

Coydwell's

COLLECTIONS

OF THE

NEW-HAMPSHIRE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THAT IN TIMES TO COME, WHEN WE ARE DEAD AND FORGOTTEN, MATERIALS MAY REMAIN FOR
A CONTINUED AND ENTIRE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY. *Dr. Colman, of Boston, 1726.*

VOLUME V.



CONCORD:

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JOHN FARMER, NATHANIEL BOUTON, ISAAC HILL.

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REMARKS AND DOCUMENTS
RELATING TO THE
PRESERVATION AND KEEPING
OF THE
PUBLIC ARCHIVES.

VOL. V.

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AT a special meeting of the NEW-HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, held at Concord, December 21, 1836, the Communication of RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq. of New-York city, formerly Secretary of State in New-Hampshire, in relation to the *Preservation of the Public Archives* in the United States, having been read and considered, and the same appearing to the Society to be of great public interest, and to merit the prompt attention of most of our state legislatures, and of other bodies having charge of valuable public archives—

Resolved, That said Communication be immediately published, and copies thereof be transmitted by the Corresponding Secretary to the governors of the several states, to be submitted, if they shall see fit, to the legislatures thereof; also, copies to the President of the United States, and to the mayors of the cities of Boston, New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Charleston, (S. C.) New-Orleans, and of such other cities as the Standing Committee may advise.

A true copy from the records—Attest :

MOSES G. THOMAS, *Recording Secretary*.

REMARKS AND DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION AND KEEPING OF THE

PUBLIC ARCHIVES.

[BY RICHARD BARTLETT—MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.]

I. *Security against Fire.* To provide for the safe and perfect keeping of the Public Archives is so obviously one of the first and most imperative duties of a legislature, that no argument could make it plainer to a reflecting mind. They are treasures of so sacred a character, that the public enemy who wantonly devotes them to the flames is, by all civilized people, branded as a barbarian ; and of so priceless a value, that no money could purchase them of the poorest state in the Union, or replace them when once destroyed. And yet legislators, who would not sleep till their own title-deeds were on record and their buildings insured against fire, feel no concern for the safety of the archives and edifices of the state, although its purse is in their hands, and they have solemnly sworn to discharge their duty with fidelity. This astonishing apathy, in a matter of such interest to the whole community, may, perhaps, be deemed the less censurable because it is so general ; but what reproach will not justly attach to those constituted guardians of the common weal, who, after having their attention turned to the subject, shall carelessly and negligently leave the original records and

papers of the state—the only authentic materials of its history—to a remote, it may be, but ultimately certain, destruction by fire ?

With the view of attempting to awaken attention to this subject, (although I may be thought by some to meddle with things which do not concern me) I have endeavored to collect accounts of such conflagrations as have damaged or destroyed the archives of the individual states and of the nation,—believing that no good citizen would be able to contemplate the black catalogue without at once resolving to make an effort for the safety of the records of his own state.

Unfortunately for my purpose, I have succeeded in obtaining information from only sixteen states and four of the Departments at Washington, and *that* neither so full or positive in all cases as I hoped for ; but still it reveals an extent of destruction which will astonish any one who has not himself been raking among the ashes. Of the instances; thus discovered, of damage to public records by fire, it is surprising how little is now known. Several of them had passed into utter oblivion, and have been brought to light by chance only. From these circumstances it may be inferred, that more thorough investigations would disclose other forgotten ruins.

In six of the sixteen states from which I have some information, it is ascertained that the public archives have been partially destroyed by fire ; viz. in New-Hampshire in 1736 ; in Massachusetts in 1747, besides having been thrown into confusion, if not otherwise damaged, by three previous fires ; in New-York in 1740—1 and 1773 ; in New-Jersey in 1686 ; in North-Carolina in 1831 ; in South-Carolina in 1698—these were all accidental ; in Virginia in 1781, by the enemy under Arnold.

The national archives have been partially burnt at three several times—viz. in 1800, when the buildings of the War

Department were accidentally consumed; in 1814, when the public buildings and many of the records and papers of the War, Navy and Treasury Departments were destroyed by the British troops; and in 1833, when the Treasury buildings were burnt. It deserves special remark, as a striking evidence of the utility of fire-proof offices, that the valuable papers in the two fire-proof rooms of the War Office in 1814, and those in the fire-proof rooms of the Treasury Department in 1833, were *all saved*, while many of the others were consumed.

Now, without seeking to enlarge this melancholy list of conflagrations, we have here enough to excite a general feeling of grief and even of indignation at the inexcusable negligence which has consigned so many precious materials for our country's history to irretrievable destruction. That the general government, especially, should have lavished immense sums in the erection of splendid buildings, calculated rather for architectural display than for convenient use, and at the same time have left any portion of the national archives unprotected by fire-proof offices, will be a subject of wonder and regret to future generations. And it is almost incredible, that, at this day—upwards of half a century from the establishment of our independence—no fire-proof offices are occupied by the government at Washington, though two are now being built! But let us rejoice that a reform has commenced, though we cannot forget that, of the three conflagrations of our national archives, we owe one to the vandalism of the public enemy, and *two** to the improvidence of our own government. In truth, if other fire-proof rooms would have proved as effectual for the security of their contents as the two which belonged to the War Department in 1814, it was the fault of our government that any of those archives were burnt.

* Since these remarks were written, the conflagration of the Patent Office, the General Post-Office, and the City Post-Office, has occurred.

In Vermont and Massachusetts, all, and in New-York, New-Jersey, North-Carolina and Pennsylvania, most of the state archives are kept in offices called fire-proof. In New-York a building really fire-proof is nearly finished. The offices of the first two states are in the capitol, the others in separate buildings. In Maine, New-Hampshire, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and Indiana, the offices are in the capitol, but not fire-proof. In Delaware and Kentucky they are in combustible buildings, separate from the capitol.

As every thing which can be procured by money sinks into insignificance in comparison with the original records of a state, I have not made inquiry concerning the destruction of public edifices and libraries, but it appears, that the court house (capitol ?)—a “spacious and beautiful building”—and books, plans, pictures, &c. were consumed in Massachusetts in 1747 ; that the capitol of Kentucky has been twice burnt ; that the state house of North-Carolina—“the pride of the state”—the whole of the state library, and the statue of Washington by Canova—“that *chef d'œuvre* of the great artist,” which cost about \$25,000, were destroyed in 1831 ; and that the national library perished with the public buildings in 1814.

It is probable that most of the states have valuable and increasing libraries which are kept in combustible rooms. New-Hampshire has one of about 2000 volumes, including public documents and journals of Congress, and Maryland one of 10,000 volumes, thus exposed. Since the destruction of the national library, the government has purchased the library of Mr. Jefferson, 6484 volumes, at an expense of \$23,950, and other books, making the entire collection about 24,000 volumes, at a cost of \$99,950, exclusive of Congressional documents. This *phœnix* library has already been damaged, and is *probably* liable to total

destruction by fire. It would be more worthy of the national character and resources if it were increased at least ten fold, and secured in appropriate fire-proof apartments.

Besides the condition of the state libraries, it would be interesting to know that of the other principal libraries in this country, such as those of our larger cities, and our colleges, universities, and historical and antiquarian societies. Some of these are very large and valuable, though greatly inferior to the European collections. The Philadelphia library contains 44,000 volumes; Cambridge University 42,000, besides 10,000 maps, charts and views; Boston Athenæum 29,100; New-York Society 25,000; Charleston, S. C. 15,000; Yale College 10,000, besides 15,000 in the society libraries; Dartmouth College 6,000, besides 8,500 in the society libraries. Several other colleges have libraries, including those of the societies, of 10,000 to 14,000 volumes. Are all or any of these protected by fire-proof rooms? The New-York Historical Society's library is said to contain 10,000 volumes, but it is now kept in the third story of a building which is far from fire-proof. Some other historical societies are equally careless of the treasures confided to their custody. But I will pass from this digression to the second part of my subject.

II. *Mode of Keeping.* Next in importance to fire-proof offices, is a mode of keeping the original papers so that they may at once be secure against wear and loss, and be in the best condition to be removed upon an emergency, or to be consulted with the greatest facility and advantage.

On this point it might be sufficient simply to refer to the letter of my Cambridge correspondent, whose extensive observation in the public offices of this and foreign countries entitles his opinion to all consideration and respect; and to the valuable communication from Mr. FELT, relative to the reform now in progress in the office of the

secretary of the state of Massachusetts. But I will add a few remarks.

Deeming it a matter of deep interest that the *original* statutes and papers of the several states should be transmitted to future ages, I have made inquiry respecting the prevailing mode of *enrolling* the former, and of *keeping* the whole in the public offices.

In most of the states from which I have heard, and probably in most of the others, it is the practice to enroll the statutes on paper and keep them in files. This is decidedly the worst mode in use. In New-York since 1803, and in Maine and New-Hampshire since 1827, they have been enrolled on large, durable paper, chaptered, indexed, and bound in volumes. This is a great improvement on the prevailing mode. In Kentucky they are enrolled on parchment and kept in files, and are liable, of course, to wear and loss. In Virginia they have always been enrolled on parchment, and kept separate in tin cases of cylindrical form, as is the manner with acts of Congress. In Massachusetts, since 1827, they have been enrolled on vellum or parchment, indexed, and well bound in volumes. I incline to give this mode the preference, and I venture to recommend that particular attention be paid to the quality of the ink and chirography. The most careful and experienced clerks should be employed to enroll them, as errors are not easily corrected on parchment.

In most of the states, it is believed, all the statutes are *published*; in others, only those of a public, and the most important of those of a private, nature; and in a few, the public acts, and titles only of the private ones. In some states all, and in others none, are *recorded*. If the originals are properly preserved and all are published, and a printed copy, duly examined and certified by the secretary of state, or other proper officer, be kept for use when authenticated copies are wanted, the recording may well be dispensed

with. In New-York, the legislative journals, and a volume of "senate documents" and another of "assembly documents," are annually published. Thus are the most important materials for the history of that great state secured against loss and destruction. The multiplication of copies of legislative journals and documents by printing is the only certain way to perpetuate them, and, therefore, should be universally practised. The expense is unworthy of consideration.

The other original papers of both the executive and legislative departments of, probably, every state in the Union and of the federal government, except *partially* in the departments at Washington and in two or three states, are kept in *files*, suffering, of course, the wear, tear, loss and other evils incident to that very bad mode of keeping them, besides being in the worst condition for examination. But in Massachusetts a new era has commenced. Careful and competent persons, familiar with the history of the state, are employed, under authority of the legislature, in arranging and classifying all the legislative, executive, and other papers *on file* in the secretary's office, commencing at the earliest date, and to continue down to the present time. These are to have suitable tables of contents and indexes of names, &c. and to be bound in volumes. After this great reform shall have been accomplished, there will be no more *files* of public archives in Massachusetts; and it may be said of the manuscripts which may hereafter accumulate there, as of those in the Foreign Office at Paris, and the Colonial Office in London, that "they are so well classified, indexed and bound that any single paper in the whole may be found with the utmost ease." This admirable method will unquestionably be universally adopted in this country. It needs only to be known to be approved.

As to the manner of putting ancient manuscripts together in volumes, I will again refer to the communication of Mr.

Felt. When they are torn or decayed, they may be patched and supported by means of silk paper and strong gum arabic water, or even common paste. The silk paper may be pasted over the writing without concealing it.

It is to be regretted, that our legislatures and public offices are generally supplied with paper of so bad and perishable a quality. If those whose duty it is to furnish the stationary would make it a uniform practice to procure paper of a proper size, made wholly or principally of *linen*, they would do an important service to their own and to succeeding generations.

[This article had been prepared for the press by giving the substance of the valuable letters of my correspondents, but without the *names* of the authors—because a few of those letters were probably written in haste, and none of them, so far as I knew, with the expectation that they would be published ; but, on farther reflection, and with the advice of discreet literary friends, whose nice sense of propriety would not permit them to countenance the slightest breach of confidence, I have changed my plan—and for the *reason* that the matter is wholly of a public nature, the letters all well written, and the names of the authors calculated to give interest and influence to the publication. With this explanation, I pray the indulgence of my obliging and respected correspondents.]

New-York, Dec. 14, 1836.

CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 7, 1835.

My dear Sir,

I fear I can say little in reply to your queries that will be to the purpose. I have visited only the archives in the thirteen old states. I will take up your questions in their order :

1. Generally speaking the public papers and the libraries of the legislatures and public offices, are kept in the state-houses, as in New-Hampshire. In North-Carolina, Pennsyl-

vania, New-Jersey and New-York, the secretary of state's office is in a separate building near the state-house, and the most valuable papers are in his office. But even in these states there are libraries and many manuscript papers in the state-houses. In New-Jersey, New-York and Massachusetts, the principal papers are kept in fire-proof rooms. This may be the case in some of the other states, but to what extent I cannot say.

2. Answered above.

3. The War Department and Treasury at Washington have been burnt by accident at different times, and the most important papers in each have been destroyed.

Next to the importance of fire-proof rooms, is that of preserving the papers in a condition to be easily removed upon an emergency. Every scrap of paper in every office should be bound according to its subject and date, as soon as it has passed through the hands of the officers and is turned over for the files. Being thus compact in volumes of convenient size, they may in case of fire be quickly removed, and without injury or loss. Another advantage, is the vast saving of time in consulting them, and the certainty of finding every thing they contain, on any subject, by the aid of indexes. It is singular that this practice has not been adopted in any of our public offices, except partially, while in Europe it prevails every where. Whoever will bring all our public officers to arrange and *bind up* the whole of their papers, and continue to do it as fast as they accumulate, will confer an incalculable benefit on these United States, and be renowned in history. It is only by such a system that the history of the present can hereafter be written. In the archives of the Foreign Office in Paris, where I passed four months in examining American papers, there are 40,000 volumes of manuscripts, so well classified, bound and indexed, that any single paper in the whole may be found with the utmost ease. All the current papers are bound, as soon as they are done with in the office. I had the means of knowing, that, in the Colonial Department in London, (where I was engaged five months) the current papers in that office alone, which are bound up in regular order, amount to between 400 and 500 volumes annually—that is, thick volumes of about 1000 pages each.

Teach this invaluable habit to our officers, and then make

them build fire-proofs, and you will have rendered a service to your country for which posterity will hold your name in perpetual and grateful remembrance.

Truly your friend,

JARED SPARKS.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq.

ARCHIVES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, September 16, 1836.

Sir—

In reply generally to the questions contained in your letter of the 12th inst., I have to inform you that at the burning of the public buildings by the British in 1814, a great proportion of the records and papers of the government were removed; still, some of much value were lost. In this case, fire-proof buildings would have been of no avail.

By the fire on the night of the 31st of March, 1833, the treasury building, *with the exception of the fire-proof rooms*, was destroyed. *The papers in the fire-proof were all saved*, and also nearly all in the other parts of the building, excepting those in the attic story, and the two rooms in one of which it is supposed the fire originated.

There is no uniform manner of keeping the papers in the departments. Some of them are in files, and others bound. No fire-proof offices are at present occupied by the government in this city, though two are now building.

I am very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

LEVI WOODBURY,
Sec'y of the Treasury.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq. 76 Bowery,
New-York.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, Oct. 24th, 1836.

Mr. R. BARTLETT:

Sir—In answer to your letter of the 18th instant, I have to inform you that the archives of this de-

partment do not appear to contain any important information relative to the destruction of public buildings or archives by fire.

I am very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ASBURY DICKENS, Acting Secretary of State.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Aug. 1, 1836.

Sir—Press of business prevented the Secretary of War from giving an answer to your letter of the 1st inst. previously to his leaving here a short time since on a visit to Detroit. I have the honor, therefore, to reply to you; but, in doing so, must confine myself to giving such of the facts asked for by you as relate to this department alone; and refer you to the other public offices for the information relating to the buildings and archives in their charge, and to the executive of Michigan for answers to your questions respecting the archives of that state.

In the fall of the year 1800 the building in which the business of the War Department was transacted, was burned, it is believed accidentally, and many of the records and other papers destroyed. This destruction would probably not have taken place had the building been fire-proof.

In the year 1814, the building of the same department was burned by the enemy, and many of the documents destroyed. At this time, however, there were *two fire-proof rooms* in the building, in one of which a considerable number of revolutionary papers were kept. *These were saved.*

Papers received at the War Department are kept in files, and those emanating therefrom are recorded in books prepared for the purpose; but none of these, except the documents relating to pensions, are kept in fire-proof rooms—there being no such rooms besides those where the pension papers are deposited.

Very respectfully your most ob't serv't,

C. A. HARRIS, Acting Secretary of War.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq. 76 Bowery,
New-York.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Sept. 15, 1836.

Sir—

Your letter of the 12th instant has been received. The archives of the department were partially damaged

in 1814, when the public buildings were destroyed by fire applied by the British troops.

The papers are kept in files for six months, so far as the correspondence extends, after which they are classed and bound up in volumes. Some papers of less importance are kept in files.

I am respectfully yours,

M. DICKERSON.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq. 76 Bowery,
New-York.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The Post-Master General did not answer the letter I addressed him making inquiries respecting the security of the records and papers in his office against fire, &c., but in his report of December 5, 1836, to the President of the United States, he judiciously remarks—

“The building in which the General Post-Office is kept is not fire-proof, and its valuable books and papers are daily exposed to destruction. With such ample means as the government now has at command the undersigned perceives no good reason why the greatest possible security should not be given to its archives.”

And the President, in his message of Dec. 6, adds on the same subject—

“The expediency of providing a fire-proof building for the important books and papers of the Post-Office Department, is worthy of consideration. In the present condition of our treasury, it is neither necessary nor wise to leave essential public interests exposed to so much danger, when they can so readily be made secure.”

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

The legislative and executive archives of New-Hampshire were partially destroyed by fire in 1736, and some of them have been since lost by carelessness or accident. (See Secretary *Waldron's* letter of May 17, 1736, to Gov. *Belcher*, and Secretary *Bartlett's* letter of 1827 to Gov. *Pierce*.) They have always been in great danger from fire, but never

apparently in less than the hour before a portion of them were consumed. At the present time they are all kept in the state-house at Concord; but the building does not contain a single apartment which is, or was designed to be, fire-proof. This edifice, which was considered one of the best and handsomest of its kind in the Union at the time it was erected, (1816) cost about \$70,000. Its exterior walls are of hewn granite; but its doors, unprotected window sash, roof, cupola, floors, and the whole interior, are of wood; and in case the interior should be burnt, the granite walls would be effectually destroyed, and the public records and papers would be likely to share the same fate. The building is greatly exposed to conflagrations from without and within. Fires are of course kept in the offices; and during the winter session, every fourth year, not fewer than twenty fires—some of them such “fierce” ones as destroyed the “beautiful” court-house and many valuable records, in Massachusetts in 1747—are kept in fire-places and stoves. And yet the state-house has escaped the dangers of twenty years! Imminent dangers it *has* escaped, and more of them, probably, than are known. The chimneys are swept only by the fire, and the roof is *shingled*. On one occasion the burning cinders from the flue of the treasury office fell down the flue of the adjutant general’s office above, and consumed a quantity of waste paper which had accumulated in the fire-place during the summer. When the pine fire-board was removed, the danger and the escape were both disclosed. Had the board taken fire, it is highly probable that the house and all the records, papers and books in the adjutant general’s office and the executive chamber adjoining, would have been consumed, and those in the secretary’s and treasurer’s offices, and the valuable library below, have been greatly damaged, if not entirely destroyed. Common prudence and a wise economy both require the immediate erection of a *separate* fire-proof building for the offices

and library, and at least an incombustible covering to the roof of the capitol.

The statutes of this state have always been enrolled on paper, and generally without regard to its size or quality, or to the ink or chirography ; and till recently they were kept in files. In 1827, for the first time, they were enrolled on large sized, durable paper, made chiefly of linen, and were chaptered, indexed, and well bound in a volume, which was lettered, *Original Acts, 1827*. This method has since been continued. Care is required on the part of the engrossing or enrolling clerks to leave sufficient margins, and to put together a proper number of sheets for convenient binding. The statutes prior to 1827 are recorded in large volumes, certified by the secretary of state, and indexed ; but when the originals began to be bound up the practice of recording was discontinued. Only the statutes of a public nature, and a few of the most important of those of a private nature, have hitherto been published, but now all are published.

The original journals of the senate and house are deposited by the clerks in the secretary's office at the close of each session ; and, with a copious index and an appendix of the most important legislative documents, are printed and distributed.

The original papers of the executive and legislature have always been kept in files, suffering, of course, derangement and loss from carelessness, accident, and even design. In 1827 the secretary recommended that they should "*all* be arranged in chronological order, prefixed by a table of contents, and neatly bound and lettered ;" and the legislature passed a resolution authorizing him, among other things, "to procure to be bound any collection or collections of documents, letters, or official papers in his office, which, in his opinion, ought in this way to be preserved ;" but the resolution did not seem to contemplate a complete chronological arrangement and binding up of *all* the papers from

the earliest date—a work of much labor and care, and involving considerable expense for the employment of a competent assistant—and the secretary having other extra duties to perform in his office, the proposed arrangement of papers was postponed, and has never been accomplished. The scheme, however, is so important, that it will doubtless soon be resumed and executed.* When this is done, some general indexes made, and fire-proof offices provided, the archives of the state will be in a very good condition.

As to the records of deeds and of the judicial and probate courts, it is not remembered that any of them have been destroyed by fire. Only one county has been provident enough to erect fire-proof offices for their security.

NOTE. It may be worth noting, that the library of the town of Portsmouth, consisting of about one thousand volumes of well chosen books, was consumed by the great fire in 1813.

* Probably on a suggestion of a correspondent of Mr. Bartlett of the improvements recommended in this article, Gov. Hill submitted to the legislature the following considerations in his message of Nov. 23, 1836:

* * * “A small fire-proof building, of stone or brick, erected in the state-house yard, at no very great expense, for the offices of the treasurer and secretary, would leave the capitol with little risque from fire in the interior except when the legislature shall be in session, and supply two good additional apartments for the use of committees and for the storage and preservation of books and maps, or other property belonging to the state.

“I would call the attention of the legislature to the state of the public archives in the secretary’s office. A thorough examination of the public documents, and a classification and arrangement of them, might be accomplished at an inconsiderable expense. The value of these documents and papers can only be duly estimated when they shall be irretrievably lost. It is stated that the council records of the province from 1680 to 1689 are not in the secretary’s office, but may be found elsewhere. If so, may it not be expedient to take measures for their recovery?”

On the last recommendation of his Excellency, there was the following action in the House of Representatives, at the late session of the legislature.

[1836. Thursday, December 29, “Mr. Bell, from the select committee to which was referred so much of the governor’s message as relates to the public archives, made a report of an examination, concluding with a resolution to authorize the governor to employ John Farmer, Esq. to examine, arrange, index, and superintend the binding of the papers in the office of the secretary—which, the rules of the House being suspended for that purpose, on motion by Mr. Chadwick, was read three several times, and passed.”

On Saturday, Dec. 31, the same resolution passed the Senate.]

BURNING OF THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE—1736.

Letter from Hon. RICHARD WALDRON, Secretary of the Province of New-Hampshire, to Governor JONATHAN BELCHER, at Boston.

PORTSMOUTH, May 21, 1736.

May it please your Excellency :

I am obliged to beg pen, ink and paper, to tell your Excellency I received your favor by the post, and how heavy the hand of heaven lyes upon me. A Tuesday, between 8 and 9 o'clock in the morn, a spark of fire from my kitchen chimney (as I suppose) kindled a flame in the roof of my house, which in forty minutes laid it in ashes, (the wind being very high.) I esteem the burning of my cottage no great loss ; but what was consumed within it makes a deep hole in my little fortune, which I never expect to see mended. All my clothes and linen, with my wife's geer and appurtenances, are laid in the dust. We had only time and presence of mind enough to save our lumbering stuff, such as tables and chairs. We are almost reduced to the same degree of nakedness as when we came into the world ; and to aggravate my sorrows, my poor wife is almost inconsolable. But I desire forever to remember with great thankfulness the mercy that I have experienced in the visitation—namely, that no life was lost, and that my flight was not in the night. I hope the infinite God intends me good from the repeated strokes of his irresistible arm, and that they will be productive of the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

Most of my books and papers are lost, and *what of the public records and files are saved, I cannot say as yet, but believe hardly any of them.* I had began to copy for White-hall, but copies and originals are both consumed.

From the Boston Weekly News-Letter, No. 1683, May 20th to May 27, 1736.

“ PORTSMOUTH, May 21, 1736.

“ Last Wednesday morning, about 8 o'clock, a violent fire broke out at the top of the roof of the Hon. Sec'y Waldron's dwelling-house, situated on the plain, within a mile of this town. The wind being high, and but little help near at hand, 'twas consumed to ashes in three quarters of an hour. 'Tis judged the cause was from a spark falling

out of a lintern chimney (which was lower than the main house) among the shingles, and kindled. The fire was so furious and quick that nothing could be saved out of the upper rooms. The whole family (through mercy) was saved. The flames consumed all their apparel, &c. excepting what's on their backs. Seven feather beds were *saved, with most of the books, papers and plate.*"

This fire is mentioned in the preambles of two statutes, passed April 1, 1737—one, to dock an entail in favor of William Hill and James Clerk; the other, to enable Lemuel Bickford to maintain his action of review. They state that two former acts, passed for the same purposes in 1736, were consumed in the secretary's house before copies were taken.

There are now in the office of the secretary of state two acts, 1723 and one of 1728, partly burnt.

R. B.

PAPERS IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Concord, June 8, 1827. }

His Excellency Governor PIERCE,

Sir—The preservation of the public records and papers is an object of so much importance to the state, that I shall not, I trust, be thought to pass the proper line of my duty in making known the deficiencies which have long existed in this office.

New-Hampshire having had a separate and distinct government from 1680 to 1689, and from 1692 to the present time, we should expect to find in this office an unbroken series of records and statutes for each of those periods; but it is a subject of deep regret, that every thing relating to the former period is lost, and that the records of portions of the latter period are either lost, or otherwise extremely defective.

Of the *Statutes* from 1692 to 1741, now on file, there is no record whatever; and of the records of statutes subsequent to 1741, more than two thousand pages have never been examined nor certified.

Of the records or journals of the *Assembly*, those from 1701 to 1711 are missing, although Belknap cites them for the years 1702-4 and 7.

Of the Records of *Council*, at sessions of the General Assembly, those from 1680 to 1699; from February, 1731, to February, 1732; from March, 1733, to February, 1740; and from March, 1741, to January, 1742, are lost. And there are no records of the Council

for such of its other sessions as were held from 1680 to 1699, and from 1722 to 1772.* But as Belknap cites the "Council Records" of 1680-2-3 and 4, those, at least, must have been in existence when he wrote his History of New-Hampshire. It is probable, however, that many of the records and papers now missing were among the materials alluded to where he says, that "in the course of his enquiry he has frequently had reason to lament the loss of many valuable materials, by fire and other accidents. But what has pained him more severely, is the inattention of some persons in whose hands original papers have been deposited, and who have suffered them to be wasted and destroyed as things of no value."

It affords me much pleasure to be able to inform you, that within the last year some public records and many valuable papers, which have been missing for eighty-six years, have been restored to this office.

In February last I examined a quantity of books and papers in the possession of Maj. Richard Russel Waldron, of Portsmouth, which had been in his family ever since the time of his great grandfather, the Hon. Richard Waldron, who was, for many years prior to 1741, secretary of the Province of New-Hampshire. From those books and papers I selected many of a public nature, which Maj. Waldron kindly permitted me to bring to Concord, and which he has since, from a laudable regard to the public good, authorized me to place permanently among the archives of the state.

The records and papers thus restored consist—

1. Of twenty-seven original statutes, passed between 1705 and 1738, of which there is no record. Among them are, "An act for the settlement and support of grammar schools;" "An act regulating townships, choice of town officers, and setting forth their powers;" "An act appointing commissioners to settle the boundaries between His Majesty's Provinces of New-Hampshire and the Massachusetts Bay;" "An act for making that part of Dover formerly called Oyster River into a township by the name of Durham;" "An act for the better support of the gospel ministry in the town of Rochester."

2. Council Records from April, 1726, to February, 1731, and many "Council Minutes," from which the loss of some of the records may, perhaps, be in part repaired.

3. A large file of papers, extending through several years, and relating to the disputed lines between the then provinces of New-Hampshire and Massachusetts, with "a draught of the lines as high as Powow river mouth," made July 21, 1696, by order of lieutenant governor Usher.

Also a number of papers relating to the old boundaries of some of the first settled towns in the province.

* Subsequent examinations of the State Records have shown that there are some mistakes in the above, which will be noticed at the close of the article.

4. Records of the governor and council as a Supreme Court of Judicature, in 1714 and 1715.

5. An uncertified record of the commissions of governors, lieutenant governors, and other officers, from 1697 to 1703, and uncertified copies of Gov. Shute's commission, 1716, Gov. Burnet's, 1729, and Gov. Belcher's, 1730.

6. Petitions, Royal Instructions, Governors' Speeches and the Assembly's Answers, Governors' Proclamations, some of the earliest Invoices of the first settled towns, and a variety of other papers—which are valuable as relating to our provincial history.

About the same time I found at another place a long lost volume, containing the records of the governor and council as a "Court of Appeals," and a "Court of Supreme Probate," from 1742 to 1774.

I also obtained the nonresident tax lists for most of the time the late Nathaniel Parker, Esq. sustained the office of Receiver.

I think it my duty further to state, that several volumes of records in this office ought to be *bound*. And it deserves consideration, whether all the valuable original papers, susceptible of it, should not be arranged in chronological order, prefixed by a table of contents, and neatly bound and lettered.

It is particularly desirable that the files of letters from Washington, and others in military and civil offices, during the revolutionary war, should in this manner be preserved from loss and damage.

I may be permitted to express a hope, that all statutes and resolutions hereafter passed will be enrolled on durable paper, of the size of the statute records, and, at proper periods, bound in volumes.

When the statute records shall have been rendered complete, it would greatly facilitate references to them if one general chronological index were made for the whole, and another index according to the subject matter of the acts. For example, under the general head of *Towns*, collect in the alphabetical order of the several towns in this state all the acts and resolutions which in any way relate to them. The advantages of these improvements are too obvious to require illustration. It is equally apparent, that the deficiencies and omissions which make these improvements necessary, are not of recent origin or growth. Whether they are of sufficient magnitude to demand the attention of the legislature, your Excellency will judge.

When it is considered, that the records and papers in this office, and which are rapidly accumulating, will constitute a large portion of the authentic materials from which the history of the state will some day be written, every person must be sensible that too much pains cannot be taken to transmit them in the most perfect condition to succeeding generations.

With great respect,

Your Excellency's ob't servant,

RICHARD BARTLETT.

The foregoing communication was submitted to the legislature by Gov. Pierce, and that body, in conformity to the suggestions it contained, passed the following resolutions :

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court convened, That the secretary of state be directed to record such public acts of the late province of New-Hampshire as remain in his office unrecorded ; and to compare with the originals and certify all such acts of the state as now are recorded but not certified, in his office, and to make a suitable index therefor, and present his account for the same to the legislature.

And be it further resolved, That the secretary of state for the time being be authorized to procure any volumes of the records, which in his opinion may require it, to be rebound and lettered ; and also to procure to be bound any collection or collections of documents, letters, or official papers in his office, which, in his opinion, ought in this way to be preserved.

And be it further resolved, That the secretary of state be authorized to purchase, for the use of the state, two reams of paper, of the quality and size of that used the present session, for enrolling the public acts and resolutions ; provided the same shall not cost more than twelve dollars a ream, exclusive of the expense of transportation ; and that, on his furnishing a certificate of the quantity so purchased, and the price thereof, his excellency the governor be authorized to issue his warrant on the treasurer for the payment of the sum expended in procuring the same.

Upon a subsequent day the following resolution passed :

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court convened, That the secretary of state be, and he hereby is, directed to apply to the proper authority, to obtain from the records and files of the state of Massachusetts, from 1641 to 1680, and from 1689 to 1692, during which this state was under the government of Massachusetts, copies of all the public acts and documents having particular reference to this state ; and that the secretary make application to the proper authority, for the records and files of the county of Norfolk, or copies thereof which pertain to any town in this state.

Under the latter resolution, Mr. JOSHUA COFFIN, of Newbury, a gentleman well qualified for the service by his intimate knowledge of the history and chirography of that period, was employed to examine the records and papers in the public offices of Essex county and in the secretary of state's office at Boston; but he found very little which came within the scope of this resolution, and that little was copied into a small volume, and deposited in the office of the secretary of New-Hampshire.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE RECORDS CLANDESTINELY REMOVED
TO BOSTON IN 1686.

The following notices of a transaction affecting the early records and papers of New-Hampshire, were communicated to me by Rev. JOSEPH B. FELT, Oct. 1836. R. B.

As to the New-Hampshire records, I have met with some particulars. Part of them may gratify your curiosity, and perhaps serve for a note. They pertain more to water than fire.

1686, *July 30*, a letter is addressed by some of the principal men of Portsmouth to Pres. Dudley, wherein they observe—

“The records of our province are sent to Mr. Chamberlain of Boston. How it happened, whether by mistake or otherwise, we know not—but think ourselves concerned in a matter of such importance. That the books and records, in loose papers, both wills and others, should be exposed to the dangers of the seas, without any reason appearing to us, seems strange: and we are humbly of opinion that they are of so great import to this place, that we are not willing to run the risk of another sea adventure, but beg your Honor's favor to order their being kept until care may be taken for their more secure return to us.”

In another letter to Pres. Dudley, Aug. 2, 1686, they say—“Craving leave only to add our great concern for, and ill resentment of, the removal of our records, which were privately, by night, carried out of the province, (as we understand) to Boston, without the privity or knowledge of any

‘in authority here—the damages whereof may be very considerable to us by loss, alteration or embezzlement, which they may be liable to, besides the great want that sundry persons have of copies against the court, &c.—The premises considered, we humbly pray that care may be taken of them—and if it may consist with your good pleasure, that Capt. Stileman, who is best acquainted with them, may take charge of them, and be appointed to officiate in the place of clerk and recorder.” About Jan. 3, 1686–7, Gov. Andros and council pass an order as to these records, “that Mr. Richard Chamberlain do within ten days next repair to his place at Piscataqua to officiate in the clerk and recorder’s place, or otherwise Capt. Stileman to officiate there until further order”—“That the records of the province of Hampshire, lately brought thence, be by Mr. Chamberlain committed to Capt. Stileman and Capt. Jno. Pickering, to be returned again and delivered to John Hinckes, Esq. to be kept in his house, where the clerk may have recourse at all times: also, Mr. Hinckes and the justices there are desired further to examine the matter referring to the bringing of the records away from thence without order.”

ORDER FOR REMOVAL OF N. H. RECORDS TO BOSTON—1687.

At a meeting of the Governor and Council, (at Boston) May 25, 1687—“*Ordered*, that all public records in the late Government now annexed under this Dominion, be brought to this town (i. e. Boston) and put into the custody of the secretary or his deputy.”

I presume this order was fully accomplished; because neither Andros nor Randolph would let it sleep till fulfilled. Besides, soon after the revolution of 1689, Plymouth desired that their records might be brought back from Boston.

None of the records or papers of the period from 1680 to 1689 are now to be found in the secretary’s office in New-Hampshire; but as Belknap cites the “Council Records” of 1680–2–3 and 4, it is probable that, if the order of Gov. Andros and his Council, 1687, for the removal of the public records to Boston was executed, they were restored after the revolution of 1689.

R. B.

MASSACHUSETTS.

For the following valuable communication I am indebted to Rev. JOSEPH B. FELT, a well informed antiquary and historian, who has been some time engaged in arranging and classifying the papers in the office of the secretary of the state of Massachusetts.

— R. B.

With regard to Massachusetts records, the General Court were careful of them to a certain extent. From the scarcity of funds, and common impressions as to contemporaneous and even ancient documents, they did not, however, for a long period take the most sure way for preserving them. 1651, Oct. 17, they order all foreign letters to be copied into books, one set of them to be deposited with the secretary, (who officiated for the Assistants) and another with the clerk of the Deputies. These two bodies held their sessions together in one room till 1644. About 1658 they require their journal to be transcribed, have marginal references and indexes, and also for other records to be written off, so that they might be better kept and more easily consulted. 1672—they passed a similar order as to the books of their proceedings, from the first to the last. Dec. 8, 1686, Pres't Dudley and his Council resolve, that "Wait Winthrop and Simon Lynde, Esq's, Messrs. Benj. Bullivant, Isaac Addington and Daniel Allen, be a committee, with the secretary, to receive and sort and form the records of the country, now in the hands of Mr. Edward Rawson, late secretary, that so they may be apt and ready for service ; and that the persons above named be all sworn to the faithful discharge of their trust in this matter ; and to the end it may be forthwith proceeded in, Messrs. Lynde and Bullivant are empowered and hereby ordered to take the same from Mr. Rawson tomorrow, and remove them, in the posture they are now in, into the library chamber, and that there go forth a strict warrant to Mr. Rawson to deliver them accordingly ; and it is further ordered, that two locks be put upon the office where such papers shall be lodged, and that Mr. Bullivant, or such other person as Mr. Randolph shall depute to that service, shall keep the key to one of the locks, and Capt. Winthrop, Mr. Lynde or Mr. Ad-

‘ dington the other.” Feb. 4, 1686–7—“ Whereas by order of
 ‘ the late President and Council, dated 8th Dec. last, it was
 ‘ ordered that W. Winthrop, S. Lynde, Esqrs., B. Bullivant,
 ‘ I. Addington and D. Allen be a committee, with the secre-
 ‘ tary, to receive and form the records of the country, (now
 ‘ in the hands of Mr. Rawson, late secretary,) that they may
 ‘ be ready for service, enjoining the said committee to be
 ‘ sworn for the faithful discharge of their trust, and ordering
 ‘ Mr. Lynde and Mr. Bullivant to take the same from Mr.
 ‘ Rawson the next day following, and to remove the same
 ‘ (in the posture they find them) into the library chamber :

“ In pursuance whereof, *it is hereby ordered*—that the
 ‘ said committee do forthwith enter upon the effectual execu-
 ‘ tion thereof, and bringing them to the office provided for
 ‘ them—and Mr. Rawson, late secretary, to be assisting, sort-
 ‘ ing and disposing them accordingly.”

Petition of Edward Rawson.—“ To his Excellency Sir
 Edmund Andros, Knight, Governor-in-Chief of his Majesty’s
 territory and dominion in America, &c.—The humble peti-
 tion of E. Rawson, the late secretary to the Governor and
 Company of the Massachusetts, in New-England, a memo-
 rial of what I have done and written since I came to place,
 etc. 1. There being no marginal notes nor any alphabet
 kept or made to the two first Court’s Books that either the
 honored Simon Bradstreet or Increase Nowel, Esqrs., the
 first and second Secretaries, kept for the readier finding out
 orders, judgments, &c. but what was done myself. 2. In
 the several Court Books, both of the General Court, from
 1650 to 1686, as also the Court of Assistants’ Books, from
 March, 1655 to 1686, Courts of Admiralty, special courts,
 both marginal notes, and some essays as to alphabets are to
 be seen, were done by me. 3. An account in some few
 sheets of paper in the several years of the grants of land,
 to whom, their several quantities, in the several years and fo-
 lios, where in the Court’s Books they are to be seen and found.
 4. The great labour I took, with another I got to assist me
 at times, on the advice of Hon’ble President and Council,
 to bring into an orderly collection as to the heads, of the
 courts, acts, and files, in the several years from 1629 to
 1686, in fourteen sheets of paper, with the several letters
 from his Majesty King Charles II. etc., besides others not

taken notice of, because in files, *all which had been, in and by removing them when the three great fires happened to be in Boston, and so mixt, etc.*—for which the President and Council declared to me should be paid and satisfied for. 5. A Memorial of the several laws made by the Hon'ble Governor and Company in their several years from 1650 to 1680 and 1681, in eighty-four sheets of paper, and therein numbered to 701. 6. Also, my several boxes, in which I kept the several files, etc. taken down, made useless, and an indifferent locker under lock and key, in which I had his Majesty's letters, with several files of the acts of the Council, and in which were four black boxes an account of what was in them, hath been taken as to Province of Mayne and (torn) of the Hon'ble Esqr. Mason, with plots of the country lines as to the North and South, etc. 7. A Memorial of the acts and grants of the General Court to the several persons, judgments, etc., from the year 1674 to 1685 to November, in this year, in a little more mixt way, in six sheets of paper, etc.—all which my labours, if it be thought in any ways to be in the least useful after my thirty-six years long service, having through grace behaved myself as a loyal subject to my sov'reign, humbly refer to his Excellency's noble and worthy consideration ; and that I may not be too tedious shall only say, that as I have been always desirous to be found faithful, and not in the least to reflect on any had been more easily understood and can by (?) but God's will and his Excellency's pleasure, with his Hon'ble Council's determination, is submitted to by

* Your Excellency's most humble servant,

“EDWARD RAWSON.”

“BOSTON, Feb'y, 1687-8.”

There is obscurity in this petition, as well as blots. Rawson's chirography was always some perplexing, but exceedingly so in this instance. The three great fires mentioned by him were as follows : 1676, Nov. 27, forty-five dwelling-houses, north meeting-house, and several ware-houses lost. 1679, Aug. 8, upwards of eighty dwelling-houses, seventy stores, and several vessels burnt : 1683, Oct. 8, a great number of dwelling-houses, warehouses and vessels. Pember-ton makes this date, but Hutchinson, I believe, 23d. In accounts of fires subsequent to these dates, except that of

1747, we have no information that public records were destroyed. Still it is very likely that this was the fact, particularly so in 1711, when the court-house was burnt where such records for county and state were lodged. The fire of 1711 was called the 'great fire', till that of 1760.

We have no record of Dudley and Andros' administration except on papers, a few acts on vellum, and a few minutes of council: no doubt there were others. Andros, in writing to a lord in London, Aug. 31, 1687, says—"I transmitted the duplicates of several acts, formerly sent, and 'copies of some since pass'd, with the *Journal* of the Council to the last July."

Boston Weekly Post-Boy, Monday, Dec. 14, 1747.

"Last Wednesday morning, between 6 and 7 o'clock, we were exceedingly surprised by a most terrible fire, which broke out at the Court-House in this town, whereby that spacious and beautiful building, except the bare walls, was entirely destroyed. As the fire began in the middle, or second story, the *Records, Books, Papers, Furniture, Pictures of the Kings and Queens, &c. which were in the Council chamber, the chamber of the House of Representatives, and the apartments thereof in that story, were consum'd, as were also the books and papers in the offices of the upper story.* Those in the offices below were mostly saved."

Your quotation from the New-York print is more particular about the records then destroyed than that already quoted from the Boston one. It says, that the County Records, part of the Province Records, and copies of the Minutes of the Council from the beginning to 1737 were saved. The County Records—as to Quarterly Courts, Journals and papers—are not to be found now—altogether in reference to the journals, and only in part as to papers, for a period of about forty years from their commencement. The Province Records, with respect to the Journal of the House, are wanting from 1737 to 1747. This chasm of facts may be supplied by printed proceedings of the representatives, found here and there. It is also supplied mainly in a written book, probably taken from copies in the London Plantation Office, soon after they were burned. The printed journals of the House began about 1720, and were continued to

1808. Records of the Council, except from 1650 to 1653, in volumes, are all lost up to 1747; also from 1765 to 1775; thence they are full to this time. We have no other minutes of Council to 1747 but some of 1689—from 1690 to 1692—in 1714, in 1732—from 1733 to 1734—from 1738 to 1742—from 1745 to 1746. To speak within bounds, three quarters of General Court files up to 1700 are wanting, and a large number afterwards. Nearly all of them from 1711 to 1724, and all of 1727 and 1728, are gone. We have none of the Letter Books spoken of by Rawson. Our letter files commence 1688.

With reference to the fire of 1747. Journal of House, Dec. 11, 1747. “The committee appointed to consider ‘ what may be proper for this Court to do with respect to the ‘ circumstances the public affairs of the Province are brought ‘ into by the late *late burning of the Court-House, &c.* report as their opinion, that the Secretary be directed forth- ‘ with to get the duplicate of the General Court books now ‘ in his hands fairly transcribed, and when finished that they ‘ be kept in a separate place from said duplicate: That for as ‘ much as the said duplicate reaches no further than the 5th ‘ of July, 1737, the agents of this Province in London be ‘ directed to procure, if possible, from the Lords Commission- ‘ ers of Trade and Plantations, the copies of the said Gene- ‘ ral Court Books from 15 July, 1737, to 14 Feb. last, now ‘ lying in their office—the said agents leaving copies thereof ‘ in the said office to be drawn off in the cheapest manner ‘ they can, by employing some other persons than the clerks ‘ of that office, if that may be allowed. But if the said copies ‘ now lying in that office cannot be obtained, that then copies ‘ taken from them as above, being first examined and attest- ‘ ed by the said agents, be bound up in three volumes, leav- ‘ ing in each book a number of leaves for a table, and trans- ‘ mitted hither as soon as may be: That the agents be also di- ‘ rected to inquire into the state of the minutes of the Council ‘ of this Province from the year 1692 to the end of February ‘ last, supposed to lie in the said Plantation Office, whether ‘ they are complete, and if so at what expense they may be ‘ procured,—and inform the Court as soon as may be: That ‘ the Secretary record in his office the First, or old Charter of ‘ this Province, and the Charter of King William and Mary, ‘ with the Commissions of the Governor, Lieutenant Govern-

‘or; Justices of the Superior Court, and his own.’ This report was accepted by House and Council. It appears to have been but partially executed. In the House, the representatives voted that his Excellency the Governor be desired, with the advice of His Majesty’s Council, to appoint a day of humiliation and prayer throughout this Province, to be observed before the next sitting, on occasion of the great difficulties the Province labours under, and the frowns of Divine Providence that are upon us, more especially in regard to the *destruction of the Court-House in Boston, as also great part of the public records by fire*. Read and concurred in by the Council. The Post-Boy contains the following resolutions, which do not appear on the General Court records : Dec. 12, 1747, “ *Resolved*, that the House now make particular enquiry how the late fire in the *court-house* was first discovered, and by what means it was occasioned.” After examining the door-keeper, and receiving a particular account of the time and circumstances of his leaving the house the evening before, and inquiring of those gentlemen who early discovered the fire—“ *Resolved*, that it appears to the satisfaction of this House, that the late fire which consumed the Court-House proceeded from the wood-work under the hearth taking fire, and that the fire first broke out in the entry way between the Council chamber and Representatives’ room, and from thence went up the stair case and through the roof, and continued until the house was consumed.”

Numerous select papers, taken from the state archives by Gov. Hutchinson, as aids in the composition of his History, were thrown by the mob from his house, Oct. 26, 1765, into the street, trodden under feet, and carried to various places. Part of them were returned to the secretary’s office—part are in Massachusetts Historical Society’s library—part in Worcester Antiquarian Society’s library—others here and there, retained by individuals. Thus far as to the perils and destructions of Public Records. Did my avocations allow me to extend my researches, I have little doubt I might enlarge the *Iliad*.

All of our remaining state records, except a large collection in an attic story, formerly labelled, “of no use”—a denomination whose propriety begins to be doubted by antiquarians—are in fire-proof rooms; are taken out daily so far as needed for immediate use, returned at night, and safely

locked. There are other fire-proof rooms, for the records of the rest of the state department. But the house, aside from such depositories, though of brick, is not fire-proof; of course the rooms where the various officers do their business are alike unprotected. The building is carefully watched by hired men, both night and day.

All the transactions of the legislature now extant, except journals, were chiefly written on paper, put in small bundles, and marked *Court Files*, till 1687. At this time, acts began to be inscribed on parchment of various dimensions, according to their contents. Sometimes vellum could not be procured, and then paper was substituted. Bills were enrolled on parchment, 1692. The next parcel of them is not till 1738. Exclusive of these documents, so assorted, many legislative proceedings were written on paper from 1687, and continued to the present, and called *files*, making a large mass of valuable documents. Acts enrolled on parchment were first bound in volumes 1827, and have been so continued. This is undoubtedly the best method ever adopted by our government to keep the order of its doings unbroken, and to have it handed down to their descendants and future historians as a sensible proof of their wise and magnanimous policy. It is my impression, that it has been a uniform invariable practice of Massachusetts legislatures to have their acts recorded on their journals. Though various laws of theirs have become obsolete, and their records suffered loss, yet I believe that there are sources whence every enactment of theirs may be soon recovered.

None of the papers have ever been bound in volumes till recently. The last session of the general court voted \$1000 for such an object, which must take years for its proper and full accomplishment. How much further they will advance in what they have so honorably commenced, time will show. As far as they go, no doubt many of their contemporaries, and more of posterity, will commend them as careful of an important concern. May they not leave the imperishable fame of thus preserving the documents which keep alive the remembrance of the deeds, the toils, the sacrifices, the sufferings, the merits and character of the state which has nourished and brought them up, under the guidance of a merciful Providence, and bestowed upon them a rich political heritage. May they act in concert with the able, learn-

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ed and noble minded governor, who, with many worthy coadjutors, is anxious for the continuance and completion of such an enterprise. We have eleven folio volumes bound, and others ready to be. It is intended for each to have a table of contents, and an index of names, subjects, &c. Such volumes contain papers of every size, chronologically arranged, sometimes having four or five on a page. For every page of papers there is a blank leaf. When a paper has writing only on one side it is partly pasted on the blank leaf. The volumes are designated according to their subjects, as, *Military*, *Maritime*, *Ecclesiastical*, &c. The best mode of preserving documents, in my opinion, has been already intimated. It is to have them written legibly, with good ink, on parchment, and bound strongly. Then they will not be subject, as files of papers are, by being frequently consulted, to be put out of chronological order, and thereby often not to be found when most wanted, to be worn, and torn, and destroyed, and, shall we add, to be abducted and never returned.

From the New-York Gazette revived in the Weekly Post-Boy, Jan. 11, 1747-8.

Boston, Dec. 15. Last Wednesday morning this town was exceedingly surprised by a most terrible fire, which broke out at the *Court House*, whereby that spacious and beautiful building, except the bare walls, was entirely destroyed: the rise and progress of which, according to the best information we can get, is as follows, viz. The day before being cold, and the General Court setting, there had been two fierce fires in the chimneys of the chambers, both of the Council and Representatives, and from these chimneys between them the fires seem to have been kindled, and to have been lurking all night in one of the beams beneath them, till it first broke out in the deal or cedar wainscot passage between the doors of the chambers, which were of deal or cedar wainscot also. For at 6 in the morning the watch at the east end of the town-house broke up; and between five and ten minutes after the rays of the fire first discovered itself in the said passage through the great window against it, by glancing into the chambers of the houses on the north side of the town house, where two or three people were awake, and running to the window first saw it.

there ; but it quickly broke into the council chamber, and run up the deal wainscot stairs into the loft and lanthorn above, and set them all in a blaze before the people came either to manage the engines or save the *Province Records, books, papers, plans, pictures, or any thing else in the chambers or apartments, to the inestimable loss of the Province.* But through the mercy of God the County Records, under the western staircase below, and part of the Province Records, under the eastern staircase below, as also copies of the Minutes of Council from the beginning to 1737, being at the secretary's dwelling-house, were happily saved. In the cellars, which were hired by several persons, a great quantity of wines and other liquors were lost, to the amount of several thousand pounds. The vehemence of the flames occasioned such a great heat as to set the roofs of the opposite houses on fire notwithstanding they had been covered with snow,—and were extinguished with much difficulty.

MAINE.

None of the legislative or executive archives have been destroyed by fire. They are kept in the capitol, which is not fire-proof. The original statutes are enrolled on paper, and bound in annual volumes ; and all published. Other original papers in the office of the secretary of state are kept in files.

VERMONT.

MIDDLEBURY, Vt. Sept. 24, 1836.

Sir—In reply to the inquiries contained in your letter of the 10th instant, I have to inform you that none of the legislative or executive archives have been destroyed by fire in this state.

The papers appertaining to the offices of secretary of state and clerk of the House of Representatives have until now been kept in various parts of the state, at the places where the incumbents of those offices happened to reside. They are now kept in fire-proof rooms in the new state-house,

and will remain there. Some of them have been lost in their changes of location. I refer to papers connected with the *early* legislation of the government.

None of the records of deeds, or judicial or probate records, have been destroyed by fire that I am aware, with the exception of the contents of a *very few* town clerks' offices of inconsiderable importance, many years ago. Conveyances of land are recorded in town clerks' offices.

Our statutes have been engrossed on paper, and have, from the beginning, been recorded in bound volumes. Our private statutes are published annually in the same pamphlets containing the public ones.

The original papers in the secretary's office, other than the laws, have been, and are still, kept in files merely.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM SLADE.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq.

RHODE-ISLAND.

None of the archives of this state have been destroyed by fire. They are kept in the state-house, which is not fire-proof. The statutes are enrolled on paper, kept in files, recorded, and all published. The other original papers in the secretary's office are kept in files. The records of Newport and Providence, the two principal towns, have been partially burnt.

CONNECTICUT.

HARTFORD, July 24, 1836.

Dear Sir—Your circular letter was duly received, and I have delayed an answer, to make some inquiries of our secretary of state.

1. To your first question, whether the legislative or executive archives of Connecticut have ever been destroyed by fire, the answer is in the negative; but some of our public records have been destroyed by negligence and some by design, as there is reason to suppose.

Most of the executive records and papers during the revolutionary war, which would now be very valuable, have been lost, or are in the possession of individuals. Governor Trumbull, as president of the Council of Safety, carried on extensive correspondence with Gen. Washington and the different committees of Congress, most of which is lost so far as the records of the state are concerned.

In our early history, the judicial records of the various proceedings in trials for witchcraft are not to be found. In consequence of this destruction of the records, it has been asserted that no criminal trials or condemnations ever took place in this state for the crime of witchcraft. This statement was made by the Rev. Dr. Hawes, in his centennial oration last fall. But there were trials—and one woman in Fairfield county was condemned and executed for witchcraft. This is all, however, foreign to your inquiry, except so far as it shows how carelessly public records have been kept.

2. Our state archives are kept in a room in the state-house, and the building cannot be considered as fire-proof.

3. I am not aware that any of the judicial records of the courts or probate courts in this state have been destroyed by fire. Deeds are recorded in the towns by the town-clerk or register, and are kept by the persons holding that office, without any additional security than what belongs to private papers; yet I have heard of no records of lands being destroyed by fire in this state—yet such may have been the fact.

4. The statute laws are engrossed or enrolled on paper. They are preserved in files, but are also recorded by the secretary of state in books belonging to the public records. Those of a private nature are not published, except such as relate to corporations; and for some years past these have been omitted. I speak of the publication in volumes for general use. At the close of each session, all the acts of the session are published in a pamphlet. In 1835, a committee was appointed by the legislature to arrange and prepare for publication the private statutes of former years deemed of any interest; but they have not yet been published.

5. All original papers relating to the proceedings of the legislature are preserved in files in the office of the secretary of state.

There is no further information connected with the general subject of your inquiries which now occurs to my mind.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN M. NILES.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq.

NEW-YORK.

FIRE AT FORT GEORGE, CITY OF NEW-YORK, 1740-1.

Wednesday, March 18, 1740-1. About one o'clock this day a fire broke out of the roof of His Majesty's house at Fort George, within this city, near the chapel. * * * * Upon the chapel bell's ringing, great numbers of people, gentlemen and others, came to the assistance of the lieutenant governor and his family; and as the people of this city, to do them justice, are very active and diligent upon these occasions, most of the household goods, &c. were removed out and saved, and the fire engines were in a little time brought thither; but the wind blowing a violent gale at S. E. soon as the fire appeared in different places of the roof, it was judged impossible to save the house and chapel, so that endeavours were used to save the *secretary's office, over the fort gate, where the records of the colony were deposited;* and also the barracks, which stood on the side of the quadrangle, opposite to the house. Such diligence was used in removing the records, books and papers from the former—many of which, for despatch, were thrown out of the windows next the town—that most of them were preserved; and though from the violence of the wind the papers were blown about the streets, we do not hear that any very material writings were lost; but the fire had got hold of the roof of the office soon after they began to remove the records—and though the engines played some time upon it, and afterwards upon the barracks, they were of little service—the wind blowing very hard and the flames of the house being so near them, all seemed to be at their mercy; and an alarm being given that there was gun-powder in the fort, whether through fear and an apprehension that there was, or whether the hint was given by some of the conspirators themselves, with artful design to intimidate the people, and frighten them from giving further assistance, we cannot say

—though the lieutenant-governor declared to every body that there was none there. Yet they had not the courage to depend upon his Honor's assurance ; but however, it happened most of them deserted it, until they found that many gentlemen remained upon the spot ; though, had they all stayed, it was thought it would have been to little purpose ; for such was the violence of the wind, and the flames spread so fast, that in about an hour and a quarter's time the house was burnt down to the ground, and the chapel and other buildings, beyond human power of saving any material part of them. While the records were removing from the secretary's office, there fell a moderate shower of rain, which was of some small service.—*History of the Negro Plot* : New-York ed. 1810.

On this occasion the public papers were suddenly exposed to a raging fire, a violent gale of wind, and a moderate shower of rain ; and it can hardly be doubted that many were lost.

CONFLAGRATION AT FORT GEORGE, DEC. 29, 1773.

In the address of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New-York to His Excellency WILL'M TRYON, governor of the Province of New-York, Feb. 1774, on his departure for England, they speak of "the late conflagration of the buildings at the Fort," and "your great losses in the wasting destruction of that memorable and perilous hour."

The governor in his answer, Feb. 22, says : "The generous sympathy of a Province may alleviate the burthen of my pecuniary injuries ; but the loss of *useful papers*, and a collection of every thing I have been able to make through a series of years devoted to business, must be irreparably lasting."—*Rivington's N. Y. Gaz.* Feb. 24, 1774.

For the following particulars I am indebted to Mr. RAPELYE, the assistant librarian of the New-York Historical Society. He thinks he copied them from some old newspaper.

Thursday, January 6th, 1774. After all the investigations and researches into the occasion of the fire last Wednesday at Fort George, it has been impossible to account

for its rise. It broke out in the *Council chamber*, and all the partitions in the house being of wood, the destruction became general in an instant. The loss sustained in the melancholy scene, in cash, plate and jewels, is seven thousand pounds sterling at least, over and above *many public, and all the governor's private papers*; for nothing escaped the flames save some kitchen furniture. One life was lost, a servant girl, about sixteen years old, named Elizabeth Garret, who, after being awaken'd and appris'd of the danger, loitered behind to secure some covering ere she attempted an escape; but unhappily she was prevented by suffocating columns of smoke. Mrs. Patterson threw Miss Tryon out of a window, and presently followed herself. A soldier (named Stone) of the Royal Welsh Fusileers, caught them. The latter received no injury: the former, though considerably bruis'd, is since much recovered. We have the pleasure to inform the public that His Excellency, his lady, and daughter, are well.

The day after the above fire His Excellency our Governor sent the following letter to the Worshipful WHITEHEAD HICKS, Esq. mayor of this city.

NEW-YORK, 30th December, 1773.

Sir—

Deeply impress'd as I am with a grateful sense of the strenuous endeavours of the citizens to extinguish the raging fire which happened at Fort George last night, and greatly threatened the safety of the whole city, I find myself irresistibly compelled to request you to communicate to them my cordial, affectionate thanks, for the skill and activity with which all ranks exerted themselves on the alarming occasion.

I am, sir, your very obedient, humble servant,

WILLIAM TRYON.

The Worshipful WHITEHEAD HICKS, Esq.

Mayor of the city of New-York.

His Excellency the Governor has taken the house lately occupied by Major Bayard, in Broad-street.

The *great seal* of the Province was rak'd out of the ruins on the evening of the 31st of December, without being the least defaced. Col. Fanning, also, His Excellency's principal secretary, a gentleman universally esteemed for his hu-

manity and benevolence, hath been a very great sufferer ; but is happy in *saving the papers belonging to the surrogate's office.*

STATE OF NEW-YORK, Secretary's Office, }
Albany, 13th Sept. 1836. }

Dear Sir—I have this moment received yours of the 10th inst., and proceed to answer your inquiries.

1. I cannot ascertain that any of the legislative or executive archives of New-York, colonial or state, have been destroyed by fire.* The deputy-secretary of state, Archibald Campbell, Esq. who has been in this office more than thirty years, is my authority for this statement.

2. I cannot ascertain that any of them have been lost or destroyed in any other way.

3. When the treasury office at Washington was destroyed by fire, the attention of the legislature of this state was immediately turned to the condition of the public offices in this city. As they were not all fire-proof, and as the building was too small, another was authorized to be constructed. It is partly up, is of Sing-Sing marble, about one hundred and thirty feet front by about one hundred in depth, is to be fire-proof throughout, and will be completed in 1838. There is little doubt that it will be one of the finest public edifices in the Union.

4. I cannot ascertain that any of the records of deeds or of the judicial or surrogates' courts have been destroyed by fire.

5. The statutes of this state have always been engrossed on paper and kept in this office. They were kept in files until 1803, since which time they have been bound in volumes. All laws, both of a public and private nature, are printed ; but only those of a public nature are published in the state paper. In addition to the original statutes, bound in volumes as above stated, a copy of the statutes of each year, in a printed volume, certified by the secretary of state, is kept in his office. The statutes were recorded until 1803, but since then the printed volume certified by the secretary has been substituted for the record. For the act directing

* So in almost every case where fire occurred many years ago, no knowledge of it was first possessed by the public officers of whom I made inquiry.—R. B.

these changes see chap. 44, laws of 1803, Webster's edition, laws of New-York, vol. 3, page 333.

6. Original papers in the secretary's office are kept in files. Some of the ancient records relating to our colonial history and to the revolutionary war, have been bound in volumes.

I am, dear sir, respectfully
and truly yours,

JOHN A. DIX.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq.

76, Bowery, New-York.

NEW-JERSEY.

TRENTON, Sept. 29, 1836.

RICHARD BARTLETT,

Sir—Your letter of the 26th, to the postmaster at this place, was handed to me by him, with permission to answer it if I saw fit. From the tenor of your questions, as I have no doubt your object is one of public interest, I do so with great cheerfulness.

1 and 2. None of the legislative or executive archives of New-Jersey, colonial or state, have ever been destroyed by fire. But there has been so great remissness in filing, recording, and preserving all archives, except the minutes of the two branches of the legislature, that perhaps they are the most imperfect of any of the old states. Such as are preserved, are mostly in the library room in the state house, which is not fire-proof,—but many are in the fire-proof vault of the office of the secretary of state.

3. None of the records of deeds or of the judicial or probate courts have been destroyed by fire.

4. The original statutes are engrossed on paper, kept in files, not recorded, all, private as well as public, are published.

5. The original legislative and executive papers, &c. are kept in irregular and broken files in the closets of the council chamber and assembly room; and when any are wanted it is altogether a problem whether they can be found or no.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

-JOS. C. POTTS,
Attorney at Law.

Sir—

I received your letter of the 21st Oct., as I was leaving home for one of my courts.

The enclosed memorandum was made by the secretary of this state for me ; it is not full, nor very formal, but you may derive some aid from it. It was made some time since, and I hoped that he would have sent to you one more full.

I am, respectfully, &c.

SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD.

R. BARTLETT, Esq.

FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF NEW-JERSEY—OCTOBER, 1836.

1. I am not aware that any of the legislative or executive archives of New-Jersey have been destroyed by fire. Many of them have not been preserved, and some have no doubt been lost during the revolutionary war, as the government was obliged so frequently to change its position, and sometimes in great haste.

2. The office of the secretary of state, (who is, ex officio, register of the prerogative office and court, and clerk of the court of appeals) and the office of the clerk of the supreme court, are kept under the same roof, in a stone building at the northeast corner of the state-house yard. There is a fire-proof room attached to each office ; that attached to the secretary's is merely nominally so, *and would afford no security to the valuable papers it contains, were either of the other rooms to take fire.*

3. I know nothing of any of the records of deeds or of the courts having been destroyed by fire. A valuable book of deeds is missing from this office, and was said to be abstracted therefrom fifteen or twenty years ago. In some few cases the files of original wills are imperfect, from the surrogates having neglected to transmit them, agreeably to law.

4. The original statutes of the state are engrossed on paper ; are filed in the secretary's office, in bundles comprising all the acts of one legislature. They are not recorded. The public acts are published in the newspapers

within two weeks after their passage, and all the acts, both public and private, are printed in pamphlet form, with marginal notes and index, at the close of the session.

5. All original papers in the secretary's office are kept in files; some are recorded. The original papers during the revolutionary war are in a state of great confusion. Some are in bundles, containing every variety of documents, without any label or other mode of ascertaining their contents; and the remainder constituting a mass of promiscuous, detached papers.

N. B.—Since writing the foregoing I find the following entry of April 7, 1686, in the record of the proceedings of the governor and council of East Jersey.*

“The secretary gave this board an account that in the ‘destructive fire which happened in this house on Saturday ‘last, *the original concessions of Lord Berkely and Sir ‘George Carteret, amongst several other writings, books ‘and papers, were then burnt and consumed.*”

PENNSYLVANIA.

BURLINGTON, 10th Oct. 1836.

Sir—I regret to learn by your note of the 22d ult. that you have not received answers to questions communicated by your circular of 1 July last. At the time it came to hand I was about leaving home, to be absent some time, and sent a copy of your circular to a friend at Harrisburg, requesting him to make the proper investigation, and reply directly to you.

I will, however, now reply to the best of my recollection—which I think will be found correct.

1st. I believe none of the archives of Pennsylvania, legislative or executive, have been destroyed by fire or otherwise.

2d. The archives of the state are kept in the office of the secretary of state, designed to be fire-proof.

* East and West Jersey were united in 1700.

3d. The records of deeds and of judicial courts are kept in each county and judicial district, as also those of probates. Some have been destroyed by fire, but I am not able at present to state the extent.

4th. The original statutes of the state are all—whether of a public or private nature—engrossed; formerly on parchment, now on paper, and filed in the office of the secretary of state, and all published.

5th. All other original papers are kept in files.

Hoping that these hurried answers may serve to lead you to the desired object,

I remain respectfully your obedient servant,

SAM'L McKEAN.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq.

HARRISBURG, Penn. Oct. 4, 1836.

Sir—The annexed answers to the queries contained in your favor of the 27th ult. were furnished to me by JOSEPH WALLACE, Esq. deputy secretary of the commonwealth. I can add nothing from my own stores.

Respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES PEACOCK, P. M.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq.

Answers to the Questions put by Richard Bartlett, Esq.

No. 76, Bowery, New-York.

To the 1st question. Not any of the archives* referred to in this question have ever been destroyed.

2. All the state archives are kept in fire-proof offices, erected for the express purpose, excepting petitions, &c. &c. to the legislature,—and they are kept in the state-house.

3d. None of the records of deeds, &c. &c. kept in the immediate vicinity of the present seat of government, have ever been destroyed by fire.

4th. The original statutes of the state are engrossed on paper, kept in files or rolls, recorded in bound volumes, and all published.

5th. Books of original entries contain the documents referred to in the question.

* Legislative or executive.

DELAWARE.

WILMINGTON, Sept. 15, 1836.

In reply to your circular, making some inquiry relative to the legislative and executive archives of the state, I beg leave, as it relates to the 1st question, to say, that to the best of my knowledge and belief none of them have ever been destroyed by fire.

To the 2d, that they are not kept in fire-proof offices, nor in the state-house, but in the office of the secretary of state.

To the 3d, that none of the records of deeds, nor of the judicial courts, nor of the probate courts, have ever been destroyed by fire.

To the 4th, that the original statutes of the state are engrossed on paper, and after having passed both houses of the legislature, are sent by the presiding officer of the house in which the bill or resolution originates, to the secretary of state, who keeps them in files. They are not, strictly speaking, recorded—but are published under the direction of the secretary of state, who has to compare them with the originals, and certify to their accuracy. Except in a few special cases; those of a private nature are not published at large, but only mentioned by the title.

To the 5th, that all the other original papers are kept in the office of the secretary of state, *in boxes*.

For further information on this subject I would refer you to two acts, which you will find in Hall's edition of the Laws of Delaware, and which I believe are the only legislative provisions relating to it. The first is an act to preserve the public buildings and records from destruction by fire, passed at Dover, Feb. 9th, 1825, to be found at page 453; and the second, an act concerning the keeping of the papers belonging to the executive department, and the acts of the general assembly, and the printing and disposal of the laws and journals, passed in 1829.

I cannot close this communication, without adding, that, although our public records are kept as above stated, it is considered a reproach to the state by every reflecting individual. The insecurity of them is obvious; and the consequences that might result from their destruction should

induce our legislature to appropriate without delay a sum sufficient for the erection of fire-proof offices.

With great respect, I remain, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN J. MILLIGAN.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq., New-York.

MARYLAND.

Near EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND, }
 July 28, 1836. }

Dear Sir—To your interrogatories as enclosed, I reply—

1. The County Court and Orphans' Court records are kept in each county, and in offices in the court-house of each county. None of these are fire-proof; and instances have occurred of a court-house being burnt, but very rarely.

2. The records and papers belonging to the Executive Chamber and the General Assembly, those of the High Court of Appeals, the Court of Chancery, and Land Office, are kept in the state-house of Annapolis; but none of these offices are fire-proof.

3. But few if any records have ever been destroyed by fire.

4. The original statutes are engrossed on paper, as passed, and delivered to "Clerk of Court of Appeals," who records them, and preserves them in files in his office in the state-house. Statutes of a private nature are so far published as a distribution of a copy of all the laws annually to each of the state officers can make them so. Certain private, as well as certain public laws, are sometimes published in newspapers by legislative order.

5. We have no office called "Secretary's Office:" that which resembles it is the office of the clerk of the Council, whose papers are kept on file.

Wishing that the above answers may prove satisfactory,

I have the honor to be, dear sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROB'T H. GOLDSBOROUGH.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq.

VIRGINIA.

RICHMOND, JULY 16, 1836.

Sir—I received your letter of the 1st inst. in due course of mail. Want of leisure has prevented me from giving you

an earlier answer to the questions on which you desire information. Hoping your pardon for the delay, I proceed now to answer them as well as I can.

1. You will find an account of Arnold's invasion of Virginia in Marshall's *Life of Washington*, vol. 4, ch. 8. (I refer to the first edition.) This city (Richmond) being the seat of government, all the archives of the state, legislative and executive, were of course deposited here. Arnold landed his army at Westover, on the left bank of James river, some twenty-five miles below, and thence making a very rapid march upon Richmond, got possession of the town the day after his landing. The executive, advised of his approach, made an effort to remove the public archives and judicial records out of his reach, and succeeded in removing the most important of them to a place of safety—that is, those relating to the more recent transactions of the government; *others, consisting chiefly, I believe, of the more ancient archives of the colonial government, were deposited at Westham*, about six miles above the city, where there was a depôt of military stores, and some public buildings. A detachment of the enemy was sent to Westham, by which the public buildings were burned, and all the stores destroyed or brought away. *The archives there deposited were likewise destroyed*; but as Arnold, wicked as he was, could have had no rational motive to destroy those papers, it is probable their fate was owing to the circumstance of their being deposited in the public buildings which belonged to, and were part of, the military depôt; and I the more incline to this opinion, because Col. Simcoe (an officer of good feelings as well as good sense) commanded the detachment that went to Westham. *There were destroyed at the same time, and I believe at the same place, some of the records and original papers of the general court and of the county court of Henrico. Of these last, the number destroyed was not large. I believe the greater part of the public archives of the executive and legislature of the colonial government, were destroyed*; at least, the series of them was so broken that it is difficult now to find a document of the kind when one wishes to consult it—so difficult, that the attempt has rarely been made. Most of the important archives of the state, from the commencement of the revolution, have been preserved.

What or how many papers were destroyed during Arnold's invasion, I do not know ; and I think it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain. It could only be ascertained by a diligent examination of the proper offices, in order to find what papers are left there, and if these indicated the existence of others now missing, it might be inferred that those missing were destroyed by the enemy ; for there has never been any accidental destruction of our public archives. But to ascertain the loss in this way would be a work of great labor, which the government has never attempted and no private individual has ever had any motive to undertake.

2. The archives of state (that is, the papers relating to executive and legislative transactions) are kept in the capitol in this city, which is not a fire-proof building—the executive archives being under the care of the secretary of the commonwealth, and the legislative under that of the keeper of the rolls.

3. Some of the clerks' offices of the county courts have been destroyed by accidental fires, and one or two by fires lighted by incendiaries ; and in the offices so destroyed many of the records of deeds, wills, and judicial proceedings of the courts to which the offices belonged, have been also destroyed. The clerks' offices are, and have always been for the most part, not fire-proof buildings. A few of them, recently built, are what is called fire-proof.

4. The original statutes are always enrolled on parchment, and the rolls put into tin boxes of cylindrical form, which are deposited and kept in the office of the keeper of the rolls in the capitol. The statutes are no otherwise recorded. All statutes, private as well as public, are printed and published immediately after the end of each session of assembly ; but there are collections of statutes of a general nature, which have been made and published by authority from time to time, omitting the private acts.

5. All other archives, executive, legislative and judicial, are kept in files, or in bound books in which they are recorded, under care of the keeper of the rolls, the secretary of the commonwealth, and the clerks of the courts of justice respectively.

I am, sir, with all respect, your ob't serv't,

B. W. LEIGH.

RICHARD BARTLETT. Esq. New-York.

NOTE. Judge MARSHALL, after mentioning that Arnold remained at Richmond while Lt. Col. Simcoe proceeded to Westham and burnt the public buildings and stores there, says only in regard to the destruction of the public archives: "Many valuable papers belonging to the government, which had been carried thither as to a place of safety, were likewise burnt."

R. B.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

On the morning of the 21st June, at 7 o'clock, the roof of the state-house of North-Carolina, at Raleigh, was discovered to be on fire, and in defiance of the most prompt and spirited efforts, that large edifice, the pride of the state, was enveloped in flames, and all of it that was combustible, destroyed. The public papers were saved, together with a much valued portrait of Washington; but his statue by Canova, that *chef d'œuvre* of the great artist, was destroyed, though the most active exertions were made to save it.

One account says—"The offices of the departments (which are in detached buildings) and the official archives, are also saved."

It is very remarkable, that the means which had been adopted for the preservation of this building from fire, were the cause of its destruction. The shingle roof had been chiefly removed for a covering of zinc; and there is no doubt that the fire introduced for soldering the zinc caused this calamity—one of the persons employed being seen to carry up, early in the morning, a coal of fire between two shingles, considerably ignited!

Canova's statue of Washington cost the state of North-Carolina about \$25,000. The state-house may be rebuilt more convenient and more beautiful than before—but *Canova* is dead, and the "wealth of the Indies" cannot make such a man as he was.—*Niles' Register*, July 2, 1831.

It appears that on clearing away the rubbish, the head of the statue of Washington has received but a slight injury, and that one arm and one leg are nearly perfect. The remaining portion has a tendency to crumble, and it is supposed cannot be made to adhere. The state library was en-

tirely lost—the old legislative journals, going back to the year 1715, are lost forever, as well as some of the literary curiosities.—Niles' Register, July 16, 1831.

Court-House and Clerk's Office of Hertford Co. burnt.

From the National Gazette, of April 2, 1830.

We regret to learn by a gentleman from Murfreesborough that the court-house of Hertford County, N. C., situated at Winton, was destroyed by fire on Sunday night last. The devouring element had made such extensive progress before it was discovered, that nothing was saved, and all the records, &c. were likewise destroyed. There appeared to be no manner of doubt that the fire was communicated by the hand of an incendiary.—*Norfolk Herald.*

The National Gazette of April 5, in an article confirming the above, adds, that the Clerk's Office was also destroyed.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

The following questions were presented to the Hon. Mr. PRESTON, and answers returned, through Hon. Mr. WEBSTER, of the U. S. Senate. Received January 12, 1837, after this article was prepared for the press.

QUESTIONS.

1. Have any of the legislative or executive archives of South-Carolina ever been destroyed by fire? If they have, when, and to what extent?

2. Are the state archives now kept in fire-proof-offices? Are they kept in the capitol?

3. Have any of the records of deeds, or of the judicial courts, or of the probate (or surrogates') courts been destroyed by fire?

4. Are the original statutes enrolled on paper, or on parchment? How are they kept—in files? Are they recorded? Are they all published?

5. Are the other original papers in the secretary's office kept in files?

6. Have any of the archives of South-Carolina been lost or destroyed in any other way?

7. Has the capitol or state library ever been burnt?

ANSWERS.

1. They have never been so destroyed.
2. Those deposited in Charleston are in fire-proof offices. Those in Columbia are kept in the capitol, not fire-proof.
3. In several instances the records of the courts, offices of mesne conveyances, &c. have been destroyed, involving immense inconvenience, loss and litigation.
4. The statutes are enrolled on parchment, recorded, and all annually published since the revolution.
5. They are.
6. Some of the ante-revolutionary and revolutionary archives have perished by dispersion, by damp, by rats, &c. None in the last fifty years—that is, records of the last fifty years.
7. Never.

WM. C. PRESTON.

In addition to the above information from South-Carolina I am indebted to JOHN FARMER, Esq. corresponding secretary of the New-Hampshire Historical Society, for the following:

1698. “ ‘A most terribell and dreadfull conflagration’ broke out in Charleston, South-Carolina, and consumed near one third part of the town. The secretary’s office was burnt, and a great many of the writings. This fire happened between the month of January and the 5 of July. I derive this fact from a MS. letter of Mrs. Sarah Rhett to Rev. James Pierpont, minister of New-Haven, Connecticut.”

GEORGIA.

Questions like those under the South-Carolina head, were presented to the Hon. J. P. KING, of the U. S. Senate, and the following answers returned, through Hon. Mr. WEBSTER. Received January 14, 1837, after this article was put to press.

TO THE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED.

1. None, except the act of 1794, known as the Yazoo Act.
2. They are kept in the capitol, which is not fire-proof.
3. They have, both the records of deeds and judicial

proceedings, in some of the counties of the state. Wilkinson is the only one now remembered.

4. On paper. They are kept in the office of the secretary of state, in files, of *sessions*. They are not recorded, but all are published, whether public or private.

5. They are.

6. If the interrogatory includes the archives when Georgia was a colony, they have. Since her independence as a state, they have not.

7. It has not.

KENTUCKY.

ASHLAND, 25th July, 1836.

Sir—I have received your letter requesting information in respect to the public archives of Kentucky, and take pleasure in answering it.

The capitol of this state has been twice destroyed by fire. The public records not having been kept in it, except within a limited extent, were fortunately preserved. They are kept in distinct buildings, not, I believe, fire-proof, which remain unconsumed.

The original statutes of the General Assembly (the denomination given to our state legislature) are engrossed on parchment, and carefully filed away and preserved in the office of the secretary of state. Both those of a private and public nature, as annually passed, are annually published.

Deeds, mortgages, and other conveyances of land, ordinarily, are recorded in the clerks' offices of the several counties within which the land conveyed is situated. There are about one hundred. Several of them have been occasionally destroyed by fire. That of the county of Fayette, (including the city of Lexington) was burnt thirty-two years ago, and its destruction produced much inconvenience. The extent of such a calamity is not always at first known, but is developed in the process of time.

I am your ob't servant,

H. CLAY.

Mr. RICHARD BARTLETT.

OHIO.

None of the legislative or executive archives of Ohio have been destroyed by fire. They are kept in the state-house, which is not fire-proof; but it is in contemplation to

build new fire-proof edifices. The statutes are enrolled on paper, kept on file, and not recorded, but are all published. The other original papers in the secretary of state's office, are kept in files. The county records in Crawford, and, it is believed, one or two other counties, have been burnt.

INDIANA.

None of the archives of this state have been destroyed by fire. They are kept in the state-house, which is not fire-proof. The original statutes are enrolled on paper, kept in files and not recorded, but are all published. The other original papers in the secretary's office are kept in files. The records of Knox and Dearborn counties have been destroyed by fire.

APPENDIX.

ARCHIVES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

CLERK'S OFFICE, Ho. Reps. U. S. }
January 9, 1837. }

Sir—In answer to yours of the 31st ult., making enquiries as to the manner of preserving records and documents under my charge, I have to state in answer to your first enquiry, viz.

1st. Are the records and papers of the House of Representatives kept in fire-proof buildings? *Answer.* They are kept in rooms in the capitol which are considered fire-proof.

2dly. Have any of them ever been destroyed by fire? If they have, at what time and to what extent? *Answer.* Some few, considered of not much importance, were destroyed by the burning of the capitol in 1814, by the British.

3dly, and last. How are the papers kept—in files? or bound in volumes? *Answer.* All the original executive communications and documents are bound in volumes; memorials, petitions and miscellaneous, are in files. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obt. servt.

RICHARD BARTLETT, Esq. }
New-York. }

W. S. FRANKLIN,
Clerk H. R. United States.

The foregoing remarks, it is believed, would apply equally to the papers in the office of the secretary of the senate.

THE FIVE FIRES AT WASHINGTON.

FIRE OF EIGHTEEN HUNDRED.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BOOKS AND PAPERS OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT, IN 1800, BY FIRE.

REPORT.

The acting secretary for the department of war, in obedience to the direction of the house of representatives, expressed in their resolution of the 2d instant, that he communicate to the house such information as may be in his power, in relation to the destruction of the books and papers in that department by fire, designating particularly what description of books and papers has been

lost thereby, and what the probable effect of such loss will be in the adjustment of the unsettled accounts of the United States—

Respectfully reports,

That he has very little doubt that the fire which, on the evening of the 8th November last, entirely destroyed the house then occupied by the department of war, was communicated from the adjoining house, as it was first discovered in the library, which was arranged against the partition wall directly behind the fire place of that house, and at the distance of the whole middle of the house (twenty-five or twenty-six feet) from the only fire-place in the apartment; in which last fire-place a fire had not been made on that day or for upwards of three weeks immediately preceding. That the rapidity with which a large library extended the flames on the admission of fresh air into the room, entirely precluded the possibility of saving any books or papers that were deposited on the second or third floor—the whole of the former and one apartment of the latter then being occupied as the secretary's office.

That not a book or paper of the office was saved, except one volume, in which the contracts and deeds for lands sold to the United States were recorded. This had been taken into the accountant's apartment on the ground floor in the morning for the adjustment of some accounts, and was saved with his books and papers which were in those apartments.

That immediately after the fire, measures were taken to secure a renewal of the most necessary and important documents in all possible cases. That the list of invalid pensioners had also been renewed, and sundry communications of importance from the department returned and copied; that additions to these are still making, and that the examination of the claims to land for services in the Virginia line on continental establishment, as directed by law, though now suspended, is expected soon to be in the usual state of progression.

That the library, which was entirely destroyed, was extensive, and contained many military works of celebrity, which it is scarcely expected can be replaced. In order, however, to effect so desirable an object as far as may be, the secretary has added a proportionate sum to the established appropriation for the present year, for the purpose.

That the claims for the continental military bounty lands, the entries for which were, by the act of the 2d of March, 1799, limited to the first day of January, 1802, many still remain unsatisfied; that from the manner in which the grants were made, the check books being all lost, a great difficulty will oppose the renewing issues of warrants for those lands. The secretary has recommended that all claims be filed in the office before the day on which the abovementioned limitation will take place, in order that the examination of them may thereafter be made under such regulations as may be judged most proper to secure to the claimants

their lawful rights, and protect the United States as much as possible from fraud and imposition.

That it is not presumed that any consequences to affect the adjustment of unsettled accounts will follow from the loss of the papers in the secretary's office—the original directions for expenditures being, it is supposed, to be obtained on the exhibition of the accounts growing from them; and it is not probable that any material injury will result from the losses sustained in the accountant's office; the specification of which, with the remarks of the accountant, follows, viz. :

Relating to the services and supplies under the present government, William Colfax's account as contractor for the state of New-York, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1799. Robert Ball's accounts as contractor for North-Carolina, for supplies furnished in 1799 and 1800. These accounts had been examined and the balances ascertained, but had not been entered in the principal books, owing to differences in the statements of the claimants and those made at the offices of which they had been informed, but had not finally removed the objections. No material inconvenience it is thought will arise from the loss of those accounts.

William Colfax & Co's accounts, as contractors for the states of New-York, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island and Vermont, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1800. This account had not been examined; the amounts are therefore only known from the claimants' own statements when they were rendered. It is thought that no settlement can be made until a principle shall be fixed for the settlement of accounts in this situation.

Nathan Starr's accounts as contractor for furnishing swords, belts and scabbards, per contract 1799. This account had not been examined, owing to a want of vouchers. It is probable that duplicates of the accounts can be furnished, and that no inconvenience will arise in the settlement. Part of the vouchers belonging to the paymaster general's accounts. Some of the muster and payrolls of this account were lost, but they can all be replaced; no inconvenience, but that of having copies made from duplicates in the possession of the paymaster general, will arise.

SAM'L DEXTER, Acting Sec'y of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, 12 Feb. 1801.

BURNING BY THE BRITISH—1814.

TREASURY REPORT.

In obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 24 inst., the secretary of the treasury respectfully reports :

That, with the exception of some old letters from the collectors of the customs and commissioners of loans and other unimportant documents, no loss of official books or papers was sustained in

his particular office by reason of the incursion of the enemy in the month of August, 1814.

That the documents herewith transmitted and marked A, B, C, D, E and F, contain all the information furnished by the heads of the several offices attached to this department, in relation to the object of the said resolution, and are prayed to be received as a part of this report. All which is respectfully submitted, by

A. J. DALLAS, Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Oct. 31st, 1814.

A.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Comptroller's Office, }
28th October, 1814. }

Sir—To enable you to comply with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 24th inst. in relation to the destruction of books and papers in the Treasury Department, I have to state—That all the official books and papers which were in this office on the 24th August last, the day of the incursion of the enemy into this city, were packed up and removed from the treasury, and have all since been returned, except a box containing brief entries of accounts, and another containing part of the accounts entered on the new books of the account of the War Department for the fourth quarter of 1812, and part of the accounts entered on the old books for the three last quarters of the same year.

These boxes, it is supposed, have by some means become mixed with others belonging to some other of the departments; and although diligent search has been made for them without effect, I do not yet despair of their being found.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,
Hon. A. J. DALLAS, } NATHAN LUFBOROUGH,
Secretary of the Treas'y. } Acting Comptroller.

B.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Auditor's Office, }
October 27th, 1814. }

Sir—In compliance with your request accompanying a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 24th inst. I have the honor to state—That of the official books and papers in the immediate charge of this office, none are known to have been destroyed or lost “in consequence of the incursion of the enemy in the month of August, 1814,” excepting only a set of the printed journals and reports of the two houses of Congress.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
Sir, your obedient servant,
The Secretary of the Treasury. } R. HARRISON.

C.

TREASURER'S OFFICE, October 27th, 1814.

Ledgers, journals, remittances, bank, draft, and other books generally, in use since the year 1810, have been preserved, and many from the first establishment of the treasury, particularly all the payments and receipts on account of the Treasury, War and Navy Departments, from their commencements. All the warrants, vouchers, and unsettled accounts of every kind, were preserved, except a few accounts and warrants which had been paid in July last, on account of the privateer pension fund, and one on account of the 7th article of the British treaty. These can easily be replaced, the vouchers for the payments being preserved.

Many of the books and papers destroyed were brought from Philadelphia—and very few would ever have been wanted, as all the accounts of this office are adjusted at the end of every quarter, and the documents accompany the accounts to the accounting officers of the treasury department, and afterwards are deposited with the Register. T. T. TUCKER, Treasurer of the United States.

D.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Revenue Office. }
October 26th, 1814. }

Sir—I have the honor of stating, in compliance with your request—That no official books or papers belonging to this office were destroyed in consequence of the incursion of the enemy, in the month of August, 1814.

I am, sir, with great respect, S. SMITH,
Hon. Secretary of the Treasury. } Commissioner of the Revenue.

E.

REPORT OF THE REGISTER,

transmitting the following, viz.

(1)

SCHEDULE of the loss sustained by the destruction of the Treasury Department in that branch of the Register's office where the books and accounts in relation to the impost and tonnage duties, and internal revenue and direct tax, are kept, viz.

The ledgers, journals, and auxiliary books connected with the imposts, tonnage and internal revenues, from the commencement of the year 1810 inclusive. The export books, from the commencement to the year 1803, inclusive.

The vouchers and documents relative to the settlement of the accounts of the collectors of the customs, and supervisors of the internal revenues and direct tax, from the commencement to the year 1811, inclusive.

It is to be observed, however, that the general results of the accounts of every individual collector and supervisor, throughout the

Union, as settled at the treasury, being exhibited in the annual printed statements of the public accounts, the loss above enumerated cannot be considered as essential to, or in any way likely to affect the settlement of, future accounts, arising from the sources of revenue before stated; and further, that all the auditor's reports and statements of the accounts of the collectors of the customs, the internal revenue and direct tax, from their commencement to the present period, have been saved.

JOSHUA DAWSON.

(2)

Of the books and papers relative to the receipts and expenditures :

The principal ledgers and journals, from the commencement to the year 1798, were destroyed. The ledgers since that period, as well as the complete set of day-books from the commencement of the government, have been preserved.

The vouchers and reports on settled accounts, which were contained in upwards of one hundred large cases and chests in the *fire-proof* building, were destroyed. The treasury statements on said accounts, from the commencement of the present government, have in general been preserved. Upon the whole, it is conceived but little inconvenience will be incurred in the settlement of accounts, from the destruction of books and papers in relation to this branch of the office.

JOS. STRETCH.

REPORT OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

WAR DEPARTMENT, November 9th, 1814.

Sir—Conformably to a resolution of the House of Representatives of October 24, requiring of this department a report relative to the destruction of books and papers in consequence of the incursion of the enemy in the month of August, 1814, I have the honor to report, That all the books of record belonging to this office were saved, and that no papers of any kind were lost, except recommendations for appointments in the army, and letters received more than seven years previous; of all these, however, there is a record in the office, viz. the names of applicants, and a brief of the substance of all other letters which were not preserved.

All the standards and colors taken from the enemy during the revolution, as well as those of the present war, which have been deposited in the War Office, were also saved. In relation to the books and papers in the offices attached to this department, I take the liberty to inclose the reports which have been made to me by the principal officer of each.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES MONROE.

The Hon. the Speaker of the House
of Representatives.

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, Accountant's Office, }
 October 27, 1814. }

Sir—In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 24th inst., this day transmitted to me from your office, directing the secretaries of the different departments and the post-master general, to communicate to the House such information as may be in their power in relation to the destruction of official books and papers in consequence of the incursion of the enemy in the month of August, 1814, &c., I have the honor to state—That the books and papers belonging to this office were removed at the time above mentioned, and are now in a state of safety, excepting a part of the papers and army accounts appertaining to the revolutionary war, which had been saved from the flames on the burning of the house occuied by the War Department in 1800. When the books and papers of this office were removed, as before mentioned, it was not practicable to procure conveyance for all; it was, therefore, determined to leave the old papers and army accounts, as the loss of those (if any loss should happen) would be attended with less inconvenience than that of any other papers. They were in the fire-proof room of the office at the time of the incursion of the enemy; and when that building was burnt they remained uninjured by the flames. But the room having been entered by some persons soon after the building was destroyed, the papers were deranged, and many of them undoubtedly destroyed or carried away at that time; but it is not possible to identify those which may have thus been destroyed. When the public papers were brought back to the city of Washington, the remainder of those papers (by far the largest part of the whole) were removed to the house now occupied as the accountant's office. It is not probable that the loss of these papers can have any effect in the adjustment of the unsettled accounts of the United States, as the claims (if any) which might arise under them, have been barred by acts of limitation.

With very great respect,

Your obedient servant, TOBIAS LEAR.

The Hon. the Secretary of War.

PAYMASTER'S REPORT.

ARMY PAY OFFICE, October 29th, 1814.

The paymaster of the army of the United States, in obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives, under date of October 24, 1814, has the honor to report—That by great exertions all the books, accounts, rolls and papers of his office which were of any considerable importance, were saved from the destructive incursion of the enemy, at this place in the month of August, 1814; but agreeably to the tenor of the resolution he proceeds to mention, as

nearly as can well be ascertained, those which were not saved, and the probable effect which will result from their loss. They are as follows, viz. : Part of the copies of the statements of such recruiting and other accounts as had been adjusted and settled in this office, with old duplicate vouchers, the originals of which were sent up to the other offices of the government, to be finally deposited in the treasury department : The accounts and vouchers of lieutenant Samuel Scott, as paymaster of the 24th regiment of infantry : The instructions of the paymaster of the army to all such paymasters, directing them to keep duplicates of their accounts and vouchers—and lieutenant Scott has been called on for the duplicates of his. When they are received the loss will be made good. A small book, containing a record of certain stoppages from the pay of non-commissioned officers, musicians, artificers and privates ; a book of minor importance—and as the stoppages had all been directed, and many of them actually made and done, the loss of it is considered of very little consequence : The recruiting accounts and vouchers (in part) of the late major Timothy Dix, of the 14th regiment of infantry, deceased. If the legal representatives of Maj. Dix produce the duplicates which it is expected are among the papers of the deceased, the loss will be retrieved. It is possible that some few other papers might have been lost, which cannot now be recollected or ascertained. It is believed, however, that they could not have been of much magnitude or importance.

Respectfully, R. BRENT,
Paymaster U. S. Army.

The Hon. JAMES MONROE, }
Sec'y of War. }

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDANT GENERAL OF MILITARY SUPPLIES.

WASHINGTON, October 24th, 1814.

Sir—In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 24th inst., I have the honor to state—That none of the books or papers belonging to the office of the Superintendent General of Military Supplies have been lost or otherwise destroyed, in consequence of the incursion of the enemy in the month of August last.

I am, sir, respectfully,
Your ob't serv't,
RICHARD CUTTS,
Sup't Gen. of Military Supplies.

Hon. JAMES MONROE, Secretary }
of War. }

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26th, 1814.

Sir—In compliance with your order, and with a view to meet the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 24th inst. calling for information relative to the destruction of official books and

papers by the enemy on the 24th August last, I have the honor to inform you—That the papers which belonged to this office, and which were destroyed by the conflagration of the enemy, were files of muster rolls, inspection, garrison, muster and recruiting returns up to the year 1813, inclusive. In addition to this, several copies of Stoddard's Artillery, and a few copies of a System of Drum-beating, for the use of the army, which had not been distributed, were also lost. The whole loss, however, is of no material consequence. I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

The Hon. JAMES MONROE,
Sec'y of War.

} JOHN R. BELL,
Assistant Inspector-General.

JOHN MORTON, Deputy Commissioner of the Ordnance Office, reported October 27, 1814—

That "in the late invasion and conflagration of the enemy in this city, no valuable books or papers attached or belonging to this office sustained any loss or injury. A few printed books, of considerable value, and some loose papers of no intrinsic importance, with a small quantity of furniture, stationary, &c. formed the only articles which were destroyed."

REPORT FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

JAMES MONROE, Acting Secretary of State, reported Nov. 14—

"That when it became apparent from the movements of the enemy after his debarkation at Benedict, that his destination was the seat of government, every exertion was made, and every means employed, for the removal of the books and papers of this office to a place of safety: and notwithstanding the extreme difficulty of obtaining means of conveyance, it is believed that every paper and manuscript book of the office, of any importance, including those of the old government, and all in relation to accounts, were placed in a state of security: That it was not found practicable, however, to preserve in like manner the volumes of laws reserved by Congress for future disposition. Many of the books belonging to the library of the department, as well as some letters on file, of minor importance, from individuals on business, mostly disposed of, which were unavoidably left, and shared the fate, it is presumed, of the building in which they were deposited."

FIRE IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS—1825.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY.

Mr. EVERETT, from the Committee on the Library, to which the subject was referred, made the following REPORT:

The Committee on the Library, who were instructed by a vote of the House, of the 28th ult. "to inquire into the cause of the fire by which the Library Room and the Library of Congress sustained

‘damage on the night of the 22d December inst., and to report whether any person or persons in the employ of government be chargeable with negligence in relation to the same,’ have attended to this duty, and beg leave to report :

[As this report is long, and does not state the extent of the damage caused by the fire, I give here only a few questions of the committee, with the answers of the librarian, Mr. George Watterston, from which it may be inferred that the damage was not very great.]

Question 1. What was the appearance of the library room on your first entering it after the alarm of fire, on the evening of the 22d inst. ?

Answer. The library room appeared as usual, with the exception of the fire, which was burning out of the western gallery. I opened the door myself.

Question 5. Did you examine the library and pass into the galleries immediately before you left the room on the evening of the 22d ?

Answer. I examined the library, but did not pass into the galleries, because I had never carried lights there, nor ordered them to be carried. I did not think it necessary to pass through them ; they were no parts of the room, and never used at night.

Question 8. In what manner do you conceive the fire to have originated ?

Answer. I believe it to have originated in the western gallery, from a candle left there by the gentleman who had taken it up. The shelves are about eight feet from the cornice of the gallery, and the gallery being about twenty feet high, the light of a candle cannot be discovered from below, and hence it was not observed when I locked the door. The accident, therefore, was one which scarcely any foresight could have prevented.

To question 10. Part of the answer.

Nobody was in the library when I closed it for the night. When the lights and fires were extinguished, I looked around the room, and perceived no light except that of the moon, which shone brilliantly through the sky-light above. The fire could not have communicated, I think, for some hours after the library was shut up, as it seemed to be limited to a small space when I entered, about half past 11 o'clock. That it originated from the cause I assigned, is my belief, because it is the only rational manner in which I can account for it. It is barely possible that it might have been communicated by an incendiary.

Mr. Watterston, in a letter of Jan. 3, 1826, to the committee, says—I would barely add, that the whole extent of the eastern gallery is entirely unoccupied, with the exception of a few sets of the laws of the United States and some copies of Pitkin's Statistics,

and therefore scarcely ever entered by day or by night; and that the western gallery, in which the fire took place, is filled with documents, journals and state papers—and that as these are seldom demanded, this gallery also is not often frequented, and therefore never lighted at night.

Another report was made on this subject Feb. 6, 1826, same session.

From the National Intelligencer, 22 Dec. 1825.

FIRE AT THE CAPITOL. About 12 o'clock on Thursday night, Vincent, the sergeant of the guard on duty at the capitol, being apprized of an unusual light in the apartment of the library of Congress, alarmed the librarian, who instantly came to the spot, and, on opening the doors, perceived a part of the gallery (of wood) which runs round the apartment, to be on fire. He immediately removed the books in the alcove adjoining; and, the alarm being spread, the citizens promptly assembled. An engine and hose were brought, and by the very active exertions of the firemen, aided by a number of members of Congress, who vied with one another in their exertions to save the library, the flames were extinguished in less than an hour.

Very few of the books, and those of little value, are consumed. Some others of course are injured by the wet and by a hasty removal; but the loss is trifling to what might have been expected. The ceiling of the saloon is partly destroyed, and one of the alcoves of this beautiful apartment. It is believed that the fire originated from a candle left in the gallery by a gentleman who was reading there till a late hour, and which, being up stairs, was not noticed when the library was closed.

The unusual light was perceived by Mr. Everett, of the House of Representatives, who was returning to his lodgings from an evening party, and who indicated it to the guard. Among the members earliest roused, and most active, were Mr. Houston, Mr. Webster, Mr. Dwight and Mr. Wickliffe. Mr. Ward, of New-York, narrowly escaped great injury from the falling of the plaster. Few of the citizens were aroused, and the members of Congress are entitled to much of the credit of having saved the library and all the perishable part of the building.

National Gazette, 26 December, 1825.

We rejoice exceedingly that the Congress library at the capital suffered no considerable damage by the fire of which we extract an account from the National Intelligencer. *Many of the books which were purchased from Mr. Jefferson could not be replaced*, and the collection in general is of much value. This accident may save the whole from destruction, by inducing greater caution. The librarian, or a careful deputy, should be the last person in the library each night, and see that all is safe before the doors are finally closed.

BURNING OF THE TREASURY BUILDING—1833.**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.**

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, April 12, 1833.

Sir—The report which will be made to you of the result of the investigation you have been pleased to institute, at the request of the secretary of the treasury, will present the information that has been obtained respecting the circumstances attending the recent conflagration of the treasury building. For your further satisfaction, however, it is thought proper to lay before you such other facts connected with the subject as are within the knowledge of the officers of the department; and, as far as may now be practicable, to state the loss that has been sustained in the records and papers, and to offer such suggestions as may tend to greater safety in future.

With a view to this subject, the principal officers who occupied the building, viz: the first comptroller, first auditor, treasurer and register, were severally called upon; and their reports are herewith transmitted.

From all that has hitherto transpired, it does not appear that the disaster is attributable to any particular neglect or inattention on the part of those who had charge of the building. It is shewn that past ten o'clock at night all the fires were in a safe condition, and that no lights of any kind had been used in that part of the building in which the fire originated. Though the person employed to watch that night was asleep when the fire was discovered, it appears that it was not considered his duty to be awake all night, and that, in fact, it has been the authorized practice, for many years, for the watchmen in the building to lie down to sleep after about ten or eleven o'clock. No satisfactory proof has been obtained of the cause of the disaster; and nothing need be here observed in addition to the report already adverted to.

By referring to the diagrams which accompany that report, the position of the apartments occupied by the several officers of the treasury may be seen. *In the basement, or cellar*, three rooms on the south side were filled with boxes, containing abstracts connected with settled post-office accounts, and were in charge of the register's office; five other rooms were appropriated to the storing of fuel, and the residue were empty. On the *ground floor*, three rooms on the north side, in the eastern section, were occupied by the treasurer's office; the three rooms on the south side of that section, with one room on each side of the south door, and one room adjoining the treasurer's office on the north side, were occupied by the first auditor's office; all the other rooms on the ground floor,

and the adjoining fire-proof rooms, were occupied by the register's office. On the *principal*, or *upper floor*, the six rooms in the eastern section of the building were occupied by the comptroller's office—the residue of the rooms on that floor, and the fire-proof adjoining, were occupied by the secretary's office. In the *attic*, or *garret*, the middle room on the south side was appropriated to papers and records belonging to the secretary's office—the two adjoining rooms on the east, and those of the comptroller's office; the south eastern corner to those of the treasurer's office; and all the residue to those of the register's office.

The fire was discovered in the second room west of the staircase, on the north side of the house, on the principal floor—being the room immediately adjoining the projection in the centre of the building, as laid down in the diagram, and being one of the rooms belonging to the office of the secretary, and occupied by Mr. A. Laub, (who was also the superintendent of the building) Mr. Wolf, and Mr. T. Dickins. It was discovered between half past two and three o'clock. The great progress it had made when discovered, and its rapid advance afterwards, until the total destruction of the building, are set forth in the testimony accompanying the report, and are besides so well known to the President as to need no further description.

The secretary, though not among the earliest, was nevertheless early in arriving at the scene of the conflagration. He soon saw, from the progress which the fire was making, and from the whole inadequate means of checking or subduing it, that the entire building would probably be consumed. His attention was, therefore, immediately, and almost exclusively, directed to the preservation of the papers and records in the accounting offices and in the register's office. Many of the clerks and citizens assisted with great zeal and activity, as well in getting those papers and records out of the building, as in preserving them afterwards. Under the direction of the secretary, the several collection of papers, books, records, &c. that were made, were placed in charge of the clerks, or well known and trusty citizens. By these united exertions all the important papers belonging to those offices have been saved. Those belonging to the treasurer's office have also been preserved.

The flame, however, was so soon communicated to the garret and roof, particularly that part of the roof above the stairs leading to the garret, as to render highly dangerous, and indeed impracticable, any effort to save the papers and records belonging to any of the offices, which had been placed in the garret, and consequently they were all lost.

As soon as the papers, books and other records were taken out of the accounting and register's offices, the secretary's attention was turned to procuring suitable buildings for the immediate accommodation of the department. After various inquiries and nego-

tiations, he succeeded in obtaining, before noon on Sunday, the five contiguous buildings on the south side of the Pennsylvania avenue, nearest the eastern gate of the President's square. Before two o'clock on the same day, all the papers and records that were exposed were safely removed to those buildings, and the fire-proof apartments of the treasury which remained undestroyed. On Monday and Tuesday the attention of the officers was chiefly devoted to the arrangement of the papers and records; and on Wednesday the business of the department, which had been partially resumed on Tuesday, was in full activity, and transacted as usual.

Owing to the great quantity of papers, books, and other records removed from the building, and the disorder into which they were thrown, some time must necessarily elapse before it can be exactly ascertained what has been lost and what saved. From the progress the fire had made before it was discovered, it was not possible to save any part of those in the room in which it originated, or in that of the chief clerk, immediately adjoining it on the west. Those contained in the room on the south side, directly opposite to that in which it commenced, and to which it must have communicated early, were also destroyed. Those in the other rooms occupied by the clerks of the secretary on the same floor were chiefly saved. Of those contained in the room occupied by Mr. Reid and Mr. Nesbit, next east of that in which the fire originated, by the timely efforts of the former gentleman, and a few others who arrived early, a great portion were saved; and of those contained in the room occupied by Mr. F. Dickins and Mr. Rodman, owing to the fearless exertions of the former gentleman, who, accompanied by a highly respectable citizen, entered the room by a ladder when the roof above was on fire, and continued till the doors of his own room were consumed, and the ceiling of that immediately adjoining on the east had fallen in, none were lost. The library and all the papers in the room occupied by the secretary were saved by the efforts of a few individuals, among whom were the chief clerk and Mr. T. Dickins, who entered it by a ladder through the semicircular window at the west end. All the furniture in the rooms, occupied by the secretary's clerks, was consumed, and of that in the secretary's room, the greater part was broken in being thrown from the windows.

The principal loss sustained in the secretary's office, was the correspondence; the whole of which, with the exception of that relating to revolutionary claims, and to applications under the insolvent laws, and with the exception also of two record books containing letters to banks, and two containing communications to Congress, was lost. Measures, however, are already in progress to replace them as far as may be found practicable. In the mean time, it is hoped that no serious detriment will be experienced in the transaction of the public business for want of them.

The reports from the first comptroller, first auditor, treasurer and register, which are herewith transmitted, exhibit the state of the papers and records of their respective offices as far as can now be ascertained. In those offices were contained all the papers and records which relate to accounts, settled and unsettled; and of these it is highly gratifying to find that the whole of the latter, and all the important portions of the former, have been preserved.

The secretary has reason to be satisfied with the conduct of all the persons belonging to his office who were present on the occasion. It is represented to him, that Mr. Anthony, Mr. Maginnis, Mr. Potter, Mr. Wolf, Mr. A. Laub, Mr. Nesbit, and Mr. Mountz, were not aware of the fire at the treasury until it was consumed, owing to the distance of their residences. The chief clerk, and Messrs. McKean, Dungan, T. Dickins, Rodman, Reid, and F. Dickins were actively and usefully engaged in rescuing and preserving the books, records and effects; as were also Mr. Lovejoy, the messenger, and Mr. William J. Goddard, the laborer attached to the building, and Mr. Pettet, the assistant messenger, who, owing to the distance of his residence, was late in arriving.

The secretary observed other clerks active and diligent on the occasion, as well as many of his fellow citizens. But as he cannot recollect all, and to name some only would seem invidious, he confines his notice in this place to those attached to his own office.

As the situation of the buildings now occupied by the department does not admit of being otherwise effectually protected, the secretary of war has, at the request of the secretary of the treasury, directed a military guard to be stationed, and sentinels to walk round them from sunset to sunrise. Means will also be taken for removing some wooden fences which adjoin the building, to prevent fire from being communicated by them, and to prevent the shelter they afford to evil disposed persons.

Our own experience has demonstrated, what indeed could not otherwise be doubted, that there is no proper security for the public archives, consisting of so many and such important records, documents and papers, except in fire-proof buildings. The present offices are not of this description. The buildings appropriated to the state and war departments are partially fire-proof, though in a very slight degree. The navy building is altogether insecure, even more so than the treasury building was,—inasmuch as the latter contained some fire-proof depositories, in which a portion of the records were preserved. The secretary, therefore, does not deem it proper to recommend the repair of the building, if the President should be of opinion that he has authority to repair it. The secretary, however, takes the liberty to suggest, that, at the meeting of Congress, it be recommended that a fire-proof building be erected, of sufficient extent to accommodate all the public offices under the same roof, having regard as well to those already organized as

those which the growth of the country will probably render necessary for some years to come. Such a plan would have the additional advantage of removing the great inconvenience which is now constantly experienced in the transaction of business, from the separation of the public offices.

All which is respectfully submitted.

LOUIS McLANE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

The President of the United States.

SUMMARY NOTICE—FIRE OF 1833.

The reports of the comptroller, first auditor, treasurer, and register of the treasury are added. They throw no light on the subject under inquiry, and the following *Summary Notice* of their several statements will subserve all general purposes.

The first comptroller, Judge Anderson, reports that all the correspondence on revenue questions, from the commencement of the government up to February 28th, 1833, and most other papers and books of value, have been found, and that it "has not yet been discovered that any books or documents of importance, belonging to that office, or any accounts received in it from the auditor's office, are missing."

The first auditor, R. Harrison, reports—That every thing in his office was removed, and that none but papers of little value are missing, and they are daily coming in. The office is perfectly reorganized.

The treasurer, John Campbell, reports, that all the articles, records, papers, furniture, &c. in the lower rooms, were removed some time before the fire reached them. Those in the garret rooms were entirely destroyed. The lower rooms contained all the papers that relate to the transactions of the treasurer's office since 1st June, 1829, and the records of the treasurer's quarterly accounts for several years prior to that time, and the records of payments into the treasury by collectors and receivers of public money since 1816. The room in the garret contained all the books and papers relating to the transactions of the office prior to 1st June, 1829, with these exceptions. The papers are now all in order, and arranged for use.

The register of the treasury, T. L. Smith, Esq. reports—That there is satisfactory reason for believing that the contents of all the rooms that were occupied for the transaction of the business of this office have been saved. The loss will be confined to the garret and the cellar, which were merely places of deposit for the papers of the least value.

The losses are chiefly the vouchers of the internal revenue accounts, and those of the war and navy departments prior to 1817,

and the “*abstracts*” of post-office accounts prior to 1828. The records, day-books, &c. being preserved, little inconvenience is anticipated from the losses.

All these reports concur in the necessity of erecting fire-proof buildings,—and the register adds a suggestion for the organization of fire engine companies.—*Niles' Register*, April 20, 1833.

FIRE OF DECEMBER—1836.

From the National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1836.

Disastrous Conflagration—the General Post-Office and Patent Office in ashes.

It is with no ordinary regret that we perform the duty of announcing the destruction, by fire, of the building in the central part of this city, which has for years been occupied by the General Post-Office, the Patent Office, and the City Post-Office, with an important part of the contents of those buildings, including the entire contents of the two latter.

This calamity, great as it is, has long been feared by those old residents of Washington who knew the combustible nature of the building—the floors being all of wood, and some of them not even counter-sealed, and the custom of stowing fuel, not only coal but wood, in the vaults underneath the floor. The calamity has come at last, and affords the second demonstration, within four years, of the utter absurdity and improvidence of the structures to which the public archives, records, and government accounts have been for the most part confided.

The first alarm of fire was given by Mr. Crown, a messenger, who usually sleeps in the room connected with the City Post-Office, (the postmaster's own room.) The clerks had been at work, assorting the mails, until half past 2 o'clock, when one of the persons belonging to the office (Mr. Lansdale) passed out of the east door and along the whole front of the building, without discovering any thing to give rise to a suspicion of danger. Not long after 3 o'clock Mr. Crown was roused from a light slumber by the smell of smoke. Opening the door of the city post-office, he perceived a dense smoke, without any visible appearance of fire. He gave the alarm instantly, first rousing Mr. Cox, one of the clerks, who slept in a back room adjoining the post-office, and who, coming out of the door of his room, passed along the whole of the long room with difficulty, through the smoke, hearing the fire crackling, but being able to see nothing. The watchmen in the body of the building, some distance from the city post-office, had perceived nothing of the smoke, until they, also, were alarmed by Mr. Crown.

The hour of the night when all this took place being one at which the whole world is buried in the deepest sleep, it was found almost impossible to spread the alarm of fire. One of the church bells began to ring, but the ringer, not seeing any flame, ceased ringing almost as soon as he began; and it was a full half hour before the alarm bells were rung, and more than that time before an engine or a bucket of water could be commanded. As it was, the fire had its own way, and was at last seen in the vault or cellar immediately under the delivery window of the city post-office, followed shortly afterwards by flames from the windows of the latter, and, within five minutes afterwards, by flames from the roof, the fire having crept up along the staircases or partitions to the top of the building before it broke out below.

From the moment of the flames bursting out from the lower windows it was obvious that all hope of saving the building was in vain. In little more than an hour the whole interior of the building and its contents were destroyed.

The books of the General Post-Office were all, or nearly all saved, exertions having been made for their safety from nearly the first moment of the alarm; but a mass of papers, &c. belonging to the office were destroyed. Not any thing was saved from the Patent Office or the City Post-Office, the volume of the smoke preventing any body from penetrating the latter so as to save any thing.

As to the origin of the fire, it is impossible to say any thing, for nothing seems to be known of it, except that it was in a cellar or vault, in which pine wood and coal were stowed, all of which were probably in a state of ignition before the fire disclosed itself to the eye. We the more willingly forbear any conjecture as to the cause of the fire, since both houses of Congress have taken steps, through committees, to investigate it, and in one house with power to send for persons and papers.

Most fortunately the night was calm and comparatively serene, or the destruction of private property would have been inevitable and great. Had it occurred on the night previous, when the wind blew almost a hurricane, several squares of valuable buildings must have been destroyed. The means of the city for extinguishing fires are wholly inadequate to the value of the property at stake, and the sources for the supply of water for the engines are limited in their extent, as well as precarious. We trust that the lesson we have just received will not be lost on those who have it in their power to apply the remedy.

Of all the amount of loss of papers and property sustained by this disaster, that which is most to be regretted, because irreparable, is that of the whole of the great repository of models of machines in the Patent Office. The mouldering ashes now only remain of that collected evidence of the penetration, ingenuity and

enterprize which peculiarly distinguish the descendants of Europe in the western world.

THE CITY POST-OFFICE. We have mentioned in the preceding article the destruction of all the contents of the City Post-Office. All the mails of the night and morning, (including letters received by other mails for distribution by those mails) except the Warren, Va. and Port Tobacco, Md. mails, had been sent off before the fire occurred. All the mails received the preceding evening and in the night for *delivery* at this place, were destroyed, including, of course, all the letters for members of Congress, different officers of the government, and editors. The transmission of mails *from* this place will not, we understand, be for a moment interrupted by this catastrophe.

BURNING OF THE PATENT AND POST-OFFICE—1836. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON POSTOFFICES AND POST ROADS.

HOUSE, Friday, Jan. 20. Mr. CONNOR, from the committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads, which was, on the 15th of December, instructed to inquire into the causes of the recent conflagration of the Post-Office Department, made the following report :

[Instead of the report I make two extracts, which are all that it contains relative to my purpose.

The committee are left in doubt and uncertainty whether the fire originated from ashes and embers deposited in a wooden box in one of the cellars, or from some other cause.]

“The Post-Master General, residing within a few rods of the building, was, very shortly after the alarm was given, at the office; and apprehending the consequences, went directly into his office, and commenced, with some two or three others there, the getting out of the books and papers belonging to the Post-Office Department. Those on the first and second floors were gotten out, except the files and some books belonging to the office of appointments. Those were in cases in the rooms and around the walls adjoining the Patent Office. Some books from the third story were saved; the greater part were lost.”

“In relation to the loss sustained by the government, your committee are unable to offer any opinion satisfactory to themselves, or that might be so to others. Most of that lost none could fix a value on; the models, the drawings, the books, and all else connected with the Patent Office, are lost—nothing saved. The letters, papers, and mails that remained in the Post Office, with the furniture, all destroyed, with the fuel belonging to the offices.

“The necessity for the erection of a building for the accommodation of the Post-Office Department must be obvious to all. The great object of the government should be the safety and preserva-

tion of the records. Those can be secure only in buildings strictly fire-proof. It was the practice in the Post-Office building, and perhaps is the same in the other Departments, necessarily so, of stowing in the cellars of the buildings their fuel. The danger that the buildings are always liable to be fired, accidentally or otherwise, can be prevented only by the erection of out-buildings for the stowing in of wood and coal,—and for that purpose your committee have instructed me to report a bill.”

☞ NOTE TO PAGE 20. The error particularly alluded to, page 20, may be corrected by the following note from Col. BARTLETT after this pamphlet was nearly through the press.

“There is in this sentence an error which I noted on the Letter soon after it was communicated by Gov. Pierce to the Legislature. The records of the Council from April 5, 1742, to July 30, 1767, are in the latter part of the first volume of the Charter Records, and hence were overlooked at the moment of preparing this letter. The sentence would have been more accurate and clear if it had read thus: ‘And there are no records of the Governor and Council for any of their *other* sessions which may have been held when the Assembly was *not* in session from 1680 to 1689 inclusive; from 1693 to 1699 inclusive; from 1722 to 1742, and from 1767 to 1772; the Colony having been united with, and under the government of, Massachusetts for most of the time between 1689 and 1692.’”

RHODE-ISLAND.

I am indebted to Mr. John R. Bartlett, of the R. I. Historical Society, for the following notice from Mr. J. H. Webb, secretary of that Society. Received too late for insertion in its proper place.

“The *colony* records were never destroyed. Those of the town of Providence were destroyed in part in March, 1676. They were kept in the house of John Smith, a miller, then town clerk. The house was set on fire by the Indians; he ran in to rescue them from the flames, and those he got he threw into the river for safe keeping. These were afterwards obtained in a mutilated and somewhat obliterated condition, and are now on file, or rather *in bag*, in the clerk’s office. These records contained the doings of the town for the first forty years after the settlement. A committee was afterwards appointed to report the nature of these documents, and that report is now on file in the above office.”

The burning of the Treasury Department in 1833, was the work of incendiaries, effected for the purpose of destroying papers which would go to prove fraudulent conduct on the part of persons engaged as pension agents. A train of circumstances led to the arrest and conviction of *Harry White* and *Richard H. White* of firing the building.

COLD FRIDAY—1810.

ONE of the most memorable cold days within the recollection of the present generation, occurred on the 19 January, 1810. From a mild state of temperature, the weather suddenly became cold, the mercury descending to thirteen degrees below zero in less than sixteen hours. The change was accompanied with a high wind, cold and piercing in the extreme, and of such force as to prostrate many trees and buildings. One of the most distressing cases of suffering at this time, occurred at Sanbornton, which will be related.

On Friday morning, the 19 of January, Mr. JEREMIAH ELLSWORTH, of that town, finding the cold very severe, rose about an hour before sunrise. It was but a short time before some part of his house was burst in by the wind. Being apprehensive that the whole house would soon be demolished, and that the lives of the family were in great jeopardy, Mrs. Ellsworth, with her youngest child, whom she had dressed, went into the cellar, leaving the other two children in bed. Her husband attempted to go to the nearest neighbor, which was in a north direction, for assistance; but the wind was so strong against him that he found it impracticable. He then sat out for Mr. David Brown's, the nearest house in another direction, at the distance of a quarter of a mile. He reached there about sunrise, his feet being considerably frozen, and he so overcome by the cold, that both he and Mr. Brown thought it too hazardous for him to return. But Mr. Brown went with his horse and sleigh with all possible speed, to save the woman and her children from impending destruction. When he arrived at the house, he found Mrs. Ellsworth and one child in the cellar, and the other children in bed, their clothes having been blown away by the wind, so that they could not be dressed. Mr. Brown put a bed into the sleigh, and placed the three children upon it, and covered them with the bed clothes. Mrs. E. also got into the sleigh. They had proceeded only six or eight rods before the sleigh was blown over, and the

children, bed and covering were scattered by the wind. Mrs. Ellsworth held the horse while Mr. Brown collected the children and bed, and placed them in the sleigh again. She then concluded to walk, but before she reached Mr. Brown's house, she was so benumbed by the cold, that she sunk down to the ground, finding it impossible to walk any further. At first she concluded she must perish, but stimulated by a hope of escape, she made another effort by crawling on her hands and knees, in which manner she reached her husband, but so altered in her looks that he did not at first know her. His anxiety for his children led him twice to conclude to go to their assistance; but the earnest importunities of his wife, who supposed he would perish, and that she should survive but a short time, prevented him. Mr. Brown having placed the children in the sleigh a second time, had proceeded but a few rods when the sleigh was blown over and torn to pieces, and the children driven to some distance. He then collected them once more, laid them on the bed and covered them; and then called for help, but to no purpose. Knowing that the children must soon perish in that situation, and being pierced to the heart by their distressing shrieks, he wrapped them all in a coverlet, and attempted to carry them on his shoulder; but was soon blown down, and the children separated from him by the violence of the wind. Finding it impossible to carry them all, he left the youngest, the one who happened to be dressed, placing it by the side of a large log. He then attempted to carry the other two, but was soon stopped as before. He then took them, one under each arm, with no other clothing than their shirts, and in this way, though blown down every few rods, he arrived at his house, after having been absent about two hours. The children, though frozen stiff, were alive, but died within a few minutes. Mr. Brown's hands and feet were badly frozen, and he was so much chilled and exhausted as to be unable to return for the child left behind.

The wind continued its severity, and no neighbor called until the afternoon, when there was every reason to believe the child left was dead. Towards sunset, a physician and some other neighbors having arrived, several of whom went in search of the other child, which was found and brought in dead. The lives of the parents were saved, but they were left childless.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF AMHERST, NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

BY JOHN FARMER, ESQ.—MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

AMHERST, in the county of Hillsborough, is situated on both sides of Souhegan river, in latitude $42^{\circ} 51'$ north. The principal part of the territory lies on the northern side. It is nine miles in length from north to south ; its greatest breadth is four and a half miles ; its least breadth is rather more than two miles. It is bounded on the west by Mont-Vernon, on the north by New-Boston, on the east by Bedford and Merrimack, and on the south by Hollis and Milford. Its distance from Portsmouth is 53 miles ; from Concord, the seat of government, 28 miles ; from Boston, 47 miles, and from the city of Washington, 484 miles. As this sketch will be confined to the *history* of the town, no farther geographical description will be attempted.

The town of Amherst had its origin from a grant of the great and general court, as it was styled, of Massachusetts, to the surviving officers and soldiers who served in the war against Philip, the celebrated Narraganset sachem, in the years 1675 and 1676, and to the posterity of those who were not living. From several good authorities, it would seem that the government was not entitled to a great amount of gratitude for its apparent benevolence in the distribution of the public lands.

Although the ostensible object in the grant of this and the six other townships granted at the same time, was gratitude to those brave men who had perilled their lives in Indian warfare, and to the descendants of such as had died, yet contemporary historians intimate, that the members of government were influenced more by motives of policy

than those of benevolence. They wished to retain the property in the lands, in case the jurisdiction was taken from them.

Dr. William Douglas, who wrote about the year 1746, remarks—"A few Years since, the General Assembly of the *Massachusetts-Bay* was in the Humor of distributing the Property of much vacant Province Land; perhaps in good Policy and Foresight, to secure to the *Massachusetts* People, by Possession, the Property of Part of some controverted Lands; accordingly it came to pass that upon a royal Commission from the Court of *Great Britain*, to determine the Controversy, the Jurisdiction but not the Property was allotted to *New-Hampshire*, or rather to the Crown. Some of these Grants, called Townships, were to the Inhabitants of the several old Townships, viz. to Boston three Townships, to Ipswich one, &c. Nine Townships were voted, but only seven granted to the descendants of the *Narraganset*, or *Pequod Indian* War Soldiers 1637,* called *Narraganset* Townships; nine Townships were granted to the Heirs of the Militia or Soldiers who went against Canada, Anno 1690, and are called *Canada Townships*."† Again, he says the General Assembly "were in such a hurry to appropriate the vacant lands, that several old townships were *encouraged* to petition for an additional new township."‡

From Governor Hutchinson, it appears that the general court of Massachusetts, in 1728, deviated from their ordinary prudence in the distribution of territory, and, "on a sudden, laid plans for grants of vast tracts of unimproved land." Under the old charter of the province and the new, till this period, the government had granted lands for the purpose of having settlements formed. But at this time, the disposition of the court was such, that pretences were encouraged and even sought after, to entitle persons to become grantees. The first who were selected as recipients of the public bounty, were the posterity of all the officers and soldiers who served in the memorable war with king Philip in 1675 and

* The author seems to consider the *Narraganset* and the *Pequod* War as the same, whereas they were distinct. The latter occurred at the time given above, but the *Narraganset* war, to which Douglas alludes, did not take place until 1675.

† Summary, Historical and Political, &c. vol. I. Note to page 424.

‡ Ibid. Note to page 505.

1676. More than forty-seven years had elapsed since that event, and most of the officers and soldiers engaged in it were dead. Of one hundred and twenty persons, to whom this town was assigned, only nineteen who served in that war were living in 1733.

1728. In June, of this year, the court granted two townships, each of the contents of six miles square, to the officers and soldiers (or their lawful representatives) belonging to the province of Massachusetts, who were in the service of their country in the Narraganset war, as a reward for their public service and in full satisfaction of the grant formerly made them by the court. In June, 1732, in answer to several petitions, an additional grant of five more townships was made, and a committee, consisting of John Chandler, Edward Shove, Thomas Tilestone, John Hobson and Samuel Chandler, were appointed to survey and locate them in some of the unappropriated lands of the province. Each township was to contain six miles square. The conditions of the grant of these seven townships were, that the grantees should assemble within two months, and regulate each propriety, or township, which was to be held and enjoyed by one hundred and twenty grantees; that they should settle sixty families at least in every township, and a learned orthodox minister, within seven years. The government, which was to be at the expense of locating the townships, reserved in each, one right for the first settled minister, one for the ministry, and one for the school.

As might have been expected, considerable difficulty arose from the number of descendants who presented their claims for the right of the same ancestor. In order to remedy this evil, the court ordered that where the person was deceased, who had been in the service, the grant should belong to his legal representative in the following manner. "That the eldest male heir, if such there might be, otherwise the eldest female, if they pleased, should hold the land, by paying to the other descendants, or heirs, such proportionable parts of ten pounds, (which was judged to be the value of a right) as such descendants or heirs would be entitled to, provided that said land descended according to a law of the province for the settlement of intestate estates."

The grant of the additional five townships did not immediately receive the approbation of governor Belcher. The

act for granting them passed the house, 30 June, 1732, and did not receive his signature till the 26 of April, the year following. But the grantees were incessant in renewing their applications; they even went so far as to appoint a person* to use his interest with the governor to induce him to "sign the grant." How far the influence of this person might have operated, it is not possible, nor is it necessary, to determine.

After a great number of meetings and adjournments of the committee of the Narraganset grantees, the grantees themselves assembled on the common in Boston, and formed into seven distinct societies, each society consisting of one hundred and twenty persons, and entitled to one township. Three persons from each society were chosen a committee, who met at Luke Verdey's, in Boston, on the 17 October, 1733, and assigned the seven townships as follows: Narraganset Number One, situated "back of Saco and Scarborough," now called Buxton, was assigned to Philemon Dane and company; No. Two,† at Wachuset, now called Westminster, to James Lowden; No. Three, at Souhegan-West, now Amherst, to Richard Mower; No. Four, at Quabbin, to Edward Shove; No. Five, at Souhegan-East, to Col. Thomas Tileston; No. Six, in the county of Worcester, and now called Templeton, to Samuel Chandler; and No. Seven, now Gorham, in Maine, to Col. Shubael Gorham.

This town, which was called Narraganset No. Three, was assigned to twenty-nine persons belonging to Salem, seven to Marblehead, twenty-seven to Lynn, five to Gloucester, nine to Andover, fourteen to Topsfield, fourteen to Beverly, four to Wenham, four to Boxford, one to Scarborough, two to Reading, one to York, two to Falmouth, and one to Chatham.‡

1734. The first meeting of the grantees of No. Three, or Souhegan-West, as it was generally called, was holden at Salem Village, now Danvers, on the 17 of July, when Capt. Benjamin Potter, Capt. Richard Mower and Daniel Kenney, were appointed a committee to "take a particular view of the circumstances of the township," who were "to have power to employ a surveyor and such pilots as might be

* Mr. Samuel Welles.

† The History of Narraganset No. 2, now Westminster, by Rev. Charles Hudson, was published in 1832.

‡ Propriety Records of Souhegan-West.

necessary." A committee* was also appointed to subdivide the township. On the 2 September, the society met to receive the report of their committee, who, having been disappointed in the choice of a surveyor, were unable to make any official statement. They however declared verbally, "that they had been on the land and found it well timbered." The proprietors at this time voted that the township should be "subdivided as soon as may be"—that the committee appointed for that purpose should lay out to each proprietor for the first or home lot, sixty acres, and what was wanting in quality to made up in quantity.

About this time, the first settlement was commenced by Samuel Walton and Samuel Lampson, who were the earliest inhabitants. They were from the county of Essex. Walton died in this town, but none of his posterity remain here. Lampson removed to Billerica about five years after this town was incorporated, and died there. His children remained in town, and his posterity still remain in Mont-Vernon. His son, Jonathan Lampson, died there in 1815, at the age of 90. Lampson and Walton first seated themselves about a mile from the present compact part of the town, on the Boston road; and here, it is said, was erected the first house in town. It was built of logs, and stood where the house, for many years occupied as a tavern, now stands. They afterwards took up other lots in different parts of the town, leaving their first habitations. Other settlers, from Middleton, in Essex, and the adjacent towns, arrived within a few years, and began settlements in different parts of the town.†

The manners and customs of the first inhabitants, their food, drink, travelling, &c. would doubtless be interesting to their descendants; and the writer thought of preparing a separate article for the Appendix of this sketch, but he has room only for the following facts and observations.

Coming from the old towns of Massachusetts, the first settlers of Amherst brought with them the customs which prevailed at the time of their emigration. They were plain and simple in their dress. In living, they had few or none of the luxuries of life. Their fare was plain and sub-

* Capt. Benjamin Potter, Capt. Richard Mower, Daniel Kenney, Cornelius Tarbell, Ebenezer Raymond, Jeremiah Gatchel and Thomas Tarbox.

† For some notices of several of the early settlers, see Appendix No. I.

stantial. They used considerable liquid food, such as milk, broths, pea and bean porridge. Chocolate was sometimes used, and was probably esteemed as one of their greatest luxuries. Coffee was unknown to them; and though tea had been introduced into the country about sixteen years when the town was settled, the first inhabitants had not tasted of it. The first used in the place was sent by some Boston friends to the family of the minister, who were unacquainted with the method of preparing it, but concluded it must be boiled in an iron kettle, or pot, in a manner similar to their boiling their liquid food. They therefore put in a quantity of the exotic herb, and having boiled it till they supposed "it was done," they dipped it out and sipped of it, but doubtless found it less palatable than their favorite beverage. Tea had become in considerable use before the revolutionary war. During this struggle, the drinking of foreign tea was deemed a crime, and many adopted the use of what was called *Liberty tea*, as a substitute for the Chinese herb. "It was made of four-leaved loosestrife. This plant was pulled up like flax; its stocks, stripped of their leaves, were boiled, and the leaves were put into an iron kettle, and basted with the liquor of the stocks. After this process, the leaves were removed into platters and placed in an oven to dry. A pound of this tea would go as far as one of Souchong." Cider, during the first years, was brought from the old towns. It was a common drink. Wine was a great rarity, and ardent spirits were rather regarded for medicinal purposes than as fit for an article of drink. The latter, however, too soon came into use, and so early as 1771 the town authorized the purchase of eight barrels of New-England rum, to be used by those who assisted in raising the meeting-house. Sugar, which was known in this country as early as 1631, was used by them, as was also molasses, but only in small quantities.

The most common conveyance was by horses fitted out with saddles and pillions. Two could ride in this way the same animal, and oftentimes an infant was superadded. A few years before the revolutionary war, it began to be the practice to trot horses. Previously, these animals had paced. The first or second chaise brought into town was owned by Mr. Benjamin Kendrick, and he rode in it until he was 86 years old. As late as 1810, he journeyed with it to

Boston and its neighborhood. It presented such an antique appearance, that it was often called the "old ark." The first store in town was kept by John Wilkins, son of the minister. Capt. Ephraim Hildreth was landlord of the first tavern, and Jonathan Smith of the second. The latter was kept where the late Hon. J. K. Smith lived, and the old bar remained until about 1827.

1735. On the 8 of January, the proprietors granted to Richard Mower liberty to draw lot No. 21, upon the conditions that he should, within eighteen months, build a convenient house of entertainment, fence in a pasture of six or eight acres, and provide a sufficient ferry boat to transport any of the proprietors over Souhegan river. On the first of May, a committee was appointed to take a view of the township, and locate a spot for a meeting-house, burial ground and training-field. A tract of land containing thirteen acres and one hundred and forty rods, was designated for these purposes. Measures were taken this year to build a bridge over Souhegan river. It was also voted that a convenient meeting-house be built on that piece or plat of ground laid out for that purpose.

In 1736, a person was appointed to wait on the selectmen of Nashua, then Dunstable, and request them to lay out a highway from Nashua river to Souhegan bridge. The bridge over Souhegan river had been built a few months before this time. The committee appointed to build it, agreed with Mr. Tarbell to build it for £95.

1738. On the 14 of February, the proprietors voted to build a meeting-house, 45 feet long and 35 feet wide. It appears to have been raised 16 May, 1739, when Capt. Ebenezer Raymond was desired to make provision for the occasion. It stood upon an eminence about one fourth of a mile from the present meeting-house, between the roads leading to Mont-Vernon and Bedford. After the present house of worship was built, it was converted into a court-house, and was finally burnt by an incendiary in 1790.

1739. A grant of sixty acres of land, adjoining the falls of Souhegan river, was made to Solomon Wilkins upon these conditions: "That he should build a good grist-mill 'and keep it in repair, and at all times supply the inhabitants 'of Souhegan-West with meal when they should bring corn 'to be ground, for the customary and lawful toll." If any

extraordinary casualty should happen, and he neglect to grind for the space of eight months, the privileges granted were to revert to the proprietors. These conditions do not appear to have been fulfilled by him, for a grant with similar conditions was made 30 April, 1741, to John Shepard, afterwards Colonel Shepard. Instead of sixty, there were granted to him one hundred and twenty acres, which extended down the river to the bottom of the falls.

1741. The boundary line between the provinces of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire was settled this year, by which this town came under the jurisdiction of the last named province. "It cut off," says Douglas, "the constituted, but not represented, towns of Rumford, Litchfield, on Merrimack river, with part of Nottingham [now Hudson] and Dunstable; part of Groton and Townsend, part of Northfield; and the districts or grants not incorporated were Herrys Town, Contoocook; the nine townships commonly called the double row of Frontier Towns against the French and their Indian auxiliaries; the row of four townships on the east side of Connecticut river, the row of two townships west side of Connecticut river, Canada to Gallop and others, Canada to Sylvester and others, Lower Ashuelot, Upper Ashuelot, Canada to Rowley, Canada to Salem, Canada to Beverly, Narraganset No. 3, Narraganset No 5, Lane's New-Boston, and the township to Ipswich."

In this year, the proprietors settled the Rev. DANIEL WILKINS. The plantation at this time contained but fourteen families. It seems to have been a primary object in the grants of townships in New-England, that the gospel ministry should be established. Indeed, in the grant of some towns in the early settlement, this seems to have been the principal condition. In the grant of all the Narraganset townships, it was stipulated that the proprietors should settle a learned orthodox minister within the space of seven years. The proprietors of this town at an early period of the settlement manifested a disposition to have the inhabitants enjoy the ordinances of God. In December, 1738, they voted that the inhabitants should receive £20 from the treasury, "toward their having the word of God preached among them for the ensuing six months." They afterwards voted that the settlers should have fifty shillings for every Sabbath they should have preaching among them.

As an inducement for persons to become inhabitants of this place, the proprietors voted that each settler should receive £20, provided he had complied with the conditions required by the grant of the general court. It was necessary that sixty families should be settled here before the expiration of seven years, but it may be supposed that the time was extended to a longer period, for in 1747 the proprietors chose a committee to adopt measures which "should oblige sixty families (with those already settled here) to settle immediately, or procure some to settle here for them."

1753. A bridge over Souhegan river, near Milford mills, was erected about this time. Several public roads were laid out this year; one from Salem-Canada [now Lyndeborough] to Milford bridge, and another from the bridge to the meeting-house. The road from Lovejoy's bridge, and from Small's and Sawyer's, were laid out about the same time.

Near this period, there were seven garrisoned houses, which afforded places of security to the inhabitants in times of alarm and danger. Besides these, there was, according to Douglas, a fort, or block-house, which was maintained at the public expense. The Indians at this time made frequent irruptions on the frontiers, destroying the fruits of industry and making captives of the settlers. Though Amherst was for some time one of the frontier towns, and exposed to their incursions, yet it is not recollected that they ever committed much mischief in this place; nor is there recorded any account of their killing any person within the precincts of the town. It is believed there were few or no Indians in town at the arrival of the first settlers. There had been a considerable number, and some of their *wigwams* were then visible. They had dwelt principally upon the river; and human bones, supposed to be those of Indians, have been washed from its banks within the recollection of the most aged inhabitants. The name of the river is derived from the Indians, and signifies, it has been said, *crooked*. Like many other Indian names, it has changed its orthography, but retains the pronunciation familiar to our earliest inhabitants. Its most ancient name was *Souhegenack*. It was explored before the year 1683, and some grants of land, situated on its banks, were made by the government of Massachusetts prior to that time. At a subse-

quent period, the vicinity of this river was examined in search of metallic ores and minerals. Mr. Baden, an ingenious miner and assayer, was sent over to New-England by a company of gentlemen in England, for this purpose. Lead ore was found near this river and the Merrimack, "but not plenty, and so intermixed with rock and spar as not worth working."*

1754. Great alarm was caused by the commencement of hostilities between the English and French. The war broke out in the western part of Virginia; and no sooner had the alarm spread through the country, than the Indians renewed their attacks on the frontiers of New-Hampshire. In this, and the five succeeding years, they attacked the towns of Salisbury, Charlestown, Hopkinton, Keene, Walpole, Hinsdale and Winchester, in which places more or less persons were killed, and numbers were made prisoners. Their nearest approach to Amherst was at Peterborough and Hillsborough. The inhabitants from the last named town were obliged to leave their settlements. Amherst furnished its proportion of brave soldiers in this war, and several of the inhabitants belonged to the *ranging companies*, which were so "eminently useful in scouring the woods, procuring intelligence, and skirmishing with detached parties of the enemy."†

1760. The close of the French war filled the hearts of the people with joy. Gov. Hutchinson remarks, that "the 'greatest hopes from the reduction of Canada, as far as 'could be judged from the public prayers of the clergy, 'as well as from the conversation of people in general, was 'to sit quiet under their own vines and fig trees, and to 'have none to make them afraid.' All they had ever suffered, as a community, had been from their French and 'Indian neighbors. In every respect, except the charges 'which had been occasioned by Indian wars, they had felt 'less of the burdens of government than any people besides, 'who enjoyed so much of the benefit of it."‡ The apprehension from the French and Indians was much greater on the frontiers than in the old towns bordering on the sea-coast.

* Douglas, Summary, Hist. and Polit. II. 108.

† Belknap, Hist. N. H. Vol. I. 316, edit. of 1830.

‡ Hist. of Massachusetts, III. 84.

Hence the joy of the frontier settlements, and of those which had suffered from the incursions of the enemy, would be almost unbounded ; believing as they did, that no hostile hordes from Canada would again invade their peaceful possessions. A period of prosperity followed this event. Greater attention was paid to agriculture ; manufactures in many places received a new impulse ; commerce again revived, and new settlements were multiplied. In this and the following year, twenty-three townships were incorporated in New-Hampshire.

The charter of the town, signed by Benning Wentworth, governor of the province, was granted 18 January, 1760. It now exchanged the name of *Souhegan-West* for AMHERST, which name was given to it in honor of Jeffrey, Lord Amherst,* commander of the British army at the conquest of Canada. This distinguished general and nobleman, who sustained many important offices in England, died at his seat in Kent, 3 August, 1797, at the age of 80.

The first meeting under the charter was holden on the 20 of February. Colonel John Goffe, of Bedford, afterwards the first representative of the town, who had been authorized to call the first meeting of the inhabitants, presided as moderator. Solomon Hutchinson was chosen town clerk. William Bradford, Reuben Mussey, Joseph Gould, Thomas Clark, and the town clerk, were chosen the first selectmen. Soon after the town was chartered, the inhabitants at a public meeting chose Rev. Mr. Wilkins for their minister, and voted him an annual salary of forty-seven pounds, ten shillings, sterling money of Great Britain, (\$211,) or an equivalent in the currency of the province, upon the standard of Indian corn at two shillings per bushel, and pork two pence half penny per pound, sterling. A committee was chosen to present to Mr. Wilkins the votes of the town on this occasion, to whom he made a written reply at the same meeting, containing his acceptance of their offer.

The whole territory of Amherst at this time lay upon the

* The name *Amherst* is derived from Hamo de Herst, as appears from Collins' Peerage, VIII. 337, who cites Philphot, page 5. There are eight places in North America of the name of Amherst, viz. 1, A town in Cumberland county, Nova Scotia ; 2, a town in Hampshire county, Massachusetts ; 3, a town in Niagara county, New-York ; 4, a county in Virginia ; 5, a village in the same county ; 6, one of the Magdalen islands, in the gulf of St. Lawrence ; 7, a small island at the eastern end of Lake Ontario ; and 8, the town to which this Sketch relates.

northern side of Souhegan river. Its boundaries commenced at the river, "thence running north one degree west, 'on the townships of Merrimack and Bedford, six miles; 'thence running west on Bedford and a tract of land called 'New-Boston, six miles; then south about five miles and a 'half, to Souhegan aforesaid; then by said river to the place 'where it began."

1761. The year 1761 was distinguished by a very severe drought, which operated severely on the frontier towns. The crops were cut short so as to render supplies from abroad absolutely necessary.* The following instance of its effects is well authenticated. A man of the name of Clark, belonging to this town, went on foot to Charlestown, Massachusetts, and purchased from a vessel near the ferry, a bushel of corn, which he brought on his back to Lovewell's mills in Nashua, where he had it ground into meal, and from thence in the same manner he brought it home. The whole distance was 50 miles.

1763. The last meeting of the proprietors on record was holden 14 March, 1763. The proprietors' clerk, Major Joshua Hicks, of Salem, had deceased, and the records and papers of the propriety were in possession of his executors. It appears that they could not be obtained without commencing a suit against them. A committee was accordingly chosen to commence an action against his executors, for the recovery of the records, plans, &c. The favorable termination of this suit placed in the hands of the committee the records and a few of the plans, but a number of valuable papers were never obtained. The propriety was not dissolved till about the year 1771, when the fourth division of lots was laid out by a committee appointed by the proprietors.

1770. The charter annexing a part of Monson to Amherst, was read and published at a public town-meeting, 13 September, 1770. Monson was a small town, granted by Massachusetts before 1740, situated between Hollis and Amherst. The inhabitants made application to be annexed to Amherst a few years after the latter was incorporated. At that time the inhabitants of Amherst opposed the annexation, but at a meeting, 10 April, 1766, they voted that a part within certain described limits might be annexed, provided Monson would be at the expense. Accordingly, a charter

* Holmes, *Annals of America*, II. 109.

was granted to annex to Amherst that part of Monson included in these limits: "From Souhegan river, southerly 'by the town of Merrimack, two miles; from thence west 'to the west line of Monson; from thence northerly to the 'river, and from this point down the river to the first place 'mentioned."

About this time the inhabitants were much annoyed with wolves, which at length became so troublesome, that about thirty or forty persons collected—and having traced them to a swamp, surrounded it, and kept up a continual firing of guns during the greater part of a day. Several of the wolves made their escape through some of the avenues leading to the swamp, and the rest soon after decamped, and little or no further mischief was ever done in town by these ferocious and mischievous animals. Dr. Morse, in his Gazetteer, embellishes the account by stating that drums were an accompaniment in this transaction; but Daniel Campbell, Esq., who was present at the time, assures me that fire arms only were used to frighten the wolves. The swamp was more than a mile about N. W. from the village, and near where Dea. S. Wilkins formerly resided.

1771. In 1771, the province of New-Hampshire was divided into five counties. This event, more than any other that preceded it, contributed to the importance and popularity of this place. Being selected as the shire town, having the principal offices of the county kept here*, and six courts during the year, it acquired a degree of importance which it had before unknown. Here was the first public administration of justice in the county. Before this time, every cause, even from the remotest part of the province, was carried to Portsmouth, where the public offices were filled principally by the friends of the governor. "Frequent complaints were made of partiality, and the practice of *watering the jury* was familiarly known to those persons who 'had much business in the law.'"† The first courts were holden at the dwelling-house of Mr. Jonathan Smith; but in December the inhabitants voted to give the justices of the courts of general sessions of the peace for the county

* The office of Register of Deeds was kept a few years at Hollis, but upon the resignation of Major Hobart it was removed to this town. Moses Nichols succeeded Samuel Hobart, Esq. in 1776. Jonathan Smith, Isaac Brooks and Ezra Prescott, Esquires, have been the successors of General Nichols.

† Belknap, Hist. of N. H. vol. III. first edition.

the old meeting-house, on the condition that the said justices should cause a new county gaol to be erected, within 160 rods of the house as it then stood. The present meeting-house was erected in 1771,* but was not consecrated to divine worship until 1774. Rev. Mr. Wilkins delivered the dedication sermon, in which he noticed the early transactions of the settlement. This sermon, which doubtless would have afforded information valuable to posterity, and would have added to the facts exhibited in this Sketch, is supposed to be irrecoverably lost.

1775. The number of inhabitants, according to an enumeration made in 1775, amounted to 1428.

About this time Amherst was deprived of the active professional services of a very useful citizen, in the removal of Dr. Seth Ames, who had resided in this place several years, and practised physic with great reputation. He was brother to the celebrated Fisher Ames, and was possessed of a portion of that genius which shone with such distinguished lustre in that eminent statesman. He graduated at Harvard College in 1764, in the same class with John Wilkins, a son of Rev. Mr. Wilkins, and is represented by those who recollect him, as a person of brilliant talents, and calculated to render important services to the community. His removal from town was occasioned by the failure of his health, which was occasioned by the immoderate use of snuff. He went to his friends in Dedham, where he died 1 January, 1778, aged 35.

The year 1775 is distinguished for the commencement of hostilities between this country and Great Britain. The government at this time consisted of committees and conventions, to which necessity induced obedience. The first convention after affairs had assumed a threatening aspect, met at Exeter in 1774. Paul Dudley Sargeant represented this town in that convention. In the same year, Benjamin Kendrick,† Daniel Campbell,‡ and Paul D. Sargeant|| were chosen delegates for this town to another convention. They

* 1771, 26 Aug. A committee was chosen to purchase New-England rum, not exceeding eight barrels, and one barrel of brown sugar, for raising the meeting-house.—*Town Records*.

† Benjamin Kendrick, a worthy citizen of Amherst, died 13 November, 1812, in his 89th year.

‡ Daniel Campbell, Esq. the oldest person now living in Amherst, entered his 99th year in June, 1836.

|| Hon. Paul D. Sargeant died at Sullivan, in Maine, September, 1827, aged 83.

were directed and instructed, "to use their endeavors to secure peace and good order in the town, and use their utmost efforts to diffuse peace and good order throughout the community, and excite in the minds of the people a due respect to all just measures that might be recommended by the grand Congress of Philadelphia." These gentlemen were re-chosen in March, 1775, for the same purposes. In the revolutionary war, this town had a large number of citizens, who united in opposing the oppressive measures of Great Britain. The inhabitants not only opposed their restrictive measures, but they treated those with rigor who did not. Such was the temperament of the public mind in this vicinity, that those (and the number was but small) who were suspected of favoring the royal cause, were treated with a severity which might be considered reprehensible, where freedom of opinion was tolerated. Heresy in political opinion generated popular excesses, to which no effectual remedy could be administered. The inhabitants of the town were ardent in the cause of liberty. They manifested their ardor and patriotism by a ready compliance with the requisitions of the continental congress, and the orders of the provincial conventions. When war actually commenced, by the attack of the British troops on the inhabitants of Lexington, this town furnished a company of soldiers, under the command of Capt. Josiah Crosby, who marched to the scene of action, and arrived there on the day following the "opening of the great drama." Amherst furnished its full proportion of men for the military service of the United States. It appears from an authentic document, that prior to the first of April, 1777, one hundred and twenty persons were engaged, among whom were two colonels, one major, five captains, and nine subaltern officers.

That event which is annually celebrated in our country as the birth-day of the nation, was proclaimed by Moses Kelly, Esq., sheriff of the county, with "beat of drum," on the 18 July, 1776, from the rock which stood near the meeting-house before its late removal.

It seems unnecessary to record the proceedings of the town in reference to the various events of the revolutionary war. It needs scarcely to be remarked, that the inhabitants encountered a full share of the hardships and difficulties which were endured by the people generally in New-Hamp-

shire. During the first four years of its continuance, about one in seventy of the inhabitants were killed or died while in service. The following is a list of those who were killed or died in the revolutionary war, from the battle of Bunker Hill to November, 1779. It was prepared by the late Robert B. Wilkins, a lieutenant in the army, and published in the Farmer's Cabinet, in 1829.

"*Benjamin Taylor*, captain, died at Medford, Mass., in February, 1776, of dysentery. *Daniel Wilkins*, captain, died in July, 1776, at Crown Point, N. Y., of small pox. He was son of Rev. Daniel Wilkins. *Archelaus Towne*, captain, died in November, 1779, at Fishkill, N. Y., of dysentery and fever. *Joseph Bradford*, lieutenant, died in July, 1775, at Medford, Mass., of dysentery. *David Ramsey*, sergeant, died in November, 1775, at Amherst. He was carried home sick, and died of a quick consumption. *Benjamin Dyke*, sergeant, died 19 September, 1777, at Bemis' Heights, N. Y. Killed in battle. *Sylvester Wilkins*, sergeant, died in November, 1779, at Easton, Penn., of dysentery and fever. *John Cole*, private, died at Charlestown, 17 June, 1775. Killed on Bunker Hill. *James M' Graw*, private, died at Charlestown, 17 June, 1775. Killed on Bunker Hill. *James Hutchinson*, private, died at Medford, 28 June, 1775; mortally wounded on Charlestown Neck, 18 June, 1775. *Eben. Wincol Wright*, private, died at Cambridge, in November, 1775, of dysentery. *Nourse Sawyer*, *Daniel Weare*, *Jonathan Towne*, and *William Jones*, privates, all died at Crown Point, N. Y., in July, 1776, of small pox. *Jeremiah Lampson*, private, died at Fort George, N. Y., in August, 1776, of a fever. *William H. Wilkins* and *Richard Goodman*, privates, died at Yellow Springs, Penn., in March, 1778, of fever. Wilkins was brother to Capt. Daniel Wilkins, named above. *Asa Lewis*, private, died at Bennington, Vt., in August, 1777. Killed in battle. He belonged to the venerable Capt. John Bradford's company, [who died at Hancock, 27 June, 1836, aged 93.] *Joseph Davis*, private, died at Chemung, Indian country. Killed by the hostile Indians, when under General Sullivan. *Primus Chandler*, private, was taken prisoner by the Indians at Fort Cedars, Canada, in May, 1776, and not heard of afterwards. He was a man of color." Total 21.

Besides the loss of the lives of so many persons, most of

whom were in their prime of vigor and usefulness, the expense of the revolutionary war to this town, from the 19 of April, 1775, till the treaty of peace, in 1783, is stated in the town records to be £3511, lawful money, in addition to any bounties, travel or wages, given or promised by the state, or the United States.*

1788. The convention elected to decide the important question of ratifying or rejecting the constitution of the United States, assembled at Exeter in February of this year. The delegate from this town was the Hon. Joshua Atherton, who was opposed to its ratification. He opposed it on several accounts, but especially on account of its supposed recognition of slavery, and its permitting the slave trade to continue until the year 1808. On this clause, in the first article of the constitution, he made a speech, which is almost the only one made in that convention which has been transmitted to us, and which is doubly interesting from the circumstance that the records of the convention are lost. A copy of it is here subjoined. The clause under consideration, and which caused some debate, was the following :

“ The migration or importation of such persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year 1808, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.”—*Const. of U. S.* ART. I. SECT. 9.

Mr. Dow, the delegate from Weare, who belonged to the denomination of Friends, spoke very sensibly and feelingly against this paragraph. Several members on the other side spoke in favor of it, with remarks on what Mr. Dow had said, after which Mr. Atherton spoke as follows :

“ Mr. President—I cannot be of the opinion of the honorable gentleman who last spoke, that this paragraph is either so unjust, or so inoffensive, as they seem to imagine, or that the objections to it are so totally void of foundation. The idea that strikes those who are opposed to this clause so disagreeably and so forcibly, is, hereby it is conceived (if we ratify the constitution) that we become *consenters to*, and *partakers in*, the sin and guilt of this abominable traffic, at least for a certain period,† without any positive stipulation

* See Appendix, No. II.

† It is a remarkable fact and deserves remembrance, that notwithstanding the repeated assertions made in our days, that the southern colonies had slavery fastened upon them against their will, by the British government, and would gladly have got rid of the evil, they insisted, at the formation of the federal constitution, that no restriction should be put upon the importation of slaves for the succeeding TWENTY YEARS !

that it shall even then be brought to an end. We do not behold in it that valuable acquisition, so much boasted of by the honorable member from Portsmouth—[the name of this Portsmouth member has not been handed down to us] ‘*that an end is then to be put to slavery.*’ Congress may be as much or more puzzled to put a stop to it then, than we are now. The clause has not secured its abolition.

“We do not think we are under any obligation to perform works of supererogation in the reformation of mankind: we do not esteem ourselves under any necessity to go to Spain or Italy to suppress the Inquisition of those countries; or of making a journey to the Carolinas to abolish the detestable custom of enslaving the Africans; but, sir, we will not lend the aid of our ratification to this cruel and inhuman merchandize, not even for a day. There is a great distinction in not taking a part in the most barbarous violation of the sacred laws of God and humanity, and our becoming guarantees for its exercise for a term of years. Yes, sir, it is our full purpose to wash our hands clear of it; and however unconcerned spectators we may remain of such predatory infractions of the laws of our nation, however unfeeling we may subscribe to the ratification of manstealing, with all its baneful consequences, yet I cannot but believe, in justice to human nature, that if we reverse the consideration, and bring this claimed power somewhat nearer to our own doors, we shall form a more equitable opinion of its claim to this ratification.

“Let us figure to ourselves a company of these manstealers, well equipped for the enterprize, arriving on our coast. They seize or carry off the whole or a part of the town of Exeter. Parents are taken and children left; or, possibly, they may be so fortunate as to have a whole family taken and carried off together by these relentless robbers. What must be their feelings in the hands of their new and arbitrary masters! Dragged at once from every thing they held dear to them; stripped of every comfort of life, like beasts of prey, they are hurried on a loathsome and distressing voyage to the coast of Africa, or some other quarter of the globe, where the greatest price may waft them; and here, if any thing can be added to their miseries, comes on the heart-breaking scene! a parent is sold to one—a son to another, and a daughter to a third. Brother is cleft from brother—sister from sister—and parents from their darling offspring. Broken with every distress that human nature can feel, and bedewed with tears of anguish, they are dragged into the last stage of depression and slavery, never, never to behold the faces of one another again. The scene is too affecting—I have not fortitude to pursue the subject.”

The question of ratification was not decided until the adjourned meeting of the convention at Concord, in June following, when there appeared to be a majority of only eleven in favor of its adoption.

1790. The Aurean Academy in this town was incorporated this year. The late Charles Walker, Esq., of Concord, was the first preceptor. His successors were Daniel Staniford, Henry Moore, Jesse Appleton, afterwards president of Bowdoin College, Thomas Cole, and several others. As evidence of the flourishing state of this seminary, the following flattering account of a visitation of it by the president and trustees, on the 17 March, 1795, is given: "On Tuesday last, the president and trustees of the Aurean Academy attended an examination of the students of said institution, and were happy to announce their pleasure and satisfaction at the progress and manly conduct of the students. The propriety and promptitude of their answers to the many questions proposed to them in arithmetic, English grammar, geography, &c., would have done honor to the finished scholar. The execution of their manuscripts, their elocution, and recitations in the languages, were equal to their most sanguine expectations."* It discontinued in 1801, for want of adequate funds.

On the 23 May, died the Hon. MOSES NICHOLS, of this town. He was a native of Reading, Massachusetts. He had served his townsmen in the capacity of delegate to the convention which assembled in 1778 for forming a permanent plan, or system of government, on certain established principles, and a representative to the general court three years. Ardently attached to the principles of liberty, he took a conspicuous part in the revolution which established our independence. He was appointed colonel of the 6th regiment of militia, 6 December, 1776, and commanded a regiment under General Stark, and was in the engagement at Bennington.† Besides his military services, he was useful as a physician in this place, where he practised many years. He was register of deeds for the county of Hillsborough, from 1776 to his death. This office, with many others of trust and responsibility, it is believed he discharged with fidelity. Gen. Nichols left nine children—Hannah, Moses, Joseph, Elizabeth, Eaton, Perkins, Mary, Pearson and Charity. Moses is a physician, and resides in Sherbrooke, Lower Canada.

The number of inhabitants, according to the census taken this year, was 2369. Of this number, 1470 belonged to the first parish. The number of colored persons was 33.

* Amherst Journal, March, 1795. † Belknap, Hist. of N. H. ed. of 1830.

1792. The number of voters in the first parish this year was 227; in the north-west parish, 109; total 336. The number of ratable polls was 231, of whom 144 had either left town or died before May, 1813. John Patterson and others in the north-east part of the town "petitioned to be set off as a separate town." A committee, consisting of Joshua Atherton, Samuel Dana, Daniel Campbell and Daniel Warner, Esquires, was appointed to consider of their request, and report on it. They reported favorably to the prayer of the petitioners, provided the latter would procure an act of incorporation without incurring any expense to the town. No separation of this part of Amherst has ever taken place.

1794. The June session of the legislature was held in the meeting-house. Governor Gilman for the first time came to the office of chief magistrate.

The south-west parish of Amherst having petitioned the last year to be detached as a separate town, obtained their request, and was incorporated 11 January, this year; by the name of MILFORD.* That town was formed by taking the Mile Slip, the Duxbury School Farm, part of Hollis and part of Amherst. About eighty families were taken from this town.

1795. NEWSPAPERS. The first printing establishment in the county was set up in this town by Nathaniel Coverly. On the 16 January, he commenced the publication of a newspaper, called the "Amherst Journal and New-Hampshire Advertiser," which was continued by him and his son till the close of the year. It was succeeded on the 6 of January, 1796, by the "Village Messenger," edited by William Biglow, a graduate of Harvard College, and by Samuel Cushing. Mr. Biglow, who is known as author of several elementary works for schools, and for his Histories of Natick and Sherburne, Mass., continued his editorial labors but a short time. Mr. Cushing published it till 18 April, 1797, when Samuel Preston succeeded, who closed the publication of this paper 5 December, 1801, completing 310 numbers from its establishment. "The Farmer's Cabinet" succeed-

* "The petition of Augustus Blanchard and others, a committee of the south-west parish in Amherst, of Nehemiah Hayward and others, a committee from Mile-Slip and Duxbury, and of Edward Foster and others, inhabitants of the northerly part of Hollis, praying to be incorporated into a town, was read, [3 January, 1794,] and leave given to bring in a bill."—*Journal of the House of Representatives*, 1793—4.

ed the Messenger, 11 November, 1802. It was edited and printed by Joseph Cushing, now of Baltimore, in Maryland, till October, 1809, when Richard Boylston, the present editor, succeeded to the establishment, and who has been the sole editor and publisher for more than twenty-seven years.* The "Hillsboro' Telegraph" was commenced by Elijah Mansur, 1 January, 1820, and discontinued 13 July, 1822. The "Amherst Herald," published by Thomas G. Wells and Nathan K. Seaton, commenced 1 January, 1825, and discontinued in December, the same year, being united with the New-Hampshire Statesman & Concord Register.

The Piscataqua Evangelical Magazine, a respectable religious periodical, was published at Amherst by Mr. Cushing in the years 1806, 1807, and two numbers in 1808, when it discontinued. It was of octavo size, and a number was issued in every two months. Dr. Curtis's New-Hampshire Register, also printed by Mr. Cushing, was published here from 1804 to 1809, inclusive. These are all the periodicals which have been published in this town.

1797. The Benevolent Lodge of free and accepted masons was constituted on the 10 of August. Samuel Dana was installed master, Jonathan Gove, senior warden, and Luther Dana, junior warden. The ceremonies on this occasion were novel and imposing, and drew together a large concourse of people. The deputy grand master of this state, and other officers of the grand lodge, attended, and were met by the deputy grand master of the grand lodge of Massachusetts, "all in their regalia."† A discourse was delivered by Rev. William Bentley, of Salem, and an address was made to the grand lodges of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire, by the master of the new constituted lodge.‡

* The Cabinet for a long series of years has been one of the best family newspapers in the state, and has exerted a very salutary influence by means of its moral and religious department. Mr. Boylston has published, without change of editor or proprietor, a newspaper for a longer period than any other printer who has been settled in New-Hampshire; and we hope he will long pursue "the even tenor of his way." Mr. Prentiss of Keene has published the Sentinel about eleven years longer than Mr. B. has published the Cabinet, but for part of the time he has had an associate.

† Village Messenger, of August, 1797, where is a full account of the services.

‡ From this address of Judge Dana the following extract is made.—"In this state we have a striking display of the increase of population. But little more than half a century since, to wit., at the time of the settlement of Rev. Mr. Wilkins, [1741] lately deceased, this town did not contain twenty families: and to the north, not a single family of white people between Connecticut and Merrimack river, to the settlements of Canada, except a few on the banks of those rivers."

1798. The Hon. SAMUEL DANA, who had resided here about sixteen years, departed this life 2 April, in the 60th year of his age. Of one who filled so many important stations in society, it seems proper to give some memorial of respect. He was born in that part of Cambridge, Massachusetts, which has since become Brighton, 14 January, 1739, and was educated at Harvard College in the same class with Gov. Wentworth, Judge David Sewall, President Adams, and other distinguished characters. He was graduated in 1755, and was ordained the minister of Groton, Massachusetts, 3 June, 1761. Here he continued till 1775, when, on account of "some supposed political heresy respecting our contest with Great Britain," his pastoral connexions were dissolved. "From this time, for some years, he was without any settled professional employment, or steady pursuit. But his talents were too well calculated for usefulness in life to suffer him long to continue in obscurity. In 1783 he was admitted and sworn as a practising attorney in the courts of law. His eminence, his integrity, and his attachment to the interest of his employers in this profession, are so fully known to this audience as to render encomium superfluous. It is sufficient to say, that such was the general satisfaction with his services, that he continued in full practice till the time of his decease. In 1789, on the 9 January, he was appointed by the supreme executive of this state to the office of judge of probate for the county of Hillsborough. The important duties of that appointment he discharged with fidelity. Finding, however, that it interfered with his principal pursuit, and that the emolument bore no proportion to the toil, he relinquished the office in a few years. In 1793, he was called to the dignity of senator in the state legislature. In that character, he took an active part in support of the law for abolishing the courts of sessions—a law which brought about an important and salutary revolution in the judicial system of this government. Many other offices of less note, some of which, however, were important, he discharged with reputation to himself and advantage to the community. In domestic life, he was no less distinguished for his virtues. Serenity of mind, conjugal tenderness and parental affection, were eminent traits in his character."* Judge Dana married

* Hon. Timothy Bigelow's oration at his interment. See Hon. Charles H. Atherton's Memoir of Judge Dana, in the Coll. of N. H. Hist. Soc. II. 9—23.

Anna Kenrick, daughter of John Kenrick, of Newton, Mass., in 1762. She died at Amherst, 16 October, 1810, aged 68. They had three sons: Luther, many years master of a vessel, who died at fort Preble, in Portland harbor, in February, 1832; Samuel, of Groton, Mass. who was a lawyer, senator and judge, and died at Charlestown, Mass., 20 November, 1835, aged 68; James Green, a lawyer, and five daughters, who have all deceased.

On the 15 of August, a rendezvous for the enlistment of soldiers, agreeably to the act of Congress, was opened in this place, being the first here under the federal government. The company formed about this place belonged to the 16th U. S. regiment, of which Rufus Graves, Esq. was colonel.

1802. In 1802, the town sustained a loss in the death of the Hon. WILLIAM GORDON, who died at Boston, 8 May, at the age of 39. At an early age, he entered Harvard College, and received its honors in 1779. He engaged in a learned and arduous profession, in which his talents and integrity soon procured him an ample portion of business and fame. He had been a senator in the state legislature, a representative to Congress, and at the time of his death was attorney-general of the state of New-Hampshire. He was son of Capt. William Gordon, and grandson of James Gordon, Esq., of Boston. The last named was son of James Gordon, land and tide surveyor in Stranraer, a borough in Wigtonshire, on Loch Ryan, in Scotland, who was of "a good ancient family." The character of Mr. Gordon was thus delineated in the papers of the day. "His mind was not less adorned with learning than his heart with every manly virtue. His friendship was sincere—his benevolence active. Integrity, constancy and truth marked his character. An independence of spirit, a purity of morals, and correctness of thought raised him above the prejudices of party, the meanness of avarice, and the frowns and flatteries of the world."* Mr. Gordon married Frances, daughter of Hon. Joshua Atherton, and left one son, William Gordon, who was graduated at Harvard College in 1806.

The north-west part of the town having been a separate parish more than twenty years, about this time requested to be set off as a separate town. It was accordingly incorpo-

* Portsmouth Oracle, Vol. xii. No. 33.

rated by the legislature on the 15 December, 1803, by the name of MONT VERNON.

1805. The Handellian Musical Society was incorporated in June, this year, for the purpose of introducing a better taste in sacred music. Its professed objects were, to cultivate the art of music—to acquire and diffuse a correct taste—and to enjoy the refined pleasures of melody and harmony. For some time previous to the formation of this society, insipidity and bombast were permitted to prevail in our churches, and the most delightful part of divine worship became polluted with unhallowed strains. To the members of this society, who belonged principally to this and the adjoining towns, great credit was due for their exertions in checking a false and depraved taste, and in effecting a desirable reformation in church music.

1806. BANKS. The Hillsborough Bank, of unfortunate notoriety, was incorporated 18 June, for twenty years, with the privilege of a capital from \$50,000 to \$200,000. The first bills were issued 17 October. Its operations were suspended in 1809. Payment of bills was refused in August. The Farmers' Bank was incorporated 3 July, 1822; has a capital from \$50,000 to \$200,000.

1807. The only literary society which has ever existed in town, was formed this year, for the purpose of advancing literary improvement; but like other institutions of a similar kind, formed under similar circumstances, it has passed away and left few traces behind. It was, however, of sufficient consequence and importance as to deserve some notice in this sketch. It consisted of an association of literary gentlemen, who met every second Wednesday, when discussion of literary subjects, declamation, and original composition, constituted the regular exercises. The neighboring clergy, most of whom were honorary members, frequently attended, and took part in the exercises. A library of well selected books, consisting of 240 volumes, augmented by a quarterly assessment on the members, belonged to the society; but this valuable stock of literature was sold at public auction in May, 1818. The whole number of members since the organization to the dissolution of the society, was about sixty, of whom more than one half were liberally educated.*

* This having been one of the first literary societies of the kind in the State,

1810. The census of the county of Hillsborough for this period was taken by Col. Daniel Warner,* who had been employed by government in that service in 1790 and 1800. The number of inhabitants was 1554. Of the *males*, 228 were under ten years; 131 from ten to sixteen; 148 from sixteen to twenty-six; 130 from twenty-six to forty-five, and 123 of forty-five and upwards. Of the *females*, 214 were under 10; 122 from ten to sixteen; 153 from sixteen to twenty-six; 145 from twenty-six to forty-five; and 150 of forty-five and upwards.

1820. The census at this time was taken by John Secombe, Esq. The number of inhabitants was found to have increased only eighteen in ten years. The males and females under ten years were 203 and 202; between ten and sixteen years, 125 and 116; between sixteen and twenty-six years, 150 and 172; between twenty-six and forty-five, 141 and 186; and of forty-five and upwards, 157 and 164. Total, 776 males and 840 females. The number of foreigners was 7: 404 persons were engaged in agriculture, 10 in commerce, 122 in manufactures. Persons not taxed were 52; others, 6.

1823. HON. ROBERT MEANS, one of the oldest and most respected merchants in this town or in the state, died on the 24 of January, in the 81st year of his age. He was a native of Stewartstown, in the county of Tyrone, in Ulster, Ireland, where he was born 28 August, 1742. He came to this country in 1766, and by his industry and application to business, he acquired a large property. In the years 1783,

it is judged proper to give the names of the acting members. Those to whose names a star is prefixed have died. *Herman Abbot, Samuel Abbot, Abraham Andrews, Ch. H. Atherton, John P. Batchelder, *John Burnam, Joseph Bell, William Claggett, Nathan K. Clough, Joseph Cushing, Elisha E. Elam, Caleb Emerson, Luther Farley, John Farmer, Allen Fisk, Benj. F. French, William Gordon, Alonzo S. Grenville, *Levi Hartshorn, Isaac Hill, *Jacob Holmes, Joshua Holt, Eugene Hutchinson, George Kimball, Joseph B. Manning, *David M'G. Means, *William F. Morrison, *Harrison G. Otis, jr., Edmund Parker, James Perkins, Robert Read, David Secombe, Matthias Spalding, Gustavus Swan, Ebenezer Taylor, Henry J. Tudor, Andrew Wallace.—*Records of the Society.*

* Col. DANIEL WARNER was a man of considerable influence and usefulness in Amherst. He was descended from an ancient family in Ipswich, Massachusetts, where he was born 25 June, 1745. After residing in the town of Nashua, then Dunstable, some years, he settled in Amherst, where he died 20 March, 1813, in his 68th year. His widow survived until March, 1833. His son Daniel died while a member of Harvard College. John, another son, died while in service in the last war with Great Britain.

1784 and 1789, he was elected a representative to the general court from this town, where he settled prior to the revolution. Three years he was a member of the senate, and in 1786, filled the office of counsellor for Hillsborough county. Col. Means married Mary, daughter of Rev. David McGregore, of Londonderry, and she is still living. They had sons, Thomas, who died at the south; David McGregore, who died 5 March, 1835, aged 54, leaving three sons and six daughters; Robert, who resides at Lowell, Massachusetts; Mary, who married Hon. Jeremiah Mason, of Boston, formerly of Portsmouth; Elizabeth, who married Jesse Appleton, D. D., president of Bowdoin College; Nancy, who married Hon. Caleb Ellis, of Claremont, and afterwards Hon. Amos Lawrence, of Boston; Jane and Mary-Ann, who died of consumption, in 1804 and 1812.

1829. HON. CLIFTON CLAGETT, who had been a resident in Amherst seventeen years, died 29 January, at the age of 66. He was son of Wyseman Clagett, who was attorney-general under the provincial government of New-Hampshire, and was born at Portsmouth, 3 December, 1762. He acquired the profession of law principally under the direction of his father; and having been admitted to practice, settled in the town of Litchfield as early as 1787, where he resided until 1811, when having been appointed judge of probate for the county of Hillsborough, he removed to Amherst. He was representative of Litchfield several years in the legislature, and on his removal to Amherst, represented this town in the year 1816. He was three times, 1802, 1816 and 1818, elected a representative in Congress, and was present at six sessions of the national legislature. He was appointed a justice of the peace and quorum throughout the state, 24 September, 1808, and in 1812 one of the judges of the superior court, and held that office until the alteration of the courts the ensuing year. He received the appointment of judge of probate, 5 August, 1823, on the resignation of Judge Harris. Without any commanding powers, but with the possession of respectable attainments, Judge Clagett gave his constituents and the public generally that satisfaction which has not always been imparted by those of higher acquisitions, or by those of the most popular and splendid talents. He had nine children when he removed to Amherst—one son, William, of Portsmouth, and

eight daughters,—and they all attained adult ages ; but five of the daughters have died, and most of them within a few years past.

1830. The population at this time was 1681. A great improvement was made in taking the fifth decennial census of the United States, especially so far as ages of the people were concerned. The following, presenting a view of the ages of the inhabitants of Amherst, is from the census at the city of Washington, and was furnished by Hon. Robert Burns.

	Un- der 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	Colored Persons.
Males.	124	109	97	99	105	99	62	48	34	24	7	1	Males, 3
Females.	116	94	91	83	134	108	79	48	47	30	11	1	Fem'ls, 3
	240	203	188	182	239	287	171	96	81	54	18	2	

A communication published in the Cabinet in 1833, states that in April, that year, the number of souls was 1630 ; of ratable polls 297. The number of horses was 199 ; of colts, 27 ; of oxen 4 years old, 414 ; of cows 4 years old, 585 ; of young stock, two winters, 436 ; of sheep, 1139, and of neat stock under two years, 436.*

1837. The First Congregational meeting-house, which had for some time been repairing, was completed the last week in December, and re-occupied by the congregation on Sunday, the first day of January. In relation to this event and the circumstances connected with it, we find the following from Mr. Boylston, in his paper of the 6 of January :

“On this occasion the services were adapted to the circumstances, and an appropriate discourse was delivered by the pastor, Rev.

* To this statement the following remarks are made by the writer of the communication referred to.

“It follows that there are two horses to every three ratable polls, or one horse to every eight souls ; a little more than two pairs of oxen to every three ratable polls, or about one pair of oxen to every eight souls. There are nearly two cows to every ratable poll—more than one cow to every three souls. Nearly four sheep to every ratable poll—more than two sheep to every three souls. The whole number of domestic animals, besides dogs and fowls, is twice the number of human souls. The dogs and fowls are probably equal in number to the other animals—making the domestic animals 6482, four times the number of human souls. Civilization is not more unfavorable to the increase of human life than it is to the increase of animal life in the brute creation. How much life in the savage state would the territory now constituting the town of Amherst sustain in a state of nature, compared with what it now supports ? I should answer, not one twentieth. The brute creation, as well as the human race, to say nothing of moral and intellectual culture, are therefore great gainers by civilization.”

Mr. Aiken. He gave a succinct history of the house and of the church; and in connection with the occurrence of the communion season, improved the subject in pertinent remarks, shewing the continued and extended mercy of God to his church and the people, and their obligations to improve aright such merciful kindness and exalted privilege. Every heart responded to the truth of the sentiments inculcated, as evidenced by the deep feeling manifested throughout the congregation.

“The old house was built of most substantial materials, in 1771, and consecrated to divine worship in March, 1774—nearly 63 years since. It was constructed agreeably to the architectural style of those days—and evinced, if not the best taste as to beauty and convenience, a just regard to durability. The enterprize of removing and repairing the house was commenced by the Society in August last, and has been successfully, though perhaps tardily, prosecuted to its termination. The removal of it to its new site has rendered its appearance much improved; and by thus removing it from off the common, has equally tended to improve the prospect of the village. The house, which was of large dimensions and great height, was uncomfortable, and difficult to speak in. It has been remodelled, with a basement story, which furnishes a spacious apartment for a vestry and town hall. The room above for public worship is neatly finished in modern style, its accommodations greatly improved, and its general appearance beautified. The work reflects credit on the Society who projected it, on the committee who superintended, and the contractor, Mr. Jonathan Knight, who executed it. May they all have hearts of gratitude to God for his blessing upon the works of their hands—and ever feel in a spiritual sense that “except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.” May the Lord bless his word and bless his work, so that the glory of this latter house may be more than that of the former, in being made the place where his honor dwells, and the conviction, conversion, and salvation of many souls.”

Having thus noticed the principal events of an interesting character, which have transpired from the first grant of the town, the writer will conclude this division of the Sketch with a few brief remarks.

Harmony and social intercourse have in general prevailed, undisturbed by political or religious feuds. Those animosities which create distrust and jealousy among members of the same society, and which poison the source of domestic comfort, have seldom or never been known here. The inhabitants, much to their honor, their respectability and their happiness, have ever cherished our civil and religious institutions. It is a fact worthy of notice, that the first church

and congregation have never been destitute of a minister during a period of more than ninety-five years, which will carry us back within seven years of the first settlement. No town in the county, and perhaps none in the state, has enjoyed the ministry for so many years in uninterrupted succession.

The learned professions have been filled by several gentlemen of eminence, who have received an honorable support for their services. Many persons of a liberal education have resided here. More than eighty might be enumerated who have had either a permanent or temporary residence in this town. Twenty of its inhabitants* have graduated at Harvard, Dartmouth, and Bowdoin colleges, and one received a degree from Dartmouth University. Four members from this state to Congress resided in Amherst. It has furnished six senators† in the state legislature, two counsellors,‡ one judge of the superior court, two justices of the court of common pleas, and several gentlemen to fill other important and respectable stations. The offices kept in this town, are clerk of the superior court, clerk of the court of common pleas, register of deeds, register of probate, and county treasurer.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

The CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in Amherst was regularly organized on the 22 of September, 1741, when Daniel Wilkins, the pastor elect, Samuel Leman, Israel Towne, Samuel Lampson, Caleb Stiles, and Humphrey Hobbs, united and subscribed the following covenant, which for conciseness in its several articles, and for its comprehending the great points of Christian practice, may serve as a model for modern times.

* See Appendix, No. VI.

† Robert Means, 1786, 1789; Joshua Atherton, 1793; Samuel Dana, who was elected by the legislature, 28 December, 1793, in room of Joshua Atherton, resigned; William Gordon, 1794; Jedidiah K. Smith, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1809; and William Fisk in 1810, 1811, 1812, and 1813.

‡ Hon. Robert Means, 1786; and J. K. Smith in 1810, 1811, 1812 and 1813.

“ We do this day solemnly and explicitly enter into covenant with God, and with one another, in the following manner. In the first place,

“ We give up ourselves to God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, as the only living and true God, and unto Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, Prophet, Priest and King,—avouching the Lord to be our God, and by the assistance of his Holy Spirit to cleave unto this one God and Mediator, as persons in solemn covenant with him.

“ 2. We also promise to give up our natural offspring unto the Lord, solemnly binding ourselves to walk together in the ways of God’s worship, and to cleave to his ordinances according to the rules of his word.

“ 3. We promise to live in the mortification of our own sin, and to endeavor the mortification of it in others, so far as the rules require, and to submit ourselves to the government of Christ in his church, and to obey the orders thereof.

“ 4. We promise to train up all under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

“ 5. We promise to walk before God in our houses, and maintain the worship of God therein.

“ 6. We promise to study to maintain the peace and purity of the worship of God with us, that the blessing of God may be vouchsafed to this part of his heritage.”

On the next day after the organization of the church, Rev. DANIEL WILKINS was ordained. The ecclesiastical council who officiated on the occasion consisted of nineteen ministers and delegates. Rev. Nathaniel Henschman, of Lynn, was moderator of the council. The other clergymen were Rev. Andrew Peters, of Middleton, Rev. James Osgood, of Wenham, Rev. Stephen Chase, of Lynn, by whom the sermon was delivered, and Rev. James Swan, of Dunstable. Six females were admitted to church membership immediately after the ordination. The rite of baptism was administered in September, the next year, to Deborah, daughter of William and Sarah Lancy, which is the first baptism on record. The sacrament was generally administered five times during the year.

The church in Amherst was the third, it is believed, formed within the present limits of Hillsborough county, being preceded by those in Nashua (then Dunstable) and Hudson, (formerly Nottingham-West.)*

* The following is the order of the Congregational churches gathered in

Rev. Mr. Wilkins was from Middleton, in Massachusetts. He received his education at Harvard college, where he graduated in 1736. He was considered a man of respectable talents, and contributed greatly to the prosperity of the town. Though the clergy in his day did not possess the influence which the early ministers of New-England did, yet they were looked upon with great reverence and respect. "In the early periods of the church there subsisted a close connexion between the civil and ecclesiastical orders of the state. Various causes operated at times to diminish the influence of the christian minister. As new settlements were made, parishes were multiplied. The means of subsistence and of knowledge to the pastors of these little flocks were necessarily narrow, and they not unfrequently complained that they prophesied in sackcloth. Want of knowledge and of wealth was consequently want of power. Yet with all their poverty, and the disadvantages of their situation, they possessed their full share of talents and virtue, and were therefore not to be contemned nor neglected. They remembered the views which planted New-England; and, if they had not the learning, they were still animated with the spirit, of their profession. Though the civilians of that day acknowledged and revered their piety, yet they provided with a jealous eye against the increase of hierarchal rule; so that the churches, notwithstanding their professions and boast of independency, were actually under a kind of political control; and on the contrary, through the influence of the clergy, magistrates, who were annually elected, were occasionally displaced when they were thought to have infringed against the rights of the church."*

Hillsborough county before the commencement of the present century.

	<i>Organized.</i>		<i>Organized.</i>		<i>Organized.</i>
Nashua,	1685.	Wilton,	1761.	Hancock,	1788.
Hudson,	1737.	Hillsborough,	1769.	Milford,	1788.
Amherst,	1741.	Goffstown,	1771.	Weare,	1789.
Litchfield,	1741.	Temple,	1771.	Deering,	1789.
Hollis,	1743.	Merrimack,	1772.	Greenfield,	1791.
Pelham,	1751.	Mason,	1772.	Brookline,	1796.
Lyndeborough,	1757.	Francestown,	1773.	Peterborough,	1799.
New-Ipswich,	1761.	Mont-Vernon,	1780.		

* Emerson's History of the First Church in Boston.

For a number of years after the settlement of Mr. Wilkins, the inhabitants of this place experienced the *day of small things*. They were unable to contribute to his support in a manner suited to his clerical character. On this account, he was sometimes pressed into services incompatible with his sacred profession. He assisted in subduing the wilderness, while he administered to the spiritual wants of his parishioners. The labors of agriculture he was sometimes necessitated to perform.

In his theological investigations he had the assistance of a respectable library. The works of Owen, Hammond, and other distinguished divines of the seventeenth century, made a part of it. His books were sold at auction after his decease.

Mr. Wilkins died 11 February, 1783, having had a large family. His children were—John, who was graduated at Harvard College 1764; Samuel, who died at Amherst, 27 December, 1832, aged 90; Daniel, who died at Crown Point, in the U. S. army, July, 1776; Abigail, who married William Peabody, Esq., of Milford, and died 11 February, 1827, aged 81; Jonathan; William-Henry, who died at the Yellow Springs, in Pennsylvania, in the U. S. army, in 1778; Andrew, Sarah, and Andrew, 2d.

The following is a copy of the inscription on the tombstone of Mr. Wilkins, in the old burying ground in Amherst.

“ Ecce addisce vivere.”

“ E R E C T E D

BY THE TOWN OF AMHERST

To the memory of

REV. DANIEL WILKINS,

*Who departed this life Feb. 11, 1783, in the 73d year of his age,
and 42d of his ministry.*

He was a Gentleman of good natural and acquired Abilities; he received the honors of Harvard University at Cambridge in 1636, and was separated to ye. work of ye. Ministry in 1741, at which Time his church consisted only of five male Members, and his Charge of fourteen Families. As a Minister he was laborious; his Public Discourses were liberal and Sentimental; pathetic, solemn and persuasive. He was endowed with a venerable presence and Commanding Voice and an Emphatic Delivery.

“ He had a tender Feeling for his Charge, and was a Partner with them in all their Joys and Sorrows; his conversation with them was Enlightening, Edifying and Comforting.

“He was an Example of Patience and Meekness, and always endeavoured to promote Peace. His natural Temper was remarkably Sweet and pleasant. He had a high relish for ye. refined pleasures of Friendship. His Behaviour was not ceremonious but grave; Yet Sprightly and agreeable. In a word he was a Devoted Minister and Faithful Christian a good companion, a tender Husband, and an indulgent Parent.”

“The Sweet Remembrance of the Just,
“Shall flourish when He sleeps in Dust.”

For some years before his death, Mr. Wilkins had been unable to discharge the duties of his ministry, in consequence of his infirmities. As early as 1778, the church and town invited Mr. John Blydenburgh to settle as a colleague with him in the ministry. The subject of a settlement was referred to a committee, who reported very liberal proposals* considering the situation of the town, but they appear not to have been accepted. After extending a similar unsuccessful invitation to Mr. Edmund Foster,† the church and town in 1779, gave a call to Mr. JEREMIAH BARNARD, from Bolton, Massachusetts.‡ It will be necessary to blend a portion of the history of the town with the history of the church, in giving an account of the settlement of Mr. Barnard.

There were certain circumstances which at this time operated unfavorably towards the settlement of any person as a colleague with Mr. Wilkins. The principal one, was the opposition of two distinct sections of the town, which were desirous of becoming separate parishes. They had remonstrated against the settlement of Mr. Blydenburgh, and they had now gathered fresh opposition. Though a respectable majority of the town was in favor of the settlement of Mr. Barnard, yet there was a considerable number in the north-west part of the town who entered their protest. The inhabitants of that section of the town had conditioned to pay their full proportion toward the support of Rev. Mr. Wilkins, and of every charge with the town, until they

* The town voted £200 for a settlement, allowing it to be made equal to corn at 3s. 4d. per bushel, and fresh pork at 4d. per pound; and an annual salary of £100.

† Rev. Edmund Foster was afterwards of Littleton, Mass., where he was ordained 17 Jan., 1781, and where he died 28 March, 1786, aged 74.

‡ The town voted to give Mr. Barnard £180, lawful money, as a settlement, and an annual salary of £80 till the expiration of two years after the war with Great Britain should cease, when it should be augmented to £90.

should provide themselves with preaching, if they might but be permitted to enjoy the privileges of a parish. But the town would listen to no proposals of separation. Accordingly, thirty-two persons protested against the settlement of Mr. Barnard. A considerable part of them had protested against the settlement of Mr. Blydenburgh,* and they now declared that they should object against the settlement "of any other minister, while they remained in conjunction with this town, and their request not granted."

The 1st day of March was fixed upon for the ordination of Mr. Barnard, but for the reasons just stated, he was not ordained till Friday, the 3d day of March, when the following order of exercises took place. Rev. Jacob Bigelow, of Sudbury, made the introductory prayer; Rev. Zabdiel Adams, of Lunenburg, preached from Matthew 10: 16; Rev. Ebenezer Bridge, of Chelmsford, gave the charge; Rev. Daniel Emerson, of Hollis, expressed the fellowship of the churches; and Rev. Josiah Bridge, of East Sudbury, made the concluding prayer.

Soon after the ordination of Mr. Barnard, the second church in this town was formed in the North-West Parish, as it was called. It dates from September, 1780, but no minister was settled over it until the 3 November, 1785, when Rev. JOHN BRUCE† was ordained. He and Mr. Barnard lived in good fellowship until the death of the former. The Third Church in Amherst, now Milford, was organized 19 November, 1788. No minister was settled for nearly fourteen years. Rev. HUMPHREY MOORE, from Princeton, Mass., was the first, and was ordained 13 October, 1802, and remained in office about thirty-three years. The original church presents nothing of special interest from this period until 1815.

In 1815, efforts were made towards settling a colleague with Rev. Mr. Barnard, whose parochial duties had for some

* Mr. Blydenburgh afterwards relinquished preaching, and settled in mercantile business at Durham, N. H., where he died in October, 1836, aged 89. He graduated at New-Jersey College, in 1777.

† Rev. John Bruce was from Marlborough, Mass., and was graduated at Dartmouth College, 1781. He died 11 March, 1809, aged 52. A sketch of his life and character, "by a Parishioner," [Dr. Rogers Smith] is annexed to two Discourses of Rev. Stephen Chapin, his successor in the ministry, published in 1809. Mrs. Lois Bradford, the widow of Mr. Bruce, and also of Major William Bradford, whom she married after her first husband's death, died at Mont-Vernon, 12 Feb. 1828, aged 67.

considerable time been very arduous, and which, during the sickness of 1814, had evidently impaired his health. Perceiving the importance of adopting measures which might lessen the labors of him who had so long served them in the ministry, and considering the difficulties which might arise from delaying the subject, the inhabitants, at a public town meeting, chose a committee,* 18 September, 1815, "to consult with Rev. Mr. Barnard, and ascertain upon what terms he would consent to have a colleague settle with him in the ministry." On the 30 October, Mr. Barnard made a communication on the subject, through the committee to the town, from which the following is extracted: "Gentlemen of the committee: I thank the town for 'their politeness in consulting me upon a subject of so much 'consequence to their peace and happiness, and by a committee so respectable, of whose friendship to me and regard to 'the best interests of the town I entertain no doubt." After stating the extent and arduousness of his labors for the last two years, and the "unusual efforts" made to accomplish them, and assuring his people that in his present debilitated state "that correctness, precision and flow of good argument, so beautiful in composition, and that energy and pathos so pleasing in delivery, always gratifying to an attentive hearer, which might be expected from a man in the 'prime and meridian of life" could no longer be expected in his "wintry age," he proceeds:—"From these considerations, gentlemen, and a desire that my people may be better 'furnished with the means of Christian edification and instruction, I am willing, yea, it will afford me a peculiar 'favor, should it be a gratification to them, to relinquish to 'the town the one half of my present salary, whenever they 'shall have settled another man with me, to take the burden 'and responsibility of the ministry off my hands."

This generous proposal was accepted, and a committee was appointed to procure a candidate to supply the desk the ensuing four Sabbaths. Mr. NATHAN LORD, of South Berwick, in Maine, was procured, and preached his first sermon to this people on the 24 of December. On the 13 of January, 1816, the church voted unanimously to invite Mr. Lord to settle in the work of the ministry with them, and "take

* Hon. Charles H. Atherton, Hon. William Fisk, Hon. Clifton Claggett, Hon. Robert Means, and Dr. Matthias Spalding.

the watch and oversight of the church and the congregation, as colleague with Rev. Jeremiah Barnard." On the 19 of January, the town voted to concur with the church in giving Mr. Lord an invitation to settle over the church and congregation. They, at the same time, voted an annual salary of \$700, and an addition of \$100 more, when he should remain alone in the ministry. Mr. Lord accepted their invitation, and was ordained 22 of May, when an ecclesiastical council was formed by ministers and delegates from seven churches. On this occasion the introductory prayer was made by Rev. Thomas Beede, of Wilton; sermon, by Rev. Asa M'Farland, D. D., of Concord, from Mark xiii. 4; consecrating prayer by Rev. David M'Gregore, of Bedford; charge by the senior pastor; fellowship of the churches by Rev. Humphrey Moore, of Milford, and concluding prayer by Rev. Stephen Chapin, of Mont-Vernon.

Rev. Mr. Lord was dismissed 22 November, 1828, having received the appointment of president of Dartmouth College—which he accepted, and was inaugurated the same year.

REV. NATHAN LORD, D. D., was son of Hon. John Lord, and was born in South Berwick, Maine, 28 November, 1792, and graduated at Bowdoin College in 1809.

He was succeeded by Rev. SILAS AIKEN, a native of the adjoining town of Bedford; born 14 May, 1799, graduated in 1825 at Dartmouth College, of which he was tutor from 1825 to 1828. His ordination took place 4 March, 1829, when the services were as follow: Introductory prayer, by Rev. Thomas Savage, of Bedford; sermon, by Rev. Samuel Green, of Boston; consecrating prayer, by Rev. Eli Smith, of Hollis; charge, by Rev. John H. Church, D. D., of Pelham; right hand of fellowship, by Rev. Austin Richards, of Francestown; address to the people, by Rev. Handel G. Nott, of Nashua; and concluding prayer, by Rev. Ephraim P. Bradford, of New-Boston.

BAPTISMS, &c. The number of baptisms under the ministry of Rev. Mr. Wilkins, cannot be ascertained, as there are several chasms in the church records. The number from the settlement of Mr. Barnard to the settlement of Dr. Lord, exceeded 900. The number during Dr. Lord's ministry, was 149; the number since Mr. Aiken was settled is 170. The number of admissions to the church during Dr. Lord's ministry was 132; since Mr. Aiken was settled,

208. The number of marriages by Mr. Barnard, from 1780 to Jan., 1813, was 351.

REV. JEREMIAH BARNARD died 15 January, 1835, in the 85th year of his age. He was son of Robert Barnard, and was born in Bolton, Massachusetts, 28 February, 1750. He graduated at Harvard College in 1773. The following sketch of his life and character appeared in the Boston Centinel soon after his death.

“This aged servant of the Most High commenced his ministerial career in the vicinity of Boston, in the most trying period of the revolution; and by his prayers and patriotic sentiments contributed to encourage the Christian patriots who distinguished themselves at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill. In 1780, he was associated with the Rev. Daniel Wilkins, as joint pastor of the church and society in Amherst, and after a happy and harmonious association of three years, by the death of Mr. Wilkins the arduous and responsible duties of sole pastor devolved on Mr. Barnard. He continued solely to discharge these duties with uninterrupted zeal and fidelity for more than thirty years, in course of which the society were united, and made honorable progress in moral and religious improvement from year to year, and were distinguished for harmony and social order. In 1816, in consequence of his advanced years and infirmities, Rev. Mr. Lord was associated with him as colleague, which relieved him of a portion of the burden of his pastoral duties in his declining years. Till within a few years, however, he continued to visit the sick and administer to the distressed. Although the mighty hand of time had impaired his physical and intellectual energies, it had not diminished the benevolence of a Christian and philanthropic heart. The religion of Mr. Barnard was deep rooted, though cheerful—fervent without austerity. It was indeed a religion of the heart—pure, social, and unaffected. He was listened to with attention as a Christian teacher; he was respected for his good sense, and beloved as a friend. After a ministry of fifty-five years, in the fulness of time, he has been gathered to his fathers, and he will long be remembered with respect by his society, particularly those who are old enough to know him as he was before age had impaired his bodily faculties and dimmed his mind.”

The publications of Mr. Barnard, were—A Sermon at Claremont, 7 March, 1796, at the ordination of Rev. John Tappan, 4to. pp. 20; A Discourse at Amherst, 24 June, 1805, before the Benevolent Lodge, 8vo. pp. 15; A Sermon at Merrimack, 6 May, 1810, at the funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Burnap, wife of Rev. Jacob Burnap, 8vo. pp. 16; Charge to his Colleague, Rev. Nathan Lord, and Address to the Church

in Amherst, 22 May, 1816, annexed to Rev. Dr. M'Farland's sermon; Right Hand of Fellowship to Rev. Thomas Beedé, of Wilton, annexed to Rev. William Emerson's Ordination Sermon.

Mr. Barnard married in 1777, Deborah Henschman, daughter of Dr. Nathaniel Henschman, of Lynn, Massachusetts. She died 12 October, 1833, aged 80 years. Their children who attained mature age were, 1. Betsey, who married Robert M. King; 2. Mary, who married David S. Eaton, of Boston; 3. Nancy, who married Hugh H. Clark, of Boston, and died at her father's house, leaving one son and two daughters; 4. Robert, who married and settled in Boston, and 5. Lucretia, unmarried.

The mother of Mr. Barnard died in his family, having resided with him many years, 13 October, 1823, in the 102d year of her age.

The UNITARIAN CHURCH was formed in August, 1824, and Rev. EDMUND QUINCY SEWALL was installed pastor of it, 26 January, 1825, and was dismissed the next year. Mr. Sewall is a native of Marblehead, Mass., (son of the late Chief Justice Sewall) and was born 1 October, 1796. He graduated at Harvard College in 1815. He had been, previously to his settlement at Amherst, the minister of the First Church in Barnstable, Cape Cod, where he was ordained in December, 1819; but was dismissed in 1822. After leaving Amherst, he was editor of the Unitarian Advocate, published in Boston. Rev. LYMAN MAYNARD, a restorationist, is the present minister of the Unitarian Society.

The Unitarian meeting-house, which is situated on the Plain, was dedicated 24 November, 1835, when Mr. Maynard preached from Acts xvii. 24. It is a neat building, 63 feet by 45, with a cupola, and contains sixty-six pews on the floor, with a singing gallery in front. It is of the Tuscan order of architecture.

There is a BAPTIST CHURCH which has regular services on the Sabbath, in a hall which has been fitted up for that purpose.

There is also a METHODIST SOCIETY, which worships in the court house.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

Concise Notices of some of the first Inhabitants, and others who settled in town before the Revolution.

Israel Towne, one of the founders of the church, and a captain, was descended from *William Towne*, one of the first settlers of *Topsfield, Mass.* He was son of *Joseph Towne*, and was born at *Topsfield, 24 March, 1705*, and died in *1791*, aged *86*. He married *Grace Gardner*, of *Middleton, Mass.*, *23 May, 1729*, and she died at *Amherst* in *1803*, aged *96*. They had five sons, *Thomas, Israel, Moses, Archelaus and Gardner*. *Capt. Towne* had two brothers who settled in *Amherst*, *Elisha*, who was born *5 Sept. 1708*, and *Jonathan*, who was the *14th* child of *Joseph Towne*, and was born *6 Sept. 1728*, married *31 Oct. 1751*, *Mary Dean*, of *Salem*. Descendants of the last named are in *Milford*.

John Washer, who was one of the first inhabitants, came from *England* at the age of ten years. He married *Hannah Wilkins*, of *Middleton, Mass.*, who died at *Mont-Vernon* in *1808*, aged *89*, leaving her fifth generation. He was the first and only man of his name in this country; and their descendants, in the male line, are all of the name now known in the *United States*.

William Peabody, from *Boxford*, and probably a descendant from *Francis Peabody*, of that place, who came to *New-England* as early as *1639*, was one of the original proprietors, and settled here as early as *1742*, perhaps earlier. He was one of the selectmen, and captain of the militia. He was father to *Col. Stephen Peabody*, who died at *Mont-Vernon*, and of the late *William Peabody, Esq.*, of *Milford*, whose son *Stephen* was one of the executive council in *1831, 1832 and 1833*.

John Shepard came from that part of Concord, Mass., near Acton; perhaps a descendant from John Shepard, who settled in Concord about 1648. He came to Amherst about 1741. He was a lieutenant-colonel of the ninth regiment of foot, under colonel John Goffe, in 1767; and was afterwards colonel. He left five sons; John, who was a justice of the peace, and a justice of the inferior court, and who died in 1801; Benjamin, who died in 1810, aged 71; Samuel, who died some years since; Jotham, who died at Boston in 1815; and Daniel, who died at Milford.

Ebenezer Ellenwood, a descendant from Ralph Ellenwood, born in 1610, and who settled at Salem as early as 1638, was among the first inhabitants. It appears from the town records that he was here as early as 1739. His descendants of the name have all removed from Amherst.

John Seaton, with his three sons, emigrated from Ireland, and came to this town from Andover, Massachusetts. He died at Lunenburg, Mass., or its vicinity, at an advanced age. He had a brother Andrew, who died in Amherst. John, son of John, was here as early as 1744, and was a deacon in the church, from 5 Jan. 1774, to his removal from town. He died at Washington, in this state, in April, 1793. His son John was elected a deacon, 3 Sept. 1795, and died in Oct. 1836. Two sons of the last named are Samuel Seaton, Esq., of Greenupsburg, Kentucky, and Ambrose Seaton, M. D., of Boston. Samuel, son of the first John, was one of the selectmen, and died about 1796. James, his brother, also resided in Amherst.

Robert Stewart, with two sons, John and Samuel, settled here as early as 1749. He came from Glasgow, in Scotland, lived a while in Andover, Massachusetts, from whence he came to this town. The late David Stewart was grandson of Robert.

William Bradford, probably a descendant of Moses Bradford, of Salisbury, Mass., in 1669, was here about 1743. His brother, captain Andrew Bradford, who died at Milford in 1798, aged 80, was here perhaps as early. Hannah, the widow of Andrew Bradford, died at Milford, 14 Dec., 1819, aged 96. Capt. John Bradford, their son, died at Hancock, 27 June, 1836, aged 93. William was father of the late major William Bradford, of Mont-Vernon, an officer in the last war.

Benjamin Kendrick came from Newton, in Massachusetts, and settled here in 1749, where he resided till his death, 13 Nov., 1812, in the 89th year of his age. He was great grandson of John Kenrick, (as the name ought to be spelt, and is now written by the Newton branch of the family) who came from England, and settled at Newton, where he died, 29 August, 1686, aged 82. His intermediate ancestors were John and Caleb. Of the latter, he was the second son, and born 30 Jan., 1724. He had one son, Stephen, who died in 1811, and three daughters, the youngest of whom married Gov. Benjamin Pierce.

Josiah Crosby was a native of Billerica, and descended from Simon Crosby, one of the early inhabitants of Cambridge, Mass., who died as early as 1648, leaving several sons, of whom Simon, born in Cambridge, in August, 1637, was one of the early settlers of Billerica. He was one of the selectmen, a representative to the general court two years, and commanded a company at Bunker Hill battle, in 1775. He died in October, 1793, aged 63, leaving seven sons and three daughters.

Hezekiah Lovejoy, from Andover, and a descendant from John Lovejoy of that place, who died in 1690, was an inhabitant as early as 1751. He was a captain of the militia, and held several town offices. He died 6 April, 1793. His mother, who lived to be almost *one hundred and two* years of age, died in this town, 1 Dec. 1805, having had 336 descendants.

Robert Read was originally of Westford, but came last from Litchfield to this town, in which he was one of the early settlers. He was one of the selectmen, and a colonel of the militia. He died 13 Sept., 1803, aged 83. His son, William Read, Esq., died a few years since, about the same age.

Nathan Kendal was son of Nathan Kendal of Litchfield, and a descendant of Francis Kendal, who settled at Woburn, 1644.* He was an inhabitant of Amherst as early as 1754; was one of the selectmen, and captain of the militia, &c. He died 19 September, 1791, aged 66, leaving six sons, all of whom were living in 1820. Nathan Kendall, Esq., the eldest of them, resides in Amherst, and is 81 years of age.

* See the century sermon of Rev. Samuel Kendal, D. D., delivered at Weston, 1812.

Solomon Kittredge, from Tewksbury, was a descendant from John Kittredge, one of the early inhabitants of Billerica, who died 18 October, 1676, leaving five sons, from whom it is said all of the name in the United States are descended. More than fifty of his descendants can be enumerated, who were and have been physicians. Solomon lived in that part of Amherst which is now Mont-Vernon, where a number of his posterity reside.

Peter Woodbury, a descendant from John Woodbury, of Salem, in 1626, though an early settler, was not one of the first inhabitants. He came from Beverly, where he was born 28 March, 1738. He was chosen a member of the general court, and was one of the selectmen several years. He died in Antrim, in March, 1819, aged 81. His sons were Levi, Jesse, Peter and Mark, of whom Peter was the father of the secretary of the U. S. treasury.

William Fisk was son of Deacon William Fisk, of Wenham, descended from an ancient family in that town, who came from England before 1640. He died about 1777, and some of his posterity, who principally reside in this state, Vermont, and in New-York, have held honorable and important offices, of whom are Hon. James Fisk, Hon. Jonathan Fisk, Hon. William Fisk and Hon. Francis N. Fisk.

Reuben Mussey, one of the first selectmen chosen in town, and a representative to the general court in 1778, was father to Dr. John Mussey of Peterborough, and Mr. Reuben Dimond Mussey, who died in 1819, aged 66, at Pomfret, in Vermont.

Jonathan Smith came from Danvers, and settled here several years before the Revolution. He died in March, 1795, leaving two sons, Jonathan, who was register of deeds from 1790 to 1802; and Jedidiah-Kilburn, who was member of Congress, counsellor and senator of this state, and one of the justices of the circuit court of common pleas. He died 17 Dec., 1828, aged 58.

Joshua Atherton was descended from James Atherton, who was of Lancaster, Mass., in 1654. He settled here before 1775. He was a representative of the general court in 1792; a senator in 1793, and was appointed attorney general of the state, 18 June, 1793. He was a gentleman of liberal education, and graduated at Harvard College in 1762, and died 3 April, 1809, aged 71. He married Abigail Goss, daughter of Rev. Thomas Goss, of Bolton,

Mass., by whom (who died 28 Oct. 1801, aged 53) he had one son, Charles-Humphrey, now of Amherst, and six daughters, of whom, Frances married Hon. William Gordon, and afterwards Hon. Benjamin West; Abigail married Hon. Amos Kent; Rebecca married Matthias Spalding, M. D.; Catharine married Col. David M'G. Means; Elizabeth-Willard married Ralph H. French, Esq. of Salem, Mass. Ann H., the fourth daughter, is unmarried.

Francis Elliot came from Middleton, and settled here as early as 1755. *Nathan Fuller* was here as early as 1758. *Ebenezer Lyon*, one of the first settlers, died 4 January, 1798, aged 88. Many others also deserve notice, but our limits will not permit an extension of this article.

No. II.

The expense of the American War is stated on the authority of the following document.

September 9, 1791.—Received the accounts of the selectmen of Amherst, for hiring soldiers to serve in the army of the United States for the town of Amherst, when at war with Great Britain, from April the 19th, 1775, till the Treaty of Peace, and find it, in addition of any bounties, travel, or wages given or promised by the state, or the United States, to be in specie, £3511.

A true copy—Attest, Pr. JOSHUA LOVEJOY, Town Clerk.

Col. Moses Nichols' regiment at West Point,	£180
An average made in 1777, for soldiers that had served in the war, cost	480
To soldiers serving in Col. David Gilman's regiment.	
Capt. William Walker's company served in New-York, in 1776,	39
To soldiers in Col. Peabody's regiment, sent to Rhode-Island,	105
To soldiers serving in Col. Nahum Baldwin's regiment, at New-York,	72
To 10 continental soldiers for three years from 1781,	600
To 20 soldiers to serve in 1776, in Capt. Barron's company, Wyman's regiment,	200
To 11 soldiers served at Charlestown, 1781,	132
To 9 soldiers, 1781, six months, new levies, so called,	270
To 11 soldiers, 1780, to serve six months, new levies,	330
To 5 do. — at Coos, Capt. Stone's company,	150
To 9 do. Col. Mooney's regiment,	108
To 13 do. from 1783, three years' men,	845
	<hr/>
	£3511

No. III.

PASTORS AND DEACONS

Of the First Congregational Church in Amherst, since its formation, 1741.

PASTORS.

1. Rev. DANIEL WILKINS, A. M., graduated at Harvard College in 1736; ordained 23 September, 1741; and died 11 February, 1783, in his 73d year.
2. Rev. JEREMIAH BARNARD, A. M., graduated at Harvard College in 1773; ordained 3 March, 1780; died 15 January, 1835, in his 85th year.
3. Rev. NATHAN LORD, A. M., D. D., graduated at Bowdoin College in 1809; ordained 22 May, 1816; was dismissed 22 November, 1828, having been appointed President of Dartmouth College.
4. Rev. SILAS AIKEN, A. M., graduated at Dartmouth College in 1825, was ordained 11 March, 1829.

DEACONS.

	Elected.	Resigned.	Died.	Age.
1. Humphrey Hobbs,	6 Jan. 1743,	1774.		
2. Joseph Boutell,	3 June, 1743,		19 May, 1795,	90.
3. James Cochran,		1744,	5 Jan. 1774.	
4. Samuel Wilkins,	5 Jan. 1774,	1816,	27 Dec. 1832,	90.
5. John Seaton,	5 Jan. 1774,	1787,	April, 1793.	
6. Nahum Baldwin,	5 Jan. 1774,		May, 1788.	
7. Ephraim Barker,	18 June, 1783,		1800.	
8. Joshua Lovejoy,	18 June, 1783,	179-,	28 Jan. 1832,	88.
9. Amos Elliot,	3 Sept. 1795,		7 Apr. 1807,	52.
10. John Seaton,	3 Sept. 1795,		4 Oct. 1836,	80.
11. John Hartshorn,	1 Sept. 1808.			
12. Matthias Spalding,	29 May, 1817.			
13. David Holmes,	29 May, 1817,	1823.		
14. Amos Elliot,	1 Nov. 1823,		1826.	
15. Edmund Parker,	15 May, 1832,	1836.		
16. Abel Downe,	21 Jan. 1836.			
17. David Fisk, 3d,	18 Nov. 1836.			
18. Cyrus Eastman.	30 Dec. 1836.			

Deacons Hobbs, Seaton, Lovejoy, Holmes and Parker all removed from town. Dea. Lovejoy died in Sanbornton.

No. IV.

REPRESENTATIVES OF AMHERST,

From 1767 to 1837.

1767,	John Goffe.*	1790,	Daniel Warner.
1775,	Paul D. Sargeant.†	1792,	Joshua Atherton.
1775,	{ Moses Nichols,	1793,	Daniel Warner.§
	{ Nahum Baldwin.‡	1799,	William Fisk.
1776,	{ Moses Nichols,	1800,	William Bradford.
	{ Peter Woodbury.	1803,	Jedidiah K. Smith.¶
1778,	{ Josiah Crosby,	1805,	William Fisk.
	{ Reuben Mussey.	1810,	William Low.
1779,	{ Josiah Crosby,	1813,	Edmund Parker.
	{ Stephen Peabody.	1814,	William Low.
1780,	{ Samuel Wilkins,	1815,	Edmund Parker.
	{ Nahum Baldwin.	1816,	Clifton Clagett.
1781,	Moses Nichols.	1817,	Edmund Parker.
1783,	{ Robert Means,	1826,	Robert Read.
	{ Thomas Burns.	1829,	David M'G. Means.
1784,	Robert Means.	1831,	John Secombe.
1786,	William Peabody.	1834,	Daniel Campbell.
1789,	Robert Means.	1836,	David Stewart.

* From 1767 to 1775, Col. Goffe represented this town and Bedford, which were classed together. Col. Goffe resided in Bedford.

† Col. Sargeant was elected to the last Assembly called by Gov. Wentworth. He and Moses Parsons were delegates to the third convention, which met 17 May, 1775, of which Matthew Thornton was President.

‡ Colonels Nichols and Baldwin were elected to the convention, 21 December, 1775, and served under the new constitution, adopted in January, 1776.

|| Joshua Atherton having been elected a senator, the town was without a representative in 1792.

§ Colonel Warner resigned after the June session, and William Fisk was chosen in August, 1798, for the fall session.

¶ J. K. Smith having been elected a senator, Mr. Fisk was chosen again for the remainder of the year, in August, 1804. Mr. Fisk was afterwards representative five years, and was elected senator of the 7th district from 1810 to 1813 inclusive. In 1824, he was one of the electors of President and Vice President, and voted for John Quincy Adams for President. He died 4 June, 1831, in his 77th year. Of his ten children, five were sons, of whom *Francis N.*, of Concord, was counsellor in 1827, 1829 and 1830; and *Allen*, who was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1814, has been for many years a distinguished instructor of youth in the state of New-York.

No. V.

TOWN CLERKS OF AMHERST

FROM THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN.

[The Town Records commence with the incorporation of the town in 1760, and for more than twenty years are contained in the same volume, but they are extremely irregular and confused, as they contain the proceedings of the town, tax lists, location of roads and highways, births, deaths and marriages, &c., all registered in the same book without order or method. The Propriety Records begin with the grants of the general court of Massachusetts in 1728 and 1732, and terminate about the year 1771. These were in the hands of DANIEL CAMPBELL, Esq., to whose politeness the writer had a free access to them many years since.]

1760,	Solomon Hutchinson.	1790,	Joshua Lovejoy.
1762,	John Shepard.	1794,	William Fisk.
1769,	Thomas Wakefield.	1812,	John Ellenwood.
1770,	John Shepard.	1815,	Robert Read.
1773,	Moses Nichols.	1828,	James Colburn.
1774,	Samuel Wilkins.	1829,	Ambrose Seaton.
1778,	Nahum Baldwin.	1830,	John Prentiss.
1779,	Thomas Wakefield.	1832,	Andrew Wallace.
1784,	Samuel Wilkins.		

No. VI.

GRADUATES AT COLLEGE

From Amherst, with the time they were graduated; their profession, and present residence.

AT HARVARD COLLEGE.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Grad</i>	<i>Son of</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>
*John Wilkins	1764	Rev. Daniel Wilkins	Instructor	Athens, Ohio.
Jacob Kimball	1788	Ebenezer Kimball	Farmer	Amherst.
Ch. H. Atherton	1794	Hon. Joshua Atherton	Lawyer	do.
Daniel Weston	1795	Daniel Weston	Clergyman	Gray, Me.
William Gordon	1806	Hon. William Gordon	Lawyer	Charlestown, N. H.
*James F. Dana	1813	Luther Dana, Esq.	Physician	New-York.
Samuel L. Dana	1813	do.	do.	Lowell, Mass.
John H. Wilkins	1818	Samuel Wilkins, Esq.	Bookseller	Boston.
Ch. G. Atherton	1822	Hon. Ch. H. Atherton	Lawyer	Nashua.
*Steph. R. Holmes	1822	Dea. David Holmes	Instructor	

AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Grad</i>	<i>Son of</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>
Reuben D. Mussey	1803	Dr. John Mussey	Physician	Hanover.
Benja. F. French	1812	Frederic French, Esq.	Lawyer	Lowell, Mass.
Jas. M'K. Wilkins	1812	Jonathan Wilkins	Lawyer	Bedford.
*Levi Hartshorn	1813	Edward Hartshorn	Clergyman	Gloucester, Mass.
Allen Fisk	1814	Hon. William Fisk	Instructor	Auburn, N. Y.
Charles F. Elliot	1829	Dea. Amos Elliot	Physician	Somersworth.
Edward Spalding	1833	Dr. Matthias Spalding	Physician	Amherst.
Charles E. Parker	1834	Hon. Edmund Parker		

AT DARTMOUTH UNIVERSITY.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Grad.</i>	<i>Son of</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>
*Samuel Whiting	1818	Samuel Whiting	Lawyer	Mason.

AT BOWDOIN COLLEGE.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Grad.</i>	<i>Son of</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>
Robert Means	1807	Hon. Robert Means	Lawyer	Lowell, Mass.
James Means	1833	David M'G. Means, Esq.		

Robert Means practiced law at Amherst, and Benjamin F. French at Nashua. They have relinquished their professions, and are both agents in the manufacturing establishments in Lowell. James F. Dana was professor at Dartmouth College, and afterwards in the city of New-York, where he died 15 April, 1826, aged 32. Levi Hartshorn was ordained at Gloucester, Mass., 18 October, 1815, and died on a visit to his parents in Amherst, 27 September, 1819, aged 30 years. He was beloved and esteemed by a large circle of friends, and his death was a public loss.

No. VII.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

	<i>Where educated.</i>	<i>Comm. practice in Amherst.</i>	<i>Removed from town.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Age.</i>
Joshua Atherton,	Harvard,	1772,		1809,	71.
Moses Parsons,	Harvard,	1774,	a. 1776,	1801,	57.
Samuel Dana,	Harvard,	1781,		1798,	59.
William Gordon,	Harvard,	17—,		1802,	39.
Charles H. Atherton,	Harvard,	1797.			
Jedidiah K. Smith,		179—,		1828,	58.
David Everett,	Dartmouth,	1803,	1807,	1813,	44.
Edmund Parker,	Dartmouth,	1807,	1835.		
Nathaniel Shattuck,	Dartmouth,	1807,	1830.		
Robert Means,	Bowdoin,	1810,	1821.		
Clifton Clagett		1811,		1829,	66.
Elisha F. Wallace,	Dartmouth,	1820,	1825.		
Pearley Dodge,	Union,	1832.			
Hubbard Newton,	Dartmouth,	1836.			

No. VIII.

PHYSICIANS.

SETH AMES, of whom there is a short notice page 92, was son of Dr. Nathaniel Ames, of Dedham, who published an Almanack for forty years successively, and died in 1765. The son was graduated at Harvard College, 1764, and died at Dedham, 1 January, 1778, aged 35.

MOSES NICHOLS, from Reading, Mass., of whom there is a short sketch page 97. He died 23 May, 1790, aged 50.

HENRY CODMAN, a native of Amherst, and son of William Cod, an emigrant from Ireland, was born, 24 January, 1744, and prac-

tised here above thirty years. He died 14 March, 1812, aged 68. The additional syllable to his name was added by him. His only son, Henry Codman, settled in practice in Mont-Vernon, where he died at an early age.

SAMUEL CURTIS, from Sharon, Mass., and son of Rev. Philip Curtis, was graduated at Harvard College in 1766; was a surgeon in the revolutionary army, and received a pension the latter part of his life. He settled here in 1789, but did not practise many years, giving up his professional business for that of an inn keeper. He also kept an apothecary's shop in his tavern; was a number of years postmaster, and was a justice of the peace until his death, 1 April, 1822, at the age of 75. He survived his wife and twelve children, and left only four grandchildren.

NATHANIEL HENCHMAN, from Lynn, Mass., son of Dr. Nathaniel Henchman, was born 4 May, 1762; commenced practice here in 1783, and died 27 May, 1800, aged 38. He left but one son, who was educated at Dartmouth College, but did not graduate, and was bred a physician, practised a short time at Aquackanonk, in New-Jersey, whence he removed to Woodville, in Mississippi, and died there 5 September, 1819, aged 32. Mrs. Anna Henchman, widow of Dr. Henchman, died in December, 1836, aged 79.

MOSES NICHOLS, son of Dr. Moses Nichols, already named, was born in Amherst, 15 December, 1763; studied with his father; settled in practice 1784, removed to Thornton 1787, represented that town in 1791, and several years afterwards; removed to Canada in 1802; returned to Amherst in 1805, where he remained until 1811; then returned to Canada, and in 1835 was living in Sherbrooke, and was a magistrate for the district of Three Rivers. He had a family of thirteen children.

JOHN MUSSEY, son of Reuben Mussey, was a native of Kingston; studied his medical profession at Amherst with Dr. Moses Nichols, sen.; settled in Pelham, 1766; removed to Amherst, 1791; thence to Peterborough in 1800, where he died after a long confinement by a cancer, 17 January, 1831, aged 85. He was father to Reuben D. Mussey, M. D., professor at Dartmouth College.

ROGERS SMITH, a native of Mont-Vernon, son of Jacob Smith, was born 12 June, 1776; settled in Amherst about the year 1804, and removed as early as 1808.

MATTHIAS SPALDING, M. D., a native of Chelmsford, Mass., son of Col. Simeon Spalding, was born 25 June, 1769; was graduated at Harvard College, 1798; studied medicine with Edward A. Holyoke, M. D., LL. D., of Salem, Mass.; settled in practice in his native town, 1802; removed to Amherst 1805, where he has had a longer period of practice than any of his predecessors.

CHARLES T. HILDRETH, M. D. at Harvard College in 1823, practised here a short time in 1824; removed to Boston.

AMBROSE SEATON, M. D. at Dartmouth College, 1825, was a native of Amherst, son of Dea. John Seaton, and practised here from 1826, several years. He is now settled in Boston.

AMORY GALE, M. D. at Bowdoin College, 1824, a native of Warwick, Mass., and who had practised some years in Lancaster, in that state, settled here in November, 1834.

No. IX.

BILL OF MORTALITY

FOR AMHERST, N. H., FOR THIRTY-TWO YEARS ;

Commencing 1 January, 1805, and ending 1 January, 1837.

TABLE I.

Exhibiting a view of the Ages of those who have died each year, and for the whole thirty-two years.

Years.	Ages unknwn.														Total.									
	Under 1 year.	Between 1 & 5.	" 5 and 10.	" 10 and 15.	" 15 and 20.	" 20 and 25.	" 25 and 30.	" 30 and 35.	" 35 and 40.	" 40 and 45.	" 45 and 50.	" 50 and 55.	" 55 and 60.	" 60 and 65.		" 65 and 70.	" 70 and 75.	" 75 and 80.	" 80 and 85.	" 85 and 90.	" 90 and 95.	" 95 and 100.	" 100 and 105.	
1805	5	5	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	29
1806	5	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	18
1807	5	1	2	0	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	27
1808	5	5	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	20
1809	4	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	14
1810	6	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	21
1811	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	9
1812	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	18
1813	0	7	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	22	
1814	12	7	2	6	1	3	2	1	0	2	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	47
1815	6	7	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	34
1816	6	6	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	20
1817	2	2	0	0	1	3	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	2	22	
1818	4	4	0	2	4	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	25	
1819	0	4	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	19	
1820	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	20	
1821	2	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	18	
1822	2	3	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	3	1	2	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	30
1823	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	18	
1824	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	17
1825	0	7	2	1	4	3	3	0	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	33
1826	0	22	3	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	53
1827	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	3	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	19
1828	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
1829	4	6	0	2	1	2	4	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	35
1830	5	10	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	29
1831	6	7	2	1	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	34
1832	2	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	17
1833	5	4	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	27
1834	5	6	0	0	3	3	0	0	2	1	3	2	1	2	4	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	39
1835	5	3	0	0	3	2	2	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	26
1836	2	7	5	0	3	5	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	41
	110	146	31	21	36	51	41	23	20	33	22	31	16	31	34	47	24	43	27	9	6	2	10	815

TABLE II.

Shewing the number of deaths each year for thirty-two years; the aggregate amount of ages each year; and the annual average age.

Years.	No. of deaths.	Average of ages.	Annual average.	Years.	No. of deaths.	Average of ages.	Annual average.	Years.	No. of deaths.	Average of ages.	Annual average.
1805	29	841	29	1817	22	846	38	1829	35	1183	38 $\frac{3}{4}$
1806	18	585	32	1818	25	610	24	1830	29	679	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
1807	28	1027	38	1819	19	698	36	1831	35	1138	32 $\frac{1}{2}$
1808	20	500	25	1820	20	842	42	1832	17	535	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
1809	14	458	32	1821	18	625	34	1833	27	825	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
1810	21	567	27	1822	30	1350	45	1834	39	1531	39 $\frac{3}{4}$
1811	9	420	46	1823	18	846	47	1835	26	808	31
1812	18	855	47	1824	17	680	40	1836	41	1394	34
1813	22	569	25	1825	33	977	29 $\frac{1}{2}$				
1814	47	1107	23	1826	53	1565	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	Total	815	26068	
1815	34	1092	34	1827	19	902	48 $\frac{1}{2}$				
1816	20	337	17	1828	14	676	48				

REMARKS. The preceding tables, which have been compiled after numerous inquiries, and much care, furnish the following results, viz., that the whole number of deaths in the town of Amherst for thirty-two years is 815, which is nearly one half of the present population; that the annual average number is 25; that the proportion to the population is one in 64 annually; that the amount of ages collected into one sum is 26,068: that the average age is a fraction short of 32 years; that the number who die under the age of 25 years is about the same as those who die over 25 years; that nearly one third die in childhood under the age of 5 years; that nearly one fifth reach the age of 70 years and upwards; that the period (after that of childhood) most fatal to life, is between the ages of 20 and 30; that one ninth of the whole number die during this period; and that the period most exempt from mortality is between 55 and 60.

The number of deaths in Amherst from 3 March, 1780, when the late Rev. Mr. Barnard was ordained, to 1 January, 1805, was 389. These, added to the number since 1 January, 1805, make a total of 1204, showing that a number almost equal to three fourths of the present population of the town have died during the last 57 years.

SKETCHES
OF THE CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF
DURHAM, N. H.

BY THE LATE REV. FEDERAL BURT.

[The following Sketches of the Civil and Ecclesiastical History of the town of Durham, are derived from a series of Discourses which were delivered to the Congregational Society in the summer of 1826, by the then pastor of the church in that place. The discourses were eight in number, and the first three were occupied with the civil and ecclesiastical history of the town; the other five were on selected subjects connected with the character and proper influence of a Christian ministry. From the former, originally published in the New-Hampshire Observer, these Sketches are selected. Of their lamented author, who was a member of the N. H. Historical Society, there is a tribute of respect in our third volume.]

ON coming to the *occasional* services which have been proposed, and to those duties in them which I have prescribed for myself, it has appeared to me peculiarly proper that we should begin, by noticing some of the prominent events in our Civil and Ecclesiastical History as a town, together with such reflections of a religious and practical nature as may be suggested by the subjects to be introduced; or, by our present condition, and duty as a people. With this view I have selected the text* for this occasion, knowing that wherever we go we tread in the footsteps of men of other times; and, as

* "Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live forever?"
Zech. i. 5.

often as we worship, we stand on that sacred ground and sit in those hallowed seats, which have once been occupied by the multitudes that are gone before us.

Nor is it necessary for me to solicit either your attention or your patience. The interesting nature of the subjects to be discussed will secure the one, and your well known civility in the house of God and to your minister, assures me of the other. In entering upon my present duties, I would stop to ask only one blessing from our God,—that he will incline us all so to reflect upon the events of other times, and upon the men who have passed away, as will more effectually prepare us for the holy business of living to some purpose in our probation, and for the still *holier* solemnity of leaving it in peace.

It is not true that the moral institutions of history are to be valued only in proportion to the magnitude of the events which are recorded in it. In the valuation of *particular* history, a vast variety of other circumstances are to be taken into consideration. To be instructed by history, it will be admitted, we must be interested in the subject. We must find, in the events which it records, something *human*, and something *divine*—an exhibition true to the life and the thing of the character of man, and of the providence of God. To make history *morally* instructive, there must be contained in it such a disclosure of the human passions, and of the influence of motives, and of the responsibility of conduct; and, at the same time, it must recognize such views of God, of his character and government, of time and eternity, of judgment and retribution, as will strengthen every benevolent affection in the human mind, and fortify every resolution to noble action, to virtue and holiness; and such too, as will terrify the wicked, as will bear on their propensities to evil, and palsy their courage and sink their spirits, awaken their convictions, excite their fearfulness and surprise, and send them, with contrition in their hearts, to the business of living a different and better life—of being good and useful and holy in the world. Such is the substance of history and such its

influence, when it instructs men in morals and religion. Its foundation is *truth*, and it addresses men by all the pure and infinite sanctions which truth can put on. It addresses them in the language of time, and in the language of eternity, and urges them to duty by all that is precious and valuable in the human soul—by its immortality and its redemption. It warns them by every terror which God Almighty has created, either in the sufferings of this world, or the next. History is addressed to the human intellect and the human sensibility and the human conscience, and where is the earthly influence which shall awaken men, if not here? It is a great moral light reflected upon the path of duty, shining brighter and brighter forever.

But, after all, as men are constituted, we must admit, and we do it cheerfully, that one circumstance which gives to particular history its highest interest, is the nearness of relation in which we stand to the subject. We dwell with perpetual patience, and with feelings which cannot grow weary, on the records of our ancestry—of our country and our friends. When men have slept under the story of creation, and the declaration of the apostasy, and the recital of the deluge, and the prediction of the judgment, we have seen them all attention—all ear, as often as they hear a whisper from the tomb of their fathers.

And, perhaps, even this is natural, and to be expected. There is, in all such cases, an appeal to *self*, which is almost omnipotent and resistless. If it must be thus powerful, let it be useful too: that as often as we review the history of our fathers, we may remember they were but men, we may learn to avoid their imperfections and imitate their virtues. This is our wisdom and this our duty.

Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live forever? In speaking from these words and on this occasion, it will be recollected that we do not refer to the events of other times, for the purpose of establishing historical facts; but, principally for the purpose of moral and

religious instruction. On the *Civil History* of the town, therefore, I would be brief, confining your attention, indeed, to two points; to the *sufferings* which were endured by the inhabitants from Indian depredations and warfare, and to the part which they sustained in the events of the Revolution. Although we have no distinct records of this town, until near the middle of the last century, yet it is well established as fact, that the settlements on this river, and within our present limits, commenced soon after the settlements in Dover. Durham, including Lee, was first a parish of Dover, and continued so until its incorporation as a town in 1738. Lee was separated from Durham by a vote of the town, dated September 3, 1764.

The river, on which our town and village are situated, seems to have been, in early times, a favorite resort for the Indians, and here some of their worst deeds of darkness and cruelty were perpetrated. Until 1725, they continued to make depredations on these settlements, destroying property, and consigning, sometimes to captivity and sometimes to death, its peaceful inhabitants. The most dreadful massacre with which the place was ever visited, however, was near the close of the 17th century, in 1694 and 1695, when, in one attack upon the settlement, from 90 to 100 persons were either killed or carried into captivity, and five garrisons out of 12, and 15 other dwelling-houses, were destroyed. That must have been a dark and fearful day which witnessed, on these shores and by these falls, such a destruction of property and life and hope. There was no face which did not gather paleness, and no heart which did not bleed at every pore. All was confusion and consternation and terror. Nor did the evils to which we allude, or the calamities of which we speak, either begin or end with that melancholy day. They preceded and they followed it. Every thing in life was held and was enjoyed in fearful uncertainty. The fond mother, with her infant in her arms, held him in perpetual fear. She felt that inward terror—that beating and throbbing of nature

within the heart, which cannot be described—which she only can know who is nursing her infant for the slaughter. Travel on these banks of your own Piscataqua, and think of other times. What a night of Indian depredation, and of savage massacre! No endearments of friendship and no ties of life were regarded. The peaceful habitation, which was blessed with innocence and hope and prayer, in an unsuspecting moment, “when sleep had shut all eyes,” became a slaughter-house—a scene of butchery and blood. There was no light there. The moon and stars had drawn away their shining. All was darkness and the grave. Nothing was heard but savage yells, and the groans and shrieks of death. Husbands and wives, parents and children, who retired to rest in safety, sunk together into silence, and did not rise again. They repose within our fields, and slumber in the dust on which we tread. They can be waked again only in the resurrection at the last day.

Nor was this all. The laborer could not go to his field, nor the neighbor to his friend, nor the worshipper to the house of God, without his *gun* as an armor of defence. He passed every way fearful amid the dangers which surrounded him, and in the constant expectation of being hurried, by cruelty and slaughter, into judgment. We can no more realize this state of things, my brethren, than we can describe it.

But, we learn from it a lesson of salutary tendency. We learn what human nature is without cultivation, and when left of God without restraint. Our affections are quickened by our appropriate sympathies in the sufferings of our fathers. And, may I not add, our gratitude is excited by the privileges which we enjoy? Our lines are fallen to us in other times, and in pleasant places. We have a favored and a blessed existence. Let these considerations excite us to diligence in duty, and to faithfulness in religion.

Another important topic in the civil history of our town, is *the part which it sustained in the war of our Revolution*. The night of savage warfare, with all its cruelty and its terrors,

had passed away, and half a century of security and peace had visited these shores, when the morning of the Revolution broke forth. The causes of this event need not be delineated here. They have been repeated in our own ears from childhood, and have been annually noticed in the public celebrations of fifty successive years. It is enough when we know that they existed, and when we believe, as we *must* and *do* believe, that they fully justify the course which was then adopted. But still, the age of the Revolution had its trials; and, if there was *glory* in achieving it, there was *suffering*—there was *peril*—there was *bloodshed*.

In looking back on our history at that period, we were prepared to say that the citizens of this town took a decided stand in the cause of our country and our liberties, and acted a distinguished part in securing our independence. Here were men who were distinguished in council and in courage; whose voice was heard in deliberation, and whose power was felt in action; men* who could lead the public will in legislation, and in difficult and doubtful emergencies; and *other men*† who could command in the field, and give efficient aid to our armies. It may be doubted whether a single town in our country, possessing equal population, rendered that *efficient* aid in the course of the Revolution, which was rendered here. No less than fifty of the citizens of our town went into the active services of the field, and twenty of them were lost in the army. But, I will not dwell on these facts. I bring the subject into view because it is so intimately connected with our political and religious privileges. The Revolution was an event in Providence, and indispensable, if you would give to character and to mind, in this new world, their importance and their power. The blessings which it has secured here, may be undervalued, or they may be lost—but the responsibility, in such a case, will not be chargeable upon our fathers. Let our civil institutions be cherished, in that

* Hon. Ebenezer Thompson and Judge Ffrost were citizens of Durham.

† Maj. Gen. Sullivan, Col. W. Adams, and the lamented Scammel, were also citizens of Durham.

spirit of patriotism by which they were obtained, and they shall endure as long as our mountains and our hills. They shall last to the end of time.

On turning to our ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY as a town, I feel that I bring before you, if possible, a subject still more interesting in its character, and more deeply solemn in its moral and religious instructions.

It is perhaps impossible to ascertain at what precise period of our early settlement regular divine worship was established here. The church was instituted, under the labors of Rev. HUGH ADAMS, March 26, 1718, and has existed 108 years; but regular worship had been maintained, under the ministry of Dr. JOHN BUSS, at least 33 years before Mr. Adams entered upon his office; and the contract between Mr. Adams and the town was made in April, 1717, which carries back our knowledge of a regular ministry here to the year 1684. Doubtless the people were in the habit of assembling for religious purposes long before they were supplied with regular preaching—even from the beginning of the settlement. The father of the ministry in this town was Dr. John Buss, who, though never ordained, held the office in the town longer by several years than any of his successors. He was both a preacher and physician, and must have been exceedingly useful in that period of our history. Tradition has said he was a good scholar; fond of books, and a man of very respectable attainments in literature and theology. He lived to a great age, and was active at a very advanced period of life. He died in 1736, aged 108 years, and of course was born in 1628—five years after the first building was erected in New-Hampshire.* I know nothing of his origin and his early history.

He suffered much from the Indians, in the loss of his dwelling-house and his valuable library, which they destroyed. I know not what was his usefulness and success in the ministry,

[* The age of Dr. Buss is overstated. He was only 96. See last edition of Belknap's History of New-Hampshire.—ED.]

nor at what period of life he relinquished the labor of preaching. He lived nineteen years after the settlement of Mr. Adams, and probably did not preach. From the circumstance that no church was instituted during his ministry, the presumption is that he labored without any remarkable success; although, when we consider his character, and the two professions which he occupied, and the time in which he lived, he must have been eminently *useful*.

From the settlement of Mr. Adams, for more than sixty years, no records of the church have been transmitted to us; and until that time it may be doubtful whether any regular records were made. This fact is much to be regretted, and will render it forever impossible to obtain any minute and particular acquaintance with our early ecclesiastical history. Mr. Adams's active ministry it is believed terminated in 1739; and the received impression is that he was dismissed at that time. Dr. Belknap notices his death, in 1750, but does not mention his removal from office. The facts probably were these: During the ministry of Mr. Adams, he officiated in two different houses of worship—one situated at the Point and the other near the burying-ground, by the house of the late Capt. Paul Giles, in Lee. Difficulties arose, which led to a dismissal from his charge in the western part of the town; but he retained his relation, nominally at least, to the other part of his charge until his death. He died at the age of 74, which would make him 42 at the time of his settlement.*

Of his particular talents and reputation as a preacher, I am ignorant. He was distinguished for many eccentricities of character, and for much that was enthusiastic and fanatical. It is believed, however, that he was a man of piety, and devoted to his work. His peculiar views were partly the errors of his constitution, and partly of the age in which he lived. He was unquestionably treated with severity, and injured by the town. He was dependent, and he was poor. He suffered

* See Belknap's Hist. vol. iii. p. 263.

every thing but death before a kind Providence removed him from the world, and when he was gone, the town gravely voted that they would not pay his funeral expenses. The difficulties between him and his people arose on the subject of salary. There was a delay, and also a deficiency in the payments. The measures which he took to vindicate his rights were injudicious and severe. He appealed to the civil authorities of the state, in a memorial which is familiar to you all, and which certainly is a most peculiar production—the greatest literary curiosity which can be found in the annals of any church. He finally appealed to the laws, and obtained a vindication of his rights, and an execution upon the town for his stipulated salary; but even then, it was never discharged until this suffering and injured man was in his grave.

I cannot pass over these facts in silence, and do justice to my feelings. The town was in fault, because they did not fulfil their contract with their minister, and the minister was equally in fault, because he appealed to the civil law for his remedy. If the conditions of his contract were not fulfilled on the part of the town, the contract itself, in a moral view, was dissolved, and he should have called in a council to ratify the dissolution of it. Lawsuits between a minister and his people are in all cases to be avoided if possible. No considerations of property, either on the one side or on the other, will ever seem to justify them. Nothing but a vindication of character is sufficient. Do not misunderstand me. I am not advocating abjectness and servility in the ministers of Christ. No. Their office is *sacred*, and “the laborer is worthy of his hire.” But, let him not contend with weapons of warfare which are carnal. Let him take the remedy in the gospel, and when he is forsaken in one house, or in one city, let him flee to another. It will be enough for *such* a people to meet the case of duty with their conscience and their God.

And, if these principles were ever illustrated, I am confident they have been in the case before us. The particular moral influence of this single lawsuit upon the public mind

has been most lasting and pernicious. As one, I am convinced that on a portion of the community it has never been obliterated. There is a jealousy here, in some men—a sort of fear and dread, lest they should be obligated to do something for the ministers of the gospel, which is peculiar, and which had its origin in this difficulty. The cause has long since retired from public view, but its effects are continued. Mr. Adams was doubtless a *good* man, and if his people had done their duty, would have been a *good* minister ; but, as it has proved, it was a sad beginning to close his ministry in a lawsuit, and leave such an example for posterity.

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On the subject of our civil history, we limited our remarks to the two great events which are contained in it—to the *sufferings* which were experienced in the hard and cruel age of Indian warfare ; and, to that *patriotism* of a later day, which was manifested by our ancestors—which imparted such an impulse to the Revolution—which gave them so much distinction and glory—which was appreciated so justly by our country, and felt, in some of its consequences at least, throughout the civilized world. On leaving these subjects, I wish it may be deeply impressed on every mind, that, if the age in which they were most interesting has passed away, yet they are matters of record and of history—events of high importance in themselves, passing down that sure and easy current of time, which, if it bear us to the tomb, will transmit *truth* to our posterity. The warwhoop of the savage, and the dawn of liberty in this new world, are events never to be forgotten.

In attending to our ecclesiastical history as a town, we followed back the regular services of the ministry from the year 1739 to the year 1684, and we found the institution of our church in 1718. We spoke of the men who officiated in the labors of the ministry during a period of 55 years,—and remarked freely on some of those errors, both in the people and in the man, which rendered the closing period in the life of

our first ordained minister, the Rev. Hugh Adams, such a scene of disappointment and suffering. I would not, however, revive a subject which cannot be named without exciting the sympathies of the present age, and bringing with it a train of most painful and melancholy reflection. In addition to what was then stated of Mr. Adams, I have since ascertained, in a letter from a friend whose testimony can be relied on, that he had been once settled in the ministry before he came to this town. I have an account of his ordination in the 2d parish of Braintree, in Mass., on the 10th of September, 1707, about nine years and seven months before he made his contract with this people, and between ten and eleven years previous to his installation here. He was dismissed from that place, but at what particular time, and for what reasons, I do not know. I find that he was graduated at Cambridge College in 1697, and of course was 31 years of age when he settled at Braintree, and 21 when he received his degree. His settlement at Braintree took place ten years after he left college. Whether he spent this time principally in preaching as a candidate, or in preparing for the ministry, or in the business of instruction, or in some other profession, is not known.*

The man who succeeded Mr. Adams in the ministry in this town, was the Rev. NICHOLAS GILMAN. He was a native of Exeter, our neighboring town, and was graduated at Cambridge in 1724. His settlement here was in 1741, seventeen years after he received his degree at college. We have no record of his age. He died in 1748. Allowing his age to be 21 when he received his degree, and this is a fair estimate, he was 38 at the time of his settlement, and 45 when he died. His ministry here continued but seven years, and during a portion of the last year, and perhaps longer, his pulpit was supplied by the town, on account of his ill health. His active

[* He was settled in Chatham, Cape Cod, a short time after leaving Braintree, and he continued there until 1716, when he was dismissed. There is an account of the proceedings of the council which convened there to determine on difficulties subsisting in that place, in the Boston News-Letter, printed about 1716.—F.]

ministry among the people probably did not exceed six years. I do not know that he was ever settled in any other place, nor have I been able to ascertain how he was occupied during that period of his life which transpired between his leaving college and his settlement in the ministry.

He left at his death a considerable family. He had three sons living at the time, one of whom entered the ministry, and was settled at North-Yarmouth, in the state of Maine, where he sustained an honorable character, and, within the recollection of many of you, closed a useful and pious life. His widow long survived him, and after his decease, lived and died among her friends in his native town.

At the death of Mr. Gilman, the town voted £220, in the currency of the day, to defray his funeral expenses. This was equal to between thirty or forty dollars in specie, and in defraying such expenses, would be equivalent to an appropriation of \$100 at the present day. I mention these facts, because they bear honorable testimony to the feelings of the town, and because they operate, indirectly, in raising our estimation of the man. Mr. Gilman was buried at Exeter, and was carried from this place, in funeral procession, by the young men of his charge, who, from veneration of his character and affection for his memory, requested the liberty to perform this service as a privilege and a favor.

In forming an estimate of the character which Mr. Gilman sustained in the ministry, we have little else to guide us than the facts which have been stated, and the doubtful testimony of tradition. But even from these sources, his character is not doubtful. He was a man of uniform temperament in his feelings—of mildness and dignity. He was distinguished for his meekness,—for practical knowledge in life and in the scriptures,—for sound judgment and a correct taste. He was eminently a man of worth. He was devoted to his people and to his work. He was removed from ostentation on the one hand—from formality and timidity on the other. He was decided in his views of theology—an able advocate for the

faith and truth as it is in Jesus. In his preaching he was plain and practical, laying the foundation of his discourses—his proofs and illustrations—in the scriptures, and carrying them, in all their fullness and power, to the conscience and the heart. He stood upon *the law and testimony*, and there, with great simplicity and power, opened and explained and applied the gospel. It was a course of ministerial conduct worthy of any man and of any age—a course dictated by all the sanctions of wisdom and duty. His memorial was in the hearts of many who have long since gone to receive their reward—to meet him, and be hailed welcome by him in the skies. But he had his trials, and it will be well for us if we may learn something from their history. During his ministry, the difficulties which existed between the town and his predecessor in office, remained in all their fullness. It was hardly possible, situated as he was, that he should escape their influence. He was subjected to the perplexity and the mortification of maintaining a lawsuit which Mr. Adams had commenced with him. The town, I believe, honorably defrayed the expenses in the suit; still it was an affliction of no ordinary magnitude to a man in his situation, and of his conscience and of his sensibilities, to be thus exhibited to the public view. But this was not his only trial. The peacefulness of his short ministry was disturbed by the encroachments of a fanatic, of singular pretensions, and of most consummate intrigue and management. A Mr. Woodbury, of whose origin and education I know nothing, came into the town, under a pretension that he had a call from God, and that he was favored with special and immediate revelations from heaven. He visited among the people—went from house to house—appointed meetings with unusual frequency, and attended them at unusual hours. He was full of labor and of zeal and of confidence. He had come to build, by a more rapid process, the kingdom of God. By many, his professions were listened to, and his pretensions were acknowledged. He carried away the hearts of the people from their minister—

struck a death-blow at the harmony which had existed here, and that union of sentiment and of religious feeling which had been so favorable to religious impressions, and which promised so much solid good to the cause of righteousness and truth. Every thing, in the ecclesiastical condition of the town, was thrown into confusion and disorder. Meetings were appointed, wherever they were indulged, at all seasons in the day and at all hours in the night. They were conducted with much irregularity, and were attended with many indecencies. But they created excitement—excited wonder—gained attention—collected crowds—and became places of rendezvous—scenes, to speak mildly, of tumult and uproar. The established order of society was broken down, and confusion and terror were introduced in the place of it. In this state of things, Mr. Gilman was induced, for some reasons, to attend these meetings. To do it, the regular course of his own life was interrupted, and he was compelled to be from home without suitable refreshments, and at unseasonable hours. It has been said by our aged people, and it is in all probability the truth, that this course of labor and fatigue broke the firmness of his constitution—opened the way for consumption, and sent him prematurely, but deeply lamented, to the grave. It was found after Mr. Woodbury had done all this, that he was a man of *frail* character, unworthy of attention and confidence. He wandered about the earth forsaken and neglected, and went down into his grave without usefulness, without lamentation, and without honor. But it was too late. The mischief was done, and there was no remedy. The people had lost their union and their minister; and many of them had broken away from the sanctuary, to which they never returned. This was a sad event—a most melancholy hour in our religious history. If I am not mistaken, in my solemn and candid calculations, the evils which originated in the circumstances and events that have been recited, have remained until this day. The causes of them may be forgotten; but they have followed on, in the *sure*,

undeviating course of time, to the present age. If the facts be so, what a lesson is given us from history, if we will learn it. How admonitory and impressive is the language of other examples and of other times!

But perhaps you will meet me here with the inquiry, if Mr. Gilman sustained the character which has been ascribed to him, how came he to attend such meetings, and countenance such enthusiasm and disorder? The inquiry is worthy of consideration; and, justice to him and respect to the cause of Christ, call on me imperiously to answer it. In submitting to you my thoughts on this inquiry, I am aware there is a degree of delicacy in the subject; but, when I consider the claims of justice and duty, I cannot withhold the truth. Mr. Gilman's course of conduct now before us, is to be accounted for upon two principles: the regard he had to the *nature of his office*, and *the spirit of the age*. We will take the first principle by itself. He was actuated by a regard to the nature of his office. His office was the most holy—the most sacred—the most responsible—which God, in the person of his Son, had ever given to men. You get a perfect view of this office, when I tell you he was appointed to watch for souls; and when, on opening his commission, he found written in it, in lines of light, which can never die, *we watch for your souls as they that must give account*. Now the question which was presented, in these circumstances of the case before us, to this spiritual watchman, cannot easily be mistaken. Shall I abandon my trust—shall I desert my charge—shall I forget the eternal welfare of my people—shall I be indifferent to their improvement, their morals and their salvation; or shall I deny myself, and take up my cross and go after them, until I can bring them back again to domestic quietude, and to an examination of the scriptures, and to the house of God, and to a regular and a patient continuance in well-doing? He was a man of *enlightened* views, and knew his duty. He was a man of tender conscience, and felt his obligations. He could not, in this condition, be indifferent. It was his final

attempt to restore order and peace to the public mind,—to save his people, and preserve among them the ark of God. If he refused his attendance at these meetings, he would be regarded with jealousy and suspicion—would be accused of obstinacy and unfaithfulness, and lose his influence as a minister of Christ. He did not attend these meetings because they were useful and edifying to him. I say this without hesitancy and without qualification. We know thus much, from the character of his piety and the character of his mind. But he attended them from a sense of duty and from motives of compassion, hoping, that by such a sacrifice, he might retain the affection of his people; and by having access to their hearts, might do them good. He acted as a good shepherd, who, when his sheep are lost and gone astray, will leave his peaceful retreat—his hills, and valleys, and home, and go into deserts, and highways, and rocks, and dens, and even caves of the earth, until he find them. And, with the intentions of a good shepherd, it is prudent and honorable to do so. If one only in a hundred is lost, and can be found, how great the joy; and how much greater still, when the flock itself, being lost, shall be found.

I do not pretend to decide, in the case before us, that the course pursued was required by the gospel, or was even politic in itself; but that it was the result of benevolent views—the dictate of duty and conscience, there can be no question. But I will not detain you on this point. We will examine the other principle on which we are to account for his conduct, which we have stated to be, *the spirit of the age*. It is to be remembered, that from 1740 to 1750, the very period when Mr. Gilman held the ministry in this town, there was an uncommon excitement on the subject of religion in all sections of the country. It was the age of Whitefield in his influence and in his glory. In some respects, it was a happy and blessed age. Much was done for the redemption of sinners and for the enlargement of the churches, which shall be told at last in heaven, and celebrated there with unspeakable joy.

Millions were converted, who are now in glory, having finished their course, and kept the faith. Still it was an age of trial. There was more feeling in religion than there was intelligence to guide it. Enlightened men, who prized the age as peculiarly favored of God, and rejoiced in it, lamented this evil, and wept over it. The immortal Edwards, at that period, stood at the head of the New-England clergy, and what was his employment? He wrote his history of the remarkable attention to religion in New-England, and produced his masterly treatise on the affections,—works which are to live forever. These works are full of instruction, and were designed to remedy the evils that we speak of. What Edwards was doing for the cause of religion in general, every minister had to do in his own parish; or it was overrun and broken down, if not destroyed. You perceive, my brethren, what was the spirit of this age, and you see wherein it was defective. If it was pious, it was not enlightened; if it was ardent, it needed guidance and direction, that good might come out of it, and not evil. Such was the spirit of the age, and Mr. Gilman was at his post, laboring to perform his duty.

Most intimately associated with this age and this subject, are the name and the recollections of Whitefield. I venerate that man. He was a burning and a shining light. I venerate him for his piety—his learning—his talents and his commanding powers in the sacred profession. God blessed him, and he did much good. But men perverted his example, and he did much evil. The example of his ministry, in itinerating, and interfering, in some instances, in the private regulation of the churches, was a death-blow to ecclesiastical order on this side the Atlantic. It was all natural. Who would not be like Whitefield? The consequence has been, that America has produced her *thousand* Whitefields—men who, like him, would travel the world over to preach and be poor, and who are like *any thing else but him*, in what constituted his glory and his *true riches*.

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In the previous attention which has been given to our ecclesiastical history as a town, we have examined the subject from 1684 to 1748, a period in all of sixty-four years. This period embraces, as you have seen, the entire ministry of three men, who, notwithstanding they may have had imperfections, certainly had their share of *peculiar trials*, and have left a *name* on earth for piety and usefulness. The third minister who was ordained among this people, and the fourth who officiated regularly in this town, was the Rev. JOHN ADAMS, who was settled here in 1748, the same year in which Mr. Gilman died. At what particular time in this year Mr. Adams was ordained, I do not know. His articles of settlement were dated October 31, 1748, and are signed by him and a committee of the town consisting of thirteen persons. His salary, as stipulated in these articles, was, the use of the parsonage property and 500 pounds old tenor, and it was to commence on the 25th of March, 1749. He gave an affirmative answer to his call, on the 3d of October, 1748, and on the 20th February, 1749, his articles of settlement were sealed and delivered with much legal formality, in presence of witnesses. I am inclined to think, as his salary did not commence till the 25th of March, 1749, and as his articles of settlement were not completed until February of that year, that his ordination must have been in 1749; but as I cannot ascertain with certainty, I follow the testimony of Dr. Belknap in placing his settlement in 1748.

The value of the currency in which the salary was to be paid, was regulated by the price of particular articles of consumption. In 1774, the articles of settlement were changed, and he was to receive, by stipulation, 72 pounds 10 shillings, lawful money, together with the use and occupancy of the parsonage house and lands. Both instruments were executed with much legal formality, and with great precision.

Mr. Adams was a native of Boston, and the son of Mr. Matthew Adams, of whom Dr. Franklin makes grateful mention in his memoirs of his own life. It is well known of

Franklin, that, though born with a mighty mind, he was born in poverty, and struggled hard even for "food to eat and raiment to put on." While an apprentice at the printing business, after mentioning the difficulty with which he obtained books, and the ardor with which he read them, he observes: "At length, Mr. Matthew Adams, an ingenious tradesman, who had a handsome collection of books, and who frequented the printing-office, took notice of me. He invited me to his library, and had the goodness to lend me any books I was desirous of reading." Franklin mentions this circumstance as having had an influence upon his literary life; and I mention it in this connexion, for the purpose of saying, that a man who for any reasons should perform such an office of kindness to a printer's boy, would not be likely to neglect his own son. It is to be presumed, that the early education of Mr. Adams was of the first order which the country and the age afforded. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1745, three years before his settlement in this town. He labored in the ministry among this people until 1778, when, after a ministry of thirty years, on account of difficulties equally distressing to him and to his people, he was dismissed. I cannot, perhaps, give you a better account of Mr. Adams than the following from Dr. Eliot's Biographical Dictionary. Speaking of the father of our minister, Dr. E. observes: "Mr. Adams left several children, one of whom was *John Adams*, minister of the church of Durham, N. H. His father labored to give him a liberal education, and he was graduated at Harvard College in 1745, and in a few years after, ordained at Durham, where he continued pastor of the church more than twenty years. No town in New-England was ever more disturbed by fanatics than Durham. A spirit of opposition to the order of the churches raged there. Every man who received a liberal education—who wore a band or black coat, and held a regular service on the Lord's day, was called *hireling, thief, wolf*, and any thing that would make him odious.

“They, after this manner, insulted this pious minister, who had not patience to bear it, and was often enveloped in gloom, or ready to sink in despondency. This might, in some measure, be owing to the constitution of the man; for he was, in his best days, and when he was not exposed to peculiar trials of his ministry, very much the sport of his feelings. Sometimes he was so depressed as to seem like a being mingling with the dust, and suddenly would mount up to heaven with a bolder wing than any of his cotemporaries. This would frequently happen in the pulpit, so that, when he had been all the week preparing a sermon, which was, according to his own expression, as dull as his feelings, he would feel an exertion that would give him health, cheerfulness, and new life. It was his method to take a new text, and give a new flow to his sentiments and expressions, which were much better than he was ever able to utter with previous consideration.

“His delivery then was as lively as his fancy. In these happy moments, he was also a cheerful, instructive and entertaining companion. He could write as well as speak, like one who had cultivated a philological taste. A specimen of his abilities was exhibited in a letter written to a committee of the town of Boston, 1774, when the Port-Bill had annihilated their commerce. Mr. Adams was obliged to leave Durham in the year 1778, in consequence of other disturbances than religious. He had been thought the most proper minister to live with people so enthusiastic as the inhabitants of Durham, for he was himself, from his animal frame and pious sentiments, inclined to enthusiasm; had rather favored than opposed the *New Lights*, in his youth, and preached the gospel according to the strictest sect of our forefathers; but, as one extreme succeeds another, the most cold indifference to every thing of a religious nature was visible in the inhabitants of Durham, during the latter part of Mr. Adams’ pastoral relation; and they grew weary of maintaining a minister, in addition to the demands for money to carry on

‘ the war, a contention arose upon the most frivolous pretences, and council advised to a removal. He was soon invited to settle at Washington, in the county of York, Massachusetts. With this flock he lived in more easy circumstances. He died 1793, aged about sixty years.’*

In addition to this account of Mr. Adams, I give you the following extract of a letter from a much esteemed friend,† who has long been acquainted with his character, and whose testimony may be confided in. Speaking of Mr. Adams, he says: “I believe you will not find much of his writings. He was in the habit of using stenography,” (or short hand) and seldom took the pains to write his sermons at length. He seldom wrote only the heads of his discourses, and his best performances were among those in which he made the least preparation. He must undoubtedly be ranked among men of genius and of cultivated minds; but the irritability of his temper often rendered him uncomfortable to himself and friends. He had a fine taste for music, and constructed a large, well toned organ, on which he and several of his family played with great skill. With this instrument he often soothed his mind when troubles disturbed him, and restored his tranquility when gloom and depression would have taken possession of him.”

The town of Washington, Mass., mentioned in the preceding account, was then a plantation, and is now the town of *Newfield*, in the state of Maine. To this town, Mr. Adams removed his family in 1781, when there were only five families in the place, and the proprietors made him a grant of 400 acres of land. He preached constantly in this town and in Limington, Parsonsfield and Limerick, until his death, which, according to more recent accounts, we find to have occurred June 4, 1792. In these new settlements he officiated both as minister and physician, and was very useful. No great attention to religion was excited by his ministry in these towns.

* Eliot's Biog. Dict. : art. *Matthew Adams*. † N. Adams, Esq. Portsmouth.

He formed a church at Limington, in 1789, consisting of six members, and this was the only regular establishment which he was permitted to witness as the fruit of his labors.*

After all which has been stated, it is but justice to Mr. Adams to say, that he held the ministry here under the most unfavorable circumstances, and at a most difficult period in our history. He commenced his labors when every thing had been thrown into confusion and disorder. He followed a course of troubles which had broken down the constitution of one man in the ministry, and sent him prematurely to the grave. A wild fanaticism, without intelligence and without piety, was dreadfully prevalent.

In addition to this, there were all the changes and sufferings which were incident to the age of the Revolution to encounter. Added to this, he was *plain* and *explicit* and *pungent* in his preaching. He contended for the faith with Puritan zeal, and without ceasing. He stood forth the witness of truth, and a most powerful champion of its principles. He handled the *vices* of the day without any mercy. He maintained a perpetual warfare with the iniquities of the times. Against the *bolder vices*—the violations of the Sabbath, profaneness and intemperance, he uttered, without fear, the awful thunders of the divine word; and he sometimes made the human conscience tremble, notwithstanding all the fortifications of sin by which it was surrounded. If such a ministry were to be all peaceful in such circumstances, it were, indeed, a miracle.

Notwithstanding this, he held the confidence and affection of the town during a period of almost thirty years, when, as in a moment, a burst of reproaches broke in upon him, and overwhelmed him by its suddenness and its power. The attack was made upon all that was *holy* in his principles—upon all that was *sincere* in his purposes—upon all that was *sacred* in his profession—upon all that was *pure* and *refined* and

* Greenleaf's Sketches, pp. 112, 113.

honorable in his life.* His usefulness here was instantly terminated. Detraction, with her thousand tongues, loaded him with crime, until he sunk down in confusion and discouragement. The subject was submitted to an ecclesiastical council, and he was dismissed in the beginning of 1778; and on the 16th of January of that year, in a communication to the selectmen, he relinquished all his claims upon the town, and declared all his *relations* and *obligations* to them as a minister forever ended. It is said, that he finally closed his public labors here by requesting the people to sing the 120th psalm,† C. M., and by giving them the usual benediction. Whether this was an appropriate conclusion of a solemn ministry, or a suitable expression of christian meekness and a forgiving temper, probably there will be but one opinion; but it was an act certainly of personal independence and courage.

In estimating the character and ministry of Mr. Adams, it cannot be questioned that *he was a man of talents*. He had

* A female enemy, of bad character, in retaliation for an offence she had taken, came forward and gave oath against his virtue and his morals.

† Thou God of love, thou ever bless'd,
 Pity my suffering state;
 When wilt thou set my soul at rest
 From lips which love deceit?
 Hard lot of mine! my days are cast
 Among the sons of strife—
 Whose never-ceasing brawlings waste
 My golden hours of life.
 O, might I fly to change my place,
 How would I choose to dwell
 In some wide, lonesome wilderness,
 And leave these gates of hell!
 Peace is the blessing which I seek:
 How lovely are its charms!
 I am for peace—but when I speak
 They all declare for arms.
 New passions still their souls engage,
 And keep their malice strong!
 What shall be done to curb thy rage,
 O, thou devouring tongue!
 Should burning arrows smite thee through,
 Strict justice would approve;
 But I had rather spare my foe,
 And melt his heart with love.

talents which were of a high order, and which might have been commanding in any profession and in any sphere of life. His intellect was full of power. The grasp of his mind was of giant size. With the *wisdom* of Franklin, and with his *own* advantages in early education, he would have been a man of tremendous might.

But he had his weaknesses, and they were fatal to a lasting fame. His deficiency was in his *mental* constitution. His mind was not well balanced. He could not regulate it. He had too much fire ; and those high winds which blow about the habitation of a minister, kept it constantly in burning, till it consumed him. He wanted judgment. He wanted discretion and self-command. He needed to learn one practical lesson in the school of Solomon—*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty ; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

And, in the ministry, it must be admitted the deficiency was a great one. It is painful enough here to meet with stupidity and dullness ; but, if possible, it is still more painful to meet those fires of genius which cannot be controlled ; which burn a parish to ashes, and then scatter it in the winds. To speak plainly—a minister, to be extensively and permanently useful, must have *common sense*, and the prudence and self-command which grow out of it. And this property is not artificial. It cannot be acquired. It may be improved by education, but not created. It was one thing to set the genius of Franklin on fire after it was given him, and another thing to regulate that of Adams after it was on fire. The same parental hand which could do the one could not do the other.

But, let it not be forgotten, if he had his imperfections, he had his excellencies. He was, after all, a man of worth. He outlived the reproaches which have been alluded to, finished his course in peace, and went down with reputation and honor to the grave. With all his temptations and all his passions, he stood firm to his principles and to his profession and to the cause of Christ. His sleep is sweet in the grave, and our

only remaining desire respecting him, is that he may awake in glory, and meet a full reward at the resurrection of the just.

I cannot do justice to my feelings, nor to the occasion, if I close the subject without a single remark on another topic which is so fairly suggested by the discussion. If history and time have done justice to the character of Mr. Adams, it turns out, after all, that his ministry in this place fell a victim to *malice* and *slander*. Many, doubtless, who acted against him, were influenced by a full conviction of his guilt—and they acted honestly, and from the best of motives; but the *origin* of this mischief was in malice, and the tongue which first moved in it must have been set on fire of hell. Oh! what a comment upon human nature! What a salutary reproof to our ancestors—what a *necessary*, what a *seasonable*, what a *living* lesson to their children, and all future generations forever!

[NOTE.—The time when the church in Durham was organized and when Rev. Hugh Adams was settled, appears from the following item found in the Boston News-Letter, of the 7 of April, 1718.

1718, "March 26. A church was gathered at Oyster River, (N. H.) and Rev. *Hugh Adams* was consecrated and established the Pastor thereof." It appears also that Mr. Adams preached the sermon on the occasion from the following text: "Go forth, O ye 'daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown 'wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, 'and in the day of the gladness of his heart." *Canticles* iii. 11.—*Eds.*]

A SKETCH OF NEW-IPSWICH, N. H.
CIVIL, LITERARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL,

BY CHARLES WALKER, A. M., PASTOR OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

[Communicated in 1835.]

CIVIL HISTORY. Little is known of this town previous to the Masonian grant. It seems, however, that it was first settled under Massachusetts. When the settlement commenced, I have not been able to learn. I am credibly informed, however, that in the early part of the war with the French and Indians, which closed in 1748, a family* was taken by the Indians from the south side of Watatick mountain, and that this circumstance so alarmed the inhabitants here that they all left.

In 1750, the Masonian proprietors granted a considerable part of the town to thirty-four individuals, thirteen of whom already occupied lands in the place, and eight resided in Ipswich, Mass., from which the town received its present name.(A.) The principal conditions of the grant were, that the occupants should be at the expense of dividing the land; that in two years, each resident should have three acres cleared, and a house with a room at least sixteen feet square, and a family in it; that all white pine trees, fit for the royal navy, should be reserved for His Majesty's use.

It should be remarked here, that at the time of the Masonian grant, Massachusetts had not relinquished her claims to these lands. The consequence was, that some took up their land under the one, and some under the other. The

* The name of this family was Fitch. Hence the cession was called Fitchburg.

popular feeling was in favor of the Massachusetts claim, and against the Masonian.

Immediately after the Masonian proprietors had granted New-Ipswich, their agent, Colonel Joseph Blanchard, called together the grantees, at Dunstable. Col. Blanchard was chosen moderator and treasurer, and Joseph Stevens, clerk. We find the inhabitants immediately making provision for bridges and highways, and contracting for a saw and grist-mill, to be put up the next year. This first mill, I understand, was erected near the Souhegan factory. Before this, the inhabitants not unfrequently went to Townsend harbor, with their grists on their backs.

I have met with nothing specially worthy of record in the civil affairs of the town, during the continuance of "The Propriety," as it was called. They had frequent meetings, and their records exhibit very marked evidence of system, order, and despatch in business. They struggled with the common difficulties, hardships and self-denials of a new settlement. But they struggled manfully. Some of their principal difficulties arose from the clashing of different claims to the land. It cost the citizens much trouble, also, to warn out those whom they were afraid they should have to maintain, if they remained.

The first charter of incorporation was granted the town on the 9th of September, 1762, in the 2d year of Geo. III., and to expire in 1766. At its expiration it was renewed. It was expressly provided by the charter, that Reuben Kidder should call the first meeting, and that thenceforth the annual meeting should be on the 2d Monday in March.(B.) The first town meeting was accordingly called by him immediately, at which Jonas Woolson officiated as moderator, and Moses Tucker as clerk.(C.) In October, of the same year, the selectmen issued a warrant to the constable, to notify all the freeholders to meet for the purpose of acting upon several specified articles.

In 1774, the town expressed it as their opinion, that representation is absolutely necessary to legal taxation or legislation; and since, for a number of years, they had been taxed and had no voice in the legislation of the province, therefore, Voted, that the selectmen forward a petition and remonstrance to his excellency the governor, that they might enjoy those privileges which are essential to the British constitution. They resolved, also, to use their influence to have the adjacent towns, and the whole province, adopt similar measures.

In June, 1775, Isaac Appleton was chosen to meet with deputies of the several towns in the province, at Exeter, to choose delegates to represent the province in a Continental Congress, proposed to be held in Philadelphia the following May. He was particularly instructed on several points which he was to urge upon the convention. He was especially requested to use his influence to have the province put in a proper state of defence. Rev. Mr. Farrar was also chosen to this office some months after. All the movements of the town at this time show that they had caught the spirit of those days of peril; and were not only ready to do their duty, but were anxious to be forward and prompt in it. (*D.*)

In 1776, William Shattuck was chosen representative. The town furnished him with ample and very important instructions. They were ranged under twelve distinct heads, and show that the town regarded the office of representative as very important, and looked upon their infant government and rising republic with deep interest and intense anxiety. In those instructions are exhibited some of the great principles which form the basis of our government; and they are, in general, of such a character as evince the intelligence and worth of the leading men. (*E.*)

In 1808, the town, in connexion with others in the country, sent a petition and remonstrance to the president of the

United States, in reference to the restrictions on our commerce, and received a very respectful answer.

In 1829, the town purchased a farm, where the poor are maintained at an expense of about \$250 annually. Previously, they adopted the common method of placing their poor in those families who would maintain them the cheapest:—a method, to say the least, neither economical or pleasant. There are now seven inmates in the poor-house.

There is nothing worthy of very special notice in the natural history or business of the place. The town is five miles from north to south, and six miles from east to west. The land is generally well adapted to grazing, and a considerable portion of it to tillage. The inhabitants are mostly agriculturists, and in easy circumstances. The Pratt pond, so called, is a small collection of water on the south-west part of the town, and gives rise to one branch of the Souhegan river. Another branch rises from a pond in Ashburnham. On this river, which takes a north-east course, are several cotton factories, which have given rise to three small villages contiguous to each other, and considerably increased the business of the place. In one of them is the Manufacturers' Bank. The first cotton mill in the place was among the earliest in the country. Several other articles are manufactured to a considerable extent in the place.

In the vicinity of the factory villages is a small but neat Unitarian meeting-house. Rev. REUBEN BATES was ordained in June, 1834.

In 1750, there were about 50 families in the town. In 1773, the population was 882; in 1775, 956; in 1790, 1241; in 1800, 1266; in 1810, 1395; in 1820, 1278, and in 1830, 1673. The number of voters in 1834 was 335.

II. LITERARY HISTORY. In early settlements, the inhabitants have many wants to provide for, and rarely bestow much attention upon education. It is, therefore, peculiarly gratifying to learn the just and liberal views which our

fathers took of this subject. In 1772, £40, lawful money, was raised for schools. In 1774, there were six schools, to keep from four to eight weeks each.

Immediately after the town was incorporated, it was voted that a school be kept three months near the meeting-house. In 1804, \$500 was raised for schools; in 1812, the sum of \$650. There were then nine districts. In 1832, \$700 were raised. In 1833, the income of the school fund was \$81, and the literary fund was* \$77,79.

Most of the first settlers, knowing the value of education themselves, took early and efficient means to furnish it to their children. For many years the town has been in the habit of appointing persons to visit and inspect schools. The selectmen, since by a law of the state it has become their duty, have annually appointed a superintending school committee. By a report of that committee in 1821, it appears there were about 400 attending the district schools in winter, viz., 40 under the age of 5; 130 between 5 and 10; 100 between 10 and 15, and 12 over 20. Several new school-houses have been put up within a year or two, and others are contemplated. On the whole, our schools may be regarded as in a prosperous and improving state.

In 1787, about thirty individuals bound themselves by written compact to sustain a public school in New-Ipswich, for the term of five years. They formed themselves into an association, and agreed to share the expense and the profits equally, and be bound by the rules and regulations which they should adopt in their associated capacity. Most of those gentlemen belonged to town. The others were men of education, or standing, in the neighboring towns. Encouraged by the liberality of some individuals, the school was opened, October, 1788, under the charge of Mr. John Hubbard. In 1789, it was incorporated by the name of

* The school fund arises from land originally assigned for that purpose; and the literary fund from a tax upon banks in the state.

New-Ipswich Academy. The object of the incorporation, as stated in the instrument itself, was to promote piety and virtue, and a knowledge of the arts and sciences. Rev. Stephen Farrar, Hon. Charles Barrett, and Ephraim Hartwell, Esq. and Mr. John Hubbard, of New-Ipswich; Hon. Daniel Emerson, of Hollis; Rev. Seth Payson, of Rindge; Jacob Abbot, Esq., of Wilton; Rev. Joseph Brown, of Winchendon, and Henry Woods, Esq., of Pepperell, were appointed the first trustees, with power to fill their vacancies. Their number never to exceed eleven, or be less than seven. The preceptor is a member, *ex officio*, and the majority must be freehold laymen. They may hold real estate whose annual income does not exceed £500, and personal whose annual income does not exceed £2000; and their property is exempted from all taxes whatever. At the date of this charter, there was, I believe, but one other incorporated academy in the state, viz., Phillips Academy, at Exeter.

In 1791, a building had been erected, sufficient to accommodate eighty students; and funds established to the amount of £599, and 2480 acres of land. All this property was in bonds against individuals who were expected to pay the interest annually. Most of the land was a donation from the Hon. Charles Barrett, and lies in the state of Maine. Subsequently, Mr. Barrett gave a note of \$221,14, and took up this land bond.

Some additions have been made to the funds at different times. In 1817, the present building was erected. Most of those bonds, which were limited either by a certain term of years, or during continuance in town, have expired: and some of the permanent funds have been wholly or partially lost. The funds at present amount to about \$2,200, in bonds and bank-stock.

Soon after the academy was incorporated, it became connected with Dartmouth College, so far that the trustees of the college had a voice in the appointment of the teacher,

who was styled Rector ; and the students were allowed to pursue their college studies at the academy during the first year, and have one half their college tuition remitted. This connexion, however, did not long exist. Mr. Hubbard had the charge of the school till 1795, when he was called to a professorship in Dartmouth College.(F.)

The founders of this institution were godly men. They aimed to have the mind imbued with the pure principles of the gospel while it was laying in its stores of knowledge. God has blessed it with pious teachers, and several times visited it with the refreshing influences of his spirit.

Like other schools, it has had its seasons of flourishing and decay. For a few years past it has been unusually flourishing. By the catalogue of 1834, it seems that 264 were connected with it, for a longer or shorter time, during the year. Mr. Charles Shedd, who has been a successful teacher for some years in Union Academy, Plainfield, has taken the permanent charge of the academy, and buildings are soon to be put up for the better accommodation of the students. There is a respectable philosophical and chemical apparatus, and a small library.(G.) A literary society called the Demosthenean Society flourished for a considerable time in connexion with the academy and town, and collected a small library. There is at present a town lyceum, and a literary society in the academy.

None of the original settlers of this town, so far as I can learn, had a public education. The clergymen who have been educated at college are the following :

Rev. STEPHEN FARRAR,	Lincoln, Mass.,	Harvard,	1755.
“ RICHARD HALL,	New-Haven, Vt.,	Middlebury,	1808.
“ ISAAC R. BARBOUR,	Bridport, Vt.,	do.	1819.
“ CHARLES WALKER,	Rindge, N. H.,	Dartmouth,	1823.
“ JOHN PARKHURST, (Bap.)	Chelmsford, Ms.,	Harvard,	1811.
“ REUBEN BATES, (Unit.)		Harvard,	1829.

Other residents in town have received a public education, of whom are some of the following.

EBENEZER CHAMPNEY, Esq., graduated at Harvard, 1762.

He came to this place soon after Rev. Mr. Farrar. The only courts in the province were at that time held in Portsmouth. Mr. Champney became an eminent lawyer, and had a very extensive range of business. He held the office of judge of probate for a long season. HON. TIMOTHY FARRAR came from Lincoln, Mass., to this place in 1775, as a school-master. He graduated at Harvard in 1767. He was appointed justice of the peace and judge of the court of common pleas in 1775; afterwards associate judge in the superior court; and when he handed in his resignation, he was appointed chief justice of the court of C. P. He is a member of the congregational church in this place, and now living at the age of 88. BENJAMIN CHAMPNEY, son of Judge Champney, practised law some years, and died in 1827. GEORGE F. FARLEY, who graduated at Harvard College in 1816, was a successful lawyer for several years, and now pursues his profession at Groton, Mass. He was born in Hollis. WILLIAM AINSWORTH, the cashier of the bank, was graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1811: native place Jaffrey. Dr. JOHN PRESTON came to this town from Littleton, Mass., early after the town was settled, and distinguished himself in his profession.

Of the physicians since the first Dr. Preston, have been his sons, JOHN and TIMOTHY, JAMES BARR, MOORS FARWELL, STILLMAN GIBSON, and WILLIAM GALLUP. The last five now live in town. Others, both lawyers and physicians, have been in for a short time. (*H.*)

A valuable town library was destroyed some years since by fire. The present one is small, but well selected.

The average deaths annually during the last eight years have been between 20 and 25. In 1821, there were living in town 46 persons above 70 years, 9 above 80, and one above 90.

III. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY. It is worthy of notice, that one express condition of the Masonian grant was, that

a convenient meeting-house, as near the centre of the town as would convene the inhabitants, should be erected within seven years. Two lots of land, also, and a share in the after divisions, were reserved for the use of the ministry. The very same year of the grant, it was voted in proprietors' meeting, to choose a committee to "take care to provide a proper person to preach in said town." In June, 1752, it was voted to have constant preaching in future, and at the same meeting, voted to build a meeting-house. The proprietors, however, had to struggle with many difficulties in carrying these votes into effect. They were few in number. Much was to be done to make themselves comfortable. Almost the whole town was a wilderness. Roads were few and miserable. The mill to grind their bread-stuff was hardly in operation. They, however, procured preaching a part of the time till the autumn of 1754, when they voted "to come into some measures for the settlement of a minister." At the same time, they resolved, in public proprietors' meeting, to "set apart a day of fasting and prayer to God for his direction in the choice of a minister." This was no church-meeting—no exclusive meeting of the professed followers of Christ. It was a meeting of those who owned the land. Let us picture to ourselves a small dwelling-house in the wilderness; there see our fathers collecting amidst the snows of November. They had no meeting-house, nor even a school-house to meet in. They were all together; nor do I suppose there were any right hands that were not uplifted when the vote was taken to devote a day to fasting and prayer for direction in the choice of a minister. What must have been the emotions of the venerable Benjamin Adams when he recorded that vote!

The first settlers of this town highly prized the gospel. The record of meeting after meeting, one principal object of which was to devise means to have the preached word, tell us the high value which they attached to it. Few as they

were, and numerous as were the objects calling for their attention in their new settlement, they must have highly prized the gospel, or they would not have been ready for such sacrifices and efforts to obtain it. But, as a public measure, and as the means of saving souls, did they place too high an estimate upon it? The Kidders and the Appleton and the Adamses of those days, were men of no flighty imaginations. They were men of forethought and reflection.

In February, 1755, they met for the first time in their new meeting-house, and voted to invite Mr. Peter Powers to become their gospel minister. (*I.*) Some of the churches in the colonies at this time adopted what is termed the half-way covenant; (that is, parents who made no public profession of the christian religion were allowed to bring their children for baptism.) Whatever were the views of the original inhabitants of this town on the point, they resolved to acquiesce in Mr. Powers' sentiments. He was full in the belief that none but the children of professed believers should be admitted to this ordinance.

Mr. Powers received a regular call from the proprietors to settle with them in the ministry, and gave an affirmative answer; an answer, too, which breathes the spirit of evangelical piety. Although the proprietors and Mr. Powers proceeded thus far in this most interesting and important concern, yet Mr. P. was not ordained. For reasons of which I am ignorant, he saw fit, in the succeeding December, to request the proprietors to release him from all obligations implied in his affirmative answer to their call. Thus were the fond hopes of our pious fathers blasted; and they remained in this broken state, having preaching only part of the time, till August, 1757, when they voted to give Mr. Deliverance Smith a call. Mr. Smith, however, did not accept the invitation. It is interesting to notice the anxiety which was manifested, during all this time, for the settle-

ment of the ministry. At almost every meeting of the proprietors the subject was brought up, and some new method devised, or attempted, to effect their object. Journeys of very considerable distances were performed, to obtain a suitable candidate. At length, in November, 1759, they gave a call to Mr. STEPHEN FARRAR. In July, 1760, he gave an affirmative answer, and on the 22d of succeeding October, he was ordained. The same council which ordained Mr. Farrar organized the first church. A covenant was prepared, and the several members of other churches, having a regular dismission, were embodied under it. As this covenant, better than any thing else which I know of, exhibits the views and feelings of the original members of the church, I have thought best to transcribe the substance of it. After, in a very touching manner, acknowledging the goodness of God in their temporal and spiritual blessings, and their own unworthiness, and adoring that free and rich grace which can triumph over such unworthiness, they declare their serious and hearty belief in the christian religion, as revealed in the scriptures, and as usually embraced by the faithful in New-England, and as summarily exhibited, in the substance of it, in their well known confession of faith. "Heartily resolving to 'conform our lives to the rules of Christ's holy religion, we 'give up ourselves," they say, "to the Lord Jehovah, who 'is the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and avouch him this 'day to be our God, and receive him as our portion forever. 'We give up ourselves to the blessed Jesus, acknowledging 'his true deity, and to adhere to him as the head of his people in the covenant of grace, and rely upon him as our 'Prophet, Priest and King, to bring us to eternal blessedness.

"And we desire, and also promise, with divine assistance, 'to walk together as a church of our Lord Jesus Christ, in 'the faith and order of the gospel, so far as we do know, or 'shall have the same made known to us; carefully and conscientiously attending the public worship, and the sacra-

‘ments of the new testament ; and that we will be observ-
‘ant of the laws of Christ’s kingdom, which regard the dis-
‘cipline of the church, as they have in general been admin-
‘istered in the churches in New-England ; and that we will
‘attend all God’s ordinances and institutions, in communion
‘with one another—watching over one another with the
‘spirit of meekness, love and tenderness ; and that we will
‘carefully avoid all sinful stumbling blocks, strifes and con-
‘tentions ; and will endeavor to the utmost, to keep the
‘unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. And we do, with
‘ourselves, present and dedicate our offspring unto the Lord,
‘resolving, with the help of divine grace, to do our part in
‘the method of a religious education.’”

This covenant was signed by eighteen men ; and soon after, Messrs. Ephraim and Benjamin Adams were chosen deacons. I need make no comment upon this venerable document. It does honor to the piety and good sense of our ancestors. How explicitly do they state their views of the Lord Jesus—recognize their obligations to attend public worship—dedicate their children to God—educate them for him, and keep up family religion !(*J.*)

Soon after the town was incorporated, Mr. Farrar’s contract with the proprietors was cancelled, and a formal one made with the town. He was a sound and popular preacher, and much respected and blessed as a minister. The years 1786 and 1787 were distinguished by a powerful revival. On one sabbath, more than thirty came forward and took upon them the covenant of which I have given an abstract. During this revival, in one family six, and in another seven, united themselves with the church at the same time.(*K.*) By a private memorandum, kept by the late Mr. Walton, I find that in 1786, eighty-eight members were added to the church. The Rev. Mr. Farrar died June, 1809, aged nearly 71. He was ordained at the early age of 22, and continued in the ministry forty-eight years. “The capacities with

which the God of nature had endowed him," says the Rev. S. Payson, D. D., in his funeral sermon, "were of such a kind as eminently qualified him for usefulness in that work to which he was devoted. He had a good heart—he loved his Master—he loved his work. He had, indeed, his trials and his enemies, but they seemed to promote his sanctification."

Very few are now living who were witnesses of the glorious revival just referred to. I have heard some aged christians, however, speak of that season with peculiar interest. The gushing tear and the illumined countenance has told how they love to linger upon its hallowed scenes. When, in imagination, they have travelled back to that period, their hearts have burned within them. It was then their piety received a new impulse, and glowed with fresh ardor. It was then that multitudes were turned to the Lord, and their Redeemer was honored. In his preaching, at that time especially, I am told that the venerable Farrar brought out, in bold relief, the great doctrines of the gospel—such as depravity—divine influence—the law and the atonement. He had the prayers and coöperation of a beloved flock. (*L.*)

On the August following the decease of Rev. Mr. Farrar, it was voted, in regular town meeting, to pay the expenses of his funeral, present a mourning dress to the widow, and erect a monument over his grave. A committee was also raised, to join one from the church, to provide a supply for the pulpit.

In May, 1810, Mr. Experience Porter was employed as a candidate. Mr. Porter remained during the season; but, although much was said and done in respect to employing him as their settled pastor, he was never ordained over them. After Mr. Porter left, Mr. Burbank was employed as a supply, until, in December, 1811, Mr. RICHARD HALL received a call from the church and the town to settle with them in the gospel ministry; and in the succeeding February he gave his affirmative answer.

For several years previous to the death of Mr. Farrar, the state of religion was apparently very low. There were few additions to the church. If the memorandum of Mr. Walton be correct, there had been only 19 additions for the 8 years immediately preceding his death. But he had hardly been gathered to his fathers, before the fruits of his labors appeared in a signal work of grace. The seed which he had long scattered with a patient hand now sprang up. Such are God's ways not unfrequently. It would seem as though it would not do always to let his servants see the agency they have in building up his kingdom. The seed which is sown, and begins already its hidden process of vegetation, shoots forth its blade under other hands. It was under these interesting circumstances that the Rev. Mr. Hall commenced his ministry; and, following up the labors of Messrs. Porter and Burbank, he had the honor and gratification of promoting and gathering in the precious fruits of this revival. In 1811, thirty-six, and in 1812, eighty-six were added to the church.

Between 1820 and 1822, there was another season of more than ordinary interest. The Lord revived his work, and caused his people to rejoice in his salvation.

In the spring of 1822, Mr. Hall was taken off his labors by a hemorrhage upon his lungs. He spent the succeeding winter at the south, but was not essentially better in the spring when he returned. The following winter he more evidently declined, and in the spring journeyed to his native town, New-Haven, Vermont, where he died in the summer.

Mr. Hall had a fine constitution until broken down by his bleeding. Of his mental powers, those of discrimination and analysis, especially, were above the ordinary grade, and he was noted for his decision of character. His incessant labors in the revival of 1821 and 1822, doubtless predisposed him for those complaints which closed his valuable life. He bestowed much thought upon his sermons, and was a very sound and instructive preacher.

In 1823, a religious society was formed, agreeably to the act of 1819, consisting of one hundred members. George F. Farley, Esq., was the first clerk, and E. H. Farrar, Esq., has been annually chosen to that office since.

After the death of Mr. Hall the pulpit was supplied by several individuals, until, in March, 1826, Rev. ISAAC R. BARBOUR was installed. Hoping that a southern climate might prove serviceable to the declining health of Mrs. Barbour, he obtained a dismissal the following autumn. His wife, however, did not live to reach the south.

The author of this Sketch was ordained February 28, 1827. He is a native of Rindge, New-Hampshire, and was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1823. In the latter part of the year 1831, and the beginning of 1832, about one hundred persons connected themselves with the church under his care. In 1827, there were 173 members of the church. There are now 335.* Of the 123 received by profession during the last eight years, 131 were baptized in infancy—more than three fourths. During the same period there were 59 baptisms of infants. The sabbath-school library contains between 500 and 600 volumes. A large proportion of the adults and children of the society are connected with the sabbath school. The Maternal Association was the earliest in the country, and has been recently much enlarged.

NOTES.

(A.) The following were the thirteen resident grantees:

Reuben Kidder,	Benjamin Hoar, Jun.,	Ebenezer Bullard,
Archibald White,	Timothy Heald,	Joseph Stevens,
Jonas Woolson,	Joseph Kidder,	Henry Pudney,
Habijah Foster,	Joseph Bullard,	John Chandler,
	John Brown.	

It is probable that some of these were the original inhabitants, who returned after the Indian war. The other grantees resided in Hollis, Dunstable, Groton, Medfield, Mendon and Littleton.

[* Since this Sketch was written, Rev. Mr. Walker has been dismissed, and Rev. SAMUEL LEE has been installed his successor.—*Ed.*]

I was told by an aged citizen, now dead, that the next year after this grant, there was so much alarm, on account of the Indians, that all the inhabitants, except one man, retired for a season to Townsend. I do not learn, however, that the Indians ever committed any depredations in the place.

Habijah Foster, it is said, was the first man who moved his family into town; and the first male child, born in town, was his son. He lived on what is called the Hill's place, near Esq. Preston.

(B.) Reuben Kidder, I understand, was the first citizen who received a commission of justice of the peace, and colonel in the militia. He lived on the Webster place, and was a man of piety and influence. Isaiah Kidder, whose widow resides amongst us, was his son.

(C.) The following is a list of town clerks :

Benjamin Adams,	Jeremiah Richards,	Samuel Farrar, 1st,
Timothy Heald,	Noah Bartlett,	Samuel Batchelder,
Ichabod How,	John Hubbard,	Ephraim H. Farrar,
Isaac Appleton,	Seth Wheeler,	Jeremiah Smith,
John Preston, 1st,	John Preston, 2d,	Isaac How,
Nathaniel D. Gould,	James Hosley.	

DEACONS. Adams, Appleton and Bartlett. Mr. Ichabod How, Dr. Preston and Mr. Batchelder, were very often elected to this office. Ephraim H. Farrar, Esq., the present clerk, has officiated almost uniformly for several years. He is the son of the late Rev. Mr. Farrar.

(D.) Of the citizens who were in the active service of the Revolution, the following deserve to be noticed:—viz.

Ebenezer Fletcher. This individual drew up a narrative, by which it appears that he joined the continental army at Ticonderoga, in the spring of 1777, at the age of 16 years. He was wounded and taken prisoner at the battle of Hubbardston. After recovering somewhat, he escaped from the British camp, and with much hazard, at length arrived safe home. After he recovered of his wound, he rejoined the army, and continued his three years' term. He died 1831. Mr. Fletcher was a member of the Baptist church.

Zaccheus Walker. He did not become a citizen here, I believe, until after the Revolution. He was for a considerable time in the army, and is said to have commanded the life-guard of Washington for a season. He died 1832.

Jesse Walker. He was about three years in the army. He was at the taking of Burgoyne and at the evacuation of Ticonderoga; and went out once from fort Herkimer with a single company, and routed 500 Indians. He died 1832. See note (*K.*)

Onesimus Newhall. He was a native of Lynn, Mass. In his 19th year, he, with a few of his fellow townsmen, hastily collected, and successfully attacked the rear guard of the British army on their way to Lexington. "He marched for the field of battle on 'Bunker Hill, but did not arrive in season to take part in the action. 'He was with the American army in Rhode-Island, under Gen. 'Sullivan; and was for some time in the garrison at Ticonderoga. 'He afterwards left the army, and entered the U. S. naval service; 'and at Penobscot, after a brave resistance, was compelled to jump 'overboard and swim to shore, in order to avoid being taken. Soon 'after this, he engaged on board a privateer in the capacity of 'gunner; and while in the act of elevating his piece, was wounded 'by a grape-shot, which entered his mouth—passed out under his 'ear, and then struck his shoulder. The enemy's ship was taken. 'After he recovered of his wounds, he again engaged on board a 'privateer, and was taken by the enemy and carried to Newfound- 'land. He was, however, soon exchanged, and continued in the 'naval service till the close of the war." He died 1833. Mr. Walker and Mr. Newhall were members of the Congregational church in this place.

(*E.*) It is curious to notice that the town, for several years, chose orators to address them on the occasion of electing their representative. The following is a list of representatives:

Nathaniel Stone,	Jeremiah Prichard,	Nathaniel D. Gould,
Paul Prichard,	Ebenezer Champney,	Charles Barrett, 2d,
Thomas Heald,	Noah Bartlett,	Stephen Wheeler,
Ephraim Adams,	Isaiah Kidder,	George F. Farley,
John Preston,	Samuel Batchelder,	John Preston,
Charles Barrett,	Timothy Farrar,	Seth King.

In 1778, Timothy Farrar, Esq. was appointed to meet others in convention at Concord, for the purpose of framing a plan of government for the state. He was continued in this office until the government was finally settled. When the plan of constitution and bill of rights was presented to the town, they went into a thorough examination of them—called in the aid of Rev. Mr. Farrar, and gave him public thanks for his assistance.

(*F.*) The Hon. JOHN HUBBARD was not only an excellent instructor, but an exemplary christian and public spirited citizen.

He was noted for his musical taste and talents; and did much towards forming a just and elevated standard of church music in town. The society, which bears his name, has contributed to the same object; and the good taste and unwearied pains of Dea. Gould while among us, and of others who follow in his steps, and especially the blessed influences of God's spirit, has served to render our orchestra a scene of delightful religious and musical harmony.

The following is a list of Mr. Hubbard's successors :

* <i>Samuel Worcester</i> ,	afterwards D. D. and secretary of the A. B. F. M.	
David Palmer,	<i>Elijah Demond</i> ,	Luther Smith,
* <i>Warren Pierce</i> ,	Amasa Edes,	Seth H. Keeler,
Joseph Mullikin,	<i>Rufus A. Putnam</i> ,	Robert A. Coffin,
Oliver Swain,	—— Taylor,	Asahel Foote,
* <i>Hart Talcott</i> ,	Cranmore Wallace,	Stephen T. Allen,
Jesse Smith,	E. Smith,	Charles Shedd.

(*G.*) Samuel Appleton, Esq., of Boston, presented the globes and most of the books to the Academy. Other instances of his beneficence, in his native town, might be mentioned. He is the son of the late Dea. Isaac Appleton.

(*H.*) The following is a list of the natives who have received a public education :

*Joseph Appleton, graduated at Dartmouth, 1791. He was son of Dea. Isaac Appleton; studied law with judge Newcomb, of Keene, and died young.

Moses Appleton, A. M., grad. at Dartmouth, 1791. He was son of Dea. Isaac, and now physician in Waterville, Maine.

*Jesse Appleton, D. D., grad. at Dartmouth, 1792. He was son of Francis, and president of Bowdoin College.

John Appleton, A. M., grad. at Bowdoin, 1822. He was son of John,—lawyer in Bangor, Maine.

Ebenezer Adams, A. M., grad. at Dartmouth, 1791. He was son of Dea. Ephraim Adams, and is Prof. Dartmouth College.

Frederic A. Adams, grad. at Dartmouth, 1833. He was grandson of Benjamin Adams; studied at Andover Theol. Inst.

*Charles Barrett, A. M., grad. at Dartmouth, 1794. He was son of Hon. Charles Barrett, and died in town in 1836.

Addison Brown, grad. at Harvard, 1826. He was son of Dea. Aaron Brown—Unitarian minister, Brattleborough, Vt.

* Those with a star prefixed are dead; those in italics were afterwards in the ministry.

* Dead.

Ebenezer Cheever, A. M., grad. at Bowdoin, 1817. Minister of Mont-Vernon and other places.

Rodney G. Dennis, grad. at Bowdoin, 1816. Was born in New-Boston. Minister in Somers, Connecticut.

Samuel Farrar, A. M., grad. at Harvard, 1793. He was son of Rev. Stephen Farrar.

Timothy Farrar, A. M., grad. at Dartmouth, 1807 ; studied law with Daniel Webster ; trustee Dart. Coll. ; judge court common pleas—now practising law at Portsmouth.

Edward A. Gould, A. M., M. D., grad. at Harvard, 1825. He is son of Dea. Nathaniel D. Gould—now a physician in Boston.

Thomas Heald, A. M., grad. at Dartmouth, 1794. He was son of Col. Thomas Heald. Lawyer in Concord, Mass.

*Reuben Kidder, grad. at Dartmouth, 1791. He was son of Col. Reuben Kidder. Studied law. Died at the West.

Ebenezer Newhall, A. M., grad. at Harvard, 1818. He was son of Onesimus Newhall. Minister in Lincoln, Mass.

*John Preston, grad. at Dartmouth, 1791. He was son of Dr. John Preston. Studied with Dr. Holyoke, Salem, Mass. Practised physic in town.

John Preston, grad. at Harvard, 1823. He was son of the second Dr. John Preston. Lawyer in town.

Phineas Pratt, grad. at Bowdoin, 1817. He was son of Phineas Pratt. Teacher in Saco, Maine.

Oliver S. Taylor, A. M., M. D., graduated at Dartmouth, 1809. A physician.

John Bartlett, son of Dea. Noah Bartlett, and Joseph A. Barrett, son of Joseph Barrett, Esq., died in their college course. They were young men of great promise. There are four now in a course of public education.

(I.) The first meeting-house was of hewn logs, and only partly finished when the inhabitants fled. On their return it was found in ashes. It was near Mr. Jesse Holton's. The second was built upon the hill, near the old burying ground. At first it had no gallery, but after the ordination of Rev. Mr. Farrar, a small gallery was put up. The third was erected near the same spot, and the other was converted into a horse-shed. The present house was dedicated March, 1813.

(J.) The following are the names attached to this covenant :

Ephraim Adams,	Stephen Farrar,	Benjamin Adams,
Joseph Bates,	Stephen Adams,	Thomas Adams,
Thomas Fletcher,	John Dutton,	John Chandler,

Andrew Spaulding, Reuben Kidder, Joseph Bullard,
 Jonah Crosby, Ebenezer Bullard, Amos Taylor,
 Joseph Stevens, Zachariah Adams, Benjamin Hoar.

Ephraim and Benjamin Adams were brothers. They came from Ipswich, Mass., and for a number of years, held their property together, and lived in a truly fraternal manner. They were men of rare worth. Benjamin, especially, was employed much in public business. Ephraim had less polish, but was noted for his strong original sense and shrewdness.

The following is a list of their successors as officers of the church, with the time when they accepted :

1774,	Isaac Appleton.	1815,	Isaac Adams.
1801,	James Chandler.	1819,	John Clark.
—,	Ephraim Adams.	1827,	Isaiah Cragin.
1807,	Noah Bartlett,	1831,	James Tolman.
1812,	Thomas Weatherbee.	1831,	James Davis.
1813,	Nathaniel D. Gould.		

The first four on this list have gone to their reward. They adorned the doctrine of God their Saviour, and did credit to their office. The widow of Dea. Appleton died in 1827. She had a clear intellect, a kind and charitable heart, and devoted piety. She lived to the advanced age of 85, and retained her faculties to an unusual degree.

The widow of Dea. Chandler is still living among us, waiting with christian patience, we trust, till her change come.

Deacons Adams and Bartlett, and also Dea. Appleton, were employed very considerably in the affairs of the town.

Deacons Gould, Weatherbee and Cragin have removed from town ; the others still bear the vessels of the Lord among us. Dea. Adams, the senior officer, is son of Dea. Ephraim Adams, 2d, and grandson of the first deacon.

(K.) This was the family of the late Jesse Walker's father. His father came here in 1765. This was then a wilderness, and they travelled by marked trees.

(L.) The Rev. Mr. Merriam has kindly furnished me with the following account of the Baptist church in this town.

“It is about fifty years since the first persons were baptized and openly professed the peculiar sentiments of the Baptist denomination. As they were few in number, they united with the church which then existed in Temple. Others were baptized from time to time, and united with the same church; and in this course, things continued till the year 1814, when a church, consisting of

‘ forty-six members, was formed in this town. According to the records, and to facts which I have learned from other sources, 130 have been added, 68 have been dismissed, 18 have died, and four have been excluded ; leaving 86 as the present number.

“ In 1815, a meeting-house, 40 by 48 feet, was erected for the use of the church and society, by Dea. Aaron Brown, who was a distinguished and useful member of the church till his death. Rev. John Parkhurst, a native of Chelmsford, Mass., and a graduate of Harvard College in 1811, was its first pastor. He continued his labors here until 1820, and then, at his own request, was dismissed, and removed to his native town. During his ministry, considerable accessions were made to the church. The following are the names of his successors: Ferris Moore, Joseph Elliot, Benjamin R. Skinner, (who was afterwards sent as a missionary to Africa by the A. B. Board) Calvin Greenleaf, and Asaph Merriam.”

[Since the preceding note was furnished, Rev. Mr. Merriam has been dismissed, and Rev. Johnson Howard was ordained 28 December, 1836.—*Ed.*]

MEMOIR OF HANSERD KNOLLYS, M. A.

BY REV. JOHN N. BROWN, OF EXETER.

HANSERD KNOLLYS, the first pastor of the first church in Dover, New-Hampshire, is a name eminent among the English Baptists of the 17th century. He was born at Cawkwell, a village in Lincolnshire, England, in 1598; was educated for the ministry at Cambridge; and ordained by the Bishop of Peterborough, June 29, 1529. Having embraced the principles of the persecuted Puritans, he was arrested in Boston, in his native county, 1636, by virtue of a warrant from the odious High Commission Court; but the man in whose custody he was, being conscience stricken, connived at his escape, and he went up to London to find a passage to America. There he was obliged to wait so long, that when he embarked “he had but just six brass farthings left, and no silver or gold.” He was accompanied by his wife, but his only child died on the passage, which was a very tedious one of twelve weeks. Backus (I. p. 101) says he came over in the spring of 1638; and he himself says that he lived in Dover “about four years,” yet he returned

to England in 1641.* On arriving at Boston, he says, "being very poor, I was necessitated to work daily with my hoe for the space of almost three weeks. The magistrates were told by the ministers that I was an Antinomian, and desired they would not suffer me to abide in their patent." Two gentlemen from Dover, being then in Boston, invited him to accompany them on their return, and preach there. He accordingly went with them; but Burdet, who had usurped the government of Dover at that time, forbid him. On Burdet's removal in the fall of 1638, (September) "the people," says Winthrop, "called Mr. Knollys, and in a short time he gathered some of the best minded into a church body, and became their pastor." (Winthrop—vol. i. p. 326.) This appears to have been the first church formed in Dover, and perhaps in New-Hampshire, unless Wheelwright's church, at Exeter, (which is spoken of by Winthrop as existing in October, 1638—vol. i. p. 281) preceded it. Here he continued in the peaceful discharge of the duties of his sacred function for two years, till interrupted by the arrival of Mr. Thomas Larkham, in 1640.

Up to this period, the character of Mr. Knollys appeared to be that of a good man—a learned and pious minister of the gospel—suffering exile and reproach and poverty for conscience' sake. If the letter, which he wrote to England soon after arriving at Boston, in which he reflected strongly upon the religion and government of Massachusetts, be thought an exception, his full, ingenuous and satisfactory confession of his error in Boston, must be regarded as an honor to his christian principles. It is by mistake that Dr. Belknap has imputed to *him* the improper language of Underhill himself, and Gov. Hutchinson has fallen into a similar misapprehension on the same subject. This blot should be wiped away from the reputation of Knollys. (See Winthrop—I. p. 292.)

The arrival of Larkham gave occasion to a new developement of his character. Larkham had been a minister in Northham, England. He was a man of wealth and popular talents, and he soon formed a party who determined to remove Knollys. Knollys, according to Belknap, "generously gave way to popular prejudice, and suffered Larkham to take his place; who soon discovered his

[* If Mr. Knollys arrived in the spring of 1638, and returned late in the fall of 1641, the term of "about four years" would be correct.—*Ed.*]

licentious principles, by receiving into the church persons of immoral characters, and assuming, like Burdet, the civil as well as ecclesiastical authority. The better sort of the people were displeased, and restored Knollys to his office, who excommunicated Larkham." The riot that followed in April, 1641, is, by Winthrop, imputed to Larkham; who, he says, "laid violent hands on Mr. Knollys." It is doubtful whether, in the peculiar circumstances in which the latter was placed, as stated by Winthrop, it did not appear his duty, *as a citizen*, to take the part he did. Candid minds will weigh those circumstances, at this time, more impartially than the illegal and *ex parte* court which fined him £100, and ordered him to depart the plantation. (Winthrop—II. p. 27.)

It is worthy of consideration, whether his sentiments as a Baptist had not much influence against him in the view of many of the magistrates. That he was a Baptist, when called to be pastor of the first church in Dover, is affirmed by Dr. Belknap, who styles him "an Anabaptist of the Antinomian cast." The doctor seems, in some other particulars in regard to Knollys, to forget his wonted candor.

The origin of the controversy between Larkham and Knollys is attributed by Lechford as much to their different views of baptism as to other points. He says, "they two fell out about *baptizing children*, receiving of members, burial of the dead." (Winthrop—II. note. p. 27.) Winthrop says, "there soon grew sharp contention between him (Larkham) and Mr. Knollys, *to whom the more religious still adhered*; whereupon they were divided into two churches." This testimony is strongly in Mr. Knollys' favor. Commissioners having been sent from Massachusetts to adjust the difficulty, a reconciliation was effected, by releasing Larkham from his excommunication, and Knollys from the censures of an illegal court.

But at this juncture arose the cloud that has in this country overshadowed his fair fame. Both Winthrop and Belknap say, that "a discovery was made of his failure in point of chastity"; and that he himself acknowledged before the church that he had been guilty of improper "dalliance" towards two young women that lived in his family; and that, on this account, he was dismissed by the church, and removed from Dover. Admitting all this to be true, (and more than this was once true of so good a man as David)

his criminality seems to have been much exaggerated by Hubbard and others. And three or four circumstances seem to throw an air of doubt over this accusation. 1. In his "Account of his own Life," published in England, he gives this as the reason of his leaving Dover—"Being sent for back to England by my aged father, I returned with my wife, and one child about three years old." (Backus—I. p. 102.) 2. His name is found on the judicial records of New-Hampshire in 1641, as plaintiff in an action of slander; which, though in consequence of his return to England never prosecuted, seems to imply that he regarded himself as an injured man. (See Exeter News-Letter, May 1, 1832.) 3. The historians, who report the case, being of different sentiments from him, are evidently (though unintentionally) prejudiced against him. 4. Cotton Mather (who wrote within about fifty years of the time) expressly distinguishes Knollys from the number of "scandalous" ministers, and places him in that class, "whose names," he says, "deserve to live in our *book* for their *piety*, although their particular *opinions* were such as to be disserviceable unto the declared and supposed *interests* of our churches. Of these were some godly *Anabaptists*, as namely, *Mr. Hanserd Knollys*, of *Dover*, &c., and *Mr. Miles*, of *Swansey*, &c." And what seems particularly to the point, Mather adds, "Both of these have a respectful character in the churches of this wilderness." (Magnalia—Vol. I. Book III. p. 221.) In view of these facts, let the reader judge of the extent of Mr. Knollys' criminality, and how far it affects his general character as a christian minister.

Mr. Knollys arrived in London, December 24, 1641. There he gathered a flourishing Baptist church, in great St. Helen's, of which he continued the pastor till his death, September 19, 1691, at the advanced age of 93. His name appears affixed to the Baptist Confession of Faith, in 1643; which even the bitter Dr. Featly admitted to be "an orthodox confession." This shows how little he deserved to be called an Antinomian. Of his learning, some judgment may be formed from the fact, that he published, in 1648, "The Elements of Hebrew Grammar." Yet, this is the man whom his enemies ridiculed by a miserable pun upon his name, calling him "Absurdo Knowless." Of his pulpit talents, we may form some opinion from the fact, that his congregation "was seldom less than 1000 auditors." His name is the first attached to the Baptist

Confession of Faith, published in 1689, the admirable preface to which was probably from his pen. And as to his general character after his return to England, we have the testimony of Neal, that "he suffered deeply in the cause of non-conformity, being universally esteemed and beloved by all his brethren." (Neal—Vol. I. p. 216.) And Cotton Mather tells us he died "a good man, in a good old age." (Magnalia—Vol. I. p. 221.)

AUTHORITIES FOR THE PRECEDING. *Winthrop's Hist. N. E.*, with Notes by Savage; *Hubbard's Hist. N. E.*; *Hutchinson's Hist. Mass.*; *Belknap's Hist. N. Hampshire*; *Neal's Hist. of the Puritans*, with Notes by Toulmin; *Backus' New-England*; *Benedict's Hist. of the Baptists*; *Ivimey's Hist. of the English Baptists*; *Baptist Confession of Faith, London, 1689*; *Mather's Magnalia*; *Eliot's N. E. Biog. Dictionary*; *Adams's Annals of Portsmouth*; *Encyclopædia of Religious Knowledge*; *Farmer's Genealogical Register*, (revised edition.)

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

TOWN OF HAMPSTEAD, STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

BY JOHN KELLY, A. M.

HAMPSTEAD is a town made up of two segments, one from the town of Haverhill, and the other from the town of Amesbury, both in Massachusetts, it being cut off from those towns by running the state line in 1741, which threw this town into the state of New-Hampshire. It is 30 miles west of Portsmouth, 30 south of Concord, 20 on a straight line from the sea-shore at Hampton Beach, and the same distance W. N. W. from Newbury Bar, at the mouth of Merrimack river.

It is on the most direct great road from Concord, N. H.

to Salem, Mass., 30 miles from each. It is on the great northern road from Concord, through Haverhill to Boston, and on the most direct road from Londonderry to Newburyport. It is a small town, in lat. $42^{\circ} 53'$, containing only 8,350 acres of land, 400 of which are covered with water, and in 1830 there were 913 inhabitants. The roaring of the sea has been sometimes heard at this place. It is an elevated and hard tract of land, on account of which it was originally called *Timber-Lane*, there being an abundance of oak timber, considerable walnut, some chestnut, maple, elm, pine and cedar. The last-named is in a swamp, which contains one of the most western sources of Exeter river. Most of the town, however, lying on the height of land between Piscataqua and Merrimack rivers, sends its waters S. W. from Wash pond and other parts, through Islandy pond and Spiggot river, whose outlet is at Methuen, Massachusetts, into Merrimack river. Some little part of the water, however, goes south, through Little river, to Haverhill village, and some more to Amesbury mills, east through Powow river from Angly pond, lying partly in Hampstead and partly in Sandown.

The town having been made up of fragments, is much out of square, having about thirty angles. And yet, although it is so irregular and small in dimensions, a person passing through on the most direct road from Haverhill to Chester, would consider it a large and rich township; for he would travel almost six miles on a good road, bordered with well-cultivated fields and handsome buildings.

Hampstead is bounded N. by Sandown and Danville, (formerly Hawke;) E. by the S. W. part of Kingston; S. E. by Plaistow; S. by Atkinson, and W. by Derry, which was originally part of Londonderry.

It appears that the soil of this place was originally so stubborn that the Indians made no great account of it only for fishing and hunting-ground, and to pass and repass to

more favorable places to be cultivated. And I recollect that when I was young, an aged man told me, that when he was a young man he had contemplated being one of the first settlers of Concord, about A. D., 1726 ; and as he passed through Hampstead and Chester, he considered the land of no value for a settlement.

It is reported, however, that one or two Indians had a temporary abode near Angly pond, in the N. E. part of the town, where some of their implements, I believe, have been found.

Three white families, of the name of Ford, Heath and Emerson, moved into the place about the year 1728. Mr. Emerson came from Haverhill, and settled near a brook in the south part of the town. Some of his posterity remain here still, and are among the most respectable inhabitants.

The people soon had a small house, in which they sometimes met for public worship ; and in about twenty years they so increased, mostly from Haverhill and Newbury, that some of the most sober individuals united together, as we suppose, in the year 1748, to raise and cover a meeting-house ; for the next year, on the 17th of January, 1749, the town was incorporated, and named Hampstead, from a pleasant village in Middlesex county, in England, 5 miles north of London. This name was given to it by Gov. Benning Wentworth, who reserved an island of 300 acres, in the S.W. part of the town, as his own farm. This island is now owned by Mr. Gilman, of Exeter.

The first annual meeting was called in March, the same year, to be in the new meeting-house, by Daniel Little, Esq. under the authority of the province. This being in 1749, leads us to conclude, without any record, that the meeting-house was raised in 1748.

The first inhabitants of this town were mostly like the soil—rough and hardy—and easily excited. But they were very much favored in the choice of a minister, Rev. HENRY

TRUE, who came from Salisbury, Massachusetts. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1750, and was ordained in June, 1752, and continued in the ministry almost thirty years, till his death, 22 May, 1782, in the 57th year of his age. He always maintained the character of a *good man*, agreeably to the text (Acts 11: 24) which Rev. Edward Barnard, of Haverhill, preached from at his ordination.

During the first half of the term of Mr. True's ministry, no clergyman was more highly esteemed, or better treated by the people in general, than he was. He was permitted to go into the army as a chaplain, in 1755, if not more, for his benefit; and as his family increased, the people added to his salary, a number of years. So that, for four years successively his annual salary amounted to 568 dollars a year; and taking twenty years together, the average salary was 360 dollars; and the whole sum that the people gave him more than his stipulated salary was 2756 dollars. This was when the daily wages of a selectman were only two shillings, or thirty-three cents per day.

Mr. True's original settlement and salary were the following:

1. That he should have the parsonage lands, allotted by Haverhill to Timber-Lane, which was sometimes called Haverhill District, but now Hampstead, for the first settled minister.

2. That he should have £1000 old tenor—that is, about \$450, to assist him in building, to be paid, half in one full year after his ordination, and the other half within the next full year.

3. That he should have annually, after he should have a family, twenty cords of wood, delivered at his dwelling-house.

4. That his salary the two first years should be £450, old tenor; that is, about \$203,50 a year; and afterwards it should be £500 old tenor—that is, about \$225 annually during his ministry.

But after the people had added to his salary, in the course of twenty years, as has been already mentioned, \$2756, they cut it down to \$200 a year, for several years toward the close of his ministry. For after Mr. True had been settled about twenty years, Baptist ministers came into the place, and by their zealous and loud speaking, they produced a great commotion, but no revival, among the people, who were very sanguine and versatile in their dispositions.

This did not, however, unsettle the good minister, nor sully his character in the view of any man, but it reduced his salary, and reduced the number of his hearers, and greatly injured the character of the people; for almost all the followers of the new preachers became downright infidels, and sowed the seeds of wickedness so much that another minister could not be settled for more than ten years after Mr. True's decease.

In the interval of ten years after the death of Mr. True, the infidels, of which this town, it is believed, had more than any other then known in the state, gave themselves up to reproaching the saints and blaspheming the name of their Saviour; of course the goodly number of sober people were in trouble, longing to have a minister to speak the word of truth, and to break the bread of life to them.

They sometimes had preaching, but they had not courage to give a man a call to settle among them as a minister, until four years had passed away; and they then found it a fruitless attempt, unless they inserted in the warrant an exemption for all those who were freed from paying a minister tax.

This measure so quieted the minds of all opposers, that the friends of religion proceeded, without hindrance, to give a man a call, 11 September, 1786; but he not being a suitable person to settle in the ministry, the call was annulled. The next year, 11 October, 1787, another man had a call, but the stipulation of a salary was so small, and there

were so many open infidels in the place, that he gave a negative answer. The next year, 2 June, 1788, another man had a call, with the promise of more salary; but being invited away where he could have a still larger stipend, he left the people without giving them any answer. The next year, 19 February, 1789, another man had a call, but the offer was so small, and the infidels were so many, that he did not consent to stay.

In the same year, 1 December, 1789, another man had a call; but soon after, both sides were willing to relinquish the proposal. All these ministers had trouble where they went. The people about this time appointed a *saving* committee, to make such proposals that a minister should by no means have too much salary. This committee calculated to give a minister two cows and six sheep, to stock the parsonage, and then to give him the use of the parsonage, and fifteen cords of wood annually, worth about one hundred dollars; and also two hundred dollars in money, as an annual income, which would be as much as the people could afford. At the same time, they supposed further, that this stipulation, amounting to about \$300, would enable the minister to live and to lay by \$100 a year; but I believe they would have been nearer the truth, in most cases, if they had calculated that the minister would need to run into debt \$100 every year in order to live.

This saving plan, for three more years, paralyzed every exertion and every hope of obtaining a minister. The people were so discouraged, that they could not get a vote to raise one cent to hire preaching.

But at last, early in the year 1792, there was a subscription set on foot; and even some who were thought to be no friends to preaching, put their names to the subscription for this object, perhaps thinking it disreputable for a town to have no preaching, neither in winter nor in the summer. This measure opened the door, after some trial

of others, for the present minister to come in, who was not much afraid of poverty, and was less afraid of infidels. He was born in the west parish in Amesbury, Massachusetts, 22 February, 1763; graduated at Dartmouth College, 24 August, 1791, and ordained at Hampstead, 5 December, 1792. The sermon was delivered by Moses Hemmenway, D. D., of Wells, Maine, from Philippians iii. 8: "*I count all things as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.*" There was no dissenting vote nor voice against his settlement. He accepted of the terms proposed by the committee and voted by the town, without making any amendments, except stating his expectation, that the parsonage buildings would be put and kept in repair, suitable for a family; and it would have been better than it is, if he had not been disappointed in this particular. It ought to be noticed, however, in this connection, that some individuals have done well in contributing \$203 to assist the minister to build for himself, which was effected some years since, (1808.)

The above terms of settlement, voted by the town of Hampstead, 23 October, 1792, were so far complied with, that the selectmen assessed the salary, and the town collector gathered the taxes, and paid the money and the wood over to the minister thirty-nine years, and since that time, that is, since 5 March, 1832, the Congregational Society has attended to this concern.

In giving a more clear view of things in this place, it will be necessary to look back to the year 1788. Then, the friends of religion obtained the consent of the town to sell the parsonage meadow, which was but little profit, and with that money, with the addition of about as much more—paid, not by the town, but by those people who wanted a minister, and who were then called the minister people—they bought a small farm, of about thirty-five acres, with a house and barn upon it, near the meeting-house.

No man paid any thing towards purchasing this parsonage, as a townsman, except one who gave the minister people four dollars, to help them make up the other half, which the parsonage meadow money did not, and which the town would not pay for.—(*See the first town book, pages 181—3.*)

In January, 1793, soon after the settlement of the second and present (1835) minister, the minister people, or in other words, the congregational people, undertook to repair the meeting-house, which was in a miserable and wasting condition, and to build a steeple and a porch by subscription—for the town would do no such thing. The congregational people proceeded to make considerable repairs on the parsonage-house, and to repair the meeting-house, to build a steeple and a porch, that as they found that some of the subscribers failed, and there was no hope that the town would do any thing, the selectmen for 1798, that is, five years after the steeple was built, added the arrearage due for the repairs of the meeting-house to the minister tax, which increased it one third more than usual; so that the minister people paid it, and not the town. And I believe it was generally conceded that the meeting-house belonged to the congregational people, as they at first built it, had occupied it above eighty years, and had mostly kept it in repair for forty years, and had added the steeple and the porch, and owned most of the pews. In view of all these things, any one can see, that if the town of Hampstead vote away the meeting-house to other denominations, and to people out of town, and so turn the congregational church and society out of their own house and out of their own pews, or subject them to hearken to what, if they would be honest, they must consider as false doctrine, it is cruel oppression and bitter persecution.

In the course of these remarks, it may be proper to notice the circumstances of procuring the bell. Deacon Thomas Huse, of West-Newbury, Massachusetts, owning, and living

for a time on the island formerly called the Governor's Island, surrounded by the Islandy pond in Hampstead, and being a particular friend of the minister, said to him one day in the year 1809, "You have a steeple here, and need a bell, and if you will go to Brookfield, to Mr. George Holbrook, and speak for a bell, I will pay for it." Agreeably to Dea. Huse's desire, the minister went to Brookfield, Mass. The bell was procured, and brought on the ground in Hampstead before any man in Hampstead knew any thing of it, except two other men, whom the minister engaged to make a frame for the bell, to be ready when it should come. It weighed 1212 1-2 pounds, and cost \$600. It was given specially for the use and benefit of the congregational church and society, and it was raised into its place, 19 Dec., 1809.

But with a view to conciliate all parties, and to secure the bell in a legal manner, it was agreed between the donor and the minister, that the bell should be deeded to the town, for their use in all civil matters and on funeral occasions, and *in particular* for the use and benefit of the congregational church and society forever, not to be obstructed by any denomination whatever. This was the understanding between the donor and receiver when the bell was given, no one imagining that the people of Hampstead would ever be so wicked as to appropriate the use of the bell to any other denomination, when the congregational people had built the steeple and procured the bell, and had done almost every thing at their own cost forty years, to keep the meeting-house from falling into ruin.

Having now given a general view of the situation, quality of the soil, state of society and improvements for 107 years in the town of Hampstead, I shall notice a number of particulars.

I. PRINCIPAL MEN.

RICHARD HAZZEN,* from Haverhill, Massachusetts, was

* He thus wrote his name, but many of his relatives wrote it Hazen.

graduated at Harvard College 1717. In 1741, he was one of the principal surveyors in running the line between Massachusetts and New-Hampshire. He died suddenly in October, 1754, on the road from Haverhill to Hampstead.

DANIEL LITTLE, Esq., from Haverhill, by the authority of the state called the first town meeting, in March, 1749, after the town was incorporated. His son Samuel was a justice of the peace, and a valuable man; his son, Rev. Daniel Little, also was a useful man, and the first minister of Kennebunk, Maine. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and had an honorary degree of A. M. at Harvard College.

Gen. JACOB BAYLEY, from West-Newbury, Mass., was a very enterprising man. After he had been here a number of years, he went as a leading man, and settled Newbury, in Vermont, and had the address to have the town named for his own native place. He distinguished himself as a general officer in the revolutionary war. In 1776, he commenced making the road from Newbury to St. John's.

Capt. JOHN HAZZEN, who was originally from Haverhill, Mass., and nephew to Richard Hazzen, was also a man of enterprise. After living here a number of years, he went as a leader to settle in Haverhill, in New-Hampshire, and also had the address to have the town named for the town of his nativity.

HON. CHARLES JOHNSTON was another very worthy man, who went from this place with Capt. Hazzen, as one of the first and most valuable men in that company. He died at Haverhill, 5 March, 1813, aged 76.

HON. JOHN CALFE, who was born in Newbury, came here from Kingston, where he first began to have a family. He was a descendant of the celebrated Robert Calef, a merchant in Boston, who, in the year 1692, strenuously withstood the measures of the government in putting supposed witches to death in Salem. He was deacon in the church

at Hampstead 35 years, a justice of the peace 29 years, of the quorum 13 years, judge of common pleas 25 years, and clerk of the house of representatives 25 years. He was born June 13, 1741, and died October 30, 1808.

Dr. JABEZ TRUE, third son of Rev. Henry True, was one of the first settlers of Marietta, Ohio, in 1788. He died at that place at the age of 63.

JOHN TRUE, Esquire, fourth son of Rev. Henry True, was born 26 December, 1761, and died 3 December, 1824, aged almost 63. He was one of the deacons of the church, and was endued with more than ordinary powers of mind. He directed in his will that \$2000 should be for the use of the congregational church and society in Hampstead, for the support of an orthodox minister. He was early employed as a town clerk, a selectman, and a representative to the state legislature. When he was about fifty years old, he became much devoted to the cause of Christ. At his death, he was treasurer of the ministers' Widows' Charitable Fund.

The church in this place was organized 3 June, 1752, consisting of 31 males and 37 females: 15 of them were from the first church in Haverhill, Massachusetts. This church has been favored with the ministrations of two pastors, who in 83 years have done 72 years of labor—the first, 30 years, and the second 42 years. The first had for 20 years nearly as much to support him, according to the stipulation of articles, as the second has had in 40 years. This church has also had, in the same term of 83 years, eleven deacons, three of whom are yet alive. Their names are, 1, Daniel Little; 2, Peter Eastman; 3, Benja. Kimball; 4, John Calfe; 5, Timothy Goodwin; 6, Samuel Currier; 7, Moses Little; 8, Job Kent; 9, John True; 10, John Emerson; and 11, Jonathan Kent. Besides these principal men, there have been selectmen, justices, and representatives to the general court; but, as in these latter days, there is not so much discrimination of character as in some other ages, it

is not of much importance to know the name of a person who is up on a high place, where he is in danger of falling down, in proportion to his elevation. I would just mention, however, that this town, which never has sustained a lawyer, has one now residing in the place, who appears to be a gentleman of promise. His name is Isaiah P. Moody, from Maine. He was born in York, in the county of York, 3 December, 1804, and graduated at Bowdoin College, 1827.

The physicians who have resided in this place were the following: John Bond, his son John Bond, Jun., Samuel Flagg, James Knight, Joshua Sawyer, Isaac Tewksbury. None of these were favored with a liberal education, nor honored with a medical degree from any of our literary institutions. Two or three others have had a transient residence here, but they are all gone now, except Drs. Knight and Tewksbury. Dr. Bond, senior, was an early member of the N. H. Medical Society, and was a very respectable and devout man; and though feeble in health many years, he lived to be 86 years old, and died 4 January, 1804, in a happy frame of mind.

II. DIFFICULTIES.

The religious part of the community in this town has been subjected to many troubles, as has been noticed. I shall now speak of those which have had a bearing on the whole community.

In the year 1735, was the great mortality, by the malignant sore throat, which began in Kingston, and extended through a great part of New-England, and continued, more or less, for fifteen years, taking away some whole families of children; but I cannot learn that this town suffered much from the disease.

In the year 1737, in the latter part of winter, hay was so scarce that many cattle died, and many families that same year, suffered extremely for the want of bread.

In 1738, there was a remarkable worm, which ate the

leaves from the oak trees, so as to make the forest appear in the summer naked as it does in the winter. They were larger than the caterpillar, woolly under the belly, but smooth on the back, with a line of black from end to end, and white specks in the black streak. Some called them the palmer worm.

In the year 1741, the winter was colder than almost any man ever knew before in New-England. The ice in the most rapid part of Merrimack river, a little above Newburyport, was, on the 28th of February, 1741, two feet and a half thick.

In 1749, the year this town was incorporated, there was the greatest drought ever known in this land. A man told me that his father had three loads and a half of hay from two acres, in 1748; but in 1749, he had only one load from the two acres added to three more acres, that is, five acres of good land, newly laid down, produced but one load of hay. The same man writes, "I mowed several days, and could not cut two hundred a day." Some people sent to Virginia for hay, and many cut down trees for their cattle to browse. It was very favorable that the corn yielded well that year, by means of the latter rains. The drought, which occurred in 1761, was very severe.*

Another very serious difficulty befell the town of Hampstead, which continued six years before it was completely settled. It has been already stated, that a part of the town was claimed by Amesbury, before the state line was fixed, in 1741; and it was called Amesbury peak, as the other larger part of the town was called Haverhill district, the whole having been *Timber-Lane* at first.

Now it is certain, that when the state line was finally settled, all that is now called Hampstead would fall into New-Hampshire; and Kingston comprehended all that is now called Kingston, East-Kingston, Danville, (formerly

* See page 90 of this volume.

Hawke) and Sandown, and being incorporated fifty-five years before Hampstead, it would also embrace that easterly part of Hampstead which was called Amesbury peak ; and accordingly we find, that, though Kingston had slept fifty-five years, or at least eleven years from the incorporation of Hampstead, yet, at last, they waked up, and fell upon Hampstead with redoubled force, of writ after writ, to recover their lost territory, in 1760.

But it is generally understood, that the dispute was settled by Hampstead's paying £1000 old tenor, to Kingston, and the cost, and by a grant of Unity by the governor in 1764, a tract of land about 70 miles west, near Connecticut river, containing 24,447 acres. The new township was called *Unity*, because the granting of it made peace between Hampstead and Kingston. But after all, it is difficult to say whether Hampstead paid any thing to Kingston but the cost of suing, because the accounts in the town book are very inaccurate.

There is a vote of £1200 old tenor recorded, which Hampstead offered to give Kingston, and another to give Kingston, £3000 ; and after that, there is something recorded about being released from paying the £3000 which were once offered for a settlement. But the settlement in any case was effected in 1766. And soon after this, came on ecclesiastical, or rather irreligious difficulties, as has already been mentioned ; and in 1775 came on the revolutionary war with Great Britain, which tried mens' souls throughout the land.

III. IMPROVEMENTS.

As this is an age of enterprise and improvement, it would be expected, that even in the history of a small town, something would be said on this subject. And I would say, that whoever recollects the aspects of the roads, the fields and the buildings, as they were forty years ago, and looks on them now, and considers what vast labor and cost of a hale

and enterprising people have been expended, he would be surprised at the change.

The meeting-house was all tattered and torn, without a steeple, without a bell, and almost without a covering; and might have remained so for an age, or till it rotted down, if it had not been for the people of God, who, with their own money and hands, by divine aid, put it in a better condition. The roads were full of stones, or in some places of mire; but now for almost six miles, from the north corner of Atkinson to the west corner of Sandown, near Chester, they are paved underneath with stone, and covered with gravel. The buildings, which were mostly old and shattered, are now repaired or displaced for new ones, and many new and handsome houses are reared up where there were none before. The fences, reeling and decaying, are turned into stone wall, of which, perhaps, there is more than in any other town of the same size in the state. The swamps, which were full of useless bushes and hammocks, are now levelled and replenished with luxuriant grass.

IV. OCCUPATIONS.

It would be expected, in a town so far from the sea-shore, and where the soil is so hard and rich, that the people would be chiefly farmers; and so they are, much to their credit, as good farmers as any in the state. And a farmer, when he is honest and benevolent, loving his God supremely and his neighbor as himself, is as much of a gentleman as any that can be found.

There are some other things done, however, besides farming. There are five blacksmith shops, two corn-mills, one saw-mill, three full stores of goods, besides some smaller ones; a number of shoe-makers, one large tannery, with a bark-mill going by water. Several carpenters, wagon-makers, and wheelwrights; one hatter's shop, with several workmen; and a great abundance of hats are made by the young women and boys, of palm flag-leaf, brought from the south.

V. EDUCATION.

There is a laudable spirit, and some exertions to promote the education of the rising generation, though not exactly of the right kind. Whoever has any thing to do with the education of children, ought full well to consider what kind of beings they are. They must not think them as the creatures of a day only, nor of a hundred years, but of eternity; as moral beings, dependent on the will and power of God, and of course bound to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength—and, that if they fail of this, they must be lost forever, if they do not repent of all their offences, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins and the salvation of their souls.

Now a parent who believes these things will not see it to be any kind of use to learn how to shuffle the feet, or to make a stiff and awkward bow, under the notion of being polite, when in reality it is no improvement to the mind or manners, but has a contrary effect upon both, and makes them proud and unmannerly, instead of making them humble, modest and polite.

It would be very desirable to see a young scholar from the manners' school, so called, able to take off his hat and lay it down in some suitable place, if he is not afraid of losing it, while he is conversing with a gentleman in his own house.

Every wise parent will know, that to make any one polite, he must improve his temper and understanding, by cultivating a kind and benevolent disposition toward all men, and by studying the ways of God, exhibited in his works of creation, and providence, and grace, and as revealed in his holy word; and he will say, let the child learn nothing but what will be useful to him and others, in time or in eternity; nothing—nothing else but this. This is the education, and the only education which a person ought to learn and to teach his children; and I am happy to find that this kind of education is more thought of than formerly in this place, as

appears by more attention to sabbath school and bible class instruction. Of those who were born or brought up in this town, thirteen have received a liberal education.

At Harvard College.

JAMES TRUE, son of Rev. Henry True, graduated 1780. He was sometime a preacher, and became deranged, and died 6 January, 1755, aged 35 years.

EZEKIEL LITTLE graduated 1784; twenty years a school master in Boston; made an arithmetic, and now lives in Atkinson, aged 72 in 1835.

JABEZ KIMBALL graduated 1797; was one year a tutor; studied law, and practised at Haverhill, and died there 19 March, 1805, aged 33.

ABNER ROGERS graduated 1800; was an attorney at law in Charlestown, Mass., and died 29 February, 1814, aged 37.

ROBERT ROGERS graduated 1802, was a merchant in France some time, but now in Boston.

At Dartmouth College.

HENRY TRUE, son of Rev. Henry True, graduated 1796; was sometime a minister of the gospel in Union, Maine, where he now resides.

BENJAMIN DUDLEY EMERSON, son of Col. Benjamin Emerson, graduated 1805; was sometime a school-master in Newburyport and in Boston. He is the author of the National Spelling Book and Reader; his younger brother, Frederic, is author of the North American Arithmetic.

ABNER EMERSON, brother of the preceding, graduated 1805; was, for a number of years, alienated in mind. He died at Charlestown, Mass., in December, 1836, aged 51.

THOMAS WILLIAMS, graduated 1815; is a physician at Canandaigua, New-York, M. D. at Dartmouth College.

HENRY TRUE KELLY, son of Rev. John Kelly, graduated 1819; is a minister at Madison, Geauga county, Ohio.

JONATHAN K. LITTLE, graduated 1823; was in the study of medicine, and died young.

JOHN KELLY, son of Rev. John Kelly, grad. at Williams College, 1825; studied medicine at the medical college in Fairfield, Herkimer county, New-York; lives now in Fultonville, Montgomery county, New-York.

FRANCIS WELCH graduated at Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., 1832, and was ordained the minister of Brentwood, in December, 1833.

In Hampstead are seven school districts—four on the great road, two to the east, and one to the north.

There are three elegant brick school houses, and the other four are of wood. Beside these primary schools, there have been some attempts to maintain a select high school. And some young gentlemen and ladies have repaired to the academies for instruction in morals, and in the arts and sciences, for a small portion of time, not expecting to become professional characters.

VI. MORALS AND RELIGION.

If all the people in Hampstead would cease to speak profanely, would keep the Sabbath-day holy to the Lord, would dispense entirely with the use of ardent spirits, would not involve themselves in debt more than they can pay, would not oblige their neighbors to borrow their own goods of them, but would do to others in all things as they would that others should do to them, then there would be more sound morality than there can now be found. I do not say this because I think the people of this town, in general, are more immoral than those of other towns; because I am fully persuaded that we have been losers in many of the changes which have taken place within a few years past.

We hope, however, that there is a change coming on for the better. There is an increasing desire that professors of religion may live more up to their profession; that good books should be read; that public worship should be more regarded; that the sabbath school should be promoted; that drinking ardent spirits should be avoided—these are harbingers of a better moral feeling.

The church, which at first contained 68 members, now contains 81. The number seven years ago was 110; but death has removed a number since that time. Six have been suspended, and several have been dismissed to other churches. Three of them were recently recommended, to unite with a new formed church in Illinois; so that we are now reduced to a low state. Only one member remains who was in the church when the present minister was ordained, 42 years since, and he is now 92 years old. Other indications of better days are the following: There is a female charitable society, which affords some help to the Home Mission or Bible Society. This society some years since made the minister a life-member of the N. H. Bible Society, by the donation of \$30; and others made him a life-member of the tract society, by a donation of \$20, and likewise of the N. H. Branch of the American Education Society, by the donation of \$30.

There is a Foreign Mission Association of the Western Rockingham Auxiliary Society, and a tract society, which has contributed liberally the present year. There is a sabbath school library, which affords much improvement to the minds of the rising generation. There is also a social library, of valuable books, which was established in the year 1796. One hundred and fifty-four persons have been admitted to the communion of the church by the present minister, and 260 in all have been baptized.

VII. MORTALITY.

This is the end of all men,—the end of all their secular enjoyments, possessions, pleasures, hopes and desires, for this world; and the living, or more properly, the dying, ought to lay it to heart.

The greatest number of persons who were known to die in one year was 30, in the year 1756, when a mortal fever prevailed. In 1758; only 8 died; in 1786, 1805 and 1807,

only 5 each year died ; in 1761, 4 died ; in 1746, 1751 and 1783, only one died each year.

When I first came here, I was surprised to see so many aged persons ; and now there are many more young persons in proportion to the aged. Since I came here, in 1792, 474 persons have died, which on an average is only about 11 annually. Among these were 69 of the age of 80 years or upward ; 21 have died of 90 years old or more. John Atwood died 1 January, 1812, aged 97 years and 7 months. He was born in Haverhill, Mass. The widow Sarah George died 24 January, 1830, aged 97 years and 5 months. She was born in Concord, N. H. Her father was Jacob Shute, of French origin, and one of the first settlers of that town. He died in Concord in February, 1794, aged 94, and her brother John died at the same place, in February, 1829, aged 96. Dea. Job Kent is the only man now alive above 90 years old, and the only one left of the church as it was when the present minister was ordained. He was 92 years old the last day of March, 1835. He has been a man of steady habits, moderate temper, diligent in labor, and inclined to a milk diet, and avoiding intemperance.

Concluding Remarks.

And if I may be allowed to give advice to towns, I would say, let men of such temperament and integrity be employed in civil and public affairs, instead of the profane, rash and dishonest lovers of rum, and of honors which they do not deserve. And would it not be a prudent and benevolent measure for towns to avoid employing young men, *new comers*, in public affairs, unless they are professional men, nor even then, except they come with good credentials? I make these remarks, because I have seen so much loss to the community, and so much injury done to young and inexperienced persons, in public employment, while they were scarcely fit to manage their own private concerns, and especially when they love to sip at the alcoholic tap.

Alas! the human mind is sufficiently weak and deranged at any time, without the fumes of intoxicating poisons. Let such men never have any thing to do, but to repent of their sins, and to live a sober life; for, why should a wild beast lead our children to his den? *When the vilest men are exalted, the wicked walk on every side; but when the righteous bear rule, the people rejoice.*

Hampstead, May, 1835.

Since the preceding Sketch was prepared, the aged and respected author of it has been dismissed from the ministry.

JOURNAL OF CAPT. PHINEAS STEVENS TO AND FROM CANADA—1749.

[Capt. PHINEAS STEVENS, whose Journal follows, was one of the first settlers of Charlestown, or Number-Four, as it was formerly called. He was a native of Sudbury, Massachusetts, from whence his father removed to Rutland. At the age of sixteen, while his father was making hay, he with three little brothers followed him to the meadows. They were ambushed by the Indians, who killed two of his brothers, took him prisoner, and were preparing to kill his youngest brother, a child four years old. He, by signs to the Indians, made them understand if they would spare him, he would carry him on his back—and he carried him to Canada. They were redeemed, and both returned. He received several commissions from Gov. Shirley, and rendered important services in protecting the frontiers. In 1747, when Charlestown was abandoned by the inhabitants, he was ordered to occupy the fort with thirty men. On the 4 of April, he was attacked by 400 French and Indians, under Mons. Debeline, as related in our IVth volume, 109—113. Capt. Stevens died in November, 1756, in the service of his country. Samuel, one of his sons, was the first representative from Charlestown to the general court, and died 17 November, 1823, aged 88. His posterity remain at Charlestown.]

PROVINCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY. } *To the Honorable SPENCER PHIPS, Esq., Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Province, and to the Hon'ble His Majesty's Council now met in Boston, 1749.*

May it please your honor and honors, by your special command to me, I now humbly present the following pages, a true journal and account of my travel to and from Canada, whither your honor and

honors were pleased to send me, with an account of my conduct with respect to my trust, and the remarkable occurrences that happened; the reception I met with, and some remarks I made on my road to and from Montreal, &c.—Which is as follows:

August, 1749. Sometime in August last, I was appointed by the honorable commissioners (then appointed by the honorable court) to go to Canada as their pilot. I accordingly repaired to my post at No. 4, to get my affairs in order, and proposed to attend them. Just as I was prepared, I received a letter from the honorable John Chandler, Esq., informing that the commissioners were not to go. Upon the receipt of which, I, with all speed, repaired to the honorable Col. Chandler, and from thence, by his direction, to Boston, where I received His Excellency Gov. Shirley's letter to the Governor of Canada, as also His Excellency and your honor's orders to proceed with the same to the Governor of Canada. September 13, I set out from Boston. Sept. 16, I arrived at Hadley, where I met my son, returned from his captivity. Sept. 17, Sabbath day at Hadley. Sept. 18, proceeded to Deerfield, to engage sergeant Hawks to go with me, according to order; but he declining to go, Sept. 20, I set out for No. 4, and lodged at fort Dummer. Sept. 21, arrived at No. 4, where I remained until Sept. 26, when I took with me ensign John Burke of my company, instead of Hawks, and set out for Canada. That night lodged at Fort Dummer. Sept. 27, to Deerfield; 28, to Hadley; 29, tarried for the finishing of my clothes I had making there; 30, to Westfield; October 1, Sabbath day; 2, to town called No. 1; 3, to Canter Hook [Kinderhook?] 4, to Albany; 5 and 6, at Albany, preparing for our journey; 7, having agreed with four of the Cagnawaugon Mohawks to conduct us and carry our baggage to Canada, we proceeded on our journey, went five miles up Hudson's river, and lodged at a Dutch house; 8, proceeded with our canoes 11 miles, to a Dutch house, rebuilt since the war; 9, the water being very low, we hired our loading carried four miles by land to Stillwater, then with our canoes proceeded to Saratoga,—20 miles this day; 10, went up the river eight miles, and lodged aboard; 11, up the river four miles, and come to the carrying place over to Wood-Creek,—being foul weather, we tarried in a house newly built by Col. Lydias and Mr. Vander Haydon; 12, came to the upper carrying place, eight miles. This day, we met the Dutch ambassadors from Canada, who had with them two

of our prisoners, and were refused any more of ours or theirs, under pretence made by the Indians that the province of the Massachusetts had a number of St. Francois Indians under confinement in Boston. There was also in company with them a Frenchman and Indian, coming to Boston by way of New-York, to know the truth of it.

October 13. Travelled eight miles in the carrying place with our canoes, baggage, &c. ; 14, four miles to the lake St. Sacrament, and proceeded on said lake in our canoes, twelve miles and camped. This day we saw on the side of the lake St. Sacrament wigwams of St. Francois Indians, who appeared friendly, and one of my old acquaintance presented me with two wild geese. Oct. 15, sailed twelve miles on said lake—came to a wigwam of French Mohawks ; they being acquaintance of our conductors, we could get no further this day. Oct. 16, sailed twenty miles, which brought us over said lake, and one mile down a small river to a carrying place, where we lodged ; 17, carried our things one mile then down said river with our canoes to the drowned lands—then ten miles, and lodged ; 18, it snowed, we lay still ; 19, sailed five miles in our canoes and came to Crown Point, where we were kindly received and handsomely treated ; but the commandant refused to let us go any further till the arrival of their sloop, which he expected in a short time, with which he expected orders to stop all that should come from New-England. The vessel coming that night, and bringing no such orders, (Oct. 20) after dinner the commandant gave us liberty to proceed on our journey. Bad weather and contrary winds retarding us, we did not arrive at St. John's, on Shamlee river, until the 26th, which is a large fort, mostly of timber, about twelve miles above Shamlee fort. At St. John's is the place where they load their vessels in order to supply Crown Point. At this fort, the commandant absolutely refused our proceeding, until he had orders from the Governor of Montreal. The officer sent one of our Indian company to Montreal with a letter. Oct. 27, continued at said fort ; 28, having a convenient opportunity by a cart going to Lapperary, the commandant gave leave we should go forward ; but if we met counter orders, to return. About half way, we met a Frenchman with horses from the Governor to fetch us ;—we came to Lapperary a little before night, which is from St. John's fifteen miles.

In travelling this fifteen miles, I observed the vast labor and pains taking to make a passable road from St. John's to Laperary—twelve miles of which was a very miry swamp, full of timber. They have cut the road two rods wide—they have made a causeway with timber—dug a trench on each side, which earth covers the timber: the land being so very wet, they are obliged to dig a number of drains from these trenches to great distances, taking all advantage of every fall of ground and run of water. This road is not yet quite completed: when finished, it will be a very good level way, and will render the supplying of Crown Point much easier than by the former way of Shamblee.

After we had refreshed ourselves, the ferryman told us he had orders to carry us immediately that night to Montreal. We directly set off, and arrived at the governor's about eight o'clock, it being nine miles by water. The governor received us very kindly—asked us to sup with him, which accordingly I did. The governor told me he should ask me no questions that night.

Oct. 29. Waited upon the governor that morning, who interrogated me very particular what was my business. I delivered the public letter, when he demanded of me all the private letters. He understanding that I had no special orders to treat with the governor-general, told me he thought it not proper I should go to Quebec, and that he would send the letter by an express; and if the governor-general thought it necessary, he would send for me; if not, I might expect, upon the return of the express, to be sent immediately home;—at the same time, he strictly forbid my having any conversation with the Indians,—and threatened, if he perceived I had, I should be immediately confined. Gave orders to my landlord, the King's interpreter, to keep us always under his inspection.

I continued at Montreal eight days, (where I was very well entertained.) I made it my constant business to inquire after prisoners: could hear of but three English from our parts, viz. Daniel Eaton, son to the widow Eaton, of Brunswick, now at Quebec, in the hands of the French; also a small boy, named John, alias Jonathan Door,* taken from Rochester, in New-Hampshire, now in the hands of the St. François Indians; and a small girl, daughter to the widow Forster, of Casco Bay. She is now kept at

* He was captured by the Indians on the 27 June, 1746. He returned to Rochester after the conquest of Canada.—Belk. I. 291.

Three Rivers, but belongs to a gentleman at Montreal, who designs her for the nunnery. There is also a number of Indians belonging to Cape Cod, two of which I saw at Montreal sold for slaves, who were very uneasy, and take it very hard that they are not treated as the rest of King George's subjects. There are two more with the St. Francois Indians; one of them I saw at Crown Point, who has married one of their squaws, and has no desire to come home,—he told me his name was Isaac Peck. The other I did not see. There is [are] more in the country, but could not find out where they lived.

While at Montreal, I was informed by a Dutch prisoner from Quebec, named David Abeall, who came home with me, that he saw two sloops loading with Indian stores, such as sleighs, snowshoes, &c., suitable for a winter's expedition, and, as he well understood the French language, he accidentally discovered they were designed for Chebucto.

Nov. 5. The express returned to Montreal with the answer to Gov. Shirley's letter. The 6th of November I was ordered home. I desired liberty to tarry one day longer; the governor told me the orders from the governor-general was so strict he could not grant me the favor. I accordingly set out with an officer and five soldiers, who had orders to bring us to Crown Point. Lodged at Lapperary that night.

As to Montreal, it is encompassed by a wall, and entrenched on the land side; a wall about 18 feet high from the bottom of the trench, which is about 8 feet deep and 16 wide; the wall 18 feet high on the water side, and no trench. The main battery is in the north-westerly corner of the city, on a rise of land which overlooks the wall all round. About 60 rods westward of the city there is a rise of land higher than the top of the walls.

Nov. 7, to Shamlee fort, where we were handsomely treated by the commandant; 8, to St. John's, twelve miles; 9, went on board a large batteau. As I have above, I here note, that at the emptying of the lake into Shamlee river there is a wind-mill, built of stone; it stands on the east side of the water, and several houses on both sides built before the war, but one inhabited at present. This day we came with our oars about forty miles—turned up a stream on the west side of the lake about one mile, where there was an officer with near 100 men cutting ship timber. The officer

had a comfortable house—the men, barracks to live in. Here we lodged. Nov. 10, we came to an island in the lake and lodged; 11 and 12, lay wind-bound; 13, to Crown Point; 14, tarried at Crown Point. Being now left to care for ourselves, I hired two Cagnawaugen Indians to assist us as far as Col. Lydias' house, at the carrying place to Wood-Creek. As to Crown Point, it is a large stone fort, I judge about 12 or 14 rods square, of which I conclude your honors have often had a description; I therefore beg leave only to note down some things in respect to the citadel within said fort,—as that, it lies entirely distinct from the wall of the fort, I passing entirely around it. It is four stories high, each story contains four convenient rooms; the partitions are walls of stone of great thickness; each story arched over with stone of great thickness, for its twenty-four large stone steps from one story to another; each room has one very large window, three or four feet wide, seven or eight high. The commandant lives in the third story, where there are two such windows. In his room, I saw 110 small arms, 50 of them fixed with bayonets, and about 50 pairs of pistols. I had not opportunity to discover the number of cannon in the fort and citadel. The hill, often spoke of, westerly of the fort, I judge to be not above forty rods distant, and considerable higher than the top of the wall. I would here further note, there are eighteen houses near Crown Point, some on each side of the water, but not all inhabited at present.

Nov. 15. Took our departure with the Indians in a birch canoe—came about five miles—found so much ice we could go no further;—16, 17 and 18, lodged here, waiting for the ice being strong enough to bear us; 19, drew our canoe on the ice—about seven miles found it very difficult—falling several times into the water;—20, drew our canoe three miles further on the ice—found it so weak we could not travel; 21, lay still; 22, travelled on the ice, leaving our canoe; 23, passed by the mouth of Wood-Creek into a large pond, which has a small communication to the drowned lands, lying to the west of the mouth of Wood-Creek;—24, travelled over said pond about four or five miles in length, and then two or three miles up a small river;—we here took our packs on our backs and travelled in an Indian path, trodden by them in their descents upon the Dutch this last war, and not before; nevertheless, it's so trod that we could easily follow it, although the snow

was four or five inches deep. Nov. 25, we travelled in said road; 26, we came to Hudson's river in the morning, about five miles above Col. Lydias' trading house. This carrying place, from where we first took up our packs, I judge to be 22 miles to Hudson's river; the travelling level and exceeding good, except about two miles when we first left the aforesaid small river. The course of this carrying place is N. and S. We came to Lydias' trading house this day, where I had a convenient opportunity to converse with the Cagnawaugen Indians by the help of Col. Lydias' son, who could speak the language well. Four of them being present, they manifested a great desire to live in peace, and said they should be very glad to have opportunity to let the English know it. I told them it was their own fault, or they might have continued in peace; however, notwithstanding their breach of former covenants, if they come to the English to seek their favor, I doubted not but that our rulers would receive them, and make them welcome. I told them I was desired by some of our rulers to invite them to Boston; and further told them, notwithstanding the prohibition of the French Governor while I was in Canada, I now, being out of his reach, embraced this opportunity to send them a belt of wampum, to be delivered to their Chiefs, desiring them to come to Boston; saying to them, if your Chiefs, upon receiving this belt, shall be disposed to come, they may come by Albany or No. 4; if they come by the way of Albany, Col. Lydias will take care to conduct them; if by the way of No. 4, I will take care to conduct them to the Governor. They received the belt and message cheerfully, and promised to deliver them both faithfully.

Nov. 27. I left Col. Lydias' house, and made the best speed hither. Dec. 11. I arrived at Cambridge, and delivered the letter to your honor.

The foregoing is humbly submitted by your honor and honors' most dutiful and most obedient servant,

PHINEAS STEVENS.

Boston, Dec. 15, 1749.

PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS AT NUTFIELD, AFTERWARDS
LONDONDERRY.—[From the Original.]

The humble Petition of the People late of Ireland now settled at Nutfield to his Excellency the Governour and general Court assembled at Portsmouth Sept. 23. 1719.

HUMBLY SHEWETH

That your Petitioners having made application to the general Court met at Boston in October last and having obtained a grant for a Township in any part of their unappropriated lands, took encouragement thereupon to settle at Nutfield about the Eleventh of Aprile last, which is situated by estimation about fourteen miles from Haverel meeting House to the north west, and fifteen miles from Dracut meeting House on the River Merimack north and by east.

That your Petitioners since their settlement have found that the said Nutfield is claimed by three or four different parties by vertue of Indian Deeds, yet none of them offered any disturbance to your Petitioners except one party from Newburry and Salem. Their deed from one John Indian bears date march the 13th. Anno Dom: 1701. and imports that they had made a purchase of the said land for five pounds. By vertue of this deed they claim ten miles square westward from Haverel line and one Caleb Moody of Newburry in their name discharged our People from clearing or any way improving the said land, unless we agreed that twenty or five and twenty families at most should dwell there, and that all the rest of the land should be reserved for them.

That your Petitioners by reading the grant of the Crown of Great Britain to the Province of the Massachusets bay, which determineth their northern line three miles from the River Merimack from any and every part of the River, and by advice from such as were more capable to judge of this affair, are satisfied that the said Nutfield is within his Majesties province of Newhampshire, which we are further confirmed in, because the general Court met at Boston in May last, upon our renewed application did not think fit any way to intermeddle with the said land.

That your Petitioners therefore imbrace this opportunity of addressing this honourable Court, Praying that their Township may consist of ten miles square or in a figure equivalent to it, they being already in number about seventy Families and Inhabitants and more of their friends arrived from Ireland to settle with them, and many of the people of New England settling with them; and that they being so numerous may be erected into a Township with its usual Priviledges and have a Power of making Town-Officers and Laws, that being a frontier place they may the better subsist by Government amongst them, and may be more strong and full of inhabitants.

That your Petitioners being descended from and professing the Faith and Principles of the establisht Church of North Britain and loyal Subjects of the Brittish Crown in the family of his Majesty King George, and encouraged by the happy Administration of his Majesties chief Governour in these Provinces, and the favourable inclinations of the good people of New-England to their Brethren adventuring to come over and plant in this vast wilderness, humbly expect a favourable Answer from this honourable Court, and your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c subscrib'd at Nutfield in the name of our people, Sepr. ye 21st. 1719, by

JAMES GREGG

ROBERTT WEAR

The Petition is endorsed as follows :

James Gregg & Robt Wear—In behalf of a Cómpa : of Irish at Nuttfeild To be a township &c Sept : 24 : 1719 read—Minuted & Suspended—Read again April 29th 1720 and Minuted.

JOURNAL OF CAPT. ELEAZER MELVEN,

With eighteen men under his command, in the Wilderness towards Crown Point—1748.—[From the original MS.]

[The following Journal is rendered the more interesting by its having been made by one of the survivors of the brave company of Capt. John Lovewell, who fell at Pequauket in 1725. Eleazer Melven and his brother David both belonged to that company, and both survived the battle. They belonged to Concord, Massachusetts. David was captain of a company at the siege of Louisburg,

in 1745, and there received a wound, of which he died 18 November, that year, in his 57th year, after his return home. Eleazer was a lieutenant there, and engaged as captain in several subsequent campaigns. During a year from October, 1746, he was out, and marched on an "intended expedition to Canada," with a considerable number of soldiers from Concord. After one of their marches, called the *long march*, in which he went to Canada, he returned, and with 25 men went to Lunenburg, for the protection of that town, some persons having been taken by the Indians there a short time before. From March to September, 1747, he was stationed at Northfield, on the borders of New-Hampshire. Capt. Melven died at Concord, 18 October, 1754, aged 52.*]

May 13. March'd from Fort Dummer to No 2, and there camp'd.

14. March'd to No. 4. Made no discovery of the enemy.

15. Sunday in the evening, march'd with Capt. Stevens and Capt. Hobbs to the mouth of Black River, and crossed the Great River and camp'd.

16. March'd about 14 miles, crossed a branch of Black River, which runs from Ascutney. Made no discovery.

17. March'd a N. W. point, about 13 miles. Came to a large branch of Black River and camp'd. Saw no new signs of the enemy.

18. March'd a W. N. W. point, about 3 miles, cross'd Black River, kept the same point about 9 miles further, over the height of land, and camp'd. Saw no new signs of the enemy.

19. March'd a N. W. point. Crossed several large streams, being branches of Otter Creek. Saw many signs of the enemy, both old and new, as camps, trees redded, &c. March'd about 10 miles this day, and camp'd after we had sent out proper scouts.

20. March'd about 6 miles a N. W. point, down Otter Creek, there parted with Capt. Stevens and Capt. Hobbs, who thought proper to take another course,—March'd over Otter Creek, kept a N. W. point, about 8 miles, and came again to the river, about one mile below some large falls,—crossed a large stream which runs into Otter Creek on the west side, a little below the falls, and camp'd. Saw no signs of the enemy very new.

21. Being rainy weather, march [ed] but two miles and camp'd.

22. March'd N. W. by N. down Otter Creek, about ten miles, then took a N. W. point, and marched about 10 miles further; saw sev-

* Shattuck's Hist. Concord, Ms. p. 71.

eral camps made last winter, also saw tracks, and some considerable beaten paths made by the enemy, but not very new.

23. March'd N. W. about three miles,—came to a large camp, fenced in with a very thick fence, where we found a cagg of about 4 gallons, which appeared to be newly emptied of wine, as plainly appeared by the smell, and about 12 pound of good French bread :—the bread we took and divided among our selves. Kept the same point about 11 miles further, and camp'd, making no further discovery.

24. March'd N. W. about 10 miles, and came to Lake Champlain about 4 o'clock. March'd about 3 miles down the lake and camp'd, making no discovery of the enemy.

25. In the morning, heard 5 guns, about 2 or 3 miles distant as we judged, but could not tell which way, whether up or down the lake. March'd down the lake northward about 3 miles,—discovered a large cannoo with sails, coming from the southward, with six Indians in it, who passed by us at so great a distance that we could not hurt them. Soon after, another cannoo followed them, with 12 Indians, whereupon we ran to a point of land, about half a mile distant toward Crown Point fort, and they coming within about fifty or sixty rods, and apprehending we might make some spoil upon them, and fearing we should have no better opportunity, we agreed to fire upon them, and accordingly fired six times, each in about 3 or 4 minutes. The first shot they all lay down close in the cannoo, and did not show their heads till the 3d shot, when they made a most terrible out-cry, cut down their sails, and about six got to padling from us as fast as possible. At the fourth shot we made, they fired 3 guns at us, one of which grazed one man's hand, and immediately they fired 3 guns, at Crown Point, which we judged to be 4 pounders, and at about a mile distant, by the noise and the rising of the smoke, which rose like a cloudy pillar ;—then we carefully retreated, marching east thro' a very thick part of drowned land, 3 or 4 miles, the water great part of the way about mid leg deep ;—then we took a S. E. point, and travelled about 10 miles and camp'd :—heard several great guns at Crown Point, as also 2 next morning.

26. March'd a S. E. point, about 5 miles,—saw the tracks of about 150 or 200 of the enemy gone that morning, having got upon our tracks where we went to the lake—then we took a south point, and marched about 11 miles further, and camp'd.

27. Marched S. S. E., about 10 miles,—came to Otter Creek about one mile below the first falls; march [ed] about 4 miles above the falls, and camp'd, after sending out scouts, as was our constant practice.

28. March'd up Otter Creek to the Crotch, about 6 miles, then we took up the south branch of Otter Creek, and march'd about 10 miles and camp'd.

29. March'd up the south branch of Otter Creek to the head of it; then steered S. E.; travelled over a large mountain, leaving another large mountain on the N. W. Keeping our course down the mountain, we crossed several streams we supposed to be the head of Sarratogo river. March'd this day about 16 miles.

30. March'd S. S. E. about 6 miles,—came upon a branch of West River,—travelled down the river about 8 miles, and camp'd.

31. Our provision being very short, we began our march before sunrise, and travelled till about half after 9 o'clock; being by the side of the river several of the company desired to stop to refresh themselves, being faint and weary, whereupon we halted and began to take off our packs, and some were set down, and in about half a minute after our halting, the enemy arose from behind a log and several trees, about 20 feet or 30 at farthest distant, and fired about 12 guns at us, but do not know whether any men received any hurt, tho' so near;—whereupon I called to the men to face the enemy and run up the bank, which I did my self, and several others attempted, but the enemy were so thick, they could not. I was no sooner jumpt up the bank but the enemy were just upon me. I discharged my gun at one of them, about eight feet from the muzzel of my gun, who I see fall,—and about the same time that I discharged my gun, the enemy fired about 20 guns at us, and kill'd 4 men, namely, John Howard, [Hayward?] Isaac Taylor, John Dod and Daniel Man. The men which were left alive most of them fired immediately on the enemy, several of which shots did execution, as can be witnessed by several who see the enemy fall;—but seeing the enemy numerous and their guns being discharged, they retreated. Several ran across the river, where they had some of them opportunity to fire again at the enemy. Some ran up the river, and some down, and some into a thicket on the same side of the river. For my own part, after I saw my men retreat, and being beset by the enemy with guns, hatchets and knives. Several of them attempted to

strike at me with their hatchets. Some threw their hatchets, one of which, or a bullet, I cannot certainly tell which, carried away my belt, and with it my bullets, all except one I had loose in my pocket. I ran down the river, and two Indians followed me, and ran almost side by side with me, calling to me, 'Come Captain,' 'Now Captain,' but upon my presenting my gun towards them (though not charged) they fell a little back, and I ran cross the river, charged my gun, moved a few steps, and one of them fired at me, which was the last gun fired. I looked back, and saw nine of the enemy scalping the dead men, and six or seven running across the river, and several about the bank of the river very busy, which I apprehend were carrying off their dead. I then being alone got to the side of a hill, in sight of the place of battle, and there seated myself to look for some of my men, and to see if the enemy made any shout, as is customary with them when they get the advantage; but hearing no more of them, nor seeing any of my men, I made the best of my way to Fort Dummer, where I arrived the next day before noon, where one of my men was got in about an hour before me, and eleven more come in, in a few hours, though in several companys. Joseph Petty was wounded, and I have not yet heard of him. Samuel Severns [Severance] I imagine is taken. I went out next day with above forty men, to bury the dead, and spent one day in looking for Joseph Petty, who was wounded, but could not find him.*

ELEAZER MELVEN.

* [It was found afterwards that Severance and Petty were killed by the Indians.]

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

OF DOCT. WILLIAM COGSWELL.

DOCT. WILLIAM COGSWELL, of Atkinson, New-Hampshire, was born at Haverhill, Mass., July 11, 1760, and died January 1, 1831, in the 71st year of his age. His father, whose name was Nathaniel, was born at Ipswich, Mass., January 19, 1707. He was a merchant in Haverhill, Mass., where he commenced business in early life. In January 31, 1739, he was married to Judith Badger,

daughter of Joseph and Hannah Badger, of Haverhill, Mass. About the year 1766, he removed to Atkinson, where he spent the close of life, and died March 23, 1783, aged 76. His wife, who was born February 3, 1724, died May 17, 1810, aged 86. They were both pious and worthy members of the congregational church first in Haverhill, and afterwards in Atkinson. Their children were nineteen in number.

The above-named Nathaniel Cogswell was the son of John Cogswell, of Ipswich, who was born 1650, and died 1710, aged 60. This John Cogswell was a man of wealth and respectability, and was employed frequently in the public business of the town. He was the son of William Cogswell, of Ipswich also, who was born 1619, and died about 1701. Of this William Cogswell little is known, except that he was married, and had eight children, and was the son of John Cogswell, a merchant in London, (England) who came to this country in 1635, and located himself in Ipswich, Mass. This last mentioned John Cogswell was a person of much respectability, and was admitted a freeman 1636. He died November 29, 1669, about 58 years of age, leaving a wife named Elizabeth, and seven children—three sons and four daughters. He was a descendant from the ancient family of the Cogswells, in the direct line of Lord Humphrey Cogswell, of England, to whom was first granted the coat of arms which appertaineth to the name of Cogswell, in 1447. Paintings of these ensigns armorial are still retained in the family.

Dr. Cogswell, of whom a particular notice is intended, resided with his parents till the 12th year of his age, enjoying faithful and kind parental instruction, and the usual advantages of common school education. At this time, he went to live with his brother-in-law, the Rev. Jonathan Searle, the minister of Mason, with whom he studied Latin and Greek, and other branches of education, thus preparing himself for the contemplated study of medicine. When he had resided there about three years and a half, the difficulties between the mother country and the colonies commenced, which terminated in the revolutionary war, and finally in the independence of the United States. Young Cogswell could not behold this mighty struggle for civil and religious freedom with indifference. His heart panted for action in this glorious cause. Though at that time feeble in body, and slender in constitution, and only fifteen and

a half years of age, he left his classical pursuits, and entered the army of the United States as a private soldier, in a company then commanded by his brother, Capt. Thomas Cogswell, belonging to Col. Baldwin's regiment, of the Massachusetts line, and continued in that service about one year, when he left the regiment then stationed at Peekskill, New-York, worn down with the fatigues and hardships of that campaign, and returned to his father's house. As soon as he had recovered his health, he commenced the study of medicine and surgery, under the direction of Dr. Nathaniel Peabody, of Atkinson, who was a physician of distinction at that time, and to whom a number of young men resorted for medical instruction.

In the year 1778, strong appeals being made to the sons of New-Hampshire, by its government, to join, voluntarily, the American standard under the command of General Sullivan, at Rhode-Island, with Count de Estaing and his fleet, he repaired to the place of anticipated action, with all the patriotism which filled the bosoms of the actors of '76. But as the enterprise did not succeed, he soon returned to his studies.

Having completed his course of medical preparation, he was, July 19, 1781, appointed surgeon's mate to the late Governor Eustis, of Massachusetts, in the General Military Hospital of the United States, established at West Point, and continued as such in service until the end of the revolutionary war, 1783. The manner in which he discharged the duties of his office may be learned from the following certificate of John Cochran, director general of the Military Hospital, viz. : "I certify that Doct. William Cogswell 'served in the General Hospital of the United States of America, 'in the capacity of a mate, until it was reduced at the end of the 'war, during which time he discharged his duties with great faith- 'fulness, diligence, and uncommon assiduity, by which means he 'has improved much in medical skill, and has given universal satis- 'faction to those gentlemen of the department with whom he has 'been associated." In January 5, 1784, Dr. Cogswell was promoted to the chief charge of the hospital at West Point. At this time, Major General Henry Knox, in a communication to him, thus writes : "You are to take the charge of the remaining hospital of 'this garrison, and conduct it in every respect agreeably to the reg- 'ulations of Congress for conducting military hospitals. The con- 'tractors of commissary will supply the hospital with provisions and

'stores to your order.'" Dr. Cogswell closed his public labors September 1, 1785, having served his country more than five years in its memorable struggle for independence and liberty. For these services in times which tried mens' souls, he, like many other revolutionary patriots, received but meagre compensation, having been paid in notes at par, which he afterwards sold for two shillings and sixpence or three shillings on the pound, this being their value at that time.

The liberties of the country having been obtained, he retired to the bosom of his friends, and commenced the practice of medicine in Atkinson. On the 22 of July, 1786, he was married to Judith Badger, daughter of the Hon. Joseph Badger, of Gilmanton. She was born May 15, 1766, and still (1837) survives. They had nine children, eight of whom are now living. Very soon upon settling in Atkinson, he was appointed a major in the militia, but this office he shortly after resigned.

Dr. Cogswell took a very active part in establishing the Medical Society in New-Hampshire, and was one of the fellows named in the act of incorporation. He was afterwards elected one of its censors. As a physician, his practice was considered judicious, safe, and successful. He was always reasonable in his charges, and unoppressive in his pecuniary exactions. The reputation in which he was held as a physician, may be ascertained from the fact, that young gentlemen frequently resorted to him for medical instruction, and continued with him during the whole course of their studies preparatory to the practice of medicine, and that he was often applied to in difficult cases, as a counselling physician.

He manifested a lively interest in the education of youth, and did much for the establishment of Atkinson Academy, one of the oldest literary institutions in the state, of which he was one of the trustees from its commencement, and for many years president of the board of trust. It was delightful to see him, at an advanced period of life, acting as one of the committee, appointed from year to year to visit the schools in the different parts of the town. Though aged and infirm, he was willing to perform that service or any other for the benefit of the rising generation.

He was appointed a justice of the peace, by Gov. Gilman, October 5, 1794, and faithfully administered justice to the innocent and injured, as well as to the malefactor and guilty. He never provoked

nor encouraged legal prosecutions, but did all in his power to prevent them, by endeavoring to effect amicable adjustments in a private way. Hence he was frequently called to sit in committees of reference, and to preside as the chairman of such committees. He was, emphatically, a peace-maker.

As a husband and father, he was kind and affectionate. He was dignified and decided in his household government. In this, he united moderation with firmness, and parental affection with parental authority. In the care he took of his widowed mother, who resided with him for nearly a quarter of a century, he manifested a respectful and filial spirit, which was honorable to his character.

He was an obliging neighbor and upright citizen, always respected at home and abroad. He took an efficient part in the management of the affairs of the town, and was often elected to fill its most important offices. In all cases of difficulty, he was one of the first to be consulted.

In person, Dr. Cogswell was corpulent, above mediocrity in height, of good configuration in countenance, and fair in complexion; and there was a dignity and manliness in his appearance, which attracted the attention of all who beheld him.

In politics he was strictly a federal representative republican, inclining to democratic rather than to aristocratic principles, feelings, and action. He was a true patriot and a tried friend to his country; sincere, discerning and honest,—and would no doubt have been promoted high in office, had not a lameness for many years of his life prevented him from travelling at a distance from home.

Not like the multitude, given to vacillation, he was never pleased with innovations in religion or politics, but was a firm and abiding supporter of political order and religious institutions.

In the year 1810, he publicly professed the religion of Jesus Christ, which he humbly hoped he had experienced; and from that time till his death, he adorned the doctrines of God his Saviour by a holy life and conversation. In his religious faith he was decidedly evangelical, and possessed many of the views and feelings of the Puritan Fathers. His last days were happy in the enjoyment of the Redeemer, and of his family. Having settled all his worldly affairs to his own satisfaction, and that of all concerned, he waited with patience till his change came, and then departed in peace and triumph.

This biographical notice will be concluded by an extract from the sermon preached at his funeral, by the Rev. John Kelly, of Hampstead. "As a man, he had a mind above the ordinary level, accurately discerning men and things. It was improved with useful science, and a disposition to do good. As a physician, he was judicious, careful and attentive. No extravagance in practice or price marked his course. No poor widow, I believe, ever complained that she had spent all her living on this physician, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse. As a magistrate, he encouraged no vexatious litigations, nor aided the knavish in their fraud and violence. As a husband, he was kind, tender and provident. As a father, he united dignity with the most endearing affection to his children. As a Christian professor, he was uniform, steady, and as firm as a rock. In his last sickness, he was resigned, humble, and patient, and so he fell asleep in Jesus."

Dr. Cogswell's children were,—1, Rev. William Cogswell, D. D., of Boston; 2, Julia, who married (1) Greenleaf Clarke, Esq., (2) Amasa Coburn, both of Atkinson; 3, Hannah-Pearson, who married Gov. William Badger; 4, Joseph-Badger Cogswell, Esq. of Atkinson; 5, Rev. Nathaniel Cogswell, of Yarmouth, Mass.; 6, Thomas Cogswell, Esq., of Gilmanton; 7, Francis Cogswell, Esq., of Dover; 8, George Cogswell, M. D., of Bradford, Mass., and 9, John Cogswell, who died when young. The others were all living at the commencement of the present year.

MEMOIR OF NATHANIEL FOLSOM.

NATHANIEL FOLSOM was a native of Exeter, New-Hampshire. He was descended from John Folsom, who was of Hingham, Mass., in 1638. His ancestors, however, for several generations, resided in Exeter, and the name at this time exists in that town. The ancient spelling of the name by those who first settled at Exeter, was *Foullsam*. The name is supposed to be derived from a village in the county of Norfolk, England.

He was born about the year 1726. Of his early life nothing we believe is generally known. He held a military commission when young.

It was in 1755 that we find him actively engaged in the public service. In that year, three different expeditions were undertaken against forts in the possession of the French: the first against fort Duquesne, on the Ohio, was conducted by Gen. Braddock. This expedition is rendered peculiarly interesting by the presence of Washington, and its fate is well known. The second was against Niagara, and was commanded by Gov. Shirley, of Massachusetts: it failed. The third was against Crown Point, and was under the conduct of that distinguished officer, Major-General Sir William Johnson. For this expedition, the province of New-Hampshire was called upon for its quota of troops, and raised a regiment of ten companies, in all 500 men. The officers of the regiment were Colonel Joseph Blanchard, of Dunstable; Lieutenant Colonel Josiah Willard, of Charlestown; Major Matthews, and Adjutant Nathaniel Morse. Robert Rogers was captain, and John Stark lieutenant of one of the companies. One company was raised in the neighborhood of Exeter, and was placed under the command of Capt. Nathaniel Folsom, the subject of this article. This regiment, after some delay, proceeded through the woods to Albany by way of Number-Four, now Charlestown. The New-Hampshire forces were posted at Fort Edward, whilst Johnson, with the main body, lay encamped at Fort George. He was there on the 8th of September, attacked by a large body of French, Canadians and savages, under the Baron Dieskau, who had a short time before arrived in America with a large number of troops. The Frenchman was defeated, his army completely routed, and himself mortally wounded and taken prisoner. In the mean time, a scouting party from Fort Edward having brought to the garrison the intelligence of the discovery of wagons in flames in the road, Capt. Folsom was despatched with about one hundred of his New-Hampshire rangers, to ascertain the cause. They found the wagoners and cattle lying dead in the road, but no signs of an enemy. Hearing guns in the direction of Lake George, they hastened thither, and coming within two miles of the battle-ground, they found the baggage of the French under the care of a guard, whom they attacked and routed. Soon after, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the retreating army of Dieskau appeared. Folsom immediately posted his men behind the trees, and kept up a continued and well directed fire upon the French and Indians till night. The enemy retreated with great

lo s, while Folsom proceeded in safety to the camp, carrying with him, besides his own wounded, many prisoners, and all the enemy's baggage and ammunition. In this well fought engagement, which served more than any thing else to revive the spirit of the colonies, but six of Folsom's men were killed, whilst great slaughter was experienced by the French. Blanchard's regiment then joined the main army, and was afterwards employed in scouting,—a species of service which none could perform so acceptably as the rangers of New-Hampshire. Parties of them frequently went under the very walls of the French garrisons, and at one time killed and scalped a soldier near the gate of the fort at Crown Point. Late in the autumn, the forces were disbanded, and the regiment returned to their homes.

Folsom was, in 1767, major of the 4th New-Hampshire regiment, and rose, in a few years after, to the rank of colonel.

At the very commencement of the contest between Great Britain and the colonies, although in favor with the royal government and a military officer of note in her service, he espoused with great zeal the cause of liberty. He was, for several years prior to the revolution, a member of the house of representatives, and as such was a prominent leader of the opposition. In 1774, when the contest was violent, and party animosity at its height, he was a member of the house which met on the 10th of May, and was active in fanning the flame of opposition to ministerial oppression. Private meetings of the leaders of the liberal party were frequently held, to decide on measures suitable to be adopted in the alarming state of affairs then existing. A committee of correspondence was chosen, to confer with the other colonies on matters of general importance. This measure the governor considered treasonable; and having in vain opposed its adoption, adjourned the assembly, and shortly after dissolved it. The members, however, immediately met, and proceeded to business. The governor, attended by the sheriff, entered the chamber, declared the meeting illegal, and caused the sheriff to make open proclamation for all persons to disperse and keep the king's peace. Soon after he had withdrawn, they met in another house, where, after some consultation, they agreed upon a circular to be sent to all the towns in the province, recommending the choice of deputies, to meet in convention for the election of delegates to a general Congress. We do not know that this document

has ever been reprinted, and, as denoting the spirit of the times, we here copy it from one of the originals now in our possession.

“ TO THE PARISH OF — — :

“ Whereas the colonies in general, upon this continent, think it highly expedient and necessary, in the present critical and alarming situation of their public affairs, that DELEGATES should be appointed by and in Behalf of each, to join a general CONGRESS, proposed to meet at Philadelphia the first day of September next, to devise and consider what measures will be most adviseable to be taken and pursued by all the Colonies for the establishment of their RIGHTS and LIBERTIES, upon a just and solid foundation, and for the Restoration of Union and Harmony between the mother country and the colonies : And whereas the Members of the late House of Representatives for this Province, now met to deliberate upon the subject, are unanimously of opinion that it is expedient and necessary for this Province to join said CONGRESS for the above purpose—and recommend it to the Towns in this Province respectively, to chuse and empower one or more persons, in their Behalf, to meet at Exeter the 21st Day of this Instant, at ten of the Clock in the forenoon, to join in the choice of DELEGATES for the GENERAL CONGRESS. In order to effect the desired end, it is necessary that each town, as soon as may be, contribute their proportion of the expence of sending : it is therefore desired, that the same may be raised by subscription, or otherwise ; and if convenient, sent by the person by your Parish appointed ; your proportion of which is — pounds, lawful money. The utility of which measure is so apparent we doubt not your ready compliance with this proposal.

‘ By desire of the meeting, J. WENTWORTH, *Chairman*.

‘ Portsmouth, July 6, 1774.

“ *P. S.* Considering the distressing situation of our public affairs, Thursday, the 14th inst., is recommended to be kept as a day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer through this Province.”

The alarming state of affairs naturally suggested such a measure as a general Congress of delegates from the various provinces, it having been customary to pursue such a course in times of difficulty and danger. The recommendations contained in the above circular were approved by the people ; the day of fast was religiously observed ; eighty-five deputies were chosen from the various towns, and who brought from their constituents the money raised by subscription to defray necessary expenses. They met at Exeter, on the 21st of July, and made choice of Dr. Josiah Bartlett, and John Pickering, Esq., of Portsmouth, afterwards chief justice, to represent the state in the general congress. Both these gentlemen de-

clined. They then elected Col. Nathaniel Folsom and Major John Sullivan, who consented to serve. The Congress met at Philadelphia on the 5th of September, and chose Peyton Randolph, of Virginia, for their president. Amongst the members were John and Samuel Adams, Roger Sherman, John Jay, William Livingston, Thomas M'Kean, Samuel Chase, Patrick Henry, R. H. Lee and George Washington. The session lasted nearly two months, and was occupied with a declaration of rights, a statement of grievances, petitions and remonstrances to the king in parliament, and the framing an association, suspending all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, Ireland and the West-Indies. Although far from assuming the tone of independence afterwards adopted, their measures were characterized by wisdom, forbearance and moderation, and were received with almost universal approbation. Greater praise cannot be bestowed upon their conduct than that contained in the following extract from the celebrated speech made by Lord Chatham, in the house of lords, in January, 1775. "For genius, 'for sagacity, for singular moderation, for solid wisdom, manly 'spirit, sublime sentiments and simplicity of language,—for *every* 'thing respectable and honorable, the Congress of Philadelphia 'shines unrivalled."

In 1775, Folsom was commissioned major-general. In 1776, on the recommendation of Congress, the Assembly of New-Hampshire, with the approval of the people, agreed upon a form of government to be in force during the war. Agreeably to this constitution, the legislature, on the 26th of January, 1776, proceeded to the choice of civil officers, to enforce obedience to the laws. General Folsom was chosen one of the four justices of the court of common pleas for the county of Rockingham. In 1777, he was again chosen a delegate to the general congress, which met at York, Penn., on the 30th of September, and again in 1779, and took his full part in the deliberations and measures adopted. At that period, the men of note were called upon to fill many important offices at the same time. The great defect in the temporary constitution adopted was the want of an exclusion bill. The same men at the same time frequently filled offices both legislative, judicial, and executive; assisted in enacted laws, in explaining and applying them, and in carrying them into execution. Such a state of things would inevitably have resulted in despotism, had not the patriots of that day been actuated

by purer motives than a desire for self-aggrandizement. The want of a distinct executive branch was particularly felt in the recess of the legislature. To remedy this defect, the assembly appointed, at every adjournment, a number of persons, styled the Committee of Safety, to whom the supreme executive power was delegated, and who kept constantly in session during the recess of the legislature. The first committee was chosen on the 19th of May, 1775, and consisted of five members, of whom Gen. Folsom was one. He was continued in this office till the 20th of January, 1777. In 1779, on the 5th of January, he was again chosen, and served one year, and in 1783, on the 2d of January, he was elected for one year more. He was also, in 1776, chosen one of the first counselors under the provincial government, and continued in office one year.

Thus we have given, as briefly as possible, a catalogue of the offices, civil and military, which General Folsom sustained, and the services which he rendered the country and his countrymen. They are sufficient to evince his ability and integrity, and to show the extent of the confidence which the people reposed in him. Their confidence was not misplaced. His various trusts were performed with faithfulness and ability; and he lived long enough to see that country, whose independence he had so materially assisted in establishing, at peace with Europe, by treaty placed among the nations of the world, and blessed with an excellent constitution and a more efficient system of government than that under which he had lived. He died at Exeter, the place where he was born, and where he constantly resided, on the 26th day of May, 1790, in the 65th year of his age.

C. P. B.

SAMUEL LIVERMORE.

SAMUEL LIVERMORE, chief justice of New-Hampshire, was probably descended from John Livermore, who was an inhabitant of Watertown as early as 1642. He was born in Waltham, Mass., 14th May, 1732, old style, and graduated at Nassau-Hall, Princeton, N. J., one of the most ancient and respectable collegiate institutions in the country, in 1752.

He commenced the study of the law with Hon. Edward Trowbridge, and was admitted to practice at the supreme judicial court of New-Hampshire in January, 1757. He established himself at Portsmouth in 1758, and soon became a distinguished member of the bar. He was for several years judge advocate of the admiralty court, one of the most honorable and lucrative offices in the province, and in 1769 was commissioned as king's attorney-general for New-Hampshire.

It was in 1765 that Mr. Livermore commenced the settlement of the town of Holderness, in Grafton county. Of this place he was one of the original grantees, and eventually became, by purchase, the actual proprietor of about one half of the township. Here he fixed his permanent residence, about the commencement of the revolution, and, it is said, possessed little less than absolute power over the inhabitants—his superiority of character adding to the influence he could naturally command from the extent of his possessions.

High in favor as was Mr. Livermore with the royal government, he nevertheless, at the commencement of the troubles with Great Britain, threw the whole weight of his power and influence into the popular scale. He was several years a representative in the state legislature from the town of Holderness, after the assumption of government by the people. Before the revolution, he had been appointed attorney-general, as successor of Hon. Wyseman Clagett, and in 1776, on the 19th February, he was again chosen by the legislature to the same office, as successor to the same gentleman. On the 23d December, his appointment was renewed, as the vote expresses it, "for the year ensuing."

It was at this period that a dispute arose in relation to the jurisdiction of the (so called) New-Hampshire Grants—the territory which now constitutes the state of Vermont. This territory, either in whole or in part, was, like another Poland, claimed by three states—New-York, New-Hampshire and Massachusetts; while the inhabitants, acknowledging no authority but their own will, declared it a free and independent state, and exercised all the prerogatives of government. It was then proposed by Congress, and assented to by the parties, that the whole affair should be heard and decided by Congress. Accordingly, the legislature of New-Hampshire, thinking it necessary to have some gentleman of known legal abilities to

act in their behalf, appointed Samuel Livermore on the 4th of November, 1779, commissioner to support, in conjunction with the delegates in Congress, the claim of New-Hampshire to the territory in dispute. But to place him more fully on an equality with the agents of the other states, it was voted, on the 31st of December, that he be authorized and fully empowered to appear in Congress, as a delegate of this state, and there act, in all and every matter relative to the boundary line between the states of Massachusetts-Bay, New-York and this state, and the claims of the inhabitants settled on the Grants, as fully, to all intents and purposes, as any or either of the delegates of the states of New-York or Massachusetts-Bay, being agents in said affair, are authorized to do. By a subsequent vote, his term of office was limited to the first of April, 1780. He was, however, again appointed on the 1st of June.

Mr. Livermore took his seat in Congress on the 7th February, 1780, and remained in that body about two years in succession; being re-elected in 1781, on the 19th January, the 1st September, and the 29th December, the last time to remain till the November following. In 1782, on the 21st of June, before the expiration of his last term as a member of Congress, he was appointed to the high and responsible office of chief justice of the state. The chief justice, at that period, was expected to attend every session of the court, and being usually the only lawyer upon the bench, was of course called upon to decide all questions of law.

In June, 1784, Judge Livermore was appointed, with Messrs. Josiah Bartlett and John Sullivan, a committee to revise the statutes then in force, and report bills necessary to be enacted at that session of the general court. On the 3d of November, of the same year, he was once more chosen a delegate to the continental Congress, and attended the session of that body in 1785. He did not, however, resign his seat upon the bench.

In 1788, a convention was called in this state to consider of the proposed constitution, submitted to the people by the great and memorable convention at Philadelphia. It was composed almost entirely of men of age, experience and trust; its deliberations were watched with the greatest anxiety, and their final result was considered of the highest importance to the safety of the country. The proposed form of government had been assented to by eight states already, and one more was sufficient to ensure its adoption.

Of this body, Mr. Livermore was a prominent member, and strenuous in favor of the proposed constitution; and was appointed on a committee, at the commencement of business, to draft rules for the government of the convention. It was thought necessary, by nearly all the members, that certain amendments, providing for a bill of rights, and for the greater security of individual states against the encroachments of the general government, should be incorporated as a part of the instrument. Mr. Livermore was one of a large committee to prepare these amendments, and submit them to the convention. Mr. Atherton, of Amherst, the principal leader of those opposed to the constitution, moved that New-Hampshire should not be bound by the compact, unless the proposed amendments were adopted. But, after a motion and speech from Mr. Livermore, it was resolved, that the amendments should be merely submitted to Congress for their consideration. Mr. L. then moved the main question, which was decided in the affirmative—a decision which settled the fate of the proposed measure, and which gave us that well balanced system of government under which we live.

Under this constitution, which he had taken so prominent a part in establishing, Judge Livermore was chosen a member of the first Congress, and accordingly resigned his office of chief justice of the state, in which he was succeeded by his compatriot, Josiah Bartlett. He was elected, and served a second term as representative in congress, till 1793. In 1791, he was returned a member of the convention to revise the state constitution, and was chosen its president. In that capacity, he presided over the deliberations of that body which formed our present state constitution.

In 1793, he was elected, as successor of Paine Wingate, to the senate of the United States. Of the manner in which he performed the duties of this exalted station, it is only necessary to say, that so well satisfied were those most immediately interested—his constituents—with his conduct, that at the expiration of a full term of six years, in 1799, he was re-elected to the same important office. He, however, resigned his seat in 1801, after having been for fifteen years a member of the national legislature, and without intermission in public life more than twice that time. He retired to his seat in Holderness, where he died, in May, 1803, in the seventy-second year of his age.

Judge Livermore married Jane, daughter of Rev. Arthur Browne, a distinguished episcopal clergyman of Portsmouth. Two of his sons, Edward St. Loe, and Arthur, have been distinguished in public life. The former died at Tewksbury, Mass., 22d September, 1832, aged 80; having been a justice of the superior court of New-Hampshire, and a member of congress from Massachusetts. The latter, many years chief justice and representative in congress, is still living at an advanced age, in Campton. One daughter, Eliza, married William Brown, of Boston, November, 1790.

Literary Gazette.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF OLDEN TIME.

It may be amusing and entertaining to have some account of the customs and manner of living, of the people, sixty-five, seventy, and seventy-five years ago. As to what took place in sea-port towns, and places which had a dense population, I can give no account; but in the town where I was brought up, (which I suppose was not materially different from the general state of other country towns) I will attempt to describe. In the winter season the dinners were generally uniform. The first course was a dish of broth, usually called porridge. This generally had a few beans in it, and some dry summer savory scattered in. The second course, was an Indian pudding with sauce; the third was a dish of boiled pork and beef, with round turnips, and a few potatoes for sauce. Potatoes were then a scarce article, three bushels being considered as a very large crop; and I was a considerable large lad before I ever saw a potatoe as large as a hen's egg. For suppers and breakfasts, they commonly had a dish of the same. Those who had milk, (which was not many in the winter) had that with toasted brown bread, or roasted apples for breakfast, and hasty pudding for supper. For an exchange, they sometimes had a basin of sweetened cider, with toasted bread in it, and a piece of cheese. On the Sabbath morning, they generally had chocolate, coffee, or bohea tea—the chocolate and coffee sweetened with molasses—the tea with brown sugar. With it they had pan-cakes, dough-nuts, brown toast, some sort of pie—some, or all of them. Dinners they had none; but immedi-

ately after the afternoon service, they had a supper, a roast goose, or a turkey, a roast spare-rib, or a stew pie,—and this was the common course through the winter season. In the spring and the summer, they generally had milk for supper and breakfast. For dinner (then potatoes were generally gone, and round turnips were too pithy to eat) they used French turnips till greens came, and then greens were used for sauce till peas and beans were ready for use. As for flour, it was a thing unknown. At that time, I doubt there ever having been a barrel of flour in the town. Every farmer broke up a piece of new ground, and sowed it with wheat and turnips. This wheat, by the help of the seive, was a substitute for flour.

In general, men, old or young, who had got their growth, had a decent coat, vest and small clothes, and some kind of fur hat. These were for holiday use, and would last half an age. Old men had a great coat and a pair of boots. The boots generally lasted for life. For common use they had a long jacket, or what was called a fly coat, made something like our surtouts, reaching down about half way to the thigh; striped jacket to wear under a pair of small clothes like the coat. These were made of flannel cloth, fulled but not sheared; flannel shirts and stockings, and thick leather shoes; a silk handkerchief, for holidays, which would last ten years. In the summer time a pair of wide trowsers, (now out of use) reaching half way from the knee to the ankle. Shoes and stockings were not worn by the young men, and by but few men in farming business.

As for boys, as soon as they were taken out of petticoats, they were put into small clothes, summer or winter. This continued until long trowsers were introduced, which they called *tongs*. They were but little different from our present pantaloons. These were made of tow cloth, linen, or cotton, and soon were used by old men and young, through the warm season. At last they were made of flannel cloth, and were the general costume of the winter. Young men never thought of great coats, and surtouts were then unknown. I recollect a neighbor of my father's, who had four sons between 19 and 30 years of age. The oldest got a pair of boots, the second a surtout, the third a watch, and the fourth a pair of silver buckles. This made a neighborhood talk, and the family were on the high road to insolvency.

As for the women, old and young, they wore flannel gowns in

the winter. The young women wore in the summer, wrappers or shepherdress; and about their ordinary business did not wear stockings and shoes. They were usually contented with one calico gown, but they generally had a calimanco gown, another of camlet, and some had them made of poplin. The sleeves were short, and did not come below the elbow. On holidays, they wore one, two, or three ruffles on each arm—the deepest of which were sometimes nine or ten inches. They wore long gloves, coming up to the elbow, secured by what was called glove-tightens, made of black horse-hair. Round gowns had not then come in fashion; so they wore aprons, made of checked linen, cotton, and for holiday use, of white cotton, long lawn, or cambric. They seldom wore caps when about their ordinary business, but they had two kinds, one of which they wore when they meant to appear in full dress. One was called strap-cap, which came under the chin, and was there tied; the other was called round-cord cap, and did not come over the ears. They wore thick leather, thin leather, and broad-cloth shoes, all with heels an inch and a half high, with picked toes turned up in a point at the toes. They generally had small, very small muffs, and some wore masks. The principal amusements of the young men were wrestling, running and jumping, or hopping three hoops. Dancing was considered a qualification of the first importance, especially step tunes, such as Old Father George, Cape Breton, High Betty Martin, and the Rolling Hornpipe. At their balls, dancing was their principal exercise; also, singing songs, and a number of pawn plays, such as breaking and setting the pope's neck, find the button, &c.

At the time I allude to, a young woman did not consider it a hardship or a degradation to walk five or six miles to meeting. There was no chaise, or any sort of wagon or sleigh in the town. I recollect the first chaise that passed through; and it made a greater wonderment than the appearance of a mammoth. People were puzzled for a name: at last they called it a calash. A horse that would fetch forty dollars was considered as of the first quality; and one more than nine years old was considered as of little or no value. A half cord of wood was then considered as a monstrous load for an ordinary team. A farmer generally killed from three to five swine which would weigh from five to eight score each, but it was an extraordinary hog that would weigh nine score.

Acute fevers then were much more frequent than at this time. The principal fevers then were called the long or slow fever, which would run thirty-five, forty, or fifty days before it formed a crisis. There was also the slow nervous fever, which ran generally longer than the long fever. But consumptions were much less frequent then than now, unless it was with very old people. In the year 1764, a young man fell into a consumption. He was between twenty and thirty years of age, and it passed for a wonder that a young man should fall into a consumption.—*Old Colony Memorial.*

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SEVERAL PROVINCES IN NORTH-AMERICA.—*Written in 1755.*

THIS Continent was first discovered by *Christopher Columbus*, a *Genoese*, A. D. 1492, in the *Spanish Service*; and is called *America* from *Americus Vespucius*, a *Florentine Merchant*, employ'd by the *Portuguese*, A. D. 1499, about the same Time the *Cabots* were employed by the *English*, and *Veruzani* by the *French*, in Voyages to this new world: The *British Empire in North-America* extends it's self about 1600 Miles Sea-Coast, from *Nova-Scotia*, South Westward to *Georgia*, including 13 Provinces, Colonies, or distinct Governments, subject to the Crown of *Great-Britain*; each of which I shall just mention: And,

1. Of *Nova-Scotia*: At the conclusion of *Queen Ann's War*, 1713, at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, *Nova-Scotia* was ceded to *Great-Britain*, there were two or three Thousand *French* at that Time, who were suffered to continue on the Lands they had settled, and undoubtedly became the Subjects of *Great-Britain*: They called themselves *Neutrals*, but are Rebels and Traytors, assisting the *French* and *Indians* at all Opportunities, to murder and cut our Throats: They are increased to 7 or 8000: The brave *Monckton & Winslow*, with an Army, chiefly from *New-England*, in removing those perfidious Neighbors, have brightned the first of our Expeditions against the *French* this Year, with Success. Some say that *Nova-Scotia* for Healthiness of Climate, and Richness of Soil, exceeds the other Governments. It's produce is Hemp, Flax, Tim-

ber, Coals, Furs and Skins, and contains the most profitable Fisheries in the World; there are 5000 inhabitants; it's present Governor is his Excellency *Charles Lawrence*, Esq.

2. *New-Hampshire* is the next Government on the Continent, which, with the *Massachusetts*, *Rhode-Island* and *Connecticut*, bear the general Appellation of *New-England*. This Government produces Masts for the Royal Navy, and Lumber of all sorts; contains 30,000 Inhabitants: It's present Governor is his Excellency *Benning Wentworth*, Esq.

3. We come now to the *Massachusetts-Bay*. This Province may be said to give Peace to Europe; since for *Cape-Breton* the *French* yielded all their Conquests in *Flanders*. *Boston* is the Metropolis of *North-America*: The Air clear and healthy; the soil in some Parts very good, producing Rie, Oats, Barley and Indian Corn, in great Plenty, excellent Pasture Land, and plenty of Provisions. Our Cod-Fish we trade off to *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, &c. Our Whale-Fishery and Ship-Building is great, &c. &c. &c. The number of our Inhabitants is computed at 220,000. Our Governor is his Excellency *William Shirley*, Esq.

4. *Rhode-Island* is the next in Course; a small Colony; *Newport* in *Rhode-Island* is the Capital Town; *Providence* is the next considerable Town, and increases very fast in Trade, in Building, and in Inhabitants. Their Air and Soil differ not much from the *Massachusetts*, and contains about 35,000 Inhabitants; their Governor this Year is the Hon. *Stephen Hopkins*, Esq.

5. In our Course a little to the Westward, lies *Connecticut* Colony, a good Air, a rich Soil, greatly abounding in all sorts of Provisions, many fine Towns along the Sea-Coast, and on the River, which bears the Name of their Colony. They are a religious, virtuous People, and have greatly distinguished themselves in the present Expedition against *Crown-Point*; their Number of Inhabitants 100,000, and Governor this Year is the Hon. *Thomas Fitch*, Esq.

6. The next Government is *New-York*; the City of *New-York* is their Capital; and is said to contain 5000 Houses; they abound in all Sorts of Provisions, which they export, and in Return bring the best *Madeira*, which by the better sort is drank freely in the City; the Number of their Inhabitants is set at 100,000, and their present Governor is His Excellency Sir *Charles Hardy*, Knight.

7. The next Government is *New-Jersey*; a level Country, and Plenty of Provisions; not much Foreign Trade. Many good Towns, and contains about 60,000 Inhabitants; their present Governor is His Excellency *Jonathan Belcher*, Esq.

8. *Pennsylvania*; the most populous of all the Governments in *North-America*; *Philadelphia* is the Capital, and finest City on the Continent; their Houses are well built; their Streets regular; their Town-House elegant: Their Market abounds with every thing; they tolerate all Religions, and trade to all Parts, and have

250,000 Inhabitants; their Governor is the Hon. *Robert Hunter Morris*, Esq.

9. The next Colony is *Maryland*: A fruitful Soil, they raise Wheat, Indian Corn, and Tobacco in plenty, Cattle and Hogs. The Transports from *Tyburn* plague them worse than Rattlesnakes, who are Natives of the Country; they have 85,000 Inhabitants; their present Governor is the Hon. *Horatio Sharpe*, Esq.

10. *Virginia* is next; named by Sir *Walter Raleigh*, after the Virgin Queen *Elizabeth*; 'tis the most ancient Settlement: *Williamsburg* is the Capital Town, Lat. 37 deg. N.; not so cold; the People live in ease and plenty: Tobacco is their chief Commodity, which brings a great Revenue to the Crown. *Virginia* has 180 Miles Sea-Coast; and its now well known our disputed Claim with the *French* extends back in the Country unbounded, and is wonderfully supplied with fine navigable Rivers; contains 85,000 inhabitants. Their present Governor is the Hon. *Robert Dinwiddie*, Esq.

11. *North-Carolina*; Lat. 35 Deg. N.; is fruitful in Rice, Indian Corn, Tobacco, Pitch, Tar, Deer Skins, Fur, Wax, Tallow, &c. Hot in Summer, and not very cold in Winter; their Cattle and Hogs are fed and fatted by indulgent Nature, without Expence to the Farmer: Their chief Places are *Cape Fare* and *Edentown*; their Number of Inhabitants 45,000; their present Governor is the Hon. *Arthur Dobbs*, Esq.

12. *South-Carolina*; in 32 Deg. N. Lat. has the same Produce as *North-Carolina*; they have little Winter, and have all the Conveniences of life; also fine Rivers and good Harbours; *Charleston* is their Capital: Number of Inhabitants about 30,000. Their present Governor is His Excellency *William Littleton*, Esq.

13. *Georgia*, the last and Frontier Colony against the *Spaniards*, lies in Lat. 29 or 30 Deg. is very hot, and not so rich a Soil as the other Colonies: They abound in Mulberry Trees, the Silk-Worm's proper Food, and some Silk has been made there. *Georgia* contains 6000 Inhabitants, and the Hon. *John Reynolds*, Esq. is their present Governor.

Upon the whole, The southern Colonies live with the least Labour; but the Northern Colonies are most Healthy; and the Breed and Disposition of the *New-England* People are the most stout and warlike, and deserve the Preference in Military Affairs.

Ames' Almanack for 1756.

From the foregoing account, it appears that the population of the British Provinces in North-America in 1755, was as follows:

Nova-Scotia,	5,000	Maryland,	85,000
New-Hampshire,	30,000	Virginia,	85,000
Massachusetts,	220,000	North-Carolina,	45,000
Rhode-Island,	35,000	South-Carolina,	30,000
Connecticut,	100,000	Georgia,	6,000
New-York,	100,000		
New-Jersey,	60,000		
Pennsylvania,	250,000		
		Total,	1,051,000

Delaware, it will be perceived, is omitted in the preceding account.

A LIST OF COUNSELLORS OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE,

From 1680 to 1837.

BY JOHN FARMER.

The following List of Counsellors, under the various governments which have existed in New-Hampshire, from 1680 to 1837, was principally published in the last edition of Dr. Belknap's History of this state. The difficulty of procuring information respecting such a number of persons, living in various parts of the state, and most of them many years since, caused some imperfections and errors. But since the publication of that edition, the editor of it has supplied many of the omissions, and corrected all the errors discovered by him, which will render it, as now published, more correct and more safe for reference than any similar list heretofore presented to the public.

The ages of those preceded by an *a.* are conjectured. Where a dash precedes a name, the time of appointment has not been ascertained.

UNDER THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT.—1680 TO 1775.

App.	Counsellors.	Residence.	Died.	Age.		
1680	John Cutt	Portsmouth	27 March, 1681	}		
1680	Richard Martyn	Portsmouth			1693	* }
1680	William Vaughan	Portsmouth			1719	
1680	Thomas Daniel	Portsmouth			1683	
1680	John Gilman	Exeter	24 July,	1708 a. 84		
1680	Christopher Hussey	Hampton		1685 a. 75		
1680	Richard Waldron	Dover	27 June,	1689 a. 80		
1680	Elias Stileman	New-Castle	19 Dec.	1695 a. 78		
1680	Samuel Dalton	Hampton	22 August,	1681		
1680	Job Clements	Dover			1683	
1681	Robert Mason†	New-Castle		1688 58		

* These four would probably average 70 years each. in New-York.

† He died at Esopus,

App.	Counsellors.	Residence.	Died.	Age.
1681	Richard Waldron, jr.	Portsmouth	30 Nov.	1730 80
1681	Anthony Nutter	Dover	19 Feb.	1686
1682	Walter Barefoote	New-Castle		a. 1689 53
1682	Richard Chamberlain	Portsmouth		
1683	Nathaniel Fryer	New-Castle	13 August,	1705
1683	Robert Elliot*	New-Castle		
1683	John Hinkes†	New-Castle		
1683	Edward Randolph‡	Portsmouth		
1684	James Sherlock			
1684	Francis Champernoon			a. 1686
1684	Robert Wadleigh	Exeter		
1685	Henry Greene	Hampton	5 August,	1700 80
1692	John Usher	Boston	5 Sept.	1726 78
1692	Thomas Graffort§	Portsmouth	6 August,	1697
1692	John Walford	Portsmouth		
1692	John Love			
1692	Peter Coffin	Dover	21 March,	1715 84
1692	John Gerrish	Dover		1714 68
1692	Nathaniel Weare	Hampton	13 May,	1718 87
1697	William Partridge	Portsmouth	3 Jan.	1729 74
1698	Joseph Smith	Hampton	9 Nov.	1717 64
1698	Kingsley Hall	Exeter		a. 1736
1698	Sampson Sheafe	New-Castle		1724 76
1698	Peter Weare	Hamp.-Falls		a. 1747
1702	Samuel Penhallow	Portsmouth	2 Dec.	1726 61
1702	John Plaisted	Portsmouth		
1702	Henry Dow	Hampton	6 May,	1707 73
1702	George Jaffrey¶	New-Castle	13 Feb.	1707 69
1710	Mark Hunking	Portsmouth		
1712	John Wentworth	Portsmouth	12 Dec.	1730 59
1715	George Vaughan	Portsmouth	20 Nov.	1724 48
1716	Richard Gerrish	Dover	Oct.	1717
1716	Theodore Atkinson	New-Castle	6 May,	1719 50
1716	Shadrach Walton	New-Castle	3 Oct.	1741 83
1716	George Jaffrey	New-Castle	8 May,	1749 66
1716	Richard Wibird	Portsmouth	Oct.	1732
1716	Thomas Westbrook	Portsmouth		1736
1719	Thomas Packer	Portsmouth		1723
1722	Archibald Macpheadris	Portsmouth		1728
1724	John Frost	New-Castle	Feb.	1733 51

* Living in 1745. † Living in 1707, and probably in 1722, when there is a deed from John Hinkes on record in Rockingham county.

‡ Randolph returned to England. || Champernoon was cousin to Sir Ferdinando Gorges. He lived sometime in York, Maine.

§ Graffort and Sheafe removed to Boston, and died there. ¶ Died at Col. Appleton's; in Ipswich.

App.	Counsellors.	Residence.	Died.	Age.
1724	Jotham Odiorne	New-Castle	16 August, 1748	73
1728	Henry Sherburne	Portsmouth	29 Dec. 1757	83
1732	Richard Waldron	Portsmouth	23 August, 1753	60
1732	Joshua Peirce*	Portsmouth	7 Feb. 1743	72
→ 1732	Benning Wentworth†	Portsmouth	14 Oct. 1770	75
1732	Benjamin Gambling	Portsmouth		1737 57
1732	Ephraim Dennet	Portsmouth		1741 57
1732	Theodore Atkinson	New-Castle	22 Sept. 1779	81
1733	Ellis Huske	Portsmouth		1755
1733	Joseph Sherburne	Portsmouth	3 Dec. 1744	64
1739	Richard Wibird	Portsmouth	25 Sept. 1765	63
1740	John Rindge	Portsmouth	6 Nov. 1740	45
—	John Downing	Newington	16 Sept. 1745	85
—	Samuel Smith	Durham	2 May, 1760	74
—	Joseph Blanchard	Nashua	7 April, 1758	53
—	Sampson Sheafe	New-Castle		1772 91
—	Samuel Solley	Portsmouth		
1753	Daniel Warner	Portsmouth		1778
1754	Joseph Newmarch	Portsmouth		1765
→ 1759	Mark H. Wentworth	Portsmouth	19 Dec. 1785	
1759	James Nevin	Portsmouth	6 Feb. 1769	60
1761	John Nelson‡	Portsmouth		1787
1762	William Temple	Portsmouth		1789
1762	Theodore Atkinson	Portsmouth	28 Oct. 1769	33
1762	Nathaniel Barrell	Portsmouth	4 April, 1831	99
1765	Peter Livius	Portsmouth		1795 68
1766	Jonathan Warner	Portsmouth	15 May, 1814	87
1766	Daniel Rindge	Portsmouth	12 Jan. 1799	68
1766	Daniel Peirce	Portsmouth	4 Dec. 1773	
1766	Daniel Rogers	Portsmouth		
1766	George Jaffrey	Portsmouth	25 Dec. 1802	86
1766	Henry Sherburne	Portsmouth	30 March, 1767	58
→ —	Paul Wentworth	Somersworth		
1772	Peter Gilman	Exeter	1 Dec. 1788	84
1772	Thomas W. Waldron	Dover	3 April, 1785	63
1774	John Sherburne	Portsmouth	10 March, 1797	76
1774	John Phillips	Exeter	April, 1795	76
1775	George Boyd§			1787

* Sworn into office 18 January, 1733. † Not sworn into office until 12 October, 1734. Gov. Belcher, in a letter, dated 15 August, 1734, speaking of the expense of their mandamuses, says, "I am told W. and A.'s mandamuses have already cost them about 100 guineas a piece."

‡ He went to Grenada, where it is believed he died about 1795. || Died in England.—*W. Winthrop.*

§ He left the state, and was included in the act proscribing seventy-six persons, passed in 1778, and died on his return from England to this country.

UNDER THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.

From 1776 to 1784.

App.	Counsellors.	Residence.	In office.	Died.	Age.
1776	Meshech Weare	Hamp.-Falls	8	15 January, 1786	72
1776	Matthew Thornton	Londonderry	1	24 June, 1803	89
1776	William Whipple	Portsmouth	1	10 Nov. 1785	54
1776	Josiah Bartlett	Kingston	8	19 May, 1795	65
1776	Nathaniel Folsom	Exeter	1	26 May, 1790	64
→ 1776	John Wentworth	Somersworth	6	18 May, 1781	63
1776	Ebenezer Thompson	Durham	5	15 August, 1802	65
1776	Wyseman Clagett	Litchfield	1	4 Dec. 1784	63
1776	Jonathan Blanchard	Nashua	3	16 July, 1788	50
1776	Samuel Ashley	Winchester*	4	18 Feb. 1792	71
1776	Benjamin Giles	Newport	1	9 Dec. 1787	70
1776	John Hurd	Haverhill	1	July, 1809	82
1777	Nicholas Gilman	Exeter	7	7 April, 1782	52
1777	George Atkinson†	Portsmouth	3	13 Jan. 1805	66
1777	Timothy Walker	Concord	3	5 May, 1822	85
1777	Matthew Patten	Bedford	2	27 August, 1795	76
1777	Benjamin Bellows	Walpole	3	4 June, 1802	62
1779	Moses Nichols	Amherst	1	23 May, 1790	50
1779	Jacob Abbott‡	Wilton	2	5 March, 1820	74
1780	George Atkinson	Portsmouth	1	(See 1777.)	
1780	John McClary	Epsom	4	16 June, 1801	82
1780	Timothy Farrar	New-Ipswich	1		
1780	Samuel Hunt	Charlestown	1	24 August, 1799	66
1780	Enoch Hale	Walpole	2		
1780	Charles Johnston	Haverhill	1	5 March, 1813	76
1781	Woodbury Langdon	Portsmouth	3	13 Jan. 1805	66
1781	George Frost	Durham	3	21 June, 1796	76
1781	John Hale	Hollis	1		1791 60
1781	Wyseman Clagett	Litchfield	2	(See 1776.)	
1781	Benjamin Bellows	Walpole	3	(See 1777.)	
1781	Francis Worcester	Plymouth	1		1802 81
1782	Timothy Farrar	(See 1780.)	2		
1782	Jacob Abbott	Wilton	2	(See 1779.)	
1782	Thomas Sparhawk	Walpole	2	31 Oct. 1802	64
1782	Charles Johnston	Haverhill	1	(See 1780.)	
1783	Francis Worcester		1	(See 1781.)	

* Afterwards of Claremont, where he died.

† His name was originally George King.

‡ He was a native of Andover, resided sometime in Concord, and died at Brunswick, Maine.

|| Still living, and the only one of the Revolutionary or Provincial Counsellors. He was born at Lincoln, Massachusetts, 28 June, 1747, and graduated at Harvard College in 1767.

UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

From 1784 to 1837.

App.	Counsellors.	Residence.	In office.	Died.	Age.
1784	John McClary	Epsom	1	16 June,	1801 82
1784	Joseph Badger	Gilmanton	1	4 April,	1803 82
1784	Francis Blood	Temple	1	Nov.	1814 79
1784	Moses Chase	Cornish	1	18 Oct.	1799 73
1784	Nathaniel Peabody	Atkinson	1	29 June,	1823 81
1785	John Sullivan	Durham	1	23 Jan.	1795 54
1785	Matthew Thornton	Merrimack	1	(See 1776.)	
1785	Amos Shepard	Alstead	2	1 Jan.	1812
1785	Moses Dow	Haverhill	2	31 March,	1811 64
1786	Christopher Toppan	Hampton	1	28 Feb.	1818 83
1786	Joshua Wentworth	Portsmouth	1	19 Oct.	1809 67
1786	Robert Means	Amherst	1	24 Jan.	1823 80
1787	Joseph Gilman	Exeter	1		1806 68
1787	Ebenezer Thompson	Durham	1	(See 1776.)	
1787	Daniel Emerson	Hollis	1	4 Oct.	1821 75
1787	Moses Chase	Cornish	1	(See 1784.)	
1787	John Pickering	Portsmouth	1	11 April,	1805 67
1788	Peter Green	Concord	1	27 March,	1798 52
1788	Ebenezer Smith	Durham	1	24 Sept.	1831 73
1788	Robert Wallace	Henniker	1	30 Jan.	1815 65
1788	Josiah Richardson	Keene	1	25 Feb.	1820 74
1788	William Simpson	Orford	1		1823 81
1789	John Pickering	Portsmouth	1	(See 1787.)	
1789	Ichabod Rollins	Somersworth	1	31 Jan.	1800
1789	Charles Barrett	New-Ipswich	1	21 Sept.	1808 63
1789	Sandford Kingsbury	Claremont	1	12 Nov.	1833 90
1789	Jonathan Freeman	Hanover	8	20 August,	1808 63
1790	Christopher Toppan	Hampton	1	(See 1786.)	
1790	Joseph Badger	Gilmanton	3	14 Jan.	1809 61
1790	Robert Wallace	Henniker	13	(See 1788.)	
1790	Lemuel Holmes	Surry	4	died in Vermont.	
1791	Nathaniel Rogers	Exeter	1	May,	1829 83
1792	Phillips White	S. Hampton	2	24 June,	1811 82
1793	Ebenezer Smith	Durham	3	(See 1788.)	
1794	Christopher Toppan	Hampton	3	(See 1786.)	
1794	Thomas Bellows	Walpole	5		
1795	Joseph Badger	Gilmanton	2	(See 1784.)	
1797	Joseph Cilley	Nottingham	2	August,	1799 65
1797	Aaron Wingate	Farmington	6	24 Feb.	1822 78
1797	Russell Freeman*	Hanover	5	27 Dec.	1805 57
1799	James Sheafe	Portsmouth	1	6 Dec.	1829 74

* Murdered by Josiah Burnham.

App.	Counsellors.	Residence.	In office.	Died.	Age.
1799	Samuel Stevens	Charlestown	6 17	Nov.	1823 88
1800	Joseph Blanchard	Chester	2 7	March,	1833 80
1802	Levi Bartlett	Kingston	6 30	Jan.	1828 64
1802	David Hough	Lebanon	1 18	April,	1831 78
1803	William Hale	Dover	2		
1803	Benjamin Pierce	Hillsborough	6		
1803	Daniel Blaisdell	Canaan	5 10	Jan.	1833 71
1805	Joseph Badger	Gilmanton	4	(See 1790.)	
1805	Nahum Parker	Fitzwilliam	2		
1807	Amasa Allen	Walpole	2 1	July,	1821 69
1807	Daniel Gookin	Nor. Hampton	1	Sept.	1831 75
1807	William Tarleton	Piermont	1 26	March,	1819 68
1809	Elijah Hall	Portsmouth	8 22	June,	1830 87
1809	Richard Dame	Rochester	2 19	Sept.	1828 72
1809	Samuel Bell	Amherst	1		
1809	Caleb Ellis	Claremont	2 9	May,	1816 49
1809	Benjamin J. Gilbert	Hanover	2		
1810	Jedidiah K. Smith	Amherst	4 17	Dec.	1828 58
1811	Nathaniel Upham	Rochester	2 10	July,	1829 55
1811	Ithamar Chase	Cornish	5	August,	1817 55
1811	Jonathan Franklin	Lyme	2		
1813	Nathan Taylor	Sanbornton	1		
1813	Enoch Colby	Thornton	5 8	Dec.	1833 77
1814	Samuel Quarles	Ossipee	3		
1814	Benjamin Pierce	(See 1803.)	2		
1816	Levi Jackson	Chesterfield	2 30	August,	1821 49
1817	John M. Page	Tamworth	3	May,	1826 48
1817	John Bell, jr.	Chester	5 22	March,	1836 70
1818	Richard H. Ayer	Hooksett	5		
1818	Samuel Grant	Walpole	1		
1818	Jeduthun Wilcox	Orford	2		
1819	Aaron Matson	Stoddard	2		
1819	John French	Landaff	3		
1820	Richard Odell	Conway	3		
1821	Samuel Dinsmoor	Keene	1 15	March,	1835 68
1822	Hunking Penhallow	Portsmouth	2 24	Sept.	1826 60
1822	Elijah Belding	Swanzey	2		
1822	Ezra Bartlett	Haverhill	3		
1823	Daniel C. Atkinson	Sanbornton	2		
1823	Jonathan Harvey	Sutton	2		
1824	Thomas C. Drew	Walpole	2		
1824	Daniel Hoit	Sandwich	2		
1825	Langley Boardman	Portsmouth	2 31	July,	1833 59
1825	John Wallace	Milford	3		
1825	Caleb Keith	Wentworth	4		

App.	Counsellors.	Residence.	In office.	Died.	Age.
1826	Jotham Lord	Westmoreland	3		
1827	Francis N. Fisk	Concord	1		
1827	Andrew Peirce	Dover	2		
1828	Langley Boardman	Portsmouth	1	(See 1825.)	
1828	Matthew Harvey	Hopkinton	2		
1829	Francis N. Fisk	(See 1827.)	2		
1829	Benning M. Bean	Moultonboro'	1		
1829	Joseph Healy	Washington	3		
1829	Stephen P. Webster	Haverhill	2		
1830	Thomas E. Sawyer	Dover	2		
1830	Jesse Bowers	Nashua	1		
1831	Jacob Freese	Deerfield	2		
1831	Stephen Peabody	Milford	3		
1831	Samuel C. Webster	Plymouth	1	July,	1835 47
1832	Richard Russell	Wakefield	1		
1832	Stephen Johnson	Walpole	3	Jan.	1836 68
1832	Nathaniel Rix	Littleton	2		
1833	Samuel Cushman	Portsmouth	2		
1833	Job Otis	Strafford	3		
1834	Jacob Tuttle	Antrim	2		
1834	Elijah Miller	Hanover	2		
1835	Ezekiel Morrill	Canterbury	2		
1835	Jonathan Gove	Acworth	2		
1836	Samuel Tilton	Sanbornton			
1836	Benjamin Evans	Warner			
1836	John Page	Haverhill			
1836	Samuel Burns	Rumney*			
1837	Tristram Shaw	Exeter			
1837	Leonard Biscoe	Walpole			

It is observable that the average age of 54 of the Provincial Counsellors is 70 years; of 28 of the Revolutionary Counsellors it is 71 years; and of 51 of the State Counsellors who have died, 70 years. This average of 70 years for 133 officers of our government of one particular grade, is favorable to the healthiness of our climate, and creditable to their character for sobriety, and temperate and regular habits.

* Chosen in November, in room of John Page, elected senator in Congress the preceding June.

GENEALOGICAL NOTICE

OF THE WENTWORTHS OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

THE name of Wentworth has existed in New-Hampshire about two hundred years. The great ancestor of the family here was WILLIAM WENTWORTH, who, Burke informs us, in his *Peerage and Baronetage*, published in London in 1832, "emigrated from the county of York, in England, to Boston, in America, in the year 1628, [probably it should be 1638] and removed subsequently to New-Hampshire." He settled in Exeter in 1639, and was a preacher in that town and in several other places, particularly at Dover, where he removed and died, according to the *Journal of Rev. John Pike*, at a very advanced age, on the 16th March, 1697. *Coll. of N. H. Hist. Soc.* vol. III. 48. In the work referred to, we find the following account of the lineage of Elder Wentworth. "The ancient and honorable family of Wentworths," says Thoresby, in his *History of Leeds*, "which for six hundred years hath borne 'the honor of knighthood, was seated four years before that in the 'county of York. The ancient and chief seat of this principal 'branch of this noble family hath been for many ages at Went- 'worth Woodhouse, in the wapentake of Strafford, whence they 'spread into other parts, as Ganthorpe Hall and Potter Newton, in 'the parish of Leeds." Thoresby gives two pedigrees of the Wentworth family. In the second, wherein he deduces the descent of Sir Thomas Wentworth, earl of Strafford, who was beheaded 12 May, 1641, he commences with "Reginald Wyntword de Wyntworth, 'whose descendant in the seventh generation, Robert de Went- 'worth, living in the reign of Henry III., married Emma, daughter 'and heiress of the ancient family of Woodhouse."

"The Wentworths of Yorkshire intermarried with the Neville and Clifford families, previous to the sixteenth century, and with many

‘ other families of the first distinction ; and we find on record, William deWentworth, abbot of the priory of Monk Bretton, in Yorkshire, in 1323 ; and Hugh, son of Henry de Wentworth, who gave eleven acres of his demesne lands in Wentworth to the said priory in 1392.”

Of this “ very illustrious family,” says Burke, was the aforesaid WILLIAM WENTWORTH, who settled in New-Hampshire.

SAMUEL WENTWORTH, son of William Wentworth, married and settled in New-Hampshire, where he died of the small pox in 1691, about 50 years of age. By Mary, his wife, he had—1, Samuel, born 9 April, 1666 ; 2, Parnel, a daughter, born 21 October, 1669 ; 3, John, born 16 June, 1672 ; 4, Mary, born 5 February, 1674 ; 5, Ebenezer, born 9 April, 1677 ; 6, Dorothy, born 27 June, 1680.*

JOHN WENTWORTH, the second son, was lieutenant-governor of New-Hampshire from 1717 to 1729. He died at Portsmouth, 12 December, 1730, aged 58. By Sarah, his wife, who was daughter of Mark Hunting, he had sixteen children.† Some of his children were—John ; Benning, who was governor of New-Hampshire from 1741 to 1766 ; Hunking ; Mark-Hunking ; Samuel, who settled in Boston ; Hugh-Hall ; Daniel ; and daughters, who married Hon. George Jaffrey, Hon. Theodore Atkinson, and Hon. Daniel Warner.

MARK-HUNKING WENTWORTH, son of the preceding, was bred a merchant, and was largely concerned in trade and navigation ; had the agency of procuring masts and spars for the British navy, and by these various branches of business, amassed a large and splendid fortune. He was, many years before the Revolution, one of his majesty’s council, and was one of the original purchasers of Mason’s patent, and in all his transactions was influenced by the most correct and honorable motives. He died at Portsmouth, 19 November, 1784. His benevolence continually prompted him to acts of kindness and liberality.‡

JOHN WENTWORTH, eldest son of the preceding, was born in Portsmouth, and settled there. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1755. He was nominated, in 1766, governor of the

* These names and dates are derived from a MS. Record of Births, &c. in the Secretary’s Office, commencing about 1641.

† Belknap’s Hist. N. H. Edit. of 1830. Vol. I.

‡ Adams’s Annals of Portsmouth, 285.

province of New-Hampshire, and surveyor-general of the woods in North America, which high office he continued to fill until the war of the Revolution, when, remaining firmly attached to the cause of his sovereign, he was rewarded with the government of Nova Scotia, and the honorable privilege of bearing in the chevron of his arms two keys, emblematic of his fidelity. He was created a baronet 26 May, 1796. He went to England in 1810, after forty-six years of faithful and devoted services in North-America. He married Frances, widow of Theodore Atkinson, Jr., and daughter of Samuel Wentworth, Esq., of Boston, and who was cousin to both of her husbands, by whom he had an only son,

CHARLES-MARY WENTWORTH,* who was born 20 January, 1775, and baptized in Queen's Chapel, at Portsmouth, 15 March following.† He succeeded the title as second baronet, on the death of his father in 1820. His family seat is at Parleet, in Lincolnshire, England. F.

SKETCH OF HON. JOHN WENTWORTH, JR.

JOHN WENTWORTH, son of the Hon. John Wentworth, was born at Somersworth, New-Hampshire, 14 July, 1745. His father possessed a great share of influence in the government of this province, filling at different times the offices of speaker of the house of assembly, judge of probate and of the superior court. He was also a colonel in the militia. He descended from the Wentworth family mentioned in the preceding article. His death occurred 18 May, 1781, at the age of 62.

John Wentworth, the subject of this notice, was early designed for the bar, received a good education, and graduated at Harvard University in 1768. Soon after leaving college, he commenced the study of law, and settled in the neighboring town of Dover, then a promising situation for a young member of the legal profession. At that period the courts of law were not crowded with young applicants for the honors and emoluments of the profession, to such an extent as prevails at the present day. A man possessed of tal-

* Burke's Peerage and Baronetage. Haliburton's History of Nova-Scotia.

† N. H. Gazette of March, 1775.

ents, good morals, and untiring perseverance, could not fail of making a favorable impression upon the opinions of those who had daily opportunities of becoming acquainted with his character. And these advantages were enhanced to a still greater degree when combined with a pleasing address, polished manners, and finished education.

Possessed of all these qualifications, it would indeed have been surprising, had Mr. Wentworth been permitted to remain long in even comparative obscurity. His neighbors soon became convinced that he possessed both the abilities and the willingness to serve them, and he was early sent to represent them in the general court. Although, unlike his father, he had not in this situation to contend with the insolence of a ministerial faction, yet he was placed under a responsibility no less overwhelming. He found himself a member of the house at the very period when our political horizon was clouded with the deepest gloom, and when it seemed that the bright sun of liberty, which had beamed forth so bright and so cheering, was about to set forever. But his spirit was not subdued amid all these obstacles. He was throughout a firm and consistent supporter of the rights of man, and at a period when extra-judicial and executive duties devolved upon the legislature to fulfil. When they had at the same time to furnish their quota of money for the general support, and of men for the armies of the continent, and to contend with an empty chest, a disheartened and complaining populace, and a threatening and savage foe upon our borders, he was ready to bear his part, and more than his part, of the burdens of the time. Besides fulfilling his duties as a member, he was called upon to draft all the acts and bills necessary to be passed—he being the man most competent, from his professional education, to perform that laborious duty. He was a member of the committee of safety, which sat in the recess of the general court, and which performed all the functions of government, legislative, executive and judicial, from 20 January, 1777, to 29 April, 1777; and from 20 June, 1777, to 28 May, 1778. In 1777, he was on a committee with Jonathan-Mitchell Sewall, Samuel Gilman, Jr., and Nathaniel Peabody, Esqs., “to draw up and bring in a bill for the trial and punishment of ‘persons who shall, by any misbehavior, in word or deed, be adjudged inimical to the liberty and freedom of the states of America,

‘ (not within the act against treason) and directing how such trials shall be had, and how judgment thereon shall be executed.’

From the legislature of his native state, Mr. Wentworth was soon called to figure on a more enlarged theatre of action. In 1778, on the 10 of March, he was chosen a delegate to the general congress, with Mr. Whipple, and on the 14 of the same month was again elected, his name being coupled with that of Josiah Bartlett. In May following, these two gentlemen proceeded in company to Yorktown, where congress was then sitting. Here he was soon taken sick, and was obliged to return home in August. On the 19 of that month, however, he was again selected to represent the state in the national councils, and remained in that capacity till the following spring, when, together with his friend Bartlett, he resigned his seat. But in 1780, he was again elected, and his name appears attached to the articles of confederation, which were signed the 10 of August that year.

During the whole of this period, it should be recollected, he served the town of Dover in the capacity of representative, only resigning his seat in the legislature when his duty as a member of congress called him from home. His labors, under such a pressure of business, may well be conceived to have been very arduous; and indeed his health seems to have suffered materially from his exertions. In November, 1779, in the absence of the attorney-general, Mr. Livermore, then a delegate in congress, he was appointed, with Messrs. Blanchard and Peabody, “a committee to prosecute state prisoners,” at a time, too, when a public prosecutor must have had a vast amount of business to dispose of. In 1780, he was again a member of the house of representatives, after which he appears to have spent the short remainder of his life exclusively in the practice of his profession. In 1786, he was chosen a member of the senate for the succeeding year, but never took his seat in that body. He died at Dover, 10 January, 1787, in the 42d year of his age.

Thus cut off in the very prime of life, and distinguished as he had been for the confidence reposed in his integrity and abilities by his fellow citizens, it is but fair to conclude that other and greater honors were in store for him, had not the hand of death severed the thread of his existence. As a lawyer, Mr. Wentworth was far above mediocrity, and as a statesman and lawgiver he was superior

to most of his cotemporaries in the circle in which he moved. But it was as a man that his virtues shone forth pre-eminent. His benevolence was of the purest order ; he was never wearied of well-doing ; and at this day, the aged speak of his character in terms of grateful remembrance. He made his profession an instrument of doing good to his fellow-men, and not as a stalking-horse, on which he might ride to fame and wealth over the necks of the poor and the ignorant. Many anecdotes are related of the good natured address which he made use of in settling the disputes and difficulties between his neighbors, which might be referred to him in his professional capacity, and which, had he practised the arts of a pettifogger, he might have rendered sources of litigation and profit. When an account was placed in his hands for suit, he was in the habit of inquiring into the circumstances of the debtor, and if he found him unable to pay the demand, he would bring the parties together, and would effect a peaceable compromise between them, redounding more to the honor and profit of both debtor and creditor than if vigorous measures, better calculated to exasperate than reconcile, had been pursued. The name of this excellent young man deserves to be held by the citizens of New-Hampshire in affectionate and lasting remembrance.

Mr. Wentworth married Margaret Frost, daughter of Joseph Frost, Esq., of New-Castle, and had four sons and two daughters. The sons were John, Joseph, Meshech-Weare, and Paul ; the daughters married Hon. Daniel M. Durell, of Dover, and Hon. John Harvey, of Northwood. Mr. Wentworth's widow married Hon. John Waldron, of Dover.

C. P. B.

SKETCH OF HON. MESHECH WEARE.

BY HON. PAINE WINGATE.

[No name among the revolutionary worthies of New-Hampshire has descended to posterity with more unsullied reputation than that of Meshech Weare. His name is associated with most of the important public transactions of the government of New-Hampshire from the beginning to the end of the American war—from the end of the war to the commencement of our state constitution. We

had prepared, several years since, a sketch of President Weare, but meeting with the following, which was written by his contemporary, the venerable PAINE WINGATE, of Stratham, who is within a few weeks of entering his 99th year, we have judged that it would be more acceptable to the public than the one first alluded to. It appeared originally in the *Christian Register*.]

HON. MESHECH WEARE, the first president of New-Hampshire under the new state constitution, was born at Hampton-Falls, then a parish of Hampton, on June 16, 1713. He was descended from an honorable parentage, and a line of respectable ancestors, who were, in the early settlement of Hampton, among the influential characters in the town and province. In 1663, during Cranfield's administration, when the people in the old and new settlements of New-Hampshire conceived themselves grievously oppressed, both in their civil and religious liberties, they appointed one of his ancestors, Nathaniel Weare, as their agent to cross the Atlantic, and apply to the king in council for relief, which office he accepted and discharged with reputation and success. President Weare's father, Hon. Nathaniel Weare, was for many years a judge of the superior court, and highly respected in the various offices he sustained. The son was one of the younger of a numerous family of children. From his promising appearance of genius, and an amiable and discreet deportment, he was selected as the favorite child, to whom was afforded a liberal education, and thereby fitted for extensive usefulness in any station he might hereafter be called to fill. Accordingly, by the necessary preparatory studies, he was admitted a worthy member of Harvard University, in Cambridge, where he graduated in 1735, with the reputation of a distinguished scholar. After he left the university, he applied to the study of divinity—a study which he relished in all the after periods of his life, and became a candidate for the ministerial office. In his occasional theological services, he was highly respected and esteemed. Not long after he had commenced a preacher, and before any parish had offered him a settlement, he married a very worthy woman, in his native place, possessed of a large landed property, which, with his family concerns, afforded him a peaceful and agreeable, and at the same time a useful and honorable, employment. And the esteem and respect which his prudent and exemplary conduct among his

townsmen, with whom he had lived from his earliest days, had so secured to him their confidence, that they were ready and desirous to employ him in their various civil concerns. He therefore thought himself justified in relinquishing his former pursuits, upon which he had but just entered; and henceforward devoted a very industrious life chiefly to the public, in various important civil offices. In addition to his almost constant employment in the prudential affairs of the town and as an active magistrate, he was early chosen their representative in the general court, and continued to represent them, with scarce an interruption, for a great number of years, until he was removed to a higher and incompatible station. He was appointed one of the justices of the superior court of judicature, which place he filled with integrity and satisfaction to the public, until he was appointed chief justice of the same court, at the commencement of the courts of law after the late revolution. He was, also, under the royal government, a colonel of a regiment of militia, and in the year 1754, when the then American British colonies were alarmed with the encroachments of their French borderers in Canada, and the threatenings of the Indian savages on our north-western frontiers. Colonel Weare was selected, with other distinguished characters, from this and other New-England provinces, with New-York; and they met as commissioners at Albany, to consult and provide the best means of safety, and securing the friendship of the Indians, especially of the Six Nations, in that part of the country.

When the American Revolution commenced, President Weare's most intimate and influential friends were among those who then sustained the highest offices under the royal government in New-Hampshire, to whom he had a grateful attachment, and many of whom he deservedly esteemed for their political knowledge and honest regard for their country's welfare, however they might view the existing controversy. Under these circumstances, he viewed the rise of the American disputes with the parent country with caution, and certainly with no prepossession in favor of measures the country was adopting. It is true his ancestors had been earnest advocates for the rights and privileges of a free people, in the early disputes with some who had pretended to be clothed with royal power; and President Weare had been educated in those principles, and had imbibed the spirit of liberty, which was congenial to

his amiable and mild disposition; but at the same time, from his natural coolness of temper, his knowledge of mankind, and his long experience in public affairs, he was in doubt as to the expediency of some measures that were adopted; and in the first efforts of the American people to resist the British claims, he seemed not prepared to go all lengths with the spirit of the times. However, when a convention of the state was called, and they were about assuming the powers of government, President Weare, in the second week of their sitting, appeared as a member of that body, and took his seat, as he had occasionally before attended conventions for the appointing delegates to congress. On account of his former distinctions in high offices, as well as his deservedly esteemed personal character, his now full accession to the American cause was eagerly embraced by the convention, and he was immediately placed at the head of the New-Hampshire state government, in the executive department, in which place he conducted with justice and moderation. And never, unless the imperious necessity of his country's safety, in his judgment, compelled him, did he exercise or assent to, what to some appeared rigor against those who disapproved of, and even opposed, the proceedings of the new government. When the dissent of his friends or others from the measures he was pursuing appeared to him to proceed from an honest intention and erroneous judgment, he ever endeavored to induce gentleness of treatment toward them, and he did not suffer the difference of political opinions to interrupt a cordial friendship with those of his former connections and friends. When the revolution had progressed, and the courts of law were again organized, President Weare was placed at the head of the judicial department. In both offices, as first executive and chief justice, he continued until 1784, when a constitution and form of government for New-Hampshire was established; and agreeably to the provisions of it, President Weare, by the universal suffrage of the people, was elected chief executive magistrate, by the style of *His Excellency the President of the State*. Not a candidate was suggested in competition with him. Every one conceded that this highest honor and mark of confidence which the state could bestow was due to him for his long, his able and patriotic services. Having continued in office one year, he declined another election, on account of his great age and increasing bodily maladies. And after a lingering confinement through the succeeding winter, before

he had been one year retired from public life, he expired, in a peaceful resignation to the divine will, and with the blessed hope of resting from his labors, and of entering into the joys of his Lord. He died January 15, 1786, aged 72 years and 7 months.

ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A PLAY-HOUSE IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE, 1762.

Petition for such an establishment at Portsmouth.

PROVINCE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE. } *To His Excellency BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of New-Hampshire—The Petition of sundry of the inhabitants of Portsmouth, in the Province of New-Hampshire—Humbly shews,*

That the subscribers understand that there has been a proposal made by one of the actors of the plays, sometime since at Newport, but more lately at New-York, to erect a play-house here sometime hence; and that there is a petition presented to your Excellency to inhibit and prevent the same :

Now your petitioners, being informed that the said actors act no obscene or immoral plays, but such as tend to the improvement of the mind and informing the judgment in things proper to be known, in a civil and well-regulated society: Your petitioners pray your Excellency not to discourage, but rather forward, the same; and your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray, &c.

Signed by Matthew Livermore, George Meserve, Theodore Atkinson, jr., Joshua Brackett, John Wentworth, (afterwards governor) and forty other persons.

Petitions against such an establishment, and for prohibiting plays.

To His Excellency BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of New-Hampshire, and the Honorable His Majesty's Council for said Province—

Humbly shews, sundry of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Portsmouth, in said Province—That your petitioners have been informed that a motion has been made for liberty for

a number of players to exhibit sundry entertainments of the stage in this town, which your petitioners apprehend would be of very pernicious consequences, not only to the morals of the young people, (even if there should be no immoral exhibitions) by dissipating their minds, and giving them an idle turn of attachment to pleasure and amusement, with other ill effects, which there is the greatest reason to fear from such entertainments in a place where they are a novelty. Add to this, that such a time of general distress, wherein the people here have lately suffered for want of the necessaries of life, and which is not yet entirely over, is more peculiarly improper for such amusements, which are always destructive to a new country, but especially at a season when there is the utmost need to raise and promote a spirit of industry:

Wherefore, for these and many other reasons, your petitioners humbly pray that no such liberty may be granted; and if assumed, that they may be restrained, and your petitioners shall pray, &c.

Signed by Henry Sherburne, Eleazer Russell, John Penhallow, John Newmarch, William Parker, and thirty-five others.

To His Excellency BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of New-Hampshire:

We, the subscribers, inhabitants of the town of Portsmouth, humbly pray your Excellency to prohibit the acting and exhibiting of plays in this town, especially as it would bring on so many burthens and difficulties, in addition to those we have so lately suffered for want of the necessaries of life, and carry off the little remaining silver and gold there is in the town; and when people make such difficulties in paying the common and ordinary taxes and charges of government, that the taxes are seldom collected within the year, through the pretence of poverty; with other objections, too obvious to be mentioned to your Excellency; but especially considering every mouthful of bread we have eat, has been for many months past, and what we shall use must be for many yet to come, imported, we apprehend it would be destructive to the circumstances of the people, as well as their morals: and as the poor will always imitate the richer, every servant in town will soon turn player. For these and other reasons, which your Excellency

knows better than we do, being better acquainted with things of this kind, we humbly pray no liberty for this purpose may be granted at such a remarkable season and time as this.

June 4, 1762. Signed by the Selectmen, (five in number) by Samuel Hale, Clement Jackson, Daniel Warner, Mark H. Wentworth, George Boyd, Richard Wibird, John Downing, Samuel Cutt, Jacob Sheafe, Thomas Chadbourn, and one hundred and sixty-eight others, all of whose names are entire on said Petition.

Assembly's Address to prevent acting plays.

Province of New-Hampshire. } *In the House of Representatives,*
June 5, 1762.

Whereas this House has been informed that an application has been made to His Excellency, the governor of this Province, for liberty to exhibit plays and theatrical entertainments in the town of Portsmouth, in said Province, which is yet under consideration: And as this House apprehends such liberty would greatly affect the interest as well as morals of the people they represent, therefore, Voted, that an address and request of this House be presented to His Excellency, that he would be pleased to discountenance and deny all such proposals, at least at this time, for the following reasons, namely:

Because, when such entertainments are a novelty, they have a more peculiar influence on the minds of young people, greatly endanger their morals, by giving them a turn for intriguing, amusement and pleasure, even upon the best and most favorable supposition, that nothing contrary to decency and good manners is exhibited; yet, the strong impressions made by the gallantries, amors, and other moving representations, with which the best plays abound, will dissipate and indispose the minds of youth, not used to them, to every thing important and serious: and as there is a general complaint of a prevailing turn to pleasure and idleness in most young people among us, which is too well grounded, the entertainments of the stage would inflame that temper. All young countries have much more occasion to encourage a spirit of industry and application to business, than to countenance schemes of amusement and pleasure:

That it would be more especially improper and extraordinary that such entertainments should be first introduced, when the people are laboring under the calamities of a famine, (for such the late scarcity upon the whole may justly be estimated) the effects of which will be felt for years to come,—and though there is at present some relief, yet as that is only by importation, and on which we must depend for months to come, the distress is far from being removed : Add to this, that we are still deeply engaged in an expensive war, from which there is no present prospect of deliverance,—and that curiosity will tempt the youth from the remotest part of the Province to take a journey to Portsmouth to see such rarities ; and those who lately begged a dollar to buy bread, will purchase more for a sight of them, by which means all the valuable part of our cash will have another way of exportation, besides the purchase of provisions.

For these and many other reasons, this House prays your Excellency's negative upon this motion.

H. SHERBURNE, Speaker.

MORTALITY IN KINGSTON, N. H., FROM 1725 TO 1832.

Kingston, Dec. 10, 1832.

DEAR SIR :

After a long delay, I send you the following Bill of Mortality for this town. It begins in 1725. The church was organized September 17, 1725, and the Rev. WARD CLARK, the first minister, was ordained September 29, 1725. I suppose that at this time, Kingston included what is now Kingston, East-Kingston, Hawke [now Danville] and Sandown : or, the greater part of those towns. The first record of mortality in the church book, is October 15, 1725. This is the only one recorded for that year.

In 1726,	5	deaths.
1727,	5	“
1728,	9	“
1729,	2	“
1730,	22	“
1731,	13	“
1732,	10	“
1733,	10	“
1734,	6	“
1735,	102	“

At the close of the record for 1735, the following is inserted :

“ This mortality was by a Kanker Quinsey, or peripn., which mostly seized upon young people, and has proved exceeding mortal in several other towns. It is supposed there never was the like before in this country.”

It seems that the disease did not

prevail much until June; as only *four* deaths are recorded in May, and fewer in preceding months.

In June,	1735,	13	deaths.
July,	do.	20	"
August,	do.	26	"
September,	do.	6	"
October,	do.	14	"
November,	do.	6	"
December,	do.	8	"
In 1736,		34	"
1737,		24	"

This number includes Rev. Ward Clark, who died at Exeter, May 6, 1737, aged 34.

In 1738,	16	deaths.
1739,	7	"

In this year (1739) is recorded the death of Mrs. Love Sherborn, aged 94. She died in February.*

In the autumn of 1739, the church in East-Kingston was organized.

In 1740,	5	deaths.
1741,	11	"
1742,	10	"
1743,	9	"
1744,	10	"
1745,	25	"
1746,	33	"
1747,	33	"
1748,	14	"
1749,	28	"
1750,	18	"
1751,	10	"

In the beginning of 1751, it appears from the records that a new church was organized in Brentwood, of persons who had previously belonged to the first church in Kingston. There was also another church in Brentwood, in the vicinity of Exeter. In 1756, they both united in settling the Rev. Nathaniel Trask, and became one church.

In 1752,	12	deaths.
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New Style began to be used in the church records in 1752.

In 1753,	34	deaths.
1754,	12	"
1755,	15	"
1756,	26	"
1757,	22	"

May 15, 1757. Ichabod Robie died, in the 93d year of his age.

In 1758,	14	deaths.
1759, to August,	8	"

The whole number of deaths to this time (August, 1759,) was 603.

August 17th closes the record of Rev. JOSEPH SECCOMB, the second minister of Kingston.

His death occurred September 15, 1760; and no other is recorded between his and the one in August 17th of the preceding year. I presume there is an omission. No other instance of mortality is recorded for 1760.

In 1761, 3 deaths.

It is questionable whether *all* are recorded which occurred during this year.

In the year 1759, a church was organized in Sandown, of persons belonging to the church in Kingston.

August 18, 1762, Rev. AMOS TAPPAN was ordained. During his ministry, I find only *one* instance of mortality on record, that in September 22, 1762. He died in June, 1771. From that time, to the ordination of Rev. ELIHU THAYER, in 1776, I have found no record of the deaths which occurred.

In December, 1776, 1 died.

In 1777,	10	deaths.
1778,	21	"

August 29, 1778, a Widow Robinson died, aged 96 years.

In 1779,	5	deaths.
1780,	6	"
1781,	9	"

February 5, 1781, Lieut. Benjamin Webster, who was the first male child born in Kingston, died, in his 80th year.

In 1782,	10	deaths.
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"February 17, 1782, John Clifford died, aged 90 or upwards," as I understand the record. What I suppose to be 90 is much blotted. The 9 is pretty plain; but the place for the other figure is entirely covered with a large spot of ink.

In 1783,	11	deaths.
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This is the number inserted in the church record, but one of these, the widow of Dea. Hubbard, (who died in Kingston, and was an officer of this church,) is said to have died in Hawke, in her 91st year.

In 1784,	8	deaths.
1785,	6	"
1786,	5	"
1787,	9	"
1788,	7	"
1789,	12	"

June, 1789, Hezekiah Beady, [Beedé]

[* She was the widow of Capt. Samuel Sherburne, who was killed by the Indians at Macquoit in 1691.]

aged 90 or more. September, 1789,			Jan. 1808, widow R. French, aged 90; and in October, Widow Greenfield, aged 95, I believe, though the 5, if it be one, is blotted.
Widow Winslow, 90.			
In 1790,	16	deaths.	
1791,	6	"	
Nov. 1791, Catharine Severance died, aged 90.			In 1809,
			7
			deaths.
			1810,
			7
			"
In 1792,	6	deaths.	January, 1810, Peter Sanborn died, aged 97.
1793,	7	"	
1794,	11	"	In 1811,
1795,	8	"	12
			deaths.
January, 1795, Widow Magoon died, aged 90 years.			March, 1811, Edward Sleeper died, aged 90 and over; but the figure which is designed to indicate the number over 90 not clearly legible. It may be 7.
In 1796,	8	deaths.	
1797,	9	"	In 1812,
			7
			deaths.
March, 1797, Ensign Daniel Gilman, aged 92; and in August, widow Sarah George, 92.			April 3, 1812, Rev. ELIHU THAYER, D. D., fourth minister of Kingston, died, in the 66th year of his age.
In 1798,	11	deaths.	In 1813,
Sept. 1798, widow Abigail French died, aged 90.			11
			deaths.
In 1799,	6	deaths.	In 1814, one only recorded in January. From 1814 to my ordination, in 1827, I do not find any record of mortality in the church book.
1800,	20	"	
1801,	7	"	My records begin—
1802,	11	"	In 1828,
1803,	23	"	14
			died.
March, 1803, Widow Colcord died, aged 90.			December, 1828, Betsey Quimby, an unmarried person, died, aged 90.
In 1804,	13	deaths.	In 1829,
1805,	6	"	17
1806,	7	"	deaths.
1807,	9	"	1830,
1808,	9	"	10
			"
			1831,
			10
			"
			1832,
			9
			to Dec. 10.

I have found no record of the formation of the church in Hawke; and I do not know when it was organized.

I have ascertained only three persons, who were natives of this town, that have received degrees at college, viz: Rev. *Peter Sanborn*, settled in Reading, Massachusetts, and I believe now residing there. He has not of late years preached much, I think. Mr. *John Calef*, who, not long since, resided at Pembroke. I do not know whether he studied any profession: and Mr. *John Fifield Sleeper*, who is dead. I think that more information may be obtained concerning these persons. I will endeavor to collect and communicate it. Perhaps I may learn that there are others; if so, I will let you know.

With respect, yours,

ORA PEARSON,

J. FARMER.

PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS OF SOUHEGAN-
WEST—NOW AMHERST—1747.

[This was found after the Sketch of Amherst was printed.]

“ *To his Excellency BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq., Governor, &c., the Hon. his Majesty’s Council, and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened, May 13, 1747.*

“ The Petition of us, the subscribers, inhabitants of the new plantation called Souhegan-West, humbly sheweth :

“ That there is settled and now remains in this plantation, thirty-five families, in which is about fifty-eight men upwards of sixteen years old :

“ That when we began our settlement, we apprehended no danger of our ever being a frontier, there being at that time so many above us begun and obligated to fulfil the conditions of the Massachusetts Grants, which occasioned us to settle scattering, only regarding the advantages of good and compact farms :

“ That the difficulty of war happening so early on our settlements, and the defenceless state they were in, has obliged them all, namely, Peterborough, Salem-Canada, New-Boston and Hillsborough, (so called) entirely to draw off, as well as the forts on Connecticut river :

“ That the first year of the present war we were favored with a scout from this Province (which we thankfully acknowledge) and Salem-Canada, with another which was equally serviceable to us : since that time, both Salem-Canada and this place have had a guard from the Massachusetts till the winter passed, together with our inhabitants keeping a constant scout, though much impoverished thereby :

“ That this encouragement has occasioned our venturing here till now :

“ That as we are now left without scout or guard, apprehend we are in imminent danger ; yet loth to yield ourselves such an easy prey to our enemies, or suffer ruin by leaving our improvements waste, one whereof we have no reason to think, but must unavoidably be our lot, unless this government grants us protection :

“ Wherefore, Your petitioners most humbly pray that your Excellency and Honors would so far commiserate our present difficult

circumstances as to grant us so many soldiers as your Excellency and Honors may judge necessary for our defence :

“ And your petitioners as in duty bound shall pray, &c.”

The foregoing petition was subscribed by

Daniel Wilkins, John Shepard, Joseph Wilkins, Benja. Cheever, John Davis, James Cofren, Samuel Walton, William Peabody, Solomon Hutchinson, Daniel Wilkins, jun., Benja. Cheever, jun., William Howard, Jacob Wellman, David Hartsorn, Andrew Bixbe, Andrew Seetown, John Seetown, William Bradford, Ebenezer Ellinwood, Thomas Clark, Israel Towne, Ebenezer Lyon, Caleb Stiles.

This Petition, with one from Monson, a town situated between Amherst and Hollis, and which was afterwards divided and annexed to those towns, was read in Council, 13 May, 1747, and voted to be sent down to the House. The House, on the 15 May, 1747, voted, “ That in answer to the two annexed Petitions, namely, that of Souhegan-West and that of Monson, his Excellency be desired to give orders for enlisting or impressing fifteen good effective men, to scout and guard, under proper officer or officers, said Souhegan-West and Monson, till the twentieth of October next, if need be, and that said men be shifted once a month.” This vote was assented to by the Governor and Council.—*Province Records*.

LETTER OF COL. EBENEZER HINDSDALE TO GOV. BENNING WENTWORTH—1755.

Deerfield, July 22, 1755.

May it please your Excellency :

I this instant received an express from my wife at Hinsdale's Fort, informing me that about 9 of the clock this morning, a party of Indians attacked seven men within one hundred rods of the fort, who were out on their own notion of getting a few poles to complete the new picketing of the fort. They had four on the guard and three on the team—had drawn but one stick before the enemy fired upon them, and having got between them and the fort, endeavored to prevent their getting to the fort. Four of the men were soldiers, and three inhabitants—one soldier is Heath, and one inhabitant is Amasa Wright, escaped to the fort. The soldiers that are missing are Colby, Hardway* and Quimby. The inhabit-

* [Belknap, Hist. N. H. vol. 1. edition of 1830, says John Hardiclay.]

ants missing are two. We hope some may be hid, and come in, but one of the soldiers says he saw the Indians take off two or three, as he stood in the box of the fort. Last week, Major Bel- lows going from my fort under a guard, found the enemy had lately burnt an outhouse and furniture about six miles above West River.

May it please your Excellency :

I have heretofore signified to your Excellency that West River is the common road of the enemy from Crown Point. Our going to Crown Point is fully known at Canada,—I having letters by me that came from Canada the 7 of June. Nevertheless, it seems not to affect the Indians. They choose not to be confined to army or garrisons. We are in the utmost distress in this part of your Excellency's Province, and if we have not farther protection we cannot continue here. The whole of these frontiers must fall as an easy prey into the hands of our enemy, did they know our weakness. There was [were] seven soldiers allowed to my garri- son—now remain but four—none other in the town. I entreat your Excellency's compassionate regards for myself and the people in these parts, and earnestly pray your Excellency will send us a suitable protection. We are loath to tarry here merely to be killed. Your Excellency's commands in these regards would much oblige

Your most dutiful and most obedient serv't,

EBENEZER HINDSDALE.

P. S.—I am informed a motion has been made in the Province of Massachusetts-Bay to send to Conecticut for their assistance. As we are a covert to both provinces, I cannot see why they should not be willing to assist New-Hampshire, if applied to, as they frequently do the Massachusetts. If your Excellency should be pleased to send any commands to me, I expect to be at my fort next week, having recovered my health so as to ride abroad daily.

These from your dutiful serv't as above,

EBEN'R HINDSDALE.

The following extract from Mrs. Hindsdale's letter, is appended to the preceding :

Mr. Hardway was found dead on the spot, with both his breasts cut off, and his heart laid open. One of the inhabitants was found within sixty rods of the fort, both scalped. We see Colby taken off by the Indians. We fixed several 'larums, and the great guns

were shot at Fort Dummer. Thirty men from Northfield came to our assistance, and helped to bury the dead. They followed the Indians, and found Colby's track, who was barefoot. They found no blood, which gives us reason to hope Colby is well. The rest is escaped to the fort. The post being gone to Maj. Bellows before the return from Deerfield, I have thought fit to send by Mr. Wells. Mr. Hindsdale wrote to his Excellency the 28 of June, of the mischief that was done upon the other side of river. One man killed, three women and eleven children captivated. The Indians burnt two buildings.

I am your most obedient and humble servant,

ABIGAIL HINDSDALE.

LETTERS RELATING TO MRS. JEMIMA HOW, WHO WAS TAKEN BY
THE INDIANS AT HINDSDALE, N. H., IN JULY, 1755.

Hindsdale, Jan'y 20th, 1758.

*To his Excellency BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq., Capt. Gen. and
Commander-in-Chief in and over his Majesty's Province of New-
Hampshire, and the honorable his Majesty's Council in said Pro-
vince.*

May it please your Excellency and Honors,

I enclose the copy of a letter from Doct. Stukes, and the extract of another covering it, from Col. Whiting, relating to some captives in Canada taken from these parts. They write to me, I conclude, because I am a neighbor, and one acquainted with their friends and circumstances.

I therefore thought it my duty to lay their case before your Excellency and Honors, for your wise and compassionate consideration. Mrs. How has not estate or relations sufficient for her's and her children's ransom. One of the women taken with her has procured her ransom, and is sent to England, as we hear.

The husband of the other, Mr. Hilkiah Grout, is with me, who has been carefully endeavoring the ransom of his wife and three children ever since their caption, [capture] which was in June, 1755, but as yet can find no method for their relief. He earnestly entreats your favorable aid, direction and assistance herein. We hear Lieut. Johnson had lodged a petition to the General Court relating to the captives, and hope these will come opportunely to

be considered therewith, may it be thought proper. If your Excellency and Honors can do or order any thing for their redemption, we should be glad to be informed by Lieut. Parker, the bearer.

I am your Excellency's and Honors most dutiful and obedient servant,
EBENEZER HINDSDALE.

Letter of Dr. Stukes, referred to in the preceding.

NEW-HAVEN, 23d Dec'r, 1757.

SIR: Having lately come from Canada with Col. Peter Schuyler, we met at Fort St. John's with one Mrs. How, wife of Mr. Caleb How, of your place. She was taken at the time her husband was killed. She has six children with her, and desired me to write to you to let her friends know that she and her children are well, but in miserable circumstances. She is sold to the captain of the Fort St. John's, and is tolerably well used, but her children are sadly used. Her two eldest are to be put into a nunnery. She begs (for God's sake) that you and her friends would do every thing in your power to get her and her children home. She likewise desired me to let you know the women taken with her are very well. I am well assured if you or any of her friends were to know one half of what these poor people suffer, you'd leave no stone unturned to relieve them. I recommend to you the case, not of a man able to go thro' hardships, but of a poor helpless widow, and six fatherless children; which to relieve must be well pleasing in the sight of God. I am, sir, your very humble servant,

BENJA. STUKES.

P. S.—If you please to favor me with a line, direct to B. S., surgeon of the New-Jersey troops in New-York.

Extract of a letter from Col. Whiting to Eben'r Hindsdale.

NEW-HAVEN, Dec. 24, 1757.

SIR—The enclosed, Dr. Stukes left with me yesterday morning, and desired me to direct and forward it to you. This gentleman came from Canada with Col. Schuyler. I asked him what method could be taken to relieve Mrs. How;—he says Col. Schuyler is to return next spring, as he has given his parole of honor to do, or return some person in exchange. If money could be procured for the ransom of Mrs. How and family, and sent to Col. Schuyler, he will use all endeavors for their ransom.

He is a gentleman of great generosity; and having seen and known the distress of the captives, is disposed to do every thing for their relief, &c. &c.

If you have occasion to write this gentleman, direct to me, and I will take care to forward your letters, &c.

I am your friend and most obedient servant,

N. WHITING.

Account of the rate of Silver per ounce in New-Hampshire in the following years.—[From a MS. of Rev. Dr. Belknap.]

Years.	Shill'gs.	Pence.	Years.	Shill'gs.	Pence.	Years.	Shill'gs.	Pence.	Years.	Shill'gs.	Pence.
1700	10	0	1726	16	0		28	0	1747	53	0
			1728	16	6	1739	29	0		55	0
1704	7	0		17	0		29	6		58	0
			1729	19	0		29	0		60	0
1705	10	0		19	6	1740	28	6		58	0
			1730	21	0		29	0	1748	58	0
1710	8	0		20	0		28	0		56	0
			1731	18	6		29	0		55	0
1711	8	4		19	0	1741	28	6		54	0
1712	8	6	1732	19	6		28	0		55	0
1714	9	0		20	0	1742	28	0		56	0
				20	6		27	6		58	0
1716	10	0	1733	21	0		28	0		56	0
				25	0		29	0	1749	56	0
1718	11	0		26	0	1743	30	0		58	0
1719	12	0		26	6		32	0		60	0
1720	12	4		27	0	1744	32	0		58	0
1721	12	6	1734	24	0		33	0	1750	56	0
	13	0		25	0		34	0		55	0
	13	6		26	0	1745	35	0		54	0
1722	14	0		26	6		36	0		50	0
	14	6		27	0		37	0			
1723	14	6	1735	27	6	1746	37	0			
	15	6	1736	27	6		38	0			
1724	16	0		26	6		40	0			
	16	6	1737	26	6		45	0			
1725	16	0		27	0		48	0			
	15	0	1738	27	6		50	0			

ORIGINAL LETTER OF Gov. JOHN WENTWORTH.

FLATBUSH, *Long Island*, 8 miles from N. York, }
 January 17th, 1777. }

My dear Sister,

I have prevail'd on a man, bound on a trading journey, to forward you this letter, and one to my father, with one from your husband, who was well Oct. 23rd, the latest accots we have from England: Also 7 letters for Mrs. Rindge from my Uncle, who was well at that time—as is Mr. Boyd, Traill and Wy. Langdon. I have a box qt. 16 pr. childrens shoes—3 pr. woms. silk and 3 pr. Calamanco shoes—4 patterns of Calacoe—and 4 handhckfs—which Mr. Fisher sent for you, by Mr. Brinley. Whenever they can be sent, you shall have them—Mr. Brinley was fired on 37 days since by a party in the Jerseys—one Ball penetrated under the 8th rib—another below the Hip, and a third just above the Garter—He refused quarter, and rode 4 miles to a party of Waldeckers—There is hopes of his recovery—is at N. York. Mr. Pepperell arrived here some time since—He takes passage for London in 4 days. I think it probable Mr. Fisher and Rindge will be here early in the spring—Mr. Meserve, Hale and Lutwyche are perfectly well—Capt. Cochran, Mr. Macdonough and Mr. Wentworth, are with me and well—they desire their best Regards. From dispositions and intelligence from Pennsylvania and Southward, it is *more* than probable that the present unnatural war is almost at an end—Many important Prizes with cloathing, ammunition, &c. have been bro't in to us this week—Great numbers of principal Men have embrac'd the Proclamation—I wish to God, my Countrymen wou'd be as wise—Be assur'd an army of 20,000 Russians and 12,000 Wirtembergers, &c. are engag'd and will be in N. England by June next, unless prevented by Peace. Mrs. W. and Charles are very well—the latter is taken under the wing of his noble sponsors and namesake, who are incredibly fond of him. He has the same apartments assign'd him, that his noble namesake occupies in his infancy. They sent for Romulus and Remus, they said 5 weeks since. The schooner Resource, employ'd in the King's service to land the Guards at Rochelle, struck on a Rock, overset, bilged, was stripped, and afterwards burn'd by Commodore Hotham, when the army left that place. She will be fairlv paid for

in a few days—a proper protest is forwarded to Mr. Fisher. Capt. Steel turned out a poor Devil indeed—Has a landed Estate in Cumberland left to him of £160 ster'g per *ann.* and gone home to take possession. The Bills for the schooner will be remitted to Mr. Fisher, when received. I rejoice to hear our dear Parents, you and your sweet little ones are all well. I hope it will not be long before we meet. Pray give the little Cherubs a million kisses for me. Capt. Bellew has been very ill, but writes me from Halifax, 23 Decr. he is recovered, and intirely out of danger—Mark is with him. By Robt. Temple I requested my Father would supply Mrs. Butler ten Guineas. Mr. Butler is well and in good employ—where he saves money and acts laudably. Pray remember me kindly to all my loyal, stedfast friends—the time of their rejoicing is at hand. I am in good health, and will not leave America until peace is restored. Those that love me and that I love will be good to Prisoners and Captives—I wou'd sell my all for their comfort. I have not, nor do I wish to receive a line from N. Hampshire. Be ye stedfast—Be ye faithful even to death, I know and rejoice is written on many good souls, who merit my best love. I avoid writing politics, and mean only to convey domestic affection and comfort. May Heaven in mercy preserve you all. Mr. Fisher and Rindge are happy as they can be from their familys, whom they dearly love. I love you all, and will be with you, either in Peace or War, as the Provinces choose—may our merciful God incline them to the former. Our worthy Parents will accept my most cordial and attach'd salutations, and all will oblige me in their continued affections, which are inestimable to, my dear Sister,

Your affectionate brother,

J. WENTWORTH.

Dr. and Mrs. Perkins arriv'd in London in Oct. last—are well.

I send you 5 letters directed to Mr. Russell—they are for you—and you must open them.

Mrs. ANN FISHER, Portsmouth.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLES FOR CONCORD, N. H.

BY JOHN FARMER.

TABLE I.

Exhibiting the Mean of each Month in each Year, the Mean of the Months, and the Annual Mean, during Nine Years,* from 1828 to 1836, inclusive.

Months.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	Mean for the mo's.
January,	24.6	20.1	19.2	20.5	22.8	26.3	18.4	21.3	22.5	21.7
February,	31.8	17.2	22.	20.9	23.3	20.	26.6	19.8	14.7	21.8
March,	33.	27.8	34.	37.6	26.7	28.4	32.8	29.3	26.	30.6
April,	40.5	43.	47.5	43.	39.	46.3	45.5	40.6	38.1	42.6
May,	55.6	58.	55.2	58.9	52.1	58.4	52.1	51.8	55.5	55.3
June,	68.5	64.4	62.5	68.1	62.	60.1	62.4	63.7	59.7	63.4
July,	70.	66.3	68.2	69.1	66.7	59.1	71.8	67.6	67.6	67.3
August,	68.6	66.2	65.4	69.	67.	64.3	65.1	64.8	62.5	65.8
September,	60.2	59.6	56.5	58.2	56.3	57.7	59.	53.6	57.5	56.5
October,	46.3	47.5	50.1	52.	48.	47.1	47.5	51.7	47.8	48.6
November,	38.2	37.8	43.3	38.	37.8	34.3	34.6	34.3	34.7	37.
December,	32.	33.	31.4	12.8	25.1	26.2	23.	18.5	22.7	24.7
Mean for the years	46.6	44.3	46.3	45.6	43.9	44.	45.	43.	42.4	44.5

* The Mean in this Table was obtained from three observations each day. The *first* was made generally about sunrise, excepting in the fall and winter months, when it was made at 6 o'clock. The *second* was made at the highest point of temperature during the day, which usually occurred between 12 at noon and 2, P. M. The *third* was made at 9 o'clock in the evening. The same thermometer was used during the whole period, which was kept for nearly the whole time on the north side of the house, and about 9 feet from the ground.

TABLE II.

Showing the Greatest Degrees of Cold and Heat, in each Month, during Nine Years.

Months.	1828.		1829.		1830.		1831.		1832.		1833.		1834.		1835.		1836.		For 9 Years	
	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.	Greatest Cold.	Greatest Heat.
Jan.	-7	50	-20	50	-15	43	-7	56	-15	51	-10	55	-12	46	-32	48	-10	44	-32	56
Feb.	8	60	-13	40	-12	56	-6	46	-20	51	14	50	-19	50	-10	42	-22	43	-20	52
March,	8	69	-3	59	11	62	17	52	-5	61	-9	62	14	56	-6	56	-7	49	-9	69
April,	22	64	26	75	25	84	36	72	18	80	22	88	22	88	20	67	14	70	18	88
May,	36	78	30	88	29	82	32	89	32	84	34	88	30	83	32	82	34	87	29	89
June,	43	94	40	87	39	86	40	93	44	88	38	86	38	93	48	82	36	87	36	94
July,	54	90	45	88	48	95	43	88	49	92	46	94	49	98	45	92	48	93	43	98
Aug.	45	89	40	88	46	87	47	90	45	89	41	87	42	93	46	86	40	85	40	93
Sept.	41	91	29	88	28	76	42	80	35	80	31	80	27	88	34	89	28	84	27	91
Oct.	14	76	19	73	24	70	24	80	34	73	20	70	20	76	24	76	15	77	14	80
Nov.	17	67	11	60	22	65	22	58	12	65	0	67	14	56	-5	64	14	59	-5	67
Dec.	2	56	8	57	-10	52	-13	27	-7	46	-5	43	-14	44	-16	44	-4	49	-16	57
Each yr.	-7	94	-20	88	-15	95	-13	93	-20	92	-14	92	-19	98	-32	92	-22	93	-32	98

TABLE III.

Exhibiting the Coldest and Warmest Days in each Month of each Year, during Nine Years.

Months.	1828.		1829.		1830.		1831.		1832.		1833.		1834.		1835.		1836.																			
	Coldest days.	Warmest days	Coldest days.	Warmest days	Coldest days.	Warmest days	Coldest days.	Warmest days	Coldest days.	Warmest days	Coldest days.	Warmest days	Coldest days.	Warmest days	Coldest days.	Warmest days	Coldest days.	Warmest days																		
January,	22	3	3	15	31	16	24	5	26	19	19	4	23	18	4	15	28	12																		
February,	12	19	23	8	6	20	5	16	24	12	2	18	8	5	4	22	2	22																		
March,	5	30	4	30	1	22	21	25	18	25	3	22	22	12	1	16	3	23																		
April,	4	29	9	23	3	22	12	15	5	26	15	29	23	15	5	20	12	19																		
May,	21	29	4	27	9	5	9	31	25	14	3	18	15	21	15	25	14	12																		
June,	1	28	28	14	21	26	23	1	4	15	9	30	18	9	20	12	3	9																		
July,	1	26	26	15	27	21	10	4	11	2	19	1	20	9	1	25	29	8																		
August,	20	25	25	7	26	8	28	15	25	14	9	12	20	12	4	13	24	8																		
September,	27	1	27	2	17	27	30	11	13	19	13	20	30	4	30	6	30	20																		
October,	16	9	21	25	25	14	31	3	26	20	31	7	26	2	25	19	31	2																		
November,	17	4	13	18	24	16	30	11	25	1	29	9	15	10	30	16	25	12																		
December,	31	3	4	25	22	3	22	29	30	1	13	9	15	2	16	25	30	10																		
In each year.		22d Jan.		28th June.		3d Jan.		14th June.		31st Jan.		21st July.		22d Dec.		1st June		26th Jan.		6th July.		19th Jan.		1st July.		23d Jan.		9th July.		16th Dec.		25th July.		2d Feb.		8th July.

AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 9 JUNE, 1836.

BY DANIEL OLIVER, M. D.

IN complying with the request of the Historical Society to deliver the Annual Address the present year, and in endeavoring to carry their wishes into effect, I have concluded, instead of selecting and discussing a particular topic—a task for which I have neither leisure nor ability—to present to the Society a few desultory reflections which have occurred to my mind in revolving the historical recollections which remain out of the scanty store of my earlier reading. In this declaration of the want of a definite subject, I am aware that I am stating, if not a legitimate title, at least a strong claim, to all the indulgence you can bestow; yet I have thought that in a department of knowledge which has been made a particular or exclusive object of investigation by a certain class of the learned, and has been considered only in reference to its own peculiar nature and objects, an advantage, even after the most successful cultivation of it in its own proper sphere, might still be derived from divesting it of its technical character, and bringing it into contact with other modes of thinking, and other subjects of inquiry; by which its results would be made to assume a more general character, and be brought more within the sphere of that common intelligence, by which alone their true value can be ascertained and realized.

When we speak of History, we sometimes mean the historical events which have actually occurred in the world, and sometimes the records and historical compositions by which these events have been handed down, and become known to us. These two senses of the term are entirely different, and should be carefully distinguished from each other. But as, for the most part, we become acquainted with historical events only by reading the compositions which profess to describe them, the study of history comes to signify the study of historical writings; and, of course, has not that precise extent of signification with the study of the events themselves, if it were possible for us to become directly acquainted with them. In one respect it comes far short of the latter; in another, it as much exceeds it. Historical narratives come short of the actual events of history in completeness and in truth. No historical composition, however full and circumstantial it may be, can contain the one hundredth part of the details of the events it professes to describe. It can, at best, exhibit the great outlines and the general results, while innumerable particulars of the events, and a thousand secret connexions and relations between them, escape observation, and are unnoticed, because unperceived and unknown. If a historian confines himself to what he actually knows, either from his own observation, or from unexceptionable and uncontradicted testimony, his work will give a very meagre and imperfect account of the events it professes to describe. If he goes beyond this, his writings may gain in interest, but will lose in accuracy and trustworthiness. But even in relation to the leading features of events, how imperfectly does history discharge its trust. How difficult is it to obtain a true and correct relation of any event, even of the most obvious and palpable kind? Such is the imperfection of our organs of knowledge, that they never embrace the whole of any event, however simple and obvious it may be; and such

are the defects and the corruption of human testimony, that even of cotemporary and well known events, it is scarcely possible to get a true account. No two persons, even if eye-witnesses, exactly agree in them; and if we consider the acknowledged difficulty with respect to events occurring in our own time, and almost under our own eyes, what conclusion can we arrive at with regard to those which happened ages ago, and which have become known to us by works written many hundred years afterwards, and which are uncontradicted perhaps, because they are the only survivors among many others, which described the same.

But besides the imperfection of our organs of knowledge, the mind is a kind of colored medium, which gives a tinge to every thing which passes through it; and the ingenuity of man has never yet discovered any means to *achromatize* it, so that it shall transmit the image of truth without any adventitious coloring. To increase the difficulty, it unfortunately happens that no two minds are colored precisely alike; and perhaps in no instance does the very same object, in being transmitted through two minds, form images precisely similar. Let any two individuals, with the same love of truth, examine with the eye any simple natural object, and nine times out of ten they will not exactly agree in their descriptions. If these should contain no positive contradiction, yet each will see many things which the other did not, and some of which perhaps had no real existence, except, as the metaphysicians say, *subjectively*—that is, as an affection of the observers' minds. But, if the object is of a moral nature, and involves human feelings and affections, the difficulty is immensely increased. Such objects are never perceived by the naked eye of reason. They immediately call up human sympathies, which intervene like a cloud between them and the eye of the mind, and suffer only distorted and colored images of them to reach it. And the original and acquired differences

among mankind are such, that the adventitious qualities, thus accidentally communicated to the objects we contemplate, are never precisely the same in any two cases, but are different for every individual. It is much as if several persons should examine some visible object with eyes differently organized, or variously modified in their power of vision by artificial means—one being *near*, another *far-sighted*; one wearing green glasses, another blue, a third yellow; one looking through a concave, another through a convex lens, and not one with a naked, perfectly organized eye. Now let these observers, without any reference to the peculiar circumstances under which they examined the object, attempt to describe it; and let another compare the descriptions together, and what idea would he be led to form of the appearance which the object really presented? In one respect they would represent it with perfect exactness—that is, precisely as it appeared to the observers severally; yet no two descriptions would agree. In relation to the object itself, all of them would be false; in relation to those who examined it, every one might be true. Now, the work of every impartial and honest historian, who describes events from his own observation, has this latter kind of truth; but not a single historical composition, with the exception of the sacred scriptures, it may be safely asserted, possesses the former. I do not mean to intimate that the differences in the perceptive powers of the mind are *originally* as great as those which, for the sake of illustration, I have imagined to exist in the eye in the case supposed. But the original differences are very considerable; and the prejudices, opinions, and habits of thinking, which are gradually formed by the mind, and which exert so strong an influence upon its perception of truth, may be compared, without much violence, to the colored glasses which are employed to modify our perception of light. No human mind is free from prejudice. Every one, without exception, has certain prevailing habits

of thinking, which will necessarily influence the views which it takes, and the opinions which it forms, of every subject presented to its examination. The intellectual eye in every human being soon mounts its colored glasses, and once on, it wears them ever after. Every object then, in passing through the mind, or being reflected from it, gains something and loses more. It gains the peculiar color of the medium, and probably will be more or less distorted in passing through, or glancing from it; like the images of trees and rocks reflected from the surface of a stream, broken by ripples or ruffled by the wind. It loses in the circumstances and details which are unavoidably omitted, and which may nevertheless involve the essential causes of the phenomena it presents, and form the key to the solution of them.

Such is the influence of the circumstances above mentioned in preventing the perception of truth, that I believe it is scarcely possible for any one to describe any event or occurrence which he may have witnessed, *exactly* as it took place. I believe it is extremely difficult for any human mind, whatever may be its love of truth, to receive the image of the latter upon its bosom, and reflect it wholly unchanged. The mind, like the stomach, is an assimilating organ. Whatever gets into it, undergoes, before it gets out again, a kind of digestion, by which it is assimilated to the nature and qualities of the mind itself. The crude materials of knowledge must be *intellectualized* by the mind, before they are converted into truth, which is its peculiar aliment. In other words: it is not *the objects themselves* of our contemplation which are received into the mind, but only certain conceptions, or ideas, which they suggest to it; and these conceptions resulting from the exercise of the mind's peculiar properties, must derive their character, less from that which *suggests*, than from that which actually *forms*, them. It is true, that there is a certain correspondence between our

mental conceptions and the objects from which they are derived ; but from the imperfection of our organ of knowledge, and the numerous causes existing within us which disturb its regular functions, these conceptions, except in purely mental subjects, are invariably incomplete, and *almost* invariably more or less false. In the language of metaphysics, we may say, that *subjective* truth never exactly corresponds to *objective*. In relating a fact or occurrence which we may have witnessed, it is to be remembered that it is not the fact itself, but only our *conception of it*, which we endeavor to represent. We exhibit it, not as it is in itself, but according to the view which we have formed of it. It is presented to our own minds with the stubborn and inflexible characters of external truth ; we present it to others with the bodiless shape—the dim and shadowy outline of a mental conception. How frequent—I may almost say, how universal is the fact—that in relating an occurrence we have witnessed, particularly if of a nature to interest our feelings, our own impressions glide unobserved into our words, and give a warmth to our language which expresses rather what we *feel*, than what we *know* ; and that when we are professing to state a *fact*, we are unconsciously propounding a theory or an opinion !

Such is the constitution of human nature ; and it unavoidably casts a shade of suspicion on the most unexceptionable human testimony. The difficulty belongs to the very nature of the subject, resulting from the different constitution of the mind, and the difference of its action upon the same objects and materials of knowledge. We are all practically conscious of this truth, though perhaps we may never have stated it distinctly to our own minds. No man is ever satisfied with seeing an object with the eyes of another, because every one has learned by invariable experience, that no other person sees an object exactly as he does himself. Now if this be true of the bodily organs, it is true in a much greater

degree of the organs of the mind. The physical impressions upon our senses must be nearly the same ; and indeed would be absolutely so, if our senses were organized exactly alike. Physical laws are uniform and invariable in their operation. But when we reach the mind, we have passed the boundary of physical, and are now within the jurisdiction of moral laws, which are as variable, as the former are immutable and fixed. A variety of influences (never the same in any two minds,) come into play to modify the impressions produced on them ; and the raw materials of truth, imported by the senses into the mind, are worked up in this machine into fabrics exhibiting every variety of color and texture, and in which, in some cases, scarcely a trace of the original material can be discerned.

Such is the fallacy of human testimony, even where accompanied with a sincere love of truth. But when connected with strong prejudices, with personal or national animosities or partialities, and other motives or dispositions to pervert the truth, unless the love of this be very great indeed, human testimony frequently becomes corrupted to such a degree as to lose all claim to confidence. Consider for a moment how difficult it is, to get a true account of the cotemporary political events of our country, if they are of such a nature as to interest party feelings ; and how differently they are represented by the great political parties, which divide the people. It may be said, indeed, that posterity will judge more impartially. This no doubt is true ; but it must be remembered, that posterity can derive the materials of its judgment only from cotemporary writers.

It follows from the preceding remarks, that even truth itself may have the effect of error in passing into our own minds. If the causes and motives to pervert it exist within us, it matters little whether it comes to us in its pure, uncorrupted state, or already perverted by its transmission through other minds. Under such circumstances it is almost as capable of

deceiving us as error itself. We are all apt to shape the facts with which we become acquainted, to suit our own peculiar views and feelings; and the power of habit is such, that it soon becomes scarcely possible even for ourselves to distinguish what really belongs to them, from what is adventitious and false; and such is the influence of this cause of error, that mankind, with naked truth presented fully to them, are in many instances more liable to deception from their own minds, than from false representations made to them by others. Truth is scarcely admitted into the mind, before it loses its identity. Facts cease to be facts, and become theories and opinions. The mind contributes more than it receives. The knowledge of a simple fact is often sufficient to set the whole machinery of the mind in motion; and the resulting impression or belief is a great deal more than could have been furnished by the truth itself. It soon becomes impossible to separate what we *know* from what we *think*; and in this manner truth itself may, and beyond all doubt frequently does, mislead a prejudiced mind into serious errors.

It is further to be observed, that most historians get their materials, not from their own observation, but at second hand. Few of them were eye-witnesses of the events which they describe. Most of them obtained their information from hearsay, or the relations of others, who perhaps themselves received them from tradition or common report, or the records of cotemporary writers; so that it is impossible for us to know how many minds the events we are reading of have passed through before reaching our own. And it is to be recollected that in every act of transmission they gain or lose something; that is, they become more or less altered from their real character; so that, without recurrence to original documents, when such exist, the reading of history is the reading of romances, founded indeed in facts, but deriving their shape, coloring and details, in a great measure

from the imagination of the writers. How much of the real spirit of truth remains after being filtered through so many minds, it is impossible to estimate. But we ought not to doubt that enough is lost to justify a cautious and sceptical spirit in receiving the statements of historians, except when we know that they were observers of the events which they describe, and when their works exhibit intrinsic evidence of their impartiality and love of truth. Of these, unfortunately the number is small. Such, however, was the great historian of the Pelopponesian War, whose immortal history, though describing only a domestic quarrel between two small Grecian states, neither of them larger than an American county, is truly described by the author to be *κτῆμα εἰς ἀεὶ*—an everlasting possession to mankind; such the martial philosopher who has described, with unequalled simplicity and beauty, the memorable retreat of a handful of Greek warriors from the heart of the Persian empire, in the midst of myriads of enraged enemies, one of the most beautiful and instructive works which antiquity has bequeathed us. Such in modern times are Guicciardini, De Thou, Clarendon, Sully, and several others. Systematic historians should always be read with a spirit of distrust and caution. They have almost always some system to support, or some theory to establish. Who would place implicit confidence in the historical candor and integrity of Hume, Gibbon, Lingard, Mitford or Voltaire, with respect to transactions in which the political, religious, or infidel principles, of these eminent historians were concerned?

Such are some of the unavoidable defects of historical composition, compared with the actual events and transactions which they describe. From the very nature of the case, they can give but a very imperfect, and generally an erroneous, account of the transactions which they profess to relate, frequently mixed up with so much unfounded opinion and such doubtful speculations as to the causes and connex-

ions of events, as to form a confused mass of truth and error, of fact and of opinion, admirably calculated, if not to instruct, at least to perplex and mislead the mind.

But I observed, that in some other respects historical compositions as much exceed the transactions which they describe, as they fall short of them in completeness and truth. They exceed them in instruction, because they contain the reflections of great minds upon the events which they describe. The mere external events of history are a lifeless carcase, until animated by the spirit and genius of the historian. They are the result of causes which in many cases are not apparent; and the skill of the historian is employed in tracing them out, and in referring the effects which they produce, to their agency. The task is evidently a very difficult one, from the impossibility in many cases of ascertaining the secret motives of human action. It is a problem which frequently cannot be solved with absolute certainty. The historian has no key to its solution but the general principles of human nature applied to the events in question, or that intuitive sagacity by which some gifted minds can penetrate with a glance into the mysteries of the human heart. But further, historical events, in many cases, are the effects of numerous and very different causes, intricately combined, and each contributing its own share to the common result; some of them being obvious to the historian's notice, while others, and frequently the most essential, lie far beneath the surface, wholly concealed from his view. These cases present problems of great difficulty, which is the more insuperable because it is not perceived or even suspected—the business of the historian being to unravel the tissue of causes, and to assign to each its appropriate share in the common result; while in his ignorance of those which are unknown, he is inevitably led into error, by ascribing to those which are obvious a greater share in the effect than really belongs to them. But with all these dis-

advantages, the events of history furnish the richest materials for the contemplation of profound and philosophic minds. They exhibit the elements of human nature in every variety of combination ; and they afford the widest field for reflection on the marvellous properties of man. Whether a historian be successful or not, in his general theory of the events he describes, they will furnish him with abundant materials for philosophic remark ; and whether his reflections point out the true explanation of the facts which give rise to them, or are true, not as suggesting the real cause, or rationale, of these facts, but only in a general sense, they may not be the less important and interesting to the inquirer into human nature. The knowledge of human nature is derived more from the observation of what passes within us, than from external events ; and the true source of the profound reflections of a historian is his own heart, and not the historical facts which suggests them to him. The same historical events would suggest very different reflections to minds differently constituted ; yet all might be equally true, because equally founded in the principles of human nature. There is a mine of latent truth in the human mind, of which the possessor himself is frequently wholly ignorant, until external circumstances bring it to light, and acquaint him with the existence of the treasure. An occurrence as trifling as pulling up a shrub by the roots from the side of a barren hill, may disclose a lump of virgin silver, which is only an earnest of inexhaustible treasures, which lie deeper buried. Now it is by bringing to light the knowledge that lies concealed in the human heart, that the external events of history are chiefly valuable. They present such a variety of moral combinations, perpetually changing and passing into others, each succeeding one being the result of that which went before, and every series frequently connected also with collateral trains, as to constitute an immense laboratory, in which the most complicated experiments on

human nature are performed on the largest scale. Now it is in general impossible to predict the results of these experiments, chiefly in consequence of our ignorance of some of the conditions, which in many cases are extremely complicated. We cannot select and arrange these conditions at our own pleasure, as we are able to do in our experiments on matter, and hence, even after the result is known, we are frequently at a loss to account for it, from our knowledge of the circumstances which preceded it ; or at least it is often widely different from what we should have expected, from our imperfect acquaintance with the previous conditions. In all such cases, our theory of the events in question must be imperfect and unsatisfactory, and the knowledge we obtain by means of them purely empirical. But with regard to simple combinations, in which the conditions are few and well known to us, we can judge with considerable confidence of the results. We have only to consult our own hearts to know how we should probably feel and act under certain circumstances, to be able to foresee with tolerable certainty, how others would feel and act if placed in the same ; making an allowance for the known difference of character and principles of the individuals whose conduct we are considering. Now the events and facts of history present to us an endless variety and combination of circumstances, which we have only to apply to our own hearts and our own principles of conduct, in order to elicit some of the latent truths which lie concealed within them. A particular combination of circumstances will immediately suggest to a man of reflection one of those hidden truths, which exist in the human heart ; because they present the conditions already arranged, of a moral experiment, which the common qualities of human nature existing in his own bosom will perform of themselves. History presents a connected series of these experiments, and is extremely instructive, not only by suggesting, but also in many cases by *verifying*, these results ;

and thus furnishing us not only with a knowledge, but a practical demonstration, of the most important truths of human nature.

It is evident, therefore, that the external events of history are important and interesting, not only by marking the progress and developing the destiny of the human race, but as furnishing the most ample materials for a knowledge of human nature. But in the latter view, they are of little value until they have exercised the genius of the historian. It is true, that every man has in his own bosom that which can convert these facts into the most important truths; but few men have the leisure or ability to employ their minds upon the subject—and to such the mere record of events is a barren chronicle, fruitful in names and dates, but destitute of moral instruction. That the seeds of these truths, however, exist in every mind, is evident from the fact, that the profoundest reflections of the historian never impress us as the discovery of new truths, but rather as a suggestion of truths which have long been familiar to our minds. If this were not so, instead of striking us as truths they would startle us as paradoxes. It is only from their conformity with the principles which exist within us, that we recognize them as truths. This intuitive knowledge of human nature which exists in the mind, is not, however, to be considered as innate, but it is a knowledge which springs up and grows without any effort of our own. Every day's experience of our own hearts, or observation of those around us, is secretly introducing into our minds truths which are stored up and forgotten, until some accidental circumstance revives them, or some other mind, which better knows their value, displays them in their proper light; when we immediately recognize them as truths which have long been familiar to our minds, and which we are scarcely conscious that we have ever lost sight of. No writer is so rich in these suggestions of latent truths as the historian of the reign of Tiberius. Every

page of this great author is replete with profound knowledge of human nature. In most historians the facts are more important than the reflections; but in Tacitus the facts are only vehicles of moral instruction. Exhibiting the most odious and disgusting picture of the depravity of human nature, they are dispatched with a few rapid strokes of his powerful pencil, every touch of which is pregnant with the deepest moral meaning, and lays open some secret spring of human corruption. The bulk of mankind, if their minds were filled to the brim with historical facts, would not derive from them one tithe of the instruction which may be obtained from the pages of Tacitus. A few lines of this great historian would give an intelligent mind more insight into the mysteries of the human heart, than a chronicle of all the events which have taken place in the world from the deluge down to the present time. From the dark and scanty ore of his facts he has extracted an abundance of the purest gold.

From the preceding observations, it is apparent that no field of enquiry is so fertile in moral instruction as the pages of history, because they present to our view on the largest scale the results of the operation of those principles, which make up the moral nature of man. The events commemorated in history of the human race, are the results of what may be termed the play of affinities of the moral elements of man. These events, in their successive developement, exhibit a perpetual series of moral decompositions, bringing to light new properties of human nature, by the various combinations and collisions of its principles, or their mutual action and reaction upon one another. What one age has combined together, is subverted in the succeeding, by the destructive agency of the same principles operating under different circumstances. These principles exist in every human breast; and every action of our lives, which has any relation to our fellow beings, is prompted by them. Every

act of a human being which relates to another, is the result and *the expression* of some moral principle or affection ; and the whole series of his actions through life embody the sum total of his moral affections, or are the external expression of his *character*. We judge of the motives and feelings of mankind but little by the mere language of their lips, much by the expression of the countenance, but most of all by the tenor of their actions, which in the long run can never deceive us.

Our common intercourse with others brings to light many principles of human nature, which, if we were solitary beings, would have slumbered forever unknown in our breasts. The greater part of the field of our moral nature would have remained unexplored ; and much of our capacity for good and for evil, for happiness and for misery, unknown even to ourselves, but for the excitements produced by social life,—by intercourse with beings of like passions and interests with ourselves. In proportion to the number and variety of the points, in which we come into contact with others, is the field of our moral consciousness enlarged, and the active and intellectual principles of our nature awakened ; and only under the excitements and collisions of social life, is the moral constitution of man fully developed and manifested even to himself. The great conflict in almost every man's bosom, is that between his sympathies and his interest ; and on the decision of this controversy—that is, as one or the other of these principles gets the upper hand, or the contest is settled by the arbitration of a superior principle, whose authority is equally acknowledged by both—is the character of the individual determined, and his moral estimation settled. The excitement and the collision of these two moving principles are indispensable to his moral existence, as air and food to his physical. Strip him of these, and you divest him of every incentive to action, except the mere animal impulses

which urge him to gratify his bodily wants. His moral nature shrivels up and dies.

Now for these principles we are indebted to our intercourse with our fellow men. We derive the seeds of them from nature, but their germination and growth are the work of social life. Our sympathies would have no object, but for our intercourse with others; and a sense of interest would never have been awakened within us, but for a competition with others engaged in similar pursuits. These two principles, but especially the *selfish*, are also exceedingly strengthened by the numberless wants, which are created by a state of society. To gratify these wants becomes the leading object of almost every one, and is the great spring of the prodigious activity, which animates every part of the organization of society.

It is, then, by the observation and study of man, in his relations and intercourse with others, that we become acquainted with the moral element of his constitution. We observe a great variety of actions springing from certain principles, to which they are immediately traced, and which are themselves thus brought to light; and as every principle within us has its outward expression, and speaks its own peculiar language, no power of dissimulation can long conceal from the observation of men the real dispositions and feelings of those with whom they are conversant. It is a remark of Rochefaucault that the world is made up of appearances; that, in artificial states of society, every man wears a mask. It is too true, that one of the first lessons which we learn from society, is the practice of dissimulation—the habit of concealing on many occasions from others, even our most intimate friends, the real state of our feelings, or the motives and principles of our conduct. But in general the disguise is a very thin and transparent one; and from the nature of the case, can never extend to the tenor of our actions. Very few men are masters of such profound dissi-

mulation, as wholly to suppress the natural language of strong feeling. One may learn by habit to preserve a composed and tranquil countenance, while his soul is on fire within him ; but the fiend will be in his eye ; and the greater the effort, which he exerts to control the muscles of his face, the more will his emotions concentrate their expression and their energy, in the flash or the sparkle of this little organ. But whatever mastery he may exercise over his muscles and his tongue, his habitual actions will never belie him. In particular instances, it is true, his conduct may be referable to more than one motive ; but the prevailing principles of his actions may be ascertained, without danger of mistake, from his habitual conduct.

In mankind, gathered together in large communities, which have an individuality bestowed upon them by government and political institutions, we see the moral nature under a new phase. We perceive the same principles at work, which operate in the intercourse between man and man ; but it is no longer between individuals, but between masses—a difference of circumstances so great, as not to enable us to infer the results from our experience of common life. The conduct of a body of men united together for a common object, and animated by similar feelings and passions, cannot be inferred from that of the individuals of which it is composed. The variety of talents, dispositions and characters which exists in every association of individuals, each exerting its own influence, assume, in their combined or modified operation, a line of action which it is hardly ever possible to calculate. It is a problem of the composition of moral forces so complicated, and the data of which are so imperfectly known, as to admit of only a conjectural solution ; except, as it is often the case, when a few leading individuals, of known principles and views, have influence enough to sway the whole. One remarkable fact with respect to such associations, is, that their sense of

responsibility to public opinion is always less than that of individuals, in proportion as their numbers and their influence are greater. When the association constitutes a nation, this responsibility becomes null, because the feelings and opinions of the whole mass constitute public opinion. Of this truth the conduct of the French nation, during their memorable revolution, is a striking example. Evens maller associations, especially those which are recognized and protected by law, furnish illustrations of the same principle. Feeling strong in their numbers and collective influence, and safe under the protection of the law, they are often led to brave public opinion, from a conflict with which they would, as individuals, shrink ; and they are sometimes encouraged to acts, which, though perhaps falling within the scope of their legal powers, shock the moral sense of the community by their injustice and oppressive operation. Now this is a fact, which is worthy of very serious consideration, because public opinion is one of the most effectual securities against all those injuries and acts of injustice which are not provided against by law ; a safeguard, for which we should too often look in vain for a substitute, in private principle, honor, or conscience. It may be laid down as a principle which admits of very few exceptions, that power without responsibility is always abused.

History is the biography of nations. Nations have an individuality, a personality, as distinct as any of the units of which they are composed. Every individual has a character resulting from the assemblage of his active principles, and their mutual influence upon each other, peculiar to himself. Every one's mind is so tempered, by the different proportions of the elements which compose his moral nature, that the expression of his character is as peculiar, as that of his countenance. His mind has a certain moral aspect, no less peculiar than the physical characteristics, which distinguish his external appearance ; and the play and reaction of

these principles give rise to all the varieties, observable in the characters of individuals. The same is true of nations. Every political community, whatever may be its form of government, may be considered as representing some moral idea, inasmuch as its formation was the result of the operation of certain moral causes ; and as it has a certain character, resulting from the combination of those principles, which belong to the mass of its population. As the combination of the primary moral elements of human nature in every individual, results in a certain general cast of character, certain predominant tendencies, dispositions, and principles of conduct, so the union of these resulting, or proximate elements, in the immense masses which constitute nations, give rise to a secondary series of principles, which in their aggregate constitute national character. The assemblage of certain active principles of human nature, will result in a peculiar cast of character, just as a particular combination of the elementary rays of light will produce a certain color, different from every other. The resulting, or predominant influence, is that which constitutes national character, which is distinguished by certain national tastes, instincts, and principles of conduct. These moral combinations are, of course, destroyed with the political creations to which they gave rise, and in which they are embodied. In the changes produced by revolutions, wars and conquest, to which nations are constantly subject, these combinations are gradually taken to pieces, as they had been gradually formed, and are resolved, not indeed into their primitive elements—for the decomposition of society is never complete—but into fragments, greater or less, according to the extent of the destructive process. These immediately enter into new combinations, the result of which is, new developments of national character, which is thus, in all nations, undergoing incessant modifications, in the political changes to which they are subject.

It is to be observed, however, that changes in national character are very frequently the effect of time, and not of external causes. They are the natural result of the growth and expansion of the elements of its social and political organization. They are not an essential change, but only a development of character; a gradual approximation to that state of maturity and consolidation, to which its composition gives it a natural tendency. This is a process, which external causes influence or disturb in a very imperfect degree, except in small or feeble nations, which may be overawed, controlled, or even conquered, by their more powerful neighbors. But in nations strong enough to maintain their own independence, whatever disturbing forces powerful rivals or neighbors may exert upon the natural progress of their political and social organization to its destined maturity and perfection, the process, though it may be checked, is never suspended, but is constantly going forward until it reaches its natural limit.

These leading principles in the characters of nations are illustrated by one result to which they give rise, of vast interest and importance to mankind—namely, their literature and philosophy; and so far as these represent the former, they will necessarily share their fate. The literature of nations is an expansion of the moral idea, which lies at the foundation of their political existence; and it must flourish or wither with the root, from which it sprung. The learning and the arts of nations will decline and perish, as those combinations which gave them a political, as well as intellectual and moral existence, fall to pieces; and they will be lost to the world, except so far as they may be adopted by other nations, and engrafted upon, or made the basis of, their own. But the peculiar moral and physical conditions, with which the origin and growth of nations are accompanied, necessarily give rise to peculiar tastes, associations, and modes of thinking, with which other nations have little

sympathy. It was partly owing to this cause, that among the people of antiquity, the advances made by individual nations in knowledge and learning, contributed but little to the general improvement of mankind. The learning of the Egyptians, and that of the Babylonians and Persians, were never enough diffused among surrounding nations, to exert much influence upon the social or intellectual progress of the human race. It is also worthy of remark, in conformity with this view, that the decline and fall of empires have almost invariably been accompanied by a degeneracy of their literature and philosophy, the enervation of their intellects, and a degradation of their moral constitution. The great nations of antiquity, as before, afford the most striking illustration of this remark. The learning of the Egyptians gradually disappeared when the power of their country declined, and they fell a prey successively to the Persians, Greeks, Romans, Saracens, and Turks. Not a vestige of the wisdom and knowledge, which adorned the splendid court of the Pharaohs, now remains; and we do not know that their attainments in knowledge contributed, in any degree, to enlighten the human race. Their country, it is true, was visited by the Greek philosophers, who obtained from the Egyptian priests some of the principles of their philosophy and theology, which they appropriated without scruple to their own use, and displayed as their own proper acquisitions. In the successive conquests of their country by foreign powers, their attainments were forgotten, and their descent into the depths of ignorance and stupidity kept pace with their political degradation. Their power passed away into other hands, their knowledge perished, and Egyptian learning has scarcely left a trace of its existence, in the knowledge and the destiny of the human race. Is there a single circumstance in the present condition of the world, in which can be recognized the influence of the learning and philosophy, which once flourished on the banks

of the Nile? Is mankind one step further advanced, in the course marked out by nature and providence for the human race, by all the science and civilization which adorned the valley of Egypt with those prodigies of art and of skill, which have been the wonder of all succeeding ages? The pyramids of Memphis, and the temples of Luxor and Thebes attest the prodigious power, as well as the science and skill, of the ancient Egyptians. But in rearing these colossal works, the genius of this remarkable people was unconsciously erecting and sculpturing its own sepulchre. All the knowledge, which once adorned the banks of the Nile, has slept for a hundred generations of mankind, entombed in those vast remains.

One remarkable peculiarity of the Egyptians was, that the efforts of their genius were employed in bestowing immortality, not upon ideas, but upon forms of matter. Their minds teemed with vast and sublime conceptions, but they were of the grossest kind. It was the sublime, not of limitless and eternal thought, but of material vastness and duration. They did not aim to create forms of thought and of beauty, which from their own self-living power should endure through all time; but they sought to eternize their ideas by enshrining them in structures, which, from their solidity and enormous magnitude, might bid defiance to the assaults of time. The pyramids, those immense and mysterious monuments, still rear their colossal heads over the plains of Memphis, where in the solitude of immemorial ages, they have silently watched the eternal flow of the great river which washes their base. Their indestructible masses, securely moored in the stream of time, have beheld a hundred generations of mankind swept away, and engulfed forever in its waters.

Instead of seeking to secure a kindred immortality to thought, the ancient Egyptians studied to bestow it upon the most perishable and the most worthless of all objects—

their own lifeless remains. By a singular reversal of the laws of nature, their carcasses have outlived their ideas. Egyptian mind has long since perished ; but Egyptian bodies have survived four thousand years, as incorruptible as the walls of the catacombs which enclose them. Even their ancient language has the same monumental character with every thing else that remains of them. It is an empty shell—a mere cenotaph of their ideas. Its characters, which, engraved on their obelisks and catacombs, bid fair to survive to the end of time, are monumental remains of thoughts which have perished forever.

The same revolutions which swept these great empires from the face of the earth, left not a wreck of their science and philosophy behind. One nation of antiquity alone furnishes an illustrious exception to this remark. It is unnecessary to say that I allude to the Greeks. When this extraordinary people, like all preceding nations, had become degenerate and corrupt, and had lost their political existence, their philosophy degenerated also. But, fortunately for the world, it was adopted in its old age by the stern and masculine genius of their conquerors. These infused new life and vigor into it. It was the transfusion of the blood of a lusty youth into the shrivelled veins of decrepit age. The affinity of language, and a similarity of national spirit, assimilated it without violence to the genius of its adopters. It thus happened fortunately for the preservation of Grecian philosophy and learning, and its influence upon the intellectual progress of the human race, that it was received under the protection of that mighty power, which overshadowed the whole civilized world.

It was thus the force of collateral circumstances, and not the intrinsic, self-living power of Grecian learning, which rescued it from the fate which had involved the learning of all other nations. The conquests of Alexander had diffused the language and the subtle and elegant philosophy of

Greece over nearly all the eastern world ; and several ages later, the eagles of imperial Rome bore them over the west, and schooled the astonished barbarians of Gaul and Britain into the sublime philosophy of Plato and Aristotle. These circumstances gave an extension to the literature of Greece, which had never been attained by that of any other people. All the nations among whom it had been introduced, including nearly the whole civilized world, and the Germanic and Celtic tribes of the west of Europe, became in a degree assimilated to the genius of the literature which they had adopted ; and thus nations, in every stage of civilization, and wholly dissimilar in their genius, tastes, manners and languages, found a common bond of sympathy, and were placed, or rather forced, into a situation to be mutually benefitted by each others' improvements. The sword prepared the way for this great result ; and if ever war was of advantage to the world ; if its nameless crimes and miseries were ever redeemed by the benefits which accidentally followed in its train, it was when the sword of the Macedonian conqueror in the east, and the legions of Rome in the west, cut a path through the ignorance and prejudices of mankind for the entrance of a benign influence, which was destined to improve and elevate their nature ; to form, out of the various nations which had been united under the Roman power, one vast commonwealth, which should continue to subsist long after the mighty empire, which had established it by the sword, had crumbled to pieces.

It is, however, a remarkable fact, which serves to illustrate the principle that the literature of nations follows the vicissitudes of their political career, that though the learning of Greece was rescued from the fate which had befallen the literature of all other nations, and was propagated by the sword throughout the whole civilized world, it could afford no effective resistance to the approach of ignorance and barbarism, which, soon after the fall of the Roman empire,

overwhelmed the whole of western Europe. In the political changes which occurred in the western provinces of the Roman empire, from the irruption of northern barbarians, and the natural progress of their own decline, their literature utterly perished among themselves, and a few only of its precious fragments have been happily saved to the world. An impenetrable gloom gradually settled over the western provinces of the Roman world, while the eastern, less molested by the assaults of barbarism, were fast sinking into the depths of their own corruption; and mankind, after enjoying for several ages the light of the most brilliant literature which ever shone upon the world, appeared to be relapsing again into primitive darkness and ignorance.

Let it, then, be observed, that the extensive diffusion of an enlightened philosophy and a matchless literature; the gradual advancement of the useful and ornamental arts of life to a very high degree of perfection; the attainment of a splendid civilization, and even the knowledge and diffusion of the only true religion, were unable to save the Roman world from the fate, which had befallen all the nations of the earth who had preceded the Roman empire in the career of conquest and of civilization. They had the works of Homer, of Zenophon, Plato and Aristotle—of Cicero, of Virgil and Tacitus, in their hands; and every where before their eyes they beheld those splendid temples and those exquisite sculptures, which reproached them with the matchless genius of their ancestors, and their own degeneracy. But a spirit to comprehend, much less to imitate, these immortal works, no longer existed. That exquisite combination of moral and physical elements; that delicate equilibrium of affinities, which had given birth to the genius of Greece, and which had in some degree transmitted it to the robust people which conquered Greece, had long since been destroyed. The decomposition of society and the admixture of new and discordant elements, had given birth to

another and a baser spirit, incapable of sympathy with that which created the masterpieces of Greece, and equally unable to appreciate and to comprehend them. What must have been the force of that influence which could have extinguished the genius of Athens beneath the severe and silent beauty of the Parthenon ; that could have quenched the majesty of Rome under the very shadow of the Coliseum !

But, fortunately for the world, the seeds of knowledge, which had been scattered by the Roman legions over the face of the western world, though buried deep under the rubbish of the fallen empire, had not lost their vitality. Under circumstances more favorable to their germination, they vegetated at last. Learning came forth from the cloisters, where it had taken shelter from the tumult of arms, and the relentless persecution of ignorance and fanaticism, and was welcomed by the regenerated spirit of society. The conquest of Constantinople by the Turks, about the middle of the fifteenth century, drove the surviving learning of Greece to the shores of the Adriatic,—and the revival of letters was secured by the invention of printing, and more recently by the Reformation in the early part of the sixteenth century.

In modern times, the effect of the principle above mentioned—namely, that the literature of nations follows the changes of their political history—has been less conspicuous in the nations of western Europe, from several causes ; as the profession of a common religion ; the prevalence of the Latin tongue for several ages as the common idiom of learning ; the influence of the classical remains of antiquity, the common inheritance and admiration of all civilized nations ; and the great increase of intercourse among European nations, by means of commerce, war, and the interchange of discoveries, and improvements in science and the arts. All these causes have tended to assimilate the opinions and

modes of thinking of the civilized nations of Europe towards each other, and to produce a sort of fusion, or amalgamation of their tastes and habits of thinking, of which no example existed in the ancient world. We still find, however, that on all subjects, except the exact and the physical sciences, which do not admit of differences of opinion,—for demonstrative truth cannot be affected by modes of thinking—the tastes and opinions of the different nations of Europe are severally distinguished by certain peculiarities, which can only be accounted for by referring them to the various combinations of physical and moral circumstances, which accompanied their origin and growth, and which have impressed them with distinct and peculiar features. Every cultivated nation has its literary, as well as its physical, idiosyncrasy. What can be more dissimilar than the genius, tastes, and habits of thinking on almost all subjects, of the three great nations of modern Europe, who have most distinguished themselves in the cultivation of science and of letters—namely, the English, the French, and the German. How peculiar, German literature, German theology, and German metaphysics, and how unlike the corresponding branches of learning in England and in France. How hopeless would the attempt appear of effecting a fusion of the literary opinions and tastes of these three great neighboring nations—rivals in arts and in arms—and each of which almost breathes the atmosphere of the others.

But even if it were possible, it would by no means be desirable, to effect an assimilation of the literary tastes of nations, because it would necessarily involve the sacrifice of all the excellence peculiar to each. But, fortunately, it is impracticable. The moral and physical combinations which distinguish every nation from all others, will as surely bestow upon it peculiar literary tastes, as they impress it with a peculiar national spirit and character. It may here be remarked, that nations in which the elements of their social

and political organization are still in a state of imperfect development, seldom exhibit a decided literary character or taste. Their literature is almost always eclectic and imitative, until they have reached a certain stage of advancement. We find, in conformity with this view, that the literature of Russia, and that of modern Greece, as well as our own, are principally borrowed from nations further advanced in the cultivation of letters.

In reflecting on the history of the civilized world since the revival of letters, and in particular since the Reformation of Luther, it cannot fail to strike us as a remarkable fact, that the progress of speculative and practical morality has borne no proportion to the advancement in science and the useful arts. There is a national spirit, national instincts and tastes, and a national literature, created by the progress of society ; but there is no such thing as a national morality. Most of the other principles of human nature appear to derive strength from their association, and to assume a national existence in society. All the modes of selfishness, the love of wealth, of power, and even the love of knowledge, acquire tenfold energy by their united and concentrated action. But the love of justice and of right, however it may shine in the lives and conduct of individuals, has never yet obtained a national existence. The only passion, of which nations appear capable, is a love of interest. This, which is so easily resisted by an individual when opposed to the higher claims of justice and right, is the instinct of nations, which must be gratified at any cost. In fact, one of the most mortifying lessons which we learn from history, is the utter profligacy of principle which the most respectable nations have too generally displayed in their conduct towards others. The diplomatic intercourse, and the wars of nations, are too often scenes of the grossest hypocrisy and fraud, and of the most abominable injustice and violence. It is in vain to disguise the fact. Every page of history abounds with

proofs and illustrations of it. Much has been said about international law, but no one has ever yet heard of international morality. It may be said that there is no such thing, and there never has been. Nations are just, from fear, or compulsion, or interest; but they are selfish and unjust from instinct. I do not mean to deny the existence and the obligation of international moral duties: I only deny that these duties have ever been recognized except in words, or in cases in which they have not come into conflict with the selfish or ambitious views of nations, or when their observance has been enforced by motives of self-interest. A few honorable exceptions, no doubt, may be culled out of the annals of the world, in which nations have sacrificed their own apparent interests to the higher principle of being just to others; but in general, they appear to have disencumbered themselves of every principle of justice, and even of common honesty, in their dealings with their neighbors, and to have been governed by such motives and principles as, among individuals, actuate highwaymen and pickpockets; and what is extremely curious, and worthy of remark, the persons exercising the powers of government, and directing or practising these acts of perfidy and violence for the advancement of the national interest, have frequently been men of honor and integrity, who would have disdained a base or dishonorable action in private life. This is one of the most extraordinary paradoxes in human nature.

I say, it is in vain to disguise the fact. It is time to lay aside all squeamishness on this subject, and to speak of men and nations as they are. It is mere cant to talk of slandering human nature, in bestowing upon human actions their right names; and if the morals of nations are ever to be purified,—if an international morality is ever to be created, it will not be until a healthier atmosphere breathes from the pages of history; until national crimes are called by their

right names, and mankind concur in affixing a common seal of reprobation upon injustice and violence.

In fact, what does the past history of the world present to our view, but the same unvaried story of empires founded by bold, able and ambitious men, and gradually raised by the talents and crimes of their rulers, and the force of external circumstances, to power and splendor—lording it over their weaker neighbors, plundering and oppressing all within their reach, and shedding torrents of human blood in accomplishing their selfish and ambitious purposes; until, having reached that crisis in their career in which the energy of youthful ambition and crime is succeeded by the weakness of unresisted power, (for there is but one step between power without resistance and weakness) they fall an easy prey to some youthful, or more powerful rival, as unscrupulous as themselves had been. Such, in a few words, is the history of the human race; and after hearing the same tale repeated over and over again, with different actors, and some variety of circumstances and scene, we become disgusted with its sameness, and gladly turn away to other objects, on which we can dwell without having our moral feelings constantly shocked, or, what is worse, corrupted, by the dazzling crimes which emblazon the pages of history.

In fact, there is scarcely a resting place in history for the mind to dwell upon. Every thing is in motion; all things in a state of flux. There seems to be no tendency to any great result, no convergency of events to some grand focus, on which the mind, after being hurried away and tossed on the foaming current, may repose at last. We constantly behold the same unceasing round. Masses of mankind, united and held together by some natural tie of soil, of language, occupation, interest, &c., or by the external pressure of power or conquest, and forming governments of greater or less extent and duration; always eagerly grasping at the

wealth and territory of their neighbors, and increasing for a time by conquest, or by the wise and prudent policy of their rulers—but sooner or later invariably crumbling to pieces by external affinities, more powerful than those which held them together, or by the gradual developement of those internal principles of discord, which seem to be inseparable from all human associations; and out of the fragments of broken empires we behold others arising, by some natural or casual association, and forming nations and governments destined to pass through the same series of changes. There is nothing permanent in human affairs. The only thing invariable is the sameness of change. We look round in vain for some resting place, on which the mind may alight, after hovering so long over the tumultuous and rushing waters—but we look in vain. The torrent sweeps by, and we are borne along with it, only to witness the same series of changes, which we have so often witnessed before. The history of past ages displays to our eyes an unceasing round in human affairs. For many ages, during which great empires were founded, flourished and decayed, little real progress was made by the human race. It is true, indeed, that arts were created, science and letters were cultivated, and civilization advanced to a high degree of perfection, and the intellectual gifts of man brought to light and displayed with magnificent profusion; and yet no real advancement was made in the path marked out by nature for the human race. The decay of kingdoms and empires always brought with it the decline of knowledge, and an increase of corruption; and not more certainly were empires destroyed and governments subverted by external violence or natural decay, than there perished with them those attainments, which accompanied their rise, and gave splendor to their power. By a natural process, political associations crumbled into their elements, and the moral and intellectual creation, which grew up and were embodied with them, mouldered by the same decay,—and

the end of the process found the human race more corrupt and debased, and less enlightened than they had been before. In some instances, doubtless, the dissolution of political communities has been a salutary process, renewing and fertilizing the worn out soil of society, by converting their organic remains into a rich mould for younger and more vigorous growths. In this mode, the mouldering ruins of the Roman empire furnished an inexhaustible supply of the richest nutriment for the young and thrifty tribes, transplanted from the forests of Germany into almost every country of Europe.

Another remarkable effect of this association of individuals into communities, is the astonishing expansion of the intellectual and moral principles, under the excitements and collisions of social life. These principles are not only developed, but they acquire an energy and growth, of which it is difficult to conceive that the meagre rudiments, existing in the bosom of the solitary savage of Australasia can be capable. Nothing is more worthy of admiration than the prodigious expansive power of the intellectual and moral elements of man, under the excitements to which they are exposed in a state of society.

There are three principles which grow up with society, which are the great springs of intellectual activity, and the chief causes of mental developement, viz.—the love of wealth, the love of power, and the love of knowledge. These principles exist only in a rudimentary state in savage life, the two first imperfectly developed, the last not at all ; for a love of knowledge seems to be the exclusive fruit of social life. But in the progress of society, as they become more developed, they all contribute to the growth of the intellectual and moral faculties ; and, in proportion as the objects of these passions multiply, or assume a greater magnitude and importance, as they are constantly doing in the progressive growth of society, they become objects of more intense desire, and of the keenest pursuit and competition. Under these strong

incentives to exertion, the acquisition of knowledge advances in a rapidly increasing ratio, and intellectual power is developed in a corresponding degree. The acquisitions of all are thrown, as it were, into a common fund, and each in his pursuit of intellectual wealth, whether for its own sake, or as a means of power or opulence, instead of trading upon his own scanty capital, draws from the common stock whatever amount he chooses. Intellectual power is increased by the progress of knowledge, because every addition, which is made to this, is like a new or an improved instrument of acquisition furnished to the mind. The incessant influence of such strong stimulants to all the active elements of society, would soon wear out and exhaust its powers, but for the indefinite development of which they seem capable. No age of the world has yet witnessed society in its highest state of improvement; because in the splendid epochs of civilization, which have appeared in various periods of history, some only of the elements of society have been unfolded to their utmost extent, while others, equally essential, but of slower growth, and susceptible of almost unlimited development, have not had time to attain to such an expansion as to exert their due influence on the common result. The two most important conservative elements of society are knowledge and religion. But they are of slowest increase; and as in all former periods of the world they had not time to attain a growth, corresponding with that of the other elements of society, the brightest periods of ancient civilization were all abortive, and stopped far short of that perfection, of which society is capable. No period of the world ever witnessed greater wealth and power and splendor, than those which distinguished the palmy ages of the Babylonian, Persian, Macedonian and Roman empires; and the reason was, that these great empires were formed by the sudden development of those elements of society which are of most rapid growth, while the two most essential, though susceptible of almost unlimited expansion, were still in a rudimentary state. From the very nature of the case, it was impossible that any

government could be of very extended duration, because in that ancient period of the world knowledge could not have acquired such a growth, as to exert its due influence as an element of society ; and the corrupt forms of religion, which universally prevailed, had little or no tendency to keep the fountains of public morality pure. In modern times the vast increase and diffusion of knowledge, and a better understanding of the true principles of christianity, have conferred advantages upon nations for assuming a social and political organization, much better adapted to a durable existence. The advancement of knowledge has given a better acquaintance with the principles of human nature, and with the genius and practical operation of different forms of government, and has produced an approximation to that form which is best adapted to the ultimate condition and character of man ; while, in the mean time, it is moulding existing governments into forms suited to the gradual advancement of society. But the most essential element of society is that which is of slowest growth, and this remains very imperfectly developed—I mean the religious and moral. The progress of knowledge has, indeed, instructed us much better in the true spirit of christianity ; but its practical influence is still too imperfectly felt, to exert much salutary restraint upon the destructive principles, which are invariably developed in the progress of society. We are very far from having attained that degree of public or private virtue, which alone can promise stability to our social organization ; and as changes in the state of society will inevitably modify the external form or the practical operation of government, it cannot be doubted, that all existing nations are destined to pass through many changes, either in the forms or spirit their of government. It is, however, not necessary to suppose that these changes will be sudden or violent. A government may be fortunately endued with a degree of flexibility, which will admit of cautious and gradual modifications, to adapt it to changes which are insensibly, though constantly, going on in the frame and materials of society—in its wealth, population, state of

public opinion, morals, &c. What form of government will be ultimately established, when all the elements shall have attained their highest expansion, it is impossible to foresee, and it is vain to conjecture. Whatever it may be, it will doubtless be the natural result and expression of these elements in the state of developement and combination, which they will eventually assume. It is not to be imagined that they ever will be so perfectly adjusted to each other, as to admit of no further changes; that the moral affinities, if the phrase may be allowed, will ever be so perfectly saturated, that no further decomposition can take place. The most that can be expected is that the changes, whatever they may be, will no longer be of a destructive tendency, but will rather counteract than promote the influence of those principles of dissolution, which are almost invariably developed in all complicated moral, as well as physical, combinations.

The elements of human nature are, also, much modified as well as expanded, in a state of society. We see self-interest assuming the form of ambition, or the nobler character of a love of knowledge or of honorable fame; and we behold sympathy enlarged in its scope, and expanding into a desire of the public good, a disinterested love of the community or country, to which we belong. We see these two opposite and conflicting principles, the selfish and the social, both made to concur to the same end. We witness more perfectly solved than under any other circumstances, the great practical problem of reconciling them together, and of causing them, instead of producing perpetual discord in the human breast, to coöperate harmoniously in the attainment of a common object; the good of society as well as that of individuals.

I have already noticed, that the progress of mankind in the practical principles of political justice and morality, has borne no proportion to their intellectual attainments, and their advancement in the useful and ornamental arts of life. Let us for a moment revert to this remarkable fact, in reference to the present condition of the world. We live at a period

distinguished above every former one, by the wide diffusion of the blessings of knowledge, civilization, and of the only true religion. The present is an age of intense mental activity. Millions of intellects are incessantly at work, urged on by a sort of resistless impulse, and exerting every faculty in the search after knowledge and truth. The bounds of knowledge have been immensely enlarged, and are rapidly extending in every direction. The energy of so many minds in incessant activity, and brought by means of the press within the sphere of each others' influence, has wrought effects which could scarcely have been conceived of a century ago. These effects are prodigiously multiplying; and indeed it seems scarcely possible to set any limits to the power of the causes, which produce them. Mind is the great stimulus of mind. Moral causes are unlike physical ones, not only in their variable and fluctuating character, but still more in their susceptibility of an unlimited increase of energy, by their combined and reciprocal influence. All history illustrates the truth of this remark. We every where perceive the effects of this prodigious accumulative power of moral causes, when concurring and coöperating together. Until the era of the Reformation, indeed, we see nothing like a steady progress in human affairs. We observe some periods of great intellectual splendor, and of the highest national prosperity, but these have been invariably succeeded by longer spaces of darkness and decline. The bright periods of national splendor and prosperity have returned in cycles; and the periodical changes in physical nature have scarcely been more certain and invariable, than the revolutions of the moral world. But the future progress of the human race is now secured against the possibility of failure, by the invention of printing and the Reformation of the sixteenth century. History has changed its type. It no longer presents a regular ebb and flow in the tide of human affairs. The future course of the human race is steadily onward towards the accomplishment of that splendid intellectual and moral destiny, to which it is appointed. It may here be

remarked, that the intellectual progress of man, brilliant as it has been, and yet continues to be, still preserves something of that periodical character, which has just been noticed as distinguishing the former history of the human race. Knowledge has steadily advanced, but it has advanced by undulations. Its brightest periods are those of discovery, which are distinguished by great intellectual excitement, and by the affluence of inventive genius. These periods are usually succeeded by others of comparative languor, in which, instead of enlarging the bounds of discovery, the genius of the age is employed in digesting and turning to account the discoveries of its predecessors. The acquisitions of one age, concentrated in a few master minds, mutually borrowing and reflecting light, are, by the elasticity of knowledge, diffused and apparently dissipated in the next, among multitudes of other minds. Their first effect upon these, besides raising knowledge to a higher level, is to place them in a condition of comparative equality; for the knowledge, thus transmitted, is gratuitously communicated to many, which otherwise only a few of the more active minds would have acquired by their own efforts. But in the succeeding age genius again asserts her prerogative. The truths transmitted from a preceding generation become the basis of new discoveries, which, as before, are reserved for the fortunate offspring of genius. The pre-eminence of talents is again restored, and another brilliant constellation of luminaries rises, to light up another splendid day of knowledge. In the present age, the excitement of so many minds has developed so much of the ethereal fire of active intellect, that every thing is imbued and penetrated with it. The whole atmosphere has become highly electric. The subtle element is continually escaping from its numerous receptacles, and by its elasticity diffusing itself in every direction; while the press is the grand conductor, which, receiving it from every quarter, transmits it in a moment to the remotest regions of the earth. Such is the character of the present age, in relation to intellectual improvement.

It is distinguished above all preceding periods by the immense progress which has been made in every department of human knowledge. Every science and useful art has been pushed far beyond its former bounds—and many of the great truths, which have been brought to light by the researches of philosophers, have been applied to purposes of practical utility, or have been incorporated with popular knowledge and become elementary in reference to future discoveries.

What has been the progress of the principles of justice and morality during this splendid career of intellectual improvement? Has it in any degree kept pace with the latter? Alas! no. It is a remarkable fact, that those nations who at an early period embraced the religion of the gospel, remained for ages plunged in the grossest moral darkness, with the glorious beams of the Sun of Righteousness shining full upon them. It is truly remarkable, that with the oracles of divine wisdom, the great code of unerring moral truth open before him, adopted and acknowledged as the rule of his duty—with the great principles of justice and benevolence, which the heathen philosophy could never discover fully displayed to his view—civilized man should still have remained blind to the practical rights of his fellow creatures, and have acted under the influence of principles, repugnant to the plainest dictates of justice and right. Such, however, is the melancholy fact. The light of revelation has not yet been able to dispel the thick darkness which has brooded over the moral nature of man. “The light shone in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.” The truth is, that the principles of christianity are always interpreted by the prevailing spirit of the age. They are seen and read only by means of the general light, which prevails in society; and hence it is impossible that in times of universal ignorance, or among savage or half-civilized tribes, their true spirit can be felt or understood, much less their full scope and extent comprehended. The general progress of reason and knowledge is constantly shedding new light upon the moral truths of our religion. It is disclosing by de-

grees the real character of many of those principles, upon which nations and individuals have acted in times past, and apparently without a suspicion, that they were utterly inconsistent with the spirit of the religion they professed.

Every page of history, since the promulgation of christianity, affords a confirmation of the truth of this remark. Even the example of the reformers furnishes an illustration of it. In reading the history of these great benefactors of mankind, one cannot but be struck with the fact, that there were some dark corners of their minds, into which the light of divine truth was unable to penetrate; that there were some great and prevailing errors, which they adopted and cherished as truth, which were directly at war with the spirit of their religion. How long and how painfully has the great principle of religious toleration been struggling into life; and how imperfectly are the rights of conscience, even at the present day, understood and respected, except in our own favored country. The light of religious truth has been shining into the hearts of the christian world since the days of the apostles, and yet how slowly have many of the deep-seated moral errors which have prevailed among mankind, been tracked to their lurking places, and one after another dragged forth to writhe and expire in the blaze of christian truth. It is truly astonishing, in looking back upon the past history of christendom, even since the settlement of our own country, to see how many enormous principles, infringing upon the plainest dictates of reason and justice, have been openly avowed and practised upon, by christian nations. The wars of conquest and ambition which have converted Europe into a place of skulls, and have drenched and fertilized its soil with the blood of its inhabitants, were waged by christian nations and christian monarchs, professing the mild and merciful religion of the Prince of Peace. Power has been made the universal standard of right. The most flagrant acts of injustice and oppression have been perpetrated on the score of political, or some other sort of necessity: and even the divine author of

the religion, which proclaims peace on earth and good will towards men, has been invoked to bestow success on undertakings in which it is impossible to discover any thing but perfidy, violence and injustice.

We rejoice to say, however, that the general progress of light and intelligence has, at the present time, produced a better understanding of the true spirit of christianity. As knowledge has advanced, moral feeling has become more enlightened and pure. Truth has lent its torch to give light to conscience, and has disclosed to our view some of the great duties, growing out of the principles of our religion, whose existence was before unknown and unsuspected. Many such discoveries in the wide regions of the moral world have within a few years past been made, of which the human race is now beginning to reap the benefit, while, doubtless, many others remain to be made. Need I allude to the abolition of the slave trade—the propagation of christianity, by the bible and missionary societies—the great effort now making to exterminate the evils of intemperance—the peace society, and others for various objects of christian benevolence. Among these glorious triumphs of humanity, I would also enumerate the enterprise now on foot to meliorate the condition of the colored and enslaved population of our own country, by effecting their emancipation, and by restoring such of them as are willing to go, to the land of their ancestors. These two objects are by no means inconsistent, though they have unfortunately been arrayed against each other. Let us not be unjust; but however we may differ in opinion, let us respect each others' motives. For myself, I cannot but wish that, if it were possible, this unfortunate race might be restored to the land of their fathers, where they might enjoy, under the burning zone which dyed their skins, the blessing of civil and political institutions, modelled after those of our own country, and which never yet flourished under a tropical sun. I could wish, that they might carry with them to the great continent from which they sprung, as a reward for their sufferings in a

strange land, the blessings of knowledge, of civilization, and of the only true God. In this way might we be able to convert one of the greatest curses which ever afflicted mankind into an instrument of incalculable good. In this way, and perhaps this alone, may Africa, which has been almost as impenetrable to the beams of knowledge as her mangrove swamps to the footsteps of man, be penetrated and pervaded by the light of civilization and christianity. In this way we perhaps may be able to solve the great problem of African slavery, by demonstrating its final cause to have been the reclaiming of that great continent from ignorance, idolatry and barbarism.

In this last view, I cannot but regard the scheme of African colonization, as holding out a pretty certain prospect of success. In this belief, I look to no miraculous interposition in its favor; I look only to the natural operation of moral causes, directed, however, by the unseen, but almighty arm of God. In the great work of diffusing a knowledge of his holy name throughout the earth—a work, which has already been commenced, and which will certainly be accomplished—Africa will not be overlooked. Her sable and benighted children are destined to awake from the lethargy of ignorance and superstition, in which they are slumbering; and the slavery of her sons and daughters in foreign and more favored lands, may be the very means, appointed by Providence, to accomplish this great design. They have been sent abroad and dispersed among other nations, in appearance only to suffer bondage and oppression, but in reality perhaps to the end that when their yoke shall be taken off, and their fetters broken to pieces, they may carry back to the land of their fathers the seeds of knowledge and religion, which perhaps in no other way could be communicated to them. The bondage of the sons and daughters of Africa among us is a type of that more abject moral bondage, in which her whole population lies fettered; and our own country, which has been her great

oppressor, is perhaps the very instrument, appointed by Providence, to accomplish her redemption from both.

The STAR that rose in the east more than eighteen centuries ago has sent its beams across the great western waters, and our hills and mountain tops have caught its golden light. Its rays have pierced the depths of our solitudes, and our fruitful valleys are reposing in its peaceful light; and where before, no sound ever broke upon the stillness of ages, but the voice of nature, in the roar of the cataract, or the cry of the solitary savage, has raised the busy hum of life, and is now shining into the hearts of millions of happy human beings. From our own mountains, now glowing in its radiant light, its beams begin again to be reflected across the waters, and already are kindling up the palm groves and gleaming upon the golden sands of Africa. Day is dawning upon Africa from the west, and her sons and daughters are stretching forth their hands to hail its rising beams; and before some of us shall have mingled with our kindred dust, millions of her sable children, emancipated from the power of darkness, may be rejoicing in the glorious liberty of the children of God.

These glorious triumphs of humanity and christian benevolence over the selfish principle in man, though not of a *national* character, will eventually exert the most happy influence upon national morality; for it is inconceivable that large masses of the population of christian countries, most estimable for talents and virtue, should be thoroughly imbued with the practical spirit of their religion, and associated together for the purpose of giving effect to its beneficent principles, without this influence at length being felt by the mass of the people, and reaching to those who are empowered to execute the national will. It is a distinguishing trait of the present age, that efforts to meliorate the condition of mankind, no longer isolated and disconnected, have assumed a combined and systematic character. We are in the transition stage from individual to national morality. We have incorporated, under public authority, the principles of justice and humanity, ex-

tending the privileges of the charters to all who are willing to unite with us in the great objects of our associations. The last stage will be, when the influence of these principles shall have extended to the mass of the population of christian countries, when they will at length assume a national existence ; and a national morality will then be created, which will give a new aspect to history. For we shall then see, instead of the commotions and crimes, which flow from the conflicting elements of human nature let loose upon each other, the grand results of the beneficent principles of man, acting in friendly concert in advancing the destinies of the race.

APPENDIX.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE RESIDENT MEMBERS OF THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Those in italics were the original members; those to whose names a * is prefixed have died; those having a †, have removed from the State; and those having a ||, are members elect.

Names.	Residence when admitted.	Time of election or admission.	
<i>Benjamin Abbot,</i>	Exeter,	20 May,	1823
Samuel Abbot,	Wilton,	15 June,	1827
<i>Ebenezer Adams,</i>	Hanover,	20 May,	1823
* <i>Nathaniel Adams,</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May,	1823
Daniel Adams,	Mont-Vernon,	9 June,	1831
Charles H. Atherton,	Amherst,	9 June,	1824
* <i>David Barker, jr.</i>	Rochester,	20 May,	1823
<i>Ichabod Bartlett,</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May,	1823
<i>James Bartlett,</i>	Dover,	20 May,	1823
† <i>Richard Bartlett,</i>	Concord,	20 May,	1823
Samuel Dana Bell,	Chester,	14 June,	1826
James H. Bingham,	Claremont,	12 Dec.	1832
Rev. Nathaniel Bouton,	Concord,	9 June,	1831
*Rev. Federal Burt,	Durham,	8 June,	1825
Philip Carrigain,	Chichester,	10 June,	1835
Thomas Chadbourne,	Concord,	10 June,	1835
<i>Peter Chadwick,</i>	Exeter,	20 May,	1823
Levi Chamberlain,	Fitzwilliam,	10 December,	1828
Henry Bright Chase,	Warner,	9 June,	1824
Samuel E. Coues,	Portsmouth,	10 June,	1829
Rev. Jaazaniah Crosby,	Charlestown,	10 June,	1829
<i>Charles W. Cutter,</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May,	1823
*James Freeman Dana,	Hanover,	9 June,	1824
*Samuel Dinsmoor,	Keene,	12 December,	1832
Moses Eastman,	Concord,	10 June,	1829
<i>John Farmer,</i>	Concord,	20 May,	1823
Samuel Fletcher,	Concord,	12 December,	1832
<i>Asa Freeman,</i>	Dover,	20 May,	1823
Charles C. P. Gale,	Derry,	12 December,	1832

Names.	Residence when admitted.	Time of election or admission.
William H. Y. Hackett,	Portsmouth,	10 June, 1835
Salma Hale,	Keene,	9 June, 1824
Phineas Handerson,	Fitzwilliam,	12 December, 1832
Matthew Harvey,	Hopkinton,	8 June, 1825
* <i>Nathaniel A. Haven, jr.</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May, 1823
* <i>Rev. Hosea Hildreth,</i>	Exeter,	20 May, 1823
Isaac Hill,	Concord,	12 December, 1832
Henry Hubbard,	Charlestown,	15 June, 1827
<i>John Kelly,</i>	Northwood,	20 May, 1823
†Abner B. Kelly,	Concord,	11 June, 1834
<i>George Kent,</i>	Concord,	20 May, 1823
<i>Alexander Ladd,</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May, 1823
Moses Long,	Warner,	9 June, 1831
Stephen C. Lyford,	Meredith,	14 June, 1826
† <i>Jeremiah Mason,</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May, 1823
* <i>Stephen Mitchell,</i>	Durham,	20 May, 1823
<i>Jacob B. Moore,</i>	Concord,	20 May, 1823
Reuben D. Mussey,	Hanover,	12 December, 1832
<i>Parker Noyes,</i>	Franklin,	20 May, 1823
Daniel Oliver,	Hanover,	15 June, 1827
* <i>Rev. Nathan Parker, D.D.</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May, 1823
Joel Parker,	Keene,	9 June, 1831
† <i>Oliver W. B. Peabody,</i>	Exeter,	20 May, 1823
Andrew P. Peabody,	Portsmouth,	8 June, 1835
<i>Andrew Peirce,</i>	Dover,	20 May, 1823
<i>William Plumer,</i>	Epping,	20 May, 1823
<i>William Plumer, jr.</i>	Epping,	20 May, 1823
†William Prescott,	Gilmanton,	15 June, 1827
Rev. George Punchard,	Plymouth,	12 December, 1832
† <i>Rev. Israel W. Putnam,</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May, 1823
William M. Richardson,	Chester,	9 June, 1824
<i>Jeremiah Smith,</i>	Exeter,	20 May, 1823
* <i>William Smith,</i>	Exeter,	20 May, 1823
*Samuel Sparhawk,	Concord,	9 June, 1824
Rev. Moses G. Thomas,	Concord,	9 June, 1831
Asa Alford Tufts,	Dover,	12 June, 1833
Amos Twitchell,	Keene,	12 December, 1832
† <i>Rev. Bennet Tyler, D.D.</i>	Hanover,	20 May, 1823
†Rev. Thomas C. Upham,	Rochester,	9 June, 1824
<i>Timothy Upham,</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May, 1823
Nathaniel G. Upham,	Concord,	12 June, 1833
†Richard R. Waldron,	Portsmouth,	9 June, 1824
Stephen P. Webster,	Haverhill,	10 June, 1829
John W. Weeks,	Lancaster,	14 June, 1826
Rev. John M. Whiton,	Antrim,	11 June, 1834
† <i>Levi Woodbury,</i>	Portsmouth,	20 May, 1823

CORRECTIONS, &c.

Page 4, line 14, For sixteen, read eighteen.

“ “ “ 25, For In six of the sixteen, read In seven of the eighteen.

“ 20, “ 2, After to, insert 1742 and from 1767 to.

“ 28, “ 31, Erase the comma after Courts.

“ 31, “ 36, After leave, insert to the uncertainty of futurity.

“ 71, Since the report of the committee on post-offices and post-roads appeared, the senate report relating to the burning of the patent office has been published, and is more full on the contents of this office which were destroyed.

Page 105, The population of Amherst in 1830 is erroneous, as it is found by an examination of the Census Document, received since that portion of the volume was printed. It should be as follows :

	Un- der 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	Colored persons
Males,	125	102	98	99	105	99	62	48	34	24	7	1	2
Females,	117	94	92	83	134	102	79	48	47	30	11	1	4
Total,	242	196	190	182	239	201	141	96	81	54	18	2	6

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