office the most scanty preliminary instruction which the study of the law requires. The elevation which this excellent man afterward acquired in this State must be attributed more to his own worth and good fortune, than to his early advantages.

Although for many years much engaged in criminal prosecutions within the state, it does not appear that his civil business was at any time great, or that he was in much request as an advocate. He could not be classed in the first rank of lawyers, in New Hampshire, at any period of his life. The Hon. Samuel Livermore, whose name we have already introduced into this memoir, and who was his competitor in the early part of his practice at Portsmouth, was

much his superior, and was without question, during his day, the great man of the state.

His success in the acquisition of property fell probably far short of his anticipations. He labored under the mistake, very common in that period of our history, in imagining that wealth would continue to follow the honors, rather than the industry of the individual. But Mr. Clagett was not avaricious; he was liberal and careless, and unfortunately connected for the preservation or increase of property. His real estate, at the time of his death, was appraised at about two thousand dollars, and his personal chattels were inconsiderable in value. This real estate was settled on Clifton, and it is believed that the share of an heir did not exceed two hundred dollars. When he moved to Litchfield, he was the proprietor of a fall back chaise, which went to decay, and was never replaced. An indifferent pony became his only vehicle. When on horseback, as the writer has seen him, with his full bottomed white wig, his cocked hat, still retaining some remnants of its gold lace, and his coat, bearing evidence of its antiquity, and as well as the original excellence of its texture, he exhibited a striking picture of dilapidated importance.

The children that survived him were Martha, Clifton, who deceased January 25, 1829, Edward, deceased, and George, Ritta, John and William, still living. Three of his sons, Clifton, Wentworth and William, married daughters of his neighbor, Major William M'Queston. Ritta married William M'Queston, son of Simon M'Queston, a brother of the major, and who married her mother, the widow of her father, as has already been mentioned. With the exception of Martha, who is somewhat shattered in her mind, the children have, in the main, sustained an unexception-

able respectability in life. Wentworth, who died at Newport, a few years since, was an acting magistrate for many years, and Clifton enjoyed some of the first honors of the state, and was, at the time of his death, Judge of Probate for the county of Hillsborough.

We have said that he was a latin scholar. A few specimens are preserved. There is to be seen in the grave-yard at Litchfield, the following Epitaph, written by him on a son that came to his death by the accidental discharge of a gun.

*Hic requiescit in pace,*  
JOHANNES KAY CLAGETT,  
*Puer (in vita) innocuus,*  
*placidus, decorus, sed*  
*duodecima die Februi, 1782*  
*(absente Patre) globulis*  
*plumbeis transfixus*  
*subito, infeliciter, immature, heu!*  
*Cecidit.*  
*In Londino genitus,*  
*in Piscataqua natus,*  
*Hic mortuus,*  
*Per undecimo annos, et quatuor*  
*menses, tantum, vixit.*

He also wrote the inscription on the Baptismal Vase, presented by the daughters of Col. John Tufton Mason to Queen's Chapel, Portsmouth, viz.

*Sarah Catharina et Anna Elizabetha, Johannis Tufton*  
*Mason Cohortis Structoris filiae ornatissimæ, hoc Baptisteri-*  
*um, ex Gallicis manubiis apud Senegalliam sub auspiciis pre-*  
*dicti Johannis acquisitum Ecclesie Anglicanæ apud Ports-*

*mouth in Provincia vulgo vocata New Hampshire, liberaliter contulerunt, Anno Domini 1761, et vicessimo sexto Predicationis Arthuri Brown, Wiseman Clagett et Samuel Livermore procuratoribus.*

In close of this memoir, I observe, that in saying Mr. Clagett was admitted a barrister of the King's Bench, the Annals of Portsmouth, by Nathaniel Adams, Esq., and the tradition of the family, have been followed. But is there not an error in this? When he left England he was only 27 years old. In his commission of notary public, and in the will of John Weeks, he is styled gentleman. Had he been a barrister, he would have been styled Esquire. I infer therefore, that he was only an attorney. His father, Wyseman Clagett, was without doubt a barrister.

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NAMES OF THE FIRST SETTLERS OF SOMERSWORTH,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Eld. William Wentworth, Dea. John Hall, Philip Starpole, Jeremiah Tebbets, George Ricker, Maturin Ricker, William Stiles, Maurice Hobbs, Philip Yeaton, Jeremiah Rollins, John Roberts, Hatevil Roberts, Eben. Roberts, Love Roberts, James Philpot, Jabez Garland, William Downs, Ebenezer Downs, Gershom Downs, Joseph Hussey, Joseph Varney, Samuel Randall, Deacon Thomas Nock, Zachariah Nock, Sylvanus Nock, James Clements, Samuel Jones, Benjamin Mason, Benjamin Twombly, Eleazar Wyer, Nathaniel Perkins. Most of these persons settled in that part of ancient Dover now constituting the town of Somersworth, between 1650 and 1700.

## JOURNAL OF THE REV. JOHN PIKE.

Note by the Editor of Messrs. Stevens & Ela's edition of Dr. Belknap's Hist. of New Hampshire.

[REV. JOHN PIKE, whose manuscript journal follows, was the fourth regularly settled minister of Dover. "He was son of Hon. Robert Pike, many years one of the assistants of the colony of Massachusetts, who died 12 December, 1706, at the age of 91. He was born at Salisbury, 15 May, 1653, and received his education at Harvard College, where he graduated in 1675, in the class of which year his name is placed at the head. He was ordained the 31 August, 1681, and remained at Dover until the desolation occasioned by the Indians in June, 1689, when he removed to Portsmouth. The next year he went to Hampton, and from thence to Newbury, in 1691. He returned to Portsmouth 6 October, 1692, and entered upon their Majesties' service for Pemaquid fort, for which place he sailed on the 17 of the same month, and arrived there on the 26th. He returned to Portsmouth, 13 July, 1695, and removed with his family to Dover, 11 November, 1698, where, having remained nearly four years, he removed to his native town, 21 October, 1702, but again returned to Dover after a year or two, and there closed his days, 10 March, 1710, in the 57th year of his age. Rev. Jabez Fitch, in his MSS. speaks of Mr. Pike as 'a person of great humility, meekness and patience, much mortified to the world, and without gall or guile.' Dr. Belknap, in the church records of Dover, p. 16, says that Mr. Pike 'was esteemed as an extraordinary preacher, and a man of true godliness. He was a grave and venerable person, and generally preached without notes. Those who were well acquainted with him have given him the character of a very considerable divine.' Mather, in the *Magnalia*, ii. 511, says he 'was much beholden to him' for communicating many passages which occur in his history. Some of his manuscript sermons were extant when Dr. Belknap wrote."]

*A Memorandum of Personal Occurrences.*

John Pike came to Dover, for the work of the ministry Nov. 1, 1678.

Married Sarah, the second daughter of Mr. Joshua Moodey, May 5, 1681.

Took office, August 31, 1681, being a stormy day — the same in which Mr. Moodey, with his wife, and others, were overset in a canoe, and in some danger of drowning.

Upon the desolation of Cochecho, my family removed to Portsmouth, January 28, 1689.

Removed from Portsmouth to Hampton, October 24, 1690. This year the army went to Canada, and the small pox raged much all winter at Pascataqua.

Removed from Hampton to Newbury, Feb. 4, 1691. Summer following, many persons, to the number of 19, were condemned and executed for witchcraft at Salem, and many more accused.

Removed from Newbury to Portsmouth again, Oct. 6, 1692.

Entered upon their Majesties' service for Pemaquid Fort, Oct. 16, 1694. Sailed from Great Island, Oct. 17, and arrived at Pemaquid the 26th. Returned from Pemaquid to Portsmouth, July 13, 1695.

Removed my family from Portsmouth to Dover, Nov. 11, 1698. Continued there with my family four years wanting 20 days. Removed for Salisbury, Oct. 21, 1702. Began to keep house at Dover, after the death of my dear wife, Jan. 1, 1706.

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*Observable Providences, Seasons, &c.*

1683.

Jan. 3. Colonel Waldron's mills burnt down in a very rainy night.

Feb. 14. Mrs. Hannah Waldron died, and was inhumed 16th, which was the revolution of her marriage day.

1683.

July 19. Foul weather set in, after something of a drought, and continued till the beginning of September, to the great damage and almost ruin of husbandry.

1685.

Feb. 3. An earthquake was sensibly observed by many, though not universally perceived. This happened sabbath day, 4 o'clock afternoon.

March 22. A prodigious tide, rising some feet higher than the observation of the oldest settlers in this place, did great damage to wharves and ware-houses in Boston and Pascataqua.

April 22. Happened a tide little inferior to the former, and in some places flowed somewhat higher.

November 8. Was exceeding dark, from ten in the morning till two in the afternoon, which might be occasioned by a very black and thick cloud passing over very low. It seemed as though the sun had been greatly and totally eclipsed.

1685.

Feb. 7. Mrs. Ann Waldron died.

Feb. 19. Lt. Anthony Nutter, of Cove, deceased of the small pox.

July 15. Humphrey Tiffany and Francis Low, travelling between Swansey and Boston, were slain with lightning.

Dec. 19. Joseph Hall of Greenland deceased with the small pox. He had been ill, but knew not his distemper till a little while before he died.

1686.

March 2. Abigail Moodey died of the small pox.

Dec. 3. Mr. Stockman died of apoplexy.

1687.

This year the measles raged throughout the country, beginning at Boston, and so coming eastward.

Dec. 9. John Winget died.

1689.

Jan. 17. Master Heard deceased. 24. Mrs. Colcord died.

1689.

June 28. The Eastern Indians, joining with those of Penacook, through the instigation of Hogkins, a sagamore, suddenly seized on Cochecho, about break of day, when all things were silent and secure. Killed 23 persons, principal of whom were Major Waldron, Mr. Leigh, [Abraham Lee, see Belknap, i. 126,] Mr. Evans, Richard Otis, Joseph Dug, Joseph Duncan, Daniel Lunt, Joseph Sanders, Stephen Otis, Jos. Buss, Wm. Buss, Wm. Arin, Wm. Horn, and old widow Hanson. Carried captive 29, whereof the chief were Joseph Chase, Mrs. Leigh, [wife of Abraham, and daughter of Maj. Waldron,] Tobias Hanson's wife, Otis's wife, Sarah Gerrish, &c.

August following, James Huggins of Oyster River was killed, his garrison taken, and 18 killed and carried away.

1690.

Jan. 27. Deacon Dam deceased, with age, weakness and illness.

Feb. 2. Schenectady, a Dutch town, was suddenly surprised by the Indians and French; 60 persons were slain and 27 carried captive.

March 18. Salmon Falls was surprised by the Indians and French, just after the manner of Cochecho. The whole place was destroyed by fire; 27 persons slain, and 52 carried captive.

July 4. Seven persons were slain, and a lad taken at Lamprey River. July 5. The enemy advancing towards Exeter, set upon Hilton's garrison, which Lt. Bancroft endeavoring to relieve, 8 or 9 of his men were slain. July 6. Captain Floyd fought the enemy at Wheelwright's pond, but was forced to retire, with the loss of 16 men. July 7. The enemy came down upon Amesbury, took Capt. Foot alive, killed Philip Rowell and two more.

Aug. 22. Phineas Hull with his wife and Robert Young, travelling betwixt York and Kittery, the said Young was killed by the Indians, and Hull's wife taken, but himself escaped. My dear brother Robert deceased, by the malignant fever, after he had been ten weeks weakened with the fever and ague.

Sept. 14. Amarisoggin fort taken on sabbath day. Sept. 22. Fight at Mequoit near Casco—the enemy fled, after they had by surprise and ambushes slain and wounded 32 of our men; 8 of whom were killed, rest wounded.

Nov. 5. Being Wednesday, was accompanied with a small earthquake early in the morning, which was not very terrible, though sensibly observed by many.

Dec. 6. Mr. Richard Martyn, junior, deceased of the small pox.

1692.

January 25. Monday, ten o'clock in the morning, the Indians fell upon York, killed about 48 persons, whereof the Rev. Mr. Dummer was one, and carried captive 73.

Sept. 28. David Hamilton, Henry Childe, &c. were slain by Indians at Newichawannock. Sept. 29. Many persons, to the number of 20 or 21, killed and carried away at Sandy Beach.

1691.

Sometime in July or August, this year, the French and Indians came upon the English forces, under the conduct of Capt. John March, Capt. Daniel King, Capt. Samuel Sherburne, &c., at a place called Mequoit, when most of the soldiers were gone aboard the vessels: the officers on shore had a sharp conflict with them, but were forced to retire on ship-board, with the loss of Capt. Sherburne and some others. Lt. John Allen was here wounded, with many more.

1692.

Dec. 25. A doleful and tremendous noise was affirmed to be heard in the air nigh Capt. Gerrish's garrison, which continued with a little intermission near half an hour.

1693.

May 10. Tobias Hanson killed by the Indians, as he travelled the path near the west corner of Thomas Downs' field.

Oct. 15. Sabbath day, about 10 o'clock in the morning, a great rumbling noise was heard by many towards the northeast, supposed to be a considerable earthquake.

1694.

Jan. 21. Another small earthquake happened about two hours before day.

July 18. The Indians fell suddenly and unexpectedly upon Oyster river about break of day, took three garrisons, (being deserted or not defended,) killed and carried away 94 persons, and burnt 13 houses. This was the first act of hostility committed by them after the peace concluded at Pemaquid.

July 21. Mrs. Ursula Cutt, with three others, was slain by the Indians, as they were busy about hay upon her plantation near Boiling Rock.

July 27. The enemy fell upon Groton about day break, killed 22 persons, and captivated 13.

Aug. 20. The Indians killed Henry Barns, Edmund Hammons and his wife, as they were at work in a field at Spruce Creek, and the same day Dan. Leviston, with a lad, at York.

Aug. 24. Eight persons killed and captivated at Long Reach, 5 at Downing's, and 3 at Toby's.

Sept. 4. Joseph Pike and Richard Long were slain by the Indians, as they travelled the road at the further end of the Pond plain. The enemy lay in a deserted house by the way, or in a clump of bushes, or both.

Nov. 19. Bomazeen, with two other Indians, seized at Pemaquid.

1695.

March 28. Sergeant Isaac Tilton and Peter Dill, going off with a small birchen canoe into Pemaquid Sound, were by a sudden gust of wind and snow overwhelmed and both drowned.

Two soldiers taken near Saco Fort, one killed, the other (*nomine* Dean) carried away.

May 22. Eight captives brought into Pemaquid.

July 6. Capt. Hammons taken by the Indians, as he was seeking a cow, in Kittery woods. Next day, Goodwife Johnson, of York, wounded by an unseen Indian, of which wound she died. Next week two men killed at Exeter.

August. Rogers' house taken at Billerica, and 15 or 16 persons killed and carried away. Serg. Thomas Haley killed by the Indians a little out of Saco Fort.

Sept. 5. Doctor Fletcher deceased.

Sept. 9. Serg. Hugh March, Ed. Sargent, John Linkhorn and Tho. Johnson were slain, and six more wounded

at Pemaquid, as they were going round an high rocky point above the barbaean.

Oct. 7. Brown's house at Newbury taken by 5 Indians—9 persons carried away. Dr. Greenleaf wounded in pursuing the enemy. Captives all retaken, but some of them died of their wounds.

Dec. 19. Maj. Elias Stileman expired.

Mr. Samuel Phillips, minister of Rowley, died.

Mr. John Richardson, minister of Newbury, died.

1696.

Feb. 16. Sabbath day, Edgeremmet and Honquid, two Sagamores, with another Indian, slain upon a treaty at Pemaquid, and a fourth taken alive.

March 3. Mr. James Alling, minister of Salisbury, died.

May 7. John Church, sen., slain by the Indians, as he travelled to seek his horse, up a little hill betwixt Cochecho and Tole-end.

June 24. Tho. Cole, Jeremy Storer, Josias Littlefield, with their wives, travelling towards night betwixt York and Wells, were assaulted by the Indians—Cole and his wife killed, the rest escaped, only Storer's wife wounded.

June 26. The Indians fell upon Sagamore's Creek and Sherburne's plain; killed — persons, burnt 3 houses, and carried away 4 captives, which were soon retaken.

July 26. Being sacrament-day. An ambush of Indians laid between Capt. Gove's field and Tobias Hanson's orchard—shot upon the people returning from meeting—killed Nicho. Otis, Mary Downs and Mary Jones; wounded Rich. Otis, Anthony Lowden and Exp. Heard; took John Tucker, Nic. Otis, jr. and Judith Rieker.

Aug. 13. Old John Hoyt, of Amesbury, and young Peters, of Amesbury, were slain upon the road by Indians

between Andover and Haverhill. Pemaquid fort basely yielded up to the Indians and French.

Aug. 15. Jonathan Haines, of Haverhill, and his 4 children, carried away by the Indians.

Aug. 25. Lt. Lock slain by the Indians at Sandy-beach; soon after Arnold Breck, &c., shot at betwixt Hampton and Greenland.

Aug. 27. David Davis killed by the Indians at Lubberland.

Oct. 13. Five soldiers belonging to Saco fort killed or carried away by the Indians; the sixth, being wounded, made his escape.

1697.

March 15. The Indians fell upon some part of Haverhill, about 7 in the morning, killed and carried away 39 or 40 persons. Two of these captive women, viz. Duston and Neff, (with another young man,) slew ten of the Indians, and returned home with their scalps.

March 16. Elder Wentworth deceased a few days after he was taken speechless, with a sudden shivering.

May 20. Young Moulton taken by the Indians at York.

June 10. John Young of Exeter slain by the Indians, his son wounded. Luke Wells, and a lad at Salisbury, the same day carried away.

July 4. Mr. Joshua Moodey deceased of a wasting consumption at Boston, Sabbath day, little past 5 afternoon. Maj. Charles Frost slain by the Indians (as returning from meeting betwixt Smith's garrison and his own) the same day, and near about the same time. Also Dennis Downing and Phebe Heard slain at the same time, and John Heard Wounded. Next Monday or Tuesday, trooper Smith and Young Simpson killed, coming post from Wells.

July 29. James Gooden with two soldiers slain by the Indians as they were at work in the meadows, and William Gooden wounded.

Aug. 7. Penbleton Fletcher with his two sons taken by the Indians, and three soldiers of Saco fort slain as they were landing at Cow-island ; but one of his sons was the same day retaken, with the slaughter of 3 or 4 Indians.

Sept. 5. The French landed upon Cape Cod, took 4 sloops and a lighter — were repulsed by the English and Cape Indians — 2, Frenchmen killed, 5 taken prisoners, 5 driven into the woods. Maj. March fought the Indians and French at Winneganoe ; 12 of our men were slain and 12 wounded. Capt. Dimmock slain, Joseph Jacob slain, Capt. Whitney wounded in the head, and Capt. Phillips in the thigh. The enemy lost near about the same number and fled.

Nov. 15. Tho. Chesley, sen., slain by the Indians not far from Johnson's creek ; Will. Jackson taken at the same time, and at the same time made his escape.

1698.

Feb. 22. About 30 Indians came to Andover, took Col. Bradstreet's house and two more ; killed Capt. Pasco Chubb and his wife, Maj. Wade's son, of Mystick, and two others. Carried Col. Bradstreet's family a little way, and upon conditions released them. As they returned, by Haverhill, they met with Jonathan Hains and Samuel Ladd, with their elder sons. The two fathers were slain, and the sons carried away ; but young Hains soon after returned, which was his second escape from the enemy in less than two years time.

May 9. Enoch Hutchins was killed by the Indians at Spruce creek, as he was at work in his field, and 3 of his sons carried away. The same day Joseph Pray, of York,

was wounded, and it is likely by the same Indians, whom he supposed to be 15 in number.

Oct. 15. Samuel Cutt deceased, after a week's sickness.

Nov. 11. Removed my family from the Bank to Dover.

1699.

Jan. 31. A considerable earthquake happened about 1 o'clock this day, and another the night following, if it was not a clap of thunder.

Feb. 8. Experience Heard, *alias* Jenkins, who was scalped by the Indians July 26, 1696, recovered and lived to have one child, died chiefly of her wounds bleeding.

1701.

July 7. The Honorable William Stoughton deceased, after he had faithfully served his country in the place of Lt. Governor many years.

Dec. 23. Thos. Hermon, of York, going in a canoe from Pascataqua to York, was blown off to sea by a strong north-west wind, and was lost.

1702.

Oct. 21. Removed my family from Dover to Salisbury, being four years after my removal from the Bank thither, wanting 21 days.

1703.

Aug. 10. About nine or ten o'clock Tuesday morning, the Eastern Indians (notwithstanding their many and newly repeated protestations of continuing peace with the English) did yet join with the French, and in a very perfidious and barbarous manner, falling upon the Eastern parts, from Casco to the East end of Wells, committed many greivous outrages and massacres upon the poor people. Killed to the number of 73 — captivated to the num-

ber of 95. With much importunity they allured Major March out of Casco fort, pretending to renew the peace and satisfy some rumors that were bruited to the contrary, when under the Queen's colors they set upon him: but God was pleased to deliver him, and the fort also, though they fought against it many days. Only Jabez Garland's garrison, Winter harbor, was taken, after it had been two days manfully defended. This was the first act of hostility or real breaking forth after an interval of 5 years' peace.

Aug. 17. A party of skulking Indians came in upon the south end of Hampton, towards Salisbury, where they killed the Widow Mussey, Tho. Lancaster, Jona. Green, Nicholas Bond and Wm. Hinkley's child. This was done an hour or two before night. They also rifled 2 houses and went off.

October 6. Capt. Richard Hanuell, Lt. John Badson, Nath'l Foxhall, and many more, to the number of 20 men, going out from the garrison at Black point, to fetch in cattle or swine, were all taken by an ambushment of the enemy, except J. Badson, who escaped by flight. A solemn spot, on which the principal inhabitants of Black point and Winter harbor were cut off. The enemy were supposed to be in number about six score.

Oct. 13. About sunset the Indians stole in upon Arthur Bragden's house, at York, hard by the garrison, killed his wife and two children, and carried his eldest daughter captive.

Oct. 14. Capt. Eason came in from England with first mast ship; brought over John Usher, Lieutenant Governor of New Hampshire.

Oct. 26. Soldiers return from their second expedition towards Pequawket. Brought in six Indian scalps and five captives, all squaws and children [both killed and taken] except one old man.

Oct. 30. One Christopher Patrick, a soldier, was slain by the Indians betwixt Quamphegen and Salmon Falls, above half an hour after sunset. He had five guns discharged upon him, and was shot with many bullets.

Nov. 13. Mr. John Wade, of Berwick, deceased of the fever and sore throat.

Dec. 20. Three soldiers, at Saco, slain by the Indians, and two carried away as they were fetching wood to the fort.

#### 1704.

Jan. 15. Happened the highest tide that ever was observed in these parts of the country. Did great damage to warehouses and cellars; carried away some houses and many stages at Isle of Shoals; transported many hay stacks, and in some places tore up great quantities of marsh and removed it far off into other places.

Jan. 21. Being sabbath night, a strong party of French and Indians fell upon the English habitations at Newfoundland, in the dead of the night, and destroyed all except the forts. They cut off about seventy families, sparing none save a few young men that were fit for service. Afterwards they besieged the fort at St. John's for divers weeks, but could not take it. There was also another fort at the bay of Bulls that escaped.

Jan. 28. About 9 or 10 in the morning, the Indians, to the number of 30 or 40, made an attack upon Andrew Neal's garrison, in the lower part of Berwick, killed a poor maid, wounded a lad, who made his escape, burned three houses, killed many cattle, had one of their own crew sorely wounded, if not slain, and so drew off.

Feb. 8. About three or four of the clock, afternoon, Joseph Bradley's house, at Haverhill, was taken by six Indians; 13 persons were killed and 5 carried away, whereof one

returned — 3 more persons escaped out of the house, and 1 Indian was slain in it by Jonathan Johnson.

March. About midnight the French and Indians set upon Deerfield; burned 17 houses, killed above 50 persons, captivated upwards of 90, amongst which, Mr. Williams, their minister. In this attack the enemy lost 30 or 40 men.

April 25. Nathaniel Meader was slain by the Indians at Oyster river, not far from the place where Nicholas Follet formerly dwelt.

April 26. Edward Taylor was slain by the Indians at Lamper-eel river. His wife and 1 child carried away.

April 28. Thamsin Mesarvey, Mr. Waldron's maid-servant, was taken by 4 Indians, betwixt sunset and dark, at a spring in the Major's pasture, between his house (formerly burnt) and barn; and after examination was knocked down and left for dead, but recovered again. The enemy flying hastily away at the outcry of the watch, by which means Mr. Waldron escaped, that was then coming over the Boom.

May 11. Two men slain by the Indians at Wells, and another of the same company killed or taken.

May 28. Sacrament day—an ambush of four Indians lay betwixt Tristram Heard's and Ephr. Wentworth's, upon the north side of the hill, but were happily discovered and escaped.

June 1. Samuel Tasker was slain by 8 or 9 Indians at Oyster river.

July 20. Sergeant Graves' son taken by the Indians at Casco, looking after cattle, and another man hardly escaped. Young Graves was slain by the enemy.

July 30. Sabbath morning or Monday morning the Indians invaded Lancaster; killed two or three persons, burnt the meeting-house and some other houses.

August 4. Two men killed at Haverhill by the Indians, viz. Joseph Page and Bar. Heath—a lad narrowly escaped.

Aug. 8. John Young slain by the Indians travelling betwixt Pickpocket and Exeter.

Aug. 9. The wife, son and daughter of John Davis, of Jemaico, taken by the Indians in their house or in their field.

Aug. 10. Two men killed by the Indians at Wells.

Aug. 11. Mark Giles, sen., of Cochecho, and his son John, slain by 7 or 8 Indians as they were passing a corner of their field. Same day, the son of Matthew Austin killed at York.

Aug. 19. Joseph Pitman slain by the Indians as he was guarding some mowers, not far from Oyster river meeting-house.

Oct. 25. Mr. Andrew Gardner, minister of Lancaster, coming down from the watch-box in the night, in a darkish colored gown, was mistaken for an Indian, and solemnly slain by a sorry soldier belonging to the garrison, *nomine* Prescott.

Oct. 29. The wind blowing extremely at N. W. forced open the kitchen door of Mr. Rogers' house, at Portsmouth, by which means the house was fired and soon burnt to the ground; in which solemn conflagration, his youngest child and a negro wench was consumed, and his mother-in-law so grievously scorched, that she died December 31 following. This was on a sabbath night.

1705.

March 16. Mr. Edward Tompson of Marshfield died of a consumptive disease.

May 4. Many persons surprised by the Indians at Spruce Creek and York. John Brown, H. Barns, a child of Do-

divah Curtice, and a child of Enoch Hutchins, slain—rest carried captive by ten or a dozen Indians. Also Mrs. Hoit, running up the hill to discern the outcry, fell into their hands and was slain.

May 5. Samuel Allen, Esq., deceased, (sometime Governor of N. H.,) after 3 or 4 days' visitation with fever and pleuritical pains: a sober and worthy gentleman.

May 21. Old James Toby was killed by the Indians in Kittery woods. John Rogers wounded the same day, but escaped and was healed.

June 10. Deceased the Rev. Michael Wigglesworth, minister of Malden, on the sabbath day. The same day John Woodman, jr., of Oyster river, died.

June 28. John Hewland, a young man that came out of England with Major Vaughan, was drowned at Cochecho.

July 18. Mr. Henry Longstar of Bloody point deceased after 10 days' sickness, occasioned by a fall into his leanto, 4 stairs high, whereby, being grievously bruised, it brought an inflammation upon him. He was about 100 years old—a hale, strong, hearty man.

July 25. Mr. John Clark, minister of Exeter, deceased with extreme vomiting, &c. in less than 24 hours after he was taken ill. A good man, much wanted and much lamented.

Aug. 13. Mr. Nath'l Fryer, one of the council, deceased, after long illness and weakness.

1706.

April 27. The Indians came in upon the south part of Oyster river, by the little bay, and killed ten persons, the chief whereof were brother John Wheeler, and his wife, John Drew, &c. It is thought this was done by Bomazeen.

June 4. George Ricker and Maturin Ricker, of Cochecho, was slain by the Indians. George was killed running up the lane near the garrison. Maturin was killed in his field, and his little son carried away.

June 6. Lt. John Shapleigh of Kittery was slain by the Indians, and his son Nicholas carried away, as they were returning from the mill at Spruce Creek. This was done (by their good friends) the Hegans. Nicholas is come home again.

July 3. Captain Pearson, of Rowley, marching with his troops to Dunstable, and being posted with part of his troops at one Blanchard's house, while they were at supper in the chamber, the enemy had slyly turned Blanchard's sheep into his corn, which he and his wife going out to reduce, were both slain. The doors and gates being open, the enemy entered the house, killed Pearson's trumpeter with three other troopers, and wounded five more. At last they were driven out of the house, with the loss of one Indian. Pearson was much blamed for not setting his sentinels out. Near about the same time, or soon after, they assaulted another house, belonging to one Jacob Galusha, a Dutchman. The house was burned, some persons were killed, and some escaped. The whole number said to have been slain in Dunstable at this time was nine persons. The same day Sergeant Kingsbury of Haverhill was killed or taken by the Indians.

July 4. A party of the enemy fell upon the out-parts of Amesbury, about high noon, killed and carried away 9 or 10 persons, whereof the chief were Nath'l Weed's wife and children, Robert Hoyt's wife, John Ash and some others slain; Barns Prout carried away.

July 6. A woman, with two or three children, was slain at an out-house belonging to Reading.

July 21. Sabbath—two soldiers slain and one carried away by the enemy at Groton. They were all New-Cambridge men, and were returning to their post from one Blood's house, who had invited them to dinner.

July 23. About 20 of the enemy fell upon ten Exeter men as they were mowing in a field betwixt Exeter and Lamprey river. Four of our men were killed in the place, viz. Richard Meloon and his son Hubertas, Robert Barber and S. Place. Three carried captives, viz. Edmund Hall, S. Migill and a mulatto. Three escaped, viz. Jos. Hall, John Taylor, sorely wounded, but recovered, and another. This was done about an hour or two before sunset. The two Englishmen carried captives are come home again.

July 27. Lt. Butterfield and his wife, riding between Dunstable and some other town, had their horse shot down by the enemy. The man escaped, the woman was taken, and Jo English, a friendly Indian in company with them, was at the same time slain.

Aug. 2. Benj. Fifield, sen. of Hampton, coming out of his pasture on horse-back, was slain by an ambush of 7 or 8 Indians, and a lad, his kinsman, carried away. About the same time Sergeant Atkinson, of Newbury, and another soldier, were slain hard by a garrison at Wells.

Aug. 10. Nicholas Peaslee was slain by the Indians in the day time, at his cave, some miles above Oyster River, where he had dwelt night and day, summer and winter, from the last breaking out of the war, precisely three years, though he was in the very wake and way where the enemy used to pass. He was a man of strange confidence, and would not be persuaded to leave his place.

Nov. 11. Mr. John Odlin was ordained at Exeter.

Dec. 12. My aged and dear father, Maj. Robert Pike, deceased, in the 91st or 92d year of his age, after long weakness and illness, but no great sickness, and was interred on the 19th of the same. He was always very temperate in reference to meats and drinks, and generally very healthy. He had been of the Massachusetts council many years, and a justice of the peace many more.

1707.

Feb. 7. Our soldiers under Col. Hilton, returning from their intended expedition to Norridgewock, surprised an Indian Wigwam in the woods, belonging to Black point; killed two stout men, and one old squaw. Brought a young squaw and two children away.

Feb. 13. George Jaffrey, sen. of Portsmouth, one of the council, journeying from Boston to Pascataqua, in a very cold day, was taken sick of flux and fever at Ipswich, and died after ten days' sickness at Col. Appleton's: was interred on the 17th day of February. A man of singular understanding and usefulness among us.

March 3. Our soldiers, in number 110, officers and all in the dead of the night, surprised 2 Indian wigwams, at a place called Coxhead, near Sagadahoc, where they killed 18 of the enemy, and took an Indian boy. Seven or eight of them were stout fellows. Wanerson, a sagamore, was here slain; but a poor squaw, taken at B. point, being pilot to our men, was sorely wounded by one Edward Hall.

May 22. Col Nathaniel Saltonstall, of Haverhill, Esquire, and formerly of the Massachusetts council, deceased, after a half year's consumptive illness.

May 22. Two young girls were carried away by the Indians from Bunker's garrison at Oyster river, viz. the daughter of Thomas Drew, near 13 years old, and the daughter of Nathaniel Lamos, much younger. This was the first mischief done by them in the year 1707.

June 11. Mr. Dudley Bradstreet's man was slain by the Indians at Groton, *nomine* Brown. About the same time, a very faithful and serviceable friend Indian, called John Daniel, dwelling at or near Cambridge, was also slain as he was fishing at a pond.

June 16. Philip Carpenter, a Jersey man, with his wife and three or four children, was slain at Spruce creek, about the middle of the day. The Indians, being seven in number, were met with by the English, three or four times, and fired upon. Some packs were taken; but the enemy got all off and escaped.

July 8. John Bunker and Ichabod Rawlins, both of Dover, going with a cart from Lt. Zachariah Field's garrison to James Bunker's for a loom, were assaulted by many Indians, and both slain. The enemy, supposed to be 20 or 30 in number, slaughtered many cattle for the Joneses, at the same time, to the number of 15 or more.

July 22. Two brothers of the Gilmans, traveling from Kingston to Exeter, were assaulted by seven Indians: both their horses were shot under them, but the men escaped; one back to Kingston, the other to Exeter. *Laus Deo.*

Aug. 10. Sabbath evening. Jeremiah Smith, Elias Wear, Joshua Hilton, and a Josias Littlefield's wife and son, returning from Boston to Wells, betwixt York and Cape Neddock, were all slain by the Indians, except Hilton, who was carried away. 'Tis reported that Jeremiah Smith had 15 shots. The number of the enemy supposed to be 40 or 50.

Sept. 15. John Dollar of Exeter slain by the Indians in the woods.

Sept. 17. Capt. Samuel Chesley, his brother James Chesley, and six more stout young men, were slain by the Indians as they were cutting and hauling timber, not far from Capt. Chesley's house. The Indian that killed James Chesley was slain upon the spot by Robert Thompson. Philip Chesley and three more escaped.

The same day Henry Elkins, of Kingston, was slain by the Indians, as he was seeking after a horse in the woods.

Sept. 21. Sabbath. Many Indian canoes set upon two English shallops at Winter harbor. The English getting all into one of the shallops, fought the enemy bravely, and saved themselves, under God. They report that several Indians were killed. One of our men was slain, viz. Benjamin Daniel, of York.

Sept. 24. Mr. Richard Jose, of Portsmouth, sheriff of New Hampshire, died, after long sickness with gout, dropsy, &c.

Sept. 28. Sabbath. James Ferguson and his wife, members of the church of Berwick and worthy persons, were slain by the Indians as they returned from meeting. Nicholas Smith at same time wounded, but escaped and got cured.

Sept. 30. Old Widow Horn was taken by the Indians near the lower corner of Capt. Gerrish's field, as she travelled the road. The same day several troops passed the road, both before and after she was taken.

October. Five young men of Wells, viz. Lt. Storer's oldest son, 2 Littlefields and 2 Wakefields, attempting with a small sloop to go over Well's Bar to catch fish, when

there was an extreme foul sea, cast away their vessel and were all drowned.

Nov. 26. Mr. Jeremy Wise was ordained at Berwick.

## 1708.

July 30. Col. John Wainwright died.

Aug. 29. A considerable party of French and Indians came in upon Haverhill about break of day, and did much damage: killed and carried away 33 persons; burnt several houses. The chief of those slain were Capt. S. Wainwright, Mr. Benja. Rolfe, the minister, and his wife, Capt. Samuel Ayers and Lt. Johnson, deacons of the church, and the wife of John Hartshorn, senior. Many soldiers belonging to Salem were here slain. The enemy also met with considerable loss, and were repulsed by Maj. Turner.

Sept. 18. David Kincaid of Oyster river was assaulted by three Indians at his house, some considerable distance from Woodman's garrison; 3 guns were fired at him and his lad, but through mercy, both escaped well.

Sept. 19. Two men and a lad venturing too far into the woods at Spruce creek, on the sabbath day, fell into an ambush of Indians. One Reed, a school-master, and David Hutchins, were slain. The lad, being at a distance from them, escaped.

## 1709.

March 13, Wednesday. Died Captain Henry Penny, of Portsmouth, a man of much understanding. He was delirious some days before his death. Came out of England on account of his debts, and lived here about the space of 26 years and an half.

Col. Saltonstall's house, at Haverhill, blown up by negroes, March 29, 1709. Though many lodged that night in the house, yet nobody hurt. A marvellous providence.

June 11. Saturday, about or little before sunset, Ephraim Fulson, sen., of Exeter, was slain by the Indians, riding between Exeter and Col. Hilton's garrison.

June 13. Sampson Dow's house was attacked by the Indians, but Henry Dyer, of Portsmouth, with five men, going up the bay at the juncture, beat off the enemy.

William Moodey, Samuel Stephens, and two Gilmans, all of Exeter, were surprised by the Indians at a mill, May 6, 1709. William Moodey was retaken by the Deerfield men, about 26 days after, near Chamblee, but fell again into the enemy's hands; and it is feared he and another Englishman were roasted to death.

June 30. Bartholomew Stimpson, jr., of Oyster river, was slain by an ambuscade of Indians, near Capt. Woodman's garrison. Several men slain at Deerfield the week before.

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### *Observable Seasons.*

[Under this head, the Journal of Rev. Mr. PIKE contains some brief notes of the weather, &c., from 1682 to 1709, which are regarded by some as worthy of preservation, and here follow.]

1682.

First snow Oct. 19, which issued in a great rain. SNOWS, Nov. 16, 20, 22 and 29; Dec. 6, 12, 20 and 28; Jan. 6, 10 and 22; Feb. 2 and 21; March 10, 18 and 20.

1683.

Aug. 13. Exceeding high tide and stormy weather. SNOWS, Oct. 26, Nov. 4 and 23; Dec. 15 and 30; Jan. 14, 20, 27 and 29; Feb. 11 and 15; March 22 and 28.

1684.

SNOWS, Nov. 12, 13 and 25; Dec. 14 and 25; Jan. 6, 18, 24 & 28; Feb. 4, 17 and 28; March 9 and 17.

1685.

SNOWS, Nov. 20; Dec. 5, 12, 18, 19, 24 and 30; January 4, 7, 9, 11, 17 and 26; Feb. 14 and 21; March 11; April 14.

1686.

SNOWS, Nov. 26; Dec. 21; Jan. 6, 8, 11, 19, 24 and 31; February 2 and 6; March 2, 9 and 21.

1687.

SNOWS, Dec. 18 and 29; Jan. 2, 15 and 22; Feb. 3, 11 and 22. This winter was productive of few snows & those very shallow. It seldom fell above an inch at a time, and perhaps all together would not have amounted to above a foot or a foot and a half deep; but many rains in lieu thereof.

1688.

SNOWS, Nov. 9; Dec. 16 and 28; Jan. 4, 8, 19, 22 and 28; Feb. 23, 24 and 25; March 6 and 12.

1689.

SNOWS, Nov. 22 and 26; Dec. 28; Jan. 7, 20, 24; Feb. 8; March 5, 12; continuing with some intermissions to 16. But this year, by reason of my absence and illness, some snows are omitted.

1690.

SNOW, Oct. 24; Dec. 4, 14, 17, 19 and 23; Jan. 1, 3, 14, 17 and 22; Feb. 1, 7, 9, 21, 23 and 24; March 3 and 6.

1691.

SNOWS, Nov. 17, 25 and 29; Dec. 2, 26 and 30; Jan. 3, 7, 21 and 24; Feb. 19.

1692.

SNOWS, Oct. 8; Nov. 20; Dec. 1 and 18; Jan. 3, 6, 11, 17, 20, 22 and 25; Feb. 25; April 5.

1693.

SNOWS, Nov. 8; Dec. 7, 14, 17, 26 and 30; Jan. 4, 24 and 29; Feb. 4, 6, 9, 13, 15 and 16; March 7.

1694—Pemaquid.

SNOWS, Oct 28; Dec. 12, 15, 19 and 22; Jan. 12, 16, 22, 28 and 29; Feb. 9 and 23; March 17 and 23 very stormy, and 28, very cold.

Dec. 20, extreme cold and windy; 25, rain, after which very cold.

Jan 11, very rainy day; 21, very cold; 23-28, continued rain, with little intermission.

Feb. 6, very rainy; 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, very cold; 22, 28, very wet.

March 12, 13, very cold; 30, fine morning.

April 1, 2, 16, 30, very cold; 17, fine.

May 1, very cold; 2, very cold rain; 20, 21, very cold; last very warm.

June 7, very warm day; rest of the summer hot and cool by turns.

## 1695.

SNOWS, Nov. 23, moderate; Dec. 4, 7, 13 and 26; Jan. 1, 9, 16, 18, 25 and 29; Feb. 9, 25 and 29; March 6, 23 and 28.

Nov. 11, 13, 14, very cold and windy.

Dec. 3, 4, 9, extremely cold and windy.

Jan. 7, 11, 15, very cold.

Feb. 10, very windy; 13, very cold; 17, 18, very cold and windy; 21, extreme cold and windy; 25, very cold, black, stormy; 26, cold northwest wind.

March 3, 4, very cold and windy; 7, 8, 9, fair, moderate weather; 17, 18, 23, 28, very stormy.

April 1, 3, 4, very fine.

## 1696.

SNOWS, Nov. 22, 24 and 30; Dec. 2, 3, 12, 20, 21 and 29; Jan. 2, 20, 22 and 27; Feb. 18, 22, 23 and 25; April 22.

Nov. 1, sabbath, very fine; 2, very foul; 3, 4, very cold, windy, squally; 23, very cold, clear, windy; 26, 27, 28, 29, very cold storm.

Dec. 8, 9, 10, cloudy, foggy, wet; 12, windy; 19, cold, black; 25, very cold; 28, very cold still; 30, wet; 31, windy.

Jan. 2, rain; 10, warm, wet; 22, bitter cold northwest storm; 23, bitter cold; 24, clear; most of this month moderate.

Feb. 1, 2, fine; 3, rainy; 4-11, very cold; 11, very fine.

March 1, 2, 3, very fine; 8, fine; 11-26, windy, cold; 29, cold, windy.

## 1697.

SNOWS, Nov. 10, issued in great rain; 22 and 28, moderate; Dec. 4, pretty deep; 11, 19, 22, 25, 26 and 30; Jan. 2, 4, 8, 11, 18 and 28; Feb. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 19 and 27; March 14, issued in rain; 22, 24, 28 and 30.

## 1698.

This summer was generally wet and pretty hot, especially from the first week in June; but from the middle of August it proved exceeding wet, to the great hindrance and damage of husbandry.

Sept. 30, was a violent south-east storm, that blew down many fences, and shattered the tops of some houses and barns.

Oct. 13, a violent northeast storm produced the like effects—nearer the sea, it fell rain, higher up the country, snow.

Oct. 19, a violent northeast storm of rain, which melting the aforementioned snows caused an extraordinary freshet, flowing higher than the observation of the oldest standers in these parts—carried away many logs and boards, and endangered the very mills.

SNOWS, Oct. 26 ; Nov. 29 ; Dec. 25 ; Jan. 2, 5, 7, 12, 18, 22, 26 and 30 ; Feb. 6, 9, 14, bitter cold and stormy, 18 ; March 11, 24 and 30.

1699.

SNOWS, Nov. 21, 24 and 29, very stormy ; Dec. 7, 12 and 26 ; Jan. 2, 9, 11, 13, 26, issued in rain, lightning and thunder, 30 and 31 ; Feb. 5, 9, very cold, 11, 12, and 21 ; March 9, 21, 26 and 28. From March 25—29 was a continued storm of snow, rain, hail, thunder and extreme wind. It began with snow and ended with snow.

1700.

SNOWS, Nov. 11, 24 and 29 ; Dec. 3 and 14 ; Jan. 1, 6, 13, issued in warm rain ; 16, 20, very stormy, issued in rain ; 24 and 30, both very stormy ; Feb. 5, stormy ; 8, 10, issued in rain ; 12, 15, 17, 28 ; March 3, 4, 17, 21, 23 and 27.

1701.

SNOWS, Oct. 28 ; Nov. 23 and 24 ; Dec. 19, 20 and 29 ; Jan. 3, 7, 11, 12, 13, 18, 21, 22, 24, issued in rain ; 28, 29 and 30 ; Feb. 4, 6, 18 and 23 ; March 3, 6, 9 and 23.

1702.

SNOWS, Nov. 20, issued in rain ; Dec. 1, 7 and 8, very cold and stormy ; December 22 ; January 14, 15, 19, 20 and 23 ; March 6, 12 and 15.

1703.

First snow, Sept. 28, very cold.

Oct. 6, 7, 8, very cold storm of rain ; 24, very fine warm sabbath ; 31, very cold, windy sabbath.

SNOWS, Nov. 2, 10, 14, 15, 19, 21, and 28 ; Dec. 3, 26, very cold, windy, stormy ; Jan. 3, 10, 16 and 19 ; Feb. 1, 7, 19 and 29 ; March 7.

Winter began Oct. 31, and ended March 7.

Nov. 22, a poor man lost his life going after his team in the night between Boston and Roxbury. That day and the next were extreme cold and windy.

1704.

Oct. 29, extreme northwest wind, cold and black—sabbath day.

SNOWS, Nov. 10, 11, 12, very cold, windy sabbath, 13, very cold, issued in a great rain, 17, mild, 26, very stormy ; Dec. 17, sabbath, very cold, 22, cold, 25, cold ; January 5, 11, 15, very stormy and searching ; 18 and 24, stormy ; Feb. 8 ; March 3, issued in great rain, 4 and 11 ; April 12, 16, very cold, windy storm.

Winter began Nov. 10, and began to break up Feb. 18.

March was for the most part fine and dry ; April cold and windy ; May very wet ; the summer following we had very often wet weather on the sabbath day.

1705.

SNOWS, Oct. 22, very cold, windy and stormy ; 24, 26 and 29 ; Dec. 19, next day very windy and cold, 22, very cold, windy, stormy, 29 ; Jan. 3, 5, 23, 27 and 30, very stormy, drifty, and cold ; Feb. 18, 20, extreme windy, hail, rain, 25, issued in rain, 27, followed with cold ; March 16, issued in rain, 20 and 27 ; April 12, very cold.

This year the winter began to set in hard about Nov. 19—began to break up Candlemas day. Most part of April & May was stormy, wet, cold, cloudy weather. The summer following pretty hot. The coldest was Dec. 25, the hottest day was June 29.

1706.

SNOWS, Nov. 17, 18 and 29, issued in rain ; Dec. 6, 8, 12, cold, windy, 29, cold ; Jan. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 great storm, began 11—last day was very stormy—24, stormy, 29 ; Feb. 4, 7, 14, 17 and 27 ; March 5 and 26.

This year the winter began to set in hard about Dec. 4—began to break about the 2d of March. No deep snows—many rains and thaws. A moderate winter, and fine spring. Summer following very fruitful. Fall very dry. Coldest day in the winter was Jan. 6. The summer passed without any extreme hot day. Aug. 25 was one of the hottest.

1707.

SNOWS, Nov. 11 ; Dec. 4, 5, 16 & 24 ; Jan. 5, very stormy, 7, with high, cold northwest wind, 16, 17, very black, cold, N. E. wind ; Feb. 10, 11, 12—13, very cold, black, N. E. wind, 18 ; March 9, 11, very stormy, 25, followed with violent cold, high N. W. wind.

This winter began to set in hard about 19th of December—began to break about 27th of January (though we had some winter-like weather till the latter end of March). Snows not so deep nor many this winter as formerly, but the weather extreme cold.—Spring cold, wet and backward. Summer following very hot and dry—so likewise was the fall : by which means hay and corn were cut exceeding short. Coldest day in the winter was the 2 January

if the 26 March did not exceed it. Hottest day in the summer was July 2.

1708.

SNOWS, Nov. 29; Dec. 4, 9, extreme cold N. E. wind—next day very high N. W. cold and squally; 13, 25, followed with fine weather; Jan. 10, issued in rain, 16, very stormy, 19, moist, 22, 24, 29; Feb. 2, followed with fine evening, 3, dreadful stormy, high N. E. wind, next day N. W.; 5, very still, calm, 13, very cold, stormy; April 3, sabbath morning.

Winter began Nov. 5. November and December very cold and hard. January very moderate. Greatest snow fell Feb. 3. Snow not extreme deep this winter. Spring somewhat cold and backward. Summer and fall very dry. Coldest day in the winter was Nov. 25. Hottest day in the summer following was the 19th of July.

1709.

This year an extraordinary cold storm of rain fell out about the midst of August; next day very warm and fine.

Flits of snow Nov. 21 and 24; Dec. 2, harsh, 6, flit, moist, 22; Jan. 5, 18, issued in rain, 24; Feb. 8 and 18, stormy, 24, very stormy.

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*To the Publishing Committee of the New-Hampshire Historical Society.*

GENTLEMEN:—If you think the following notices of the town of Northwood worthy of preservation, you are at liberty to insert them in your useful collections.

RECOLLECTIONS IN THE HISTORY OF NORTHWOOD, N. H.

*Introduction.* Northwood cannot boast of great antiquity of settlement, being scarcely three-fourths of a century since it presented nothing but a most dismal wilderness. Indeed, many parts of it to this day are not less solitary than a retreat among the summits of Franconia, or the White Mountains. But of these features I shall speak more in course.

The writer of this, from a long residence in the place, presumes chiefly to add such facts only as are not elsewhere.

recorded. And when it is known that he writes not from any minutes made for such end, and at a considerable distance from the place, many omissions or seeming inaccuracies will be accounted for; and although they be drawn almost wholly from recollection, yet nothing will be adventured upon without deliberation.

It is ever delightful to young persons to hear their venerable sires recount their toils; and nothing is more lasting than the impressions made on their minds in hearing adventures recounted, alike, whether of great achievements in the field, or hardships in settling a wilderness. And what son of New-England will be so ungrateful as to neglect to cast a stone on the monumental pile in memory of the authors of his enjoyments? Few subjects ought more to occupy our minds than a due reverence for the memory of our forefathers. And it may be asked, what can more stimulate the mind to virtuous actions, than to see the eminence to which such have raised others?

*Name.* Many and fruitless have been the enquiries respecting the origin of the name of Northwood. Whether it be derived from its peculiar situation, or from the great surveyor and mathematician Norwood, as some have said, or a village in England\* of that name, is yet uncertain, though the former appears most probable.

When Nottingham comprehended Northwood, as Chichester did Pittsfield, inhabitants of the lower towns used to distinguish their resorts for timber by some peculiar name: thus, there was a place called *Gebeag*† by the Indians, and

\* See Magnia Britania, III 933. "Nethwood, or Netherwood, a village where the noble family of the Devereaux's Earls of Essex had a seat."

† Many places bear this name, and mostly confirm Governor Sullivan's derivation of it. He says its Indian signification is, "a place where eels are taken," and the river passing through this place, I am assured, abounds with them.

by the lumber men, *Gebeag woods*. The immense forest to the northwest of Gebeag was denominated the *north woods*; and hence it is supposed the name originated.

*Form, situation and extent.* The form of this town is not very unlike that of the state itself, and now makes the north corner of the county of Rockingham. No observation to obtain its exact latitude has, as yet, it is believed, been made, but is doubtless very nearly set down in the valuable Gazetteer of New Hampshire, by MESSRS. FARMER & MOORE.\* The lines which bound it are neither of them parallel, nor do they approach very near such regularity. The line which divides it from Deerfield on the south meets that which divides it from Nottingham on the southeast, in nearly a right angle. The other two lines which divide it, that on the northeast from Strafford and Barrington, and that on the west from Pittsfield and Epsom, form quite an acute angle. And here it may be noted, that although this west line is put down straight in all the maps, yet where the line dividing Epsom and Pittsfield meets it, there is quite a notch; which formerly caused some difficulty between the towns of Epsom and Northwood.

Until recently the line dividing it from Pittsfield was in dispute, but has been finally settled to the advantage of Northwood.

These circumstances are hardly to be avoided. Lines in such rough countries are with great difficulty straitened before the lands are cleared, and if attempted afterward, cause difficulties among the landholders; valuable and worthy neighbors are set ever at variance by loss of land and labor. Deeds are often given and taken describing boundaries of farms in the most vague terms. As for ex-

\* Which is 43 deg. 12 min. N. as by the maps.

ample, commencing on a certain road (*at no established point*) and extending to the line dividing the towns. Hence, if for good reasons, this town line must take a different situation, it must encroach upon or enlarge the boundaries of the occupant on the one side, as it will necessarily diminish those of another upon the other side.

Exactitude is not to be expected in laying out new farms, but it must be allowed that many who undertook this task were entirely devoid of judgment, or the science, or both. Wretched lawsuits awaited such decisions, and poverty was sure to follow in the train. It is a by-word in this and other adjoining towns, to this day, in speaking of the position of things, that "it is *there* or *thereabouts*, like the old surveyor's line."

*Aspect or Face of the Country.* There are no planes of even a moderate extent, to relieve the eye from the continued monotony of the hills; and were it not for its silver lakes, Northwood would be viewed by travellers with feelings similar, perhaps, to what would be experienced by one in an uninhabited country, and at a great distance from home. It does not differ in these respects from many inland towns of New England; and the above observations may be said to apply more properly to its autumnal aspect, when

"November strips the flowery field,  
And bids the earth her verdant covering yield  
To hoary frost; when trees dishonor'd stand,  
And birds in clusters seek a foreign land."

And on the other hand, a traveller in the month of June; coming directly from under a Mississippi's sun, and passing along the turnpike road through the town, would perhaps be as much delighted, as in any place upon the globe. Indeed it has been said by one of great knowledge and experience, and as worthy and polished a gentleman as the

age has produced,\* that its bowery retreats could not be surpassed in beauty by any country; and that they forcibly conveyed to one's mind those sylvan walks of hymen, so elegantly depicted by the poets.

“ Where order in variety we see,  
 And where, though all things differ, all agree.  
 Here waving groves a chequered scene display,  
 And part admit, and part exclude the day;  
 As some coy nymph her lover's warm address,  
 Nor quite indulges, nor can quite repress.  
 There interspersed in lawns and opening glades,  
 Thin trees arise that sun each other's shades.”

“ Hence let me haste into the mid wood shade,  
 Where scarce a sunbeam wanders through the gloom,  
 And on the dark green grass beside the brink  
 Of haunted stream, that by the roots of oak  
 Roll o'er the rocky channel, lie at large,  
 And sing the glories of the circling year.”

There are many large swells of land, on which are the best farms; but one only can claim the name of mountain. This, from its supposed resemblance of a saddle, is called *Saddleback* mountain. Wits have dared to question its semblance to that article, and verily it cannot be presumed to have imitated a modern one; and to say the least, whoever bestowed this name upon it will not compare with Mrs. Hale for drawing likenesses, judging from her taking an eagle, painted on a tavern sign, for a *nighthawk*.†

*Soil and Productions.* The soil of Northwood holds out but few inducements to its inhabitants; being generally very rocky, and hard to subdue. It affords excellent pas-

\* Hon. Thomas B. Reed, member of Congress from Mississippi, who in company with the writer passed through the town on his way to West Point, 30 May, 1827.

† See Northwood, a Tale, I. 49.

tures for several years after it is cleared, then it is overrun by the *sweet fern*. Some wheat was formerly raised, but very little at present. Winter rye succeeds very well, and potatoes are very plenty, and of an excellent quality. Corn does tolerably well in warm seasons. Frosts generally come early. In 1813, nearly all of this indispensable article was cut off by it. The year following, many poor families, for several weeks together, had not a single loaf of bread. This period was afterward referred to as the year of *famine*. In 1816, on the night of the 13 August, a frost did great damage to the corn.

*Settlement and the first Settlers.* Northwood was settled in 1763. Solomon Bickford was the third who conducted a family into this wilderness. The two others, Godfrey and Batchelder, came in the spring of that year, and settled just in the edge of the town, not far from where the lower meeting-house now stands. Bickford set down a little north of a place called the *Narrows*,\* where a branch of the family still occupies. As this settlement was far the most hazardous, and made at a time when great perseverance and firmness were required, the following remarks will chiefly be confined to it and its authors.

Solomon was the son of Benjamin Bickford, who lived in Newington, near the point now connected by Pascataqua bridge. He died about the year 1767. This ancient family viewed the ravages of the Indians at the destruction of Oyster River in 1707.† The savages did not pass to that

\* So called, because here the two streams from Swain and Long ponds approach almost to meeting, when suddenly a high ridge changes their directions, and they mingle their waters at considerable distance below. The old road to Gilmanton passes along upon this ridge. These two streams form the most considerable inlet to the Suncook.

† See Belknap, Hist. New Hampshire, I. 276.

side of the river, nor was the sad catastrophe known there until the next day. It was early announced on the following morning by the howling of the dogs whose masters were carried away.

Solomon settled first in Nottingham, at a place called *Pierce's Mills*, about two miles to the eastward of the *Square*. From this place he moved to Durham, the part since made into the town of Lee, and from that place he went to Northwood, and thus the settlement of this part of the town was begun.

The day that his family arrived at their destined place of abode was rendered dreary by a snow-storm; and when their journey was finished, the shades of night had already begun to make their appearance. This was in the month of December, and two small children soon reminded them that fire was the first requisite—but by some oversight, their works for striking were missing. Now there was no other alternative but to send to the other settlement for this indispensable article. The path lay through a dense wilderness, and in the way it must at that day be traversed, was not less than seven or eight miles.

There have lived, perhaps, few more estimable citizens than Solomon Bickford. He lived to see what few may expect—a town planted and well peopled, and at the distance of sixty-seven years from its beginning. He was deacon of the Congregational church from its gathering, until disabled by age from performing the duties of the office. He died February 3, 1830, aged about 96 years. One of his sons, John,\* who is yet living, accompanied his father to Northwood, being that month 4 years of age. This son was afterwards a soldier in the revolution, during the campaigns of 1779 and 1780. The first was at Rhode Island,

\* Commonly called Sergeant Bickford, from his having held the office of first sergeant in the revolutionary army.

the last about West Point, where he was an eye witness to the treacherous proceedings of Arnold. His brother Solomon was the first of the inhabitants born in the town. This son died 23 August, 1826, aged 62 years.

Another distinguished settler of this part of the town was Samuel Johnson. He moved here from Hampton in the latter part of the year 1764. At this time there were but 12 families in the town. On his arrival at the Narrows, he encamped in the woods between two large square rocks, which seemed formed by nature for a shelter on such an occasion. This place is known to this day by the name of the *Old Camp*, and is situated a few rods to the eastward of the beautiful orchard planted by Mr. Johnson.

His first wife\* was Lydia Roberts, daughter of Alexander Roberts, who was taken by the Indians and French from Concord in 1746.† In the time of the revolution, he took care of the wives and children of such of his townsmen as bore arms in that cause, during the two first campaigns, but in that of 1777 he bore an active part, under a commission which gave him the rank of colonel; by which title he was afterwards known. He was a most useful man in a new country, from his various knowledge in the most useful mechanic arts. As a builder, he was for many years the principal in all that part of the country. The first grist-mill at the Narrows was built by him. At the same place was soon after added the first fulling-mill in the town. For 15 years he was a selectman, and was a member of the Congregational church from its organiza-

\* Colonel Johnson had a second wife, whom he survived.

† Several Indians were killed at the time he was taken, and on his return from captivity, he found the skull of one of them under the side of a certain log, where he observed him to have been buried, and for which he received a bounty from government. While Mr. Roberts lay in Quebec jail, he amused himself by making small rundlets or kegs, by means of a jack-knife only. One of these, holding about 3 pints, is still in a family of the descendants.

tion. He died the 30 March, 1822, and was interred in the family burying ground near his first wife, who was there buried about 15 years before.\*

It would be very gratifying at this time, could a correct list of all those who settled in the town during the first three or four years, be given; but few only are at present recollected, namely, John Davis, Increase and James Bachelder, Moses Godfrey, Solomon Bickford, Samuel and Moses Johnson, Joshua Hoyt, Samuel Bartlett, Joseph Brown, John Harvey, Jonathan and Taylor Clark, James Hill, Artemas and Thomas Bennet. It is not presumed that these are here named in the order of their settling, nor is it certain that they all came within four years after the first. There were a Piper, a Kilbourn, a Kenistone, a Blake, and perhaps some others, which might have been as early as some before named. Of all enumerated, but two or three remain.

The number of the first inhabitants who served in the revolutionary army was very considerable. The names of such as are recollected, who lived at that time and since, in this town, are the following: Samuel Johnson, John Bickford, Simon Bachelder, John Harvey and William Willey, all of whom, except Johnson and Harvey, are now living.

The following served in the last war against Canada: Thomas Langley, Theophilus Griffin, John Willey, son of William named above, Eleazer Watson, Gideon Moore, and John Stairboard. Langley was killed while lying in his birth in the hospital, by a cannon ball. Griffin died of sickness. The others returned and are still living.

\* Much of the above information is derived from his very intelligent grandson, Mr. Samuel Johnson, of Boston.

*Antiquities.* These consist in the remains of the Indians. The plentiful game of its woods and waters, doubtless often induced wandering bands of that race of people to visit this tract of country; and from some implements too unwieldy to be transported by them, it is concluded that certain places were at times made permanent abodes. A stone mortar of more than a hundred pounds weight was found near the Narrows by Colonel Johnson. A curiously wrought stone pipe was found near the centre of the town, and arrow heads, hatchets and war clubs in different places.

About the year 1747, one Davis, of Durham, being desirous to remove some boards from the mills in Nottingham, in that part of the town known by the name of Gebeag, and much danger being apprehended from the Indians, it being a time of war with them, was strongly urged by his friends to desist from the undertaking. Some of these enemies were known to be lurking in those woods, but whether few or many could not be ascertained; but from the destruction of cattle, horses, sheep, and other domestic animals, known to be made by them, it was concluded that their numbers were considerable. Davis being a man of much resolution, would not be dissuaded from the undertaking, and prepared for his journey. He took no weapons of defence, nor any company, except a negro boy. There was then a kind of road where the old road now is, in which his way lay; on the south side of which, and at considerable distance from it, these mills were situated. Having loaded his team, consisting of four oxen, he left the boy to drive the team, and went forward for the purpose of making discoveries. When he had proceeded a few rods, his attention was arrested by the prints of huge moccasins in the sand, which from their appearance were just made. He was struck with terror, and thought him-

self ambushed on every hand. His presence of mind did not, however, entirely forsake him, and he hurried back to his team, unyoked the oxen, told the boy what he had seen, and fled with all his might, bidding the boy to follow, toward Durham. Being six miles from any inhabitants, they were nearly exhausted with fear and fatigue when they arrived. A company of armed men were soon collected and returned to the spot, and were much surprised to find the cattle browsing and all unhurt. After the war was over, which was then near to a close, the dangerous situation from which they escaped was discovered. There lived a tribe of Indians near the north part of what is now called North River Pond, near the line which now divides Nottingham from Northwood, and within the limits of the latter. At the head of this small tribe was a chief by the name of Swausen. This chief with one of his men was out a hunting, and happened to cross the road that Davis had passed a few minutes before. He heard the team, and not knowing but that there were a large number of men with it, went directly for a reinforcement. He soon returned with a recruit, but seeing the oxen unyoked, concluded it was a stratagem to draw them into an ambush, and fled with precipitation, as Davis had done before. This tribe soon after drew off to Canada, and after the war some of them visited the frontiers, and gave this account of the affair.

*Public Buildings.* The Congregational meeting-house was the first built. It is situated near the center of the town, and was built in the old style, with two large porches, one at each end. The frame was put up soon after the town was settled, but not being covered for several years, owing to causes beyond the control of the inhabitants, it received considerable injury. In 1827, a thorough repair was meditated and commenced. The old porches were

torn down, and something very much in imitation of one of them was erected on the center of the front side. On this was built a small steeple, but a *bell* is yet wanting. An expense, which can benefit no one in the community, ought certainly to be avoided.

The lower or Freewill Baptist meeting-house was rebuilt in 1816, and dedicated August 4, 1817. And as though an important appendage, a steeple was added. A bell was at first talked of, which when obtained, may it be as permanent as useful. This steeple has often reminded the writer of the "May-pole of Ma-re Mount." Not that it will compare with the May-pole in height,\* but as endangering the safety of its erectors. This may seem a strange comparison, but I doubt not to be excused on all hands, when I shall have gone through with the application. On this steeple was erected an electric conductor, which terminated in the top of the steeple; hence should it happen, that the fluid were to pass down upon it, the house must receive the shock. The May-pole called down the vengeance of the Plymouth Pilgrims, and the inhabitants of Ma-re Mount received a due share of the shock.

*Religious Societies.* Of these there are but two; both of which, have of late, it is thought, been on the decline. Each has sustained severe losses by the death of many of their prominent members. There was a time when almost every inhabitant acknowledged themselves as belonging to one or the other. This was in what was termed the *time of the reformation*. This reformation was chiefly confined to the society of Freewill Baptists, having for their pastor Rev. Eliphalet Merrill. During this excitement this society received large additions to their numbers, and conse-

\* Which T. Morton says was 39 feet.

quently a loss was sustained by the other; hence some schisms were occasioned. And if uncharitableness be a sin to demand repentance, it is feared that some on both sides have long since been called upon by their consciences to make the atonement. In regard to this reformation, it may be observed, that there was a most singular preparatory step to conversion among many of the proselytes; it was chiefly confined to the young of both sexes, but more especially to females. They were seized with what was termed *spells*, which very much resembled fits of a nervous character, that came upon them, it was thought, at the time of conviction, and generally continued to visit them, at intervals, until conversion was realized. They seemed in much agony during their continuance, striving and shrieking in a frightful manner, until exhausted. Since the reformation, which was at its zenith in the winter of 1810, this society has declined, and their preaching has been often interrupted.

The Congregational society has progressed with a more steady pace, and although it is to be feared, yet it is hoped that it has not passed its meridian. It has recently suffered a great loss in the death of the truly amiable deacon Jonathan Piper.\* The Rev. John Tucke, of Epsom, is believed to be the *first* minister that preached occasionally in Northwood. On the church records of Epsom,† frequent mention is made of baptisms here, of the children of the first inhabitants. Rev. Mr. Clark preached occasionally before the settlement of the present worthy minister.

*Ponds.* These form a beautiful feature of almost every New-England town; but nature seems to have been more

\* He died August 3, 1829.

† These are now the property of the writer, who has made a fair copy of them. The original he proposes to deposit in the Library of the New-Hampshire Historical Society.

abundant to this vicinity, than almost any other of equal space. They are ten\* in number, namely, *Bow*, *Suncook*,† *Jenness'*, *Swain's*, *Long*, *Pleasant*, *Littlebow*, *Northriver*, *Lucas* and *Durgin's*. Of these, *Bow*, *Jenness'* and *Pleasant*, lie partly within Northwood, but *Northriver* forms merely a part of its boundary on Nottingham.

As the land has become cleared around these bodies of water, their average height is less, by several inches than formerly. To this must be attributed the decrease of fish in them. *Bow*, it is believed, is the only exception, which confirms the above observation; finer fish being taken here since its banks have been overflowed by the erection of an immense dam at its outlet. This dam was made to reserve water for the factories at Dover. A perfect description of these ponds must not here be expected, but some particulars of each follow.

1. *Bow*. This can hardly be reckoned within our precincts, as it lies almost wholly within the town of Barrington. Its principal inlet is within Northwood. Its name is supposed to be descriptive of the form, but it would not be recognized by this mark, on any of our maps which have yet appeared.

2. *SUNCOOK*. We come next in order of size to the delightful *Suncook*. This in some respects is the most delightful of them all. Its shores are so easy of access in almost every direction, that the passing angler can scarcely resist its temptations. It is nearly 3 miles in length, and three-fourths of a mile in width, forming a beautiful ellipse.

\* The authors of the N. H. Gazetteer say six, but describe eight. Perhaps they took their information from Merrill's Gazetteer of N. H.; where it is said, "There are here six ponds, viz., [1] *Suncook*, [2] *Jenness'*, [3] *Long*, [4] *Harvey's*, [5] *Great Bow*, [6] *North River*, [7] *Pleasant*, [8] *Little Bow*." This is as plain as two and two make six.

† So called by the Indians because it abounded with geese.

3. JENNESS' Pond lies chiefly within this town. It is very shoal generally. In shape it is tolerably regular, and has one very fine sandy beach, though of short extent, where the inhabitants for many miles around resort for sand, which in times past was much used to adorn their parlor floors, it being very white. It has sometimes been called *Curr's* pond, from the circumstance of two brothers of that name being drowned in it about 30 years ago. They had been hoeing corn near this beach in a very warm day, and went into the water in a high perspiration. One was taken with a cramp and called to the other for help, who in his eagerness to save his brother, lost his own life. Not being cautious, was grasped by him, and both went to the bottom. They were soon after found in this situation, each with his arms around the other. This pond lies in the northwest part of the town. Its northern shore, along which the road to Pittsfield and Gilmanton passes, is very delightful.

4. SWAIN'S, or, as it is generally called, Harvey's pond, lies near the center of the town. The name of Swain has been suggested as appropriate for this pond, from the circumstance of a worthy man of that name being drowned there, in an early period of the settlement of the town. The place where he was drowned was in a cove on the west side, opposite the residence of the late deacon Jonathan Piper. He shot some ducks, and in attempting to wade or swim in for them, was drowned. It bears the name of Harvey, from no other circumstance than that of a Mr. Harvey's being an early settler on its northwest bank. It is also known by the name of Long pond by some of the inhabitants, from its being mistaken for that of the same name next to be spoken of. This, like most of the others, is very

shoal, being on an average scarcely 25 feet deep. Its bottom is very muddy.

5. LONG pond lies about one mile southeasterly from Jenness', in a very lonesome valley, encircled about by a dense wood, save one point. It is somewhat longer than broad, and hence the origin of its name. A few small rills are its only inlets. This is one of the sources of Suncook river. The channel of this outlet is often dry in dry seasons. This was formerly considered the best fishing pond in the town; but of late the fish are neither so large nor plenty.

6. PLEASANT pond lies chiefly within Deerfield. It has more sandy beach than either of the others, according to its size. The beauty of its sands invites the inhabitants from a considerable distance, who collect it for household purposes. It is not so much used as formerly, paint having usurped its place on floors.

7. LITTLEBOW. This is a very small collection of water. It lies many miles from any inhabitants, surrounded by an immense wilderness, in a southeasterly direction from Long pond. Its form is a very regular oval, and has no resemblance to its name. A more solitary retreat than the wild shores of this pond present, cannot well be conceived in the imagination of man. Here the melancholy note of the night bird is heard throughout the day.

"And here forlorn and lost I tread,  
With fainting steps and slow;  
Where wilds, immeasurably spread,  
Seem lengthening as I go."

There is no visible inlet to this pond, it being fed by springs, but a considerable outlet. Some suppose there to be two, but from several observations upon its shores, I have been unable to discover a second. From its south-

eastern extremity issues a considerable brook, and a few years since an artificial outlet was made to convey its waters to the Narrows for the benefit of the mills. It is believed that the nature of the land between it and Long pond does not admit of an outlet in that direction, and hence an error in the Gazetteers.

8. **NORTHRIVER** is about as large as Littlebow, and its northern shore is in the line between this town and Nottingham. Its shape is circular. It was near this pond that a small tribe of Indians resided before the town was settled.

9. **LUCAS'S** pond is a small collection of water in the southeast corner of the town. It is sometimes called Bachelder's pond.

10. **DURGIN'S** pond lies about a mile north from the Narrows, and is about the size of the last mentioned. It is separated from Long pond only by a few rods of heath. It probably received its name from a person of that name who lived in its vicinity.

The writer cannot dismiss these his juvenile retreats, without calling to his aid those beautiful lines of the "Windsor Forest," more forcibly to perpetuate their memory.

"In genial spring, beneath the quivering shade,  
Where cooling vapours breathe along the mead,  
The patient fisher takes his silent stand,  
Intent, his angle trembling in his hand;  
With looks unmoved, he hopes the scaly breed,  
And eyes the dancing cork and bending reed.

Our plenteous streams a various race supply,  
The bright eyed perch with fins of Tyrian dye,  
The silver eel in shining volumes roll'd,  
The yellow carp in scales bedropp'd with gold,  
Swift trouts, diversified with crimson stains,  
And pikes the tyrants of the watery plains.\*

*Fishes.* It may be considered proper in this order to take some notice of the fishes that are found in the ponds of Northwood. And though a Walton has not treated upon angling in these little inland lakes, yet when they shall have been as long known, and the inhabitants of their shores find as much leisure as those in his country, they may be improved to as much pleasure and perhaps profit.\*

The PICKEREL† is generally the most esteemed, and is a very fine fish; they are not often taken that weigh more than four pounds, and their average weight is not above a pound and a half, though some have reported having caught them that weighed 5, and some even 7 pounds. But the writer of this, having angled as successfully in those waters as any one to his knowledge, must conclude that such were weighed in the balance of supposition. There are few fish more elegant in form and appearance than the pickerel. The color of the back is nearly a jet black, and its sides black and gold, very bright when first taken out of the water, but becomes pale as soon as the fish is dead, which is usually in about twenty minutes. The belly is white and the scales very small. They are taken three ways: 1st. A pole of from 12 to 20 feet, with a line about the same length, is provided with a hook of three fourths of an inch bow. Almost any kind of bait hooked upon it, and gently skipped along upon the surface of the water, is the most employed. 2d. In the winter a hole is cut through the ice, and a baited hook kept in motion near the bottom. 3d. In

\* Dr. Mitchell has published in the transactions of the Philos. Society of New York, for the year 1814, a memoir of the Fishes of New York;—but in his enumeration, I do not find but one fresh water fish noticed; however, he seems perfectly aware of the value of that part of ichthyology, and remarks, page 438, “Important discoveries may be anticipated from the waters of the interior country, and especially from the lakes. For the person who shall be enabled to explore those regions, in a proper manner, there will be abundant employment, and a naturalist’s reward.”

† No other names will be used, except such as the fish are here known by.

thespring after the ice breaks up, they are taken in a most destructive manner with spears.\* The sun during the day warms the shoal water near the shore, which attracts them from the cold and deeper parts. One person, sitting in the stern of a boat, paddles it softly along, while a second occupies the prow, holding a torch in one hand and a spear in the other. They are not attracted by the light, as some fish are said to be,† but as soon as they are sensible of its presence, escape to the deep water; nor are any of the fish in these ponds as I could ever discover. Almost all kinds of fish in these ponds come near the shore at this season.

The BARVIL‡ are taken in the spring of the year in great abundance with the spear. They ascend the streams from the ponds, and are taken at dams, where, the water being suddenly stopped, they fall an easy prey. Their average size is very nearly that of the pickerel. They are not taken with a hook, or very rarely; their mouth being formed only for suction. On this account they are by some called Suckers, but they are a different fish.

The SUCKER differs from the barvil in shape, being flat like a shad, but has a mouth like the barvil. These are sometimes, though erroneously, called *Chub*. They are often found among barvil in the brooks, but generally in still water, where the bottom is muddy. In warm weather they collect together like a shoal of herrings, at considerable distance from the shore, and play with their backs out of water for some time.

ROACH are of two kinds, white and red. They are taken with the hook, but are not so plenty as formerly, and will, no doubt, finally disappear. Their average weight may be

\* This was a mode of fishing used by the Indians.

† See Hist. New Hampshire, III. 67.

‡ Properly *Barbel*, which Cotton and Walton, in their "Complete Angler," say is so called from certain barbs which append to the under jaw of that fish.

about three-fourths of a pound. They are found in some ponds and not in others. There is something of singularity in this. Durgin's pond contains them, but they were never known, at least since the town was settled, in Long pond, which is separated from Durgin's only by a short piece of meadow or heath, through which a brook connects them. It was supposed that the reason why they were not found in Long and Swain's ponds was because they had no sandy shores; but when it was found that Durgin's pond contained them, this reason was exploded; this being the most sunken, and presenting the least hard shore of them all.

PERCH are as universally known, almost, as the element in which they live. They are a fish of the finest flavor, and are found in abundance in all our ponds. They are armed with sharp bones in their fins, on their back and sides. That on the back, when erected, resembles a saw.

The HOGBACK, or sun-fish as some call it, is a very attracting thing. It is about as large as the perch. In the spring he takes his stand near the shore, where the bottom is sandy, and there prepares a bed about as large over as an earthen milk-pan, and nearly as deep. This he does by means of his fins. Over this bed he buoys himself, occasionally turning around, all the while keeping watch like a sentinel, to avoid surprise. If a perch or other small fish approach his nest, he erects the sharp fins on his back, and like the animal from which he takes his name, and in this respect, which he very much resembles, starts towards them; a little sideways and slowly at first, then rushes upon them with great fury, and the intruder is glad to make his escape. He is known here by no other name than the first; is excellent food, and can hardly be distinguished from the perch when cooked. Their form is like that of the Place, but swims upright.

The SHINER. This is a very beautiful fish, and has its name from its appearance. It is not so large as the perch, and is not much esteemed for food, being very full of small bones. It is considered the best bait that can be found for pickerel. His mouth is like the roach, and his shape like the perch, though not quite so thick,

EELS are very plenty, and quite as large as those in the salt water. The best time for taking them is in the night.

POUTS are not so plenty nor so large as formerly; this is the more remarkable as they are not so much fished for. Long and Suncook ponds produced the best. In 1812, they were taken in great plenty in lowering weather, in almost every brook; but at this time they would be sought for in vain at places that then abounded with them. Their color and skin is the same as that of the eel. Their head is very large, and their mouth wide. They are found in muddy bottom, and the night is the best time for taking them. Their meat is esteemed next the eel; they considerably resemble the sculpion in shape, but their head is broader and flatter. On each side of their body and close to the head is a formidable weapon, called a *horn*, and hence the name of *Horn-pout*. This is attached to and appears no otherwise than a part of the fin. There is another upon the back. What is peculiar about these horns, is the ability of the fish to make them permanent or very pliable. Persons not accustomed to take them are very liable to be wounded by them, whose poisonous effects cause considerable swelling and pain. Although these horns they use as nimbly as another fin in swimming, yet they have the power of fixing them in a perpendicular direction from their body, so permanently that they must be broken before they can be loosened. To the back and side fins of the perch are similar horns attached, but they are always movable

and much more flexible. This is believed to be the same species of fish as that known in other places by the name of *Catfish*, but never here.

The *TROUT* is a very beautiful fish, but very few are to be found in the brooks of Northwood. Flatmeadow brook, which falls into the Suncook at its N. W. part, has the best. A few were formerly found in one of the outlets of Littlebow, and in a brook near the foot of Saddleback mountain, and perhaps a few others; they are very small.

*Streams.* Of these there are very few which can claim attention in these notes; the town being in general elevated, is the source of streams, rather than affording channels for those from other sources. The only one which can claim the name of river is the outlet of Suncook pond, which no sooner discharges itself than it is within the limits of Epsom. The outlets of Jenness', Swain's and Long ponds, being the three largest that disembody their waters within the town, dwindle to nothing in dry seasons. In some seasons no water moistens the bed of their parched channels for many days together. The chief inlet to Swain's pond is now very inconsiderable, but from its singularity in indicating storms, may be noticed. In a drought the water ceases to run for many days, according to the degrees of dryness. But water is sure to ooze from the ground so as to run in its channel before a rain; so that in extreme dry times this brook is narrowly watched by those living near it, who hail its rising with joy, being never disappointed of rain within twenty-four hours after the phenomenon is observed. It is called Bunker's brook, because a hunter of that name was killed upon it. The place where he was killed is about half a mile from the turnpike, at the point where it crosses the brook, which is

a few rods north of Rev. Josiah Prentice's house. It is storied that this hunter sat his gun by a bush and lay down to drink; when suddenly it fell down, and a twig caused it to go off, which happened to fall in a direction to discharge its contents into his body. "Those who delight in the marvellous," relate that strange noises are heard at the place where he was killed. It is a dreary place, and the shrill note of the night bird, on such imaginations, is sufficient to perpetuate such a belief. Indeed there are but few of the inhabitants of Northwood, even to this day, who do not believe in the apparitions of departed friends, and that witches are omnipresent. And this with a devotedness "that would do honor to a better cause." Until 1814, the ruins of one of the first saw-mills built in the town were to be seen about half way between where the brook crosses the turnpike and *Wiggin's* meadow. About that time a grist-mill was erected upon the spot, but the water growing less every year, rendered it in two or three years entirely useless.

It is said in the "Gazetteer of New-Hampshire,"\* that the water which falls from the eaves of a certain barn in this town runs into three different rivers. The barn meant was that owned by the late Jonathan Clarke, Esq. But it is believed that in regard to this circumstance, the editor was mistaken; the writer of this, from observations upon the spot, was unable to come to such a decision.

*Beasts.* Dr. Belknap, in the third volume of his History of New-Hampshire, has said nearly all that need be said on this head. I will remark therefore on but few of them.

\* This work was got into a state of forwardness by Phineas Merrill, Esq., of Strat-ham, but he dying about 1814, the work came into the hands of Eliphalet, his brother, of Northwood, who after considerable delay caused it to be published. Some of the errors are probably chargeable to those whom the latter employed to correct it, before going to the press; he not choosing to trust his own grammatical knowledge.

The BEAVER disappeared immediately after the town was settled, though some of their monuments still remain. Only one, however, is known to the writer, which is a dam, very firm and perfect, across the principal inlet of Suncook pond. Many stories are told of the wonders of this curious animal. One who wrote very early upon the Natural History of this part of the country, has this passage in his description of the Beaver,\* which as a curiosity is extracted. After describing the wolf he says: "The next in mine opinion fit to be spoken of is the Beaver; which is a beast ordained for land and water both, and hath fore [four] feete like a Cunny, [Cony,] her hinder feete like a goose, mouthed like a Cunny, but short eared, like a serat; fishe in summer and wood† in winter, which he conveys to his house, built on the water, wherein he sits with his taile hanging in the water, which else would overheate and rot off. Hee cuts the bodies of trees down with his fore teeth,‡ which are so long as a boare's tuskes; with the help of other Beavers (which held by each others tayles, like a teame of horses, the hindmost with the logg on his shoulder stayed by one of his fore feete against his head,) they draw the logg to the habitation appointed§; placing the

\* N. Eng. Canaan, 77.

† "The Beaver feeds in preference on young wood of the birch, aspen, and poplar trees." Henry, 128.

‡ See Carver's Travels, 462.

§ "It must be observed," says Hearne, *Journey*, 228, "that the Beaver which build in rivers and creeks, always cut their wood above their houses, so that the current, with little trouble, conveys it to the place required." See also Carver, *ut supra*. But I do not find the story of their forming themselves into teams corroborated, though Carver, 461, says that "when they are about to choose themselves habitations, they assemble in companes sometimes of two or three hundred, and after mature deliberation fix on a place," &c., but whether that author was ever present in one of these conventions, he does not inform us. The story of their removing logs with their tails is believed by many in New-England.

logs in a square,\* and so by piling one upon another, they build up a howse which with boghes is covered very strongly, and placed in some pond, to which they make a damme of brush-wood, like a hedge. So strong, that I have gone on the top of it across the current of that pond. The fleshe of this beaste is excellent foode.† The fleece is a very choice furre,‡ which (before the Salvages had commerce with the christians) they learned of the tayle. This beaste is of a masculine vertue, for the advancement of Priapus, and is preserved for a dish for the Sachems." Even the Indians have not surpassed many travellers, in their astonishing accounts of the Beaver. These people say, they "were formerly a people endowed with speech, not less than with the other noble faculties they possess; but the great Spirit has taken this away from them, lest they should grow superior in understanding to mankind."§ Dr. Belknap|| refers to Hearne's Journey for the best account of the Beaver; we may now add Hearne, Carver, Charlevoix, Long, and especially Godman. The former being not often met with, and merely referred to by Belknap, will excuse the extracts in these Recollections.—From the following it will be seen with what extravagance the subject has been treated. "I cannot refrain from smiling," says Mr. Hearne,¶ "when I read the accounts of

\* This agrees very nearly with Hearne's account, 233.

† Ibid, 226, and Henry, 138, who says the tail is reckoned a choice morsel.

‡ "They vary in color. The most valuable are black; but the general color is a chestnut brown, more or less dark. Some have been found entirely white, others spotted; but both these kinds are very rare." Bewick, 115. This author has followed Buffon and Goldsmith in too many of their fables. Major Long seems to have heard of "three specimens" of this animal. See Expd Rocky Mountains, I. 464.

§ Henry, 130, 131, where may be seen much curious information.

|| Hist. N. Hampshire, III. 115.

¶ Journey, 231.

different authors who have written on the œconomy of these animals, as there seems to be a contest between them who shall most exceed in fiction. But the compiler of the *Wonders of Nature and Art* seems, in my opinion, to have succeeded best in this respect, as he has not only collected all the fictions into which other writers on the subject have run, but has so greatly improved on them, that little remains to be added to his account of the beaver, beside a vocabulary of their language, a code of their laws, and a sketch of their religion, to make it the most complete natural history of that animal which can possibly be offered to the public." The Beaver appears to have been common both to Europe and America. "Before the discovery of America, we find in the ancient books of the hatters of Paris, regulations for the manufacture of Beaver Hats."\*

The OTTER is now nearly if not entirely extinct here. There was one caught in Suncook pond as late as 1814.

The MUSQUASH, or MUSKRAT. This interesting little animal not only very much resembles the beaver in form but in habit. He builds his house in nearly the same manner; usually upon a bed of hassocks, or in a bunch of alders, surrounded by water. It has generally several apartments, which the occupants are compelled to build, one above another, as the water rises. The beaver's house doubtless contains several rooms from the same cause, but which have given rise to the notion that they were built with great elegance, containing a dining room, kitchen, &c. The musquash completes his cabin by the last of August. The meadows and ponds were formerly very full of them, but for several years they have been growing scarce. They are very easily taken, in steel traps or wicker nets. Seven

\* Charlevoix, *Jour. of a Voyage to N. America*, I. 151.

of them have been taken in one of these nets or pots at a time. The method is this: the pot is let down just below the surface of the water, in a sluggish brook where they are known to swim up and down, and strips of boards or sticks are set up like stakes from each side of the net to the shores, so close together that they cannot swim between, and a wide piece edgewise upon the mouth of the net. When the animal comes to this fence, he dives down to find a passage under it, and thus makes his way into the snare. Their color is very nearly that of the beaver, and the skins of the old ones have sometimes been sold among them for the skins of that animal. Twenty years ago their houses were to be seen in almost every meadow, but at this time they seldom are met with; being few, they live in burrows, in the banks of streams and ponds.

The subject of Zoology is always interesting, and every reader must be aware that the field is yet but partially cultivated. Little can be expected from a mere common observer, who views these subjects only as an occasional sportsman.

**MINERALOGY.** Iron ore and Black Lead are perhaps the principal; neither of these are known however to be very plenty. On a tract of land owned by Rev. Mr. Prentice, there is a considerable quantity of the former, but of a very inferior quality, as experiment has proved. The latter has been found in a very pure state, but as yet in small quantities.

**TREES.** The pine was formerly the most plenty; and but for which, Northwood might have remained many years longer uninhabited. It was a long time after the first settlement before the inhabitants turned their attention to much except lumber; and it was not until this began to fail that agriculture was much depended on.

The OAK grew here in perfection. It was chiefly manufactured into staves and ship timber. The original growth is now nearly gone, and the young trees do not thrive. Cowley has attempted to perpetuate its remembrance in connexion with a great achievement to which it was made subservient, in the following lines.

“ And Drake's brave Oak that past to worlds unknown,  
 Whose toils, O Phœbus, were so like thy own;  
 Who round the earth's vast globe triumphant rode,  
 Deserves the celebration of a God.  
 O let the Pegasus ships no more  
 Be worship'd on the too unworthy shore;  
 After her wat'ry life, let her become  
 A fixt star, shining equal with the Ram.”

These and the other forest trees are the same in general as described in the History of New Hampshire, as common to the state.

CONCLUSION. If what is here offered to the public have a tendency to correct any prevailing erroneous opinions, or cause any to look to the important subject of the beginnings of their country, it is the end for which it has been written. Should it come under the eye of an inhabitant of the place upon which it is composed, much will occur to him that ought not to have been omitted; but let such remember that *they* should not neglect to record what is known to them, while in their power. If all that might, should do this, throughout a state, who could without any detriment to their ordinary concerns, we should soon have what is desired. We cannot have a good account of our state, unless we first have a good account of the parts which compose it. Should errors be discovered, it must be considered that such have been honestly committed, and that they are hardly to be avoided entirely, under the most favorable circumstances for such a work.

Yours truly, A—N B—E.

Dec. 17, 1830.

*To the Publishing Committee of the New Hampshire Historical Society.*

GENTLEMEN — Having met with several original papers, during my investigations into the early history of this section of the country, I select the following and submit them to your disposal for publication, if considered worthy of a place in your forthcoming volume of collections. They are faithfully copied from the originals, and contain, among other important facts, undoubted proof, that the assertion that Maj. Simon Willard “was cashiered” for his brave defence of Brookfield in Aug. 1675, and “died of a broken heart,” first published by Rev. Dr. Fiske, of Brookfield, and repeated by other writers, and *recently* by Hon. Mr. Baylies, in his Hist. of Plymouth Colony, rested entirely on tradition, and is without foundation. If any thing had taken place, as represented, he certainly would not have been offered the office of commander-in-chief of the army more than six months after the court, and received 1278 votes for the office of magistrate, just at the close of life, and which were not counted till he was actually dead.

Without further comment,

I am, with great respect, yours,

LEMUEL SHATTUCK.

*Concord, Mass., Dec. 25, 1830.*

## I.

[Return of the Commissioners "about the Beaver Trade.]"

The Returne of yr Committee, bestrusted to Agree with such as presented to carry alonge yr Trade of furr, Including In our agreements yr prohibitinge them of Trading Comodytyes by the Court prohibited.

	<i>L. S. D.</i>
1. Impr. we Contracted with yr Worpll Major Willard and Mr. Brenton, William Wheeler and Tho. Hinksman, for yr Trade of Merrimack,	25: 00: 00
2. Thomas Broocks and petnors for yr Trade of Concord,	05: 00: 00
3. Mr. Pinchon for yr Trade of Springfield and of Norwottock for one year, in regard of the present Commotions among the Indians	20: 00: 00
4. John Stedman for yr Trade of Cambridg.	02: 00: 00
5. Mr. John Tinker for the Trade of Nashoway and Grotton for this year,	08: 00: 00
6. John Parmiter for yr Trade of Sudbury,	2: 00: 00
One put in for Jno. Stone for Whipsepheridge,	5: 00: 00
The Trade to begin from ye 1st of the 5th moth 1657: to pay in Beuer.	

RICHARD RUSSELL,  
EDWARD JOHNSON,  
EDWARD COLLINS,  
EDWARD TYNGE.

The Deputyes approve hereof and doe order the same to be recorded, desiring the consent of or honrs magistrates hereto.

WILLIAM TORREY, *Clerk.*

Consented to by the Magystrates.

R. BELLINGHAM, *Dept Govr.*

## II.

[*Letter from the Council to Major Simon Willard.*]

SIR,—The Council received your letter, and are sorry for your excuse for not coming to the council, By reason of the state of Lancaster, which wee desire you to endeavour to the utmost of your power to Releive and succor. Wee are using our best endeavour to prepare more forces to send to distrest the enemy. You shall here more from us speedily and in the Interim: february being now come, we desire you to be in a readiness if you should have a full comand over the forces to be sent forth from this colony.

EDWARD RAWSON, *Sec.*

11 febr. 1675. [11 Feb. 1676.]

## III.

[*Letter from the "Committee of the militia" of Chelmsford.*]

To our Honord Governour and Counsail in Boston. Mercy and peace May it please yor Honors.

We have judged our Duty, to acquaint to you, with or present condition, and danger of following or Brethren and Neibors in the Horrible distructiens, ruines, and loss of our owne lives and or relations. The Savages have been for a day or two discovered to have ranged aboite or Borders: and this morning about an hower and halfe after sunrising, Joseph Parker of this place, with his son, coming for the Hon'd Major Willard, about fower mile from or meeting house, along by some houses perteyning to this towne, now against one house standing nigh the way. way-layed, and had ye Indian Bullets thicke (as they Report) about them,

and were followed, by about 10 milke guns, discharging at them and shouting: they rood fast to escape them; the young man was wounded in his shoulder by a musket Bullet, as cut out on the other side of his Arme, and as we conceive, by pistol Bullets his cloathes torne in several places. Or men, ye inhabitants of ye saide place, never came away into toune over-night, but some as we heare gone up hastily this morning, to see after their cattle; we are in such a posture, as without God's extraordinarye help, we see not how we can stand against the enemy. Or Garrisons are so weake, and or men so scattered about their personal occasions: that we are without rational hope, for want of men, and what is otherwise necessary. Arguts. we shall not need to use to yr Wisdoms to consider or necessity of help: If or frontiere Towns be cutt off, what will be the consequence, 'tis not for us to say. We leave it humbly unto yr Hon'd to doe as God shall persuade yr hearts. Commending all yr and our concerns unto the Lord Almighty, and subscribe

Yr Hon'dr to command.

Chelmsford, 15 of 12. 75. [15 Feb. 1676.]

*Post Scr.* May it please to understand, yt parte of or men are abroad with Majr Willard; upon public service, whereby we are the more enfeebled.

SAM. ADAMS,  
SAMUEL FLETCHER,  
WILLIAM FLETCHER.

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At the motion and request of Lieft Henchman of Chelmsford, about quitting his house at Merrimack,

The Council declare yt they are willing for the present to continue the file of solders yt are there as formerly, and

that Mr Henchman is impouered to take in any persons to abide with him to Keepe Garrison, and for their encouragement he shall abide neer to grant such persons liberty to improve any part of the Indians' laud within the bounds of Wameset and Naamkeke untill the Council or General Court take further order.

[Past 21 March, 1675-6.]

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*To the Constables of Chelmsford, Bilerekey, Andover and Wooburne.*

You and every of you are hereby required in his ma'ties name within your respective towns, to impress carts, boards, or other things necessary to build a fortification and shelter at Pautuket falls neare Merrimack river, under the command of Samuel Hunting, for which this shall be yor warrant, and further more the townes afforesaid are to take notice, yt if at any time you be assaulted, you may send to the said Samuel Hunting for succor, whom we have ordered to give you ayd as occasion shall require. Dated 19 April, 1676.

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IV.

*The Names of eighteen Gentlemen, who had most Votes for Magistrates for the year ensuing, as appears at opening the sd Votes at Boston—April 11t: 1676, with the number of votes for each.*

John Leverett, Esqr.	1320	Ric. Russell, Esqr.	1225
Sam'l Symonds, Esqr.	1281	Tho. Danforth, Esqr.	840
Simon Bradstreet, Esqr.	974	Wm. Hathorne, Esqr.	1052
Daniel Gookin, Esqr.	446	Jno. Pynchon, Esqr.	709
Daniel Denison, Esqr.	976	Edwd. Tyng, Esqr.	1183
Simon Willard, Esqr. dead,	1278	Wm. Stoughton, Esqr.	950

Tho. Clarke, Esqr.	1045	Mr. Peter Bulkely,	492
Mr. Joseph Dudley,	669	Capt. Hopestill Foster,	456
Capt. Nath. Saltonstall,	537	Major Tho. Savage,	441

[Signed by] GEORGE CORWIN, for Essex, Comsr.  
 JOHN RICHARDS, for Suffolk,  
 ANTHONY STODDARD, for Hampshire,  
 JAMES RUSSELL, for Middlesex,  
 PETER AYER, for Norfolk,  
 ROBERT BURNUM, for Dover and Portsmouth,  
 JOHN WINCOLL, for Yorkshire.

## V.

[*Letter from James Parker to the Honred Govner and Council at Bostown: hast post hast.*]

From Mr. Hinchmane's farme ner Meremack:

23: 1 mo: 1676-77.

To the Honred Govner and Counsell. This may informe youer honores that Sagamore Evanalanset [Wonalanset] come this morning to informe me, and then went to Mr. Tinge's to informe him that his son being one ye outhersid of Meremack River a hunting, and his dauter with him up the River over against Souhegan upon the 22 day of this instant, about tene of the clock in the morning, he discovered 15 Indens on this sid the River, which he soped to be Mohokes by ther spech. He called to them, they answered, but he culd not understand ther spech; and he having a conow ther in the River, he went to breck his conow that they might not have ani ues of it, in the mene time thay shot about thirty guns at him, and he being much frighted fled and come home forthwith to Nahameok, wher ther wigowemes now stand.

Not Eles at present, but Remain youer sarvant to comand.

JAMES PARKER.

Re'd 9 night 24: muh 76-7.

## VI.

*Account of People Distressed by the War in the Massachusetts Colony, taken Jan. 22, 1676-77.*

		<i>L. S. D</i>
In Boston,	116 familyes, containing 402 persons,	60 6 0
In Salem,	61 295	44 5 0
In Sudbury,	12 48	7 4 0
In Marblehead,	45 185	27 5 0
In Cambridg,	14 61	9 3 0
In Dorchester,	6 21	3 3 0
In Rowly,	4 12	1 16 0
In Lyn,	9 36	5 8 0
In Oburn,	8 43	6 9 0
In Billerica,	1 4	0 12 0
In Andover,	1 5	0 15 0
In York,	17 53	7 19 0
In Manchester,	3 9	1 7 0
In Dover,	5 15	2 5 0
In Watertown,	19 76	11 8 0
In Concord,	18 72	10 16 0
In Weymouth,	6 24	3 12 0
In Milton,	3 9	1 7 0
In Roxbury	9 36	5 8 0
In Portsmouth,	20 90	13 10 0
In Hull,	4 16	2 8 0
In Kittery old,	7 27	4 1 0
In Kittery new,	7 27	4 1 0
In Charlestown,	29 102	15 6 0
In Deadham,	8 36	5 8 0
In Chettinford,	11 44	6 12 0
In Hingham,	4 12	1 16 0
In Gloster,	1 6	0 18 0
In Ipswich,	1 6	0 18 0
In Newbury,	3 12	1 16 0
In Topsfield,	1 6	0 18 0
In Brentry,	9 36	5 8 0

			<i>L. D. S.</i>
In Beverly,	9 families, containing	36 persons,	5 8 0
In Hampton,	2	12	1 16 0
In Meadfield,	19	71	11 8 0
In Malden,	14	52	7 16 0
In Mudyriver,	1	7	1 1 0
In Wenham,	3	12	1 16
		1921	
38 towns,	510		
Allow for 9 towns not brought in,		370	54 0 0
		2321	
Additions to Boston,		30	6 0 0
		2351	363 3 0

Boston, Jan. 22, 1676, ie. 1677.

*Mr. Dean Taylor, Paul Dudley,*

You are ordered to deliver unto the select Men of the several Towns Mentioned in this list the Sums apporioned to them herein In meal, oatmeal, wheat, malt at 18s per ball, butter 6*d* and cheese 4*d* per pound out of the Irish Charity in your hands, whose several receipts for so much shall be your discharge.

This order above written woss passed by the Govnor and magistrates this 25th January, 1676, [ie. 1677,] for the distribution of the Irish Charity according to the lists on the other side as

*Attest* EDWARD RAWSON, *Secretary.*

By their order.

*Sketches of the Graduates of Dartmouth College from the foundation of that Institution in 1769.*—BY JOHN FARMER.

1771.

LEVI FRISBIE, A. M., the first named graduate on the catalogue of Dartmouth College, was a native of Branford, Connecticut, and born in April, 1748. At the age of six-

teen or seventeen, he was placed under the patronage of Rev. Eleazer Wheelock, D. D., with a special view to the ministry. In 1767, he entered Yale College, where he continued more than three years; but his college studies were completed at Dartmouth in 1771. He was installed as the successor of Rev. Nathaniel Rogers, at Ipswich, 7 February, 1776, having been the preceding year ordained as a missionary, in which character he extended his labors to different parts of the country, and into Canada. There is an abstract of his Journal of a Mission with Rev. David McClure to the Delaware Indians, west of the Ohio, in the years 1772 and 1773, annexed to Rev. Dr. E. Wheelock's Continuation of the Narrative of the Indian Charity School, printed at Hartford in 1773.

Mr. Frisbie was highly esteemed at Ipswich, and his ministry was peaceful and happy, and at different periods eminently useful. His life displayed the meekness, humility and benevolence of the christian. He died 25 February, 1806, after a ministry of thirty years, and in the 58th year of his age. The late Levi Frisbie, professor of the Latin language, and afterwards of Moral Philosophy at Harvard University, was his son. He graduated at that institution in 1802, and died 9 July, 1822, aged 38 years.—*Allen's Biog. Dict.*

SAMUEL GRAY, A. M., the only graduate of the first class now living, belongs to Windham in Connecticut, where for more than forty years previous to 1828, he had discharged the duties of clerk of the court. He was engaged in the war of the revolution, soon after which he returned to his native place, where he has resided ever since. He was clerk for the county of Windham of the superior court, and a magistrate of the county in 1821. He attended the commencement at the college at which he graduated in 1827.

SYLVANUS RIPLEY, A. M., was early ordained as a missionary. He became the first professor of Divinity in 1782. He had previously been a tutor. The next year after he graduated, he went on a mission to the Indian tribes in Canada, from which he returned on the 21 September, 1772, and "brought with him eight youths from the Cahgnawaga, and two from the Loretto tribe of Indians," to receive an education at the Indian Charity School, incorporated with the college. The number of Indian children then at Hanover was eighteen. Professor Ripley was appointed a trustee of the college in 1776, and remained as such until his death in July, 1787. He ministered for a number of years to the church connected with the college. See President E. Wheelock's Narrative. Rev. Messrs. M'Clure and Parish's Memoirs of Rev. Eleazar Wheelock.

JOHN WHEELOCK, LL. D., S. H. S., Mass. and New York, was son of Rev. Eleazar Wheelock, D. D., the founder and first president of the college, and was born at Lebanon, Connecticut, in 1754. He succeeded to the presidency on the death of his father in 1779, and was inducted into the office of professor of Civil and Ecclesiastical History in 1782. For a considerable period, historical investigations employed much of his time, and he once issued a prospectus for publishing a philosophical history which which was probably relinquished for want of sufficient patronage. His printed works were only a few occasional pamphlets, which are sufficiently known to the public. President Wheelock was a member of several of the learned societies of this country. He was elected a corresponding member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 25 August, 1807, but he never contributed any thing to the volumes of their Collections. He was the president of the college until 1815. He died 4 April, 1817, aged 63. This

sketch is purposely made short, as there is a full account of him in the *Eulogy by the Hon. Samuel C. Allen*.

1772.

EBENEZER GURLEY, A. M., of whom the writer has obtained no information excepting what the catalogue furnishes, it appears received ordination as a minister, and died as early as 1798.

AUGUSTINE HIBBARD, A. M., was a native of Windham, Connecticut, and born 7 April, 1748. He was ordained the second minister of Claremont, as successor to Rev. George Wheaton, 20 October, 1774. He joined the American in Army 1776, as chaplain in the regiment under the command of Col. Timothy Bedel, and returned in December following. In July, the following year, he was appointed chaplain in the brigade of General John Stark, when destined for Saratoga. He returned in October, 1777, to his people, with whom he remained until 1785, when he was dismissed. Mr. Hibbard removed to the British dominions, and in 1830, resided at Stanstead, Lower Canada, where he has sustained the office of magistrate under the crown many years.

1773.

STEPHEN DAVIS, A. M., appears to have been living when the last triennial Catalogue was printed.

JAMES DEAN, A. M., was early employed on missionary service. In the month of May, before he graduated, he sat out with Mr. Ripley, of the first class, on a mission to visit the Indians at Penobscot, and on the bay of Fundy. In President Wheelock's Continuation, printed at Hartford in 1773, I find the following: "Mr. Dean has now finished his course of studies here, and upon finding, as I have already mentioned, that he may with little expense be able to preach to the Hurons freely in their own tongue, has deter-

mined, if God pleases, when he has perfected himself in the French tongue, to enter on a mission, and with a proper companion, preach as an itinerant, not only to the Six Nations (with whom he lived many years from his youth) but to the tribes that can understand him, to a thousand miles end, if such there are at that distance." Mr. Dean appears to have been living in 1828.

EMERSON FOSTER, A. M., brother of Rev. Dan Foster, for many years a preacher at Charlestown, in this state, was ordained of the North parish in Killingley, Connecticut, from whence he was dismissed. He was also the minister of Orange, Massachusetts.

JOSEPH GROVER, A. M., was settled in the ministry, and was living in 1828.

DAVID HUNTINGTON, A. M., a native of Lebanon, Connecticut, was ordained the minister of Marlborough, from whence he was dismissed. He was installed over the Strict-Congregationalists within the First Society of Middletown, Conn., 8 November, 1797; dismissed in 1800, and was afterwards settled over the Third Society of Lyme, where he died 13 April, 1811, in the 67th year in his age, having sustained the character of a very pious man.—*Field's Statistical Account of Middlesex County*, 48, 139.

JOHN SMITH, D. D., was born in the parish of Byfield, in Massachusetts, 21 December, 1752, and was prepared for college at Dummer Academy under the celebrated Master Samuel Moody. He was appointed professor of the Greek, Hebrew and other oriental languages in Dartmouth college, in 1778, and continued in that office until his death, May, 1809, at the age of 56. He published the "New-Hampshire Latin Grammar," and an edition of Cicero de Oratore

in Latin, with notes, and a "Hebrew Grammar, without points, designed to facilitate the studies of the Scriptures," &c. Professor Smith left several children, of whom John W. Smith, born 25 April, 1786, died in London, 19 February, 1814.—*See President J. Wheelock's Eulogium.*

## 1774.

THOMAS KENDALL, A. M., was employed as a missionary before he graduated. He sat out on a mission to the Indians in Canada, with several other members of the college, on the 15th June, 1773, intending to learn the Indian and French language. In the Continuation before quoted, I find the following respecting him. "Mr. Kendall found a very eminent situation for learning what he had in view at Mrs. Stacy's at Cahgnawaga, and soon found himself so

NOTE.—The following persons, educated at other Colleges, were admitted to the degrees specified, at the Commencement in 1773.

JOHANNES WENTWORTH, LL. D., et Harv. et Oxon. et Aberd. Neo-Hant. Prov. Gub., et Nov. Scot. Prov. Gub., Bart., Curator.

*Stephanus Williams*, S. T. D., Mr. Harv.

*Samuel Haven*, S. T. D., et Edin. Mr. Harv.

*Elisceus Marsh*, Mr. et Harv. et Yal.

*David Sherman Rowland*, Mr. et Yal.

Johannes Hurd, Mr. et Harv.

Johannes Hotchkiss, Mr. et Harv. et Yal. et Neo-Cæs.

Johannes Wendell, Mr. et Harv.

*Eden Burroughs*, Mr. et Yal., S. T. D., Curator.

SIMEON OLCOTT, Mr. et Yal. Neo-Hant. Reip. Cur. Sup. Jurid. Princ., Rerumpub. Fœd. Sen., Curator.

Ebenezer Gray,\*Mr. et Yal.

*Obadiah Noble*, Mr. et Neo-Cæs.

Elija Williams, Mr. et Harv.

Bezaleel Woodward, Mr. et Yal. Tutor, Math. et Phil. Nat. Prof., Secret. Thesaur., Curator.

Radulphus Wheelock, Mr. et Yal.

*Samuel Kirkland*, Mr. et Yal. et Neo-Cæs.

Oliver Whipple, Mr. et Harv.

*David Avery*, Mr. et Yal.

*David M'Clure*, Mr. et Yal. S. T. D., S. H. S. Corresp., Curator.

happy as to gain the respect of all about him, both French and Indians, and had as many Indian boys applying to him for his instruction, and more than he was well able to attend upon, which gave him an opportunity to be immediately profitable to them, while he was under the best advantage to prosecute the design of fitting himself for that service." He was afterwards settled in the ministry, and for some time, it is believed, preached at Millbury, Massachusetts.

DAVID M'GREGORE, A. M., youngest son of Rev. David M'Gregore, and grand-son of Rev. James M'Gregore, one of the first settlers, and the first minister of Londonderry, was a native of that town. He went into the army the next year after he graduated, as a lieutenant under Major Daniel Livermore of Concord. He served his country during all the war, after which he lived in Dunbarton. He obtained a captain's commission either before or soon after he left the service. He died about the year 1827 in the western part of the state of New York. His brother James, of Londonderry, was a senator in the New-Hampshire Legislature in 1793. Robert, another brother, resided in Goffstown, where he was a magistrate from 1784 for many years, and was appointed colonel of the 9th Regiment of Militia, 22 December, 1786.

JOSEPH M'KEEN, D. D., A. A. S., was born at Londonderry, 15 October, 1757, and was ordained at Beverly in May, 1785, as the successor of Rev. Joseph Willard, who was called to the presidency of Harvard college in 1781. He remained the minister of Beverly about seventeen years, when he was invited to become the president of Bowdoin college, in Maine. He was inducted into this office, 2 September, 1802; died 15 July, 1807, in the 50th year of his age, and was succeeded by the late Jesse Appleton, D. D. He published several works which possess a

respectable character, of which the titles are given in Allen's American Biographical Dictionary. He left several children, of whom Joseph M'Keen, Esq. of Brunswick, is Treasurer of Bowdoin College, and James M'Keen graduated at this institution in 1817, and received from Harvard College the degree of M. D. in 1820. President M'Keen's first American ancestor was among the first settlers of Londonderry. His name is attached to a petition dated in 1721, which is in the Secretary's office of this State. For an account of President M'Keen's character, the reader is referred to the Eulogy of Professor Jenks.

JAMES MILTIMORE, A. M., son of Mr. James Miltimore, was a native of Londonderry. He was ordained at Stratham in this State, as the successor of Rev. Joseph Adams, 1 February, 1786, and after a ministry of more than twenty-one years, was dismissed 15 October, 1807. He was afterwards installed minister over one of the churches in Newbury, Massachusetts, where he still officiates.

ELISHA PORTER, A. B., was for some years with President Wheelock, preparing for a mission to the Indians in Canada, where he intended to spend some time, to obtain an acquaintance with the inhabitants and to learn the customs and languages both of the French and Indians in order to qualify himself for a mission there. He set out in company with Mr. Kendall in June, 1773. It appears from the last triennial catalogue that he was living in 1828.

ELEAZAR SWEETLAND, A. M., a native of Hebron, Connecticut, was ordained over the society of Millington, in the east part of East-Haddam, in Connecticut, 21 May, 1777, and died 25 March, 1787, aged 36. *Field's Statistical account of the County of Middlesex, Conn.* 79, 138.

SAMUEL TAGGART, A. M., son of Matthew Taggart, of Londonderry, was born in that town about the year 1754. He was ordained over the Presbyterian church and society of Colerain, in the county of Franklin, Massachusetts, as early as 1781. He was elected a representative in Congress as early as 1804, and continued in that office until the year 1817. He died at Colerain, 25 April, 1825, at the age of 71, having retained his connexion to his society until the close of life.

CORNELIUS WATERS, A. M., was born at Millbury, in the county of Worcester, Massachusetts, 20 May, 1748. He was ordained the second minister of Goffstown, in this state, 1781, and was dismissed in 1795. His successor was the Hon. David L. Morrill, late governor of New-Hampshire. Mr. Waters was installed at Ashby, Massachusetts, 14 June, 1797, was dismissed by the town, 10 January, 1816, and died 30 July, 1824, at the age of 76.

1775.

NATHANIEL ADAMS, A. M., was appointed clerk of the Superior Court of New-Hampshire soon after the revolutionary war closed, and remained in office until his death, 5 August, 1829, and was attending to his official duties at Exeter, at the time he died. He was the oldest justice of the peace throughout the state, in New-Hampshire, having been appointed to that office, 28 February, 1792. He was one of the founders of the New-Hampshire Historical Society, in 1825, and contributed the first article in the first volume of their Collections. Besides discharging the du-

NOTE.—*Benjamin Pomroy*, S. T. D., Mr. Yal. Curator.

*SAMUEL PHILLIPS*, Mr. L.L. D. Harv., A. A. S., Mass. Reip. Vice Gub., Curator.  
*Georgius Gilmore*, Mr.

*Dan Foster*, Mr. et Yal. et Harv.

ties belonging to his office, which for many years were very arduous, requiring his attendance in all the counties in the state, he found time for collecting many historical materials, and in 1825, presented to the public his "Annals of Portsmouth, comprising a period of Two Hundred Years from the First Settlement of the Town; with Biographical Sketches of a few of the most respectable inhabitants." 8vo. pp. 400. It was expected that a particular memoir of his life would appear from some of his friends at Portsmouth, soon after his decease. He was about 73 years of age.

SAMUEL COLLINS, A. B., was ordained the second minister of Sandown, being the successor of Rev. Josiah Cotton, 27 December, 1780, and was dismissed 30 April, 1788. The same year of his dismissal, he went to Hanover, in this State, and was installed over the church and society in that place in November, from which he was dismissed in 1795. He died before the year 1816.

SYLVESTER GILBERT, A. M., from Connecticut, was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts at Yale college in 1788. From the catalogue of that institution, it appears that he was a member of Congress.

ELISHA HUTCHINSON, A. M., from Connecticut, was ordained the first minister of Pomfret, Vermont, 14 December, 1784, and was dismissed 8 January, 1795. He was succeeded in 1805, by Rev. Ignatius Thompson.—*Thompson's Gazetteer of Vermont*, 220.

JAMES HUTCHINSON, A. B., probably died young, as the triennial catalogue for 1798 has his name starred.

ANDREW JUDSON, A. M., was early employed as a missionary, and accompanied Messrs. Kendall and Porter on their mission to Canada in 1773. He was afterwards settled in the ministry at Ashford, Connecticut.

DAVID KELLOGG, D. D., has long been the minister of Framingham, Massachusetts, having been settled there as early as the year 1781. He was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts at Yale college in 1778. His doctorate he received from his Alma Mater in 1824.

WILLIAM MAY, A. M., died before the year 1816. Nothing has been obtained relative to him.

BENJAMIN OSBORN, A. B., was ordained at Tinmouth, in Vermont, September, 1780; dismissed October, 1787. He was afterwards the first minister of Wallingford, in the same state.—*Thompson's Gazetteer of Vermont*, 259, 270.

DAVENPORT PHELPS, A. M., from Connecticut, was settled in the ministry, from which he was dismissed, and died sometime before 1816, it is believed in Piermont, in this state.

SAMUEL STEBBINS, A. M., from Connecticut, was settled over the Congregational society in Simsbury, Connecticut, where he was in office in 1798. He was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts in Yale college in 1778.

1776.

ABEL CURTIS, A. M., died early in life.

EXPERIENCE ESTABROOK, A. M., was ordained the first minister of Thornton, in the county of Grafton, 10 August, 1780, and was dismissed 18 October, 1787. He went the

*John Fuller*, Mr. and *Ebenezer Cleaveland*, Mr. et Yal, not alu ni et Dartmouth were admitted to degrees in 1775.

same year to Plainfield, in the county of Grafton, and was installed minister of the second Congregational church in that town, 6 June, 1787. He was dismissed 9 May, 1792, and a correspondent informs me that he died at Thornton in 1810, although the triennial catalogue for 1798 has a star prefixed to his name. A gentleman informs me that he was a native of East-Haddam, in Connecticut.

CALEB JEWETT, A. M., studied theology, and in August, 1781, was engaged to preach six months in Gorham, Maine. In January, 1782, he received an invitation to settle there, and was ordained in November, 1783. He continued the minister there seventeen years, and ceased preaching in 1800, but was not formally dismissed. He died soon after his ministerial labors closed.—*Greenleaf's Ecclesiastical Sketches*, 90.

SILAS LITTLE, A. M., appears to have been living in 1828.

STEPHEN MARSH, A. M., died between the years 1821 and 1825, as appears from catalogues.

EBENEZER MATTOON, A. M., son, it is believed, of Ebenezer Mattoon, of Amherst, Massachusetts, was a civil magistrate in that town as early as 1790. He was elected a member of Congress from Massachusetts, in room of Samuel Lyman, and took his seat 2 February, 1801. Soon after this period, he was appointed sheriff of the county of Hampshire, and was in office as late as 1816. It appears that he was captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery company at Boston, previously to which he had been major-general of the fourth division of Massachusetts militia.

JONATHAN SHERBURNE, A. B., was from Portsmouth. It appears that he was living in 1828.

JOHN SAMUEL SHERBURNE, A. M., was cousin of the preceding, and son of John Sherburne, Esq., of Portsmouth, where he was born in 1757. He studied the profession of law, and settled in practice in his native town. He was appointed to the office of civil magistrate for the county of Rockingham, 10 October, 1788. In 1792, he was elected one of three members of congress from New Hampshire to the Third Congress, and was re-elected to the Fourth in 1794. From 1801 to 1804, he officiated as attorney for the United States District Court, and in May, 1804, presided as judge of the same court, and continued in that office until his death, 2 August, 1830, at the age of 73. He is succeeded by his Excellency Matthew Harvey.

ELEAZAR WHEELOCK, A. M., son of the founder of the college, died before the year 1816.

JAMES WHEELOCK, A. M., brother to the preceding, was appointed a justice of the peace for the county of Grafton, 12 February, 1788. He resided in Hanover.

LEVI WILLARD, A. B., was living in 1828.

SOLOMON WOLCOTT, A. B., from Connecticut, was settled in the ministry in Windsor, in that state.

1777.

ASA BURTON, D. D., was ordained the first minister of Thetford, in Vermont, 19 January, 1779, and remained in the ministry till his death, about 1827. He received his doctorate from Middlebury college, of which he was one of the fellows.

ZACCHEUS COLBY, A. M., was a native of Newtown in this state, and was born in 1749. After having completed his education at college, he began the study of theology, and

was ordained at Pembroke, 22 March, 1786. He was dismissed 11 May, 1803. He was installed over the Presbyterian church in Chester, 15 October, 1803, and remained in that connection until 1808. After this period, he was not again settled in the ministry. He died at Chester, 10 August, 1822, aged 73 years.

DANIEL FOSTER, A. M., a native of Western, Massachusetts, was ordained at New Braintree, in that state, as colleague with Rev. Benjamin Ruggles, 29 October, 1778, and died 4 September, 1795, aged 44.

JOEL FOSTER, A. M., was ordained at New Salem, Massachusetts, 9 June, 1779, from whence he was dismissed 21 June, 1802. The cause of his dismissal was the want of an adequate support. He was installed at East Sudbury, Massachusetts, as successor of Rev. Josiah Bridge, 7 September, 1803, and died 25 September, 1812, in the 58th year of his age. He possessed excellent pulpit talents, and was specially gifted in prayer.—2 *Coll. Mass. Hist. Soc.* iv. 62.

DAVID GOODALL, A. M., was born at Marlborough, Massachusetts, 24 August, 1749; studied theology with Rev. Benjamin Brigham, of Fitzwilliam, and was ordained at Halifax, in Vermont, the first minister of that town in 1781, and was dismissed in 1796. He afterwards settled at Littleton, in this state, and represented that town in the New Hampshire legislature from 1800 to 1807, and in 1809. He was appointed a civil magistrate for the county of Grafton, 13 June, 1801, and was advanced to the quorum, 2 February, 1805. He died at Littleton, 4 March, 1830, in the 81st year of his age. An account of his character was published in the New Hampshire Observer of the

31 March, 1830. His son, Ira Goodall, Esq., is an attorney at law in Bath, in this state, and has represented that town in the New Hampshire legislature.

EBENEZER HASELTINE, A. M., a native of Methuen, Massachusetts, was born 28 October, 1755. He entered Dartmouth College in 1773. He was examined with respect to his qualifications for the ministry by the Grafton Presbytery; was approved and took license to preach, 24 July, 1779. He was ordained the second Congregational minister of Epsom, in this state, 21 January, 1784. During his ministry, 87 were admitted to the church, and 363 received the ordinance of baptism. He died 10 November, 1813, in the 59th year of his age. He published a sermon at the ordination of Rev. David Lawrance Morrill, at Goffstown, and a sermon addressed to young people.—*Rev. Jonathan Curtis' Historical Sketch of Epsom*, 10—13.

SOLOMON HOWE, A. B.

WALTER LYON, A. M., was settled over the second church in Pomfret, Connecticut. He was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts in 1782.

WINSLOW PACKARD, A. M., received ordination but where, if ever settled in the ministry, I have not ascertained.

DANIEL SIMONS, A. M., was the first Indian who graduated at Dartmouth College. He was ordained at Hanover as an evangelist. Rev. Dr. Whitaker assisted in the ordination services. He was living in 1798, but died before 1816.

GEORGE TRIMBLE, A. B.

(*To be Continued.*)

AN ACCOUNT OF THE INSURRECTION IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE IN  
1786. FROM THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE MERCURY OF THE 27  
SEPTEMBER, 1786, PRINTED AT PORTSMOUTH.

The following, being as circumstantial an account of the rise, progress, and, we hope, termination of the late unparalleled proceedings of some deluded citizens of this state, as we could collect, at the same time that it shews by what insensible gradations honest, well-meaning men may be made the instruments, not only of their own, but of their country's ruin, will, it is hoped, put the inhabitants of New Hampshire on their guard, in future, against the machinations of those persons who would elevate themselves on the distresses of their fellow-citizens, and the ruin of their country:

In the beginning of the year 1785, the complaints of the unhappy people who had contracted debts during the time of the too great plenty of money, induced the legislature to pass an act, making every species of property a tender, at an appraised value. It was soon, however, found from experience, that this answered no other purpose but to prevent a demand on the part of the creditors, and a neglect on the part of the debtors, to discharge their just debts. The scarcity of money still remained a complaint; for as far as goods and real property were substituted as a medium in commerce, so far specie, of course, ceased to circulate; and credit being thus injured, the money-holders turned their keys on that cash which might otherwise have been loaned to the needy.

In August, a convention of committees from about thirty towns assembled, agreed upon, and preferred to the general court a long petition, setting forth their grievances on account of the scarcity of money, and praying for an emission of paper bills of credit, in which there is no single trace of an idea of redemption, or any one attempt to give

the currency a foundation ; but the whole seems predicated on a supposition that the general court by a mere act of legislation, by *words* and *signs*, could *impress an intrinsic value on paper* ; which is as fully absurd as it would be to suppose that the legislature had the power of Midas, and could, from a single touch, turn stones and sticks into gold. Their great object was, however, to have this paper a tender for all debts and taxes, and no plan is hinted by which the people are to get this money out of the treasury ; but it rather seems that they expected the general court to apportion it among the people at large.

The legislature formed a plan for the emission of fifty thousand pounds, to be let out at four per cent. on land security redeemable at a future period, carrying an interest of six per cent. and to be a tender in taxes for the internal support of the state, and for fees and salaries of the officers of the government. This plan was sent as early as the fourteenth of September, to the several towns, to collect their minds upon the subject.

On the twentieth, at four of the clock in the afternoon, about two hundred men on horse and on foot, entered the town of Exeter, where the general court were sitting. About fifty of them, or perhaps more, were armed with muskets, and the others with bludgeons. The principal leader appeared to be one Moses French, a farmer of Hampstead, aided by one Cochran, a major in the militia, and two or three others : they affected military parade, and had a drum. After they had halted a while, they sent a paper into the house of representatives, who were convened in the meeting-house, demanding an answer to their former petition without delay ; it was dated on EXETER PLAIN, and signed Moses French, moderator.

The house appointed a committee of three to be joined by a committee from the senate to take the matter into consideration. This vote the senate unanimously non-con-

curred. Whereupon a conference took place in the meeting-house, between the two branches of the legislature. The president (General Sullivan) being, *ex officio*, a senator, opened the matter, by giving publicly, in the hearing of the people, and as many of the mob as chose to attend, the reasons on which the senate non-concurred the vote of the house. He first considered the petition, and shewed with great strength of reasoning, and very coolly, the extreme folly, as well as the very great injustice of the prayer of their former petition. And also observed, that even if the measure was just and reasonable, the general court ought not to pay attention to it, merely from having the voice of thirty towns only, out of two hundred in favor of it. He concluded by saying, that if the voice of the whole state was for the measure, yet the legislature ought not to comply with it, while they were surrounded by an armed force. To do it, would be to betray the rights of the people, which they had all solemnly engaged to support, and that no consideration of personal danger should ever compel him to so flagrant a violation of the constitutional rights of the people, who had placed him in the chair of government.

As soon as this speech was made, the mob beat to arms, and surrounded the meeting-house, where the president, the senate and house remained; those of the mob who had muskets were ordered to charge with ball, which command they instantly obeyed. The house proceeded to business as usual, without taking any manner of notice of the management at the doors. Centinels were placed at each door with fixed bayonets, and the whole legislature were prisoners. After sun-set the president attempted to come out, but was prevented by a firm column. He reasoned very coolly with them on the impropriety and fatal tendency of their conduct, and assured them that the force of the state

would support the government: which they took leave to deny with as much confidence as he asserted it. Thus all remained, till the evening was quite dark; the minds of the sober part of the people began to raise at the indignity; while the mob clamored, some *paper money*, some an equal *distribution of property*, some the *annihilation of debts*, some *release of all taxes*, and all *clamored against law and government*. A drum was now heard at a distance, and a number of men huzzaing *for government*. The mob appeared frightened, and some of them began to run; the president told them he would prevent bloodshed, and walked through them, and the general court followed.

On this, the insurgents returned to another part of the town, and the legislature, who had throughout the whole acted with the most inimitable firmness and magnanimity, re-assumed their business, and requested the president to call forth the power of the state to quell the rebellion. At eleven in the evening, he issued his orders, and by sunrise the next morning the militia were marching in, well armed, with military music, and other incitements to military movements. The major and brigadier generals of all the state excepting one, whose great remoteness from the scene of action prevented him, assembled early in the morning. Gentlemen of the first rank and education, emulous to save a government for which they had done and suffered so much, appeared either on foot or horse in order, and enthusiasm, quite inexpressible by words, appeared through the whole. By eight o'clock the next morning, a sufficient body of cavalry and infantry had arrived to march against the mob, who, by this time, had collected and advanced within a mile of the court-house. Having, by their spies, got information of our intentions, the unarmed part of them thought it prudent to retreat to Great-hill. The remainder kept their ground till the light-horse appeared

in view, and then retreated with great precipitation and disorder; many of them fell into the hands of their pursuers, and were sent back to town and secured. When they had reached the bridge at King's-falls, being met by those who had before retired, they halted and exhibited the appearance of an intention to dispute the pass; but a few officers and gentlemen on horse-back having, with great spirit and address, taken most of their officers and principal men from the midst of them, they betook themselves to flight in great confusion, and returned to their respective abodes. The whole affair was conducted with much coolness and moderation; and though orders were repeatedly given by some of the officers of the insurgents to fire on their assailants, there was happily no blood spilt on either side. The mob being dispersed, the troops returned into town, where they met, or were afterwards joined by large bodies, which arrived after the business of the day was over.

About forty prisoners were taken, among whom were most of their officers and leading men, who, upon acknowledging the heinousness of their conduct, and professing great contrition for it, have experienced the undeserved clemency of government, in a full pardon and discharge, five excepted, who are delivered over to the civil authority to be punished as rioters, together with two others of the ringleaders who escaped at the time, but have been since taken. The body under arms amounted to upwards of two thousand, three hundred of whom were horse, all ready to run any risk to preserve legal government, and the due execution of the laws: the spectators, many of whom could not arm themselves, though they discovered no less zeal to support government, amounted to upwards of three thousand. The sentiment, "How can we live without government, and shall we give ourselves up to the government of

a *mob*," was constantly re-echoed. If the legislature appeared magnanimous the day before, a *free government*, the *people's government*, shone with a splendor that never was excelled, seldom equalled!

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*An Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Cotton Mather, of Boston, to Dr. John Woodward, of London, Fellow of the Royal Society.*

[Communicated by Joshua Coffin, A. M.]

At Hampton, a Town about Fifty miles from this place, there were Twin sisters, whose names were Bridget and Jane Moulton. The perpetual Harmony and Sympathy between the sisters was the observation of all the neighborhood. They were never contented except they were together. If the one were desirous to go abroad, the other would be impatient of staying at home. If the one were merry, the other would be airy. If the one were troubled, the other would be chagrin[ed.] When one was for carding, the other was for spinning. For their Dispositions and Satisfaction there was a very strange Agreement betwixt them. The particulars wherein every body with pleasure and wonder saw how they were agreed, and how like your famous Twins of Hippocrates, which you tell us would *Flere et Ridere simul*, were numberless. They lived a Virgin life, and in this good accord, reached about threescore years. Then Death after a short sickness arrested the one of them. The other grew full of pain, and bid her friends not be in a hurry about her sister's funeral for her's must accompany it. By dying within a few hours after her sister, she answered their expectations. Mr. John Cotton, the worthy minister of the place, preached a Funeral sermon for this occasion on those words, 2 Samuel I: 23. "In their Death

they were not divided." The nearest unto these congruities, would be those of a true friendship, a blessedness which I am willing to find celebrated among the heathens, and the Regularity they consulted in it cried up and this made an Article of an Elogy, *They died, having lived without reproach in Friendship*. Nevertheless, I can by no means allow this Astrea has wholly left our world and that the Moderns and Christians are strangers to it, and that the maxims of our Saviour's Holy religion would not move unto a degree of Strictness and Fineness beyond what was ever known in Paganism. I only wish for the experiment, which might be made in my having oftener and nearer opportunities of meriting the esteem of being, Sir,

Your Friend and Servant.

To Dr. Woodward, London.

1716. Copied from a MS. Volume in possession of the *Massachusetts Historical Society*.

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## AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, 11TH JUNE, 1828, BY HON. SALMA  
HALE.

THE utility of History has been the theme of writers of all ages, and all classes. It has been termed philosophy teaching by example. It has been called the instructor of politicians, the guide of statesmen, and the school of virtue. Commanders have resorted to it to acquire perfection in the art of war; moralists to give a sanction to their precepts; orators to embellish and illustrate their harangues; and poets to give dignity to their effusions. It has, by common consent, been placed highest on the list of useful and liberal studies, and an acquaintance with it has been

deemed indispensable to the citizen, the scholar and the magistrate.

Such, in truth, is the elevated rank to which history would be entitled, had the writers of history possessed the means and the talent to impart to it all the interest, and all the usefulness, of which it is susceptible; and had they, which is still more important, been always actuated by that honesty of purpose which impels, and that entire freedom from prejudice which permits, an author to seek for truth and to relate it, whatever may be its influence upon the country or party to which he belongs. Its lessons would then have the highest of all human authority—that of long and varied experience; and, receiving undoubted credit, would exercise an influence over the actions of men, but little less imperative than the precepts of inspiration. It would disclose the operation of the invariable laws impressed by our creator upon man, enable us to foresee the inevitable consequences of every action, and to trace back effects to their true and appropriate causes. It would exhibit the influence of outward circumstances upon society, account for all its changes, instruct us how to guard against the approach of evil, and point to that course which would lead us onward, in the career of improvement, until we had reached the highest elevation of human felicity and grandeur.

But no historian has ever had the means to do full justice to his subject. Few materials are preserved; those which escape destruction are dispersed, hidden, or forgotten; and the efforts of a single individual are insufficient to discover and collect them. And even when the means are in his power, the disposition to use them as he ought is too seldom felt. The motive which impels him to write, and which afterwards guides his pen, is too often the desire to elevate one country, or one sect or one party,

at the expense of another, or to defend one that has, in his view, been misrepresented ; and this is the principal cause why so few histories have been written to which entire credit should be given. Most of them are made the medium of error rather than of truth, and none so much as those which aspire to the character of philosophic or speculative histories, and, from a partial knowledge of facts, presumptuously speak of the causes of events, and of the motives of men.

The single circumstance of want of materials, would, in the absence of all other reasons, justify us in receiving with extreme distrust, the narratives of the earliest historians. Before the art of printing was invented, but few documents existed, and tradition furnishes almost the only materials for history. How much falsehood tradition gathered in its progress, and how much truth, modifying and almost changing the aspect of the truths it transmitted, was lost on the way, could only be the subject of conjecture. Every one who reads the accounts of the first ages of Greece and Rome, would naturally conclude that much related as truth must be false ; and recent investigations have confirmed these first and natural conclusions. By comparing various ancient histories with each other ; by consulting authors in other branches of literature ; by weighing probabilities, and displaying the discrepancies of the same historian, late writers have furnished convincing proof, that much heretofore received as truth is false, and that nothing anterior to the middle ages of Greece and Rome can be relied on. The birth-place of Homer has long been a subject of contest ; it is now doubted whether such a man as Homer ever existed. Many a weary hour has been spent in vain to ascertain the site of ancient Troy ; not less vain in the opinion of some, have been the labors to prove that Troy, famous Troy, which has so often added dignity to verse,

and stood for sense in orations, existed only in the imagination of a body of forgotten poets.

And when we turn our attention to the history of that other nation, which spread its dominion over the habitable globe, and left behind it indelible traces of its existence and its power, in the intellectual as well as the material world, we find even more occasion to doubt the verity of history. The defeat of the Gauls by Camillus, one of the most brilliant portions of Roman story, and always read with intense interest, is now known to be a fable, invented to gratify the vanity of his descendants. And though the narrative of Livy leaves upon the mind the clear impression that the Romans were always, and to the last, victorious in the war with Porsenna, the account of which fills with interest many of his pages; yet he afterwards incidentally mentions, that the territory of ten tribes, one third of the national domain, was surrendered to him to purchase peace. And a subsequent writer quotes an article of a treaty between him and the Romans, by which the latter were restricted from using iron for any other purpose than that of agriculture — a restriction to which none but a conquered people could have submitted. And can any one, who reads the accounts given by the Romans of the wars with Carthage, which assign to the victorious party all the qualities which ennoble human nature, and to the vanquished all that debase it, place any reliance upon the truth of the narrative? Does it not perpetually occur to him, that, had a Carthaginian been the writer, had the lion been the painter, the same party would not have been always represented in an unfavorable attitude?

But whether ancient history be true or false, can be of little comparative importance to those who live in times when arts, sciences, religion, government, laws — every

thing, in fact, which influences, modifies, and shapes the conduct of man, is entirely different. Yet the histories of later times are entitled to but little more credit. Passing over the dark ages, when falsehood, busily at work, erected, on forged revelations and counterfeit miracles, a temporal and spiritual throne for the Pope; and coming at once to that nation from which we derive our origin, and which claims, and not without reason, to stand at the head of the learned and civilized world, how various have been the accounts of the events in her history, and how contradictory the representations of the motives and characters of the eminent men who have guided her councils. The correctness of Hume, who, for a long time, held the highest rank among English historians, has lately been denied by Lingard, by M'Cauley, by Brodie, and by Fox, not merely in his relation of a few unimportant events, but in the whole tenor of his history, and in the effect it is calculated and intended to produce. The first complains that he has misrepresented the Catholics; Brodie that he has misrepresented the republicans and puritans; and Fox that he has misrepresented the whigs; and all have succeeded in shewing that, whatever may be the truth of their own narratives, that of this philosophic historian, as his admirers emphatically style him, is unworthy of credit. If they have done no more, they have demolished an edifice fair to the view, and of exquisite finish, but constructed of factitious materials, and raised, not like the friendly lighthouse on the shore, to guide to safety, but to allure into the regions of error, in which his own prepossessions had made it delightful to wander.

The fate which has attended this historian may well lead us to doubt, whether those high encomiums which are so often bestowed upon this mode of writing history can be

wholly deserved. If angels were to hold the pen, or if able men could be found, who, to use the words of a French writer, "belong to no sect, to no country, to no profession, and to no party," this mode would doubtless be most useful. But as no such man can be found, the danger is great, indeed it is inevitable, that every history will be tinged with the hues of the author's own mind; that his narrative, from the secret influence of the prepossessions he has imbibed, or from the particular motive which has impelled him to write, will be so constructed as to favor his friends and do injustice to his adversaries. And his reflections and deductions will be still more liable to censure. If he hazard a step into the region of conjecture — and philosophical history is often nothing more than conjectural history — will he not be directed by his feelings and his prejudices? In assigning motives, can he possibly be impartial, when his own or the opposing party is brought into action? Will he not aim, by coloring his stile, to brighten the merits, and obscure the errors of his favorites? In seeking for the causes of the prosperity and decay of nations, of the habits, customs and morals of the people, will he not invariably be guided by the political or religious opinions which he may happen to entertain? The affirmative is established by every history that has been written upon this plan. Their errors have spread far and wide in the world, and sunk deep into the minds of men. The reader if ignorant is unable, and if intelligent is too often unwilling, to exercise his reasoning faculties; he surrenders himself without resistance into the power of the writer; he is never cast upon his own resources; he is never compelled to exercise his own mind in passing judgment upon the conduct of men, and dispensing to all the just meed of censure and of praise. A correct philosophical history is cer-

tainly the *beau ideal*, of this department of literature ; he who undertakes to write such a one, must have an exalted conception of his ability to instruct the world ; to succeed, he must possess powers of no common order ; and the failure of all the attempts which have hitherto been made shews that nothing, in the whole compass of literature, should be undertaken with so much diffidence, or be read with so much distrust.

It ought, however, to be remarked, as some apology for the historians of England, or to account at least for their failure, that, from the commencement of her existence as a nation, her people have been divided by factions more bitter and more inveterate than have existed in any other country. By these factions, the materials of history have been falsified ; every document, transmitted to posterity, comes charged with vehement accusation, or vindictive defence. The truth is distorted, and made to appear like error, and falsehood is dressed in the garb of truth, and as such appears before the future investigator, who has not the means of detection. When events are in progress, contradictory accounts of them are given, and opposite motives assigned to the actors ; and if he, who afterwards attempts to embody these events in a historical narrative, partakes of the feelings of either of the opposing factions, he will find documents in abundance to support any view of them which it may suit his interest or his prepossessions to give. So general has been the operation of these causes, that the English themselves have little faith in even their most authentic histories. We often see their veracity doubted, their statements refuted, and their partiality demonstrated. "Oh, talk not to me of history," said an English prime minister to his son, "for that I know to be a lie."

In our country, the same causes have not existed, in

equal degree, to lead us to discredit the relations we have received of past events, or to despair that those of the present age will be correctly transmitted to posterity. But it cannot be denied that their effect has been experienced here, nor that, from the operation of these causes, and others perhaps more powerful, no account has yet been given of the events which have transpired in our country, or of the character of this people, worthy of the enterprise and fortitude displayed, the actions performed, and the objects accomplished. Two of the principal actors in the most eventful period of our history, who have received, as the reward of their services, the highest office a people can bestow, have declared that they could hardly recognize, from the relations given, the transactions in which they participated, or those which passed under their view; that, though little was false, yet, as all was not told, the narrative was almost equivalent to falsehood; that little more indeed had been recorded than the most notorious and visible events, the battles, marches and sieges of the armies, and the acts and resolves of legislatures and public meetings. No one had painted, in colors sufficiently vivid and glowing, the intensity of feeling, the severity of suffering, the mental agitation, the alternations of despondency and hope, which marked that era. No one has yet laid bare the springs that set in motion the various machines, which, acting apparently from their own impulses, accomplished such important purposes; nor had any one done full justice to the body of the people, by placing them, as they ought to be placed, in the foreground, always ready to act, doing and suffering much.

It is not disparaging the talents and labors of the pioneers in this vast and fertile field, to say, that a standard history of this country yet remains to be written.

Success has been difficult from the novelty of the task, not less than from other causes. The histories of other countries furnish no model for this. They generally contain no more than accounts of successive kings, of fortunate warriors, and of distinguished statesmen. The hero of the piece stands forward in bold relief, forming the connecting chain of all events, securing the interest of the reader, and relieving the writer from the greater labor of collecting, arranging and describing those minor but important events and circumstances which disclose the character of the age and show the progress of the intellect. Of ancient history, we remember little but the names of kings, consuls and emperors, and the brilliant deeds they performed; and in more recent times, the same characters are again brought upon the scene, arresting our attention, dazzling our eyes like the pageants of a show, and then passing off to give place to others.

But a new and different era has commenced. The foundations of society have been broken up, and its elements have been arranged and combined anew. The whole surface has been brought nearer to a level. The ruler and the warrior have sunk in the estimation of their fellow men, and the private and peaceful individual has assumed a higher and more dignified station. A field has been opened for the exertion of his talents, and their influence is often powerfully and extensively felt. His virtues and his vices, his habits and his wants, have acquired an importance unknown to former times, and force themselves upon the attention of all who look abroad upon the world to survey its aspect.

America, and especially our own country, has been the first and principal theatre of this political and social revolution, and a corresponding change in the duties of a historian has become necessary. He cannot satisfy himself,

and still less can he satisfy others, by performing the easy task of reciting the actions of men in power, and at the head of armies, and recording those events, which for the time, produce astonishment and alarm. He must bring other and far more numerous actors upon the scene ; he must trace events to different and more recondite causes ; he must sketch the character, not of a prominent individual only, but of society in the aggregate, and of the age ; he must describe the progress of intellect, the fluctuations of opinion, the discoveries of science, the state of morality, of religion, and the laws. He must gather facts which the mere annalist disdains to record ; he must note circumstances which the superficial observer disregards ; and to give to his history that interest which brilliant incidents lend to the narratives of others, he must endure the more painful labor of making a proper selection and just arrangement of his multifarious materials, and of imparting to his style that purity, precision and force, which is indispensable to compensate the sacrifice of the attractive, but inappropriate and cheaper ornaments of pompous diction and splendid imagery.

But difficult as the undertaking is, it is not more difficult than its accomplishment would be honorable and glorious. He who seeks for an enduring reputation ; he whose bosom throbs with the lofty aspiration of connecting his fame with that of his native land, and raising both to the view of an admiring world, of enjoying the rapturous consciousness that every city and every village will speak forth their praises ; he who cherishes the exalted purpose of teaching other nations the principles of freedom ; of vindicating modern institutions against the denunciations sent forth from the centre of the old, now shaken to their foundations ; of presenting to his fellow citizens and to posterity examples and principles which may teach them what path

to pursue, and and what false lights to avoid, luridly glaring across their path,

“That lead to bewilder and dazzle to blind,”

and have infatuated and misled every nation that has ever had liberty to lose; he who has these ennobling aspirations, may be assured that they will find their highest and purest gratification in the successful execution of this literary enterprise.

It is an object, moreover, in which every citizen, as well as every scholar, should feel a lively interest. Ought not every one to be careful of his fame, and of the fame of his native land? What ought the American patriot to desire more ardently than that the sufferings, the deeds, and the principles, of his forefathers should be faithfully recorded? that some Moses should consign to imperishable tablets the events and circumstances which marked the infancy of this people, who seem to have been set apart for some high and holy purpose — to introduce and establish a new order of things as important to the political as the Jewish dispensation was to the religious world? that thus freemen, wherever and whenever they live, might have a repository of their faith, and a standard by which they might try the doctrines and conduct of their rulers.

In almost every instance, free nations have enjoyed the highest degree of freedom at the commencement of their existence. It is then that all feel most sensible of the equality of rights and obligations. In process of time, superior talent or the caprice of fortune raises some individuals above others, and they, seizing opportunities when vigilance is relaxed, or when public gratitude is fervent, or when the fundamental principles of the social compact are unheeded, make encroachments upon liberty, which are never afterwards repelled; but which, serving as footholds, enable them to mount higher and higher, until they have

ascended beyond the reach of their fellow-men. Nothing is so well adapted to prevent this natural progress of governments from freedom to despotism, as a record of the principles and actions of its founders ; — a record that shall enforce belief in its authenticity ; that shall glow with the feelings it describes, and inspire in others the sentiments it illustrates. Had the history of England been written in early times, by a Fox, or a McIntosh, her kings could never have made those gradual encroachments upon the rights of the people, which ended in the claim of the Stuarts to the possession, by divine right, of unlimited authority ; which produced, and even justified, that terrible revulsion to first principles in the time of the commonwealth ; and which having, by their long prevalence, disqualified the people for the enjoyment of freedom, suddenly regained their ascendancy in a modified form, by the instrumentality of military force. These encroachments are now almost consecrated as rights by the misrepresentations and eloquence of a historian universally read ; and ages must pass before the erroneous principles he has implanted can be eradicated, or the deep impressions he has made can be effaced.

But history gives also moral as well as political lessons. No man can read it, when written as it ought to be written, and fail to be convinced that, in regard to nations, communities and individuals, there is a close and indissoluble connection between virtue and happiness—between guilt and suffering. It cannot lift the veil and show the rewards, whether for good or for evil, dispensed in the world to come—that is the province of inspiration—but it can show, and it does show, the operation, in this world, of those moral laws which have the same relation to human actions that physical laws have to the material world. The

recent history of Europe is pregnant with these moral lessons. This has been an age of just and terrible retributions. What nation, what order of men, has suffered, that had not previously been wicked? South America was steeped in the blood of its innocent inhabitants; Poland was dismembered; our ancestors were oppressed; Holland was avaricious; the nobility and clergy of France became corrupt; the revolutionary leaders committed monstrous atrocities; Spain and Russia were invaded; and I need but ask how quickly, how surely, the appropriate consequences fell upon those who had offended. This history has already shown, or will show, and whenever an individual is her theme, and she condescends to record all the facts that concern him, the lesson is equally obvious and equally impressive.

A consideration of the uncertainty of all, and the falsity of most, of the histories of former times; of the high importance, in a political and moral view, of preserving the memorials of the events which marked the infancy of our existence, for the use of the future historian, led to the institution of this society. I can speak without indelicacy of the laudable motives of its founders, for none of the merit is mine. They were aware that time, with resistless motion, was constantly sweeping from the stage the actors in the great drama which has recently closed, and burying in the grave the memory of events and principles which do honor to our state, to our country, and to human nature. They were unwilling that our future fame should be left at the mercy of any one who might, to inculcate other principles, misrepresent those of their ancestors. They were sensible that individual exertion could do little, and that the zeal of many, concentrated upon one object, could do much, to accomplish their praise worthy purpose. They were sensible too of the utility of attracting public atten-

tion to this purpose, and thus drawing from neglected repositories, fugitive and occasional publications, personal memoirs and journals, and the correspondence of individuals in official and private stations, which, more than public documents and labored performances, display the spirit of the times, disclose the secret springs of action, and lay bare the motives of men. Procuring the sanction of the government, they established this Society, and the collections they have made, and the volumes they have published, shew the ardor and continuance of their zeal, and the value of their labors.

The first establishment of historical societies is of recent date. They may justly be classed among the distinguishing features of the age. They shew that enlightened men have become sensible that history is too important to be entrusted, and the task of writing is too difficult to be left, to individual exertion; that the only method of imparting to it all the utility of which it is susceptible, and which it has heretofore been supposed to possess, is to make facts, and all the facts, the basis of the narrative; and that it is the duty of men who love their country and cherish its fame, to lay up treasures for the historian who comes after them, that may facilitate his labors, and restrain him from substituting conjectures for facts.

Upon the members of these societies, important duties devolve. In assuming the station to which they have been called, they incur obligations to collect and impart all the materials within their power, that may assist and guide the historian. These materials are far more abundant, even in this state, than is generally supposed. They consist not solely of facts fixing the date or the place of great events,—designating the actors,—disclosing their motives,—and ascertaining the naked result. These important events are produced and their effects modified, by a

thousand circumstances, which at the time, appeared to have none, or at most a very remote connection, with them, or with each other. The mighty Nile is composed of small tributary streams, whose sources have, for ages, been the object of painful research, in order to discover the cause of the fertilizing properties of its waters. So a combination of minute, produce the great, events which stand prominent in the pages of history; and a knowledge of the parts is essential to a just conception of the whole. These minute events are found in the histories of our towns, of our churches, of our interior legislation, and in the biography of individuals who have risen to any degree of political or professional eminence. How much light must it cast upon the character of this people, to trace the progress of one of these towns, from the time when the sound of the axe was first heard within its limits until its fields were covered with flocks and verdure — until its surface was studded with buildings and intersected with roads, and school-houses and churches had risen in all their appropriate places. The mere fact, that such a town had sprung up, as it were, out of nothing, without aid, or fostering care, and that no striking event had marked its progress, giving it a forward impulse, would be a forcible commentary upon the free institutions of modern times, which, leaving the powers of man unshackled, permit them to exert all their energies in the pursuit of wealth and happiness. How instructive, too, must be the biography of an individual, who, starting from a humble station, rises, struggling through difficulties, to eminence — instructive not merely in a moral, but in a political view, and affording an insight into the character of the age and people.

But to furnish materials for the history of his country is the duty also of every citizen. Every man owes something

to his country, and he, whose fortunate situation enables him to enlarge the stock of historical information, cannot in a more useful or honorable mode discharge his obligations. Gratifying indeed would it be, could our library present, to those who might choose to visit it, every publication stating or elucidating facts, or expressing the feelings and opinions of the people, which has appeared since the first landing of the adventurers on Strawberry bank ; and could our collections contain historical notices of all our towns and biographical sketches of all our citizens, who have been distinguished for their attainments, or usefulness. In the perusal and study of these, the citizen would be inspired with just sentiments, and be led to adopt right principles ; — the future historian would be carried back to the times of which he was writing ; he would feel himself in presence of those whose deeds he recorded ; he would be awed by the majesty of their virtues ; he would imbibe their spirit, understand and appreciate their motives, and his pages would present, not merely a dry narrative of events, but a correct impress of the different periods which passed successively under his review ; — he would be animated by the same spirit and infuse the same sentiments into the bosom of the reader.

And if it be, as it doubtless is, the duty of legislators to secure to the people the advantages of education, is it not a corresponding duty to enable them to acquire that species of instruction which is derived from the study of a full and correct History of their country. Of little use is the boast that every American can read, if the opportunity be withheld of reading what, next to the volume which contains the doctrines and precepts of our holy religion, is more important than all others. Some at least of the states of this

union, witnessing and applauding the disinterested efforts of individuals, have made munificent donations to their historical societies, enabling them to enlarge their libraries and to publish their collections. Of such munificence, history will not fail to speak in terms of merited praise; and what must be far more grateful to the patriot, the encouragement afforded will ensure the transmission to posterity of many honorable names, and many virtuous deeds, which time would otherwise leave behind in its course; and will embalm in glowing language, sentiments and principles which, so long as they are remembered, will preserve in all their purity those free institutions which are the pride and boast of our country.

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URING'S NOTICES OF NEW ENGLAND, 1709.

Communicated by Mr. S. G. Drake, Boston.

[Having met with a copy of the voyages and travels of Capt. *Nathaniel Uring*, which being both curious and scarce, and conceiving it within the design of your Society to promulgate whatever has value relating to N. England, I have copied out that part of it which purports to be "A Voyage to *Boston* in New-England and the West-Indies, in 1709; with a short Description of New-England, their Trade and Products, and the Nature and Manners of the *Indians*, who are the natives of that Country." The notes are such observations or explanations as occurred to me while copying it. The book from which the following is copied was printed at London, 1726, in 8vo. The author seems to have been a man of account in his time, and sustained important trusts. He was the Duke of Montagu's deputy governor in the unfortunate attempt to establish settlements in the Islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent, in 1722. He advertises the reader that "he should not have troubled the world with an account of his travels, nor of the particular misfortunes he met with in 'em, if some of his friends had not almost obliged him to it. The falsities and inventions that are too often found in books of this kind, (particularly the many Sea-Voyages and Travels lately published by persons unknown,

which are all made stories on purpose to impose on the world, and to get money) made them desire to see one on which they could rely; which they did him the honor to say, they doubted not but they might expect from him." *Note by Mr. D.*]

In *April* 1709, I set out from *London* for *Plymouth*, where a ship was bought for me of 150 tons and 16 guns, which I was fitting in order to make a voyage to the *Streights*; but the government at that time wanting a vessel to send Express to *New-England*, hired her for that purpose, having provided the ship with all the necessaries for such a voyage. I received my Lord *Sunderland's* orders and dispatches (who was then one of the principal Secretaries of State) and set sail for *Boston* in *New-England*, in *May* following;\* and in about a month arrived at that Port, and delivered my dispatches or Letters, as I was directed. My errand was to carry the government's letters to the Men of War, and the person who had engaged to provide provisions for the Navy and Army, which was then ready to embarque in *England* for an intended Expedition on *Quebeck* in *Canada*; but about that time the Confederate Troops being defeated in Portugal the Army intended for that Expedition was ordered thither, and the design against *Canada* did not go forward till two years after; the ill success of which is too well known for me to take any Notice of here.

*Boston* is the chief Town in the province of *Massachusetts Bay*; it stands upon a *Peninsula*, at the bottom of a Bay, which runs in about eight miles, and is fenced with islands, rocks and sands, which makes it a very secure Harbour; the entrance into it is narrow, and some shoals lie on the South side: Some small rocky Islands which are called the *Brewsters*, makes the North side of it, on one of

\* "Early in the spring, Mr. Dudley was advised, by letters from the earl of Sunderland, that the queen had determined upon an expedition," &c. against the French. See *Hutchinson's Hist. Mass. II*, 160, edition of 1795.

which Islands stands a Light-House, to give notice to Ships who may arrive on that coast in the night, and be a guide to them; where might be also built a Fortification, which would command the mouth of the Harbour, when the inhabitants think it proper; but at present their Fort stands upon an Island, two miles and a half\* below the Town; the Channel for Ships lies very near it, so that no Ships can pass by it but what the fort is able to command. It is a strong regular well built Fort, mounted with about 100 pieces of cannon, where they keep a garrison, who are paid by the country. The situation of the town is such, that it is capable of being fortified, and made as strong as any in *Europe*, there being only a narrow *Isthmus* or neck of land of about 40 yards broad, which has a communication with the country, and is so low that the spring tide sometimes washes the road; which with little charge might be fortified and made so strong that it would be impossible to force it, and no way of coming at it by land, but over that neck. The town is near two miles in length, and in some places three quarters of a mile broad, in which are reckoned 4,000 houses; most of them are built with brick, and have about 18,000 inhabitants; the streets are broad and regular; some of the richest merchants have very stately, well built, convenient houses; the ground on which the town stands is moderately high, and very good water is found all over it. It is much the largest of any in *America* under the British government; they have built several wharfs which jut into the harbour for the conveniency of shipping, one of which goes by the name of the *Long wharf*, and may well be called so, it running about 800 feet into the harbour, where large ships, with great ease may both

\* It is nearly 2 3-4 miles from the end of *Long wharf*.

lade and unlade. On one side of which are warehouses, almost the whole length of the wharf, where the Merchants store their goods, which they unlade, and those they ship off, and where more than 50 sail of vessels may lade or unlade at the same time with great conveniency; and the town altogether is most excellently situated for trade and navigation. It is very populous, and has in it eight or nine large meeting-houses, and a *French* Church, and but one *English*,\* and that built of wood; but I am informed since I was in that country, they have another building with brick.† I need say nothing of the religion of this country, by reason it is so well known. This town and *Charlestown* are marts for most of the commodities which the country produces. *Charlestown* is divided from *Boston* by a large navigable river, which runs several miles up the country; it is near half as big, but is not so conveniently situated for trade, though it is capable of being made as strong, it standing also upon a *Peninsula*: it is said that 1000 vessels clear out annually from these two towns only. There are several other towns of considerable trade, viz. *Marble head*, *Salem*, *Ipswich* and *Newbery*, which are all good harbours, some of which rivers run up more than one hundred miles into the country, and there are several other lesser towns, to describe all which with their polity, manners, and nature of their trade, would take up a volume; that being not my design, I hope the reader will excuse me with giving this short account. The town of *Boston* is plentifully supplied with good and wholesome provisions of all sorts, not inferior to those in *England*, and have plenty of several sorts of good fish very cheap; but though the town is so

\* That is, but one of the *Church of England*.

† The first *meeting-house* in *Boston* was built in 1632, which must have been an exceedingly rude structure; before that, public worship was performed beneath the branches of trees or in private dwellings.

large and populous, they could never be brought to establish a market in it, notwithstanding several of their governors have taken great pains to convince the inhabitants how useful and beneficial it would be to them; but the country people always opposed it,\* so that it could not be settled: the reason they give for it is, if market days were appointed, all the country people coming in at the same time would glut it, and the town's people would buy their provision for what they pleased, so rather choose to send them as they think fit; and sometimes a tall fellow brings a turkey or goose to sell, and will travel through the whole town to see who will give most for it, and it is at last sold for 3s 6d or 4s, and if he had stayed at home, he could have earned a crown by his labour, which is the customary price for a day's work; so that any man may judge of the stupidity of the country people.† The inhabitants are very industrious and carry on a very considerable trade to the southern plantations, viz. to all the *Caribee* Islands and *Jamaica*, which they supply with lumber, as plank, horses, dried fish, and salted mackerel, some beef and pork, pitch, tar and turpentine; tallow and bayberry-wax candles; which last is made of wax extracted from a berry that grows in plenty in that country. They send also several ships to the bay of *Honduras* to load logwood, and have some trade to *Carolina*, *Virginia* and *Maryland*, *Pennsylvania* and *New York*; they likewise send many ships to *Portugal* and the *Streights*, with dried cod-fish, which is commonly called *Poorjack* or *Baccalaw*; and have a very good trade to the isles of *Azores* and *Madeira*, whom they furnish with pipe

\* A considerable part of the inhabitants to this day make no dependence on the regular market, but are supplied from carts at their own doors, or shops in the neighborhood. As early as 1634, "by order of court a market was erected at Boston to be kept upon Thursdays," (*Winthrop's Jour.* 62) but every day in the week still continues to be a market day, and every street a market.

† This is rather too much in time with the judgment of modern travellers, that is, a little too *De Roosean*.

staves, dried fish, salted mackerel, and bees-wax, for which they purchase wines and return to *New-England*. All the country of *New-England* takes off great quantities of the British manufactories, and in return build us ships, and send us whale oil and bone, great quantities of turpentine, pitch and tar; some furs and deer skins; besides which many ships from *England* lade with dried fish for the Streights and Portugal.

Adjoining to the province of *Massachusetts* bay is the province of *New-Hampshire*, which is a distinct government; the chief trading town of which is Pascataqua; it stands on a large navigable river of that name, from whence his majesty is supplied with masts for the Royal Navy; their trade is much the same as that of *Massachusetts Bay*, but are not so populous by reason they have been exposed to the incursions of the *Indians*,\* who have often done great mischief to the Out-Settlements thereabouts, by murdering a great many families, and carrying others away into captivity. In the town of Boston are all manner of handicraft trades, but fewest weavers, they making very little cloth, either linen or woollen. They have very good roads all through the country, where I have been more agreeably entertained in travelling, than in either *France* or *Italy*. The inhabitants of the towns, as well as in the country, are such enemies to trees that they have hardly left one standing in half a mile of their houses, but are all in general naked.† They are mostly a sly, crafty, tricking, designing sort of people; and when ever you make an agreement with them, if you don't make it in writing, and have under their hands for the performance, if they meet with any man that will give them half a crown in a hundred pounds more than

\* It is presumed the writer did not enquire particularly into this matter.

† We are happy that the rage is now in the opposite direction, and that useful trees are taking the place of ornamental, or such as were considered so.

you have agreed for, they'll not stand to their bargain. The country people are so addicted to cheating, that governour Dudley used to say, if salt water were to be sold by measure they would even cheat;\* however, there are some honest gentlemen to be found in the place, that are men of honor and strict justice.

*The Indians*, who were the first inhabitants of that country, are gone very far back into the woods; but at present are at war with the *New England* People, and often do great mischief in the Out-Settlements to the eastward, and are doubtless spirited up by the *French*, who supply them with arms, powder, and ball. We have seldom a ship arrive in *England* from thence, but we hear of some mischief done by the *Indians*; and sometimes the People of *New England* surprise and take many of them. The *Indians* are a straight, tall, well shaped people, very dextrous in the use of fire arms; they are so wonderful quick-sighted that they will readily pursue by eye the track of anything amongst the trees, in the leaves and blades of grass.† They attack always by surprise, and will never stand their ground when discovered, except they are many more in number than their enemy. They run very swiftly, and are very expert at fishing, hunting, and fowling; their hair is very black, coarse and long, and they frequently daub themselves with bear's grease. During the wars with their neighbours, when they kill any of their enemies, they scalp 'em, which is done by cutting round the part of the head

\*Sad account of our fathers this, nevertheless it is a common saying about the inhabitants of newly settled places, that they are *sharpers*; that there were such among those perhaps should not be denied; hence we may account in part for their rigorous laws, and it is, peradventure, the only pardonable ground which can be urged in their extenuation.

† "I have observed that the Salvages have the sense of seeing so far beyond any of our nation that one would almost believe they had intelligence of the devil sometimes when they have told us of a ship at sea, which they have seen sooner by one hour, yea, two hours sail, than any Englishman that stood by."—*N. Eng. Canaan*, 47, 48. See also *N. Eng. Memorial*, 138.

where the hair grows, and then pulling it hard, which strips off the skin of the head close to the scull, which they carry off as a trophy and token of victory. The women do all the hard labour, such as cutting down trees, planting corn, carrying burdens, &c. Their children as soon as they are born are put into a tub or pond of cold water and washed, and are so bathed every morning, and then tied flat with their backs to a board,\* which occasions them to be hardy and exactly straight; so that it is a miracle to see a crooked or deformed *Indian*. They are generally treacherous, suspicious, and jealous, but have tolerable good notions of natural justice. They have often made treaties with the people of *New England* in the solemnest manner, and have as often broke them upon trifling occasions, when spirited up by the *French*; and tho' they have frequently given hostages for the performance of the articles of the treaties concluded on their parts, those hostages have made their escape and the *Indians* have again committed hostilities on the *English*.†

Being one day to wait on governour *Dudley*, and discoursing about that country, and of the great numbers of inhabitants that it contained in so little time after its first settlements, among other things, he gave as the following relations: he said that some of his ancestors were the first *Europeans* which made a settlement in that country, they having obtained leave from the natives to build a fort, in order to preserve and secure 'em from any insults those people might offer upon any disagreement or misunderstanding; their fort was double pallsado'd, and could make a tolerable defence against lances, bows, and arrows, which were the only weapons the natives had. It happened one

\* See Josselyn's voyage to N. Eng. 128.

† Reference is here made to the affair of Maj. Waldron with the Indians.

day as the carpenter was cutting down a large timber tree for the use of the fort, that great numbers of *Indians* stood round it, gazing and admiring the wonderful dexterity of the carpenter, and greatly surprised at the manner of cutting it, having before the arrival of the *Europeans* never seen an axe, or any such like tools. The carpenter perceiving the tree ready to fall, gave notice to the *Indians* by language or signs, to keep out of its reach when it fell; but either for want of understanding the carpenter or by carelessness of the *Indians*, a branch of the tree in its fall struck one of them and killed him; upon which they raised a great cry. The carpenter seeing them much out of humour at the accident, made his escape into the fort; and soon after the *Indians* gathered together in great numbers about it, and demanded justice of the *Europeans* for the death of their brother, and desired to have the man who was the occasion of his being killed, that they might execute him, and revenge their brother's death. The Governour endeavoured to excuse the carpenter by representing to 'em that he was not to blame, and told 'em if their brother had observed the notice given him by the carpenter he had not been hurt; but that answer would not satisfy the *Indians*; they increased their numbers about the factory, and nothing less than the execution of the carpenter would content them. The *Europeans* endeavoured to spin out the time by treaty, and thought to appease 'em by presents, hoping those, and time together, would make 'em easy, but finding that would not do, and being not able long to defend themselves against such numbers as besieged 'em, they consulted how to give the *Indians* satisfaction: The carpenter being a useful man, they considered they could not spare him, without the greatest inconvenience; but seeing there was an absolute necessity of doing something,

they found out an expedient, which was this: there was in the fort an old weaver, who had been bed-ridden a long time; they concluded to hang up the weaver, and make the Indians believe it was the carpenter. Having come to this resolution, the Governour let the Indians know, that since nothing else would satisfy 'em, 'tho their demand was unjust, yet to show them how ready and willing they were to live in amity and friendship with\* 'em, that in the morning they should see the carpenter hanging upon such a tree in their view; In the night they carried the poor old weaver and hanged him in the room of the carpenter; which gave full satisfaction to the *Indians*, and they were again good friends.\*

Another story I had from Mr. Paul Dudley, who was the governour's eldest son, and then Attorney General, which was this: he said, that a master of a ship had made a present to his father of some oranges and citron water, which he had brought from some of the sugar Islands; and that he had ordered his servant, who was an *Indian*, to carry part of it to a lady who was his relation, that lived at some distance from him: but in the way, the *Indian* smelling the fine flavour of the oranges, had a strong desire to taste them; but having a letter, apprehended it would tell of him, being possessed with a notion that paper could speak, from the Europeans corresponding in such a manner, they having no ideas how we convey our thoughts from one to another by pen, ink and paper; it came into

\* This may be considered as a confirmation of the truth of the story as given by Hudibras, and as it was heard by Mr. Hubbard from one who was present. See Hist. N. Eng. 77. That a circumstance of the kind took place somewhere in the early times of New England we think ought no longer to be doubted; at least the above story shows that such a circumstance was of common notoriety. Governor Dudley, from the character we have of him, should hardly be supposed to have related such stories, if they had no foundation. The main facts were doubtless well known to him, as he must have known many who were personally concerned in it. Whether the weaver was hanged in expiation of murder, or stealing "a cap full of corn," does not affect the truth of one's being hanged for another.

his head how he would prevent the paper from telling of him, and having found a large stone he put the letter under it, and went at some distance, eat several of the oranges, and then took up the letter and went forward, thinking himself secure from being discovered; but when he came to deliver the letter and the present, the lady found several of the oranges wanting, asked the *Indian* what was become of them? He stood in it stiffly, that he had delivered all that was sent by him; but the lady told him, the letter informed her that there was more sent than he had brought; at which he seemed very angry, and desired the lady would not believe the letter, for it lied. The *Indian* was soon made to understand, that he should be punished for his offence; but having begged forgiveness, and promised never to be guilty of the like again, he was pardoned.

A third story is told of the Governour and an *Indian*, which may not be improper to shew the subtlety of the Natives. Governour Dudley was a man of very good understanding and was very industrious in improving his plantation: he observing a lusty *Indian* almost naked, took occasion one day to ask him, why he did not work to purchase something to keep him from the cold? The fellow asked the Governour why he did not work? who told him that he worked with his head, and had no occasion to work with his hands as he must. The *Indian* said if any one would employ him he would work: the Governour asked him to kill him a calf, for which he would give him a shilling. The *Indian* readily undertook it, and killed the calf; but observing he did not go about to skin it, asked him why he did not make haste to skin and dress it? The *Indian* answered, No, no, *Coponoh*; that was not in my bargain, I was to have a shilling for killing it, *he no dead Coponoh*. The Governour seeing the fellow witty upon him bid him dress it, and

he would give him another shilling: The *Indian* having finished his work, and being paid, went to an Alehouse, where they sold rum, which was near the Governor's house, where he spent some of his money in that liquor, which they are all great lovers of; and whether he had brass money of his own, or whether the house furnished him with it, is out of my story; but he went back to the Governor and told him he had given him bad money, who seeing it brass, readily gave him another; soon after the fellow went back with a second, which the governor also changed, but knew the fellow had put them upon him, and seeing him next day, called to him and told him he must carry a letter presently to Boston, which he wrote to the keeper of the *Bridewell*, in order to have the fellow well lashed; but he apprehending the consequence, and seeing another *Indian* in the road, he gave him the letter, telling him, the governor said he must carry that letter presently to *Boston*. The poor fellow took the letter innocently, and having delivered the letter as directed, was whipped very severely; \* the governor soon after seeing the *Indian* again, asked him if he had carried the letter he sent him with? He answered, No, no, Coponoh, Headwork, pointing to his head. The governor was so well pleased with the fellow's answer, he forgave him.

\* Perhaps this is the truth of a story which is said to have happened in Boston with two negroes, and which has been circulated in almost every newspaper and magazine in the country, in some of which, however, it was hardly cognizable, being but a shadow of it, and as seen at a great distance.

## INSTANCES OF LONGEVITY IN CANTERBURY, N. H.

*John M' Crillis* died November 3, 1793, aged 90. His wife, *Margaret M' Crillis*, died in 1808, at the age of 92.

*Abigail Sanborn*, a member of the society of Shakers, died in January, 1805, at the age of 101. She was a native of Kingston, N. H.

*Benjamin Jackson* died in October, 1812, aged 96. He was born in Durham, N. H., Oct. 1719, and settled at Canterbury in 1782.

*Eunice Whidden*, aged 99 years 6 months, died in November, 1812. Her husband, Mr. W. died at the age of 86.

*Ebenezer Currier* died July, 1814, aged 93 years, 9 months.

*Joshua Boynton* died October, 1814, aged 91 years. He was a native of Kingston.

*John Ingalls* died March, 1815, aged 93. He was a native of Atkinson, had 20 children by two wives, all of whom lived to exceed the age of 30.

*Deborah*, a black woman, servant in the family of Jonathan Ayres, Esq., died in February, 1816, at the age of 102. She had 14 children.

*Mary Currier* died Nov. 1817, aged 94.

*John Huntoon* died Nov. 1820, aged 92. He was from Kingston—was a soldier in 1746-7, and stationed at the garrison in Canterbury.

*Isaac Small* died in October, 1821, aged 100 years, 5 months, 25 days. He was born at Cape Cod, 1721.

*Hannah Small* died in 1822, at the age of 101 years, 9 months. She was the wife of Isaac Small, with whom she married in 1758.

*Hannah Snell* died in 1822, aged 92.

*William Rines* died January 2, 1823, aged 95.

*Joseph Pallate* died in December, 1823, aged 106. He was believed to be a native of Spain; came to England as he said, in his youth; from thence sailed to America, as a servant of Lord Montagu, when 16 or 17 years of age.

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PROVINCIAL TAXES IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

1753—1300 Louisbourgh. 2500 Act of 1753. <hr/> £3800	1759 — 1300 Louisbourgh. 6000 Crown Point. <hr/> £7300
1754—1300 Louisbourgh. 2500 Act of 1753. 6000 May, 1754. <hr/> £9800	1760—£1300 Louisbourgh. 1761—£1000 Louis. £6000 act. 1762—£1000 Louis. £6000 act.
1755—1300 Louisbourgh. 2500 Act of 1753. 800 Act June, 1755, to pay soldiers. 6000 Act, 1755, for Crown Point. <hr/> £10,600	1763 — 1000 Louisb. £6000 act. 2000 Louisb. £8000 act. <hr/> £3000 1764 — 1000 Louisb. £6000 act. 2000 Louisb. £8000 act. <hr/> £1300
1756—1200 Louisbourgh. 2500 Act of 1753. 700 Act June, 1755. 6000 Crown Point. <hr/> £10,400	1765 — 1000 Louisb. £6000 act. 2000 Louisb. £8000 act. <hr/> £3000
1757—1300 Louisbourgh. 2500 Act, 1753. 6000 Crown Point. <hr/> £9,800	1766 — 1000 Louisb. £6000 act. 2000 Louisb. £8000 act. <hr/> £3000
1758—1300 Louisbourgh. 6000 Crown Point. <hr/> £7300	<i>Memo. of Pres. Weare.</i>

## AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 8, 1831, BY CHARLES H.  
ATHERTON.

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*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Historical Society:*

I APPEAR at your request to discharge a duty, which no member of the Society should feel himself at liberty to decline—the duty of not withholding our efforts, however individually humble they may be, towards illustrating the natural, civil, literary or ecclesiastical history of our State, and by that means to manifest our approval, at least, of the important and praiseworthy purposes of its Historical Society. You cannot, however, be insensible that New Hampshire is peculiarly fortunate in her Historian. All the topics, that come within the scope of general history, have been treated with a diligence of research, a minuteness and accuracy of detail, a perspicuity, elegance and impartiality, that ought ever to endear to the people of this State the name of BELKNAP. And it is a subject of sincere congratulation, that by a new edition of his work now coming from the press, under the auspices of a most deserving member of our Society, it may, as it should, find a place on the shelf of every family library in the State. Rash and fruitless would be the attempt to enter and glean in any part of the field which Belknap has reapt.

I propose therefore to occupy a short period of your leisure, irksomely, I fear, to my audience, upon a subject too frequently passed over by the historian with a neglectful silence,—a subject nevertheless, in my apprehension, most

intimately connected with the moral condition, the social harmony, the comfort, prosperity and happiness of a community. I refer to the tenure by which real estate is holden, and those laws and the administration of them, by which the soil constituting the territory of a State, however subdivided among its citizens, with their money and personal effects, however vast in amount or diversified in kind, are transmitted from one generation to another under the title of heirs, devisees, or creditors. Our subject has little to do with the heroic achievements of a State, with the magnificence of its public works, or the celebrity of its literature. It has little concern with that external grandeur of a people, which, while it dazzles the eyes of mankind, too often, like the whited sepulchre, serves only to conceal the poverty and rottenness within. But if the question be as to the real soundness of a community, if the question be as to the aggregate of the comforts and enjoyments of the individuals who compose it, then has our subject a near relation to its freedom and happiness. With less invention than is often employed by the historian, the government, spirit and condition of a people may be described from a knowledge only of their statutes of descent and distribution. By these we are led into the interior of the mansion, in order to judge of its accommodations and the comforts of its inmates, instead of forming our estimate of them by an outside view.

This succession of the living to the property and rights of the dying by uniform rules, it should be recollected, is the creature of positive law; and while it has proved the most difficult, it is at the same time among the greatest and most beneficent achievements of civilized man. Taking the usual estimate of time for one generation, it follows that in every thirty-four years, the whole amount of every-

thing among men and upon the earth, wherein right and property can be claimed by the myriads of human beings that are placed upon it, undergoes this transfer. And if a country can be found, where this immense operation is carried on by laws founded on the broad basis of expediency and justice, adequate to all the exigencies that can happen, so that nothing is left without a rightful proprietor, securing and protecting alike the rights of all, the strong and the weak, the adult and the infant, even though it may not yet have seen the light; if, I say, a community can be found, where this intricate and wonderful operation is continually going on, and almost unobserved, because it is without waste, without fraud, without litigation, and nearly without expense, we need go no no further for proof of the wisdom of its legislation; we need make no other appeal to satisfy us of the intelligence and moral condition of such a people.

Indulging the belief that the object of legislation in this important branch of civil polity was never more nearly attained than it is in this state, can it be without its interest, may we not even find it useful, to contemplate the origin, and trace the progress of those principles and views which from time to time have been recognized and sanctioned by the legislative power, and are now embodied into a system commonly known as our Probate Law?

At the time of the emigration of our ancestors, the feudal system pervaded Europe. A more gigantic and cunningly devised engine to make lords of the few and vassals of the many could not be imagined. Indeed, this was the heart and life blood of it. All grants of territory in the western hemisphere, by the European sovereigns, had hitherto been made to the adventurers, as their vassals, upon the principles of this system. But most fortunate for mankind, there still remained in England some vestiges

of liberty and of the freedom of the Saxon institutions. In the county of Kent in particular, the tenure of free and common soccage had been preserved. The peculiarities of this tenure were, that the duties of the holder to his superior were limited and certain, and might be only that of allegiance to the sovereign which belongs to our fee simple estates. It was devisable by will, and not forfeited by crime. Although, as an inheritance, it was generally subject to the rule of primogeniture in the male line, according to what then was, and now is the English common law, it nevertheless admitted of various modifications by custom, among which were found what is called gavelkind, or an equal distribution among all the male children. This tenure survived the general wreck of Saxon liberty. It resisted the torrent of the Norman invasion, and stood like a beacon amidst the surrounding desolation, to rally the lovers of freedom in a future age. In the fermentations of the spirit of liberty in England, efforts had often been made to resolve the feudal tenures into that of free and common soccage, as the most free and desirable of all. These efforts were unsuccessful until their operation was generally suspended during the usurpation of the Parliament and of Cromwell, and they were finally abolished by law on the restoration of Charles II., in 1660. But this was forty or fifty years after the colonization of New England.

It was, however, among the whims of that whimsical monarch, James I., in 1620, when he issued his patent to the council established at Plymouth, in the county of Devon, for the planting, ruling, ordering and governing New England in America, that he, of his own mere notion and certain knowledge, was pleased to make the grant to them, their successors and assigns, to be holden of him and his successors, as of his manor of East Greenwich in the

county of Kent, in free and common soccage and not in capite or by knight-service, reserving in full of all other duties, demands and services, one fifth of all the ores of gold and silver. This reservation amounted to nothing, so that in fact, the grant constituted what we now understand by an absolute estate in fee simple for allegiance only. This was the parent stock of all the grants in New England. We shall soon see how the puritans understood, or affected to understand, this tenure by free and common soccage, and how they moulded it to their own views.

The fact here furnished is among the most important in our civil and political history. All vassalage was excluded. Every man became the absolute proprietor and lord of his own fee. Under God, it was the fostering nurse of that spirit of independence, that self respect, that consciousness of possessing all the rights that belong to a man, equal to the rights of any other man, and that rising of indignation in the bosom at everything like oppression, by which the yeomanry of this country are so peculiarly distinguished. It is the parent also of our system of general education, for these peers or equals claimed an equal share in its advantages for themselves and their children.

It is impossible to say, with much precision, what a different impress of character a different tenure and distribution of landed property might have communicated to the people that spread themselves over the United States; but no one can doubt that our destiny would have been less cheering to the friends of civil and religious liberty. We might not have been, as we now are, an example to the world of the peaceful enjoyment of equal rights, or the teachers to mankind of the difficult lesson of self government.

So utterly opposed were our puritan ancestors to the feudal burdens, as if to make certainty more sure, in 1641,

the great and general court of Massachusetts ordered and declared that all lands and heritages shall be free from all fines and licenses upon alienations, and from all heriots, wardships, liveries, primer seisin, year and day waste, escheats and forfeitures upon the death of parents or ancestors, natural, unnatural, casual or judicial, and that forever."

No records remain to inform us by what rules, in the first years of the colonies of New Plymouth and Massachusetts, the estates of persons deceased were distributed, but there is no reason to doubt that the governor and assistants in both colonies, and sometimes the whole general court acted as a court of Probate, and distributed estates, not according to any uniform rule established among themselves, or by any rules established in England. What strikes us with amazement is, that in the first dawnings of their legislation they break down all the leading distinctions prevailing in the mother country, and of which they cannot be ignorant, between real and personal estate, and place land very much upon the same footing with goods. When their county courts were established, the probate jurisdiction was given to them, with an appeal to the court of assistants. Distribution was made according to their views of the wants and merits of the family. The whole estate, both real and personal, was sometimes assigned to the widow or the administrator, or some relation who would undertake to support the widow and provide for the children. Lands were made equally liable with goods for all debts, giving no preference to bond or judgment debts over those by simple contract, and making no distinction in favor of those debts, where the ancestor by seal had bound his heir. When the estate was insolvent, application was made to the general court, who took measures to ascertain the estate and the debts, and to have them satis-

fied in a ratable proportion. Both real and personal property was set off to creditors by appraisement.

Now nothing could be more inconsistent with English law than these proceedings of the Puritans, who have been said, and I think too unguardedly, to have brought with them the laws of England.

Nothing could be more loose and informal than their probate proceedings. The same looseness also prevailed in their conveyances of land; for by a law of the Massachusetts Colony, in 1651, which was twenty years after their settlement, we find the legislature enacting, that no deed of land, intending to convey an estate of inheritance, shall be valid for that purpose, unless the word heirs is used; providing, however, that this law should not operate against former conveyances.

The people of both Colonies grew dissatisfied with the wide discretion exercised by their county courts, in disposing of the estates of persons deceased, and called for some more uniform rule. The colony of Plymouth, somewhere between the years 1633 and 1636, established their law of descent. They recognize the free tenure of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, as that by which they held their lands, and they adopt the custom of gavelkind, that is, a descent to the males in exclusion of females, as if that were the general quality of free and common socage, instead of primogeniture; with a proviso, however, that the eldest son shall have a double portion. This they do out of regard to the law of Moses, referring to Deuteronomy, xxi, 17. The personal estate, after bringing up small children, and setting aside a sum for the decrepit and helpless, the payment of debts and funeral charges, was to be equally divided among all the children, saving to the eldest son a double portion, unless the lands assigned him should amount to a double portion of the whole estate.

It has been brought as a reproach against the Plymouth colony, that they gave to the daughters no share in the real estate. This reproach is unjust, and comes from those who are not sufficiently acquainted with their legislation. They had a very prompt and effectual method of providing for them. Their county courts were authorized to apportion the daughters, as should be just and reasonable, out of the estate of the heir or heirs male, and to issue execution therefor. Thus did this pious, kind hearted and chivalrous people satisfy their own views of justice; pay due deference, as they supposed, to the law of their tenure and the still higher authority, in their estimation, of the laws of Israel.

About 1641, her younger but more powerful, as well as more stern and arrogant sister, the Colony of Massachusetts, began to approach the subject of distribution by legislative enactments. The county courts of the jurisdiction where the intestate had his last residence were authorized to assign to the widow such part of the estate as they should judge just and reasonable, and to assign to the children and other heirs their several parts and portions, providing that the eldest son shall have a double portion, and where there were no sons, the daughters to inherit as coparceners, unless the court, upon just cause alleged, should otherwise determine. They had before, in their fundamentals, laid down the general rule in the following words: "Estates shall descend to the next of kin according to the law of God."

We see here that the discretion of the court must, in a considerable degree, have constituted the law of the land; but real and personal estate were placed under the same rules of distribution, and the equal rights of all the children in both species of property acknowledged, with the

exception of a double portion to the eldest son. From time to time the laws assume a more definite character, as the exigency of the people required. It is impossible, however, in many cases to fix the dates of their various enactments. For in the several revisions of the laws, both of Plymouth and Massachusetts, the old laws were brought forward and incorporated with alterations into the new, without their original dates, or with such confusion of dates, as to leave it very much a matter of conjecture.

The committee of the legislature of Massachusetts, appointed in 1812, to collect and publish the laws of the colony and province, which had become scarce and difficult to be found, were not able to remedy this inconvenience. It is very much to be regretted, also, that their authority did not extend to the colony laws of Plymouth. Considering that Plymouth, before she was incorporated with Massachusetts by the province charter of William and Mary, in 1691, had been a colony for eighty years, equally independent, wise and peculiar in its legislation; that she brought to that province a most interesting and valuable territory, then divided into three counties and twenty towns, with a population estimated at thirteen thousand souls, it is somewhat surprising that her laws should not have been thought worthy of being collected and published. As matter for history they are surely as interesting, and have as much bearing on land titles within the territory to which they applied, and would be as explanatory of subsequent and existing laws, as the colony laws of Massachusetts. It seems to me that this strange neglect can be accounted for only upon the entertained belief that those laws did not exist, or could not be found. Hutchinson, in his history, had said that Plymouth had never established any distinct code or body

of laws. Francis Baylies, Esq., the recent meritorious and indefatigable historian of that colony, fully proves Hutchinson's mistake. He admits, however, that there is not a single printed copy of their laws now extant. It gives me pleasure to be able to say that this is also an error. In the Boston Athenæum there is a copy of the Plymouth colony laws, printed by Samuel Green, in 1685, by order of the general court of New-Plymouth, held at Plymouth June 2, 1685. It forms the latter part of a volume in which are bound the colony laws of Massachusetts printed by Benjamin Harris in 1692.

It must be acknowledged, however, that there was a great affinity and correspondence in the legislation of the two colonies, and that Massachusetts generally took the lead. For although the pilgrims had settled at Plymouth ten years before the arrival of the Massachusetts colonists, as they had no charter for government, they relied principally on their voluntary association and their church government for order, until twelve or sixteen years after their landing; whereas the Massachusetts colony brought with them a charter for government, and began to put forth their principles and pass ordinances the next year after their arrival, that is, in 1631. There was nearly the same correspondence in the legislation of Plymouth and Massachusetts before their union as there was in that of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire after our separation.

It will be recollected that in 1641, the settlements in New-Hampshire voluntarily came under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts; that this union was cordial and satisfactory, and that it continued to the year 1680. It was then broken by the authority of the king, and renewed subsequently for a short period after the deposition of Andros

until 1692, when a new executive was appointed by the crown for the province of New-Hampshire, and almost contemporaneously the colonies of Massachusetts and Plymouth, and the District of Maine, were by the charter of William and Mary united into one royal province. The above facts are recited for the purpose of observing, that by our early and long continued union with the colony of Massachusetts, we were assimilated to her views, feelings, and principles. Most of our towns were settled from that prolific hive of the new world. We became flesh of her flesh and bone of her bone. Her laws were our laws, and after our separation, they continued so either by a legislative acknowledgment of their authority, or by re-enactment; and even down to the present time, there are no two states in the Union, whose manners, customs, habits, principles, laws and institutions bear so strong a resemblance to each other, except perhaps Maine and Massachusetts, which till a recent period were united.

Under the colony laws, as we have already noticed, real estate was distributable in the same manner as personal, the creditor taking therein the whole estate of the debtor. But while they boldly made this inroad upon the law of real property, they left estates tail to be regulated by the rules of the English common law. Primogeniture was here preserved in the male line. The heir could not be divested by the tenant in tail, or by his creditor, until after the entailment had been barred by the fictitious process of a common recovery. This condition of entailed estates furnished a singular anomaly to their general system of laws. The state of Massachusetts, in 1792, applied a remedy by authorizing the tenant to bar the entail by his own conveyance, and by giving the same effect to the levy of an execution by a creditor. If the law of England is now in this

state the law in relation to entailed estates, as I apprehend there is no doubt but it is, the subject is certainly deserving the early attention of the legislature. On examination I think it will be found that our statute for the levy of executions on real estate will not divest either the remainder man or the heir of the tenant.

Under the colony laws, also, the county court as a court of probate was authorized to ascertain the debts against insolvent estates, by means of commissioners, and to order payment in a ratable proportion; to make the widow an allowance, out of the personal estate, of such articles as were exempt from attachment; to set off to her use one third part of the real estate; to order the sale of real estate for the payment of debts, and also in performance of the contract of the deceased; to appoint guardians to minors and persons non compos; to decree the payment of legacies and distributive shares, with the singular power of issuing executions to carry their decrees into effect.

By the statute of the 22d and 23d of Charles II, in 1670, it was made imperative on the courts of probate in England to take security of administrators, and the rules for the distribution of the personal estate of an intestate were more accurately defined. This law was soon followed in the provinces here, and applied to real estate as well as personal, with the favorite exception among the Puritans of a double portion to the eldest son. This law now constitutes the grand basis of our law descent and distribution. Here also we find the confirmation of the common law right of the widow to one third, and under some circumstances to one half, of the personal estate as her distributive share.

At the time of the emigration of our ancestors, it was within the discretion of the ordinary to require bonds of an administrator to return an inventory and to account,

because the administrator was his substitute in the particular case. But from executors who were the agents of the testator, and of course having his personal confidence, it was thought as improper to require security after his death, as it would be to require it of the testator when living. He had not required his executor to give security, why should the probate court? The means here of compelling executors to perform their duties were not at hand as they were in England, and it became a most embarrassing subject. We now look back with surprise to see with how much difficulty this prejudice in favor of executors was at last overcome. Various enactments were made to prevent executors from defrauding creditors and legatees. As late as 1714, we find by the provincial laws that executors were to return an inventory, or to give bonds to pay the debts and legacies, with a proviso that no bonds should be given, where there were residuary legatees; but in that case the executor should account. The reason is very plain that without an account, the residuary legatees had no means of ascertaining their shares. Strange as it may appear, the legislature of this State did not make the very useful and what seems to us, the very obvious and simple enactment requiring the executors to give bond to return an inventory and to account, until the 3d of February, 1789. And to the honor of New Hampshire be it said, that on the same day by her statute for the distribution of intestate estates then passed, she adopted the Christian principle of equality and rejected the Mosaical institution of the double share to the eldest son, which up to that period had been the law of the people of this State. In June of the same year the Commonwealth of Massachusetts followed New Hampshire in making the same important change in their law of descent.

In 1718, a great advance was made in the probate law here, by authorizing the judge of probate for the province to license executors and administrators to make sale of so much of the real estate, as should be necessary to pay the debts and legacies. It was not until a century afterwards that Massachusetts gave to her judges of probate the same authority. This power was there very incommodiously vested in their supreme court and court of common pleas.

During the colonial independence of Massachusetts, for such it was, while their government was wholly popular, the executive, legislative and judicial officers, being elected by the suffrages of the freemen, as they were during our union with her, the county courts were the courts of probate, with the right in the suitors to appeal to the court of assistants, and from them to the general court. In England the probate jurisdiction was ecclesiastical in its character. This originated in the supposed connexion, inculcated by the clergy in an ignorant age, between the welfare of the soul and the pious disposition of the effects of the deceased. The soul itself was considered as a proper subject of bequest, which the clergy had power to carry into effect. Traces of this superstition are even now to be found in the formal part of many of our wills. It may seem somewhat strange, considering the theocratic principles of government which prevailed in the colonies of Massachusetts and Plymouth, connected with all they had ever known of the administration of probate law in England, that it should here be made by them an affair of civil jurisdiction. But such a distinction in the puritan clergy was irreconcilable with some of their leading ecclesiastical principles. They dreaded hierarchy. The independence and equality of the churches and of the clergy were among their fundamentals. They were satisfied with that influ-

ence by which the civil polity of the colonies was moulded to their views of a godly government. By means of this, no man could be a freeman or vote, unless he were a church member. No one could hold an office or be a deputy until he received the church stamp of orthodoxy. It was from the pulpit that the laws took their origin, and the government has been well enough designated "as a speaking aristocracy in the face of a silent democracy."

It should not be forgotten, however, that so desirous was Massachusetts to explain her charter by her jurisdiction, she did not require our people to take upon themselves the yoke of her orthodoxy. Her religious scruples here yielded to her policy, and most fortunately; for had she insisted upon this as the condition of our union with her, abandoned as we were by the Masonian proprietor, destitute and desirous as we were of a government, it is very questionable whether we should not have replied to her, in the language of William Blackstone, who was the first English inhabitant of Shawmut, a place better known of late years by the name of Boston. When solicited by the Massachusetts colonists to remain and unite with them, his answer was, "I came from England because I did not like the *Lord Bishops*, but I cannot join with you, because I would not be under the *Lord Brethren*."

We are accustomed to look back to this period as the golden age of virtue and religion. I would not speak disparagingly of the piety, chivalry or learning of the few who impress upon history their own character, and transmit it to future generations as the character of the age in which they live. But if it be just to estimate the virtue and religion of a country by the virtue and religion of the individuals that constitute the great mass of its population, I listen with an incredulous ear to those who insist upon the com-

parative degeneracy of the present times. We undoubtedly have much less of what was then called religion, but that we have quite as much order, morality and virtue, cannot, I think, admit of a doubt. No person can examine their laws and judicial proceedings, and witness the number and severity of their penalties, and notice the offences, which from time to time, they were called upon to remedy by legislation, without being fully convinced, that as a community, they had their full share of fraud, violence, and crime of the deepest dye. When the population of the colony of Massachusetts could not have exceeded six thousand souls, in the year 1635, at the first court when a grand jury was used as the accusing power, there were one hundred indictments presented for trial, and this too, notwithstanding their statute of limitations, by which prosecutions were barred after the offence was two years old. Making all due allowance for the strictness of their criminal code and the petty offences then cognisable, this number will appear enormous. It is very much as if, in this county of Merrimack, at the next superior court, five hundred bills of indictment should be found ; whereas the average number, it is presumed, does not exceed four for each semi-annual term. May we not therefore presume that, instead of retrograding, we have been making continual advancement in social order and virtue.

When the colonies became of sufficient importance to attract the attention and cupidity of the crown, possessing the power, it assumed the right to put forth new charters of government to appoint the executive authority. That executive, whether a president, governor, or lieutenant governor, exercised in probate matters the power of the ordinary in England, either personally or by a substitute called a judge of probate, but who was merely his surrogate. Un-

der this administration of the probate laws, appeals lay from these judges of probate to the governor or president and council. President Dudley, whose administration commenced in 1686, and who was to smooth the way for Andros, held a court of probate himself at Boston, and appointed judges and clerks of probate for remote counties, and for the provinces of New-Hampshire and Maine. Soon, however, Andros arrived with his commission as governor, and captain general of all New-England. He was the supreme ordinary of the whole territory, and had brought to him at Boston from the most remote parts, all the probate business. It is said that in some instances he appointed judges of probate with a limited jurisdiction. I have not been able to ascertain the fact with certainty, but I presume that no one was appointed by him for New-Hampshire.

The inconvenience to which he subjected the people in the transaction of their probate business, and the exorbitant fees exacted by him, were among the causes of the popular discontent by which he was deposed, and the old colony government for a short period resumed. It was this Sir Edmund Andros, however, who first introduced into New-England the forms for probate proceedings used in the ecclesiastical court of the mother country. These forms have been here used ever since, and in some instances, until recently, without the alterations which changes in the laws not only made proper but essential.

From the probate records in the county of Rockingham, it appears that in 1699, William Partridge, Esq., Lt. Governor, appoints guardians and grants administrations for the province of New Hampshire, and the records are certified by Charles Story, secretary. In 1703, Joseph Smith, who was then one of the council, officiates as judge of pro-

bate for the province, and the records are certified by the same Charles Story, as secretary and register. It is believed that after this period, there is no instance of the governor's holding a probate court personally, but the duties were performed by his surrogate, under the name of the judge of probate. By the act of 1771, dividing the province into counties, the judges and registers of probate were to exercise their respective functions only in the counties to which they belonged, excepting that the counties of Strafford and Grafton, on account of their then paucity of inhabitants, were temporarily annexed to the county of Rockingham.

After the dissolution of the royal government, the temporary government then established by the people proceeded promptly to fill the vacated offices. On the 28th of June, 1776, under the enacting style of the council and house of representatives for the colony, they abolished the old court of appeals, and made the supreme court of judicature the supreme court of probate, with a wisdom that the people have never seen cause to question. This enactment was afterwards incorporated into our constitutional law, and has, no doubt, greatly contributed to the uniform administration of probate law in this state. It was not until the constitution of 1783, that a judge of probate was recognized as an independent and permanent officer, to be commissioned during good behaviour. By custom since that time, the registers of probate have held their office by the same tenure. How this custom originated or on what principle it is founded I am unable to discern.

The leading features of our present system of probate law are: *First*. The distribution of estates real and personal to the next of kin on the principles of the civil law, which considers the half blood to be as near of kin as the

whole blood. By a singular inconsistency with their general rule of descent, the Massachusetts colonists excluded the half blood. In England, after the statute of the 22d and 23d of Charles II. 1670, the succession of the half blood was admitted as to personal estate. The courts here soon followed in their decisions. But strange as it may appear, notwithstanding the rule of descent was the same in real as in personal estate, it was not settled in Massachusetts until 1760, that the half blood could collaterally inherit real estate, and in New Hampshire, it has very lately been a subject of litigation before our superior court. The above general rule of descent is subject by our statute to certain exceptions, too well known to require enumeration here. The expediency and justice of one of these exceptions may well be doubted. I refer to the exclusion of the mother, as the heir to the share which her child has from its testate father. It would seem to be a very natural presumption, that if the father intended to limit the descent of what he gives to a child, that he would express that intention in the bequest. *Secondly.* The liability of the real estate in default of the personal, for the payment of the expenses of administration, the funeral charges, the support of the children under seven years of age of an intestate, and the payment of debts and legacies, with authority in the courts of probate to license administrators and executors to make sale of the real estate for these purposes. *Thirdly.* The partition by the courts of probate of all real estate, there being no dispute about the title, where the parties in interest are by law entitled to occupy their shares in severalty. *Fourthly.* The distribution of insolvent estates among all the creditors in proportion to their respective claims, giving a preference only to the expenses of the last sickness and taxes, and these preferences founded ex-

clusively on considerations of humanity. *Fifthly*. The probate of wills, the granting of administrations, and the appointment of guardians to minors, persons non compos, and those spendthrifts and idlers who are likely to subject the town to expense for their support, with all the powers usually incident to these leading powers combined with the duty in the courts of probate to require and to take security from all persons who are in any way made by them, or by any testate act, the trustees of the rights and property of others. *Sixthly*. The executor is by law made the administrator also on all the estate, whether testate or not, and security is taken of him accordingly. *Seventhly*. The power in the courts of probate to license guardians to sell the real estate of their wards, whenever it shall be necessary for their support, or conducive to their interest. This is a very important part of the jurisdiction of the judges of probate, and was not exercised by them until authorised by the law of February, 1822; before which time it had resided in the superior court. To this must be added the power of authorising administrators and executors to convey real estate in pursuance of the written contract of the deceased, exercised also by the legislature till the year 1797, when it was first delegated to the courts of probate.

From this enumeration of the general subjects of jurisdiction appertaining to the judges of probate in this state, it will be perceived there has been a continual tendency in the laws to augment their labors and duties, — how beneficially to the state, may be inferred from the fact, that the vesting in them the power of authorising guardians to sell the real estate of their wards, compared with the former expense of itself, now makes an annual saving to the people of this state equal to the whole amount allowed by law

for the support of their courts of probate. This expense is four thousand eight hundred and forty-five dollars, for the pay of eight judges, and as many registers, to a population of two hundred and seventy thousand souls.

Taking the data from one county, and estimating that the probate business is in proportion to the population, the number of administrations granted in this State annually cannot be less than six hundred and fifty, about one third of which are on testate estates; a greater number of guardianships, and an equal number of inventories and accounts rendered; three hundred and fifty licenses to sell real estate; two hundred and ten partitions of real estate; and one hundred and forty distributions of insolvent estates.

In addition to the great economy of this system in a public point of view, by which this great amount of business, with its various and almost innumerable appendages, is transacted, I have said it was in this state transacted also with such rare instances of fraud, waste, or litigation, as to speak volumes in favor of the wisdom of our laws, and the morality of our people.

From an experience of more than thirty years in the probate court for the county of Hillsborough, I am able to say that during that time only one instance of deliberate fraud and imposition has been detected or even suspected. Insolvent estates under administration, have paid an average of more than fifty per cent. During that period also, not more than seven appeals from the judge of probate have been prosecuted before the superior court, or less than one appeal for every four years. Only two of these were litigated before the judge of probate, and the major part of them were questions as to the sanity of the testator, where the parties wished a trial by jury. There has not

been occasion for prosecuting to judgment more than four suits on probate bonds, and in no instance has there been any failure of security. It is not doubted that an exhibit from the other courts of probate in the state will furnish similar and very likely better evidence of the satisfactory and successful operation of our probate system.

It is a subject, however, of no very cheering reflection, (I still speak from the records of a single county, not doubting that my remarks will apply in a greater or less degree to all the counties,) I say, it is a subject of no very cheering reflection, that, notwithstanding the number of administrations and inventories are now greater than at any former period, the average amount of the estates, and even their aggregate amount, has diminished. This is mainly to be attributed to the depreciation in value of landed property; and the cause of this depreciation is found in the establishment of new states, and the policy of the general government, by which immense quantities of land of superior productiveness are continually at low prices thrown into market. It is a principle of political economy as certain in its operation as any of the laws of nature itself, that the opening for cultivation of large tracts of soil of superior fertility will reduce in value the soils of an inferior grade. And as there seems to be no assignable termination to this action of the general government, wisdom requires that we should be fully aware of its effects upon the people of this state, and not suffer ourselves to be deceived as to their true cause.

Notwithstanding that in morality, industry and activity, the citizens of this state are exceeded by no people on earth — notwithstanding the large proportion of its uncultivated lands and the comparative sparseness of its inhabitants, we have for the past ten years been little more than able to keep up a stationary population. While the in-

crease of the United States has been between thirty and forty per cent., ours has fallen more than twenty per cent. below the general rate, being nearly ten per cent. less than that of our neighbors, Massachusetts and Vermont, and less than any other state in the union, Connecticut and Delaware excepted. These may be unwelcome truths, but do they not bring with them an equivalent of consolation and hope? If, as citizens of the state we lament this depleting operation upon ourselves, owing to the general character of our soil, of the policy alluded to, as citizens of the union we ought to rejoice, and we do rejoice; for we see in it the promotion of the general good. We see in it a wisdom, a patriotism, and a philanthropy which looks to the expansion, the strength, the greatness, the happiness and the glory of that union of which we bless God that we are members. Every twenty-four hours adds to this union a population equal to that of one of our well settled towns; every year, a population nearly double that of this state; and in the rapid lapse of that decade of years on which we have entered, the increase will be nearly equal to eighteen such states as our own. The thought is overwhelming; and if there be anything this side of the grave which can impart value to human existence, and give us a just pride in our being, it is that we are members of this great and growing community, where liberty and law, social order and self-government, education, virtue and religion and happiness almost unmingled, go hand in hand, spread and expand with its astonishing increase of human life, and can feel ourselves associated with its past achievements, its present prosperity and its future glory.

And should the ever active intelligence of the nation ascertain that it will be wise in the people to diversify their industry and pursuits in accommodation to the increasing, multifarious, and infinitely varying wants of an improving

and highly civilized state of society, and in accordance also with that diversity of taste and power, of age and sex, of constitutional and mental aptitude in the individuals with whom it has pleased the Almighty to people the world, and by this means to increase indefinitely the working members of the community, who, after supplying their own wants, shall, by the enlargement of their private means, be continually adding something to the surplus stock; and if especially it shall be ascertained that here lies the great secret of national productiveness, and consequently of national wealth and national power, may we not indulge the hope that a policy which shall cherish and protect the *industry of the country* against foreign competition, may create a demand and a home market for the products of our soil that shall counteract its depreciation from other causes? That such would be the tendency of such a policy cannot be doubted. Whether, however, its efficacy will prove sufficient to raise or only to stop, or only to retard the downward progress in value of our landed estates, remains with the future to decide. But if this compensating policy (compensating in some degree at least) shall be withdrawn, and the disposition already manifested to open to cultivation more and more of the soils exuberant in fertility, at cheaper and cheaper rates; shall be followed up, it requires not the aid of prophecy to foretell, that the pressure upon those of us who shall remain here will be severe in the extreme.

Writers on population have estimated that every thirty years the number of deaths in a country will equal the number of its inhabitants. This estimate is clearly too short for a climate possessing the salubrity of ours. Say then that in the coming fifty years, death will draw its pall over as many human beings in this state as now occupy its

surface. We have here the paradox of an ever dying, and at the same time an ever living community. It lives by those who come to take the places which we leave, and to succeed to and share what we have wrought out for them, whether of good or of evil. How important then to the legislator should appear the even-handed justice, the precision and plainness of those rules, by which this succession and distribution is guarded and regulated. How important that they should be carried into effect with a care and fidelity and a uniformity, which shall exclude as far as possible every source of questionable right, and every inducement to fraud, litigation and violence, that whatever else we may leave to our survivors, a contentious spirit for the spoils of the dying may not be among our bequests. Pardon me, then, if I urge upon you the duty of cherishing your courts of probate as important agents in our estimable system of civil polity, and the duty also of watching the operation, as well as the administration of our probate laws.

We have spoken of New Hampshire at different periods, without sufficiently discriminating its real importance at the times of which we spake. What, for instance, may be supposed to have been its population in 1641, at the time of the union with Massachusetts, and when, on the division of that colony into counties in 1643, a county by the name of Norfolk was established, extending from the Merrimack to the Piscataqua, and of which Salisbury near Newburyport was the shire town? No reasonable calculation can assign to our territory at that period a population exceeding one thousand souls. Yet our settlements had commenced on the Piscataqua twenty years before, and only three years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. Portsmouth and Dover were, however, thought of sufficient importance to have a court approaching in juris-

diction to the county courts of Massachusetts, and the county was usually styled the county of Norfolk, including the county of Dover and Portsmouth. On our separation, this county of Norfolk was obliterated; and the towns on the Merrimack falling within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts were annexed to their county of Essex. This court of Dover and Portsmouth had a probate jurisdiction, whether limited or not I have not been able to ascertain.

Again, at what may we estimate our population at the time when by the authority of the crown we were reluctantly and finally separated from Massachusetts in 1692? Not more than five thousand souls at most; and even this will shew an increase for the intervening period of fifty years, of about forty per cent. for every ten years. At the time of the division of the province into counties, in 1771, our population has been estimated to be from sixty-five to sixty-eight thousand. This will give an increase for the preceding eighty years, somewhat less than forty per cent. for every ten years. From this period to 1790, when our population is known to have been one hundred and forty-two thousand, the rate of increase was about forty-three per cent. for every ten years. This may appear extraordinary, considering that the war of the revolution occurred within this period, but the division of the province into counties was attended and followed by an unusual influx of population. Massachusetts had been divided into counties more than a century and a quarter before. From 1790 to 1800 the rate of our increase was about thirty per cent.; from 1800 to 1810 about sixteen per cent.; from 1810 to 1820 about fourteen per cent.; and from thence to 1830 about ten per cent. The increase of the population of New England from foreign sources ceased in 1640, about the time of our union with Massachusetts. From that pe-

riod more have gone from it than have come to it ; and estimating that for the coming ten years the natural increase of our population in this state, will be thirty per cent. (probably it will be nearer forty per cent.) and that we shall be able to retain within our limits one third of that increase, it follows that in this short period, there will proceed from us fifty-four thousand souls to people, and we trust to bless, some other part of God's earth.

*Gentlemen of the Historical Society:* — Entertaining views as to the time when the common law of England became the common law of New England, somewhat different from those usually expressed on this subject, it was originally my intention to have submitted those views to your indulgence, especially as they would be connected with facts highly illustrative of our civil history, and nearly allied to the subject which has particularly attracted my attention ; but the time would fail me, as well as your patience, upon which I fear I have unreasonably trespassed.

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#### HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF THE TOWN OF WARNER, N. H.

BY DR. M. LONG.

WARNER, a post town in Merrimack county, is situated west of Boscawen ; fifteen miles northwest of Concord, in the latitude of 43 degrees 16 minutes north. It has Sutton, Wilmot, and Salisbury, on the north, Boscawen on the east, Hopkinton and Henniker on the south, and Bradford on the west, and contains 29,620 acres, including Kearsarge Gore, which was annexed to Warner by an act of the legislature, June 1818. The Gore, which is a strip of land lying between Salisbury and Sutton, extends from the original north line of Warner to the highest peak of Kearsarge mountain, and contains 4,620 acres.

Warner was first granted by the government of Massachusetts Bay to sundry petitioners in Amesbury and Salisbury, in that then province, as early as 1735. The conditions of the grant were specified in the report of a committee to the legislature of that state as follows, viz :

At a great and general court or assembly for his Majesty's province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, began and held at Boston, upon Wednesday the twenty-eighth day of May, 1734, and continued by several adjournments to Wednesday the nineteenth day of November, and further continued by adjournments to Wednesday the thirty first day of December following, then met Thursday, January 15, 1735.

Edmund Quincy, Esquire, from the committee of both houses on petitions for townships, &c., gave in the following report, viz : — The committee appointed the fourteenth current to take into consideration the several petitions for townships before the court, and report what may be proper for the court to do thereon, having met and maturely considered the same, are humbly of opinion that there be a careful view and survey of the lands between Merrimack and Connecticut rivers, from the northwest corner of Rumford [Concord] on Merrimack, to the great falls on Connecticut, of twelve miles at the least in breadth or north and south ; by a committee of eleven able and suitable persons to be appointed by this court, who shall after a due knowledge of the nature and circumstances thereof, lay the same into as many townships of the contents of six miles square as the land in width as aforesaid will allow of ; no townships to be more than six miles east and west ; and also lay out the land on the east side of Connecticut river from said falls to the township laid out to Josiah Willard and others, into as many townships of the contents of six

miles square as the same will allow of; and also the land on the west side of the river of Connecticut from said falls to the equivalent land into one or two townships of the contents of six miles square, if the same will allow thereof. Five of which committee to be a quorum for surveying and laying out the township on each, from Rumford to Connecticut river as aforesaid; and three of the committee aforesaid shall be a quorum for surveying and laying out the townships on each side of Connecticut river as aforesaid; and that the said committee make report of their doings to this court at their session in May next, or as soon as conveniently they can, that the persons whose names are contained in the several petitions hereafter mentioned, viz. in the petition of Hopkinton, in the petition of Salisbury and Amesbury, in the petition of Cambridge, in the petition of Bradford and Wenham, in the petition of Haverhill, in the petition of Milton and Brookline, in the petition of Samuel Chamberlain and Jonathan Jewett, and in the petition of Nathaniel Harris, &c., in the petition of Morgan Cobb, &c., Jonathan Wells, &c., Lyscomb and Johnson, &c., in the petition of Isaac Little, &c., in the petition of Jonathan Powers, &c., John Whitman, Esq., &c., Samuel Haywood, &c., Josiah Fasset and others, John Flint and others, Jonathan How and others of Bridgewater, that have not heretofore been admitted grantees or settlers within the space of seven years last past of or in any former or other grant of a township or particular grant on condition of settling; and that shall appear and give security to the value of forty pounds to perform the conditions that shall be enjoined by this court; may by the major part of the committee be admitted grantees into one of the said townships; the committee to give public notice of the time and place of their meeting to admit the grantees; which committee shall be empowered

to employ surveyors and chainmen to assist them in surveying and laying out said townships. The province to bear the charge and be repaid by the grantees who may be admitted. The whole charge they shall advance, which committee we apprehend ought to be directed and empowered to admit sixty settlers in each township, and take their bonds payable to the committee and their successors in the said trust to the use of the province for the performance of the conditions of their grant, viz. That each grantee build a dwelling house of eighteen feet square and seven feet stud at the least on their respective house lots, and fence in and break up for ploughing, or clear and stock with English grass five acres of land within three years next after their admittance, and cause their respective lots to be inhabited; and that the grantees do, within the space of three years from the time of their being admitted, build and finish a convenient meeting house for the public worship of God, and settle a learned orthodox minister. And in case any of the grantees shall fail or neglect to perform what is enjoined as above, the committee shall be obliged to put the bonds in suit, and take possession of the lots and rights that shall become forfeited, and proceed to grant them to other persons that will appear to fulfil the condition within one year next after their last mentioned grant. And if a sufficient number of petitioners that have no grant within seven years as aforesaid, viz. sixty to each township, do not appear, others may be admitted, provided they have fulfilled the conditions of their former grant. The committee to take care that there be sixty three house lots laid out in as regular, compact and defensible a manner as the land will admit of; one of which lots shall be for the first settled minister, one for the second settled minister, and one for the school; to each of which

an equal proportion of land shall accrue in all future divisions.

*Friday, January 16, 1735.* In the house of representatives, ordered, that Joseph Gerrish, Benjamin Prescott, Josiah Willard, Job Almy, Esqrs. Mr. Moses Pearson, and Capt. Joseph Gould, with such as the honourable board shall join, be a committee to all intents and purposes to effect the business projected by the report of the committee of both houses to consider the petitions for townships, which passed this day, viz. On the proposed line between Merrimack and Connecticut rivers, and on both sides of Connecticut river; and that there be granted and allowed to be paid out of the public treasury, after the rate of fifteen shillings per diem, for every day he is in the service in the woods, and subsistence, and ten shillings per diem for every day to each one of the said committee while in the service in admitting settlers into the said townships, and subsistence, to be paid as aforesaid.

*In council,* Read and concurred, and William Dudley, Samuel Wells, Thomas Berry, Joseph Wilder, and John Chandler, jr., Esqrs., are joined with the committee of the house for the line between Merrimack and Connecticut rivers, &c.

At a great and general court, held in Boston the twenty fourth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and thirty six, the following vote passed the two houses, and was consented to by the governor, viz.: Voted, that Mr. Thomas Stevens, of Amesbury, be and hereby is empowered to assemble the grantees of the township, number one, [now Warner] lying in the line of towns between the rivers of Connecticut and Merrimack, giving timely notice to the said grantees admitted into the said township by the committee of this court, to meet and assemble at some suit-

able place, in order to choose a moderator and proprietors' clerk, and committee to allot and divide their lands and to dispose of the same, and to pass such votes and orders as by them may be thought conducive for the speedy fulfilment of the conditions of their grant, and also to agree upon methods for calling of meetings for the future. Provided, none of their votes concerning the dividing or disposing of their lands, that shall be passed while they are under the care and direction of the committee of this court, shall be of force before they are allowed of by the said committee.

By order of the great and general court to Deac. Thomas Stevens, the proprietors of the township No. 1 met April 25, 1737. After organizing their meeting, the proprietors chose a committee to lay out and divide the township according as they may receive instructions from time to time from them. At that meeting it was voted to divide the intervale equally among the proprietors according to quantity and quality; also to divide the upland lots where it may be thought most eligible for settlements. The proprietors appointed the third Wednesday of March as the time for their annual meetings.

At a meeting of the proprietors holden at Amesbury, Mass., March 15, 1738, it was determined to lay out sixty-three five-acre lots for settlement. Chose a committee for that purpose. Also chose their first board of selectmen. March 17, Thomas Rowel and Jonathan Barnard took the oath of office as selectmen, before Orlando Bagley, justice of the peace.

At a meeting of the proprietors of the township No. 1, June 23, 1738, the committee appointed to make some surveys for settlements, &c. reported, that they had laid out sixty-three house lots, containing about five acres each. These lots were laid out in the vicinity of Gen. Aquila Davis' mills.

The following individuals drew for their lots at that time, and continued their interest in the town till its final settlement, viz: John Allen, John Hoyt, Jacob Currier, Joseph Quimby, Samuel Barnard, John Challis, Ebenezer Wells, Nehemiah Ordway, John Jewet, Joseph Jones, John Nichols, David Ring, Elihu Gould, Stephen Morrill, John Pressey, Stephen Sargent, William Straw, Benjamin Tucker, Aaron Rowell, Jonathan Pressey, Gideon Rowell, Jarvis Ring, Francis Davis, John Sargent, Jonathan Barnard, John Jewel, James Ordway, Paine Wingate, Samuel Straw, Ichabod Colby, Jeremiah Flanders, Thomas Rowell. One lot was reserved for the first settled minister, one for the second minister, and one for the use of a school. As the remainder of the complement, sixty-three, were not connected with the proprietors till the town was settled, their names are here omitted.

At a meeting of the proprietors Jan. 21, 1733, they took some measures to clear a road from Contoocook River to the meeting-house lot in township No. 1, also to erect a saw-mill.

At a meeting of the proprietors of the township No. 1, holden in Amesbury (Massachusetts) March 21, 1739, Voted to pay Orlando Colby, Joseph Jewell and John Challis, Jr. one hundred and twenty pounds in province bills of the old tenor, to build a good saw mill; and if any proprietor should neglect to pay his proportion for said mill by the last of August, his right in the township should be exposed for sale at auction for the payment as the law directs.

At the same meeting the following preamble and vote passed, viz. "Whereas the proprietors of the township No. 1, before they had received any particular directions from the General Court to call a meeting in order to the laying out land in said township for settlement, supposed

they had power to call a meeting for business aforesaid, and accordingly assembled on October the 7th, 1736, and then chose a committee to lay out a division of upland as by the record of said township may appear, whereas the committee chosen laid out sixty-three forty acre lots and made return of their doings to the acceptance of the proprietors, who drew their lots, as by said records may appear; but whereas for want of direction and formal orders from the General Court to call a meeting and proceed in said business as aforesaid, the said meeting and the business done at that time and consequent upon them not being authentic and binding, it was proposed whether the proprietors of said township being now legally empowered to assemble and pass any acts for their own benefit, did approve of their original meetings and the division of land and draught of the lots referred to, and would prefer the same to the General Court's Committee for confirmation. Voted in the affirmative."

The meetings referred to in the above preamble and vote, were held at Amesbury, the first in Oct. 1736, at which meeting David Ring, Benjamin Tucker, Timothy Colby, Joseph Jewel, and Isaae Chandler were chosen as a committee to survey sixty-three forty acre lots, leaving it at their discretion to make the lots as near equal as may be as to quantity and quality. The second was holden Nov. 25, of the same year, at which time the committee exhibited a plan of surveys of the number of lots as above named, in four ranges, which report was accepted. In order to understand more fully the relative situations of places, reference should be had to the plan of the town.

May 28, 1740, the proprietors held their first meeting in this town for the purpose of examining the saw-mill and other improvements. The mill was accepted. At a meet-

ing of the proprietors in June, 1740, provisions were made for building a dam at the saw-mill, and shortly after measures were taken to induce settlers to move into the town. At a proprietors' meeting holden at Amesbury, August 29, 1740, they voted to give twenty pounds to each of the five first settlers that will settle on the conditions of the grant and make such improvements as are therein required. In October following, the proprietors chose an agent, Capt. Thomas Rowel, to petition the King's Most Excellent Majesty to allow this township to remain under the government of Massachusetts. Nov. 17th, the proprietors of the township No. 1, in the line of towns, as it was denominated on the clerk's book, chose two agents to petition the Governor and Council of New-Hampshire, to issue orders and direction to bring forward the settlement of said township. From the foregoing date to Jan. 1749, there was but very little done towards the contemplated settlement. In 1749, the proprietors erected at their expense four houses on the five acre building lots near where Gen. Davis' house now stands. The persons employed for that service were Thomas Colby, Moses Morrill, Jarvis Ring, and Gideon Straw.

The war with France commencing about this time, occasioned a suspension of all proceedings relative to the settlement of the town. The saw-mill, which had never been put in operation, and the houses erected for the accommodation of settlers, were abandoned by the proprietors, and finally destroyed by the Indians, and the place again left for years to the peaceable possession of the savages and thirteen wild beasts, that, for aught we can know, they had enjoyed for thousands of years before.

In 1763, the axeman's blows again broke silence in this

then howling wilderness. June 21, 1763, the proprietors met at Amesbury, and voted to choose a committee to perambulate the lines of the town; chose agents to build another saw-mill; also voted that a forty acre lot should be given to each of the first ten settlers for their encouragement to settlement, provided they would settle immediately. In August next following, the proprietors voted to give up their former division of lots, and that there should be sixty forty-acre lots laid out, and a plan of the same made out to be returned at the next meeting. The following persons engaged to go to the township No. 1, in the line of towns which took the name of *New-Amesbury*, about this time to settle, on the condition of receiving a forty-acre lot for settling, viz., Enoch Blaisdell, Eliphalet Danforth, Barnard Hoyt, Elijah Blaisdell, Jeremy Fowler, Pasky Pressey, Thomas Jewel, Nathan Currier, Bartholomew Heath, Joshua Bayley, Daniel Chase, Isaac Chase, Abner Wadkins, Francis Davis and Nathan Goodwin. At a meeting, Oct. 10, 1765, the first eighty-acre lots were drawn by the proprietors. At the same meeting it was voted that six shillings should be paid on each right to Mr. Farrington to build a meeting-house. In 1766, a committee was appointed to lay out a sixty acre lot to each proprietor; also to make an equal division of the intervale lands. In the same year the proprietors voted to raise sixteen shillings on a share to defray the expenses of the surveys and to build a meeting-house, the first meeting-house having been by accident burnt. In 1740, the divisional lines between Massachusetts and New Hampshire were settled, and soon after this town was granted by the Masonian proprietors to sixty three inhabitants of Rye, by the name of *Jennes-Town*. This grant caused controversies and lawsuits between the Amesbury proprietors and Rye

proprietors, which continued to 1773, when the parties mutually agreed to submit all disputes and contests respecting the claims to the final determination of Thomas Westbrook Waldron, Benjamin Greenleaf, Humphrey Hobson, Benjamin Chadbourne, and Woodbury Langdon, Esqrs., or any three of them, and entered into bonds of a thousand pounds to abide their judgment. The arbitrators awarded 140£ lawful money to the Rye proprietors, and all controversies ceased.

The town was very irregularly laid out. The proprietors' first surveys were in 1736, sixty-three forty-acre lots; next the same number of five-acre lots were laid out and drawn in 1738; and in 1765 an eighty-acre lot was laid out for each proprietor. The proprietors sent a committee to survey sixty-three sixty-acre lots in 1766. The next survey was made of sixty-three forty-acre lots in 1770. In the above named surveys but little regard was had to the lines of the town, nor were the several surveys made with any apparent reference to each other, as to contiguity or regularity. The consequence was, many gores of land were left in very inconvenient and irregular forms. And what added much to these irregularities were the changes the proprietors were allowed to make in their lots, when they chanced to draw those of little or no value, by making out surveys of other lots where they pleased in the individual lands.

The first settlement was in 1762, by Daniel Annis and his sons-in-law Reuben Kimball and Daniel Floyd. Isaac Waldron, his two sons, and Pasky Pressy moved into town with their families the year following. It is difficult to ascertain the precise order in which the settlers came into town afterwards.

Those who came and occupied the settlers' lots were for the most part very poor and illiterate.

Those mentioned above, and the following persons, with

their families, constituted nearly all the population in town in 1773, viz.: Daniel Flanders, Isaac Chase, Eliphalet Danforth, Francis Davis, Samuel Roby, Richard Goodwin, Joseph Currier, Philip Flanders, Abner Watkins, Elijah Blaisdell, Joshua Bagley, Daniel Chase, Daniel Young, Daniel Currier, Jeremy Fowler, Barnard Hoyt, Enoch Blaisdell, Parmenas Watson, Nehemiah Heath, Joseph Sawyer, Jacob Tucker, Moses Clark, Ebenezer Eastman, Theodore Stevens, Jonathan Fifield, David Gilmore, Seth Goodwin, Ezekiel Goodwin, Joseph Foster, Abner Chase, Stephen Edmunds, Hubbard Carter, Thomas Rowell, Robert Gould, Theophilus Currier and Nathaniel Trumball.

The customs and manners of the first settlers were very simple and plain. Being circumscribed in the social circles and very limited in numbers, each seemed to take an interest in, and seek his neighbor's welfare with fraternal affection. Before the roads were made comfortable for carriages, horses were not so much used for the transportation of heavy articles as oxen. Produce was carried to market by ox-teams. Oxen were used also to convey families to and from meetings, funerals, &c. And when neither oxen or horses could be conveniently used, a ready substitute was found by the athletic husbandman in his handsled. In mid-winter, when the snow was deep and no paths were made, three men went to Hopkinton, five or six miles, and brought female help in a case of sickness, on a hand-sled. Three families in the south part of the town, living on the "Parson Kelley hill," owned each a cow; they cut their forage for their cows in a meadow back of Caleb Jones', in the north part of the town, four or five miles distant, stacked their hay, and hauled it home in the winter, on hand-sleds. Some inhabitants on "Waldron's Hill," im-

proved a meadow west of the Mink Hills, two or three miles distant, in like manner. Nor could even this vehicle be used in all cases. In the first years of the settlement of the town, several of the inhabitants had to carry their corn and grain at least thirteen miles on their backs, to Concord, to mill.

Marriages were then entered into in earlier life than latterly. It was not uncommon for females to marry at the age of fifteen or sixteen years, and sometimes the contracting parties closed their business in a very summary way. Rather a humorous instance of this kind occurred about sixty years since, between a young man of this town and a young woman of Hopkinton.

Our adventurer went to Hopkinton to attend an ordination; while in the crowded assembly, and the faithful preacher was probably inculcating the doctrine of placing the affections on things above, *his* were directed to quite a different object. His attention was arrested by the appearance of a blooming youth, whose native beauty and fair form had never suffered martyrdom by tight lacing, the unhallowed fashion of modern times. By him her attractions were irresistible. The more he gazed the more he admired. And when the exercises were closed, he, fixing his eye upon her, rushed forward in the crowd and caught her in his arms, exclaiming at the same time, "*Now I have got ye, you jade, I have, I have!*" The sequel to this rude introduction was a marriage,—and might be considered one of Dr. Watts's "few happy matches."

In 1775 there were 262 inhabitants in town; in 1790, 863; in 1800, 1569; in 1810, 1838; in 1820, 2246; and in 1830, 2221.

In the charter of New-Amesbury, now Warner, granted Dec. 1767, one right was reserved for the first settled minister, one for the use of the ministry forever, and one for

the benefit of schools ; which rights were laid out in the same manner as the others were and free from any public taxes. The conditions of the grant were, that the proprietors build a meeting-house and maintain constant preaching from and after three years from the date of the grant.

To aid the settlers in fulfilling these conditions, the proprietors in November, 1770, voted to pay one dollar and an half on each right for one year ; then one dollar a year for four years ; then half a dollar for one year, on condition that the inhabitants settle "a learned orthodox minister in town, on or before Dec. 1772." In 1769, a second meeting-house was erected ; the first, a poorly constructed log house, having been burnt one or two years before. This house was built on the site of the first, near the most elevated spot enclosed in the old burying ground. Its dimensions were about thirty by twenty-four feet on the floor, one story high, covered with long shingles, and boarded. But very little finishing was done till the pew ground was sold, three or four years afterwards, when the pews were sold at auction for from three to three dollars and a half each, and the avails of the sales in part laid out on the building ; but at best it was a miserable house. The first candidate employed to preach in the town was Mr. Timothy Walker (afterwards Judge Walker, late of Concord,) in the former part of the year 1769. In Dec. 1770, the settlers, forty-five in number, found themselves jointly and severally in the penal sum of 10£ "to pay their proportion according to poll and estate, of the expense of supporting an able and learned minister of the gospel, who should be approved by the pastors of the neighboring Churches." In the spring of 1771, Rev. William Kelley, a native of Newbury, Massachusetts, was employed to preach as a candidate, and in the November following he received a call

to settle in the ministry, with a salary of 40£ the first year, to increase 1£ 10s a year till it should amount to 60£, and twenty cords of wood annually. This call he accepted, and was ordained on the 5th February, 1772, and on the same day a Congregational Church was gathered, consisting of seven male members. On this occasion the zeal of Isaac Waldron in forming the Church was, perhaps, more commendable than his discretion; for, said he, though not a professor of religion, "rather than they should fail for members, I will take hold and join the church myself." There were at this time between forty and fifty families in town.

Mr. Kelly was graduated at Harvard College in 1767. He sustained his connexion with the Church and town till March, 1801, when at his own request it was dissolved. After this he resided in town and preached occasionally till his death, which took place suddenly, 18 May, 1813. From the time of Mr. Kelly's dismissal, there was no settled minister in town till the ordination of the Rev. John Woods, June 22, 1814. Mr. Woods was a native of Fitzwilliam. He graduated at Williams College in 1809; he sustained a reputable standing as to scholarship while in college, and no less so since entering the ministry. Mr. Woods was settled by a Congregational society. The town voted to concur with the church and society in giving him a call to settle; but soon after, a town meeting was called, and that vote reconsidered; and at the same meeting it was voted that the parsonage interest money should not be allowed for his support. The society, though small, gave him a salary of \$400, and twenty cords of wood, per annum, and \$500 settlement.

In June, 1823, Mr. Woods was dismissed from his pastoral charge of the church and society by an ecclesiastical council convened to take into consideration the subject of

his support. From this time to the settlement of the present minister, Rev. Jubilee Wellman, Sept. 26, 1827, the town was again destitute of a settled minister.

Mr. Wellman is a native of Greenfield, Massachusetts: he fitted for College, but on account of a feeble constitution, he did not enter. He attended to his theological studies four years at the seminary at Bangor, Maine, and was honored with the first appointment in the exercises at the close of his studies.\*

Till about the year 1788, the inhabitants were almost entirely of the Congregational order. About that time, a Baptist society was formed, who built a meeting-house and partly finished it. They had no regular preaching. After a few years the society dwindled away, and their house went to ruin, and the fragments were sold at auction in 1825. Since the formation of the Baptist society, other denominations, particularly Freewill Baptists, have been somewhat numerous; but no church of any denomination, except Congregational, has ever been formed, nor any minister ordained.

At present, there are in this town Congregationalists, Baptists, Freewill Baptists, Universalists, Osgoodites, and probably many have their religion yet to choose.

The town has never been blessed with a general revival of religion. The greatest revivals ever witnessed in the place were in 1816, 1827, and the present time, July, 1831. In the time of the first revival, about thirty were added to the Congregational Church, and a few united with the Baptist.

\* The Deacons of the Congregational Church have been as follows:

	<i>Elected.</i>	<i>Died or dismissed.</i>
Parmenas Watson . . . . .	1772	1825
Nehemiah Heath . . . . .	1772	1816
David Heath . . . . .	a. 1809	Dism. to Hopkinton 1831
Isaac Dalton . . . . .	1816	
Reuben Kimball . . . . .	1831	
Ezra Barrett . . . . .	1831	

There is a Social Library in town incorporated in 1796, containing from 60 to 80 volumes, but has been for several years in a neglected and ruinous condition.

The following persons have graduated from this town ; John Kelly, at Dartmouth in 1804, attorney at law in Northwood and one of the founders of the New Hampshire Historical Society, and its Recording Secretary from 1823 to 1831 ; Rev. Hosea Wheeler, at Dartmouth in 1811 ; who was a Baptist minister, and died at Eastport, Maine, 27 January, 1823, æ. 32 ; and John Morrill and Asa Putney, at Amherst College ; and Stephen C. Badger, at Dartmouth in 1823, attorney at law at New London. Richard Bean received a liberal education, although he did not take his degree owing to a difficulty with the authority of College rather than a deficiency in scholarship. He studied the profession of Law. He survived but a few years after obtaining his education.

A third Congregational meeting-house was erected in 1791. The old house being much out of repair the town voted to take it down, and sell the nails, glass, &c., to defray the expense of building a fence around the burying ground. There was but little done towards finishing the inside of the new meeting-house for several years. It was never finally finished, and is now nearly in ruins. A fourth meeting-house was erected by twenty nine individuals of the Congregational Society in 1819. It is a very comfortable house and well finished. The whole number of graves or interments in town discoverable at this time (Dec. 1830) amount to seven hundred and sixteen.

This town for the most part may be considered rather a healthy place. It has not been exempt, however, from epidemic diseases, which have in some instances proved very mortal. In 1776, and '77 the dysentery prevailed to an

alarming extent. In the first of those years, it carried off sixteen, and in the second, seventeen of the inhabitants, among whom were several adults and heads of families.

On the 9th September, 1821, this town was visited with a most violent and destructive hurricane, by which four lives were lost, a number seriously injured and considerable property destroyed.

The terrible effects produced by this whirlwind could be traced with the eye sixteen or eighteen miles, through forests years afterwards. Its path was of various widths from ten to thirty or forty rods. No trees of the forest could withstand its violence. Even in some instances the bed stones in walls were removed out of their places. Several buildings were demolished; some whirled into the air, their parts flying in every direction like feathers. Several persons were carried to a considerable distance. Its general course was from north-west to south-east through the whole extent of the north part of this town. It began in or west of Wendell, west of Sunapee Lake, passed through New London, or part of Sutton, over the south-west spur of Kearsarge Mountain into the Gore, now Warner, prostrating forest trees and buildings, and whatever crops were upon the ground in its way were entirely destroyed. Samuel Savory, an aged man, who lived in the Gore, observed the cloud approaching, hastened to secure the windows of his house, but before he could get from the chamber the whirlwind struck the house, there seemed but one crash before it was whirled into atoms, himself carried several rods and fell his head upon a rock, and killed instantly. An infant child of Daniel Savory's was killed at the same house. About two miles farther east in its course it came unawares upon the houses of Joseph True, Esq., and Peter

Flanders. Its violence here seemed unabated. Their houses were destroyed in an instant. Anna Richardson, an elderly woman, and an infant of Peter Flanders, were crushed to death under the ruins. Several others grievously wounded, of whom a little child of Mr. True's died a short time afterwards. This whirlwind was seen by several at a distance. To those who were on elevated ground and near its path, it somewhat resembled an inverted tunnel at the lower part of it, and the reverse of that at its upper part. It was seen by several on Burnt Hill when it destroyed Mr. True's and Mr. Flanders' buildings, about a mile distant, and as it passed on through Bagley's pond and expended its violence after destroying Morrill's house near Boscawen line, which was in full view. In passing the pond it carried up large quantities of water into the air, which at first altered the complexion of the cloud from a dark appearance to a greenish hue, when at that moment the sun's rays darted through from between the clouds upon it, which immediately altered it to a yellowish or brassy appearance.\*

The first settlers of this town were very much annoyed by the depredations of bears, raccoons, and other mischievous animals in their cornfields. It required great watchfulness and care in the husbandman when the corn was in the milk, to preserve a moderate share for the harvest. That species of the bear which were numerous here were particularly fond of corn in the milk, sweet fruits, honey, &c. It was that kind denominated by naturalists *Ursus Americanus*, or the American Bear, has a long pointed nose, and is generally smaller than most other kinds. It abounds in

\* An account of this whirlwind, written by JACOB B. MOORE, Esq. is published in these Coll. vol. i. p. 241.

uninhabited parts of our country, particularly at the north of us. It is said to live exclusively on vegetable food, extreme hunger only being able to induce it to eat the flesh of animals. These bears reside in trees, mounting and descending them with great alertness. They are frequently found burrowed in hollow trees, upon the ground and clefts of rocks. Their flesh, when young, is thought delicious food, and they were so frequently taken that it was not uncommon to find the tables of hunters well supplied with it. There are several aged men now living in town who have killed and assisted in killing many bears. It may not be uninteresting to relate a rencounter Thomas Annis, Esq., had with a bear. One day late in March, the snow being deep, he mounted his snow-shoes and in company with Abner Watkins and their dogs set off towards the Mink Hills for a hunt, armed with an axe and gun. In the neighborhood of the hills, the dogs were perceived to be very much excited with something in a ledge of rocks. Annis left his companion, Watkins, and ascended a crag twenty or thirty feet to where the dogs were, having no other weapon with him but his staff which was pointed with iron. After exploring a little, he concluded there was no game there of more consequence than a hedge-hog or some other small animal, and being fatigued laid down on the snow on his back to rest, reclining his head upon the place he had been examining; he had but just laid down when he heard a snuffing under his ear; he started up and turning round found an old bear pressing her head up through the old leaves and snow which filled the mouth of her den; he thrust his spear pointed staff at the bear's brisket, and thus held the bear which was pressing towards him, at his staff's length distance and called to his companion Watkins to

come up with the axe and kill the bear, which, after some little time was effected. After the action was over, Annis complained of Watkins' dilatoriness, but Watkins excused himself by saying he could not get his gun off, that he had snapt, snapt, snapt, several times. Where did you take sight? said Annis, knowing that he was directly between him and the bear; I took sight between your legs, said Watkins.

Very unlike the resolution of these men was that exhibited by two young men who began a clearing on Pompion Hill. They built a camp, and made a beginning to clear on the spot where Timothy Davis' house now stands. They passed two nights in their camp. On the morning of the third day as they went to felling trees, an old bear came at them with her mouth wide open, having been alarmed for her cubs which were near by; this so terrified our adventurers that they took to their heels, ran to their camp, picked up their provisions, utensils, &c. and were off; no persuasives of the people who were then in town could induce them to stay longer; they left the wilderness and the bears, for the land of their nativity, and never returned afterwards.

Wolves were also troublesome to the first settlers, making great ravages among their sheep. They seem not to be satisfied with a competency for their wants, but destroy numbers of sheep and lambs, when in their way, out of mere wantonness. There is no animal whose carnivorous appetite is stronger than that of the wolf, and he is endowed by nature with all the means of satisfying it, being strong, agile, subtle, and enabled not only to explore, but to seize and subdue his prey.

The Catamount and Wildcat were sometimes met with by the first settlers. In 1766, Solomon Annis shot at a

catamount on a tree, brought him to the ground, when he seized his axe and dispatched him on the spot. There were some beaver about the streams, also some otter, mink, and musquash. Wild turkeys, partridges, pigeons, and other small game were found pretty plenty in the woods.

We can but faintly conceive the privations and hardships endured by the first settlers, without knowing something of their circumstances in life, and the hard condition to which they were unavoidably subjected for several years, before mills, bridges and roads were constructed for their convenience. To commence poor in the woods, without houses, without clearings or roads, often destitute of almost all the necessaries of life, might seem just occasions to call forth and employ the resolution, ingenuity, and energy of all who ventured into the forests, to make themselves habitations and farms. Yet many there were, who, to avail themselves of the privileges held out by the proprietors, came to occupy their forty acre lots for settling; subjecting themselves to all the inconveniences and privations incident to pioneer adventurers, into new and uninhabited countries. But, however dark and gloomy a true picture of the times might appear in the main, there were some bright spots and vivid colors in it. Instead of a great variety of gew-gaws and luxuries, the people were clad in plain homespun; and their tables were furnished with plain, simple, but nutritious food. One consequence was, that diseases were less frequent and less numerous. The people enjoyed more social and friendly intercourse; felt more interest in each other's welfare, and more ready to contribute to each other's wants. Before the fire-brands of discord were thrown among the people, they were united like a band of brothers and sisters; to which time the survivors will now refer as

the happiest of their days. There seems to be a charm in encountering difficulties and dangers. We may observe this propensity from infancy to manhood, and from manhood to old age. This trait of character is not peculiar to hunters, sailors, or soldiers, but is common to all, and will continue to be so, so long as mankind are entertained with history, travels, and voyages; and more particularly so, when associated with hazardous enterprizes, bold daring, and feats of bravery. The first settlers considered every additional family that moved into town as a valuable acquisition to the place. All were ready to welcome the new comers into the fraternity.

This town has not been settled long enough to furnish instances of remarkable longevity. It is not uncommon, however, to meet with some of the first settlers who have attained to the ages of 70, 80, and some of 90 years. The first white male child born in town was Daniel Kimball, born October, 1762, and is now living in Canaan. The second was a female, Molly Goodwin, who is also living, aged 67 years.

When the war of the revolution commenced, Warner was not behind her neighbors in preparing for the contest. Though the number of inhabitants was small, and the people poor, they promptly furnished their quota of men for the field; some of whom were perhaps as effective and brave as any that could be found in the service. Those who took up arms in the cause of their country in 1775, previous to the organization of an army by Congress, were Charles Barnard, James Palmer, John Palmer, Richard Bartlett, Jonathan Roby, Francis Davis, and Wells Davis. They enlisted for eight months; the three last mentioned, Roby, F. Davis, and W. Davis, were in Bunker's Hill Battle.

R. Bartlett, Esq., and C. Barnard, were in a skirmish with the British near New-Brunswick, New-Jersey.

In 1776, the following persons enlisted into the continental service, viz. Hubbard Carter enlisted during the war; and Aquila Davis, Amos Floyd, and Philip Rowell, enlisted for three years. In the same year Isaac Walker, Pasky Pressy, Daniel Young, and John Palmer, were in the militia service. During the campaign of Burgoyne, in 1777, several men from this town were in the service at Bennington, Ticonderoga, Saratoga, &c.

After the expiration of the term of the first three years' men, William Lowell, Isaac Lowell, Stephen Colby, and Ichabod Twilight, a mulatto, were enlisted for three years. Considerable bounties were engaged to the Lowells and Colby, by the town, for their encouragement to enlist, and were afterwards paid, though they were so fortunate as not to be retained in the service the term for which they enlisted, or exposed to the dangers of a battle with the enemy.

During the last war with Great-Britain, early in 1813, there were upwards of thirty men from this town enrolled in a volunteer regiment, commanded by Gen. Aquila Davis, commissioned as a Colonel. Col. Davis's regiment was marched to Burlington early in the year 1813, and put under the command of Gen. Wade Hampton. They were twice slightly engaged with the enemy, at Chateaugeay, and at the Stone Mills, at La Cole; neither of which were celebrated for any thing gained or lost. Col. Davis commanded a detachment of about 200 men on an island near the mouth of Otter Creek, in Lake Champlain, where he repelled an attack of the British naval squadron on that lake, May 14, 1814. The main design of the British was

probably to bring on an action with Commodore M'Donough's squadron, some distance up that Creek. No soldier has ever been wounded or lost in battle from this town.

Warner is divided into twenty-one school districts for primary schools, for the most part comfortably provided with school houses; in which are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography generally, and in some, rhetoric, history, philosophy, chemistry, &c.

The town is well watered by Warner river and its tributaries. This is a small river of from twelve to twenty yards in width, which rises in New-London and Fishersfield, enters at the northwest corner of the town, and runs diagonally through the town to the south-east corner, and falls into the Contocook river in Hopkinton, about a mile beyond the limits of the town. This stream divides the town pretty nearly into two equal parts, and affords several valuable mill privileges. There are six grist-mills in town, two with three, and the remainder with two runs of stones each. Also, one paper-mill, two clothing mills, and twelve saw-mills. There are four ponds, Thom Pond, Pleasant, Bear, and Bagley's, which afford a variety of small fish. In certain seasons of the year the salmon trout is caught in Bear Pond, of a good size and very fine flavor. Pleasant Pond contains perhaps 15 or 20 acres. It has apparently no natural channel for an inlet or outlet to it; but is probably supplied through subterranean passages, which raise the water at times, without any apparent cause, sufficiently high to overflow its banks.

*Mountains.* Warner has a full share of mountains and high bluffs within its limits. Kearsarge mountain, on the north, rears his majestic head from the bosom of a dense forest of evergreens. This mountain, which is estimated

at 2461 feet in height, is not excelled in beauty of form, from a southern or eastern view, by any in this part of the country. It is frequently visited by the lovers of nature's rude and majestic scenery. It is easy of access by the new road from Warner to Sutton, and round the north part of the mountain in Wilmot and Andover, where people can ride comfortably to within a mile of the top of the highest peak. From this bluff, the spectator may, by a glance of the eye, bring to view nearly all of Merrimack county, and parts of Hillsborough, Rockingham, Strafford, Grafton, Sullivan, and Cheshire counties. The Mink Hills are a range of low mountains, extending from the river to the south part of the town, a little west of a centre line. The farms in the neighborhood of these mountains are valuable for grazing, and afford good orcharding.

The principal timber trees of our forests are pine, several species, oak, white and red, maple, birch, beech, chestnut, ash, hemlock, spruce, bass, &c. Pine and oak were found in the greatest abundance and of the best quality. So insensible were the first settlers to the value of timber, that thousands and thousands of dollars worth of the finest timber trees were destroyed by fires, and others wantonly cut down, and left to perish upon the ground. Many samples of this waste may be seen at the present day. Great quantities of excellent clear boards have been sawed at the several mills in town. The white oak also has been found in considerable quantities, and of an excellent quality. Our navy yard has been furnished with several very fine keel sticks for seventy four gun ships, from this and the adjoining town of Hopkinton. Timber, however, is now becoming scarce.

Warner may be considered strictly a farming town. Beef, pork, butter, cheese, mutton, poultry and some wool,

are the principal articles raised for the market. Corn, rye, wheat, oats, peas, beans, potatoes, turnips, and most garden vegetables are raised for home consumption. There is generally a very considerable deficiency in bread stuffs. Hay of a good quality is cut upon the upland farms, consisting of clover, herdsgrass, redtop, &c. and in the intervals and meadows, fowlmeadow, bluejoint and several other kinds of grasses. Apples are raised in great abundance, but little attention has as yet been paid by farmers to the improvement of their quality by grafts. Pears, peaches, cherries, and most kinds of stone fruits may be easily raised here to great perfection. Melons, squashes and pompions flourish well. Flax was raised formerly for home use, but latterly cotton cloths supersede linens, and the raising of it is almost entirely neglected.

On the general scale, we may consider genius, not altogether as an exotic, but a native plant, common to all the human family, not confined to any locality, nor such a faculty as will vegetate and grow luxuriantly without care and cultivation. And the stunted growth of it here, is not so much attributable to any natural deficiency, as to a culpable neglect of literary and scientific pursuits.

The physicians who have been in practice any considerable time in town are the following, viz. Doctor John Hall was the first, and is now living in Maine, \*John Currier, †— Cogswell, \*Thomas Webster, \*William Dinsmoor, \*Henry Lyman, †Silas Walker, the writer of these sketches, \*Caleb Buswell, and Leonard Eaton. They are inserted in the order in which they came into town and commenced business. There are two attorneys in town, the only two who have ever resided long in the place; HENRY B. CHASE and HARRISON G. HARRIS, Esquires. There are three stores and two taverns in town.

\* Deceased.

† Removed.

A town Lyceum was formed in June, 1830, which will it is hoped exert an influence in favour of mental improvement, the great object for which it is formed.

The following Table, which was taken from the records of RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq., will show the important information of the opening of Spring on the hills in Warner; the pine lands are ready for the plough usually at least a week or ten days earlier; this indicates the near close of foddering time of young cattle and sheep.

In 1801	Ploughed	March 28.	Sowed wheat	April 5.
1802	do.	April 14.	do.	19.
1803	do.	do. 11.	do.	18.
1805	do.	do. 1.	do.	6.
1806	do.	do. 21.	do.	26.
1807	do.	do. 25.	do.	May 4.
1808	do.	do. 11.	do.	April 15.
1809	do.	do. 18.	do.	22.
1810	do.	do. 20.	do.	24.
1811	do.	do. 4.	do.	8.
1812	do.	do. 21.	do.	29.
1813	do.	do. 19.	do.	23.
1814	do.	do. 12.	do.	16.
1815	do.	do. 19.	do.	29.
1816	do.	do. 20.	do.	26.
1817	do.	do. 15.	do.	23.
1818	do.	May 2.	do.	May 9.
				very good crop.
1819	do.	April 23.	do.	April 27.
1820	do.	do. 22.	do.	27.
1821	do.	do. 17.	do.	24.
1822	do.	do. 9.	do.	18.
1823	do.	do. 17.	do.	23.
1824	do.	do. 10.	do.	18.
1825	do.	do. 11.	do.	16.
1826	do.	do. 16.	do.	24.
1827	do.	do. 16.	do.	21.
1828	do.	March 31.	do.	12.
1829	do.	April 17.	do.	27.
1830	do.	do. 9.	do.	15.
1831	do.	do. 2.	do.	26.

## BILL OF MORTALITY IN WARNER, KEPT BY MRS. BENJAMIN EVANS.

	Under 10 years age.	Between 10 and 20.	Between 20 and 30.	Between 30 and 40.	Between 40 and 50.	Between 50 and 60.	Between 60 and 70.	Between 70 and 80.	Between 80 and 90.	Between 90 and 100.	Total.
In 1826	4	4	5	2	4	1	2	4	1	0	27
1827	9	2	3	3	1	2	1	3	3	0	27+1
1828	8	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	17+7
1829	11	2	5	4	3	3	3	5	4	2*	42+6
1830	12	3	3	4	3	1	1	2	0	0	29
To July 10, 1831	4	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	10

MEMOIR OF REV. FEDERAL BURT, OF DURHAM, A MEMBER OF  
THE SOCIETY.

[From the Sermon delivered at his funeral by Rev. Jonathan French, of North Hampton, with some alterations.]

The Rev. FEDERAL BURT was born in Southampton, Massachusetts, on the 4th day of March, 1789, being the memorable day on which the Federal Constitution first went into operation: from that circumstance, his father, who was warmly in favor of the Constitution, gave that name to his son.

Mr. Burt was one of eleven children. The names of the ten eldest were enrolled among the professed disciples of the Lord Jesus, before the death of their lamented brother. This fact may encourage the faith of christian parents in the covenanted mercies of their God: and excite them to fidelity in religiously instructing their children, and to earnest prayer for their conversion.

It was Mr. Burt's privilege to be born in a place distinguished for the zeal with which the literary and religious education of young men has been promoted. In the course of twenty-five years, previous to August, 1826, *twenty-eight* young men, in that town, had received a collegiate education; *nineteen* of whom were ordained ministers of the gos-

\*Mrs. Susanna Stuart, an unmarried woman, aged 96 years, and Mrs. Foster, 92 years.

pel; and six others in a course of preparation, or candidates for the christian ministry.

He was in childhood observed to possess lively and quick perceptions, and a pleasant and amiable disposition. At the age of thirteen; he was a subject of special religious impression; and although he made no profession of religion at that time, he ever after mentioned that as the period when he hoped he experienced religion. In his fifteenth year, he made a profession, and united with the church in his native town.

He pursued his studies preparatory to entering College, with an older brother, then minister of Western, Massachusetts, the Rev. Sylvester Burt, now minister of Great Barrington, in the same State. He graduated at Williams College, in 1812; having sustained high standing, both as a scholar, and as a man of pure morals and ardent piety.

He studied theology in different periods of his course, with Rev. Joseph Lyman D. D., of Hatfield, Massachusetts, and Rev. David Porter, D. D., of Catskill, in the State of New York. He commenced his professional labors at Kingston, New Hampshire, under the patronage of the Massachusetts Society for promoting Christian Knowledge. In the commission, which is dated 1 March, 1814, he was appointed to preach in several destitute towns in New Hampshire.

He went to Durham in June, 1814. His labors were continued here, with the exception of four or five Sabbaths in Salisbury, Connecticut, where he had an invitation to settle in the ministry.

He was consecrated to the pastoral office in Durham, 18 June, 1817.

The zeal, ability, and success, with which he fulfilled his ministry, are generally known, and especially to his Society, to his brethren in the church. The church in Durham, con-

sisting at the time of his death of about seventy members, increased from a very few, to that number, through the blessing of God on his ministrations.

He was in no small degree instrumental in rebuilding other parts of the walls of our Zion. He engaged with earnestness in the missionary cause, and filled with ability the office of a trustee of the Missionary Society of this State. His influence was felt in the circle of his brethren in the ministry, and in all our churches; and wherever it extended, did much to promote the cause of good morals, evangelical truth, and gospel order.

With an affectionate and benevolent heart, ready to every kind office of humanity and christian charity, he possessed a strong, discriminating, and active mind, and much independence, and decision of character. There was in him a more than ordinary union of ardent feeling and sound judgment; which qualified him to devise, carry forward, and influence others to promote plans of usefulness to Zion.

As a preacher, the most weighty truths formed the matter of his discourses, and the style and manner in which they were exhibited were original and impressive.

Of the affection and deep feeling with which he sought the salvation of souls, it is hardly necessary to speak. Ye all are witnesses, that he "ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Had he possessed firmness of health in proportion to the native vigor of his constitution and powers of his mind, what might he not have effected? It is wonderful that, under the debility, restlessness, and agony of his disease, he should have accomplished so much. A weak mind would soon have sunk under such a pressure. An indolent mind would have found, in such circumstances, full excuse for inactivity. But he was not sustained by native vigor

and fortitude only. He could say, in all his labors and afflictions,

“I can do all things, or can bear  
“All sufferings, if my Lord be there.”

I would not advert to his afflicted condition, in April, 1827, which was afterwards followed with far greater suffering, were it not that I may introduce the sentiments he expressed in relation to it, in a letter to a brother in the ministry.\* “I can only say to you, that this week is a week of trial and of deep affliction. But it is the cup which my Father has given me, and shall I not drink it. It was an hour ever to be remembered for its painfulness, and for the wonderful manifestation of the divine presence. Never was I divinely sustained of God as in that hour. Oh! help me to praise his name. If I see you again, I will tell you all; and if not, only let us be faithful unto death.”

When he could no longer fulfil the duties of the usual ministry, he undertook another important service in the cause of the Redeemer, as Editor of the *New Hampshire Observer*. This work he performed with much ability. By this labor, which occupied a few of the last months of his life, his usefulness was prolonged, his worth became more generally known, and his loss will be more extensively felt.†

When convinced that his end drew near, the dying counsel of this beloved minister of Christ to his friends, and to

\* He suffered the amputation of an arm, and about a year before, the amputation of a finger.

† “Many of the articles which have appeared in the paper were written in his bed, in the intervals of extreme suffering. The editorial matter was from his pen, until the last three or four weeks before his death. He may be said to have given his last labors to this object.”—*Obituary notice in New Hampshire Observer, of 13 February, 1828.*

He alluded to his sufferings and consolations in an editorial piece in the paper of 26 December, 1827, on “the closing year.” “In passing to another year, we congratulate our friends on the multiplied blessings of that year which has passed away. Some of us, indeed, may have had sorrows, Alas! *we have had them.* Still, let us never repine. The year has been crowned with mercies, and we have lived in the full protection of the Almighty. Let us look over our own life and review it well. Let us mingle penitence for sin with our grateful recollections of the divine mercy.

those of the church who were near him, was affectionate, solemn, and seasonable. Placing himself in an attitude to utter his last words of advice, "Much depends," said he to his afflicted Christian friends around him, "*much depends* on this hour. I have loved this church. I have had their confidence, I *still* have it; and my dying request is, that they will be much in prayer. You must stand firm, and do your duty. I see my conversation depresses the room, and I forbear."

In the close of life he was composed, and rejoiced that he was in the hands of God. He said indeed of a death bed, "It is a poor place to perfect the work of sanctification." But he also said, "Where God is, there is happiness, and no where else is it perfect." A friend on this inquired, "Do you not wish to be there?" He replied, "I do."

Mr. Burt died at Durham, 9 February, 1828, having nearly completed his 39th year. He was elected a member of the New-Hampshire Historical Society, 8 June, 1825. Though he had expressed a warm approbation of the plan and objects of the institution, and discovered an interest in its success, yet the state of his health, and his arduous duties after his election, did not permit him to contribute any thing directly for the Collections. But he prepared a history of the Church of Durham, with sketches of its several ministers, from its first establishment, which he published in the Observer; some of which might, with propriety, be transferred to the pages of the Society's printed Collections.

Let us look abroad upon the church and the world. The year which is closing has been a year to be remembered in Zion forever. GOD has done great things for his people and for mankind. The progress of *truth*, and *righteousness*, and *salvation*, is becoming rapid and full of glory. We can only name these topics, and leave them. May we close the year, as we would close our life, *in the service of GOD*, and begin another, as we would begin the business of heaven, *by devoting ourselves and all we have to HIM.*"

## PENACOOK PAPERS.

[The following papers were faithfully copied from the originals on file in the office of the Secretary of the State of Massachusetts, and furnished for publication by Mr. JOSHUA COFFIN. From these documents it appears, that some of the inhabitants of Newbury and Dover had, in the year 1659, petitioned "for a tracte of land to ye quantity of 12 miles square, at a place called Pennecooke." A grant of 8 miles square was given on certain conditions, which, not being fulfilled, was of course void. In 1663, some of the inhabitants of Salem had a plantation granted to them at Penacook, but they made no settlement. By the following papers it appears, that as early as May, 1668, Capt. Richard Waldron built a Trucking House at Penacook, which was enclosed by a fort, and was probably the first house ever erected there; and that "Capt. Waldron and Peter Coffin intended to build there, and have ground broke upp to be improved." In June, 1668, Thomas Dickinson was murdered by an Indian, which caused a great excitement. Whether his death prevented a settlement at Penacook or not, is not known. It is, however, well known that no settlement was there made till 1726, which was 87 years after the first mention of it by Winthrop, in 1639.]

## I.

*The Petition of Dover and Newbury, 1659.*

To the Honred Generall Courte, now assembled at Boston.

The humble petecyon of us whose names are underwritten, beinge inhabytants of this jurisdiction, and beinge senseable of the need of multeplyinge of townshippes for the inlargement of the contrey, and accomodateinge of such as want oppertunity to improve themselves, have taken into consideration a place which is called Pennecooke, which by reporte is a place fit for such an one—Now the humble request of your petetioners to this honred Courte is, that we may have the grant of a tracktè of land their to the quantity of twelve miles square, which being grant-ed, we shall give up ourselves to be at the cost and charge of vewinge of it, and consider fully aboute it, wheather to proceed on for the settlinge of a towne or noe, and for that end shall crave the liberty of three yeares to give in our resolution; and in case that wee doe proseed, then our humble request is, that we may have the grant of our free-

dome from publike charge for the space of seaven yeares after the time of our resolution given in to this Honred Court, for our encoragement to settle a plantation soe furre remote as knowinge that many will be our inconvenyences (for a longe time) which we must expectt to meet with all, which desires of ours beinge ansered, your petetioners shall ever pray for the happyness of this Honred Courte, and rest your humble petetioners.

Richard Walderne	John Bayley
Val : Hill :	John Cheiney
Peter Coffin	Nathaniel Weare
John <sup>his</sup> × Hird [Heard]	Robard Coker
<sub>marke</sub>	John Poore
William Ffurbur	Robert Rogers
Roger Plaisteed	Edward Richardson
Edward Woodman	William Cotton
John Pike	John Wolcot
Abraham Toppan	John Bond
Benia : Swett	William Titcomb
George Little	

18 (3) 59: [i. e. 18 May, 1659] The Committee do judge meet that the petitioners be granted a plantation of eight miles square, upon condition that at the sessions of the Generall Court to be held in Octo. 1660, they make report to that Court of their resolution to p'secute the same with a competent no. of meet persons that will ingage to carry on the work of the said place in all civill and ecclesiasticall respects, and that within two years then next ensuing there be 20 families there settled. Also that they may have imunity from all publike charges (excepting in cases extraordinary) for seven yeares next ensuing the date hereof.

Tho : Danforth  
Edward Johnson  
Eleazar Lusher

The deputies approve of the returne of the Committee in answer to this petition, with reference to the consent of the honored magistrates thereto.

William Torrey, Cleric.

## II.

By virtue of a Warrant to me Thomas Hinksman, bearing date the 30th of July 1668, directed under the hands of the Honorable Richard Bellingham, Governor, and Daniel Gookin, and taking sufficient ayde with me to repayre to the Trucking house of Capt. Richard Walderne at Pennycooke, to make enquiry of & by the English & Indians concerning the killing of an Englishman at the sayd Trucking house, & also of what strong liquors have been sold there, & by whom & when, takeing the Indians Evidences for, about & concerning the same; & also to make exact search in the said Trucking house for strong liquors &c.: in obedience thereto & pursuance whereof I the sayd Thomas with sufficient ayd, &c. repayed to Pennycooke aforesaid, uppon this eighteenth day of August 1668, where uppon strict search made noe Englishman was to be found nor strong liquors, only some old Rundlets wherein some strong liquors had beene. And also in farther pursuance thereof took Examinations of the Sagurmoyes and other Indians at and belonging to ye fort of Pennycooke aforesaid, for touching & concerning of the said Englishman and selling of liquors as aforesaid as is testified as follows, viz.

Tohanto, Sagurmoy, Weecanumpee, Sagurmoy, Pacohauntee, Quampecun, Pehaugun, Nascum, & Monamusque, antient Indians, being examined how and why the Englishman was killed, say that one Thomas Payne, & the Englishman that is slayne, sent several Indians to theyre masters Capt. Walderne's, & Mr. Peter Coffin's, to Pascat-

aque, who told those Indians that they should bring from them, Gunns, Powder, Shott and Cloath, but insteade thereof Capt. Walderne & the sayde Peter Coffin retourned those Indians back to Pennycooke loaded only with Cotton Cloath and three Rundletts of Liquors, with which Liquors the said Examinants say, that there were at least one hundred of Indians drunk for one night, one day, and one half together; in which time of their being soe drunk, the said Examinants farther say that all Indians were come from the sayd Trucking house, only one which remayned there drunk, who killed the sayd Englishman, the other Englishman being at ye same tyme at ye sayd fort.

And the sayd Examinants farther say, that an Indian hearing the now slayne Englishman cry out, he swam over the river, & went to the Trucking house, where he found the sayd Englishman dead, who presently after saw the Indian, which killed the said Englishman, going towards the said fort, with his knife bloody in his hand, which sayd Indian after he had slept in the fort aforesaid, the said Examinants say, that he being examined why he had killed the said Englishman, answered that he was much sorry, & that he had not done it, had he not been drunk. And said Examinants also farther say, that they telling him the sayd Murtherer, that they must kill him for it, to which the Murtherer answered he was willing to dye for it, and that he was much sorry for the death of the said Englishman, or with words to the same effect. After which murther was committed and done, (which was about eight weeks since, as the Examinants say,) that they with other Indians belonging to the sayd fort, sate in Counsel what to doe with the said Murtherer; who after some debate thereof passed sentence that the said Murtherer should be shott to

death, which sentence was accordingly performed the then next ensuing day about noone; who, they the said Examinants farther say, dyed undauntedly, still saying yt he was much sorry for ye said Englishman's death. And the said Examinants farther say, that at the Burial of ye said Englishman, Paul Walderne, Capt. Walderne's sonne, and James Coffin, Peter Coffin's brother, with several others were there. Subscribed hereunto.

Tohanto + his marke	Quampecan + his marke
Weecanumpe + his marke	Nascum + his marke
Paucohauntee + his marke	Monnamuskque + his marke
Pummeekeenee + his marke	

Witness also hereunto.

Meknokohegon + his marke	Aghunshamus + his marke
Tuttewompe + his marke	Sumskeequadnugh + his marke
Washmashaconey + his marke	Conkeeusquoy + his marke
Nonnaunuska + his marke	

### III.

The sayd Examinants Paucohauntee, Pehaugan and Nobhow, after the former Examinants freely offered themselves to declare and did declare and say, that in or about Aprill or May last past when they did heare that Capt. [Walderne] did intend to sett up an house, and place Englishmen in it for trading, they the sayd Examinants went to ye sayd Capt. Walderne's house at Pascataque, and intreated him not to send, or suffer any Liquors to be sent to ye sayd house. Nevertheless ye sayd Capt. did at the very first tyme of settling ye Trade house aforesaide, loade four Indians with Liquors from his ye said Capt. Walderne's house to this place, as the said Examinants affirme; after which Liquors was spent and drank, the sayd Peter Coffin and Paul Walderne, Richard Walderne's sonne, coming to the Trade house, these examinants agayne (as they say) went to them with many more, and intreated them that they would send noe more Liquors to them, or suffer any

to be sent from or by them, they fearing that thereby the Mohawks would take an advantage when they were or should be drunk to kill them. Nevertheless the sayd Capt. as these Examinants say, did continue sending greate quantities of Liquors from tyme to tyme to ye sayd Trading Houses for the Indians, untill the sayd Englishman was murdered, or words to ye same effect. Subscribed hereunto.

Paucohaunte + his marke	Pumhaughman + his marke
Pehaigan + his marke	Waymashaconey + his marke
Sumkeequaanugh + his marke	Tuttisaompee + his marke

Witness hereunto.

Pummegan + his marke	Aghumshamutt + his marke
Quompecun + his marke	Watasquin + his marke
Paupaonaugel + his marke	

Nacontation, Wapsooget, Ahogmooitt, Moshaumpy, being examined say, that Capt. Walderne and Peter Coffin sent for them, the sayd Examinants, to come to his house to Pascataque, where ye sayd Walderne delivered in his Cellar by ye hands of his sonne, (ye sayd Walderne being then present) fifty and six Quarts of Liquors, which ye sayd Examinants, brought to Pennycooke about this last Spring, which Peter Coffin sold by Rundlets to ye Indians before ever it was carried to ye Trucking house. And ye sayd Examinants farther say, that ye Englishman in or aboute Nyne weekes last past, at ye sayd Trucking house, acknowledged: by subscription of us —

Aydeing and assisting the said	Nacontation + his marke
Thomas Hincnsman in the examination hereof, as witness our	Wapsoogett + his marke
names subscribed by us,	Ahogmooitt + his marke
	Moshaumpa + his marke

Josiah Richardson  
 John Spauldon  
 Thomas Chamberlayne  
 Elizabeth Henry Nelson

Tho. Hincnsman and Elizabeth Henry Nelson deposed in open Generall Court, 27 of October, 1668, that what is in

these two sheets of paper is a true narrative of what the Indians respectively in their examination have charged on Capt. Waldron and Peter Coffin, or Paul Waldron, was the truth of what they said, and was read to them and by them owned, and was a true translation.

Edw. Rawson, Secretary.

The magistrates having perused this Returne, in which not only ye life of a subject is declared to be lost, and yt by ye breach of ye lawes in a high nature, which no Court hath ye propper Cognizance thereof by reason of ye remoteness of the place, and that a member of the house of Deputyes is concerned therein, desire their brethren the deputyes to consider in the first place what is meete to be donne herein, and act accordingly. The magistrates have past this, their brethren the deputyes hereto consenting.

Edward Rawson, Secret.

14th Oct. 1668.

The deputyes judge meete that this Case be heard by this Court at this Session, and doe therefore desire that the Secretary may forthwith issue out warrants for all persons concerned to appeare as soone as possible may be, and such warrants sent way with all speed, desireing the consent of our Honored magistrates hereto.

Wm. Torrey, Cleric.

15th Oct. 1668. The magistrates consent hereto, and that ye tyme be Wednesday sevensnight, being the 27th inst.

Edw. Rawson, Secretary.

#### IV.

Warrants were accordingly issued to the Marshals of Dover and Groton, requiring the attendance of Tho. Tarbell, Joseph Bloud, Robert Parris, Peter Coffin, Paul Walderne, James Coffin, Jno. Payne, Jenkin Jones, Jno. Church, and Richard Boules. Ensign Thomas Hinksman,

of Chelmsford, was also required "to warn and procure Tho. Payne, yt kept or keeps Capt. Walderne's Trucking house at Pennecooke," as also Tohanto, Wecoumpe, Pauch-auntee, Punmekeeke, Quampecun, Nastam, Mansaumeque, Mrecknockalegan, Tutteswamp, Woopmassacones, Nommanucka, Aginuhaumucke, Dunkequanugh, Conkersqua, Pehaungun, Sumkerquaanugh, Pumhauman, Waymassaconey, Rumegan, Paupamauguet, Wattasquen, Sassanasset, Pissagasson, Nanagett, Nacontation, Wassagret, Ahaghincoit, and Wassumpa, Indians thereabouts inhabiting, to make their appearances before the Generall Court on the 27th of October, 1668, &c. &c.

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*Depositions, Affidavits, &c.*

I.

The Deposition of Paull Waldron — Being called to speak what I know about the death of Thomas Dickinson, who was killed by an Indian, as they say, myselfe with many others was sent up by my father to see the corpse, and enquire into his death. When we came there we found the man dead, and an Indian lying dead by him; and examining the Indiaus how he came by his death, they sayd the Indian that lay dead killed him with his knife, and enquiring further why he killed him, the Indians told us they asked him, and he gave them no answer, but bid them shoott him; and further enquiring whether the Indian were drunk, they answered that he was not drunk; and after this we saw him buried presently, and we returned home the next day.

This was taken on oath this 20th of the 8 mo. 1668, before us.

Simon Willard,  
Wm. Hathorne.

## II.

Wee whose names are hereunto subscribed doe testifie, that on or abòute ye month of June last, goeing to Penny-cooke to enquire after cattle yt were lost, rideing to ye ffort of the said Pennycooke, meeting with some of ye Indians belonging thereto, told us that an Englishman was killed by an Indian, and that all one Englishmen's laws they had killed the Indian. We farther enquiring of them how and whether the Indians were drunke when the Englishman was killed, and they answered all Indians were drunke or else they had not not killed Englishman. And farther we evidence Tahanto, a Sagamore, being afrayd that we had brought Liquors to sell, desired us if we had any that we would power it uppon the ground, for it would make ye Indians all one Divill. And farther wee meeting with Thomas Payne, who told us he was Capt. Walderne's servant, asking him whether the Indians were drunk when the Englishman was killed, and he answered not drunk; and after farther discourse with ye sayd Payne, he sayd yt the person that was killed was Peter Coffin's man; and farther sayd that if the killing of this man did not prevent it, his, ye sayd Payne's master, Capt. Walderne and Peter Coffin did intend to send Carpenters to build there, and also to have ground broake upp to be improved. And we farther affirm that we saw a Rundlett, which would hold at least six gallons, in the Trucking house in the sayd fort; after which wee meeting with the Indians then there, and telling them yt Thomas Payne told us that they were not drunk when the Englishman was killed, the Indians then sayd yt Payne much lyed, for wee had divers quarts of Liquors the same day that the sayd Englishman was killed; upon which one of the Indians comaunded his squaw to reach a bladder, wherein the Indian sayd there was a quart

of Liquors, and wee doe adjudge it be as much ; or using words to the same effect.

Oct. 27th, 1668.

John Page,  
Robb. Parris,  
Thomas Tarball,  
Joseph Bloud.

Sworne in Court, 27 October, 1668.

Edward Rawson, Secretary.

### III.

The answer of Peter Coffin to the Charge against him by the Indians, &c. testified in the generall Court Oct. 27, 1668. First, I doe say as allways I have sayd that having hyred the liberty to trade of the Tresurer according as in the sayd license doth appeare, upon which right I did give Tho. Pean liberty for to trade, provided that he did trade accorrdinge to order of Generall Court as it was granted to me from the Tresurer and he had som liquor of me, as Tho. Pean and other Englishmen had, but never did give him any order for to trade any away, yet being sensible by what I now heare that it is too proveabell that the sayd Pean have let Indians have liquor tho' against my will and being grieved for the miscarriage and more especially for the dishonor of God therein, doe therefore cast myself upon the favour of this honoured Court to deal with mee therein as in pytie they shall see cause and as to the four runletts of liquor borne off by the Indians I doe disown it and could thereof clear myself by oath safely. I also farther say that as conserninge that particular in the Indians' examination, viz. that Tho. Pane and the man that was killed did send some Indians for Cloth, guns, powder and other goods to Capt. Waldron and myselfe, and instead thereof Capt. Waldron and myselfe did send Cotton Cloth and three runletts of liquor. First, my answer is that it is I wholly deny it. But that the honored Court may know the true state of the case, tho' I am not bound to

accuss myselfe nor to own any thing but what is proved, yet I will ingenuously declare what was don, which was this, that the man that was killed namely Thomas Deceson himself that did com down and he did only desire that he might have som liquor. I answered that I had none, neither did I discourse with him about matters because I was going from hom, but before I did com home I had some liquors com home to my houss, as were liquors the sayd Deceson did take some of it as I was informed. But what he did with it I know not, becauss I did never see him sinse. Butt as for Capt. Waldron he had no hand in it more or less, nor was he at home when it was don.

## IV.

James Coffin, aged about twenty nine years, testifyeth and sayth that he with some others was sent to Pennecooke by Capt. Richard Walderne to help to bury the Englishman there slayn, by an Indian, and to enquire after the manner of his death; when wee came there I asked the Indians, who killed this man, they tould mee it was the Indian, that lay by him dead. I also asked the reason why hee killed him, their answeere was only thus: wee demanded the reason, sayd they, of the Indian, his answeere was, "I have killed this Englishman, and doe you shoote mee." I also asked them whether they had any liquor, they told mee yesterday they had 4 quarts of Thomas Paine, but withall acknowledged they had brought the same weeke that this murther was done three or foure casks of strong liquors from the River's mouth of Piscattaqua, and further sayth not.

Taken upon oath October 30th, 1668, before me,

Edward Tyng, asst.

## V.

I Paul Waldern being acused by severall Indians to have delivered strong liquors to Indians since this last spring

out of my father's cellar, doe here sweare by the great name of the everliving God that I have not delivered out of my father's cellar nor out of any other place any strong liquors to any Indian or Indians of Pennicook since the beginning of this last spring to the 12th of August last, directly or indirectly, and this I affirme to be the very Truth, as I shall answere it before the Judgment seate of Christ another day.

Sworn in Court, as attests

Edw. Rawson, Secret.

#### VI.

Whereas I Richard Waldern am accused by sundry Indians about Penny-Cooke of ye breach of ye law prohibiting sale of liquors to Indians some tyme this last summer, I doe hereby sweare and take God, who is ye searcher of all hearts to witness yt this their accusation is wholly untrue, and yt I have not directly or indirectly by myselfe or by any other person by my order or allowance in any measure or degree done what they accuse me of, and this I doe affirme to be ye verry truth as I shall answer it before ye Judgment seat of Christ another day.

Taken upon oath in open General Court this 31st of October, 1668, as attests

Edw. Rawson, Secret.

#### VII.

The Deputyes judge that Capt. Walderne having taken the oath as above is to be freed from any Charge exhibited against him, and is hereby discharged therefrom with reference to the Consent of our Honored magistrates hereto.

William Torrey, Cleric.

Consented to by ye magistrates.

Edward Rawson, Secret.

## VIII.

The Deputyes havinge heard and duely considered of the Case of Peter Coffin, and on perusal of what hath bin presented, doe find that he the sayd Coffin hath traded liquors Irregularly, and contrary to law, and doe therefore Judge that he shall pay as a fine to the Country the sum of fifty pounds and all charges, which hath accrued thereby, with reference to the consent of our honored magistrates hereto,

William Torrey, Cleric.

The magistrates consent hereto.

Edward Rawson, Secret.

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ACCOUNT OF THE STORM AND AVALANCHES AT THE WHITE MOUNTAINS, IN 1826.—BY J. B. MOORE.

On Monday the 28th of Aug. 1826, at the White Mountains, in New-Hampshire, occurred one of the most remarkable floods of rain ever known in that region, and attended with circumstances of calamity perhaps unequalled in this state, from any similar cause.

The White Mountains, and their sublime scenes, having long been objects of curiosity to the writer of these sketches, in common with others who had never seen them, he joined a small party of friends, a few days previous to the storm, in an excursion to these mountains.

Late in the evening of the 27th, we had ascended to the *Camp*, a frail shelter erected of the bark of trees by Mr. Crawford, for the accommodation of visitors, who usually passed the night there, in order to avail themselves of the fine views presented from the mountain at sunrise. This Camp is situated 6 3-4 miles N. E. of Crawford's house, at an elevation of about 2800 feet above the sea, on the side and within 2 1-4 miles of the summit of Mount Wash-

ington. Our path lay through a wilderness; in some places overgrown with high grass and bushes, in others incumbered with fallen trees and underbrush—now opening upon a desolate spot, where fires had passed along, and suddenly entering the deep forest, whose intermingling foliage shut out the light of heaven. Night coming upon us very soon after we left his house, our guide (Mr. Crawford) struck up a light, and we chased each other in Indian file over a path, sometimes rendered as luminous as day by the addition of torches, and at others but dimly seen by our nearly extinguished lights. The miles were accurately announced by our leader as he passed along, and we were in fit mood for repose, when, at a little after 10 o'clock in the evening, we reached the Camp. At this hour a quiet starlight reigned above us, and taking each a blanket, we laid down upon a bed of twigs, and, listening to the music of a small stream which poured down at our right, fell into a refreshing sleep.

At 3 o'clock in the morning of the 28th, fearful indications of rain were discovered; slight showers had been frequent for several days previous, and the wind continuing at a south-easterly point, the thick and moist clouds collected about the mountains, and high winds swept in every direction through the deep valleys. About five o'clock, the rain commenced, occasionally pouring down in torrents, as the winds altered the course of the clouds, but generally falling moderately until afternoon, when its violence rapidly increased. Climbing up on a gnarled oak a few rods from the Camp, during a temporary suspension of the rain, we could see, towards the summit of the mountain, the trees and shrubbery bending in every direction, and above them the bare rocks smoking, as it were, from the violence of

the storm. To us the very summit seemed to shake in the tempest, and an involuntary dread touched our hearts, as the noise of the storm increased, and the sudden gusts swept over our heads, dashing down streams of water upon us.

Finding it impossible to keep our fires—the rain continuing to increase—and fearing that either the violent winds or the rain might deprive us of our frail shelter,—at half past 4 o'clock, P. M. we left the Camp, and after great exertion, in fording rapid streams, seeking new paths to avoid the deep waters collected in many places before us, and crossing the swollen and roaring branches of the Ammonoosuck—several of which had risen, in four hours, 6 or 8 feet—we reached Crawford's a little before nine in the evening, in the midst of the most dreadful rain-storm we ever witnessed. The very earth seemed to shake under our feet, as the winds drove down from the mountains through the valley—mingling their roar with that of the river, which now tumbled along in a white foam, like a tremendous cataract.

The storm ceased about midnight. The next morning's sun shone out brightly upon a scene of desolation, such as none of us had ever witnessed. The entire crops of our host, on the low grounds west of his dwelling, were destroyed, the water having completely covered them, and risen even up to the steps of the dwelling—fourteen of his flock of sheep were drowned—a shed 90 feet in length was carried away in the flood, and portions of his most fertile lands were covered deep with sand and gravel, borne down in the torrent from the mountains. The water rose 3 or 4 feet higher at this place, than was ever before known—and the whole surface of the earth, over which the floods came, seemed to have undergone a transformation. Thousands of trunks, branches, and roots of trees, passed along the

current, covering, in some directions, whole acres; and wherever any thing impeded their progress, forming strong and high dams, until the rapid gathering of the mass behind drove through all obstructions. Deep excavations in the earth, large masses of stones, gravel and sand thrown up—broken trunks and fragments of trees, &c.—were presented to the eye in every direction, as the waters subsided; and their fall was almost as rapid as the rise.

The effect of the rain upon the mountains was immediately perceived, on casting the eye in their direction. Long *slides* were noticed, having the appearance of stripes, extending through the dense forest from near the summits to the base of the mountains. One slide had the appearance of passing directly over the spot where we had encamped on the night of the 27th. A young artist, who had been several days among these mountains taking sketches of their scenery, as also Mr. Crawford, assured us, that nearly all these slides took place during the storm that had just passed. Their appearance was striking. Commencing generally near the highest limit of vegetation on the mountains, which on some of them is near the summits, the slides widened and deepened in their course downward, carrying along with them generally all the trees, shrubbery and loose earth from the mountain of granite beneath. From a few yards in width near their commencement, the avalanches extended in some instances to hundreds of rods in width near the foot of the mountains. They exposed in most cases a surface of red or yellow earth, contrasting beautifully with the deep colors of the dense forest through which they swept. No satisfactory estimate could be made of the extent of these slides. Could they have been surveyed, they would probably have been found to extend to thousands of acres.

Defeated in our attempt to ascend the mountain, we

waited until the bridges near Crawford's were repaired, and then passed over Pondicherry mountain and the Jefferson turnpike, to Lancaster. The beautiful farm of Mr. Woodward, (once the residence of Col. Whipple) in Jefferson, had been flooded by Israel's river, which here was extremely turbid, as was the case with all the streams passing from the mountains. The rains were less violent to the westward, though most of the rivers had been swollen. At this place we learnt that immense quantities of earth, stones and trees had slipped down from the sides of the mountains in Randolph, changing in several places the course of Israel's river, and destroying some fine tracts of interval. Here also, we were informed of the dreadful occurrences at the Notch of the Mountains, and that we ourselves were by no means unfortunate in leaving the Camp, which was overwhelmed the very night we abandoned it! Anxious to ascertain more particularly the ravages of that fatal night, we returned to Crawford's on Friday, passed down through the Notch, and having staid at the *Notch House* during the night, and examined the ruins about that dismal place, found that the utmost stretch of fancy could hardly paint a scene more awful than the reality before us.

The Notch of the White Mountains is a narrow glen extending two miles in length between two huge cliffs, apparently rent asunder by some vast convulsion—probably that of the deluge. The entrance of the chasm is formed by two rocks standing perpendicular at the distance of 22 feet asunder. The length of this narrow path may be three or four rods—beyond which, as you pass down, the cliffs seem to have receded, increasing in height, and leaving at their base little tracts of rich meadow land, through which meanders the Saco. About half a mile from the entrance

of the Notch, is seen the beautiful waterfall, called by Dr. Dwight the *Silver Cascade* — issuing from the mountain on the left, and passing over a series of rocks almost perpendicularly 800 feet. A short distance below, from the left, falls another clear and beautiful stream, called the *Flume*; and at the distance of about a mile below this, on a small interval, is situated the comfortable dwelling, lately inhabited by the unfortunate family destroyed.

The road from Crawford's down to the Notch House was a perfect ruin — the bridges being all torn up, deep gulleys and new streams formed along the path, and masses of rocks of great size thrown together, apparently by the waters — which, in some places along the road, must have risen to the height of 20 or 25 feet. On entering the Notch, a scene was presented which it is impossible accurately to describe. Enormous masses of granite, over which the road in the pass was formed, were torn from their foundations, some of which were removed many rods down, and others formed barriers across the path, over which a tremendous cataract seems to have flowed, cutting deep basins out of the substantial flooring beneath, until the raging and confined torrent, bursting its prison, swept every thing before it. From the sides of the Notch, the loose crags had fallen, and many a stately tree, which long waved above the gulf, came down with the soil upon which it grew. The two beautiful streams, so often noticed by travellers, appear to have been swollen to the size of rivers, and to have poured down the rocky steep with overwhelming power. About 80 rods beyond commenced the terrible *slides* or *avalanches*, (as they are termed in Switzerland) which were seen along the whole gulf, as far as the eye could reach, as well as on the sides of the distant mountains.

The house inhabited by Capt. Willey and his family, stood on the westerly side of the road, and a few rods distant from the high bluff which rises with fearful rapidity to the height of 2000 feet. Adjoining was a barn and woodhouse—in front, was a beautiful little meadow covered with crops—and the Saco passed along at the foot of the easterly precipice. Nearly in range of the house, a slide from the extreme point of the westerly hill came down in a deep and horrible mass to within about five rods of the dwelling, where its course appears to have been checked by a large block of granite, which, falling on a flat surface, backed the rolling mass for a moment, until it separated into two streams—one of which rushed down by the north end of the house, crushing the barn, and spreading itself over the meadow—the other passing down on the south side, and swallowing up the unfortunate beings, who probably attempted to fly to a shelter, which it is said, had been erected a few rods distant. This shelter, whatever it might have been, was completely overwhelmed; rocks weighing 10 to 50 tons being scattered about the place, and indeed in every direction—rendering escape utterly impossible. The house remained untouched, though large stones and trunks of trees made fearful approaches to its walls, and the moving mass, which separated behind the building, *again united in its front!* The house alone could have been their refuge from the horrible uproar around—the only spot untouched by the crumbling and consuming power of the storm.

A traveller, of the name of *Barker*, from Effingham, who had been to the north, passed down the notch road on Wednesday. Arriving at the house at dark, he found the doors all open, the coverings of the beds thrown off, and the wearing apparel of the family lying about the floor. Their fate he knew not, but could hardly doubt; and as

soon as morning enabled him to proceed, he went to the senior Mr. Crawford's, six miles below the Notch House, and inquired for the absent family. No one had seen them. Immediate search was made, and during the day the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. *Willey*, and a Mr. *Allen*, were discovered at some distance from the house, partly buried in the earth, and covered with limbs and trunks of trees.

The family consisted of nine persons, the names and ages of whom were given us by a relative of Mrs. W. as follow:—

Samuel Willey, jr.	aged 38,	
Polly L. Willey,	— 35,	
Eliza-Ann,	— 13,	} children.
Jeremiah L.	— 11,	
Martha G.	— 9,	
Elbridge G.	— 7,	
Sally,	— 5,	
David Nickerson,	— 21,	} laborers.
David Allen,	— 37,	

Mr. Willey was a man of respectable connections, and of excellent character. A brother, and it is believed his father, represented the town of Conway in the state legislature; and another (Rev. B. G. Willey) was a clergyman. The deceased was in comfortable circumstances of life—had a neat farm in the town of Bartlett, which he rented, and where he was once obliged to remove his dwelling in consequence of a sudden flood of the Saco. By the persuasion of some of his friends, he was induced to purchase the little estate at the Notch, and about a year previous to his death, removed thither, where he continued to minister to the wants of the traveller until the day of his untimely end.

*Allen* and *Nickerson* were laborers, in the employ of Mr. Willey, the former of whom left four orphan children, penniless to the charities of the world. Both were from the town of Bartlett.

Great numbers visited the scene of destruction during the days following the discovery of the three bodies, searching for the remainder; and three others were afterwards found.

In attempting this account, the writer feels his utter inability to describe the variety and extent of the destruction. To form a correct idea of the out-pouring torrents, the reader must have been in the midst; he must have been at the foot of the mountains—watched the movements of the clouds, and listened to the hollow winds, as their echoes, reverberating among the hills, rolled away like distant thunders; he must have travelled over the immense masses which rolled down like the eruptions of a volcano,—the rocks, the trees, the streams, removed from their former beds, and the deep channels cut among the rocks for new rivers bursting out of the sides of the mountains; he must have visited the little cottage, standing alone in the path of the deluge, which, as if unwilling to destroy, parted in its rear, and leaving it untouched, closed again before it! Having done so, he may conceive a scene, that we are unable to describe, though its impressions will not soon be forgotten.

A great amount of property was destroyed in all the towns situated at the foot of the mountains, and indeed in many other sections of the country. But the unparalleled severity of the storm here, and the melancholy catastrophe attending it, will long be noted in the history of our State.

## A PLAN FOR PROVIDING MATERIALS FOR HISTORY.

[Communicated for Publication.]

One of the greatest difficulties to a historian is to carry himself back to the times whose events he describes, and make himself, in imagination at least, a cotemporary with the feelings, the prejudices, the manners and customs, and the whole circumstances of the society which then existed. Unless he does this, he cannot accurately portray those strong points in the changes of human affairs, which make up the beginnings of great revolutions in thought, customs, improvements, and progress in societies, communities and nations. This is properly the province of the general historian, who deduces the philosophy of history from facts, and exhibits their relative importance in the changes of the world. But to such a historian, minute facts are absolutely necessary to accuracy in his inferences and conclusions. Such facts, however, it must be confessed, are but partially to be obtained by any one who attempts the history of the past ages of our country. How often little incidents, originating even in a comparatively obscure village or country town, and not considered, at the time, of great relative importance, have been the beginning of some mighty change, affecting the politics, the religion, or the improvements of a state, a nation, or the world. But for want of some one to give a faithful description of them at the time, the truth goes down to posterity enveloped in obscurity and error. The records of towns, societies, and individuals, are often very imperfectly kept; and when kept, are exposed to destruction by the carelessness of officers, through whose hands they successively pass; and the unforeseen and unavoidable accidents of life. And, indeed, when such records are accurately made and carefully kept,

they can contain the mere proceedings only of the associations, or individuals, to which they relate. Such proceedings seldom let us into the minutiae which move the springs of human society ; and hence are but very imperfect guides to one who describes the past for the benefit of the future. To supply this want, I would propose the following method, to be observed as circumstances may require, for preserving an account of the current events of the times.

Let some suitable individual in every town be requested, at the close of every year, to compile an annual retrospect of the events that have taken place during the past year. This might be easily done by his keeping a memorandum book, in which the events, as they from time to time occur, shall be recorded, classified under appropriate heads or subjects. Where a Lyceum or other similar association exists, it might be appropriately assigned to one of the members ; in other cases to a professional or other intelligent gentleman ; or it might be undertaken voluntarily and privately. The objects of notice and enquiry to such an individual might embrace the following and perhaps other particulars.

1. The names of town officers, and individuals in town who hold offices in the county, state, or elsewhere, with the date of their election or appointment ; and the principles in the policy of the town, state or nation, which influenced their election or appointment.

2. The names and occupation of those who have commenced or discontinued business as professional men, merchants, mechanics, manufacturers, innholders, &c. and the date of such change. The introduction of new, and the removal of old inhabitants, specifying their location, name, and date.

3. New dwelling houses erected, and by whom, and old ones demolished, and the location of each.

4. The changes which have taken place in the owners of real estate, especially dwelling, and other important houses, exhibiting the names of the parties, the date of transfer, and price; and the variation in value generally of such property.

5. Uncommon proceedings of the town, their origin, nature, and effects.

6. An account of the nature and effect among the people of the methods of supporting schools, the poor, the roads, and other corporate affairs of the town. The number of legal voters, polls, poor, the amount of valuation, and taxes; and statistical views of specific appropriations to different objects, exhibiting the increase or diminution.

7. The state of the common schools, division of public money among the several districts; names and compensation of teachers, male and female, time kept, number of scholars, ages, books, progress of improvement, &c.; the same of the academies, private schools, and sabbath schools.

8. Notices of graduates of the different colleges belonging to the town.

9. The formation and history of Lyceums, and other associations for mutual improvement, for temperance, charity, freemasonry, religion, &c.

10. State and progress of public libraries, with notices of additions.

11. Military companies, names of officers, date of commission or discharge, number of men enrolled in each, and state of public opinion in regard to the militia.

12. The invention or introduction of new machinery or improvements in agriculture, or the mechanic arts; the effect they produce; and the discontinuance of any in present use; specifying what they are and by whom made, and the amount and value of different articles manufactured.

13. A view of the agricultural productions of the year, with particular notices of such as are remarkable, by whom raised, and the process of cultivation; the appearance of blight or causes by which crops were injured; comparative views of the consumption of its own and foreign products; the state of trade, and sources of wealth.

14. Peculiar facts in natural history, such as the appearance of wild animals, or the management of domestic ones, birds, insects, fish, &c.

15. The discovery of new minerals or the progress in working those already known, and by whom.

16. The provision against fire made by the town or voluntary association; with an account of the fires, specifying the date, names of the sufferers, amount of losses, and causes.

17. The state of political parties, and, if any changes have taken place, the causes which have mainly produced them; exhibiting the names of individuals who have been prominent actors.

18. Remarks on prevalent modes and changes of dress, progress of temperance and habits of living.

19. The marriages and place of settlement of the parties, the number of births and deaths, giving the name, date, age, and disease of each of the latter, including minute biographical notices of influential members of society, or those extremely aged.

20. Anecdotes of remarkable individuals; and accounts of singular phenomena.

21. The prevalence of health or sickness, including notices of remarkable cases or accidents, and the apparent causes.

22. Thermometrical observations on the weather, remarkable effects of electricity, storms, heat, cold, &c.

23. The ecclesiastical affairs of the town, the changes, if any, which have taken place in the different sects, and the causes of such changes, the number of additions, dismissions, baptisms, and deaths.

24. All other facts which have an influence on the inhabitants of the town or district, or the current, progressive character of the times.

Some of these subjects would, undoubtedly, be passed over, and others require but slight notice. All should be treated with candor, faithfulness, and uncompromising impartiality, and adherence to truth. The compiler should anticipate the wants of future historians, and exhibit his facts without prejudice, so that he who shall draw from him as the original source, may become a cotemporary with the facts, and give all the knowledge which posterity has a right or ought to know. In some instances such notices might embrace more than one year. Were they compiled properly, in relation to each town or district, read before some of the inhabitants for correction, if necessary, or made as the private memoranda of the compiler with a view to public use, safely preserved, and placed where they might be examined by some future historian, they would be to him and the public of inestimable value, beside affording an interest at the time they were compiled. This being an age of great events, it seems to be a debt due to posterity that we should transmit a record of these "small causes" from which these "great events" arise. And I am induced to offer these suggestions under the conviction that they might be practically observed, and, where observed, would exhibit more accurate views of the progress of society than could otherwise be obtained.

LEMUEL SHATTUCK.

*Concord, Mass., July 22, 1831.*

SKETCHES OF THE GRADUATES OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE FROM  
THE FOUNDATION OF THAT INSTITUTION IN 1769. BY JOHN  
FARMER.

[Continued from page 116 of this volume.]

1778.

LABAN AINSWORTH, A. M., son of Capt. William Ainsworth, was born at Woodstock, Connecticut, 19 July, 1759. He was ordained the first Congregationalist minister in the town of Jaffrey, New-Hampshire, 10 December, 1782. Within about five years after his settlement, his dwelling house, with all his household furniture, was burnt in the night, together with a promising youth of Dea. Spofford, of Jaffrey, eight years old. Mr. Ainsworth and his wife escaped by leaping out of a chamber window. On the 11 January, 1832, Mr. A. received Rev. Giles Lyman as his colleague in the ministry.

ELIJAH BRIGHAM, A. M., was son of Col. Levi Brigham, of Northborough, Massachusetts. He commenced the study of divinity after leaving college, but he soon relinquished it, and engaged in mercantile business with his brother-in-law, Breck Parkman, Esq., of Westborough. In 1795, he was appointed one of the justices of the court of common pleas; in 1796 he was elected a senator; in 1799 and 1800, a counsellor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He was afterwards a justice through the State, and representative in the congress of the United States, from 1810 to the time of his death. Judge Brigham died suddenly, at the city of Washington, 22 February, 1816, aged 64.—*Worcester Magazine*, ii. 172.

ELI BRIGHAM, A. M., it appears from the triennial catalogue of 1831, is still living.

MOSES BRIGHAM, A. M., after he graduated, remained at Hanover, commenced trade, in which he did not succeed;

was unfortunate, and removed to the State of New York.  
*MS. Letter.*

EBENEZER BROWN, A. B., was a preacher, and for some time resided in that capacity in Bethel, Vermont. After quitting the ministerial profession, he became a farmer, and died at Norwich, Vt., about three years since.—*MS. Letter of Hon. J. P. Buckingham, 1830.*

BENJAMINE BURT, A. B., appears to have died before the year 1799.

NEHEMIAH FINN, A. B., died as early as 1798.

DAVID FOOT, A. M., from Colchester, Connecticut, became an Episcopalian minister, and died soon after.

EBENEZER JOHNSON, A. B., from Ellington, Connecticut, taught school a number of years. He removed to the westward.—*MS. Letter.*

ABRAHAM JONES, A. B., died young, or at an early period of life. He is starred in the catalogue of 1799.

JOSIAH KILBURN, A. M., minister of Chesterfield, Massachusetts, was ordained 9 November, 1780, and died in September, 1781.

JOSEPH MOTTEY, A. M., was born at Salem, Massachusetts, 14 May, 1756. After having been employed as an assistant in Phillips and Dummer Academies, he was ordained at Lynnfield, then the third parish in Lynn, Massachusetts, September 24, 1783. He died 9 July, 1821, aged 65 years. Mr. Mottey was characterized by an extreme degree of sensibility, and an uncommon fondness for retirement. He performed the ministerial duties in his parish for nearly 38 years, and though he resided within nine miles of his native town, he never preached in it. His manners were affable, his conversation easy and agreeable, and his mode of preaching mild and persuasive. His publications were the right-hand of fellowship at the ordina-

tion of Rev. Thomas C. Thacher, 1794; two sermons on the death of Joseph Roby, 1803; an address on the establishment of peace, 1805; and an article on original sin, in the Christian Discipline, in 1820.—*Lewis' History of Lynn*, 220.

SOLOMON RICHARDSON, A. M., appears to be living from the triennial catalogue just published.

NATHANIEL SMITH, A. B., appears to have been living in 1830.

JOHN VAILL, A. M., was a native of Litchfield, Connecticut. He was ordained at Hadlyme, in the town of East Haddam, as successor to Rev. Grindall Rawson, 9 February, 1780, and has been in the ministry more than fifty years. *Field's Statistical Account of Middlesex Co., (Con.)* 80, 138.

JOHN WEBSTER, A. M., was son of Col. John Webster, a merchant of Chester, New Hampshire. He studied theology, and preached for a short time. "He was a sober and discreet man, but was very diffident, and gave up the ministry." He went to Canada, and settled there as a farmer. *MS. communication of Rev. Josiah Webster.*

JACOB WOOD, A. M., was a native of Boxford, Massachusetts. He was ordained at Newbury, Vermont, 9 January, 1788, and there died, 10 February, 1790, at the age of 32, leaving no family. He was admitted to the degree of A. M., at Yale College, in 1783. *MS. Letter.*

1779.

JEREMIAH BRADFORD, A. B., son of Dr. Bradford, and a descendant of William Bradford, governor of Rhode Island, was born at Chatham in Connecticut, in the year 1757. He now resides as an independent farmer in Berlin, Vermont. *MS. Letter of Hon. J. P. Buckingham*, 1831.

SAMUEL BRIGHAM, A. M., was a native of Shutesbury, Massachusetts, and born about the year 1756. He studied medicine, and practised as a physician. He died about three years since.—*Ibid.*

JEDIDIAH P. BUCKINGHAM, A. M., son of Capt. Jedidiah Buckingham, was born at Lebanon, Conn., 7 April, 1758. His grandfather was Capt. Thomas Buckingham, of Saybrook, who was son of Stephen Buckingham, Esq., of the same place, who was son of Rev. Thomas Buckingham, the second minister of the ancient town of Saybrook. Mr. Buckingham was in the practice of law in Vermont, about ten years; was afterwards chief justice of the Court of Orange County, and judge of probate for the same County. He was ten years a representative in the Assembly or Legislature of the State, and a member of the Executive Council. He resides in the town of Thetford, where, since he retired from public life, he has attended to the cultivation of a small farm.—*Ibid.*

SEWALL CHAPIN, A. B., son of Elisha Chapin, was born at West Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1754. He studied the profession of theology, and afterwards engaged in the instruction of an academy in the western part of Virginia, where he died in the year 1787, in the 33d year of his age. *Sprague, Historical Discourse*, 76, 77.

EZEKIEL COLBURN, A. M., son of John Colburn, who early went from Connecticut to Lebanon, New Hampshire, was a native of Connecticut, and born about the year 1754. He studied theology, and preached some time in Chester, in Vermont. He became a farmer, and died about 20 years since.—*MS. Letter of Rev. S. Wood, D. D.*

WILLIAM DEMING, A. B., a native of Connecticut, and born about the same time with the preceding, is a respect-

able farmer in Cornish, New Hampshire.—*MS. Letter of Hon. J. P. Buckingham.*

ELIJAH DEWEY, A. B., a native of Lebanon, Connecticut, commenced the study of physic, and died soon after.—*Ibid.*

ASHUR HATCH, A. M., born at Preston, Connecticut, about 1753, taught an academy several years, and became a farmer in Brookfield, Vermont, and died about six years since. *Ibid.*

ABRAHAM HOLLAND, A. M., a native of Massachusetts, and born about 1754, preached a short time after he graduated; but acquired the profession of medicine, and settled in practice in Walpole, New Hampshire. He was appointed by the executive, a justice of the peace for the county of Cheshire, 5 January, 1795. He has lately removed to Vermont, either to Westminster or Newfane.—*Ibid. Council Records of New Hampshire.*

JOHN JONES, A. B., a native of Massachusetts, was born about the year 1756, died soon after he left College.—*MS. Letter of Hon. J. P. Buckingham.*

NATHANIEL MANN, A. M., a native of Hebron, Connecticut, and born in 1757, studied physic and practised in the State of North Carolina. He died about twenty years since. *Ibid.*

JEREMIAH OSBORN, A. M., was born at Litchfield, Connecticut, about the year 1747. The most intelligent of his class seem not to know anything respecting him.

ISAAC OSBORN, A. B., brother of the preceding, did not, it would seem from Mr. Buckingham, graduate with the class. In some catalogues his name is omitted.

ABIEL PEARSON, A. M., M. D., a native of Byfield parish, in Massachusetts, studied medicine under the direction of the late Edward Augustus Holyoke of Salem, and was a

respectable practitioner in the South Parish in Andover, where he settled in the year 1787. He was esteemed as a physician, and respected as a good citizen. He died in May, 1827, aged 71, leaving two sons, David Sewall, and Samuel M., and two daughters. He was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society.—*Abbot, Hist. Andover*, 151.

ELISHA SMITH, A. B., a native of Lebanon, Connecticut, and born, says Mr. Buckingham, in 1745, became a large landholder in Vermont, and now owns a large landed and personal property in Washington, in that state.—*MS. Letter of Hon. J. P. Buckingham*.

JONATHAN WILKINS, A. M., a native of Marlborough, Massachusetts, studied theology, and on 17 December, 1786, received from the first Congregational church in Concord, New-Hampshire, a unanimous invitation to settle in the ministry, in which the parish concurred. He returned a negative answer, but soon became a resident of the town, married, and settled on a farm. In 1797, he was clerk of the church; in 1802, was appointed a justice of the peace; was one of the selectmen in 1801, and 1803 to 1805, four years, and several times moderator of the town meetings. He was elected deacon of the church, 6 September, 1811, and held that office until his death, which occurred 9 March, 1830, at the age of 75.—*Bouton, Appendix to Century Sermons*, 1830. *Records of the Church and Town of Concord, N. H. Council Records*.

SAMUEL WOOD, A. M., D. D., was born at Mansfield, Connecticut, 22 May, 1752, and accompanied his father to Lebanon, New-Hampshire, on his settlement in that place, at the age of fourteen years. He entered college in 1775, and began to preach the same year that he graduated. He was ordained the fourth minister of the first Church in

Boscawen, New-Hampshire, 17 October, 1781, and for fifty years has been able, with few intermissions, to discharge his ministerial duties. He preached his Half Century sermon on the 17 October, 1831, at which time, he had baptised 824 children and 100 adults, had solemnized 212 marriages, and personally instructed 155 young persons. Of this number, 105 entered college, from 40 to 50 became ministers, 20 entered the profession of law, and 6 or 7 studied medicine. The remainder engaged in other pursuits. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, and received from his alma mater in 1820, the honorary degree of Doctor in Divinity.—*Price, Hist. Boscawen, and MS. Letters.*

A member of the class of 1779, says in a letter to me, "that the war interrupted our studies, and none of us acquired a *good* education, and several neglected a public profession. Many of the class were poor, and worked out their education by their own personal exertions. Some probably entered college to avoid going into the army."

## 1780.

ABSALOM PETERS, A. M., was born in Hebron, Conn., 5 March, 1754. His father, Col. John Peters,\* and his grandfather of the same name, resided at Hebron. His great grandfather was John Peters of Andover, Mass., who was the son of William Peters of Boston, who was a brother of the Rev. Thomas Peters of Saybrook, Connecticut, and Rev. Hugh Peters of famous memory, for some time pastor of the church in Salem, Mass., now under the care of

In the Boston Magazine for 1784, vol. 1. p. 213, I find the following notice of the death of the wife of Col. Peters. "Died on the 15th ult. [Feb.] at Hebron, in Connecticut, Mrs. Lydia Peters, wife of Col. John Peters, and second daughter of Joseph Phelps, Esq. She married at the age of 15, and lived with her Consort three times 15 years, and had 15 living children, thirteen now alive, and the youngest 15 years old. She had three times 15 grandchildren. She was sick 15 months, and died on the 15th day of the month, aged four times 15 years."

the Rev. Charles W. Upham. At the age of 21, Mr. Peters became a member of Dartmouth College. Previous to this, and during his College life, he was an ardent whig, and engaged with interest in the scenes of that day so intimately associated with the achievement of our country's independence. He graduated in 1780, but on account of the failure of his health, he relinquished the study of a profession, and after spending several years as a teacher and in other active employments, became settled as a farmer in Wentworth, New-Hampshire. In October, 1780, a great alarm was occasioned by the destruction of Royalton, Vermont, and from a report that four thousand British troops had crossed Lake Champlain with the intention of proceeding to Connecticut river. At this time, Mr. Peters marched at the head of six companies from the northern part of New-Hampshire to Newbury, Vermont, the place designated for their rendezvous, and on his arrival, was appointed aid to Major General Bailey, which office he sustained till the close of the war. After the war, he had much to do in organizing the Militia of New-Hampshire, and having served as an officer twenty-four years, he resigned with the rank of Brigadier General, to which office he was appointed 12 June, 1801.

In 1781, he was a member of the convention of the New-Hampshire Grants, east of Connecticut river, and afterwards, during six sessions, a member of the General Assembly of Vermont, until the grants which he represented were annexed to the State of New-Hampshire by an act of Congress. During this time also, he sustained the office of justice of the peace and high sheriff. After the cession of the "Grants" to New-Hampshire, he was at different times a member of the Legislature of that State, and in Septem-

ber, 1805, was appointed justice of the peace and the quorum.

At the age of 29 years, he was married to Mary Rogers, daughter of Nathaniel Rogers, Esq. Having reared to mature age, and with great discretion, a family of nine children, Mrs. Peters died in October, 1819, aged 63 years. In December, 1821, Gen. Peters was married to his second wife, the worthy widow of the late Rev. John Gurley, of Lebanon, Conn., and his surviving children having become settled in life, he soon after removed his residence from Wentworth to Lebanon, where he now dwells near to his paternal home, in the enjoyment of remarkably fine health for one of his age, having reached his 78th year.—*MS. Letter.*

AMOS CHASE, A. M., son of Moses Chase, Esq., was born at Sutton, Massachusetts, in 1757, removed with his father to Cornish, in New-Hampshire, in 1766. After completing his College course, he attended to the study of theology, and was ordained the minister of the second church in Litchfield, Connecticut, where he remained more than twenty years. He was dismissed and went to Centreville, Oil Creek township, in the county of Crawford, Pennsylvania, where he still resides. He was admitted to the degree of A. M. at Yale College, in 1795.—*MS. Letters.*

EDWARD LONGFELLOW, A. M., was from Byfield parish, in Massachusetts. He died at an early age, before the year 1799.

NOAH MILES, A. M., a native of Westminster, Massachusetts, was ordained the second minister of Temple, being the successor of Rev. Samuel Webster, 2 October, 1782, and continued in the ministry until his death, which occurred 20 November, 1831, in the 80th year of his age. "He had long labored in the vineyard of the Lord, and came to his grave as a shock of corn fully ripe. He was a

tender husband, an affectionate father, a true friend, and peace maker, and a faithful minister of the gospel. In his sickness, he was patient, his mind calm and serene, being supported by the gospel, and died in hope of a blessed immortality." The only publication of his, known to the writer, is a eulogy on President Washington, printed in 1800. One of his sons, Solomon Pearson Miles, graduated at Harvard College in 1819, and is known as a successful instructor of youth.

WILLIAM PATTEN, A. M., M. D., son of Rev. William Patten, minister of Halifax, in Massachusetts, was ordained over the Congregational church at Newport, in Rhode-Island, where he still officiates. He was long a trustee of Brown University, where, in 1787, he was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts, and from which, in 1807, he received the honorary degree of Doctor in Divinity. He was admitted to the degree of A. M. at Yale College in 1785. His mother, Mrs. Ruth Patten, who was daughter of the first President Wheelock, died in 1831, aged 92.

GEORGE PIERCE, A. M., a nephew of the Hon. George Jaffrey, of Portsmouth, read law with the Hon. John Pickering, and settled in practice at Portsmouth, when he died in 1788, aged 28 years.

PETER POHQUONNOPPEET, A. M., an Indian, was prepared for college at the Indian Charity School, under Dr. Wheelock. He was a man of good talents and character, and was commonly called *Sir Peter*. In the government of his tribe, (the Stockbridge Indians,) he was connected with Joseph Quanaukaunt, Capt. John Koyapot, in a council, which, after the decease of Solomon Unhaunnauwammutt, who was known by the name of King Solomon, regulated the affairs of the tribe.—*Hist. of Berkshire Co.*, 249, 250.

JOHN ROLPHE, A. B., was from Massachusetts; was ordained as a minister, and went to Genessee in New York, or in that region. He died a number of years since.

JOSEPH STEWARD, A. M., was a preacher, and much esteemed; but losing his health, devoted himself to painting, and was under the instruction of Col. John Trumbull. He established a museum at Hartford, Connecticut. He died several years since.—*MS. Letter of Hon. J. P. Buckingham.*

DANIEL STOREY, A. M., preached as a candidate for the ministry at Concord, New-Hampshire, but did not receive a call on account of his Arminian sentiments. He was, however, ordained as a minister, went to Ohio, and is said to have died at Marietta, before the year 1815. He was admitted to the degree of A. M. at Yale College, in 1815.—*Bouton, Century Sermons at Concord.*

## 1781.

JOHN BRUCE, A. M., a native of Marlborough, Massachusetts, was born 31 August, 1757. He was admitted a student of Dartmouth College in 1777, and soon after he graduated, fixed on the study of divinity as a profession. After preaching two or three years as a candidate, he was invited to settle at Mont-Vernon, then the second parish in Amherst. The invitation he accepted, and was ordained 3 November, 1785, where he continued with faithfulness and exemplary punctuality to discharge the duties of his sacred office until his death, which occurred 12 March, 1809, in the fifty-second year of his age. He left six children. Two of his sons have been members of the Legislature of New-Hampshire.—*Farmer's Cabinet, June, 1809. Appendix to two Sermons of Rev. S. Chapin. New-Hampshire Observer, 21 May, 1831.*

JASPER MURDOCK, A. M., engaged in business as a trader, settled in Norwich, Vermont, and died sometime before the year 1816.

JAMES BARNET PORTER, A. B., son of Deacon Porter, died in early life. The triennial catalogue for 1799, has his name starred.

LEWIS VINCENT, A. B., an Indian from Canada, to which place, it is believed, he returned after he graduated. He is considered as living, in the triennial catalogue published in 1831.

## 1782.

CALEB BINGHAM, A. M., son of Daniel Bingham, was born in Salisbury, Connecticut, about the year 1757. On the maternal side he was descended from Roger Conant, one of the first settlers of Salem, Massachusetts. While at college, he was admitted a member of the church under the care of Rev. Eden Burroughs. When he graduated, he delivered the Latin valedictory. For about two years after he completed his college course, he was the tutor and instructor of Moor's School. He then went to Boston, and opened a school exclusively devoted to the instruction of females, and met with great encouragement. The want of elementary books on grammar and practical geography, at that time, led him to publish his "Young Lady's Accidence," and a "Catechism of Geography and Astronomy," for the use of his scholars. The success which attended his mode of teaching called the attention of the town to the subject, and the system of the public instruction was so altered as for the first time to allow females to participate in its benefits. Mr. Bingham, without previous notice, was appointed the first public instructor on the new plan. In this situation he had to encounter the prejudice of parents, and their attachment to ancient usage, to which were added the evils of poverty and ill health.

Having published several school-books, which had become popular, and his health having become impaired by close application to the duties of his station, he resigned his situation, and devoted his whole attention to a small bookstore, which he had previously opened in Cornhill. He was afterwards appointed a director of the Massachusetts State Prison, which opened a new field for the exercise of his philanthropy. By his exertions in this department, the expenses of the institution were greatly reduced, and the minds of some of the prisoners were awakened to good principles, and a relish for the honest pursuits which they had disregarded, was induced. Mr. B. was of a social and lively disposition, friendly in his manners, remarkably tender and humane in his disposition, and faithful in the performance of all relative duties. His mind was never powerful, but always bent upon some useful design. His religious opinions were professedly Calvinistic, although he sometimes expressed his doubts in regard to some of the articles of that creed, and grew more catholic as he approached that world where Christians will cease to differ. He died at Boston, after an illness of nearly four months, 27 April, 1817, in the 60 year of his age. His wife, whom he married in 1786, was Hannah Kemble. He had four daughters, (two dying in infancy,) the eldest of whom had married Lieut. Col. Nathan Towson, and the youngest was single at her father's decease. The number of the editions and copies printed of Mr. Bingham's school-books will appear from the following:

Young Lady's Accidence,	20	Editions,	100,000	Cop.
Child's Companion,	20	"	180,000	"
American Preceptor,	64	"	640,000	"
Geographical Catechism,	22	"	100,000	"
Columbian Orator,	23	"	190,000	"
Juvenile Letters,	7	"	25,000	"
			<hr/>	
	Total,		1,235,000	"

Besides these, he published several other books, and translated *Atala*, a novel from the French of M. Chateaubriand.—*Abstracted from an interesting Memoir of Mr. Bingham, communicated by his nephew, Mr. J. Bingham, of Boston.*

JACOB CRAM, A. M., son of Col. Jonathan Cram, who was descended from John Cram, one of the first settlers of Exeter in 1639, was born at Hampton-Falls, New Hampshire, 12 October, 1762. He was ordained the successor of Rev. Elijah Fletcher, at Hopkinton, N. H., 25 February, 1789. He was in the ministry until 6 January 1792, when he was dismissed. He removed to Exeter in 1804, where he has since resided, and has been at different times employed in missionary service.

HUGH HOLMES, A. B., from Montreal, in Lower Canada, became an agriculturist. He died before the year 1816. *Verbal communication of Rev. J. Cram.*

TIMOTHY REED, A. M., son of Rev. Solomon Reed of Middleborough, Massachusetts, and brother of the late Rev. John Reed, D. D., of West Bridgewater, engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was admitted to the degree of A. M., at Yale College, in 1782. It appears that he is still living.—*Ibid.*

1783.

THOMAS ARCHIBALD, A. B., son of Robert Archibald, was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire, where his ancestors were among the early settlers. He studied a theological profession, and was settled the first minister of Acworth, in his native State, 11 November, 1789. His dismissal took place, 14 June, 1794.—*MS. Letters of Rev. P. Cooke, and R. Means, Esq.*

ISAAC BABBIT, A. B., became a preacher, but appears not to have been settled. He went to the State of New York, and appears to have been living in 1830.

JOSEPH BLODGET, A. B., a native of Stafford, Connecticut, was ordained the minister of Greenwich, Massachusetts, 8 November, 1786, and continued in the ministerial office in 1831.

ASA DAY, A. M., was employed as a school-master. He was living in 1830.

ELIJAH DUNBAR, A. M., studied law, and settled in practice at Claremont, New Hampshire, as early as 1797, and while there was appointed a civil magistrate in 1802. He removed to Keene in 1804, and represented that town in the legislature in the years 1806, 1808, and 1810.—*Records in Secretary's Office.*

JOHN FOSTER, A. M., D. D., brother of Rev. Daniel Foster, who graduated in the class of 1777, was born at Western, Massachusetts, 19 April, 1763. He very early fitted himself for a preacher, as he was ordained at Brighton, Massachusetts, the next year after he graduated. He was dismissed from his ministerial office 31 October, 1827, having on that day completed forty-three years of service. He died 15 September, 1829, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. His doctorate he received from Harvard College in 1815. He published fourteen occasional sermons, and wrote the third volume of the *Christian Monitor*, published in 1806, containing eight short sermons.—*Christian Register of October 3, 1829.*

TILLY HOWE, A. B., a native of Marlborough, Massachusetts, was a preacher, and for a number of years officiated at Sharon, New Hampshire. He died at Fryeburg, Maine, in October, 1830, at the age of 80.

HENRY HUNTINGTON, A. M., from Norwich, Connecticut, has acquired a large property by land speculations in the State of New York.—*MS. Letter from Hon. J. P. Buckingham.*

CALVIN KNOWLTON, A. M., son of the Hon. Luke Knowlton, one of the early settlers of Newfane, Vermont, was an attorney at law, and settled in Newfane, where he died 20 January, 1800, aged 39. He sustained several civil offices, was a respectable lawyer, and a worthy man.—*Thompson, Gazetteer of Vermont*, 196.

SAMUEL SARGENT, A. M., from Malden, Massachusetts, was ordained the minister of the Congregational church in Woburn, in that State, 14 March, 1785. He was dismissed 27 May, 1799, afterwards went to Vermont, and died at Chester, in that State, in the year 1818.—*Chickering, Dedication Sermon at Woburn*.

PELEG SPRAGUE, A. M., was born in Rochester, Massachusetts, 10 December, 1756. He was brought up in a merchant's store; but on coming to years of maturity, his friends imagined that the endowments of his mind qualified him to move in a different sphere. He was accordingly prepared for college, and passed through his collegiate studies with reputation. He studied law with Hon. Benjamin West, of Charlestown, and was admitted to the Bar in 1787. He opened an office at Dartmouth, now New Bedford, Massachusetts, and continued there a year or two, when conceiving that he could do better somewhere else, he removed to Keene, New Hampshire, where he soon acquired a good share of practice. He was appointed solicitor for Cheshire county as early as 1794, and was elected member of Congress in 1797, and took his seat on the 15th December, that year. In this situation, he appeared to very good advantage, and his fortitude of mind was of peculiar advantage to him. He was an easy speaker and felt no kind of intimidation in opposing any measure, however great the characters might be of those who supported it. But at the meridian of life his impaired state of health was

inconsistent with his being any longer a candidate for office. He died in 1800, aged 44.—*Knapp, Sketches of Lawyers, &c.*, 337, 338. *Coll. of F. & M.* iii. 53.

ELISHA TICKNOR, A. M., son of Col. Elisha Ticknor, and a descendant from William Ticknor, who was an inhabitant of Scituate, Mass., in 1656, was born in Connecticut in 1756. After he graduated, he was preceptor of Moor's School at Hanover until 1786, when he removed to Boston, where he was principal of a Grammar School until 1794, and afterwards a successful merchant. The primary Schools of Boston, it is believed, owe something to Mr. Ticknor for their present happy arrangement; and the establishment of the Savings institution was an object in which he labored with peculiar interest. His son George Ticknor, born in 1791, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1807, and is the Smith Professor of French and Spanish Literature and Professor of Belles-lettres in Harvard University.—*Deane, Hist. Scituate.*

HERCULES WESTON, A. B., was ordained the minister of Cornwall, in Connecticut, in 1791, and was living in 1831, as appears from the triennial catalogue.

1784.

SOLOMON AIKEN, A. M., a native of Hardwick, Massachusetts, was ordained the minister of Dracut, in that State, 4 June, 1788, and was in the ministry more than twenty years. He was known as a political partisan, and published several sermons, in which he vindicated the measures and principles of the party then in power, and which had a considerable circulation then in New England. These works were two sermons delivered at Dracut, 6 April, 1809; a letter addressed to Rev. Samuel Spring, D. D., of Newburyport, on the subject of his sermons, 12mo. pp. 34; and

a Fast sermon, on the rise and progress of religious dissention in the United States, preached 11 May, 1811, 8vo. pp. 22. Mr. Aiken left Dracut, and it is believed went to the State of New York. He has been dead several years.

BENJAMIN CHAPMAN, A. M., is said to be the same with Benjamin Chatman, mentioned in Greenleaf's Ecclesiastical Sketches, p. 152, as being settled in Edgecombe, in Maine, 4 March, 1801, and who died 13 July, 1804.

NATHAN CHURCH, A. M., from South Hadley, Mass., was ordained the first minister of Bridgton, Me., 17 June, 1789.

RUFUS FAIRBANKS, A. B., from Brimfield, Massachusetts, settled as a merchant in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was living in 1830.—*MS. Letter of Rev. W. F. Rowland.*

THOMAS GROSS, A. M., was ordained the first minister of Hartford, Vermont, 7 June, 1786; dismissed February, 1808.—*Thompson, Gaz. Vermont.* His son, Hon. Ezra C. Gross, a member of Congress from New York, and of the New York Legislature, died at Albany, 9 April, 1829.

WILLIAM MONTAGUE, A. M., from South Hadley, Massachusetts, became the Episcopal minister of Christ Church, in Boston, April, 1786, and left within about six years. He went to Dedham in 1791, and became the rector of the Episcopal church in that place, where he remained until he was dismissed by Bishop Griswold, in July, 1818. He was also during some part of the last period, the preacher at Quincy, where, on the 8th of April, 1793, the Episcopal society contracted with him to preach monthly, which he did until 1799.—*Bowen's Picture of Boston*, 133. *Worthington, History of Dedham*, 123. *Whitney, History of Quincy*,

ETHAN OSBORN, A. B., a native of Litchfield, Connecticut, was settled as a preacher at Fairfield, New-Jersey.—*MS. Letter of Rev. W. F. Rowland.*

JACOB OSBORN, A. M., was also a native of Litchfield, in Connecticut.—*Ibid.*

CHRISTOPHER PAIGE, A. M., son of William Paige, was born at Hardwick, Massachusetts, 12 June, 1762. He was ordained the first minister of Pittsfield, New-Hampshire, in 1789, and was dismissed in 1795. He was installed the first minister of Roxbury, in the same State, 21 Nov. 1816; was dismissed 11 March, 1819, and died at Salisbury, New-Hampshire, 12 October, 1822, in the 65th year of his age. His wife was the widow of Rev. Elijah Fletcher, of Hopkinton. Elijah Fletcher Paige, his son, graduated at Harvard College in 1810, and died in Virginia in 1817.

ELIJAH PAYNE, A. M., son of Col. Elisha Payne, of Lebanon, an early trustee of Dartmouth College, settled in Lebanon; was appointed justice of the peace for the county of Grafton, 5 January, 1795, and died in early life.

DAVID PORTER, A. B., D. D., son of Mr. Increase Porter, was born at Hebron, in Connecticut, 27 May, 1761, studied theology with several clergymen, and preached in various places until 1789. He received a call to settle over the church in Spencertown, New York, and was ordained 14 September, 1789. From this station he was dismissed, and was installed over the church in Catskill, in the same State, in October, 1803, where he now resides. He received from Williams College the honorary degree of D. D. in 1814. He has published from fifteen to twenty sermons, besides a treatise on baptism.

AMBROSE PORTER, A. B., cousin of the preceding, was son of David Porter, of Hebron, died soon after he left

college.—*MS. Letters of Hon. J. P. Buckingham, and David Porter, D. D.*

WILLIAM F. ROWLAND, A. M., son of Rev. David S. Rowland, was born at Plainfield, Connecticut. He was ordained at Exeter, New-Hampshire, as the successor of Rev. Isaac Mansfield, 2 June, 1790, and was dismissed 5 December, 1828, but still resides at Exeter. He preached the Election Sermon in 1796, and again in 1809, both of which were published by authority of the Legislature.

NAHUM SARGENT, A. M., brother of Rev. Samuel Sargent, who graduated in 1783, was ordained in Reading, Vermont, 23 November, 1787. While on a visit to his friends in Chelsea, Massachusetts, he was disposed to have the small pox by inoculation, of which he died, 7 October, 1792.—*Thompson, Gazetteer of Vermont, 226.*

DAVID SEARL, A. B., a native of Southampton, Massachusetts, and appears to be living from the triennial catalogue published in 1831.

JOHN WILDER, A. M., son of Major Wilder of Lancaster, Massachusetts, was ordained in 1790, at Attleborough, Massachusetts, as the successor of Rev. Habijah Weld, from which place he was dismissed several years since.

GILBERT TENNET WILLIAMS, A. B., son of Rev. Simon Williams, was born at Fogg's Manor, New Jersey, [J. Coffin,] and was ordained over the church in Linebrook, Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1789, was dismissed in 1813, and installed over the second church in Newbury, 1 June, 1814, and died 24 September, 1824, aged about 60. I am informed by a member of this class, that every graduate was a professor of religion at the time of leaving college.

[*To be continued.*]

MEMOIR OF THE HON. ABEL PARKER, LATE OF JAFFREY, IN  
NEW-HAMPSHIRE.—BY JACOB B. MOORE.

ABEL PARKER, late of Jaffrey, was a descendant of Abraham Parker, who, prior to the year 1644, emigrated from England to America, and settled at Woburn, in Massachusetts. After the grant and incorporation of Chelmsford, 1653, Abraham removed to that place, where he died 12 August, 1685, leaving several children, of whom Moses, a native of that town, was father of Aaron Parker, who was grandfather of the subject of this memoir. He was the son of Samuel and Mary Parker, and was born at Westford, Massachusetts, on the 25th March, 1753, where he continued to reside until about fourteen years of age, when he removed with his father to Pepperell.

About this time the ball of the revolution had been put in motion. A spirit of resistance, heartfelt and unconquerable, was at work throughout the colonies. The young men, too, bore their full share in hastening on the preparations for freedom, and absolute independence of the British Crown. Young Parker was active and useful among his comrades. Whenever, amidst the circle of his acquaintances, the conversation turned upon the all-engrossing topic, his feelings were warm and his language animated in the patriot cause. In December, 1774, he joined a company of minute men, commanded by Capt. John Nutting, in the regiment of Col. Prescott, as a private soldier.

On the 19th April, 1775, the alarm was given that the British troops were marching into the country; and Nutting's company collected as fast as possible to oppose them. Parker was at work with his team about a mile from home,

when he received the news. He immediately left his work, ran his oxen home, seized his gun and equipments, and joined his company with all possible despatch ; but so great was the celerity with which they assembled and marched, that he did not overtake the main body of his company until just after they had passed Groton ; and although the company arrived that day at West Cambridge, the retreat of the British had been so rapid, that they did not come up with them.

On reaching that post, Parker enlisted, to serve in the same company, until the January following, and was stationed at Cambridge until the evening before the battle of Bunker Hill, when a detachment was ordered to take possession of that place. In this detachment he was not originally included, but so desirous was he of participating in the most active service, that he offered to a comrade who was included in the detachment, his ration of spirit for leave to take his place, and an exchange was thereupon negotiated, so that he went on as one of the detachment. He was posted during the night, with the principal part of his company, and some few other men, on guard in the the town of Charlestown, while the main body proceeded to Breed's Hill, and commenced the erection of the fort.

Not far from sunrise on the following morning, alarm guns were fired from a British vessel lying in the river, and soon after the company in Charlestown joined those on the hill, and commenced throwing up the breastwork which was connected with the fort. Very soon after they began to construct this work, the cannon shot from Copp's Hill and the British vessels were, to use his own language, "poured in upon them in great profusion." They however continued their labors under this heavy fire, until it was

thought the work would answer the purpose for which it was designed.

He was there stationed, when the attack commenced with small arms, and continued "loading and firing as fast as he could," at each assault, until a party of the British having flanked the breastwork, he received a wound from a musket ball, which entered his leg a short distance below the knee, passed between the bones, and lodged in the calf of the leg, from which it was afterwards cut out. Neither of the bones were broken, though one or both were injured, and the ball in passing between them had been flattened to nearly half its original diameter. At this time he had got to his last bullet, and in attempting to load once more, it stuck fast in the barrel of his gun about half way down, the piece having become foul from repeated firing. He then retired into the fort, and the breastwork was soon after cleared of its troops by the fire of the flanking party.

He remained in the fort until the order to retreat was given by Col. Prescott, as the British entered the work. While on the retreat and within a few rods of the fort, a party of the British, who had just reached the angle of the fort nearest them, fired a volley which was very destructive. A man fell on each side of him, and a bullet passed through the sleeve of his shirt, but he escaped further injury. His wound had so far disabled him that he could only "hobble along" with the help of his gun, and being unable to keep up with the main body of those who were retreating, he diverged to the left, and passed upon the southwesterly side of Bunker Hill near the top, while the firing was still continued in the vicinity of the rail fence. He crossed the neck while the fire of the enemy was enfilading it, and having become unable to proceed without assistance, a fellow-soldier, but an entire stranger, came to his

support, and his thirst becoming intolerable, procured water for him almost at the risk of his life. Further assistance soon became necessary, which was afforded by another, also a stranger; and supported by both, he reached the line of sentinels. The guard at first refused to let either of his assistants pass; but upon representations that he was utterly unable to proceed without help, they consented that one should continue with him. After proceeding a short distance on the road to Cambridge, he came to a chaise in which were one or two wounded men, and seating himself on one of the shafts, was carried to Cambridge, while the soldier who had so well and faithfully assisted him thus far, returned. In after life whenever Mr. P. related the incidents of this period of his youth, he spoke with warm feelings of gratitude of the strangers who thus aided him, regretting his inability ever to learn who they were. He was absent from camp, on account of his wounds, about two months, after which he returned, and remained until the expiration of the term for which he had enlisted.

In July, 1776, he engaged as a sergeant in the company of Capt. Job Shattuck, attached to the regiment commanded by Col. Read of Littleton, to serve at Ticonderoga, until the first of December following, and during that period formed one of a party which volunteered to storm a British fort at Putnam's point; but on their arrival about daybreak they found the enemy had the day before abandoned that post, and returned to Crown Point, which they left while the party were at Putnam's point, and proceeded to Canada.

At the termination of this term of service, he returned home, and for something more than a year followed the more quiet occupation of a farmer. During this period, he formed a matrimonial connection with Miss Edith Jewett,

daughter of Jedidiah Jewett of Pepperell, to whom he was married on the 14th October, 1777. She is still surviving.

Exactly five months after this date, he received an ensign's appointment in the army, and engaged for the term of nine months to serve in Rhode-Island. He enlisted fourteen men, and marched to Providence, where he remained in command of that portion of the company, with others who joined, for about three months, before the other officers came on. The company was afterwards placed under the command of Capt. Joseph Boynton, and attached to the regiment of Col. Nathaniel Wade, of Newburyport. About the first of August, the army commanded by Gen. Sullivan proceeded to the Island, and remained in the face of the enemy about three weeks, when by reason of the dispersion of the French fleet, it was obliged to retire; and being pursued by the British, the action of the 29th August commenced, which terminated in the retreat of the enemy. In this action the regiment of Wade was not engaged, though drawn up in battle array, and in momentary expectation of orders to engage, when the British retreated.

In October, 1779, there was a requisition for men to go to New-York for three months—the officers to be taken from the militia, unless they could procure those of an equal rank to serve in their stead. A lieutenant who belonged to Pepperell was detached, and applied to Parker, to take his place, to which he consented on receiving a commission of equal rank in the army, which was issued 28th October, 1779. A portion of the troops marched the day he received his commission, and he was ordered to bring on the remainder of the men from Pepperell and Groton. He marched shortly after with the residue, but before he arrived, met those who had first marched on their

return—the contemplated attack on the city of New-York having been abandoned.

On the 5th of May, 1780, Mr. Parker removed from Pepperell, and commenced a settlement in the northeasterly part of Jaffrey, that part of the town being then nearly a wilderness. Here he began clearing and cultivating a farm—devoting his days to severe toil, and his leisure evenings to the acquisition of knowledge. He was industrious in his pursuits, and blessed in his industry. He contributed liberally to the formation of a very respectable library in Jaffrey, and another in Dublin, and made himself thoroughly acquainted with the books which they contained, and studied such treatises on the law as he could elsewhere conveniently procure. In his early years, the advantages of education were of difficult attainment; and he was indebted in a great measure to his own exertions in this respect, for his success and respectability in life. He always regretted his want of opportunity for a better education in youth, and was solicitous to provide for his children the advantages of which he had been deprived.

The various offices he sustained may be mentioned, to show how far his own exertions for the acquisition of knowledge were successful, and in what estimation his intelligence and patriotism were held by those who knew him well.

He was appointed a justice of the peace by President Langdon, Oct. 9, 1788; a justice of the peace and quorum by Gov. Bartlett, Oct. 5, 1793. At this period, these appointments were more sparingly conferred, and the honor of the office, and the duties of a magistrate, were considered of far greater importance, than in our day and generation, when similar honors are indiscriminately conferred on all who can muster friends enough to recommend them.

On the 10th June, 1813, he was appointed a justice of the peace and quorum throughout the state. Under the act of July 9, 1798, for the valuation of lands, &c. and the enumeration of slaves within the United States, Mr. Parker was appointed an assistant assessor.

A vacancy occurring in the office of judge of probate for the county of Cheshire, he received that appointment from Gov. Gilman, 17 May, 1802. This office he held until he arrived at the age of 70, a period of more than twenty years. During this time he gave an unremitting attention to the discharge of its duties, and his promptness and exactitude were well known and acknowledged; and his decrees in the very many contested cases which came before him were so far satisfactory, that the appeals during his administration averaged only about one a year, and in those cases only two decrees were reversed, and partial alterations made in three or four others.

Judge Parker discharged the duties of postmaster of Jaffrey, from Jan. 1812, for about five years, when he resigned.

Besides these various appointments, which evinced the confidence of government in his probity and intelligence, he was elected to various civil offices by the people among whom he resided, and who most intimately knew him. He held several offices in the town—was a member of the Convention for the adoption of the Federal Constitution—was seven years a member of the popular branch of the Legislature—and an elector of president and vice-president in 1824. It was a subject of satisfaction to him, that all the various appointments with which he had been honored were voluntarily bestowed, without solicitation or request on his part.

Judge Parker became a professor of religion in 1780, and his unwavering religious belief supported him during

the severe illness, which terminated in his decease, as well as in all other periods of affliction. He was a constant supporter and liberal contributor to various benevolent and charitable institutions. He was a life member of the N. H. Bible Society—N. H. Missionary Society, and Evangelical Tract Society—an active member of the Cheshire County Bible Society, and for several years its president.

After the expiration of his office as judge of probate, he retired in a great measure from all public business, cultivating a small farm, and devoting the greater portion of his time to reading and reflection. His favorite subjects were theology and history, and with almost the ardor of youth he continued his application to these studies so long as disease left him power so to do. He died, of a dropsy in the chest, 2d May, 1831, aged 78 years.

Judge Parker was emphatically a friend of the poor, a lover of justice and of peace. The memory of his honorable and irreproachable private character, his benevolence, and high regard for the principles of honor and integrity, will long be cherished in the neighborhood where he spent the greater portion of his life, and among the people at large, whom he was frequently called upon to serve, and who knew his worth.

Of the children of Judge Parker, four sons survive, and are all favorably known to the public. *Isaac* is a merchant in Boston, has been a member of the common council in that city, and a representative in the legislature of the commonwealth. *Edmund* is in the practice of the law in Amherst, has been repeatedly a representative from that town in the legislature of this state, and is now judge of probate for the county of Hillsborough. *Asa* resides in Jaffrey, has been a senator in our state legislature, and is

now register of probate for the county of Cheshire. *Joel* is engaged in an extensive practice of the law at Keene, and has represented that town in the state legislature.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WILLEY FAMILY,  
IN THE NOTCH OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS.\*

[In a letter from Professor Upham to one of the Publishing Committee.]

*Brunswick, Me., Sept. 1828.*

Mr. FARMER,

In compliance with your suggestion, I will communicate to you, for the use of the New-Hampshire Historical Society, some facts in relation to the destruction of the Willey family by a slide from the White Mountains in 1826. I do not allow myself to suppose, that my interest in the destiny of that unfortunate family will need any apology. There are some events of a domestic nature, that are worthy of a longer remembrance than is commonly allotted to instances of private suffering. Individuals die, and are forgotten, whole families disappear from the face of the earth, and speedily no memorial of them remains. But it has seemed to me, that the remembrance of the recent sad events, in the remote solitude of the White Mountains, ought to be perpetuated. Certain I am, that the traveller, who penetrates the Pass of those celebrated summits, will linger to survey the spot where its inhabitants perished. Long after their bodies have mouldered into dust, their story will be told, and their fate will be heard with sympathy. It appears desirable, that the particulars of this destruction should become a matter of record, while

\* See page 224, of this volume, the narrative of MR. MOORE, who was on the mountains during the storm.

they are yet of recent occurrence, and not be left to the uncertain and unsatisfactory keeping of tradition.

The White Mountains, situated in the northern part of New-Hampshire, are often visited, and too well known to require a minute description here. The central summit, which is more than six thousand feet in height, is appropriately called in honor of the Father of our country, MOUNT WASHINGTON. These mountains have become to the grateful imaginations of the people the commemorative symbols of those great men, whom Providence has raised up for their defence and glory. To the right and left of Mount Washington rise, with a scarcely inferior elevation, Mounts Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Munroe. The southern part of this sublime range is broken through by a narrow opening of many miles in length, forming a PASS merely wide enough, for a considerable distance, for the Saco river and the road. The upper extremity, where it is but a few feet wide, is called the Notch. Two miles south of the Notch, the lofty summits which had hitherto approached very near each other, just giving room enough for the unambitious Saco and the fearful traveller to make their way, suddenly recede on the west side of the river, leaving at their base a level opening or flat of about twenty acres. To this remote and solitary spot, (the nearest house, that of Abel Crawford, being six miles distant,) Samuel Willey, Jun. with his family, came to take up their residence in November of 1825. It was here they lived; and in this place on the following year, they all suddenly perished. The bottom of the valley was their grave; the dust of the mountain tops, their covering.

Mr. Willey, the head of the family, was born March 31, 1788. His parents are respectable people, still living in the upper part of Conway, N. H. As we naturally desire

to know something of the character of those in whose behalf we are disposed to yield our sympathy, I am happy to learn from sources to be relied on, that Mr. Willey was a man fit, on many accounts, to secure respect. He was one of those inestimable men, whom we often find among our farmers; kind and gentle in his feelings, of a cautious and sound judgment, sincere in his professions, and industrious in his habits.

The farmers of our land, though not wealthy, generally possess what may be termed an independent property; they live a laborious and retired life, except that with those of their immediate neighborhood they commonly form an intimate acquaintance. And hence I am led to remark, that early marriages, which the celebrated Franklin so much approved of, are frequent; and that, on September 12th of 1812, young Willey entered into that relation with a respectable young woman, whose maiden name was Polly Lovejoy. She was born April 19th, 1791, and thus the age of the husband at the time of his marriage was twenty-four and of the wife twenty-one. Perhaps these notices may be thought unnecessarily minute, merely because the subjects of them were not elevated in point of rank and fortune. This is an unhappy prepossession. Human character and sufferings are at all times interesting: it is a dishonor to profess to be exempt from an interest in the fortunes of our fellow-men, of whatever condition in life. The virtues of those in humble stations have been too seldom celebrated, and their sufferings have too seldom been visited with the tear of sympathy.

The parents of Miss Lovejoy (the mother is still living,) dwelt but a short distance from the elder Willey's, although their farm was on the opposite (the westerly) side of the

Saco river. The daughter possessed a good form and an amiable disposition ; but vivacity was her characteristic. Her spirit was agitated even by trifling incidents, as the leaves of the forest are moved by the gentlest wind. Her soul was all life, motion, feeling ; nor was this sprightliness attendant on her youth merely, but being a part of her nature, it showed itself in maturer age. More than all, both the husband and the wife were deeply impressed with religious sentiments. The sublime wilderness of woods and mountains, in the midst of which they lived, naturally led them to serious contemplations on the great Author of nature ; their Bible confirmed to them what the works of nature had less distinctly intimated ; and they found, as there is good reason to believe, that true solace, which men stand in need of in all situations of life, and which nothing but religion can impart. Thus cheerful, serious, and laborious, with enough to supply their present wants and those of their children, they formed a household, on which the blessing of God seemed greatly to rest.

Such, at least, were my feelings in respect to them, when making a short stay, as I recently had occasion to, at their first place of residence. The house in the lower part of Bartlett and on the west side of the Saco river, which they occupied before removing into the Pass of the White Mountains, is one story and neatly built, and may be known by having in front a vast rock, nearly perpendicular, and to appearance some hundreds of feet in height. It rises only a few rods' distance from the house ; is worn in places by the rains, and bears a few stunted trees on its apparently inaccessible brow. Immediately in the rear, and thirty feet perhaps below the level of the house, a pleasant and well cultivated meadow extends as far as the Saco river, although

it has sustained some injury from recent floods. In this retired, peaceful, and pleasant spot, the happy family of Mr. Willey had taken up their residence. Their farm afforded them a comfortable subsistence; and the toil which was required in its cultivation and in the management of their household affairs, was sweetened by the spirit of contentment, as already intimated by a religious trust. They endeavored to discharge their various duties in the love and fear of that great Being who dwells alike in the populous city and the desert, and who hears the cry of the raven, and sees the fall of the sparrow. If retirement, health, a sufficiency of temporal goods, love for each other, and trust in God, could secure happiness, no doubt they possessed it, although not exempt from a portion of those cares and griefs which are the common lot of all.

At the period which has been already mentioned, Mr. Willey thought it his duty to leave his residence in Bartlett, pleasant as it was in many respects, and to establish himself and his household elsewhere. A house had been erected by some previous occupant in the lonely spot in the bosom of the White Mountains, which has been described. It was here Mr. Willey took up his residence; and however it might prove to himself and family, the change in his dwelling place promised, at least, to be a blessing to the travellers, who frequently pass through those mountainous regions. To entertain travellers indeed was a contemplated part of their business at their removal; and while they did good to others, it became a means of subsistence to themselves. The travellers who came through the Pass of the Mountains spoke with gratitude of their kindness and attentions. The house where they resided was denominated, as it was then the nearest building to the narrowest part of the Pass or Notch, the *Notch House*; and none, who called there, could help observing the order, and

peace, and cheerfulness, which pervaded it. And perhaps the moral loveliness, which this hospitable mansion presented, was heightened to the imagination of those who visited it, by being shut out, as it were, from the rest of the world, and blooming in the midst of such vast and terrific solitudes. But it is not now as it was once; the traveller calls there, and they are gone; nor were they taken from the earth in any ordinary manner. I will explain the melancholy catastrophe.

Although the hills and mountains are spoken of in scripture as everlasting, we find the Almighty hand, that erected, can throw them down. It is true, we have not been called in this country to witness such deplorable devastations, as were caused in Switzerland, in 1806, by the fall of the Rossberg; but there has been something similar; parts of mountains have repeatedly come down into the adjacent country. About fifteen years ago, a land-slip or slide, (as such descents of earth are termed by the inhabitants of our mountainous regions,) came down the whole length of a large swell, called the Whiteface Mountain, in Sandwich, N. H. It started near the top of the mountain; and the earth, trees and rocks, that came down, covered, as I was informed, not less than six acres. For very many years nothing of this kind had happened in the White Mountains, worthy of notice, until the 9th of July, 1826. That day Mr. Abel Crawford, who lives six miles south, and was the nearest neighbor to Mr. Willey in that direction, was at the Notch house. It had been very rainy, but towards night cleared off. Just about the time of the rain's ceasing, a slide started from the top of the mountain back of Mr. Willey's house, and in a west direction from the house; as near as could be judged, an half a mile distant. The part of the mountain, which had started, descended with pro-

digious power, bearing large rocks, and logs, and in some cases, trees standing ; but not faster, as Mr. Crawford supposed, who gave me this account, than a man could walk. Nearly at the same time, another slide started from the same mountain, pursuing a parallel course, the first terminating at twelve rods distance from Mr. Willey's house, the other at sixty rods. This event undoubtedly alarmed Mr. Willey's family, who were witnesses of it ; but as nothing of the kind had happened for many years before, and perhaps never to their knowledge, they concluded to remain for the present in the residence they had selected. The slide came so near the house, that Mrs. Willey caught two of her children in her arms, to escape down the valley. A traveller, some days afterwards, asked her in relation to the dangers of their situation, and she replied, that strangers, who from various causes were led through the mountains, were equally exposed to danger. She further expressed a perfect reliance on the protection of Providence, and a disposition to acquiesce in whatever they might be ordered to bear. The same traveller observes, that he dined at the house in company with some others on the 17th of July ; that he had seldom seen a more interesting family ; and that the children, of whom there were several, and who were instructed solely by their mother, were remarkable intelligent, well-behaved, contented, and happy.

But this happiness was not destined to continue long. On Monday, the 28th of August, there was a very violent rain storm, commencing in the morning, and continuing until eleven at night. The rivers rose rapidly above their banks ; the people of the Amonoosuck, to the west of the White Mountains, were suddenly alarmed by the general overflow of their meadow grounds, and the destruction of their flocks and buildings. The family of Mr. Abel Craw-

ford, who lives in another direction on the banks of the Saco, were first alarmed by the flowing of the water of that river into their house, which is fifteen feet above the usual level of its bed; and by the bleating of a flock of sheep, which were swept down from a pasture an half a mile above. On that dreadful night there were more than an hundred slides from the White Mountains; mighty as they are, they seemed to be loosened from their foundations.

Imagine, then, the situation of the helpless and terrified family of Mr. Willey, at the distance of six miles from the nearest human being, and directly in the midst of these huge crumbling piles. The pass of the White Mountains is of itself terrible; the traveller makes his way under piles apparently three thousand feet high; beneath him are precipices of vast depth; the wind sends forth continually a hoarse and presageful murmur; the trees wave darkly; and the barren parts of the mountains display huge masses of earth and stones often of many tons weight, just ready to leap into the valley. How much more terrible, then, when the whole body of the mountain is moved to and fro by a tempest; the trees, torn from their moorings, sail down their sides; huge rocks hoarsely grind against each other, and elicit long streams of fire, as they move on, overturning every thing in their course; the earth heaves from its foundations, rushing forth from its hiding place, "like a strong man armed."

It was at such a time, that desolation, fearful, terrible desolation gathered around the little family at the Notch House. It seemed impossible that they should escape. The river Saco, which, in heavy tempests of rain, rises at the rate of five feet an hour for many miles from its source, had undoubtedly covered the road in places, or swept it entirely away, before they had become fully aware of their perilous situation.

The family at this time consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Willey, two hired men from the town of Bartlett, viz., David Allen, aged about thirty years, and David Nicholson, in his twentieth year, and five interesting children, viz., Eliza Ann Willey, the eldest, aged twelve years; Jeremiah Lovejoy Willey, eleven years of age; Martha Glazier Willey, ten years of age; Elbridge Gerry, seven, and Sally, only three.

Beloved family! How soon were your earthly prospects destined to be fearfully and unexpectedly cut off! How much reason have those, who contemplate your fate, to exclaim, unsearchable are the ways of Providence! Ye were lovely in life; and like the father and son of Scripture, in death ye were not divided. There was one suffering, one grave, one hope. We may well suppose the parents, when they saw the roaring waters gathering at their feet, and heard the mountains crumbling over their heads, resigned themselves with cheerfulness into the hands of God. They had been taught in the principles of the Christian religion, and undoubtedly experienced its support. And yet the ties of nature are strong; and they could not be insensible to the pangs, that often thrill in a parent's heart, when they saw the condition of their young, and interesting, and suffering children.

They all perished on the night of Monday, the 25th of August; it is impossible to determine, as not one escaped, the precise moment of their death, or the amount of suffering previously endured. Their death is universally supposed to have been on the night of Monday, because, among other reasons, if the slides, which destroyed the family, had come down before dark, no doubt some, if not all the fam-

ily, might have escaped, since they move, as observed before, not faster than a person can conveniently walk.

On Tuesday, the 17th of August, a man named Barker, going from Whitefield to Bridgetown, came through the Pass of the White Mountains. On arriving at the Notch House, he found that a large slide had started from the summit, directly back of the house. Although but a few feet wide and deep, when it started, the furrow of a half mile in length, which it ploughed down the side of the mountain, grew deep and wide, until the depth varied from twenty to twenty-five feet, and the width had increased to fifteen rods; a prodigious and overwhelming mass of trees, rocks and earth, confusedly mingled together. It is a singular circumstance, that this SLIDE, as it rolled on, in the direction of Mr. Willey's house, struck a rock of some size, only a few feet in the rear of it, separated into two portions, went round the house without injuring it, destroyed the barn, which was very near to it, and passed the road about forty rods to the south. The traveller found two horses dead under the ruins of the barn; he was able also to extricate a yoke of oxen, that were under the ruins, but not killed. On entering the house, he found it empty, but it did not occur to him, that the family were destroyed. As it was late in the afternoon, when he arrived, he remained in the house until the next morning. He then proceeded on to the lower Mr. Crawford's, (Abel's), although with much difficulty, as the road was much broken up, and the bridges swept away by the river; where he arrived about noon.

In the course of Wednesday, four or five persons had collected at the Notch house; although no positive discoveries were made, they had reason to suppose, being much better acquainted with the situation of the family than the traveller before mentioned, that they were all destroyed.

On Thursday, as many as fifty persons had assembled, including many relatives and particular acquaintances. On that day, Mrs. Willey and the hired man, named Allen, were first found very near to each other, covered about two feet and a half with brush and timber; prostrate, with their hands extended upwards; lifeless and much mutilated. The upper part of the head of both was struck off, probably by some large piece of timber. Mr. Willey was found soon after, and at no great distance; lifeless, and his limbs much broken. Two of the children and the other hired man were found a few days after; the three other children have never been found. The bodies were found near the bed of the Saco river; and not in the track of the Slide which encircled the house, but of another large one which had crossed the road some rods to the south of it. But it is possible and even probable, that they perished in the slide nearest the house, and were borne by the force of the current of the river to the place where they were discovered. The remains of the bodies found, were buried near the Notch House, but have been subsequently removed to Conway.

Among the visitants to the melancholy scene, was a brother of the deceased Mr. Willey, the Congregational minister of the town last named. I have conversed with him on this subject, and it is not necessary for those acquainted with him to add, that the most perfect reliance can be placed on his statements and opinions. In a letter written to a friend soon after the sudden and awful destruction of so many relatives, he thus feelingly and eloquently describes his visit to the place, and the reflections which occurred to him:—

“ After leaving Crawford’s, and proceeding to the place of our destination, when we entered the opening, a hundred rods perhaps below the Notch House, which was still hid-

den from sight by an intervening ascent,—we met the first great slip which had crossed our path on level ground, and in some places actually ascending 50 or 60, and I know not but a hundred rods,—so great was the force with which it had been propelled from the base of the mountain. After passing this, which consisted of large rocks, and which was impassable except by footmen, and reaching the elevation just mentioned, we came in full view of the Notch house, and all the ruins which surround it. On our right stood in lengthened prospect the precipitous mountains, which had been scored and riven by the fires and tempests of many succeeding years. On our left and in front stood those, which though once covered with a wood of pleasant green, now present their sides lacerated and torn by the convulsions of the recent storm. The plain before us appeared one continued bed of sand and rocks, with here the branches of green trees, and there peeled and shivered trunks, with old logs, which from their appearance must long have been buried beneath the mountain soil. With these, the meadow that stretches along before the Notch House was covered,—and so deep that none of the long grass, nor even the alders that grew there are to be seen. Moving on from this site, we came upon the next large slip, which continued till it met that of another, which came down below the Notch House, and within a rod of it. Thus far it was one continued heap of ruins; and beyond the house the slips continued many rods. The one back of the house started in a direction in which it must have torn it away, had it not been arrested by a ridge of land extending back from the house to a more precipitous part of the mountain. Descending to the point of this ridge, the slip divided, and sought the valleys which lie at the base,—one part carrying away in its course the stable above the house, and the other passing immediately below it, leaving the

house itself uninjured. It is *this* part, which is generally supposed to have carried away my brother and his family. It is judged from appearances, to be the last that came down. It is the common and very probable conjecture, that the family designed at first to keep the house, and did actually remain in it till after the descent of most of the slips. From the commencement of the storm in its greatest fury, they were probably on the alert, though previous to this some of them might have retired to rest—that the children had, was pretty evident from appearances in the house, when first entered after the disaster. My brother, it is pretty certain, had not undressed; he stood watching the movements and vicissitudes of the awfully anxious season. When the storm had increased to such violence, as to threaten their safety, and descending avalanches seemed to be sounding “the world’s last knell,” he roused his family and prepared them as he could, for a speedy flight, trembling every moment, lest they should be buried under the ruins of their falling habitation. At this hurried, agitated moment of awful suspense, the slide which parted back of the house is supposed to have come down, a part of which struck and carried away the stable. Hearing the crash, they instantly and precipitately rushed from their dwelling, and attempted to flee in the opposite direction; but the thick darkness concealing all objects from their sight, they were almost instantly engulfed in the desolating torrent, which passed below the house; and which precipitated them together with rocks and trees into the swollen and frantic tide below, and cut off at once all hope of escape. Amidst the rage and foam of so much water, filled as it was with so many instruments of death, they had no alternative, but to meet the doom which was their appointed allotment.

Such were probably the circumstances; but as there are no survivors to tell of the horrors of that awful night, we shall never know them with certainty, till the records of eternity disclose them. We know the family perished, and we know the circumstances of their death must have been distressing beyond description. Bring them, for a moment, before your imagination. The slide which only two months before had nearly caused their immediate death, if it had not induced timidity, must have greatly increased their sensibility to danger, and filled them with ominous forebodings, when this new war of elements began. Add to this the "horror of thick darkness," which surrounded their dwelling—the tempest raging with unabated violence—the bursting thunder, peal answering to peal, and echoing from hill to hill—the piercing lightning, whose momentary flashes only rendered the darkness and their danger the more painfully visible—huge masses of the mountain tumbling from their awful height with accumulating and crashing ruins into the abyss below—their habitation shaken to its foundation by these concussions of nature—with all these circumstances of terror conspiring, what consternation must have filled the soul! And then, the critical instant when the crashing of the stable by the resistless mass warned them to flee—who can enter into their feelings at this moment of wild uproar and confusion? Snatching what of clothing they could, as a slight defence from the "pitiless storm," children shrieking through fear—parental love consulting for their safety at the risk of their own—all rushing instantaneously from the house, as the last resort, and alas! instead of finding safety abroad, plunging into the jaws of instant death!

But oh, how feeble are our conceptions, compared with the reality! It is impossible for us to know what they endured—they cannot return to tell us the story of their suf-

ferings. They are gone. Their spirits fled away hastily, as on the wings of the wind, from one of the most dreary spots on earth, and rendered doubly so by the circumstances above narrated. Relatives and friends have one consolation; the privilege of hoping, that, from the temper and conduct they exhibited, they have departed from the turmoil and dangers of earth to the peace and security of heaven. But it is not my object to speak their eulogy, or decide on their condition. I leave them in the hands of God, into whose presence they have sped. Meanwhile, survivors have a lesson to learn from the mournful event. From their graves should arise so many mementos of our own mortality. Their sudden overthrow on that fearful night presents to us, perhaps, one of the liveliest images of the judgment scene. Our minds should be deeply impressed with that inspired exhortation, to which this affliction gives a most affecting emphasis:—‘Be ye therefore ready, also; for the Son of man cometh in an hour when ye think not.’”

I am persuaded that you will think with me, that the above extract is worthy of being preserved, both for its facts and spirit, and also for the source from which it comes. No person could feel more interest in knowing the truth in relation to this sad event, and none can appreciate more perfectly the various causes of heart-rending distress connected with it. I hope you will excuse the length of this letter. With sentiments of sincere regard,

I remain yours, &c.

THOMAS C. UPHAM.

JOHN FARMER, Esq., *Concord, N. H.*

NOTE.

Mr. Samuel Willey, Jun. born	March 31, 1788	Elbridge Gerry Willey,	“	July 13, 1819
Mrs. Polly Lovejoy Willey, “	April 19, 1791	Sally Willey,	“	July 11, 1823
Eliza Ann Willey, “	July 19, 1814	David Allen, hired man,	“	Aged about 30
Jeremiah Lovejoy Willey, “	July 30, 1815	David Nicholson, Do.	“	Aged 20
Martha Glazier Willey, “	Sept. 22, 1816	Destroyed on the night of August 26, 1826.		

*Letter of Rev. Joshua Moodey.*

[The following Letter from Rev. Joshua Moodey, of Portsmouth, to Rev. John Cotton, of Plymouth, and dated at Ports'o. 1 [2m] 76, has been lately communicated to the Publishing Committee, by CHRISTOPHER C. BALDWIN, Esq., the diligent Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society. The first paragraph in the original is obliterated. Words abbreviated are rendered at length.]

Mr. John Cotton,

\* \* \* \* \* I thank you for the intelligence. I have read it and showed it unto many who have perused it with great sympathy, and hope it hath been of some good use. If anything remarkable of this nature occurs among you for the future (which the Lord in his mercy prevent) your handing it to us would be matter of great satisfaction, that we might know things particularly and truly. Reports are so many, and various, that one knows not what to believe. We had heard a report of the solemn tragedy\* before yours came, but was nothing so satisfactory. I may say (as in the beginning of yours you doe,) hitherto things have been quiet among us this winter and spring, but what I may send you in the close of my letter, (if a speedy conveyance prevent not, of which I am not certain) is with the Lord. The Indians about us are many of them come in, and more coming. Their words are very good, fair: the Lord only knows what is in their hearts; tho' as yet their actions are not contradictory to their words, so far as we know. There is no trusting to them: they often mean worse when they speak best. We have no cause to think our troubles over, tho' some seem to run high in their

[\* Doubtless the fall of Capt. Michael Pierce, of Scituate, who with about 50 English, and 20 friendly Indians of Cape Cod, was cut off by the enemy with most of his party, five days before the date of this letter. EDITORS.]

thoughts that way. Our Indians say that the Eastern Indians (except those that are on the other side of the Kennebeck,) are like minded with themselves, and all for peace with the English. There is nothing now among us. The burning of Mr. D——s† house, at York lately, I presume you have heard. Himselfe was in our toune the while. It was done casually by the haystack which caught fire (as it's thought) for some sparks remained after burning some rubbish to cleare the ground in the garden. Hee lost most what hee had—all his library, provisions, and beds, except one. The Lord help us to watch and pray alway, that wee may bee accounted worthy to stand when the son of man shall come. In him,

Yours in what I may,

JO: MOODEY.

*Letter from Benning Wentworth to John Wentworth.*

*Portsmouth, June 14, 1767.*

Sir,

I had the pleasure to receive your letter from Boston on Thursday night, and on Friday night that from New-York, in consequence whereof, I made such dispositions, as the short time would admit of, for your reception, which I am hoping was agreeable.

I congratulate you on your safe arrival in your government, and if I can in the least instance contribute to your ease and satisfaction in your administration, I shall always be at your service.

The Secretary will be the bearer of this, which encloses two letters from the Secretary of State's Office, which came

[†This seems difficult to decypher. Rev. Shubael Dummer was at this time the minister of York.]

of course into my hands altho' I did not think proper to answer them.

The boat is at his Majesty's fort, fitted for your use, when you order it. The keys of the magazine and store-houses, I have always kept in my possession, and as soon as I have an opportunity to see the Secretary, I shall cause them to be delivered into your hands.

When you have recovered from the fatigues of your journey, and your time will permit it, I shall highly esteem the favor of your company at little Harbor, where I have been confined for more than three years, otherwise I should have received you in the Council Chamber. I am with great truth and regard, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient  
humble Servant,

B. WENTWORTH.

His Excellency,  
JOHN WENTWORTH, ESQ.

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*Letter from Governor Wentworth to Col. Thomas W. Waldron.*

SIR,

Mr. Benjamin Hart, Overseer of my designations in the wilderness—and Mr. William Webb who is to reside there as Farmer' in future; are now on their first expedition to clear a few acres and build an humble habitation at Wolfboro' for me. They may want assistance to forward them and their stores from Dover to Rochester, and to be supplied with ten bushels of Indian meal. I beg your favor in this matter, we are young settlers and depend greatly on the benevolent aid of the country to promote our work. If the soil and other advantages encourage me, I will take

measures to populate that part of the province, within ten years, more usefully than is now seen, from this town to Florida. I rejoice with you on the reviving spring, and hope within a fortnight to see your country covered with verdure. Beginning to be a farmer, I cannot other than wish you a favorable seed time ; but being also desirous of indulging myself in a more essential pleasure, I beg leave to assure you that I am with real sincerity and regard,—  
Dear Sir,

Your real Friend, and most  
Obedient Servant,

*Portsmouth,* }  
*25th April, 1768.* }

J. WENTWORTH.

TO THOMAS WESTBROOK WALDRON, Esq.

*Col. Isaac Royall's Letter to Secretary Waldron.*

*Charlestown, April 4th, 1752.*

Sir,

I sometime ago wrote you at large, since which I am without any of your favors, and as the small pox spreads very fast in Boston, and is likely to go through our part of the country, I am afraid I shall not be able to hold a correspondence with you which I have always esteemed as an honor, therefore embrace this opportunity and would inform you of the death of that most worthy and accomplished friend of yours and mine, His Excellency Gov. Belcher, a great loss truly to New-England, as well as to the government over which he last presided.

I hear the Don has dissolved your house after making a pompous speech, casting all the blame on the house, which may perhaps more properly belong to another branch of the

legislative power among you. But I doubt not but you are both willing and able to wipe off all the aspersions cast against you, and set the affair in such a light that the saddle may lay on the right horse's back.

I have enclosed you the votes of the house and would let you know that the General Court now sits at Cambridge for fear of the small pox, and at a general council there held this day, His Honor has been pleased in his consummate wisdom to appoint Chambers Russell, Esq. one of the Judges for the province, and likewise constituted Stephen Sewall, Esq., Chief Judge over our good friend Col. Saltonstall's head, a very uncommon and I believe I may say an original and unprecedented thing, and I can't but think because I hope the Colonel will show his resentment at such an high affront offered him, and never set at the bench in a degraded seat.

I was this day invited to dinner by his Honor at his house, which by the way is a very strange thing for any one to be, but I had a very good excuse for refusing, having invited a considerable number of the house to dine with me.

His Honor sent a message to the House to consider what addition we would make to his salary granted last session which was three hundred pounds lawful money. But it would not take, but was very generally voted against, and I am apt to think the more so because of the affront offered to the house by negating of me, and the reason he assigned therefor.

And now I mention this I must claim a sort of promise from you to give me your advice what I had best to do before the next election, whether I had best print the letter I wrote his honor or what else, and I promise on my part to follow your directions, not doubting but I shall be guided into those measures that are most proper to be taken by me relating to that affair.

You have doubtless heard of the death of Edward Hutchinson, Esq., judge of the probate of wills for the County of Suffolk, and justice of the common pleas for said County, and yesterday his honor put Thomas Hutchinson, Esq., his nephew into those posts and also made him a justice throughout the province. Thus he provides for his creatures, and if it had laid in his power would have made him Treasurer of Harvard College too, which post the deceased Mr. Hutchinson also had. But the Corporation had elected Mr. speaker Hubbard their Treasurer.— His honor has likewise in honor to his relation Thomas Palmer, Esq., who lately died in Scotland, called a town in the province by the name of *Palmer Town*, and out of gratitude to his patron, called a District in Salem, *Danvers*, a very cheap and easy way of being grateful.

Please to pay Mrs. Royall's and my compliments to your lady and Capt. Waldron, and Mr. Henry Sherburne, and accept of them in sincerity from, Sir,

Your most obliged and  
very humble Servant,

ISAAC ROYALL.

HON. RICHARD WALDRON, Esq.

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*Petition addressed to Gov. John Wentworth, against the location of Dartmouth College at Hanover. Found among the Belknap Papers.*

Sir,

Finding by the public papers that Dartmouth College, an Institution worthy your Excellency's patronage, is to be placed in Hanover, I beg liberty (although I must secrete

my name) to suggest a few things to your Excellency's consideration, which I am moved to from a hearty desire that learning may flourish in your Province, and that the good ends you had in view in giving a charter on the most generous and Catholic plan may be answered, which I am persuaded no other Governor on the Continent would have done, by which I, (and I am not alone in opinion,) think, you have in conjunction with the other Trustees in your Province the sole right in equity to determine at what particular Town the College shall be fixed in, without the intermeddling of any of the Trustees in Connecticut, who, (were they not of the clerical order which alone is enough to determine them unfit to that service,) can't be supposed to be sufficiently acquainted with your Province, to determine on the place — and altho' I have little acquaintance with the Doctor, who I understand is appointed President, and of whom from his public character I have a good opinion, yet he is liable to be imposed on, and, from designing men may be, and I doubt not has been wretchedly imposed on in this affair. However, whether the Doctor has been imposed on or not, 'tis generally said that the Province and the publick are: for a more unpleasant spot on Connecticut River, within the Province, cannot be found than Hanover, both in point of soil or prospect, it being horridly broken on the river; and in the back part of the town, very muddy and scarce a running stream upon it, and but one within the limits of the town, that can in any measure answer for mills, and 'tis thought by many who have viewed that stream, that it is not sufficient for one mill. As to my own knowledge I can say that I have traveled thro' said town twice, and am satisfied that my informers are not mistaken, and altho' I live at a good distance from the Doctor, yet as I happened to get an acquaintance, last win-

ter, with Col. Phelps, he was so good as to shew me his instructions and power of agency from the Doctor, which was as ample a power as could be to enable him to act with regard to the place of fixing the college, and the Doctor will now own that he verily thought the place was fixed, and your Excellency and the other Trustees living in New Hampshire, then expressly gave in writing that it should not be placed below Haverhill or Orford, but it is evident that some of the *craft*, that has plagued the state this thousand years, has been used, or sure I am and so is every indifferent man, who is acquainted with Hanover, much mistaken; a town if they had water to grind for the few poor inhabitants who live there, they never did, and 'tis said by judicious men that for years to come, they will not be able to raise their own bread. I would therefore in behalf of the public, humbly pray your Excellency by yourself or by an indifferent committee, to review or rather view Hanover and its circumstances, for the Doctor and his attendant did not view it, that in justice to your Excellency to the Province, and the College, it would be placed further up the river, in justice to your Excellency, as the eye of the public is to you, your honor must suffer, as it must be judged ill-placed. In justice to the province, as certain it is that the trade from Hanover will never be to Portsmouth but to Newbury. But from Haverhill or Orford the trade will be to Portsmouth. Further, numbers in the province in which I live, as well as in Connecticut, as I hear, who proposed to remove and settle near the College, expecting the College would have been placed in a good town, are, as the case now stands, determined not to move into the province. Your Excellency has the best right, as every one judges, to determine that matter, and as the Doctor has once passed by his engagement, in point of fixing it, your

Excellency's honor can't be exposed in reviewing the matter. Surely the extraordinary cost must be great to build and support a College in a town where boards cannot be sawed and bread raised. I beg your Excellency's pardon for this trouble; a number of the judicious urged me to write, and as a word is sufficient, I am your Excellency's most humble Servant,

July 19, 1770.

PUBLICUS.

*Province of Massachusetts Bay.*

*In the House of Representatives, May 26, 1774.*

Resolved, that the Committee of Correspondence be, and they hereby are, directed to write to the Committees of Correspondence of all the British colonies on this continent, inclosing a copy of an unprecedented act of the British Parliament for shutting up the Port of Boston and otherwise punishing the inhabitants of that town: and desire their immediate attention to an act *designed to suppress the spirit of liberty in America.*

A true copy, Attest,

SAM'L ADAMS, *Clerk.*

*Province of Massachusetts Bay.*

May 28, 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

By order of the House of Representatives of this Province, we enclose you an act passed in the late session of the British Parliament, entitled "an act to discontinue in such manner and for such time as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping of goods,

wares, and Merchandize at the town and within the harbor of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in North America.”

We think the archives of Constantinople might be in vain searched for a parallel. To reason upon such an act would be idleness. You will, doubtless, judge every American Colony deeply concerned in it, and contemplate and determine upon it accordingly.

We are with great regard, your friends  
and Fellow Countrymen,

THOMAS CUSHING,	} Committee of Correspondence.
SAM'L ADAMS,	
JAMES WARREN,	
THOS. GARDNER,	
JOSEPH HAWLEY,	
WILLIAM HEATH,	

*To the Gentlemen of the Committee of correspondence,  
appointed by the House of Representatives of the Prov-  
ince of New-Hampshire.\**

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*Boston, June 4, 1774.*

Gentlemen,

We take the earliest opportunities to inclose you copies of two bills brought into Parliament, and before this time probably enacted, which we have but just received by a vessel in thirty-six days from Bristol. It is also confidently reported, that a third bill is to be brought into Parliament for the better regulating the government of the other provinces in North America. These edicts, cruel and oppressive as they are, we consider as but bare specimens of what the continent are to expect from a Parlia-

\*This Committee of Correspondence was appointed by the House of Representatives at a meeting of the Assembly, 10 May, 1774.—*Records.*

ment, who claim a right to make laws binding us in all cases whatsoever. We are your friends and

Fellow Countrymen,

THOMAS CUSHING,	} Committee of
SAMUEL ADAMS,	
JOSEPH HAWLEY,	
THOMAS GARDNER,	
	} Correspondence.

*To the Gentlemen, the Committee of Correspondence, appointed by the House of representatives of the Colony of New-Hampshire.*

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*Somersworth, June 11th, 1774.*

Gentlemen,

Your favors of the 28th ult. and 4th instant, made their journey from Portsmouth here so slowly as not to arrive before the 9th instant—after I had seen the tremendous act and pending bills which they covered.

I enclose you a vote of the late assembly, which with the aid of one (not by me) for a committee to correspond with our sister colonies, I apprehend produced a dissolution of them and their committee at a stroke on the 8th instant. This measure, I conceive, took its rise from ministerial influence, by express instructions to our aimable governor; similar to which, I suspect, reach all of his order on the continent.

A rivetted opinion of the good and gracious intentions of our lawful sovereign, constrains me to believe that to reinstate in his royal favour, he needs only be divested of the unfavorable impressions of America's inveterate foes, whose secret machinations evidently tend to disunite what when disunited will be no longer powerful.

The sons of freedom in New-Hampshire, I believe, sympathise with your metropolis in its present distress. So mighty a display of ministerial vengeance can be accounted for only from your noble efforts to stem the torrent of oppression. Any notices on the present critical situation of America which you shall please to favor me with (whether I am or am not a member of the next assembly,) shall be acknowledged and faithfully communicated by, Gentlemen,

Your Friend and Countryman,

JOHN WENTWORTH.\*

*To the Gentlemen, the Committee, &c. Massachusetts.*

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SKETCH OF CAPT. JOHN PICKERING, PORTSMOUTH.

Among the early inhabitants of Portsmouth was JOHN PICKERING, whom we find there as early as 1636. He went thither from Massachusetts, but whether he was the one who resided at Cambridge, soon after the settlement of that town, we have not ascertained. He is named among those inhabitants of Portsmouth, who, in 1640, made a grant of fifty acres for a glebe for the use of the ministry of that town.† He died, as appears from a record in the Secretary's office, 18 January, 1668—9. He left two sons, John and Thomas, both of whom lived in Portsmouth

\*Mr. Wentworth was at this time Speaker of the Assembly. He had been in that office the three preceding years. He was father of Hon. John Wentworth, a lawyer, who graduated at Harvard College in 1768, and was one of the delegates from this state to the old Congress, and who died in the midst of his usefulness at the age of 42, leaving four sons, John, Joseph, Meshech-Weare and Paul.

†Belknap, 1, 28, 29. Adams, Annals of Portsmouth, 26, 394, 395.

in 1684; and four daughters, Rebecca, Abigail, Mary and Sarah.

JOHN PICKERING, son of the preceding John Pickering, was probably born as early as 1640. He married Mary, the daughter of Anthony Stanyan, a respectable inhabitant of Hampton, by whom he had as many, at least, as five children, all of whom but Mary died before their father. Their names as given in the record referred to, were, John, born 1 December, 1666; Mary, born 1668; Thomas, born 1670, died 1671; Sarah, born 1671, died an infant; Sarah, 2d, born 1673. Mr. Pickering is first noticed as a military man, for which his talents and character seem eminently to have qualified him. As captain, he had a command in Portsmouth for a number of years. In 1680, the colony of New-Hampshire, which for almost forty years had been united with Massachusetts, was erected by the king, into a separate government, whereof John Cutt was appointed the first president. In the first assembly called by the president, Capt. John Pickering was a representative for the town of Portsmouth.\* He was also a member of the assembly called by Lieutenant Governor Cranfield, in 1684,† which he (Cranfield,) dissolved in great wrath, for negating a bill to raise money, previously passed by the council. It is mentioned by Dr. Belknap and some others, that during the suspension of government consequent on the imprisonment of Sir Edmund Andros in 1689, Capt. John Pickering, a man of "a rough and adventurous spirit, and a lawyer," went with a company of armed men to the house of Richard Chamberlain, who had been secretary of the province under Andros, and clerk of the superior court, and demanded the records and files, which were in his possession. Chamberlain refused to deliver them without le-

\* Belknap, i, 91. † Belknap, i, 104.

gal warrant or security. Pickering took them by force and carried them to the house of Major Joseph Hammond, in Kittery, where they were concealed.\* Afterwards, in 1692, Pickering was summoned before Lieutenant Governor Usher, threatened and imprisoned, but for some time would neither deliver the books nor discover the place of their concealment, unless by order of the assembly, and to some person appointed by them to receive them. At length, however, he was constrained to deliver them up, and they were handed over to the secretary by Usher's orders.† Upon the dissolution of government under Andros, Capt. Pickering was a member of the convention which met in 1690,‡ and recommended a re-union with Massachusetts, which was shortly afterwards carried into effect. In 1690, he and Richard Waldron were chosen representatives for the town of Portsmouth, to the assembly which met at Boston. They were also elected to the Massachusetts assembly in 1690, and took their seats in May, that year.§ Mr. P. was present at the December session, which was the fifth assembly holden in 1691.|| Early in 1697, William Partridge arrived from England, with a commission appointing him lieutenant governor of the province, and commander in chief, in Allen's absence. Usher's commission as lieutenant governor was expressly revoked, and the council were empowered to act until the lieutenant governor should be qualified. The suspended councillors, Hinckes, Waldron and Vaughan, resumed their seats at the council board, and Pickering was appointed king's attorney.¶ The president and council having appointed Charles Story secretary of the province and clerk of the council, the records

\* Belknap, i, 149. Adams, Annals, 90. † Adams, Annals, 96. ‡ Belknap, i, 122. Adams, Annals, 90. § Massachusetts Records, in Secretary's Office.

|| Massachusetts Records in Secretary's Office. ¶ Belknap, i, 152. Adams, Annals, 107.

and files were committed to his care. At an adjourned meeting of the council, Mr. Story did not attend. Being sent for and reprimanded by the president for neglect of duty, his answers and behaviour gave such high offence, that the council demanded of him the books and papers committed to his charge; which he peremptorily refused to deliver. Whereupon the council ordered him into custody, and issued a search warrant, directed "to the sheriff of the province and to Capt. John Pickering," requiring them to take with them sufficient assistance, and to make diligent search in any houses, rooms, closets, chests, trunks, or other places, within the province for the said books or papers, or records belonging to the province, and the same when found to bring to the president and council.\* It is scarcely necessary to state that the records and files were found in a short time, and forthwith delivered to the president and council. Mr. Story then received an immediate discharge from confinement, and from office.

Capt. Pickering was a member of the assembly most of the time from 1697 to 1709. In 1697, 1698, and 1699, he was elected speaker, and had the good fortune to be approved by Governor Allen in one of those years.† He was again chosen speaker under the administration of Dudley in 1704, and continued to be annually elected to that office until 1709. In 1707, the great cause *Allen vs. Waldron*, involving Allen's title to the province of New-Hampshire, was tried on appeal, at the August term of the Superior Court. As this was the last trial, all the strength of the parties was brought into action on this occasion.‡ It affords unequivocal evidence of the legal and popular talents of Capt. Pickering, and of the confidence reposed in him

\* *Ibid.* 105. † Adams, *Annals*, 112. ‡ Belknap, 1, 165. Adams, *Annals*, 124.

by the defendants of this cause, which embraced some of the first men in the province, that he was selected as one of the counsel to defend the homes, the houses and lands of the inhabitants, from the rapacity of the plaintiff and those who were especially interested in his behalf. Charles Story was associated with him as counsel. The verdict of the jury was a confirmation of the former judgment for the defendant, and costs of suit.\*

The exact time of Capt. Pickering's death is not ascertained. Through the kindness of John Kelley, Esq., register of probate for the county of Rockingham, we are informed that he made his will 21 June, 1720, and that it was approved 15 May, 1721. He must have been about 80 years of age when he died. His real estate was appraised at £.3185, and his personal, at only £.20.18. He devised to the South Parish in Portsmouth, a lot of ground for a convenient site for a meeting house; to be set off to the said parish, *on the highest part of his neck*. (Pickering's Neck.) The parish received possession of the lot, and erected their meeting-house upon it in 1731, and have had continued possession of it until the present time.

As before remarked, Capt. P. left but one child, Mary, who was the wife of John Plaisted, Esq., one of the provincial councillors in 1702. His son John, who married Elizabeth Munden in 1688, died about six years before his father, leaving three sons, John, Thomas and Daniel, and three daughters, Mary who married Ambrose Sloper, Deborah and Sarah.† Of John and Daniel we have no knowledge. Thomas, the second son, commanded a company stationed at Casco, in Maine, in the time of the French and Indian war, and was slain by the Indians in an attack on the fort. His will is dated 18 March, 1745, and

\* Probate Records.

† Oral Communication of Hon. D. P. Drown.

was proved 28 March, 1747‡ His wife was Dorothy, and his children were John, Daniel, Elizabeth, who married a Lambert, Abigail, born 18 June, 1731, married a Janvrin, and died 16 February, 1832, aged 100 years, 8 months and 3 days, Dorothy, Olive, Lydia and Molly. The late Hon. John Pickering, LL. D., was a native of Newington, and descended from Thomas, the second son of the first John Pickering. §

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NOTICE OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF THE LATE HON. OLIVER PEABODY, OF EXETER.

Few persons have been more generally respected and beloved in the circle of those who knew them, than the late Judge Peabody; and it is believed that a concise recapitulation of the principal circumstances of his life will not be wholly uninteresting to his numerous surviving friends.

He was the son of Oliver Peabody, and was born at Andover, Massachusetts, 2 September, 1752, N. S.\* His father was a respectable cultivator, wholly unknown to pub-

‡ Probate Records. § It is hoped that the gentleman who furnished most of the preceding Sketch, will prepare a memoir of Judge Pickering, for a succeeding volume of the Society's Collections.

\*The Peabody family came early to New-England. Francis Peabody, whom we suppose to be the great ancestor of Judge Peabody, settled in Hampton in 1639, at which time he was a married man. (Belknap, Hist. N. H. i. 21.) He left Hampton, and was a resident in Topsfield in 1661. (MS. Records.) The family has continued in Topsfield, or Boxford, which we believe was separated from Topsfield in 1685, ever since that period. John Peabody, who was admitted freeman in 1674, represented Boxford in the two courts summoned to meet at Boston, 23 May and 5 June, 1689; at the 2 courts which met 8 October and 10 December, 1690; and at the two courts, holden 14 October and 10 December, 1691. He might have been father to Rev. Oliver Peabody, of Natick, Mass., who was born in Boxford in 1698, graduated at Harvard College, 1721, and died 2 February, 1752. Rev. Oliver Peabody, of Roxbury, Mass., was son of Mr. Peabody, of Natick. He graduated at Harvard College in 1745, was ordained 7 November, 1750; died 29 May, 1752. Jacob Peabody, of Boxford, whose father died 24 November 1689, was born 6 November, 1689, and died 24 July, 1749, (MS. Gen. Nathaniel Peabody,) leaving a son, Jacob Peabody, who was a physician, and born 18 February, 1713; Married Susanna, daughter of Rev. John Rogers, of Boxford,

lic life, but who, in one of his excursions into New Hampshire, met with an adventure which has connected his name with the geography of the country, and which, for that reason, as well as for its singularity, may perhaps with propriety, be mentioned here. He was passing the night in the cabin of an Indian, situated on the side of a mountain in the neighborhood of Saco river. The inmates of this rude dwelling were awakened in the course of the night by a loud noise, and had scarcely time to make their escape, before the hut was swept away by a torrent of water rushing impetuously down the hill. On reconnoitering the ground, they found that this torrent had burst out suddenly from a spot where there was no spring before. It has continued flowing ever since, and forms the branch of the Saco which bears the name of *Peabody's River*.

Judge Peabody was educated at Harvard College, where he took his first degree in 1773, at the age of twenty. Among his contemporaries at College were Gov. Gore, Gov. Eustis, Lieut. Gov. Lincoln, Dr. John Warren, Professor Pearson, and Fisher Ames. His class was the first which was arranged according to the alphabetical order of the names of the members. Before that time the usage had been to give precedence to such as were supposed to possess superior claims on the score of the rank of their parents. This change was doubtless one among many more important indications of the change of political feeling in the country, which resulted three years after in the Declaration of Independence. The standard of education at Cambridge was then somewhat less elevated than it is

by whom he had 12 children. The Late Gen. Peabody, of Exeter, was one of them. Dr. Peabody died in 1758. The name of *Paybody* was early in the colony of Plymouth; but whether the same with Peabody, or whether related, we are unable to determine.

now, and the general situation of the country was unpropitious to the pursuit of abstract studies. But notwithstanding these untoward circumstances, Mr. Peabody always looked back to the period of his residence at college as a season of improvement. His amiable personal character greatly endeared him to his class-mates and contemporaries, with many of whom he kept up his acquaintance through life.

Soon after leaving college, he commenced the study of law in the office of the late Chief Justice Parsons, who had recently established himself at Newburyport, having taken his first degree at College in 1769. Mr. Peabody was the first student who enjoyed the advantage of the instruction of this *Giant of the law*. It is needless to enlarge upon the facilities afforded him by this situation for improvement in his profession. Among his fellow students in the office were Rufus King and Christopher Gore. The association which he was thus led by accident to form with these eminent statesmen, ripened into a close friendship, which continued through life. With Mr. Gore in particular, whom he had previously known at college, he maintained, for many years after they left the office, the most intimate relations, and when they were occasionally separated, an epistolary correspondence, which would now be highly interesting, but which, we regret to say, has not been preserved.

The situation of Newburyport was at this time a good deal more flourishing than it is at present, the gradual formation of the bar at the mouth of the harbor having since diminished its importance as a commercial town. Its merchants were then among the most enterprising and successful in the country. At the commencement of hostilities, they entered with great vigor upon the privateering business, and realized in some instances enormous fortunes.

Their style of living was far more magnificent than that of the wealthiest citizens of the present day. The *Tracys*, in particular, are still recollected as examples of an almost princely luxury. At the time when Mr. Peabody resided at Newburyport, they were flourishing in all their glory, and under their influence, and that of their contemporaries of the same school, the tone of society was unusually free, animated and agreeable. Parsons and his students were of course among the chief intellectual ornaments of this brilliant circle; in which Mr. Peabody was peculiarly fitted by his handsome person, graceful deportment, and naturally gay and happy temper, to appear with advantage. Under these circumstances, he formed the relation which made the happiness of his life. Among the families into which he was introduced was that of Dr. Swett, an accomplished physician, who had married a daughter of Col. Bourne, of Marblehead. In this family, Mr. Peabody made the acquaintance of a young daughter of the same gentleman, Miss Frances Bourne, whom he afterwards married. Their union lasted in uninterrupted harmony but a few months less than fifty years. Mr. Peabody felt that her society was necessary to his existence, and it was the prevailing wish of the latter part of his life that he might not survive her.

After completing his studies, Mr. Peabody was admitted to the bar, and resided for some time after in Boston, where he acted for a short period as assistant clerk of the courts. About the year 1781, he removed to Exeter, in this State, where he established himself, and continued to reside for the rest of his life. Exeter was at that time the seat of the State government, and, shortly after, of one of the best endowed academies in New-England, and of several flourishing manufacturing establishments. It was of course the

centre of a good deal of business, and an eligible residence for a young lawyer. The talents and industry of Mr. Peabody brought him very soon into an extensive and lucrative practice, and his singularly upright and amiable character secured to him, in a high degree, the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. They early turned their eyes upon him as a suitable person to be employed in the public service. In 1790, he was appointed judge of probate for the county of Rockingham, which office he held until the year 1793, when he was elected to the state senate. On his re-election to the senate the next year, he was chosen president of that body, and during the same session of the General Court, State treasurer, by the House of Representatives. He accepted this place, and consequently resigned his seat in the senate. These simultaneous expressions of the public confidence from so many different quarters, indicate very strongly the extent of his popularity.

About the same time that Mr. Peabody came into public life, the division of parties which existed to a certain extent in the old Congress, and had been more fully developed upon the formation and adoption of the Federal Constitution, assumed its most violent and exasperated form, during the contest about the choice of a successor to Gen. Washington in the presidency. Mr. Peabody was attached, from principle and feeling, as well as by his intimate associations, with most of its leaders in this quarter, to the party which favored the adoption of the Constitution, and supported the administration of Washington. He uniformly acted with this party as long as the division existed; and as a prominent member of it, shared of course the fortunes of his friends through all the vicissitudes in the political character of the State. He was annually re-elected treas-

urer by the House of Representatives, until 1803, when the opposite party obtained the majority, and he was superseded by Mr. Nathaniel Gilman. On the election of Gov. Smith in 1805, he was appointed sheriff of the county of Rockingham, which office he held for five years. In 1813, he was again elected to the State senate, and the same year was appointed by Gov. Gilman an associate justice of the court of common pleas. He served in this capacity until 1816, when the court was re-organized, and a new set of judges appointed.

At the three presidential elections of 1796, 1800, and 1808, he was one of the electors. On the two first occasions, he voted respectively for Washington and Adams, and the third for his friend Rufus King. In these various offices he acquitted himself so fully to the satisfaction of his fellow citizens, that they were anxious to elevate him to others of still greater dignity. At times, when his political friends possessed the control of the State, he was repeatedly solicited to become their candidate for governor. At the eventful epoch which preceded the declaration of the last war, when it was considered as of high importance that the country should be well represented in Congress, he was earnestly requested to go into the House of Representatives of the United States, and at an earlier period had been urged by Gov. Gilman to take a seat upon the bench of the superior court. To the great disappointment of his political friends, and of all good citizens, he declined these overtures, partly from an unaffected modesty which led him to put too low an estimate upon his capacity to render service to the public, and partly from his reluctance to lose even temporarily the society of his family. The last fifteen years of his life were passed in retirement; but he continued to take a lively interest in political affairs,

and was often resorted to by his friends for advice on occasions of difficulty and importance.

Such was the course of his public life. In private he was regarded as one of the principal ornaments of the society in which he lived, and which, by the general consent of all who visited Exeter at this period, was one of the most refined, polished and intellectual circles in New England. The leading families were, with his own, those of Gov. Gilman and his brothers, Gov. Smith, who combines the solid talents of the jurist and statesman with uncommon readiness and brilliancy in conversation, Judge Tenney, Dr. Abbot, the accomplished principal of the academy, and many others less publicly known. It is needless to add, that a society thus composed, contained an amount of talent and excellence that are not always concentrated in much larger places. The social disposition and cordial manners of Judge Peabody led him to enjoy very highly the advantages it afforded. He took great delight in the exercise of a generous and elegant hospitality. His house was constantly open to his friends and neighbors, as well as to the strangers who visited the place; and no one ever left it without having received the most agreeable impression of the character of the host. The progress of time and events have since broken up this circle, and dispersed many of its members into other parts of the country; but wherever they may now be found, they will always look back with interest to a spot consecrated in their minds by so many agreeable associations.

Judge Peabody had early adopted a rational and practical view of religion, to which he adhered through life. His constitution was naturally not very robust, but his even temper and regular habits secured to him the enjoyment of almost uninterrupted health. His latter years, though

clouded by some embarrassments, were on the other hand cheered by many agreeable circumstances of a domestic character, and were probably among the happiest of his life. He expired on the 3d August, 1831, after a short and sudden illness of only two hours, in the arms of his family, having almost completed 79 years.

✎ The substance of this memoir is derived from a publication in the Boston Daily Advertiser.

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#### CORRECTIONS, &c.

- PAGE 37, 21st and 22d lines, *erase* An indifferent pony became his only vehicle. When on horseback, and *substitute* He performed his peregrinations on a miserable pony, and when thus mounted, &c.
- 55, Henry Longstar, in 20th line, is called Henry Longstaff in Adams' Annals of Portsmouth.
- 114, Rev. Asa Burton, D. D., was born at Preston, Conn., in 1752, and is still living at Thetford, in the 80th year of his age. He has two colleagues, the last, Rev. Elisha G. Babcock.
- 115, After 8th line, insert GAMALIEL EWER, A. B., died before the year 1799, as appears from a catalogue of 1798.

