

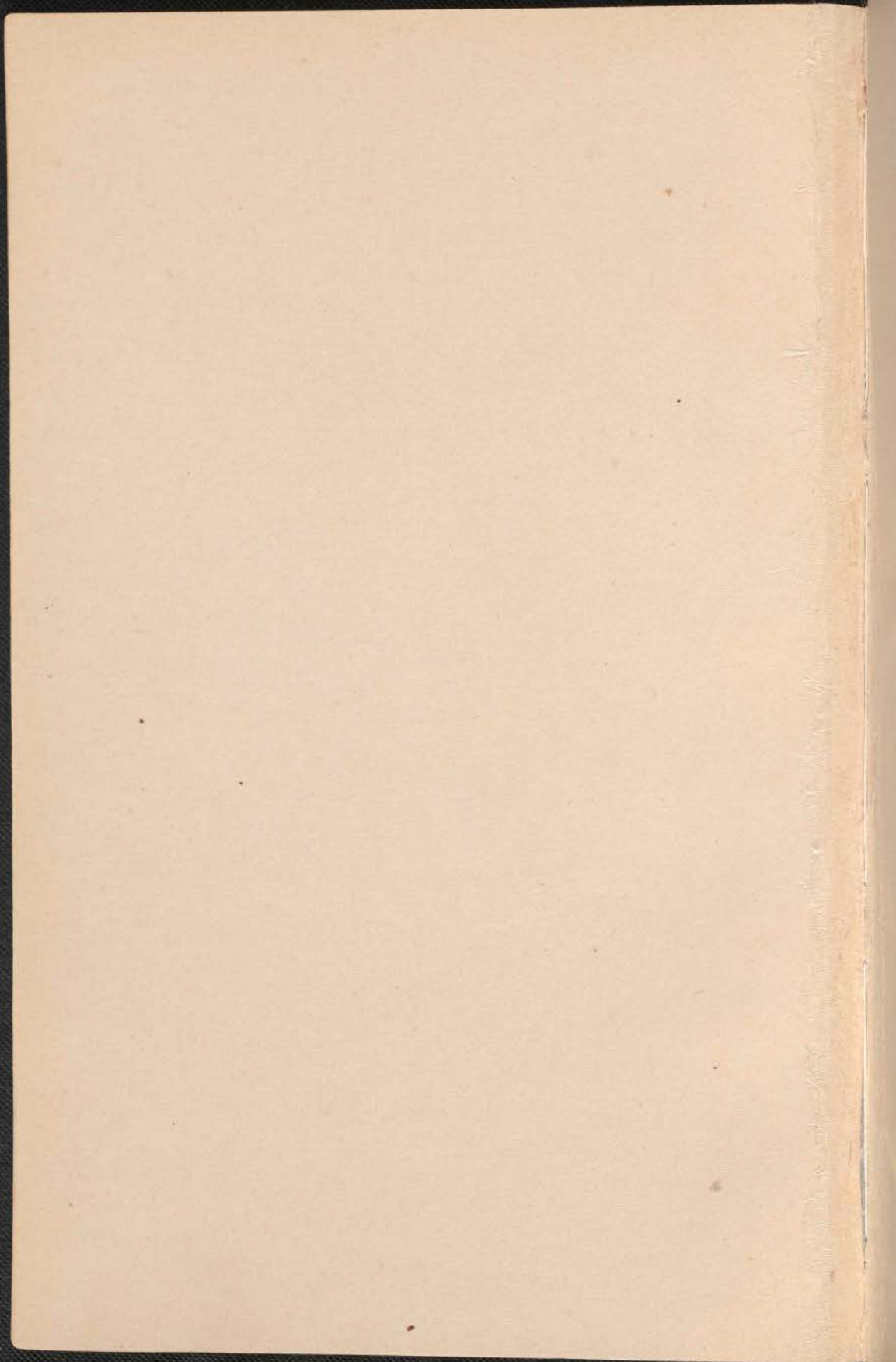
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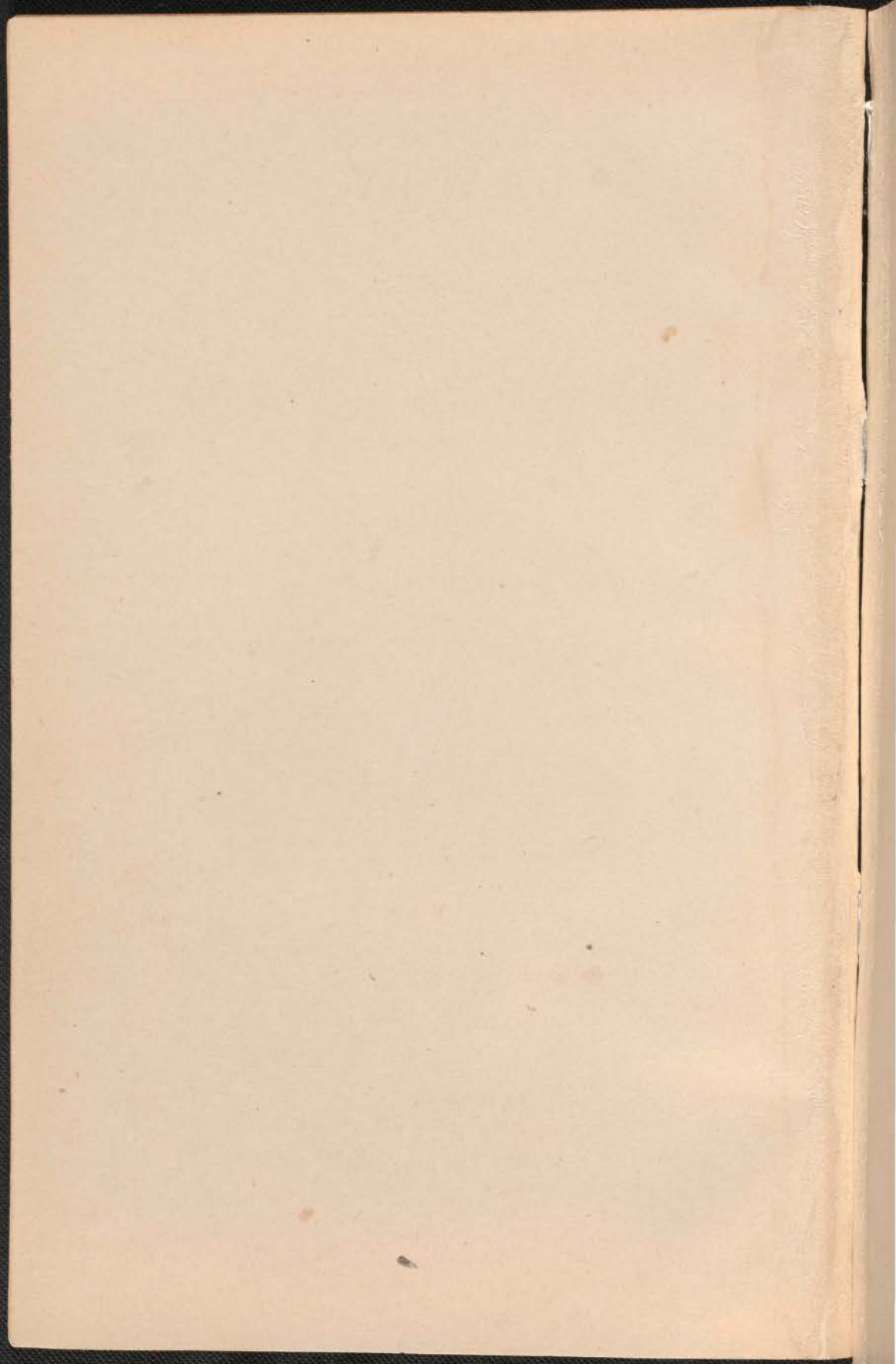


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HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF LANCASTER,

MASSACHUSETTS:

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME,
1643 — 1879.

BY

REV. ABIJAH P. MARVIN,

AUTHOR OF THE "HISTORY OF WINCHENDON," AND THE "HISTORY
OF WORCESTER IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION."

VOLUME II.

The past but lives in words: a thousand ages
Were blank, if books had not evoked their ghosts.—BULWER.

LANCASTER:
PUBLISHED BY THE TOWN.
1879.

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1879, by
SOLON WILDER, FOR THE TOWN,
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43538

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PREFATORY NOTE
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.

THE definite duty of this committee has been to procure the preparation and publication of a History of the town. As related hereafter, the hope of finding the materials for such a history, gathered by that accomplished annalist, the late Joseph Willard, Esq., in a condition for publication, had been disappointed; and although there were natives of the town who were competent to write its History, yet their engagements would have prevented. Indeed, before the vote, under which the committee were appointed, was passed, "the preparation" had been assigned, by very general consent, to the Reverend Mr. Marvin, lately Minister of one of the religious societies of the town, and who, though but for a few years a resident, was accredited with the desired gifts and experience for the work, and was at leisure to undertake it. Aside from the business of "publication," the co-operation of his colleagues with Mr. Marvin has been only advisory; and to him alone belongs any literary merit which may attach to the book that is now presented to subscribers and to the public. The committee do not hold themselves responsible for any statements of opinion which he has made, nor, either in general or in detail, for the manner in which he has executed his task; but they must not omit to say that, in their judgment, he has discharged his obligations to the town with ability and fidelity; that their official association with him has been very pleasant and profitable

to them; and that they confidently believe that his readers will derive in a good degree the satisfaction from his labors which, without doubt, it has been his ambition to deserve. How much time and anxious research such labors involve, is not readily estimated by the inexperienced or superficial observer of the results. The production of this book having been limited to two years, that errors of omission and of commission will be detected in it, the committee and the author take for granted. Notification to him or to them of any such errors, will be esteemed a favor. Though Mr. Remick has been happy in his sketch, yet the committee would have been glad to give another representation of the great Elm, in a photograph direct from nature, and taken, perhaps, in winter; but convenience did not serve, and uniformity in the style of the illustrations seemed to be desirable. Acknowledgments are due to Mr. J. E. Farwell, a native of Lancaster, for his friendly zeal in carrying the manuscript through his press at prices hardly remunerative to him. It only remains to be said that this address has been written as if Mr. Marvin were not a member of the committee, and to commend the sentiment of one distinguished as historian and poet, in his own words:—
“Whatever strengthens our local attachments is favourable both to individual and national character. Show me a man who cares no more for one place than another, and I will show you in that same person one who loves nothing but himself. You have no hold on a human being whose affections are without a taproot.”

G. M. B.

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*Boisland
Plant.*

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Lancaster
from the intervals south
near Mutton Dring

CHAPTER XV.

LANCASTER POLITICS FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE YEAR 1800.

A MEETING of the town was held, February 5, 1778, to act, among others, on the following article. "To see if the town will accept the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the United States of Am^erica." The first business after choosing a moderator was a vote, probably unanimous, "to accept the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the United States of Am^erica." From that day to this, Lancaster has been true to the Union, whether under the Confederation, or under the Constitution.

As already stated, the vote on the State Constitution, May 18, 1778, was more than two to one in favor; but it was rejected by the people of the state. The subject was kept before the public, however, and the legislature sent out a new proposition, and the selectmen were directed "to take the minds of the inhabitants of the town respecting a new Constitution or Form of Government." The question came before the town, May 17, 1779, when, after having heard the proposition, it was voted "to accept the ^{second} article in the Court's order concerning a new Constitution, with this addition; we do empower our representative to give his Vote for choosing a convention for the purpose mentioned, with Proviso that the Constitution shall return into the hand of the people for their approbation or disapprobation." This was a wise precaution. Joseph Reed, Esq., was the representative in the general court.

The towns, or a majority of them, having given their approbation, the legislature called on the towns to choose delegates to a convention for devising the new constitution or form of government. The town, at a meeting, held August 9, voted to send three delegates, and by ballot, chose William Dunsmoor, Esq., Capt. Ephraim Wilder and Capt. William Putnam. The convention met on the first of September, in the meeting-house at Cambridge; on the second of March, ^a 1780, they finished their labors, and submitted their work to the people, by whom the new Form of Government was ratified. It remains, substantially, to the present day, though important amendments have been made at different times. The people of Lancaster treated the new constitution with great deliberation. It was laid before the town on the second day of May, and the meeting voted to have it read. The meeting then adjourned till two o'clock. Then it was voted to postpone the consideration thereof till the thirteenth of the month. The voters went home to ponder on the proposed fundamental law. The result was satisfactory, and at the adjourned meeting, the vote was "to receive the Constitution or Form of Government as it now stands," ayes, one hundred and three; noes, seven.

The first election of state officers under the new constitution, took place on the fourth day of September, in the second precinct. The summons was "to the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Lancaster, of twenty-one years of age, having a freehold estate, within the state of the Massachusetts Bay, of the annual income of three pounds, or any estate of the value of sixty pounds." The vote was as follows.

For governor,	The Hon. John Hancock, Esq.,	69.
	The Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq.,	9.
Lieut. governor,	The Hon. James Warren, Esq.,	40.
	The Hon. Artemas Ward, Esq.,	13.
	The Hon. Samuel Adams, Esq.,	2.
	The Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq.,	1.

^a They adjourned March 2, to the first Wednesday in June, 1780 - when, (June 7th) they again came together at the meeting-house in Brattle Street Boston, to receive the Returns & act thereupon - The Convention finally was dissolved Friday Evn, June 16, 1780 -

For about a month the following advertisement appeared in the Massachusetts Spy - 1781 -

" Mureas Cesar my negro man, has absented himself from me, and is employed by several persons, without my consent; This is to caution all persons from harbouring or employing said negro, or trusting him on my account, from the date hereof. Those who entertain him may expect to be dealt with according to Law.

Lancaster May 7th -

James Widder "

Joshua Thomas, Post Rider to Londonderry, Lancaster Shrewsbury, &c. from Worcester and took pay in produce.

see Spy, 16 Dec., 1779.

Micah Hartland's clothiers shop broken into.

Lancaster May 24, 1779 - (Spy)

Manassah Knight - his wife left his bed and board and is advertised August 21, 1782, (Spy)

James Bowtell "from Charlestown No. 18, Carries on the Gold and Silversmith's business in Lancaster - Dec 4, 1782 (Spy)

John Newman, Clock and Watch Maker "removed from Boston to Lancaster next door to Capt. Samuel Ward;" where he carries on the Clock & Watch makes business in all its branches" Lancaster Sept. 2, 1779. (Spy)

The French Gentleman who taught Dancing and the
French Language grammatically, in Worcester the last Winter and in Launceston
the Spring ensuing, begs leave to inform the Publick that he has again opened a
School in Launceston, near the Meeting-House for the same purpose; Where he will pay
the greatest attention to every Lady or Gentleman who will honour him with his or her
presence.

Worcester Spy Nov. 15. 1781 ~

In June 1783, Mr. Wyman, ironholder, advertises to be sold at
auction 37 acres, (house & lands) - and "Joseph de Valvais Esq" of
Jamaica Plain is referred to. Can the above be this French
Dancing-master.

Worcester Spy -

Thursday Nov. 15. 1781. The Capture of Cornwallis was
Celebrated in Launceston -

"by a considerable number of the most respectable
of the place assembled at the Sun Tavern. The Company
conducted by Mr. Greenleaf Esq formed and marched in
procession through the principal streets of the town
preceded by an advanced guard, field piece, and
band of music, with American Colours displayed"
An elegant dinner was provided at the Sun -

"After dinner the following toasts were drank each being
followed by a discharge of a field piece, with three
Cheers!"

Nineteen men, all "esquires" but three, were voted for to represent the county of Worcester in the senate and council; among them was John Sprague, Esq., of this town, who received twenty-four votes.

October 9, Capt. William Putnam "was chosen to represent the town in the first general court under the new constitution."

The state election for the year 1781 took place on the second of April. The town meeting was held in the meeting-house of the second precinct, with the following result. John Hancock had fifty-six votes for governor, and Thomas Cushing thirty-eight votes for lieutenant-governor. ^{Jacob} Thomas Gerrish had one vote for each of those offices. William Dunsmoor ⁽⁵⁾ and John Sprague, Esqrs⁽²⁾, of this town, received a few votes for senator and councillor.

The surrender of Gen. Cornwallis at Yorktown, occurred on the nineteenth day of October, 1781, when the war of the revolution was virtually ended, although the treaty of peace, acknowledging the independence of the United States, was not signed before 1783. The pressure on the people to support the war being somewhat lessened, there was opportunity to consider local and state grievances. Steps were taken which culminated in the Shay's rebellion a few years later. The people of Lancaster felt the difficulties of the times, and joined with others in seeking redress; but refused to enter into any violent or illegal measures. The meeting held on the first day of April, 1782, acted on this question. "Will the town choose one or more persons to meet at convention to be held at Worcester on the second Tuesday of April next ^{at 9 o'clock in the morning} there to take into consideration the many ^{et} grievances the good people of this county at present labor under, and to petition the general court for redress?" The town sent Capt. Timothy Whiting and Capt. Ephraim Carter as delegates.

The same day occurred the annual state election, when the vote showed an inclination to drop Gov. Hancock. He received but twelve votes, while thirty-two were cast for

Hon. James Bowdoin. It was supposed that Hancock had a stronger sympathy than Bowdoin towards the party seeking redress of alleged grievances. Three years later Bowdoin was chosen over Hancock on this account. Thomas Cushing had twenty votes for lieutenant-governor, and Gen. Artemas Ward, had eight votes. John Sprague, Esq., was chosen senator for the county, in March, 1783.

At the election, April 7, 1783, the votes were for Bowdoin, twenty-three; for Hancock, twenty-one. Thomas Cushing received all the votes for lieutenant-governor, which were thirty.

In 1784 the state election resulted in the re-election of Gov. Hancock, but Lancaster adhered to Mr. Bowdoin. The vote was for James Bowdoin, fifteen votes; John Hancock, seven; Gen. Lincoln, seven; Artemas Ward, Esq., twelve. Ward led in the vote for lieutenant-governor, having received twenty-one, to nineteen for Gen. Lincoln, and a few scattering.

The next year, 1785, the Shay's fever was at its height, and the conservative feeling of Lancaster was decisively expressed at the election, on the fourth of April, as follows.

For governor, James Bowdoin,	38
“ “ Thomas Cushing,	3
“ “ Oliver Prescott,	1
“ “ Moses Gill,	2
“ “ John Hancock,	1

Thomas Cushing had twenty-four votes for lieutenant-governor, with several for five other candidates.

Conventions were held, from time to time, in different towns of the county, by those who were in the movement which ultimately led to rebellion; but it does not appear that Lancaster was again represented in any of them except that which was held at Leicester, August 15¹⁷⁸⁶, to which Ebenezer Allen was sent as delegate. A committee of seven, viz.,
Capl. Timothy Whiting, *Deacon* Moses Smith, John Sprague, William Willard, Benjamin Houghton, Michael Newhall and Samuel

Copy of a Circular letter found in Capt. David Morris's papers.

44 Lunenburg May 23^d: 1785

To the Selectmen of the Town of Bolton -

Gentlemen We have to acquaint you, that on the nineteenth Day of May Instant in Pursuance of a Circular Letter from the Town of Leominster, Delegates from the following Towns viz Townsend Shirley Ashby Lancaster Harvard Lunenburg Leominster & Fitchburg convened at Mr Whitney's in this town, to take into Consideration the Expediency of applying for a new County to be erected in this Quarter of the Government, where it was voted unanimously that it is highly convenient that a New County be erected, and that a Committee be Chosen to write to the Towns of Groton, Duxtable, Littleton, Westford Pepperel & Roxbury, & Bolton Berlin Sterling Princeton Westminster Ashburnham & Winchendon, to inform them of the Proceedings of the Convention, & to Request them to join Herein at the adjournment which is to be held on the third Tuesday of June Next at Nine o'Clock in the Morning at Mr Whitney's Tavern in this town

We are Gentlemen

Your most obed^t & very H^uil^l Serv^ts

George Kimball } Committee
Saml Dexter }

John Sprague 31 for Senator &

John Sprague 2^d for Senator.

x ? The petition reported by the Lancaster delegate to the town Oct. 2. is dated "Paxton Sept. 28: 1786" 41 towns were then represented - The Convention adjourned from Leicesters to Paxton.

(a) This Report was ordered to be printed ⁱⁿ the Worcester papers. (See Worcester Magazine Vol 2 pp. 532-3-4.) ^{Copy in Vol. 4 App. and this History.}

(b) Their names can readily be found in the ^{in Massachusetts Archives by Professor 1917-192} Worcester Magazine in the Massachusetts Centinel for January 27. 1787 appended to a Communication of which a copy follows: "Lancaster Jan. 18th 1787."
 "On Tuesday the 16th inst. Colonel Greenleaf waited on the two Companies of militia in this town assembled agreeably to his orders when he communicated to them with his usual propriety, the importance of shewing their disapprobation to the illegal measures which have been adopted by the insurgents and the necessity of evidencing their attachment to the government. The propriety of supporting the present measures of government against every opposition was urged as being necessary to enable them with dignity to remove our present complaints. After some calm debates on the subject the Col. in order to discover their minds requested all who were friends to government to follow him, when with very few exceptions, the whole turned after him. He then informed them that twenty eight men were required of the two Companies to support the Court to sit at Worcester the 23^d inst. and gave them opportunity to engage voluntarily under these restrictions viz: Whoever offers his service shall be held to march or produce an able bodied effective man to the acceptance of the officer in lieu of himself; when the following persons hereafter named answered the requisition viz: "

See more about Col. Greenleaf. note to p 359

Ward, were chosen to draw up "instructions for the said Allen, and lay them before the town." The committee reported to an adjourned meeting, on the fourteenth, and the instructions, after being "read paragraph by paragraph," were adopted. It may be taken for granted that the town authorized no revolutionary action. The delegate attended, and made a report to a town meeting on the twenty-first of August, when the meeting was adjourned to the first Monday in October. At the adjourned meeting, some of the points presented by the convention were approved, and some rejected. There was a proposition for a change of the constitution, and also for the issue of paper money. These were voted down. Those articles which asked for a redress of certain grievances were approved. The town steadily held to peaceable and constitutional methods of securing reform.

A meeting was held, January 4, 1787, when an address from the general court to the people was presented. This address was a sober appeal to all good citizens to abide by the regular mode of administering the government, and promising to give due consideration to the complaints of the suffering citizens. This address was referred to a committee, Samuel Ward, ^{Capt.} Timothy Whiting, jr., John Sprague, Esq., Moses Sawyer, ^{Deacon} Jonathan Wilder, Cyrus Fairbank and ~~John~~ ^{Capt. Daniel} Goss. They reported to a meeting held on the twenty-second of January. On the same day the town voted to "discontinue the delegate to the county convention."

No man, so far as known, joined the insurgents, but a number of the citizens, according to Willard, joined Gen. Lincoln's army, and "continued with him till the rebels were dispersed." Their names, though worthy of remembrance, have not been found.

The question of revising the state constitution came before the town May 6, 1795, when the vote for revision was sixty-one; against it, twenty-five. Nothing came of the movement at this time.

At the election, April 3, 1786, Gov. Hancock did not receive a single vote. James Bowdoin had forty-four, and there

were two scattering. Thomas Cushing was the favorite for the second place. The rebellion having been resolutely squelched by Gov. Bowdoin, the people, in 1787, called Gov. Hancock again to the gubernatorial chair, and kept him therein till 1794. The vote in this town was eighty-four for Hancock, to thirty-eight for Bowdoin. Gen. Lincoln who led the troops against the rebels, received eighty-one votes for the office of lieutenant-governor.

In the meantime the states had succeeded in getting a convention together for the purpose of forming a National Constitution. This body completed its labors on the seventeenth day of September, 1787, and reported to the "United States in congress assembled a Constitution for the people of the United States." In accordance with a resolve of congress, submitting the Constitution to the people, a convention was called by the general court, to be held in Boston, to act on the proposed constitution. The meeting to choose a delegate was held, November 27, 1787, when the town voted and "chose the Hon. John Sprague, Esq., a delegate to represent the town in the convention to be holden at Boston on the second Wednesday of January next." At the same time a committee of seven was chosen "to draw up instructions for the said delegate." The committee were Benjamin Houghton, Samuel Ward, Ephraim Carter, Timothy Whiting, jr., Cyrus Fairbank, Josiah Ballard and Jonathan Wilder. Three of this committee were deacons, and two or three were captains. The town was opposed to the ratification of the constitution, and the committee, reflecting the views of the town, instructed the delegate to oppose it; but qualified their instructions so as to leave him to vote according to his discretion. Mr. Sprague was a wise man, and in opposition to the prevailing feeling in the town and county, gave his voice and vote in favor of the constitution. There were fifty delegates in the convention from Worcester county. Only seven of these

(a)

voted in the affirmative; and Mr. Sprague was one of the honorable seven. Ephraim Wilder, of Sterling, a child of Lancaster, also voted in favor of the constitution. So did David Wilder of Leominster & Samuel Baker of Bolton.

Vol. 191 & 192. Lists. Archives contain the muster rolls of
 troops serving in Stepp's regiment - Capt. Nath. Beaman, 1st
 a company of 77 men.

" Col. William Greenleaf.
 Capt. Nathaniel Beaman.
 Capt. John Whiting.
 John Sprague.
 Josiah Welder.
 Ephraim Carter junr.
 Cyrus Fairbank.
 Timothy Whiting jr.
 Gershom Flagg.
 Levi Willard.
 Joseph Wales.
 Jonas Lane.
 Eli Stearns.
 James Capson.
 Elisha Phelps.

Peter Beaman.
 Abel Wheelock.
 Samuel Wheelock.
 William Greenleaf jr.
 Merrick Rice.
 Habijah Wheelock.
 Cephas Prentice.
 James Otis Prentice.
 David Smith.
 Jacob Fisher.
 Amos Pollard.
 William Bridge.
 Jonathan Wheelock jr.
 Thomas Richardson.
 James White.
 Abner Pollard. "

Lancaster was a rendezvous for the troops from
 the eastern part of the County. and Jan'y 24. five
 hundred men, forming a regiment under command of
 Col. Stearns, marched to Worcester. If the above
 Lancaster volunteers were a sample of the regiment, one
 can believe the statement of a letter published at the time.

"They are as fine a body of men as ever were assembled, composed of
 the most respectable characters in the places where they were raised.
 A circumstance worth relating is: there are in this regiment fifty or
 sixty persons who have borne commissions, some of which to
 command regiments in the late Continental Army."

(a) John Sprague took prominent part in the debates,
 in favor of biennial elections.

The whole vote was 187 yeas 168 nays.

^a | The first meeting for choosing a Representative to Congress
^a | was December 18 1788. when Moses Gill received 11 votes
 & the Hon. Timothy Paine 41 - The warrant for this
 town meeting also calls upon the inhabitants of Lancaster
 "to give in your votes for two persons as Candidates
 for an Elector of President & Vice President of the
 United States". The votes of Lancaster were given
 as follows:

Hon John Sprague	31
Mr. Amos Ward	19
Henry Bromfield	10
Hon Timothy Paine	2
	62.

A third election for Representatives to Congress
 was necessary, there being no choice. This election
 was held March 1789. The vote in Lancaster
 stood -

Hon. Timothy Paine	53
Hon. Artemas Ward	9
Hon. Jonathan Grant	19
	81

At the annual meeting for choice of state officers, April 7, 1788, John Hancock received sixty-eight votes, Samuel Adams and Elbridge Gerry, each received one. Samuel Adams had fifty-five for the second office.

The constitution having been duly ratified, it was time to choose a representative to the congress of the United States, and a meeting for this purpose was held, January 29, 1789, when the voting was as follows. Hon. Timothy Paine had forty-eight votes; Hon. Artemas Ward, five; Jona. Grout, Esq., seven. There was no choice in the Worcester district. There is ~~no~~ record of a meeting to vote for presidential electors, ~~but~~ the town and state voted unanimously for George Washington. John Adams became vice-president.

The votes for governor from 1789 to 1800 were always for the winning man, except in one year, when Increase Sumner received more votes in Lancaster than Samuel Adams, though the latter was elected by the state.

1789.	For governor,	John Hancock,	47.
		James Bowdoin,	15.
		William Cushing,	2.
1790.		John Hancock,	76.
		James Bowdoin,	6.
Samuel Adams received every vote for lieut-governor.			
1791.		John Hancock,	66.
1792.		John Hancock,	67.
		Francis Dana,	4. <i>v 2 Scattering</i>
1793.		John Hancock,	58.
		Elbridge Gerry,	2.
1794.		Samuel Adams,	52.
		William Cushing,	31. <i>v 3 Scattering</i>
1795.		Samuel Adams,	65.
		Samuel Dexter,	3.
1796.		Increase Sumner,	71.
		Samuel Adams,	27.
1797.		Increase Sumner,	66.
		James Sullivan,	21.
1798.		Increase Sumner,	68.
		James Sullivan,	4.
1799.		Increase Sumner,	74.

The election of Gov. Bowdoin in the years 1785 and 1786, was the result of the confidence felt in him by the more conservative part of the people. It was thought that Gov. Hancock was inclined to nurse his popularity by being too lenient towards the lawless and disorganizing elements in the state. It was a time of danger, and power was lodged in hands that would wield it in maintaining the rights of property and the benefits of social order. As soon as the danger was over, the people, as is their wont, dropped the man whom necessity had constrained them to put at the head of affairs, and returned to their old favorite. But Mr. Bowdoin was held in the highest respect during life, and has an honored place in the history of the commonwealth.

In 1792, when Washington was elected to his second term of the presidency, the people of Lancaster were doubtless unanimous in his favor; but no one could infer this from the votes cast for presidential electors. The record will be copied as a curiosity.

For electors of president and vice-president of the United States, November 2, 1792.

Thomas Dwight, Esq.	18	John Sprague, Esq.	9
Moses Gill,	20	Samuel Baker,	1
Dwight Foster,	14	Simeon Learned,	1
Samuel Lyman,	10	Jonathan Warner,	2
Elijah Dwight,	18	Samuel Henshaw,	8
Abel Wilder,	2		

The original idea of the college of electors was that they were to use their discretion in voting for president and vice-president. The voters therefore voted for electors according to individual preference, leaving the electors to cast their votes as they pleased. And yet, nearly if not quite all the voters of Lancaster and Massachusetts, and indeed of the whole country, wished and expected that Washington might be elected. But soon this early idea and method became obsolete. The people in the states became divided into two parties, each

In 1772. The state was divided into four electoral districts
Hampshire Berkshire and Worcester counties forming one
district electing five electors. (16 electors in the state)

In 1796 throughout the state, the
inhabitants forwarded Petitions to Congress to
carry into effect the Treaty with Great Britain.
In the Centinel for May 7, is this notice of the
Action of Lancaster -

At a legal meeting a very spirited
Memorial was agreed to unanimously, and
signed by upwards of two hundred and fifty
Citizens, being every individual present. Besides
which the Selectmen were requested to apply to
every inhabitant for his signature.

having its candidates for the highest offices in their gift. Electors were nominated simply for the purpose of casting the vote of the state for a pre-determined candidate, and woe be to the elector who should thwart the intentions of his party.

According to the warrant, the freemen of Lancaster were entitled to vote for five electors "in the district formed by the counties of Worcester, Hampshire and Berkshire." At the same time they cast their votes for five representatives in congress. For representative from Worcester county, Artemas Ward received every vote; in all, forty-seven.

In July, 1794, the town considered the expediency of offering additional encouragement to the soldiers required from this town, as its proportion of the detachment ordered from the militia. This was at the time when war with France was apprehended. The town voted that whenever the "present detachment of militia shall be called into actual service for the term limited by act of congress," etc., the town would make the wages to each man equal to forty shillings per month, provided the pay allowed by the nation, or the encouragement given by the state should not equal that sum.

In 1794, the votes for "one representative * * * to represent the fourth western district were for Levi Lincoln, 38; Dwight Foster, 13. In 1796 the preference of the town was reversed, and Dwight Foster had thirty-eight votes to five for Levi Lincoln. This was the year when John Adams was chosen president, as successor to Gen. Washington. Perhaps the five votes for the first Gov. Lincoln indicate the number who were friends to Mr. Jefferson. Judge Foster was a strong federalist, and supporter of Pres. Adams. The vote for elector was by single district, and Joseph Allen received thirty-six votes; one was given for Moses Gill.

Two years later Dwight Foster received fifty-three votes, for representative to congress, and Levi Lincoln four. Under Mr. Jefferson, a few years later, Mr. Lincoln became attorney general of the United States.

During the administration of Mr. Adams, and especially when our relations with France assumed a threatening aspect, the military spirit seems to have received a new impulse. The old song of "Adams and Liberty" was, doubtless, sung with special emphasis, at public gatherings. The French faction which sought to embroil the country in a war with England, *a* in the time of Washington's administration, found little encouragement in Lancaster. But when the insolence of the revolutionary government of France became intolerable, the people of this place were ready to uphold the government in maintaining its integrity and honor. Probably the following action of the town was inspired in part, by national politics.

"Voted, May 28, 1798, that the selectmen be authorized to furnish each non-commissioned officer and private of the militia companies of Lancaster, on the application of the commanding officer of said companies, such quantity of powder as may be ordered for consumption at regimental musters, not exceeding at any one time half a pound to each man." Forty dollars were raised for the purpose.

At a meeting, June 18, the selectmen were directed to furnish twenty-four cartridges with balls, to each soldier in the two militia companies; and one hundred and ninety dollars were appropriated to pay the expense. At the same time one hundred and forty dollars were raised to enable the selectmen to "purchase a number of stands of arms for the use of those persons who are unable to supply themselves."

General Washington died on the fourteenth of December, 1799, and the event caused universal mourning. The people of Lancaster evinced their profound sorrow by appropriate action. A meeting was called, on the fifth of February, 1800, "to adopt such suitable measures for carrying into effect the proclamation lately issued by the president of the United States, and the resolutions passed both houses of Congress, in consequence of the distressing event of providence, in depriving the World of our illustrious and beloved GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON."

a The Centinel of July 10 1799 reports that on Independence Day. "at Lancaster a military parade of Infantry Artillery and Cavalry added splendor to the commemoration and conferred new honor on their fellow citizens." There was a dinner and numerous toasts. Among those most popular was this - "The present oppressor of Egypt. Buonaparte. May he fare as lenily as his predecessor Pharaoh, the old fellow who was devoured."

Liswell was Hotel Proprietor at that date.

The town met at the time appointed, and referred the article to the following committee, to report thereon. Gen. John Whiting, Eli Stearns, William Steadman, Josiah Flagg, John Maynard, Dea. Benjamin Houghton, and Captain Jacob Fisher. After an adjournment for half an hour the committee made the following report.

*Isaac —
in records.
an error.*

"The inhabitants of this town, sensibly affected by the afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence, in the removal of their illustrious and beloved patriot and citizen, General George Washington, do pass the following vote, viz.

"That they will form in procession at the house of James Liswell, on the twenty-second day of February instant, and move precisely at eleven o'clock A. M., accompanied by the members of Trinity Lodge, attended by the military of the town, and preceded by the youth, to the meeting-house; and that the Rev. Nathaniel Thayer be requested to attend with them, and by a suitable eulogy or discourse and prayer to commemorate the eminent virtues of the deceased, in compliance with the president's proclamation of the sixth of January last.

"That the male citizens on that day, wear a black crape or ribband on the left arm above the elbow; and that it be recommended to the females to wear a black ribband on their hats or bonnets.

"That the selectmen purchase four yards of decent black cloth to shroud the pulpit, and afterwards present the same to the Rev. Mr. Thayer.

"That Gen. Whiting, Joseph Wales and Caleb Lincoln be requested to marshal the procession on that day." * * *

The recommendations of the committee were carried out with an earnest solemnity which evinced the grateful reverence of the people for the father of his country. The citizens of Lancaster have never wavered in their adhesion to the policy of Washington.

The leading offices of the town were held by the persons named below, between the opening of the Revolution and the

close of the century, December 31, 1800. The following were the moderators previous to 1782,

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1776- | Thomas Fairbanks | Joel Houghton 1777 | Col Ephraim Sawyer 1776 |
| 1777-8-9-80-1 | Ebenezer Allen, | Col Joseph Reed 1777 | Capt Ephraim Wilder, 1779-80 |
| 1780 | John Sprague, | Cyrus Fairbank 1782 | Capt Solomon Jewett, 1779-80-1 |
| 1780 | William Dennison, | Jonathan " 1776 | Capt Wm Putnam 1778 |
| 1777-8-9-80 | Jonathan Wilder, | Benjamin Richardson, | Capt Heselbink 1775-6 |
| | | Ebenezer " 1779 | |

In some years every meeting would have a different moderator. William Greenleaf was clerk for several years, with occasional intervals, when Nathaniel Beaman, Cyrus Fairbank and Josiah Leavitt filled the temporary vacancy ^{office}.

The treasurer from 1777 to 1781 was Cyrus Fairbank. The town was divided in the latter year, and Peter Green was chosen to fill out the term.

During the same term of years the following were the selectmen, the first four named having been chairmen.

- | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1777-9 | Capt Ephraim Wilder, | 1777-9 | Nathaniel Beaman, | Capt William Greenleaf, 1777-9 |
| 1777-80-1 | " Solomon Jewett, | 1777-80 | Capt Samuel Sawyer, | Capt William Putnam, 1778 |
| 1778- | Levi Moor, | | Gershom Flagg, <i>declined</i> | Ebenezer Allen, 1778 |
| 1778- | Joshua Fletcher, | 1779- | Joel Houghton, | Manasseh Sawyer, 1779 |
| 1780-1 | Capt David Jewett, | 1780-1 | Josiah Kendall Jr | Benjamin Richardson, 1780-1 |
| 1778- | Jonathan Moor, | | | |

The same men were kept in office successive years, but their position was often transferred, the chairman of one year being second or third the year following.

The delegates to the general court were William Dunsmoor, ^{Doctor} 1776-7-8-9 three years; Samuel Thurston, ¹⁷⁷⁸ Joseph Read and William Putnam, each one year. Dunsmoor was a leading citizen and patriot to the close of the war.

The town was divided in 1781, and the first meeting of Lancaster after Sterling was set off, was in May, when officers were elected for the remainder of the year. At this date several prominent names disappear from our Records. The first town meeting was organized as follows: Josiah Wilder, jr., moderator; William Greenleaf, clerk; Peter Green, treasurer; Nathaniel Beaman, Moses Sawyer and Joseph Carter, selectmen. Beaman lived near the house of Charles Safford; Sawyer in the south part of the town, and Carter on George hill. Peter Green's house was the present barn of William H. McNeil. The road ran by the east side of

Town Clerks.

1775-6 Daniel Robbins

1777) Col Wm Greenleaf

1779) declined 1780.

1778 { Nathaniel Beeman
Cyrus Fairbank

1780-1 Josiah Lenvitt.

Col. Wm. Greenleaf was Sheriff 1778-88. but was impeached & convicted Nov. 18 1788. "of misconduct & maladministration in his office" and removed. He was accused of appropriating public funds to his own use.

Col. Greenleaf as already stated (see note p 321) rendered good service against the rebels under Shays. He addressed the rioters who had assembled about the Court House in Worcester Nov. 21 1786 reading the riot act, and ordering them to disperse. One of the leaders of the armed mob, replied to him, exclaiming that among many grievances they found too oppressive for human endurance, & from which they were resolved to find speedy relief, not the least was the Sheriff himself and his unreasonable fees.

"If you consider fees for executions oppressive," rejoined Greenleaf, "you need not wait long for redress; for I will hang you all, Gentlemen, for nothing with the greatest pleasure"

see Lincoln's History of Worcester, &c

Dea. Joseph Wales was Postmaster - 1795.

* William Stedman was Representative in Congress, elected four terms. 1803-1805-1807-1809, resigning to accept ^{the office of} Clerk of Court of Common Pleas, in which he served 1810-16. I do not find that he was Sheriff.

The Sheriffs were Col. Wm Greenleaf 1778-88. & John Sprague 1788-92. Stedman married a daughter of William Ellery of Newport R.I. (Signer of the Declaration of Independence) Chief Justice Dana married an elder sister of hers. W.S. was born at Cambridge July 21, 1765. graduate of Harvard 1784, died at Newburyport August 31, 1831. He had a robust figure, light hair and complexion, was neat in dress, and ranked as a wit in social circles.

See Biographical Sketch in Reminiscences Worcester Fire Soc. 1874 pp 26-29

the house. William Greenleaf lived in the "Mansion house." From 1782 onwards the following men were moderators.

1785-6-9-93	Ebenezer Allen,	Josiah Wilder, 1781	Dea. Cyrus Fairbank, 1783-4
1782-4-5-6-7-8	Peter Green,	Dea Josiah Ballard, 1783-7	Nathaniel Beaman, 1788-
1795	Dea Benjamin Houghton,	Capt Timothy Whiting, 1785-8-9-2	Michael Newhall, 1786-
1796	Capt Ephraim Carter, Jr	Col Edward Heard, 1780-1-2-3-4	Capt John Maynard, 1787-90-1-2-1800
1791-2-7-9-1800	John Whiting,	Capt Samuel Ward, 1782-4-5-6-8	Timothy Whiting, jr., 1792-3
1790	James Carter,	Joseph Wales, 1795-7	William Stedman, 1793-4-5-1804
	Moses Sawyer,	John Sprague, 1796	Merrick Rice. 1804 1797

Several of these men held different offices, and were prominent for a long series of years. Timothy Whiting, father and son, were in this class. They kept the tavern on the Old Common, where Joseph B. Moore now lives, and served the traveling public during two or three generations. They held the titles of captain and esquire, then more coveted and distinguished than at present. Gen. John Whiting, son of Timothy, senior, lived nearly opposite, not far east from the Old Common cemetery. Later his residence was near the old brickyard on the road to the North Village, where John Powers now lives. Gen. Whiting was held in high esteem, and filled many offices, but having joined the party of Mr. Jefferson, could not be elected to congress from a district where the federalists were in a large majority. Capt. John Maynard was much relied on in all town business, not only as moderator and selectman, but as chairman of committees to build bridges and care for schools. Merrick Rice was a lawyer, and a man of considerable property. He built the house now owned by Mrs. Elmina Green^{me. 16} for many years the finest mansion in the county. John Sprague, Esq., was also a lawyer, and a man of great ability. Michael Newhall was prominent during his generation. Dea. Wales^{Joseph} and Capt. Ward^{John} were merchants, and their stores were equal to the most extensive in the county of Worcester. The Carters were in all town offices, as were their ancestors and descendants in their time. William Stedman was high sheriff of the county, and represented the district in congress several terms. 1803 & 1810.

x

The town clerks from 1781 to the end of the century, were : Samuel Ward, seven years ; Edward ^{second} Heard, three years ; Joseph Wales⁴ and William Stedman⁶, each four years. Peter Green was treasurer till 1790 ; Ebenezer Torrey¹⁷⁹⁰, to 1796, and John Maynard for the residue of the century. 1797 to 1800 *inc.*

The selectmen in this period of nineteen years were as follows :

	^{Captain} Nathaniel Beaman,	Ephraim Carter,	Jonathan Wilder, 1784-5
1781-2-3-4-5-6	- Samuel Ward, 1784-5-6-7	Jonathan Whitney,	Timothy Whiting, jr., 1789-90
1783	- Jonas Fairbank, jr. (1785-8-9)	Michael Newhall, 1	Timothy Knight, 1787
1784-5-6-7	Moses Smith, 1788	Benjamin Houghton,	Josiah Ballard, 1788
1788	- James Carter, 1789-90	Daniel Stearns,	Eli Stearns, 1790-2-3
1788	- Thomas Gates, 1792-3-4	John Carter,	William Stedman, 1793-4
1791-2	^{Capt.} John Whiting, 1795-6-7-8	Merrick Rice,	Oliver Carter, 1795-6-7
1794-5	Asa Warner, 1798-9-10	Joseph Wales,	Josiah Flagg, 1799-1800-1
1797-98-96	John Thurston, 1781-2-3-4-5-6	Joseph Carter,	Joseph White, 1799-1800-1
1781-2	Moses Sawyer,		<i>Capt. John Maynard 1789-90</i>

From this list some familiar names gradually disappeared, while others came into notice. The long line of Whites is renewed in the above Joseph, deacon and probably captain, like all his predecessors, whether John, Josiah or Joseph. The selectmen, or a part of them, frequently acted as the assessors for the same year. Among the assessors not in the above list of selectmen, were Benjamin Wyman, Josiah Bowers, John Sprague, Paul Willard and Jonas Lane.

The delegates to the general court, were Capt. Michael Newhall, three years, 1787-9 ; Ephraim Carter, 1790 ; Ephraim Carter, jr., 1786, 1791-2 ; Hon. John Sprague, ten years, 1782-6, 1794-9. At the election in the spring of 1800, being in poor health, he declined a re-election, and Capt. Samuel Ward was chosen.

Probably there had been no period of equal duration, in the history of the town, when it was served in the various offices above named, and in other offices less responsible, yet important, with more ability and fidelity. The treasurers' books were kept, and the selectmen's accounts were presented, in the most approved method of the book-keeping of that

Town Clerks

- 1781 Josiah Leavitt - Sterling
1781 Wm Duncanson after division of town
1782-87. Capt Samuel Ward.
1788-89+90 Col Edmund Heard.
1791 to 94 Joseph Wales
1795 to 1800 William Stedman

- ✓ 1781 Wm Duncanson was Representative.
+ 1793 Brig Genl John Whiting was Representative.
+ Wm John Sprague was Senator 1785-6. and Sheriff 1788-1792.
He received the appointment of judge of the Court of Common Pleas 1799.
died 1800.

(a) The "elegant pen"! was a quill and they wrote
extremely well with it - especially Greenleaf + Steadman

date. A committee was chosen, each year, to audit the accounts of the treasurer and selectmen, and they made a report to the town. The penmanship of the clerks was generally almost as legible as print, and some of the clerks held an elegant pen.

After the settlement of Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, he was always chairman of the school committee, and most of the visiting and examining of the schools was done by him. His associates on the committee were among the best educated and most respectable men of the town. Here are the names of some of them. John Sprague, John Whiting, Timothy Whiting, jr., William Stedman, Samuel Ward, Eli Stearns, Joseph Wales, Ebenezer Torrey, John Maynard. A singing-school was kept every season under the direction of a special committee. Another committee was always chosen to hire the Latin grammar-school master.

The preceding pages show whom the people "delighted to honor" in the affairs of the town, state and nation. Our fathers, in the early days of the republic, held sound principles of government, followed good methods of administration, and elected honest men to office.

CHAPTER XVI.

DIVISION OF THE TOWN ; PARISH AFFAIRS ; THE POOR ; ROADS
AND BRIDGES ; LOTTERY ; SCHOOLS ; ANNALS ; POPULA-
TION AND WEALTH.

BEFORE the close of the war the town was shorn of its large proportions, but thereby came into better and more convenient form. ^{May 15} In June, 1780, a petition came before the town from certain inhabitants living in the extreme south, asking to be set off to Shrewsbury. A part of them had already been joined to the north parish of Shrewsbury, (now included in the Boylstones,) though still belonging to Lancaster for all town purposes. The reasons given were that they "labored under many and great inconveniences by being obliged to travel many times in a year, a great distance, to transact the necessary business of the town ;" and "being also obliged to travel a great distance to attend public worship on Lord's day, and at other times." The line of division which they asked for, is mainly the north line of the Boylstones at present. These are the names of the petitioners.

Aaron Sawyer,	Oliver Sawyer,	Josiah Bennet,
Nath. Sampson,	Silas Hastings,	Wm. Dunsmore,
Frederick Albert,	Sam'l Bigsby,	John Glazier,
Silas How,	Micah Harthan,	Phineas Howg,
John Dunsmore,	Joseph Sawyer,	Elijah Ball,
Jacob Winn,	Ezra Beaman,	Robert Anderson, jr.,
Hugh Moor,	Edmond Larkin,	Nath. Davenport.
Nath Hastings,	Levi Moor,	

On the twenty-third of ¹⁷⁸⁰ June, the town took action, and this is the record: "Voted to see if the town would grant the pe-

a See p. 6. Davenport's History of Boylston. "The northerly
& northeasterly part of this town bounded southerly by a line
drawn from a monument on the hill northerly of the
dwelling house of Deacon Robert Andrews jun. thence
easterly across the river & running near the dwelling
house of Capt. John Howe, and southerly thereof to
Northborough, was comprehended within the limits of
the original grant to the town of Lancaster by Shalton.
x x x x The title to a very small tract in
the northerly part of the town (which was included
in Lancaster New or additional grant is derived)
+ c x x x

May 19. 1780 was "the dark day" I find no mention
of it in any town records in Return 10 & 11 October
a dense yellow vapor spread over the sky. The winter of
1780 was terribly severe, & the snow very deep - Roads were
generally impassable so that travelling was mostly upon skates.
See Hudson's Marlborough p. 187

An act of the legislature confirmed this division
February 2, 1781.

tion of Aaron Sawyer and others to be set off ^f(to) the town of Shrewsbury, and it passed in the affirmative."

Matters had now reached such a pass that there was a general readiness to concur in the plan to transform the second precinct into a town. The wonder is that the separation had not been effected many years before. The township was very large and ill formed; many of the inhabitants of the second precinct lived six, eight, ten miles from the meeting-house of the old town; those residing in the northeast corner of Lancaster had to travel ten or eleven miles when the town meetings were held in the meeting-house of the second precinct; there was clashing and division of interest in relation to schools, bridges and roads, and finally, there were inhabitants enough to form two respectable towns. It is not surprising therefore that a petition in favor of a division was signed by prominent inhabitants, as will be seen by the following names: Jonathan Kendal, Jonathan White, James Pratt, Gershem Flagg, Joseph Carter, Jonas Wyman, Jeremiah Haskell, Ephraim Carter, jr., Nath. Beaman, Daniel Rugg, jr., Timothy Whiting, Samuel Adams. The petition was brief, and in these words.

"We the subscribers petition to the selectmen of Lancaster, to call a town meeting forthwith, to see if the town will choose a committee to send to the general court to see if they will divide the town as the line now stands." *or act or transact anything relative thereto*

The town, September 25, voted to appoint a committee to go to the general court, and present the general wish that the town might be divided, according to the terms of the above petition. The men chosen were Capt. Ephraim Carter, jr., Capt. Benjamin Richardson and Mr. Thomas Brown.

The petition for the division of the town was granted by the general court, ~~in~~ April, ²⁵1781, with the following line between Lancaster and Sterling. "Beginning upon the south east corner of Leominster, and from thence to run a line east twenty-one degrees south, one hundred and sixty perch; and from thence to run south eight degrees west, two miles

and an half, and twenty perch, which distance will be due west from Jonas Fairbank's house; and from thence to run south eighteen degrees west, to a certain place called the foot of the Scar, and extending on south line until it shall strike the line of the town of Shrewsbury." The new town was named in honor of lord Sterling, a general in the army. ^a The act of incorporation required that Sterling should pay its proportion of the "several taxes already assessed upon them" by the town of Lancaster; that the poor supported by the town of Lancaster, should be equally divided between the two towns; and that all the town stock should be equally divided between the towns of Lancaster and Sterling. Josiah Wilder, Esq., of Lancaster, was empowered to issue a warrant for the call of a town meeting for the organization of the new town.

By a resolve of the general court, passed May 2, Mr. Wilder was empowered to issue a warrant to "some substantial freeholder in Lancaster," requiring him to warn a meeting of the "inhabitants of the town qualified to vote for the purpose of choosing town officers." The resolve confirmed the officers already chosen, sworn and residing in Lancaster, and the warrant was directed by Esq. Wilder to Samuel Ward, who issued a warrant for a town meeting, to be held in the meeting-house, on the nineteenth of May, when all vacancies in town offices caused by the separation of Sterling, were to be filled. This meeting was duly held, and the town was put in running order. Josiah Wilder, Esq., was chosen moderator; William Greenleaf, town clerk; Nathaniel Beaman, Moses Sawyer and Joseph Carter, selectmen. Dea. Cyrus Fairbank was already town treasurer and continued in office till Peter Green was chosen in June. Other vacancies were filled, and the old town, with large territory still remaining, started on a new career of growth till Clinton was set off in the year 1850. The two towns contained about the same number of inhabitants. Perhaps Lancaster had a few more ^b than Sterling. By the census of 1790, the two towns con-

Nothing is herein said about the fact that the line of division here described is a straight line - instead of the existing zigzag now shown upon the maps - the result of subsequent changes to include certain farms -

Genl. William Alexander by general consent called "Lord Stirling". Why the true Scotch method of spelling the name was not followed, is not known.

b This has already been stated page 328.

c The valuation lists of 1784 seem to prove the opposite. Lancaster then had 307 polls, Stirling 340. Chocksett outvoted Lancaster before the division was effected. Moreover. Lancaster had 174. and Stirling 179 dwellings in 1784.

a. These Records were however in existence, and in the house of one of Mr Darwin's parishioners. Sept. 3 1885. S. J. S. Vase Esq. by letter notified H. S. House of a certain parchment covered volume in his house, containing old town records, & authorized him to take the same and deposit it in the town archives. The volume had, Mr Vase thinks, been entrusted to his father by Dr Calvin Carter and had lain unknown to him in his house since his father's death. { I think Mr Willard saw it before writing his History 1826. - as he states in substance the back here.

Immediately after Rev. Jno. Prentice's death, the Precinct & Church united in calling Mr Coten Brown to be their Pastor. The precinct Feb. 28 voted 140 to 35. 9² old tenor "to defray the Funeral Charges of the Reverend Mr Prentice" On the same date - 2,000[±] old tenor was voted to Purchase a Parsonage Including several Pieces of Land upon Sill for that use. "Voted, Beef: Pork: Indian Corn and Key to be a standard to Regulate the ministers Sallery by every year" "Voted Beef at Twelve Pence pr Pound: Pork at Two Shillens pr Pound & Indian Corn at Sixteen Shillens pr Bushel & Key at Twenty four Shillens Pr Bushel all old Tenor." "Voted that November and December is the months that these Comidetic are to be Prised in among ourselves and the Sallery to Rise and fall accordingly." "12⁵ Voted to give Mr Coten Brown four Hundred and eighty Pounds old Pence yearly for his Sallery." "13^{ly} Voted that the Precinct would inform Mr Coten Brown of what the Church and Precinct have done and desire him to come and Preach among us as soon as may be with Conseciancy and give his Answer." Mr COTEN B. evidently declined, though no record was made of the fact.

tained 2880 inhabitants; of these 1460 belonged to Lancaster, leaving 1420 to Sterling.

2 The division of the town was followed by a new arrangement of parish affairs. Before the second precinct was erected in 1742, the whole town was a parish, and all parochial business was done in town meeting. When Chocksett became a parish, the remaining part of the town was also made a parish, in connection with the first church, and for nearly forty years the first precinct provided for the support of public worship, appointed parish officers, and kept its own Records. These Records have not come under the eye of the writer, and it is not known that they are in existence. x a As soon as Sterling was incorporated, the first precinct became merged in the town of Lancaster, which henceforth acted as a parish, and in town meeting, annually raised the minister's salary; and transacted all parochial affairs. Accordingly, at a meeting of the town on the eighteenth of June, 1781, it was voted to "pay the Rev. Timothy Harrington, the present year, so much money as shall make good the original contract; and that he may in June draw on the treasurer half, or in December following, for the remaining part; and that the selectmen do estimate the draught from time to time, until he shall have received so much in real value as would have made his salary good, as if paid at the above time when stated in November." When settled in 1748, Mr. Harrington was offered £2000 for the purchase of a parsonage, and £480 old tenor, as an annual salary. He accepted the call on these terms. The salary, says Willard, "was annually settled by the price of the principal articles of life, £480 old tenor, equal to £64 lawful money," or \$213.33. For a few years the salary was as high as \$300. The currency was so fluctuating, it was necessary to fix it by the price of the necessary articles of living. In 1783 the assessors were chosen a committee to settle with Mr. Harrington, and see what salary was due to him, and the treasurer was directed to give him a note of hand, with interest for the balance due to him. From

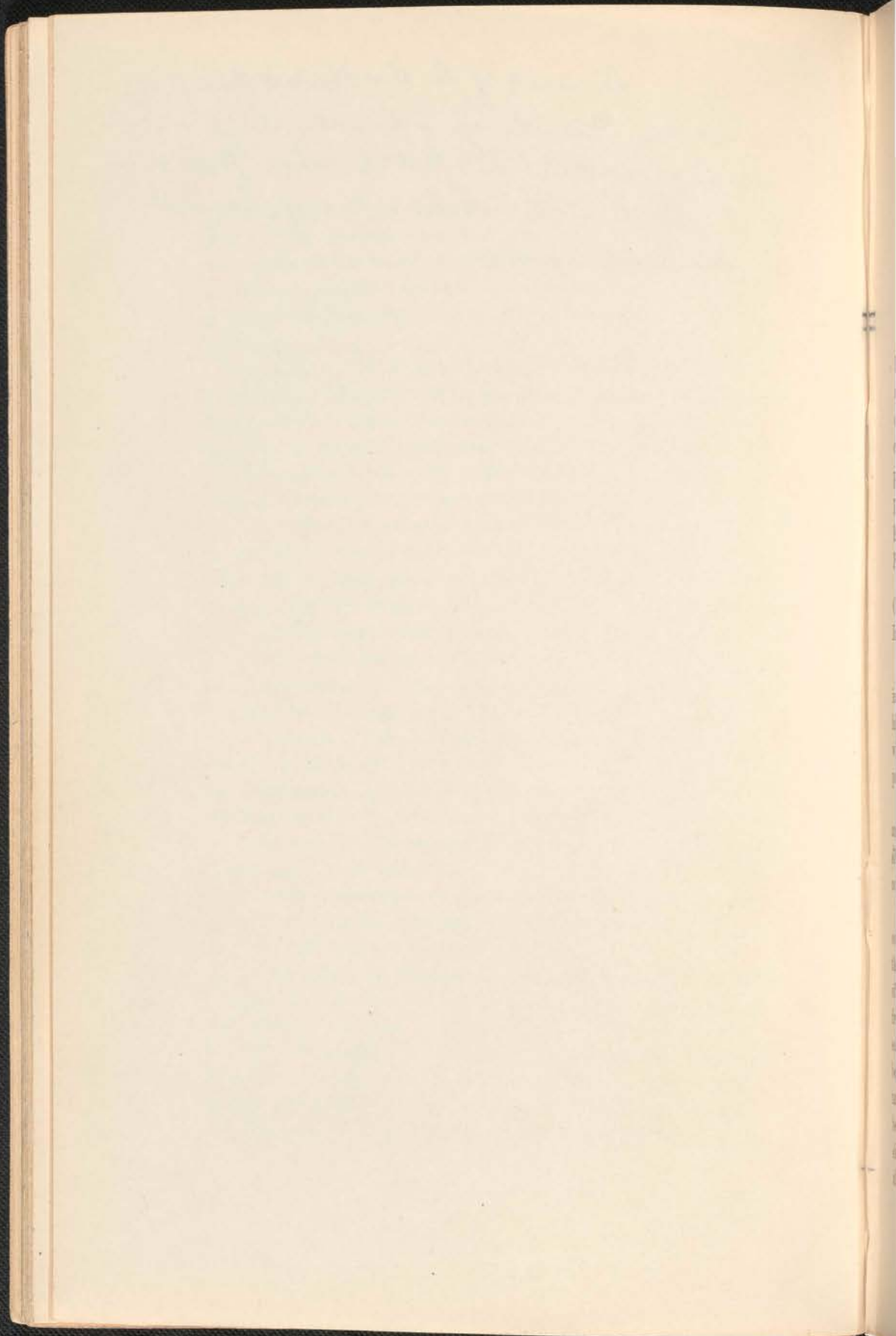
this time forward parish business occupied but little of the time in town meeting, except at long intervals, when repairs were made on the house of worship; collectors were chosen to collect a minister's tax, and action was taken to supply the pulpit in Mr. Harrington's old age, as well as to settle his successor.

In August, 1785, Cyrus Fairbank, Timothy Whiting, jr., and Jonathan Whitney, were chosen a committee to inquire into the state of the meeting-house, and see "what repairs ^{to} are necessary to be made, and make a calculation as near as they can of the sum it will cost." But before the meeting-house could be repaired, it was necessary to raise money to pay the expense. For this purpose it was voted to "sell the ground where the three hind seats on each side of the alley below were built, and the back seat round the ^s galleries together with the ground where the long ^p pews were built." Probably an increasing attendance made a demand for seats, and therefore parts of the floor below and in the galleries, which had been free, and perhaps but little occupied, had now a money value. A committee was appointed to sell the "ground," or room, by public auction. This having been done, the house was repaired "so far as the pew ground money" went, in purchasing "clapboards, glass with new frames and sashes," and in building two new "porches, one on the south end, and one on the north end." The committee were Peter Green, Ephraim Carter and Cyrus Fairbank. The enlargement of seating room, made it necessary to reseat the house in part, and the town voted that the selectmen should seat the house "upon one poll, and real and personal estate."

At a meeting held October 15, 1787, the question came up whether two services should be held in winter, when it was "voted that in the opinion of the town, the advanced age of the Rev. Mr. Harrington may render it injurious to his health to attend two services a day in the rig^or of the three winter months; therefore the town requests the Rev. Mr. Harrington, whenever he finds it inconvenient to perform two services

Oct. 21 1785

p. 335 a/ The records of the 2^d or Chocksett Precinct also
did not come under the eye of the writer though well
preserved + accessible! In fact the whole forty years
of its parish history (while a part of Lancaster)
is practically ignored.



a day in those months, or at any other season, to signify the same to the congregation at the close of the first service." The deacons, Fairbank and Houghton, Ballard and Whiting were chosen a committee to "wait on the Rev. Mr. Harrington with a copy of the above vote."

The following extract from the Records will serve to show how the minister was paid, and the money value of several articles of produce, in old and in lawful money. "The articles on which the Rev. Timothy Harrington's salary were stated as sold in the months of November and December, 1788.

Rye at 28sh. old tenor,	. . . . .	£140- 0-0
Indian corn, 21sh. "	. . . . .	157-10-0
Beef, 1sh. 4d. "	. . . . .	160- 0-0
Pork, 1sh. 6 3-4d. "	. . . . .	95-15-0
		<hr/>
Old tenor,	. . . . .	£553- 5-0
In lawful money, £73, 15, 4;"		or nearly \$250.00.

At the March meeting, 1789, it was voted "to hire preaching whenever Mr. Harrington's want of health should render him unable to preach," and deacons Fairbank and Houghton, with Israel Atherton, Esq., were chosen a committee for that purpose.

The roof of the meeting-house having been found "defective and leaky in every part to such a degree" as to render it impossible to repair it to any good purpose without shingling," the committee on repairing the house were directed to shingle it.

The March meeting, 1791, directed the "old committee to complete the repairs of the inside of the meeting-house in the most prudent manner." In the May meeting the report of a committee appointed to sell "pew ground" was accepted, from which it appears that fifteen pews in the galleries had been sold, and paid for by notes of hand; and that two pews had been set up where the women's stairs stood; and the same number where the men's stairs stood; and four others had been "taken off the body seats" on the men's and women's sides of the house. Thus twenty-three seats were made available for revenue.

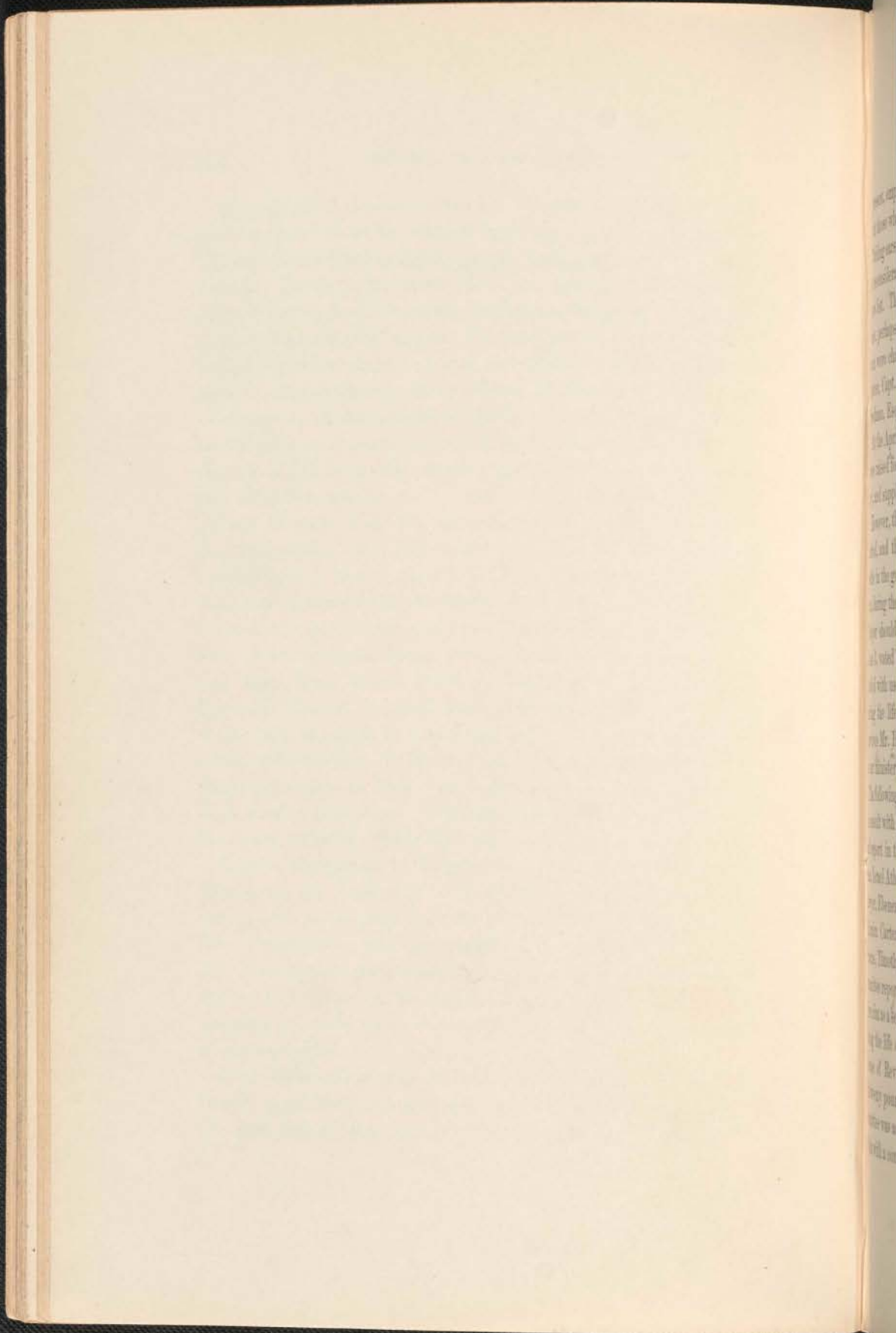
The report of the committee for "hiring preaching the year past," presented to the March meeting, in 1792, shows that Messrs. Alden Bradford, afterwards Secretary of State, Thaddeus M. Harris, afterwards Rev. Dr. Harris of Dorchester, Joseph Davis, and Daniel C. Sanders, afterwards president of the college in Burlington, Vt., had preached here, and received about one hundred and five dollars therefor, besides board. At the same meeting, March 12, the town voted "that a colleague—during the life of the Rev. Timothy Harrington—be settled as soon as the minds of the inhabitants, and circumstances of the town will permit; and after to continue pastor and minister among us." And a committee of seven was chosen to treat with Mr. Harrington "touching his inclination respecting such colleague; and also touching himself and the town; and to supply the desk for the space of twelve weeks with persons as candidates for settlement." A highly respectable committee was raised for this delicate business, viz., John Sprague, Esq., Dea. John Whiting, Israel Ather-ton, Esq., Dea. Josiah Ballard, Capt. Samuel Ward, Capt. Ephraim Carter, jr., and Dea. Benjamin Houghton. This committee reported to a meeting held July 2, that they had conferred with Rev. T. Harrington "touching the several subjects, agreeably to their instructions," and had supplied the desk twelve Sabbaths. The committee were continued, and the town voted to "hear Mr. Thayer a further time."

On the fourteenth of August the town voted "to set apart Thursday, the sixth day of September, for a day of fasting and prayer, to prepare the town for settling a colleague" with Mr. Harrington; and the committee were directed to wait on Mr. Harrington, and desire him to write to such of the neighboring ministers as he might choose, to join the town in keeping the fast, and some one to preach discourses suitable to the occasion.

Dea. Fairbank seems to have thought that the town had heard candidates enough, and on his motion, the town, on the last day of the year, voted that the town "decline, at

Alden Bradford. H. U. 1786. L. S. D.
Th. M. Harris. S. J. D. H. U. 1787. Librarian. H. U. &c
Joseph Davis. H. U. 1740
Daniel Clarke Sanders. H. U. 1788. S. J. D.

127 29 £ 11^s -



present, employing any person to supply the desk in future, but those whom they had heard before." But those having "itching ears," at the next meeting, January 14, 1793, secured a reconsideration of the vote, and the way was opened for a new list. The old committee were excused from further service, perhaps at their own request, and the following gentlemen were charged with the arduous service. Capt. James Carter, Capt. John Maynard, Mr. Jonas Fairbank, William Stedman, Esq., and Mr. Daniel Stearns.

At the April meeting two hundred pounds, lawful money, were raised for the "purpose of discharging the parson's salary, and supplying the desk" for the current year.

However, the "minds of the town" seem soon to have been united, and the church gave Mr. Nathaniel Thayer a call to settle in the gospel ministry as a colleague with Mr. Harrington, during the life of the latter, and after his decease, if Mr. Thayer should survive him. The town, at a meeting held June 3, voted "*unanimously*, that Mr. Nathaniel Thayer be settled with us as colleague with the Rev. Mr. Harrington, during the life of Mr. Harrington; and our minister, if he survives Mr. Harrington, should Mr. Thayer agree to settle as our minister as above expressed."

The following committee of fifteen was chosen by the town to consult with Mr. Thayer in regard to terms of settlement, and report in the afternoon: John Sprague, William Stedman, Israel Atherton, Josiah Ballard, Ebenezer Allen, Moses Sawyer, Ebenezer Torrey, Jonathan Wilder, Jonas Fairbank, Ephraim Carter, jr., Joseph Wales, Cyrus Fairbank, Eli Stearns, Timothy Whiting, jr., and Benjamin Houghton. The committee reported "that the sum of two hundred pounds be given him as a settlement; the sum of ninety pounds annually during the life of Mr. Harrington, as salary; and after the decease of Rev. Mr. Harrington, the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds annually as salary." The report of the committee was accepted, and a committee of three was raised, to join with a committee of the church, to present Mr. Thayer

the "doings of the church and town relative to his settling in the work of the gospel ministry, in this place, and to request his consideration thereof and answer thereto." The committee were John Sprague, William Stedman and Israel Atherton, esquires. Mr. Thayer accepted the call in a letter which will be given in connection with the history of the church, in the next chapter.

The settling of a minister, in former times, was a memorable event, and it will be interesting in all time to come, to read the proceedings of the town on the occasion of Mr. Thayer's settlement. The whole action of the town evinces a high estimate of the Christian ministry; a delicate and reverent regard for the feelings of their aged minister; a suitable appreciation of their new choice, and the proper self-respect of an intelligent community. In these days, when ministers "come as visions; so depart;" when they are called in a hurry, and sometimes thrust out without ceremony, it is refreshing to recall the more dignified, kindly and respectable methods of our fathers.

A meeting to make preparation for the ordination was held on the twenty-sixth of August, when Mr. Thayer was "requested to address the Throne of Grace. Which being done, it was voted that Mr. Thayer "have the thanks of the town for his petition, etc. for the Divine Blessing." A committee of five was chosen to confer with the pastor elect on "such time and modes of payment of his settlement and salary as may be best adapted to his circumstances, and the convenience and interest of the town." The committee were Israel Atherton, Samuel Ward, Ebenezer Torrey, Timothy Whiting, jr., Ephraim Carter, jr. Another committee of five was raised, viz., John Whiting, Benjamin Houghton, Josiah Ballard, Cyrus Fairbank and Ebenezer Allen, all but the last deacons, to confer with Messrs. Harrington and Thayer on the time and manner of conducting the solemnity, [of ordination,] and transact any "other matter or thing that ^{may} might be thought necessary for a decent and happy performance and conclusion of the whole subject."

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* For some reason it did not find place there however,
but in Cap. 19. p 460

Then a committee of three was elected by ballot for the purpose of contracting with some person or persons to make provision for the ordination of Mr. Nathaniel Thayer, upon such terms and in such manner as they shall judge will be most for the honor and interest of the town. Eli Stearns, Oliver Carter, Joseph Wales were the committee.

The same meeting authorized the sale of one of the best long seats on each side of the middle aisle for pews, and thus raise money to pay for repairs. The committee for repairing the meeting-house were then "directed to plaster ~~of~~ white-wash, and support the floors and galleries" in such manner as might be suitable and safe for the ordination services. A crowd was always expected on such occasions. Not only the town's folk, but people from all adjacent towns were accustomed to attend. And they were always treated with the greatest hospitality, every family keeping open house for visitors.

A vote was then passed directing the selectmen to make such repairs in the pulpit as "^{will} be for the convenience of Mr. Thayer." Wednesday, the ninth of October, was fixed upon as the day of ordination. This was more than a year after the candidate first preached in the place.

1793

There was another meeting on the sixteenth of September, when the committee on repairs were instructed to "paint the front-work of the galleries, the pulpit, and the deacons' seat." The same day the committee on providing for the ordination, were "authorized to assign seats for the church, council, and singers, and to appoint suitable persons to guard the same, and the door, and preserve due order in and about the meeting-house on the day of ^{the} ordination."

The ordination took place at the appointed time. The order of the services will find the appropriate place in the next chapter. Two or three items, however, remain to make the narrative complete. The committee to confer with Mr. Thayer on the "time and modes of payment of his settlement and salary," made a report which was adopted, as follows: "that

one hundred pounds be paid to the Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, in one year from the day of his ordination, without interest; and that an obligation be given him for the payment of the other hundred pounds of his settlement, payable in two years from the day of his ordination, with interest from that day till paid." The annual salary was to be paid half-yearly, on the first of March and September. This action was on the twenty-first of October, when the town voted to raise two hundred pounds for the settlement, "agreeably to the report of the committee."

The committee of entertainment presented their account of expenses at the ordination, amounting to nearly £57, or about one hundred and ninety dollars, and the amount was "immediately assessed for the purpose of discharging the account of the committee." Then voted that the thanks of the town be "presented to Messrs. Joseph Wales, Oliver Carter and Eli Stearns for their timely and useful exertions in preparing suitable provision, etc., for the ordaining council, and for the polite manner in which they conducted the business of attending upon them; and that their freely rendering this service be recorded in grateful remembrance of their generosity."

It was "voted, unanimously, to request a copy of the Sermon, Charge and Right Hand of Fellowship," for the press, and Messrs. Ebenezer Torrey, Timothy Whiting, jr., and Israel Atherton were chosen a committee to procure those productions. The sermon and other parts were to be printed by subscription, and the town treasurer was directed to subscribe for one hundred copies, for the use of the town, to be disposed of as follows, viz. "Twenty copies for the Rev. Nathaniel Thayer; twelve for the Rev. David Osgood; six for the president of the university at Cambridge; sixteen, being one for each of the Rev. clergy who assisted at the council at the ordination; and forty-six to be distributed among such heads of families belonging to the church and congregation as shall choose to receive them gratis."

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In 1794 May 17 there was an extraordinary
frost in Lancaster destroying the leaves & blossoms
of fruit trees, vegetables, & grasses - & forming ice
to the thickness of half an inch - see an
account of the event by Nathaniel Thayer in
Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll. Vol 4 - pp 44 & 45 -

The dogs of the town seem to have become demoralized towards the end of the century, necessitating the following action, on the thirteenth of August, 1794. "It being the indispensable duty of every citizen to promote good order and decorum in time of public worship, on the Lord's day, and there having been frequent disturbances in and about the meeting-house at those times, voted that the inhabitants be *earnestly requested* to confine their *dogs* at home, in future, on Sundays, in order to prevent like disturbances; and that the town may not be under the disagreeable necessity of adopting some other method to remedy so great an inconvenience."

November 3, those persons who usually ^{make} use of the *pillows* in the ^U meeting-house to hang their hats on" were requested to find some other place for them. At the same time the selectmen were directed "to open a passage-way in front of the pews on the side galleries, and to assign seats there for the people of color."

The Rev. Timothy Harrington died on the eighteenth of December, 1795. His salary had been paid as usual, while he lived, and the town, at an adjournment of the March meeting, held on the fourth day of April, 1796, voted to appropriate one hundred and four dollars and fifty-six cents for the "payment of the funeral expenses of our late Rev. Pastor, Timothy Harrington, deceased, and other incidental charges."

At a meeting in April, 1797, Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, John Sprague and John Whiting were chosen a committee to "erect suitable gravestones in memory of ^{The late Rev. Timothy} ~~Mr.~~ ^{decd.} Harrington, with such inscriptions thereon as ^{shall} ~~should~~ be proper for the subject." The gravestones cost sixteen dollars. The inscription will be found in the Notes on the Old Burying Yard.

An order for clearing and cutting the brush in the burying-ground, amounted to two dollars and a quarter. It is not specified whether the Old Yard or the Old Common Yard was meant. Subsequently, 1799, the matter of appointing a sexton or sextons to take care of the burying-places, was referred to the selectmen, who were authorized to carry it into effect.

The record of the town, in its capacity as a parish, will be creditably closed, for the last century, by the following action, taken, April 3, 1797, on a report made by Daniel Rugg, Ephraim Carter, John Sprague, John Whiting and Eli Stearns. "The committee to whom was referred the article relative to singing, beg leave to report that it will be expedient for the encouragement and promotion of knowledge in that part of religious worship, a sum be granted and assessed with the minister's tax of seventy-five dollars for the support of a singing-school." The report was accepted, and the money raised.

The setting up of Sterling having been effected, a few points remained to be adjusted between the mother and daughter. May 19, 1781, the town clerk and selectmen were appointed a committee to "recover the town of Lancaster's books from Sterling." Committees were chosen to perambulate the line of division, and also to divide the town stock and arrange about the division of the poor who received town support. Probably the wishes of these objects of bounty were regarded, by placing them in the towns to which they belonged by birth or residence.

A project was before the town, at different times, to unite with some of the neighboring towns, in establishing a workhouse and almshouse in common, but it does not appear that any permanent plan was ever adopted.

All matters of dispute between Lancaster and Sterling were finally adjusted, by the following agreement, bearing date November 1, 1784. "We the subscribers, selectmen of the towns of Lancaster and Sterling have this day reckoned and settled, and received in full for all accounts against said towns, and have agreed that all the accounts which shall be brought against said towns, shall be paid by the towns they originated from; and have divided all town stock, and poor of said town, agreeable to the act of the general court for the division of said towns, called the incorporating act. In witness whereof we have set our hands." Signed by Nathaniel Beaman, Jona. Wilder, Jonas Fairbank, jr., for Lancaster; and Israel Moore, Benj. Richardson, and Josiah Kendall, jr., for Sterling.

The records of Sterling 1781 to 1794 were all
burned. The proprietors records of "additional grant"
are at Lewinnton.

* It has.

In 1791. the same sort of disfigurement was allowed
by setting off the Larkin farm to Berlin. (see S. E. corner
of Clinton -

(a) This record ran through several years. The
wife's name was Lucy Priest - In 1781 she sundry
times received aid "for keeping her husband".
Ruth Farmer the same year received aid for "keeping her son".

Subsequently it was agreed that the line between the towns should be according as those living on the border were taxed.

This accounts for the jagged and unsightly look of the map, made by running the line, zigzag, ^oround farms which lay on either side of a straight line. Such folly has not since been allowed to disfigure any other part of the town's lines. X

As stated already, the town had before it the question, how to support those who were unable to support themselves; and in this connection, was the other question, what should be done with the idle and dissolute, who would not support themselves, nor their children. For many years there was neither almshouse nor workhouse. The vicious, when their presence could be endured no longer, were warned out of town, if they had no legal residence here; or were handed over to the county jailer.

The poor were kindly treated. Sometimes aid was rendered to families. There is the record of a woman receiving ^(a) aid from the town for taking care of her husband. Like cases when one relative cared for another, are found. Some were boarded at the expense of the town, in families which would receive them. They were expected to work on the farm or in the house, so far as they were able. This diminished the cost to the town. The children of such parents were to be sent to school according to the requirements of the law. It was the duty of the town authorities to take the place of parents towards children whose natural guardians were unable or unwilling to take good care of them. They were bound out to farmers or mechanics, and so trained to habits of industry and thrift. The men who took them into their service, were under bonds to feed and clothe them, and to give them training in business, as well as a fixed time to attend school. Towards the close of the century, there appears to have been an unusual number of children needing the guardianship of the fathers of the town. It is believed that the town has an honorable record in regard to its treatment of her unfortunate children.

a In 1791 the selectmen put an ancient law into working order, by instructing the constables to warn out of town certain specified persons. The edict was issued several times between January and April, and more than a hundred persons, male and female, with their children, and all under their care, were ordered to depart. The warning reached high and low alike. Jacob Fisher, Michael Newhall and Eli Stearns, were in the number. An extract from the Records, March 11, 1791, will illustrate a curious phase of life in preceding generations. The mandate is to the constables, in the words following. "You are directed ^{in the name of the Common Wealth of Massachusetts} to warn and give notice unto the Hon. John Sprague, late of Rochester, in the county of Plymouth, Esq., and sheriff of the county of Worcester, John Maynard, late of Framingham, in the county of Middlesex, Esq., Edmund Heard, late of Worcester, in the county of Worcester, Esq., Ebenezer Torrey, late of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, gentleman, William Stedman, late of Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex, Esq., Merrick Rice, late of Brookfield, in the county of Worcester, gentleman, and Joseph Wales, late of Braintree, in the county of Suffolk, gentleman, who have lately come into this town for the purpose of abiding therein, not having obtained the town's consent therefor, that they respectively depart the limits thereof, with their children and all ^{there} under their care within fifteen days."

Judge Sprague had been in the town about twenty years, and had already represented the town in the general court not less than four years. The others were frequently in responsible offices. How then can we account for this apparent freak, and make that seem reasonable which appears absurd? It was the law that no one could gain a residence without the consent of the town, and when persons moved in whose presence was not desirable, they were warned to depart. In the case of new comers who were welcome, nothing was done, and in process of time, perhaps half the people of a town would be in the category of those who were liable to be warned off. It is conjectured that about the date above named, a

The law was in "working order" elsewhere and long after this - Thus Felt writes of Ipswich "Persons recently moved thither" were "warned away without respect to character property or conditions" (1789). The custom prevailed throughout the state, as "an ounce of prevention".

From Columbian Centinel Feb 13 1793.

"At Lancaster this 5th ult. died Levi Wilder. His death was occasioned by a fall which he accidentally met with, in attempting to go down a steep pair of stairs, in the dark, being hastily called upon to rise from his bed, in the latter part of the night - by which his head was wounded - this happened seven or eight weeks before the last symptoms of the injury done to his head made their appearance. Trepanning and every method was tried for his relief, without effect. Those who were acquainted with his virtues, will lament the loss of a once valuable citizen. "

Ebenezer Torgy a retired Boston baker was first taxed here 1788.

Michael Hewhall disappears from tax list after 1791 - or rather is afterwards found as "non-resident" living in Leonistow, where he d. 1812.

Joseph Wales first appears in tax lists of "South side" 1786, and changes to "north side" 1794

William Stedman appears 1796 as of "South side", the next year north. He lived in the Dr Josiah Wilder house in So. Lancaster first, then in the Greenleaf mansion at Centre, upon which he added the top Torgy -

Edmund Hunt lived in So. Lancaster ~~in the~~ ~~first Wilder house~~ in the John Bullard house which stood where Daniel M. Howard lives. He was probably a tory - died in Canada.

x \$270 is probably a ~~low~~ estimate. Willard says that
in April 1780, one silver was worth forty paper
dollars, and a few months later sixty eight;
\$270 would be about $\frac{1}{100}$ of \$8000 = (2666.66 in silver)

number of people came hither, who for various reasons, were not wanted, and that in warning them to depart, strict impartiality was used towards all who had not obtained the town's consent to set up their homes in Lancaster. The warning having been given, those whose presence was desired, could easily get permission, while the others would be obliged to return to their legal domicile, or "seek fresh fields and pastures new." Fortunately for them the commonwealth was large enough to give every man a home.

Seven years later, there was an article in the warrant, May 2, 1798, "to enquire in what manner citizens of the town who ^{are} were not lawfully settled herein, might become so;" and the subject was referred to a committee of three, viz., John Sprague, William Stedman, and Timothy Whiting, jr. The result came out in this form at an adjourned meeting: "that the subject of that article be referred to the assessors, they to communicate with the committee thereupon, and receive from them the results of their enquiries, and thereafter to act their discretion relating thereto."

During the revolutionary war, nothing was done in relation to the education of the young besides keeping the schools as usual. No changes by way of improvement, and no addition to the annual appropriation could be expected in such a time. At the annual meeting, 1780, the town voted to raise the sum of £8,000 for schooling. Nothing was done in regard to the grammar school, but probably it was continued. The grant was in the depreciated currency, and perhaps was equal to \$270.00.

The next year Sterling was set off, with about half of the territory, and nearly that proportion of the children of school age. But the appropriation for schools was made before the division. The sum raised for schools was eight thousand pounds, when the "price of a man's labor" was fixed at twelve pounds a day in summer, and nine pounds in winter. The method of keeping the grammar school was not changed.

At the annual meeting in 1782, eighty pounds were raised to "be schooled out in squadrons as formerly." This was the sum granted in years before by the undivided town. The word "squadron" as applied to divisions of the town for school purposes, seems to have come into general use about the time of the revolution. This year the price of a man's labor was three shillings to the last of September; and two shillings for the remainder of the year. The next two years the same sum was applied to schooling. The currency was greatly improved.

But in 1785, a step was taken in advance. The sum devoted to schools was £100, and a committee was chosen to "inquire into the ^{state} condition of the several school squadrons, and make a new ^rregulation so that there may be a Squadron or squadrons so large, nearly in the center of the ^ttown, as will be sufficient to maintain a grammar school through the year." Gershom Flagg with the Assessors, who were Nathaniel Beaman, Ephraim Carter, jr., Timothy Whiting, jr. and Moses Smith constituted the committee. They reported to the adjourned meeting, April 4, when the town voted that George Hill squadron and the Neck squadrons [there were two] should keep the grammar school that year, and that nine pounds additional should be raised for schooling, the said squadrons to have the benefit thereof. This included the whole of the Neck, on the east and west roads, South Lancaster and George hill; in short, a large majority of the town and probably a still larger proportion of taxable property.

The town at the same time authorized the purchase of "the back part of Mr. Sprague's house for a workhouse," on the ground doubtless, that the idle and vagrant needed some wholesome discipline. Probably nothing was done in regard to the workhouse, as the matter came up the next year, in another shape.

The annual meeting in 1786, took action in regard to schools similar to that of the year before. The question came up as to "what measures the town ^{will} would take" with divers ^aidle, dissolute and disorderly persons and poor families" who had



The quotations from Town Records, I have in most cases supplied with Capital letters as they stand in the original, to show the liberality displayed in such matters, by town clerks of that period some of whom were liberally educated men.

come into the town, but had not "gained an ^Iinhabitan^Icy therein." The town also considered the best measures for providing for the "support and education of the children of poor and improvident parents, * * * and for preventing the baneful ^{attempts}influence of indolence and ^Iintemperance" that too much ^{have}prevailed." Another article for consideration related to uniting with the towns of Harvard and Bolton in building a workhouse.

Votes were passed in favor of the joint workhouse, and removing the idle and dissolute who had not gained a residence. With regard to the neglected children, the following important action was taken. The selectmen were directed to attend immediately to the circumstances of the poor families in the town who ^{are}were likely to become chargeable, and to bind or put out to good masters, or into good families, all children which by law they were empowered to put out, to the end that the "rising generation in this town ^{may}might not be brought up in ^Iidleness, ^Iignorance and vice."

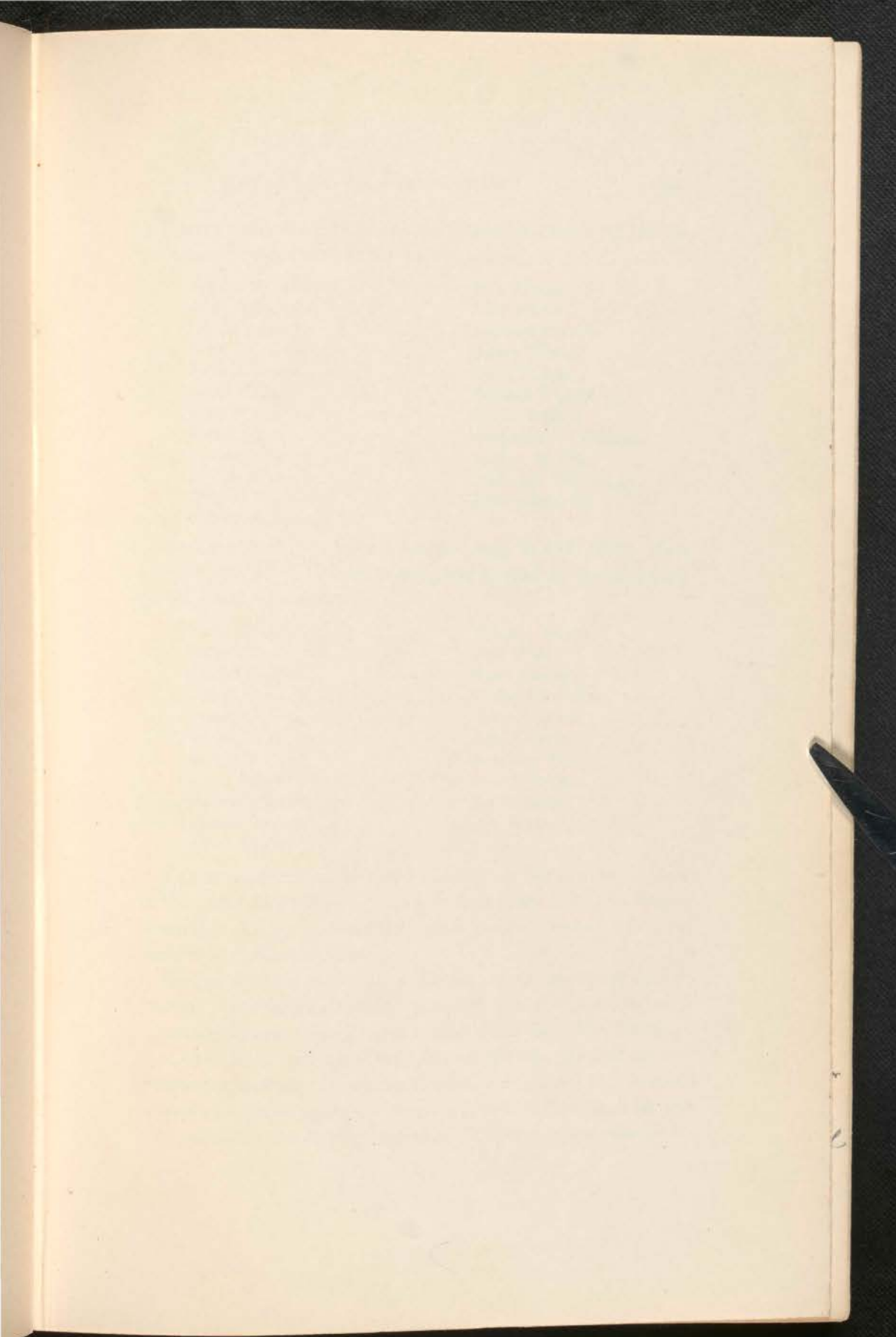
The joint workhouse project failed of concurrence.

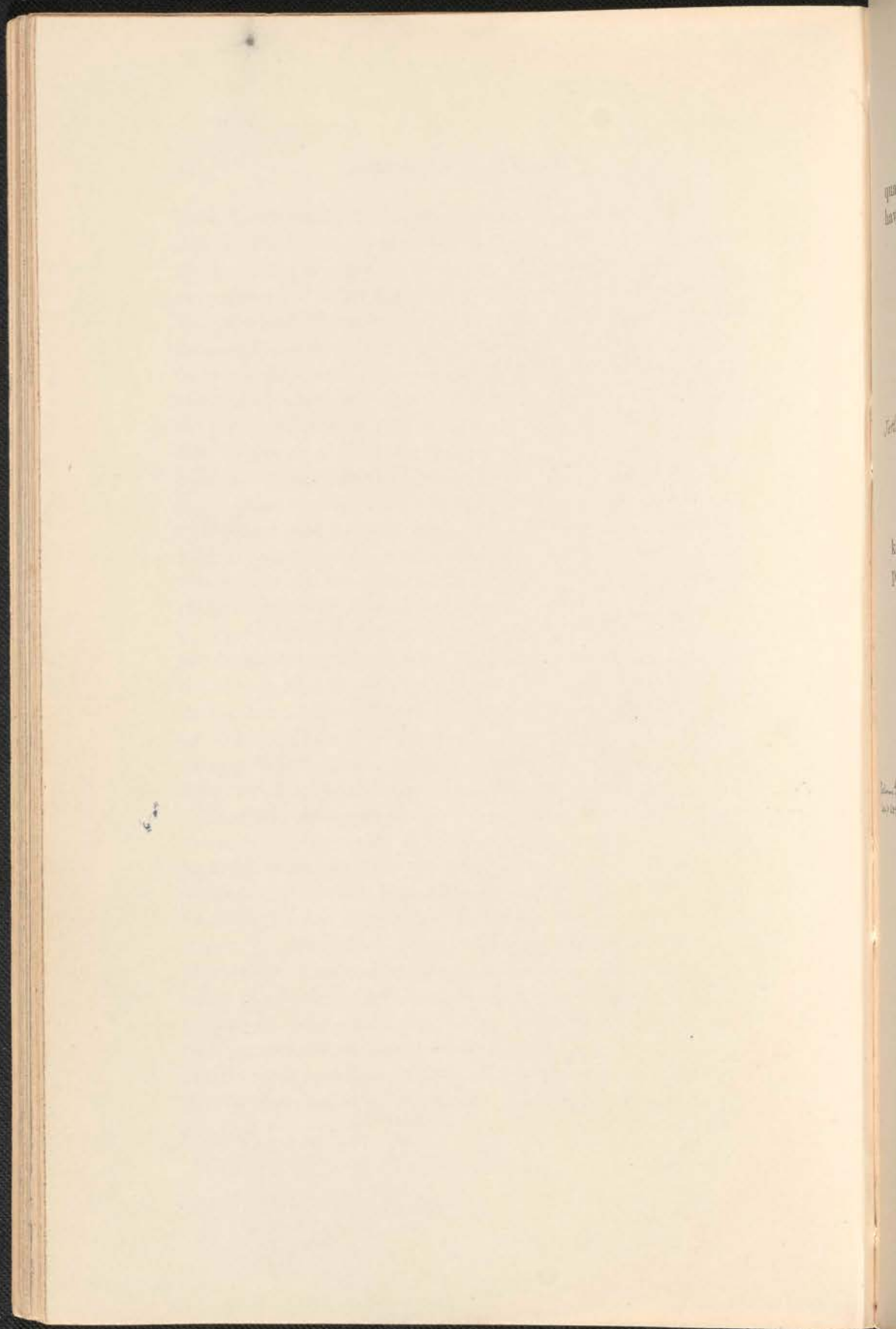
The appropriation and division of the school money continued the same in the two succeeding years, with the following important modifications which were presented and approved, May 12, 1788.

"Proposals for a ^Igrammar town school. On condition the town will vote to any squadron in town twelve pounds to support a grammar school for the space of one year, and also vote that the ^Isubscribers may be a ^Isquadron in town, and draw their own money as other squadrons do, the subscribers do engage to become a ^Isquadron agreeable to such vote, and to support such school for that ^Iterm on the following plan. 1. Arithmetic, Grammar and other Arts beneficial to the rising generation, shall be taught in said school. 2. No scholar shall be admitted into said school who cannot read the Psalter well without spelling. 3. The school shall be ^Iquarterly visited and inspected by a ^Icommittee of five persons, whereof the ^Iminister of the town for the time being shall be Chairman. Two

of the four shall be chosen by the town, and two by the squadron. 4. The town may at any time vote minors into the school, whose parents are unable to educate them there, paying their proportion for each scholar so voted in, and by a committee vote in school affairs, on equal principles with subscribers, and be considered as part of the squadron while they have one or more scholars in the school. 5. And whereas the money which the said squadron may draw as their proportion of the school money granted by the town, may not be sufficient to defray the charges of the school, and the remainder must be otherwise raised, 'tis therefore provided that any person may send one scholar, paying their proportion of the money so otherwise raised, and to be averaged by the number of scholars in said school, such scholars being entered for one year at least, and no person not being of the squadron, shall send more than one when the number of scholars shall amount to thirty. 6. The squadron shall have the sole direction of the school so far as is consistent with the foregoing plan." The subscribers to the school were John Sprague, William Greenleaf, William Locke, John Ballard, Michael Newhall, Jonas Wyman, Nathaniel Willard, Edmund Heard, Moses Smith, Josiah Wilder, Samuel Ward, Israel Atherton and Peter Thurston. The town voted the conditional twelve pounds for one year.

The same arrangement was continued in the year following. It was in this year that the general court enacted the law authorizing towns to divide themselves into districts for school purposes, which Mr. Mann considered the "most unfortunate law ever enacted in the state" in relation to the schools. The town immediately acted under the law, and on the tenth of May, 1789, formed several squadrons or districts. One was called the northern squadron, and was "formed of the following persons and estates," and the school-house was placed at the "cross of the roads south of William Hosley's," now Joseph Farwell's. The names of Willard and Farwell are still common in that section of the town. The Whites, whose head-





quarters were at the fork of the roads west of Still river bridge, have no representative in the neighborhood.

Samuel Sanderson,	Paul Willard,
John Willard,	John White,
Oliver Tenney,	Leonard Farwell,
Jona. Tenney,	Abner Whitney,
Samuel Stevens,	Peter Tenney,
Jona. Willard,	William Willard, jr.,
John White, jr.,	Simon Willard,
Frank Davis,	Benjamin W. Willard,
<i>Jotham</i> Jonathan White,	Jotham Woods,
Abijah White,	Nathaniel Willard, jr.,
William Hosley,	John White, 3d.
William Willard,	

Another squadron, with a school-house at Col. Henry Haskell's, north of the Brick tavern, was formed of the following persons and their estates.

Henry Haskell,	Timothy Barret,
John Richards,	Jere Pratt,
Daniel Knight,	Peter Stieney,
Joseph Farwell,	William Deputron,
Peter Atherton,	Peter Willard,
Ebenezer Pratt, jr.,	John Campbell,
Daniel Willard,	Benjamin Priest,
Jona. Stone,	Joseph Priest,
<i>(Salmon Godfrey)</i> Solomon Goodfry,	Jacob Zweär,
<i>see p 659 note</i> Lemuel Barret,	Asa Wyman.
Israel Butler,	

To the squadron of Edward Robbins in the northwest part of the town, the following persons were added: ^{Capt} Daniel Rugg, Manassah Knight, Jacob Kilbourn, Daniel Johnson, Widow Knight and Samuel Rugg.

On the seventh of June, 1790, the town accepted the report of a committee, which provided for the building of a "Latin grammar school" near the house of Rev. Mr. Harrington, and raised one hundred pounds for the support of the English grammar school, to be divided among the several school squadrons upon the same principle as before, with the exception that an appropriation of fifteen pounds should be

annually deducted from the two center squadrons, viz., the Neck and George hill, so called, which sum was to be used in support of the Latin grammar school, provided such a school should be kept in a school-house situated in the most convenient central spot in the town.

The "most central spot" was not considered, on reflection, to be near Mr. Harrington's, whose house was in front of the residence of Mr. Thayer; and therefore, the town, on the fourth of October, voted to place the Latin grammar school-house "on the common land south side of the road opposite Gen. Greenleaf's garden." Gen. Greenleaf lived in the Mansion house, so called, and the school-house was placed near the house of Daniel Stowell. From this it appears that the town owned "common land" in the vicinity of Mr. Stowell's and the railroad station. The school-house stood there, and there many children received a good education, during two generations. The house was moved to the Old Common, and thence to South Lancaster.

The plan of the house reported by the committee did not suit the town, whereupon another committee was chosen who immediately reported that the house should be "28 feet long and 22 feet in breadth, with 12 feet posts, with nine windows, 24 squairs of glass each, and a porch in front 10 feet by 7, with two windows 12 squairs each, two chimneys, one at each end of said house, and to be seated within as the committee for building said house shall direct." Deacon Cyrus Fairbank, Capt. John Maynard and Mr. Jonas Lane were chosen a building committee.

In 1791, the town raised one hundred and forty-seven pounds for schools, and appropriated the money as in the year preceding. Efforts were made to satisfy the minds of the people in regard to the division of the money, and the support of the Latin grammar school, but nothing permanent was effected.

The appropriation, the next year was one hundred and fifty pounds, and the money was divided according to the following plan, by which it appears that the town was now arranged

1791. February 7. - it being an adjourned meeting of Lancaster Proprietors. it was voted that the proprietary "relinquish to the several towns in the bounds of Old Lancaster all their Right to the Rodes in the Respective towns and that each Town have a Right to dispose of and alter said Rodes within their limits not to injure the publick.

Nathaniel Longley Moderator
Cyrus Fairbanks P. Clerk

It was not moved to the Old Common. A house was built and used on the Old Common as the "Academy". It was moved to New Boston when the "George Hill District" was divided ^{in 1826} and used as a school house until 1853 when it was moved to the rear of John G. Thurston's house & turned into a carriage house & is now Rice's Great Market. A new steep roof was put upon the building & a school room fitted up in the attic story about 1845-6. - Steedman Nourse kept the first school in New Boston in this schoolhouse teaching 90 pupils of all ages; his son kept the last school in the old building in the winter of 1852-3 having 60 scholars, an apparent decrease of $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ (in a quarter of a century) in the children. But among the 90 scholars of 1826 were many older than any to be found in the schools of today & the territory of the district was considerably larger than at present.

"The Committee appointed by a vote passed the second day of April 1792 for providing a plan expressing of the most equitable method for schooling the ensuing year, do report That as an alteration in the boundaries of the several Squadrons so as to put their several proportions of the School money on the most equitable plan, at present seems impracticable, it is their opinion that the several Squadrons as they now stand ought to draw their several parts of one hundred Pounds which may be raised for the support of the English Grammar Schools in the following proportions for the present year: - See "

George Hill included New Boston until the division in 1826 - of this Squadron into two.

^{ye} thirteen squadrons. The committee to whom the matter was referred, found that it would be impracticable at that time to alter the bounds of the squadrons so as to make an equitable division of the money, and gave their opinion that the "several squadrons as they then stood" ought to draw their several parts of one hundred pounds which might be raised for the support of the English grammar schools in the following proportions, viz.

Neck, [present Center]	£15- 3- 9
George hill,	14-19-10
Old Common,	5-10- 0
William Willard, [north east]	7- 4- 5
Simon Willard, [old No. 3, east side]	2- 1- 1
James Goodwin, [Lunenburg road]	6- 7- 9
Henry Haskell, [Shirley road]	4-16- 8
Ebenezer Allen, [New Boston] <i>Clinton</i>	7- 1- 0
<i>Dea.</i> Cyrus Fairbank, [Deers Horns]	8-10- 0
Aaron Lyon, [No. 3, west side]	8-13- 2
Walnut swamp, [Ballard Hill]	14- 0- 0
William Tooker, [Clinton] }	3- 1-10
Stephen Wilder, " <i>South Woods</i> "	2- 9- 8
	<hr/>
	£100-0-0

"And should the town appropriate one hundred and fifty pounds for schooling, that fifty pounds of the same be appropriated for the support of the Latin Grammar school in the same way and manner as in the last year." The committee were John Sprague, Israel Atherton, William Stedman, Timothy Whiting, jr., Samuel Ward. The idea does not seem as yet to have dawned on the town that all the children should have equal opportunities for education, but only according to the taxes of their parents or guardians.

At an adjournment of the annual meeting in 1793, held April 1, much business was done in relation to schools. First, one hundred pounds, lawful money, were appropriated for the

support of the English grammar, and sixty-five pounds for the Latin grammar schools, to be applied as in the last year. The following men were chosen to "inspect the schools": John Sprague, William Stedman, Israel Atherton, Esq. This is the first record of a visiting committee. It had always been the duty of the minister, but Mr. Harrington was now too infirm to do the service.

Next a committee of six,—John Sprague, William Stedman, Israel Atherton, Timothy Whiting, jr., esquires, Capt. Samuel Ward and Mr. Benjamin W. Willard—was chosen to "report ^{an} uniform method to be observed by the ^{Several} school-masters in town for teaching schools in future." Then a committee of three was raised "for hiring a Latin grammar school-master" for the year ensuing. Ebenezer Torrey, Timothy Whiting, jr., and Eli Stearns were charged with this duty.

Later in the year, the two squadrons, known as Col. Haskell's and Salmon Goodfry's were united, and the "people called Shakers" had the privilege of "drawing their own money, and schooling it out in their own way."

The report of the committee appointed to propose a uniform method of instruction in the schools was not made till January 7, 1794, by which time Rev. Nathaniel Thayer was in position to render assistance, for which the town voted grateful acknowledgments. The report is too long for insertion, but some of its regulations may be given in an abridged form. 1. The grammar school was to admit all who could read the English language by spelling the same. 2. The third class was to consist of those who could read by spelling, and they were to be taught to spell the words in the lessons without the book. They were also to attend to accents. 3. The second class was to read without spelling the words, and they were to use the Dictionary in spelling. They were to study Grammar and apply its rules in reading. Then they were to learn to write. 4. The first class was to advance to the study of Arithmetic and Geography. 5. The same rules, substantially applied to the scholars in the district schools. 6. Persons

Solomon on
page 357
but "Salmon
Godfrey" on a stone
in old church yard
see p 639

6

a. This is not so - The same Committee was elected the year before 1792 - Moreover in 1788 under the provisions of the Proposals for a Grammar Town School (See p 349-50) Timothy Whiting jr and Jonathan Wilder were elected a visiting Committee of the Grammar School, to serve with Rev. Timothy Harrington and two others elected by the Squire.

Visiting Committees Chosen

1794 Rev. N. Thayer - John Sprague Esq. Timothy Whiting jr.
Wm. Stedman Esq. John Whiting Esq. - Capt. Saml. Ward
Eli Stearns

1795 Rev. N. Thayer jun^r Sprague Esq. Timothy Whiting jr.
William Stedman Esq. Capt. Saml. Ward. Israel Atherton.
Merrick Rice.

1796 Rev. N. Thayer, Ebenezer Torrey, John Whiting.
jun^r Sprague Esq. Wm. Stedman Esq. Capt. Saml. Ward.
Israel Atherton. Joseph Wales. Jonas Lane

1797 Rev. N. Thayer, Joseph Wales, Timothy
Whiting jr. John Sprague Esq. Wm. Stedman Esq.
Capt. Saml. Ward, Israel Atherton, John
Thurston, Ebenezer Torrey, John Whiting
Eli Stearns.

1798-9 see p. 357-

{ Too long, but see pages 518-20, where his own list of text books etc. is given space by the author
b. This Report was in full this:

The Committee appointed by the Town to propose an uniform method of instruction to be observed in the several Schools report as follows, viz:

Art: 1 The Grammar School Master shall refuse all, who cannot read the English language by spelling the same, unless the Selectmen shall otherwise direct agreeable to the Law.

2. The third class shall consist of those, who read the English language by spelling the same, and the lessons they read in this manner, they shall be taught to spell without the book, and particularly attend to accents.

3. The second class shall read without spelling; and by the use of the Dictionary shall practice upon the principles of spelling in which they have before been instructed. They shall also learn English grammar, and apply the rules of grammar in their reading; upon their improvement therein, they shall be learned to write.

4. The first class, in addition to the exercises of the second class, shall be instructed in Arithmetic and Geography.

5. The Scholars in the district schools, having made such proficiency, as to be able to read the English language by spelling the same, shall conform to the method above prescribed.

6. Persons, who in the opinion of the visiting committee are sufficiently qualified for the purpose, if it be requested by their parents, shall be taught the Latin and Greek Languages.

7. The following books shall be used in the schools, viz. Perry's Spelling book and grammar. Perry's Dictionary, the Bible, Pike's Arithmetic and Morse's Abridgement of his Geography.

8. The Latin and Greek authors, to be used in the Grammar School, shall be pointed out by the visiting committee.

9. The respective School masters shall furnish the committee at the time of visitation, with a list of the names of their scholars, classed agreeable to the preceding regulations.

10. The School committees in the several districts shall give notice to the visiting committee of the time when their respective schools commence, and for what term they shall continue.

11. The Town Clerk shall furnish the Grammar School master for the time being, and the several district committees with a copy of the preceding regulations.

The committee recommend to the consideration of

qualified for the study of Latin and Greek, were to take up those languages if their parents desired it. 7. The books prescribed were these: Perry's Spelling Book and Grammar, Perry's Dictionary, the Bible, Pike's Arithmetic, Morse's Abridgment of his Geography. The Latin and Greek authors were to be selected by the committee. They recommended that the town provide school-books for the scholars, but that one book might be used by more than one scholar. That is, the same book would go from one to another. They also advised that teachers should obtain certificates of their qualifications, according to law, before beginning their schools. One hundred pounds were appropriated for the support of the English grammar schools, and seventy pounds for the Latin grammar school. The committee to inspect schools were Messrs. Thayer, Sprague, Timothy Whiting, jr., John Whiting, Stedman, Ward and Eli Stearns.

Two hundred pounds were devoted to schools in 1795, seventy of which went to the Latin school. Salaries and fuel were included. The town was districted anew for the purpose of lessening the number of schools, and increasing their duration. The three northern districts were reduced to two, and the two in the southeast were united in one. The Neck and Old Common districts were formed into two. The several districts were to be known by numbers as follows, viz.

The school-house near Leonard Farwell,	No. 1
“ “ in the northwest,	“ 2
“ “ near Jeremiah Ballard,	“ 3
“ “ “ Samuel Wilder, [George hill]	“ 4
“ “ “ the corner of ^{by} Wm. Phelps, [Lane Crossing]	“ 5
“ “ “ Dea. J. Wales, [Neck] “	“ 6
“ “ “ Amos Sawyer, [Deers Horns]	“ 7
“ “ south of Prescott's mills, [Clinton]	“ 8
“ “ near Edward Fuller, [Harris mills <i>South Woods</i>]	“ 9

The committee reported that the town should build the school-houses; that the money for schooling should be divi-

ded among the schools according to the number of scholars from four to twenty years of age; and that the Latin school should be suspended two months in the year, between December 20 and February 20; and that the money thus saved, should be "averaged upon the five smallest and most distant districts." It appears, however, from the Records that ten districts were retained.

Federal money came into use in 1796, and two hundred and seventy-five dollars of it were appropriated for the support of the Latin grammar school; and five hundred dollars for the other schools. Nothing was done, as yet, in the way of building the new school-houses. In some districts there were old houses; in some, barns, shops and rooms in dwelling-houses were used.

The appropriation in 1797 took off twenty-five dollars from the Latin grammar school, probably because the time had been shortened. An important modification of the schools was made, this year, in accordance with the recommendations of a committee, headed by John Sprague. Avoiding details, the following will enable the reader to understand the main point of alteration.^{2^o} That the Latin and Greek grammar school be kept the current year, by several masters in several places, viz., six months in the grammar school-house by a master provided by the hiring committee; two months in the Neck district; two months in George hill district; and two months in the Walnut swamp district, different in time from the said six months, by masters provided by the ^{respective} several districts, and paid out of the school money they severally draw." It will be seen that the same master might have been employed by the several districts in succession, and that probably was the intention. Latin and Greek scholars might attend in any district to which they did not belong by paying tuition.

The visiting committee in 1798, consisted of eleven highly respectable men, probably every one of them capable of performing their duties, except in the examination of the Latin and Greek classes, and perhaps half of them were equal

the Town, the expediency of purchasing a number of the books above mentioned &c &c

They also recommended to the committees in the several districts, that the school masters they may employ obtain a Certificate of their qualifications agreeable to the law before they begin their schools.

They further recommended, that a committee be annually appointed to carry into effect the foregoing regulations or to alter, amend or multiply them, as they shall from observation, find necessary for the purpose of rendering uniform the method of instruction in the several schools

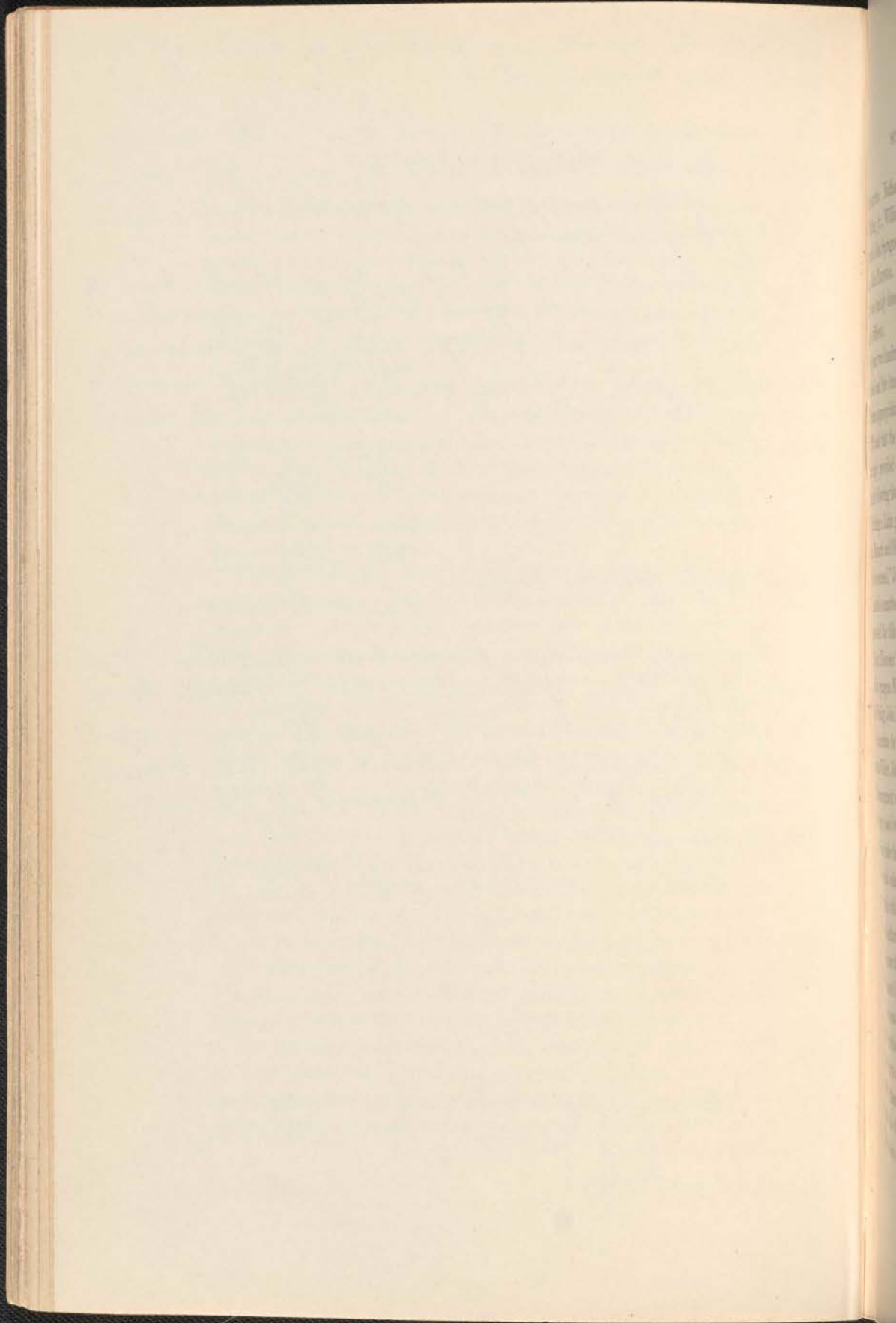
Nathaniel Thayer
John Sprague
Israel Atherton
Wm Steadman
Saml Ward.

Lancaster Jan^y 21. 1794.

At a legal meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of Lancaster held on Tuesday Jan^y 21. 1794. The town voted to accept the foregoing report with the exception, that indentured Apprentices & servants be not held to a strict observance of the rules contained in said report.

Attest Joseph Wells Town Clerk.

N. Thayer, J. Sprague & Wm Steadman were the only classical scholars - though John Whiting had some knowledge of Latin & French



to this service. Nathaniel Thayer, *ex officio*, Samuel Ward, T. Whiting, jr., William Stedman, Ebenezer Torrey, John Maynard, John Sprague, John Whiting, Joseph Wales, Jonas Lane, John Thurston. The duty of visiting the schools, however, was mainly done by Mr. Thayer, who was very faithful and efficient.

This year two hundred dollars were expended on the classical school and five hundred for the other schools. *\$75 for a singing school.*

The same appropriation for the support of schools, was made in 1799, and that the money might be well expended, the town amply provided competent committees, as will appear from the following list.

For hiring a Latin grammar school-master, Samuel Ward, John Maynard and Oliver Carter. John Maynard "requesting to be excused," John Whiting was chosen in his stead.

A school committee of eleven "to visit the schools" was composed of the following leading citizens. Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, Ebenezer Torrey, Jonas Fairbank, Israel Atherton, John Sprague, William Stedman, Timothy Whiting, jr., John Whiting, John Thurston, Jonas Lane, Daniel Rugg.

The committee for "hiring a singing-school master," were Jonathan Wilder, John Thurston and Samuel Rugg.

This arrangement reached into the year 1800, and thus the old century closed with honor. The opening of the present century was under favorable auspices, as regards education. Mr. Thayer had enlarged ideas in relation to schools, and he was surrounded with men endowed with more than common foresight and culture. Sprague, Ward, Stedman and John Whiting had more than a local reputation, and the other gentlemen were noted for their good sense and energy.

Mr. Thayer came at the right time, and he fitted into the place which providence had provided for him. His visits were made regularly to all the schools in the town, and his advice and general influence related not only to the teaching and government of the children, but also to morality and religion. There have been improvements in school-houses and school-

books ; in the range of studies and the methods of teaching, but it may be doubted if our schools now exert a better influence in raising up men and women fitted for all the duties of life.

Not much was done in the way of building new roads in the last quarter of the last century. Chockset had been well supplied with highways, byways and private ways before the old town had become willing to part with that section of her domain. After that event there was a call for new roads, or for the straightening of old roads, in the south and west part of the town ; nearly all of these traveled ways pointing to Prescott's mills, or Clinton. That enterprising town owes much to the successive generations of Prescotts, inasmuch as they began to make the mills the central point of travel.

In 1792 a road was laid out from Still river bridge to a point not far from the present residence of the Misses Farnsworth. Early in the history of Lancaster there was a road from the old home of John White, [now Edward Houghton's,] over the land of N. C. Hawkins and S. R. Damon, across the road by the clay pit, and thence to the south end of Pine hill. The road forked by the first Scar, and crossing the river by a ford, ^xpassed ^a on to the Bolton road south of the Haynes estate. The left branch passed along the west side of Pine hill to the point where now the Farnsworth road crosses the Cranberry meadow. Then it ascended the hill, and ran north the whole length of the hill, and came out at another John White place, opposite what is now known as the Dyer place. Long afterwards the road to Harvard, after reaching the vicinity of Eben C. Mann's house, turned to the right into the woods, descended the hill into the lands east of the house of Cyrus K. Goodale, and thence went north and east by the old brick yard, to John White's, and so forwards to Still river, or White's bridge. The road, in 1798, was laid out nearly on its present line, leaving the valley, and keeping on the hillside, by the Willard, the Whittemore and the Burbank farms to the Harvard line.

In the same year the road leading from the present town

In 1792 the road from Prescott's Mills over the hills
across the river was laid out, but the bridge was to be
made no charge upon the town's treasury -

In December 1798. The main highway between
the Celestial and north villages was straightened
by order of Court:

xx Beginning at the South West Corner of the
door-yard of Judge Spragues farm house, where
Jacob Fowler's family live, thence within the old road
north four degrees twenty minutes east fifty rods to
the center of the well's mouth in front of Nathaniel
Arnold's dwelling house, thence north one degree and
twenty minutes west. nineteen rods to land of said
Arnold, thence the same course fourteen rods to the
South-west corner of the door yard of Major Rice's
dwelling house, thence North five degrees East
sixteen rods crossing said Rice's land, a part of
the Divoll farm so called, thence the same course
crossing said Divoll land thirty-eight rods to a
heap of stones by land of Doct^r Green, thence the
same course crossing said Green's land thirty-
five and one half rods to a heap of stones by
land of Mr Jacob Sweetser, thence the same
course partly on land of said Sweetser's land
and partly on the old road fifty-two rods to
a heap of stones by land of said Green. thence
the same course fifty-five rods to an Elm
tree standing in the east side of the old
road near David Holsley's house. Then
laying the said road four rods wide on the
Westerly side of the aforesaid lines.

Damages were given Divoll \$25 Sweetser 7
James Liverwell 30

farm, by Mr. Schumaker's, (once the land of the celebrated John Hancock,) and the old Capt. Maynard place, to the county road by Taylor's mills, (now Ponakin,) was opened.

A road was also laid out from the house of Aaron Lyon, on the Shirley line, south by west one hundred and seventy-seven rods to a point on an old town road. This was done "at the request of the people in this town known by the denomination of Shaking Quakers, and on condition that they be at the whole expense of the laying out and making such road."

Though the roads of Lancaster became fixed in their present beds a hundred years ago, with such variations as always occur in the onward life of a town, yet the bridges, on the other hand, have been a constant and a heavy charge, through every generation to the present day. In 1782 the vote in the May meeting raised only sixty pounds for highways and bridges. Later in the season, fifty pounds were added, and still later, ten pounds more. But this amount merely kept the roads and bridges in passable order for the time being. Not far from this time there must have been a great destruction of bridges, because the Records show that the town was engaged, for several years, in building bridges, at great expense, and raising money by unusual methods.

A special meeting was held on the first day of January, 1783, to see if they would "ch^uose a committee to petition the general court for a lottery in said town, for the purpose of building and repairing the bridges." The town chose John Sprague, ^{Capt.} Timothy Whiting, jr., and Samuel Ward a committee for this purpose, who succeeded in obtaining authority for getting up a lottery. At the March meeting, one hundred and seventy pounds were raised to be "worked out at highways and bridges."

On the seventh of April a committee of five, viz., Jonathan Whitney, Ephraim Carter, jr., Gardner Wilder, Jonas Fairbank, jr., and Moses ^{Smith} Wilder, was chosen to "superintend the rebuilding and making good the public bridges and cause-

ways" in the town, and to "draw money out of the hands of the managers of the lottery for payment of the same."

In 1784 one hundred and twenty pounds were devoted to repairing highways and bridges; and a vote was passed in March that the "lottery ^{shall} ~~should~~ commence drawing on the first Tuesday of April," and further that the town " ^{will} ~~would~~ take to their own ^{risque} and account all the Tickets ^t" that ~~should~~ ^{all} remain unsold ⁿ at the time of drawing.

The town, on the sixth of September, raised the question whether to "purchase a road through Quassapon^lkin, or to build a bridge across the river in said Ponⁿkin." The matter was referred to a committee,—Ephraim Carter, jr., Jonathan Whitney, Timothy Whiting, Ebenezer Allen and Peter Green,—who reported at another meeting in favor of making the purchase of a road, instead of building a bridge. The state of the case was probably this. The road through Ponakin intervale was partly private, and perhaps portions of it had been washed away, as there have been frequent and great changes in the course of the river. Possibly also a bridge at Ponakin, had been carried off by a flood. The question was, whether to buy a road through the intervale, on the east side of the river; or go along the west side to Ponakin, and then bridge the river at that place. The phrase "purchase a road" seems to show that there was already a road; probably, as said above, in part or wholly a private way. The selectmen were authorized to purchase the road. The building committee were directed by the town, September 21, to call on the inhabitants to "work out their rates in the last town tax * * * at the bridges."

The lottery scheme did not work smoothly, and the town took measures to secure its rights. The history of the whole proceeding would furnish a curious and painful chapter, but it must be passed over briefly. It appears that the managers had sued the town for damages and costs of prosecution. The dispute was about the cost of managing, as the profits were distressingly small, and the managers charged a large percent-

(a) What a farago of useless guessing about a very short and simple change in a roadway!

a yet these managers must have been proved worthy
for in 1790. Edmund Stead & Ephraim Carter
were employed to aid the management of the
Leicester Academy Lottery -

b Whitney notes that the "Saw mill on the north branch
about two miles from the meetinghouse was swept off,
and about three acres of good rich interval land
washed away to the depth of 12 feet, leaving only
a bed of cobble stones entirely useless."

age. A committee was appointed to settle with the managers, on the eighteenth of November, and the selectmen were empowered to borrow money, since the taxes and the profits of the lottery were not sufficient to meet the demands on the treasury. The town was found to be in debt to the managers in the sum of £317-0-9½; so that we are not surprised to find that a committee was raised to inquire what the "common custom was for managers to have for managing a lottery."

The work of bridge building went forward, but at a moderate rate. Perhaps the committee were hindered by the want of money; perhaps by successive floods. Some of the voters were becoming impatient, as was evinced by an article in the warrant for a meeting in March, 1786, which was to see if the town would dismiss the bridge building committee, and choose another in their place. The town, however, voted to pass over the article.

Then came a new disaster, as appears by the following, in a call for a meeting, September 27, 1787, to see "what method the town will come into for repairing the bridges and causeways which have been carried away in the late flood, and to raise money for the above purpose." A hundred and twenty pounds were raised for the purpose, and the work was put into the hands of Nathaniel Willard, Moses Sawyer, Michael Newhall, ^{Capt} Edmund Heard and ^{Capt} Ephraim Carter.

Action was taken, October 15, to see if the town would appoint "Inspectors of bridges that in case of floods every precaution ^{may} should be used to prevent the loss of bridges." Two inspectors were appointed for each of the following bridges.

Jonas Wyman, } Meeting House [Sprague] bridge.
Capt Edmund Heard, }

Nathaniel Willard, } Neck* bridge.
Capt John Whiting, }

Josiah Phelps, } Below Dr. Atherton's.
 William Locke, }

*This was sixty rods below the present Center bridge. 2

Jonathan White, }
Capt. John White, jr., } White's [Still River] bridge.
 Maj. Gardner Wilder, }
 Nathaniel Eaton, } Bennett's [North Village] bridge.

The new bridge committee with the addition of Major Gardner Wilder, and Dea. Houghton, were directed to consider the expediency of building a bridge near ^{Greenleaf's} Greenleaf's mills. These mills, formerly Col. Joseph Wilder's, were several rods, down stream, below the present Ponakin bridge. A saw mill was on the east side and a grist mill on the west side of the river. The committee reported in favor of the project, and the town, November 5, voted to build the bridge. This bridge was placed above the old dam which was washed away in a subsequent flood. Fifteen days later the town raised one hundred and twenty pounds for building the bridge, and charged ^{Capt.} James Carter, ^{Deacon} Benjamin Houghton, James Goodwin, William Wilder and Jonathan Wilder with the work.

The bridge at Greenleaf's mill was built, but not without a supply of liquor, as appears by the following vote, May 12, 1788. "The committee for building the bridge * * * will be empowered to provide drink for said purpose at their discretion."

The bill for repairing and building bridges, in May, was as follows :

For building the Atherton bridge, . . .	£156-15- 6½
“ “ Sprague “ . . .	296- 2- 6
“ “ White, or Still river, . . .	54- 4-11

The net proceeds of the lottery up to the same date footed up to a respectable amount, as these figures show.

Net proceeds of the second class of the lottery, . . .	£73-14- 3
“ “ third “ “ . . .	113-15- 0
“ “ fourth “ “ . . .	62- 7- 8
“ “ fifth “ “ . . .	88- 5- 0
Total,	£338- 1-11

? Only a total of \$1293.68

[N^o. ~~2243~~]

LOTTERY for Re-building the BRIDGES and
Repairing the CAUSEWAYS in LANCASTER.

C L A S S the S E C O N D.

THIS Ticket entitles the Possessor to such Prize as may be
drawn against its Number ; agreeable to an Act of the
General Court of this Commonwealth, passed February 15, 1783.

I

S. W. J.

^r Sawyer's Bridge was not in Clinton territory, but in New Boston. It is the South Lancaster, now called Mill Bridge. On the map opposite p. 366, it is called "Widow Sawyer's Bridge" [see foot of page]

CLASS 5. No. 2302
 LANCASTER Bridge Lottery.
 CLASS THE FIFTH.
 THIS Ticket entitles the Possessor to receive such Prize as may be drawn against its Number, according to an Act of the General Court of this Commonwealth, passed February 15, 1783.
 E *Wilder*

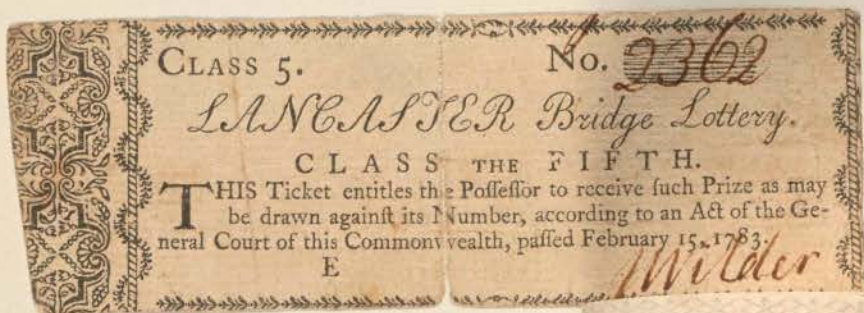
1st cl
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10 " 108⁵0-0
 11 " 101²2-0
 12 " 99²0-0
 985⁵15¹¹ = \$3286

N^o. 3440
 LOTTERY for Re-building the BRIDGES and Repairing the CAUSEWAYS in LANCASTER.
 CLASS the FIRST.
 THIS Ticket entitles the Possessor to such Prize as may be drawn against its Number; agreeable to an Act of the General Court of this Commonwealth, passed February 15, 1783.
 E *Wilder*

^s The vote was "to raise five hundred dollars to defray the expense of rebuilding the bridge near Mr Paul Whiting's" — Paul Whiting in 1797 advertises his farm of sixty acres in the Centinel as one and a half miles west of the Church on the road to Charlestown No 4". He however lived later at the Turnpike tollhouse. Was not this the Position bridge? The records say nothing about the Bolton road, and the town did not own the Turnpike bridge.

^r The article under which action was taken reads "To see if the Towns will rebuild the Bridge heretofore called Sawyer's Bridge where or near where the old Bridge formerly stood" What authority the author has for locating this bridge in what is now Clinton, he alone knows. The South Lancaster Bridge was called Sawyer's in 1795. — see p. 366.

Sawyer's Bridge was not in Clinton territory, but in New Boston. It is the South Lancaster, now called Mill Bridge. On the map opposite p. 366. it is called "Widow Sawyer's Bridge" [see foot of page]



	Net Proceeds	Ad. 1789 + 1790
1st Class	?	
2 "	73 $\frac{1}{2}$ 14.3	
3 "	113 15.0	
4 "	62 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7.8 ³	
5 "	88 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5.0	
6 "	38 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8.0	6 ^s to the dollar.
7 "	72 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12.0	
8 "	111 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0.0	
9 "	117 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12.5	
10 "	108 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0.0	
11 "	101 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2.0	
12 "	99 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0.0	
	985 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11 ³	\$ = 3286

S The vote was "to raise five hundred dollars to defray the expence of rebuilding the bridge near Mr Paul Whiting's" — Paul Whiting in 1797 advertises his farm of sixty acres in the Centinel as one and a half miles west of the Church on the road to Charlestown No 4". He however lived later at the Turnpike tollhouse. Was not this the Pomfret bridge? The records say nothing about the Bolton road, and the town did not own the Turnpike bridge.

I The article under which action was taken reads "To see if the towns will rebuild the Bridge heretofore called Sawyer's Bridge where or near where the old Bridge formerly stood" What authority the author has for locating this bridge in what is now Clinton, he alone knows. The South Lancaster Bridge was called Sawyer's in 1795. See p. 366.

x Sawyer's bridge, so called, in the extreme south part of the town, (now in Clinton,) was built in accordance with a vote, April 6, 1789. In May the "old bridge committee" were dropped, and John Sprague, Timothy Whiting, jr., and John Maynard were substituted. x 1*

The reader may be interested in seeing the working of the lottery scheme, as shown by a report, July 6. In the sixth class the number of tickets was 2,700 at two dollars each, = \$5,400. Paid in prizes, \$4,732, leaving \$668. Ten per cent. on the nominal value of all the tickets was paid the managers, equal to \$540, leaving profits to the amount of \$128.

The seventh and eighth classes had three thousand tickets each; the expenses at each drawing were four hundred and eighty dollars; and the amount of profits in both ^{of} drawings ^{cases} was six hundred and twelve dollars. The managers received the lion's share in every drawing. Many thousand dollars changed hands, and as the tickets were probably bought by the poor more freely than by the rich, the cost of the bridges fell upon the former to a far greater degree than if the bridges had been paid for by a tax. It is a fair supposition that many of the prizes were drawn by parties living in other towns, [thus taking money from Lancaster.] But a far more damaging item, pecuniarily, was the waste of time when the town came together, on many different days, watching with intense eagerness the results of chance. And worse than all was the habit of gambling which was induced and encouraged by the legislation which allowed such a mode of raising money.

In 1795, November 23, five hundred dollars were raised to defray the expense of rebuilding the bridge near Paul Whiting's, [on the Bolton road.] S

The great expense to which the town was subjected by the frequent floods which carried away one or more of the bridges, led the town to apply to the general court in the fall of 1796, and a committee was chosen to present the request, in connection with the selectmen and the representative. It does not appear that the appeal was successful. At the same time the ^{for aid?}

\$ 242
370
\$ 612

Laws ?

did it
come together?

d "selectmen with Mr. Torrey were authorized to keep the Neck bridge in legal repair for the term of one year." One year only, as the town hoped the state would lend its aid. Mr. Torrey lived near the entrance of the road upon the intervale beyond C. L. Wilder's barn.

a' An important change was proposed in the last year of the century, but was not consummated at once. In the warrant for a town meeting, January 6, 1800, was an article to see, among other things, if the town would take measures in future, to "rebuild the bridges with stone instead of wood."

a'' The ravages of the small-pox in former times were fearful. The dread of its coming marred the happiness of millions. Anything which would mitigate its virulence was hailed with joy. Lady[^] Wortley Montagu[^] made herself the benefactress of the English race by advocating the method of inoculating for the small-pox, which she had become familiar with while her husband was British minister at Constantinople. By her persistent endeavors the practice was begun in England, by some of the faculty, and soon grew in favor. It was introduced into this state by Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, against the prejudices of the people, and the opposition of the profession.

b The learned Rev. Cotton Mather, one of the most enlightened * men of his times, and unmatched in America for his various learning, gave Dr. Boylston his powerful aid. It gradually grew in favor, till the benefits of vaccination were demonstrated, since which time it has gone into disuse. Dr. Israel

c Atherton, of Lancaster, exposed himself to the hazard of disease and death, as well as the hostility of some of his townsmen, by setting up a "pock house," or "pest house," as the hospital for inoculated patients was vulgarly termed. August 30, 1790, the town was asked to give "consent to have a hospital opened under the direction of Israel Atherton, Esq., for the purpose of inoculating for the small-pox," and the required consent was given. Dr. Atherton was to occupy the house of Jotham Wood^s, with his leave first obtained. By repeated licenses of the town, the hospital was kept open till

a Torrey was a Boston baker, retired from
business. He was first taxed here 1788.

a' Why "at once"? It never has been consummated.
There is no stone bridge in Lancaster as yet.

a" Lady Mary Wortley Montagu - the author means. born 1690? Eng.
died 1762.

Isaiah Baylston 1680 - 1764.

b. "Enlightened" is about the worst-chosen adjective in the
language, to describe this pedantic and bigoted, ^{leader in the} persecution
of witchcraft days in Massachusetts.

c. Last Thursday a special Court of General Sessions
allowed five hospitals for inoculation for small pox: one
at Lancaster.

Directors, Dr. Dunsmore and Wieden
Mass. Hs. Sp. Aug 21, 1776.

In 1776 also, Dr. Israel Atherton was associated with
Dr. Thaddeus McCarty in the establishment of a hospital
for inoculation, at Fitchburg. (in Hist. Fitchburg) The statement
that he "exposed himself... to the hostility of some of his townsmen"
I must think gratuitous - an inference of the author, not a
fact of record. The author seems not to have suspected that the
pock-house of 1790 was not the first in L. I find no
mention of the location of the first.

1744.
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R. W.
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1794, and was much resorted to by those who were willing to obtain security from the disease in the natural form, by running the risk incurred by inoculation. The house of Jotham Wood^s was on Pine hill, in a most beautiful situation, towards the northeast end. There is a spur of the hill here which juts out into the intervalle and overlooks the valley of the Nashua and the opposite hills, for many miles. Standing here the lover of nature feasts on the prospect with delight.

Dr. Atherton was authorized to erect other buildings, so far as needful, according to the demand of the patients. Wood's house was large, and the depression of the cellar still remains, with other depressions very near. The house was taken apart, at a later date, and moved from the hill to the road that goes by the Dyer place to Still River. It was then made into two houses, one of which was occupied by John White and his descendants for many years. The old cellars bear witness to this day.

A fallen stone or two indicate where the remains of a few victims of the loathsome disease were buried on the hillside. Near at hand was, and is, a copious spring, issuing from the bank, half way down to the intervalle. So much in memorial of a custom and a locality which once were a subject of deep and painful, yet hopeful interest to all the people of this town and the towns around.

In this connection it may be stated that there were in the last century several other houses on Pine hill. There was a little neighborhood, perhaps a mile south of the house of Jotham Wood^s on the east side of the hill, and looking down upon the intervalle, and the ever beautiful Nashua. The remains of cellars still mark the location of the houses, and until quite recently the remnants of an old orchard were visible. Three houses at least were removed from the hill, and are now occupied by Silas Houghton, Edward Wilcox and John R. Wyman, on the road to Harvard. After the public road over Pine hill was superseded by the present route to Still River, the place became too isolated for habitation, and the

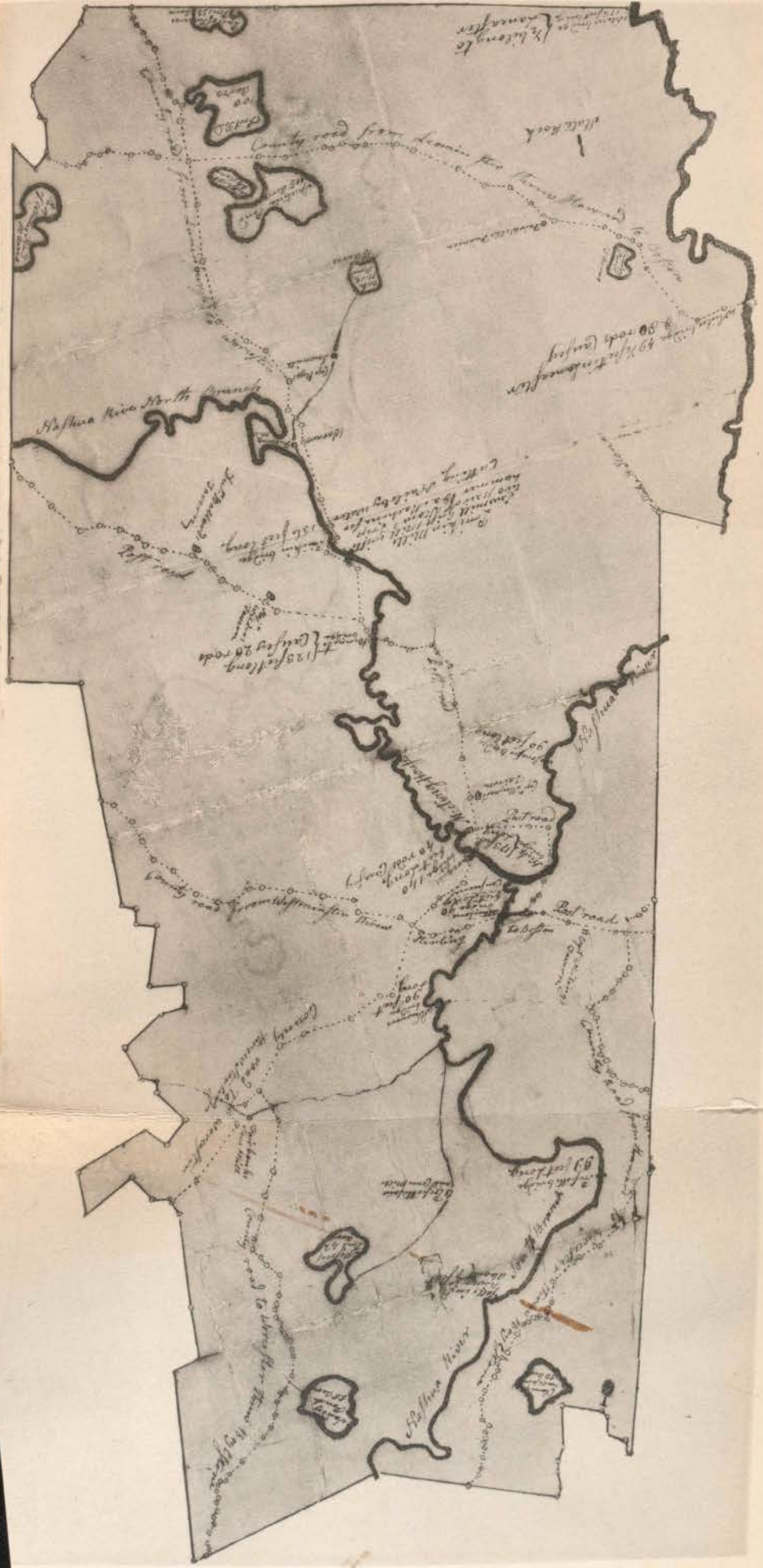
residents moved away. With pleasant neighbors it would be a charming place for a rural home. Now it is a frequent resort for boys and girls, young men and maidens, and even children of a larger growth who delight in the wild haunts of nature.

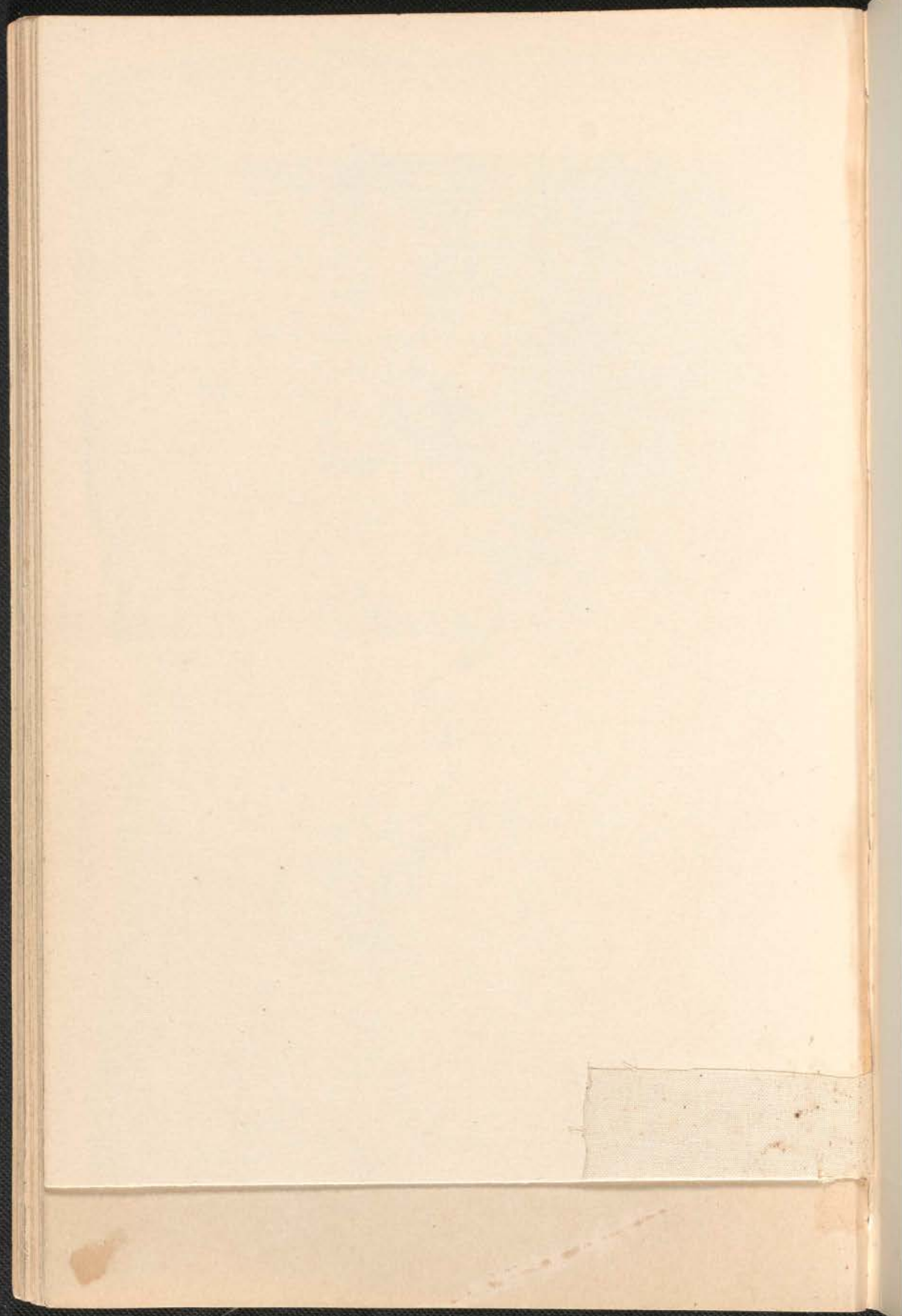
The state, in 1795, required the towns to make a survey, and accordingly this town, August 6, chose^u a committee of three to "take or procure an accurate plan of the town." The committee were Gen. John Whiting, Dea. Benjamin Houghton and Major Merrick Rice. This ancient plan or map is now preserved in the office of the Secretary of State, Boston.

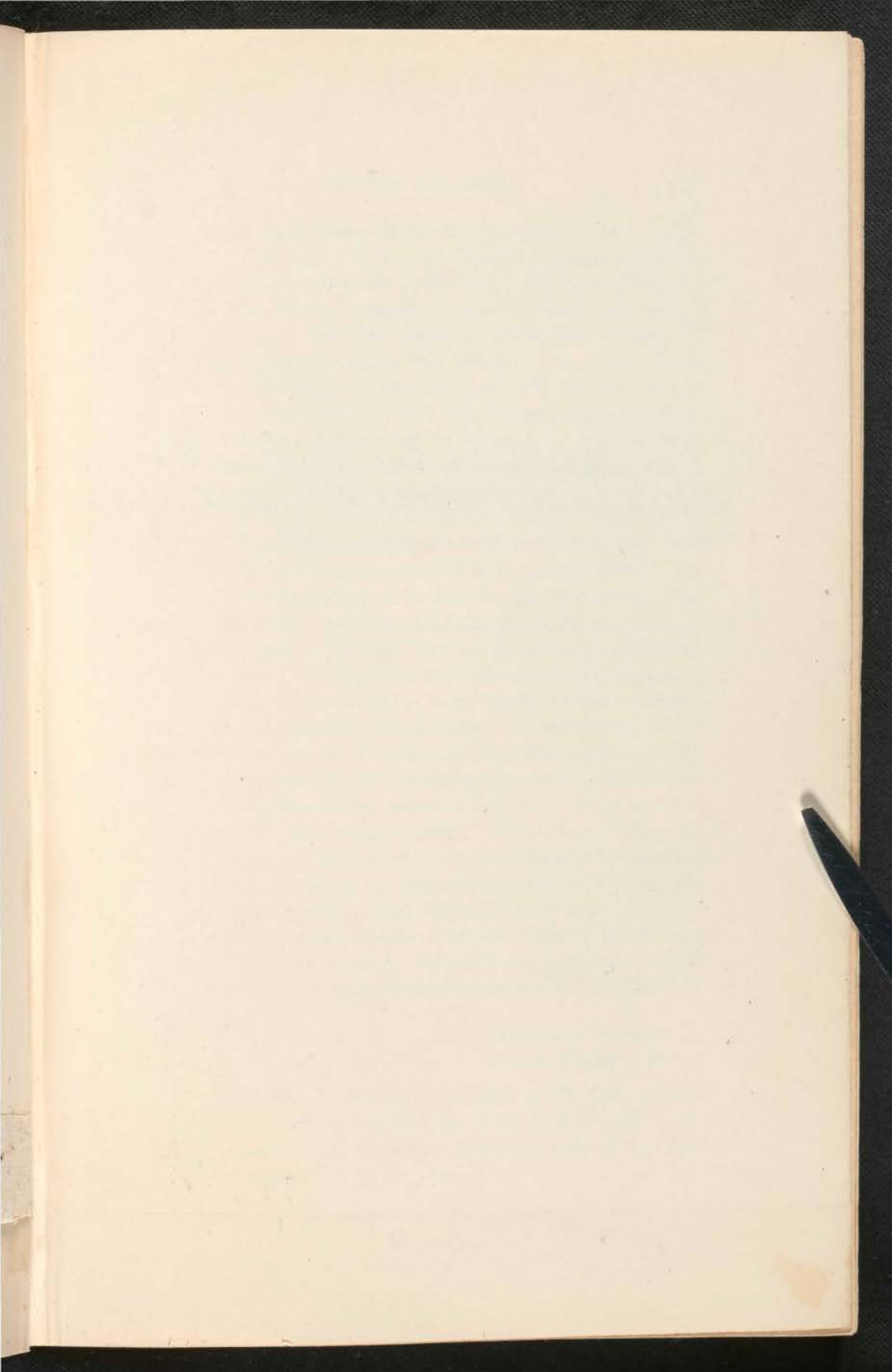
A heliotype copy of the map, somewhat reduced in size, is here inserted. By consent of the Secretary of State, Hon. Henry B. Pierce, a photograph was taken, full size, from which our copy was made. The following items of information were written at the top of the sheet; but as there was not room for them in the heliotype copy, they are inserted in this place. [See map on the opposite page.]

"The above Plan represents the town of Lancaster * * surveyed in obedience to an order of the general court, dated June 26, 1794. On the above Plan is inserted and described each town line which meets or joins with Lancaster, and the time when ran, and by whom surveyed. Also the rivers and roads being surveyed and planned; have noted the bridges which are as followeth, viz. beginning upon the south branch of Nashua river, the first bridge is called Prescott bridge, 99 feet long, town way; 2d bridge is called Sawyer's bridge, 90 feet long, town way; the 3rd bridge is called Atherton bridge, a small space above the confluence of the branches of Nashua river. Said bridge is 90 feet long, on a county road. The 4th bridge that I am about to describe is called Ponikin bridge, on the north branch of the Nashua river, on a county road; said bridge is 136 feet long. The fifth bridge is called Bennett's bridge, on the Post road, 123 feet long; Causey, 20 rods. 6th bridge is called Sprague's bridge, near the meet-

*not a town
bridge until
1815.*







John Prentice writes the name Wiles.
Richard Wiles was taken into the church Aug 17. 1712.
Wiles grew more common in later generations.

ing-house, a small space above said confluence. Said bridge is 140 feet long, and a Causey 40 rods long on a county road. The 7th bridge is called the Neck bridge, [60 rods] below the confluence of Nashua branches, on the Post road; said bridge is 173 feet long. The 8th bridge is called Jones' bridge, 90 rods [feet] long, no road to said bridge. The 9th bridge is called White's bridge on Harvard road, 49½ feet in Lancaster, and 80 rods Causey. The 10th bridge is called Wileses [Wilds'] bridge, 58 feet long in Lancaster. The width of said rivers, the south branches and north branches in general, is about 6 or 7 rods wide; and below the confluence is about 9 or 10 rods wide. But one house for public worship which is represented in the above, near the Center of said town. Falls in the Entervales northwesterly of said meeting-house. The distance from Lancaster to Worcester, the shire town, is reputed at 15 miles; and from said Lancaster to Boston, through Concord, 36 miles; through Lincoln, 35 miles; through Sudbury, 37 miles. In Lancaster are 8 Ponds, and two pieces, as above. There is but one fall of water worthy of note, although a swift stream, which is noted above. No mountains, manufactories. Here is two Potashes, and one Pearl Ash; one fulling mill; one machine for manufacturing nails; one furnace for casting hollow-ware; one trip-hammer. Mills here are four saw-mills and two grist-mills. No mines, or minerals, or iron works. In Lancaster is one farm claimed by the Commonwealth, containing by estimation, seventy-five acres, formerly owned by Col. Abijah Willard, about sixty rods eastwardly of the meeting-house. This above plan is plotted by a scale of 200 rods to an inch. Completed surveying and plotting, May 29, 1795, by the subscribers, (excepting what credit is given for.)

MATTHIAS MOSMAN,
CALEB WILDER, JR."

The population of the town in 1790, by the first national Census was fourteen hundred and sixty, and in 1800 it was fifteen hundred and eighty-four, making a gain of one hundred and twenty-four in ten years.

The ever-recurring question of dividing the county, came before the town again in 1798, when three men voted in favor of a division, and more than one hundred in the negative. (107)

The town purchased of John Sprague, Esq., and the Rev. Mr. Thayer a "piece of land for a burying-field," May 28, 1798. This is now known as the "Middle Cemetery," of which a more extended notice will be given in the chapter on Cemeteries.

Great changes in the population took place in the latter part of the century; first by the coming of several families from Reading, and secondly by the formation of the Shaker families in Lancaster and Shirley.

Probably there were changes in all parts of the town, as well as in the northern section, but we have more definite information in regard to the latter. One whose memory is a full repository of ancient facts—J^r Marshal Damon—gives the following items in relation to several families who took up their abode here between eighty and ninety years since.

Samuel Damon, with his family, came from Reading to this town, April 20, 1796. He owned a large section of land where C. K. Goodale and the Willard brothers now reside. He was soon followed by a number of families who settled on lands that had been owned by persons who had joined the Shaker community. The following came from Reading. William Gould, Joseph Emerson, with three sons, Elias, Ephraim and Charles; Timothy Lewis, Jonathan Tenney ~~or Kenney~~, Joseph Upton, John Goodwin, William Nichols, Isaac Cowdry, and the widow Foster, who married Nathaniel Burbank. Dr. John Hawkes had preceded these by many years. Isaac Saunders lived on the south side of Ponakin hill. The old house still remains in a ruinous state.

The formation of the Shaker community was the occasion of a remarkable revolution throughout the northern part of the town, from side to side, and extending as far south as Gotham and Ponakin hill. Mother Ann Lee, whose strange

This burying-field was a parallelogram containing before addition was made - 1 acre, 24 rods. Fifty dollars was the price paid for it.

* Samuel Damon was a soldier in Col. Willard's Regiment present at Bunker's Hill fight + at Vanderoga. His name also appears in the artillery company that served in 1814 at Boston.

Tenney - see page 351 -

From Evans' Compendium, we find that

Mother Ann & the Elders in May 1781 started from
Watertown on a missionary journey to Harvard Mass.
and other places in the Eastern States & did not
return until 1783 - June 1, 1783 she was at the
house of Elijah Wilds in Shirley where they were
mobbed. It is said in "Testimonies Concerning the
Character and Ministry of Mother Ann Lee" that
the mob surrounded the house & let no one out.
One of the Elders was "whipped until the blood ran
to his heels"

Mother Ann did not escape from the house, but was
hidden in a closet with a low "half-door" which was con-
cealed by pushing a chest of drawers against it.

history cannot be read without interest after the lapse of nearly a century, raised a moral tempest in the three northern school districts as they then existed. Her character is still in dispute, but there can be no question that she was a woman of strong will and magnetic power. In one of her journeys from eastern New York to New England, she came to Lancaster, and seems to have found here a field all ready for the sowing of her strange doctrines or fantasies, as different parties might view them. Her coming was ⁱⁿ about 1780, and her first lodgment seems to have been made in the northwest section of the town. A man named Phillips owned the Simeon Whitney place on the road to North Leominster. This, with the house of Elijah Wilds, in Shirley, became the headquarters of Mother Ann at her advent. She was mobbed once when at the house of Wilds. She jumped from a back window and hid in the swamp west of the Shaker settlement. She held meetings at various houses, but after a time, a large room was used for the purpose on the east end of the house of Aaron Lyon, now owned by Otis Houghton, on Ponakin hill. This was in 1781-2, when the community or family was formed. To this center came crowds of people, who were moved as the wind bows the forest, by the burning words of Ann Lee. It is reported that strong men were so wrought upon by her searching words and terrible denunciations, as to fall upon their knees in open meeting, and with streaming eyes beg for mercy. By 1783 several families were numbered among her converts. Aaron Cook, John Clark, Aaron Johnson and Samuel Barrett, owners of farms in the north part of the town, joined the community. Moses Howard owned the Emerson place; Thomas Beckwith the John Whittemore place; a man named Melvin owned the house which stood on land of William J. Knight on the Greenbush road; Samuel Whitney lived on the place now owned by Charles Fairbank; Susie and Relief Whittemore, sisters and maiden ladies, owned the James H. Holman place. Most if not all of these, with a Mr. Worcester, on the Carr place, and Mrs. Manasseh

Knight, united with the Shakers. It is said that many fell away, and went back to the world, but that a large portion remained and died among them.

At length the Shakers were gathered into three families, one of which was in this town, just south of the northern line, and the other two north of the line, in Shirley. The last two still remain, but the buildings in Lancaster are rented. In some cases families were broken up, the father or mother leaving home, and joining the community. There was a violent ferment; the strangest notions were broached and discussed from house to house, as well as in public meeting. Yet the epidemic was confined to one section of the town, and scarcely raised a ripple south of Ponakin hill. In process of time the excitement subsided, and the seething elements, ceasing to effervesce, settled down into a quiet, well-ordered and thrifty community.

Members joined the Shakers from other towns, but Lancaster supplied a large quota. To show how the location of families was changed, it is necessary to go a little more into detail.

Aaron Lyon lived at the coming of mother Ann on the top of Ponakin hill, in the same house which is now occupied by Otis Houghton. The house is still in good repair. The situation is pleasant and commands an extensive view. Lyon joined and then left the Shakers. He had three sons, Aaron, John and Luther. His daughter Mary married Jonas Johnson. The late John E. Lyon, who acquired a fortune in connection with railroad business, was a grandson.

Abel Beckwith went from Ponakin hill to the Shakers, and remained till his death. Moses Howard, who also lived on Ponakin, joined the community.

Samuel Whitney went from the Ephraim Rugg place, which was near the corner of the Shirley and Goatham road. John Melvin went from his place on the Greenbush road. The Whittimore sisters lived on the northern slope of Ponakin hill, at the Holman place.

6 families.

The author ignores the chief settlement, the headquarters of Mother Ann white in this neighborhood. The largest community was in the northeast corner of Howard, where at length these families were organized. These with the Shirley and Larocette families form a bishopric.

(a) Most of this is needless repetition of what has already been detailed on preceding pages

* On the contrary, it is usually impossible to ^{distinguish} a "brother's" grave from a "sister's": the inscriptions being mostly initials only; and where the family name is given the first name is designated by a single letter in all but half a dozen instances. The head stones are not marble, except over the graves of a few deceased since 1860. The great majority are rough slate, quarried near by, showing little more than a foot in height above the ground. There are no "mounds of earth".

The wife of Manasseh Knight left the Knight place, so called, and joined the family. This place is now owned by Mr. Coburn of Gardner, and the house has recently been repaired and made to look as good as new.

Aaron Cook, another convert, lived back of the "old brick tavern." A family by the name of Cooledge lived on a spot long forgotten except by a few old men. It is a little north of the land which lies between Spectacle and Oak hill ponds, and is a pleasant little nook, in the woods. This pretty glade is marked by a few old apple trees, and the remains of a cellar and chimney. In old times a bridle, private, or some other way came down from the turnpike, by the house, and between the ponds, and so passed on to the Rugg mill. But Cooledge left his sylvan nest, and cast in his lot with the Shakers. Probably other families or individuals joined them, but it is impossible to get positive information so long after the events took place. However, there is reason to believe that John Phillips, and Abijah Phillips, with his three daughters, Grace, Hannah and Elizabeth, became members.

The burying yard of the families is in Lancaster, a little south of the town line. The field slopes gently to the south-east, and the ^{graves} (mounds of earth) are all in rows reaching north and south across the yard. The brothers are in one section and the sisters in another. The head-stones are small and plain, but they are marble. The yard is truly a cemetery, a quiet sleeping place.

The "holy hill" of the community is also in Lancaster. This rises like a dome just south of the town line, and west from the road. The summit is crowned or circled by trees which can be seen from a great distance. The appearance of the hill attracts attention and awakens inquiry. From a person who once ascended the hill, by invitation, on occasion of a religious ceremony, the following facts are elicited.

All the families in the community ascend the hill twice a year, at least. Whether the procession is made oftener is not certain. One procession is made in October, and one in the

spring. Outsiders are not expected or desired to be present.

When the time comes for the ascent, they all meet in the big house and form a procession. They march abreast in platoons, two or more males in line with two or more females. There is an alley or space between the sexes. At the foot of the hill on the north side is a small brook, spanned by a bridge. Here on the occasion referred to, the procession halted and formed into a square, the males and females on opposite sides. The elder then said something to this effect. "Whoever among us has anything against a brother or sister, let not him or her pass this brook until reconciliation is made."

Then and there all differences are settled. Explanations are made and received. Things which cannot be explained away or excused, are acknowledged. Forgiveness is asked and freely given. They all shake hands in token of amity and confidence. They then stand in the square and "throw love to each other." This is done by throwing both hands towards one another, and then drawing back the hands towards the heart, as if to take in the proffered love.

This touching ceremony, which has the appearance of entire sincerity, being finished, the procession is again formed, and all march up the hill in silence. The summit is enclosed by a neat fence. The enclosure is entered by a gate, (and made convenient) by a gravel walk.

In the center of the lot or sacred place, is a monument on which there is an inscription including the name of Jesus, and supposed to be in his honor. One person,—probably the religious leader,—read the inscription aloud in the hearing of the whole assembly. Then all knelt in silent prayer around the monument. After a suitable time devoted to this impressive exercise, they rose to their feet and sang one or more of their hymns. While singing they marched around the monument.

Several addresses followed from different members, after which the marching was resumed. This was again accompanied with singing. The interest increased and was expressed by shouting, though in musical cadence.

There is no "holy hill" in the Howard Community.

There are openings in the fence on each of the sides, at the center, but no gravel walks now visible. The monument, a tall marble slab, has an inscription on both sides. That upon the northern face proclaims that the stone was inscribed and erected there by the Shaker Community "by order of" J. P. Hunt. The whole southern face is covered with a

a. Paul Willard. father of Paul of Harvard Coll. 1817. His wife
was Martha daughter of Col. Henry Sturkell Wood 1817. His line
of descent is. Major Suron¹ - Henry² - Henry³ - William⁴ - William⁵ -

The whole ceremony having been completed, the company formed in procession again, and marched down the sacred hill in the same order as that in which they had ascended. When they reached the houses, those who by reason of age or infirmity were not able to join the march, stood in the doors and "threw love" to their brethren and sisters, and gathered it back again with their peculiar motion, as if taking it into their bosoms in double handfuls. The procession then dissolved, and each one returned to his or her respective home.

Our informant speaks of the whole exercise as having been peculiarly solemn and impressive. It was certainly well adapted to promote brotherly kindness and Christian charity. Whether the annual or semi-annual service is always conducted according to a set form is not known by our informant. But whether *ex tempore* or prescribed, there must be a blessing in it.

This chapter will be appropriately closed with a statement of the doings of the town, somewhat in detail, for the year 1800, the last year of the eighteenth century.

At the annual meeting, March 3, Capt. John Maynard was chosen moderator, William Stedman, clerk, and John Maynard, treasurer. The selectmen were Joseph Wales, Josiah Flagg, Joseph White. The assessors, John Whiting, Jonas Lane, Paul Willard.

The regular school committee consisted of the following prominent citizens. Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, Dr. Israel Atherton, Hon. John Sprague, William Stedman, Esq., Ebenezer Torrey, Esq., Capt. Timothy Whiting, Benjamin W. Willard, Gen. John Whiting, Capt. Jonas Lane, Merrick Rice, Esq., Josiah Flagg. It was the duty of this committee to visit the schools. In earlier times, that duty was generally expected of the minister of the town.

The committee to hire the Latin grammar school-master, were John Whiting, Oliver Carter and Eli Stearns. This school was under the inspection of the general committee.

Jonas Lane, Joseph Wales and Benjamin Wyman were chosen a committee to employ a singing-school master.

Fish Reeves were still chosen as regularly as the year came round. The legal profession were largely represented on the committee in 1800, as follows: John Sprague, William Stedman, Merrick Rice and Ebenezer Torrey.

Four hundred dollars were raised for highways, to be worked out.

At the April meeting the political sentiment of the town was shown by the vote for governor, Gov. Strong receiving ninety-seven votes, and Elbridge Gerry fifty.

Some looseness in disbursing the school money in the districts, led to the choice of a committee to call to account the several school districts respecting the expenditure of their respective portions. The committee were William Stedman, Benjamin W. Willard and Daniel Stearns.

When the first interments were made in the north part of the town is not definitely known, but the following action shows that the need of a burial ground was felt there before the close of the last century. In accordance with a petition from several persons, Benjamin W. Willard, ^{Col.} Jonas Lane and Benjamin Wyman were chosen a committee to "consider the expediency of appropriating a certain piece of land at the north part of the town, where a number of persons are buried, for the purpose of a burying field." The committee reported favorably, and the field was taken under the care of the town.

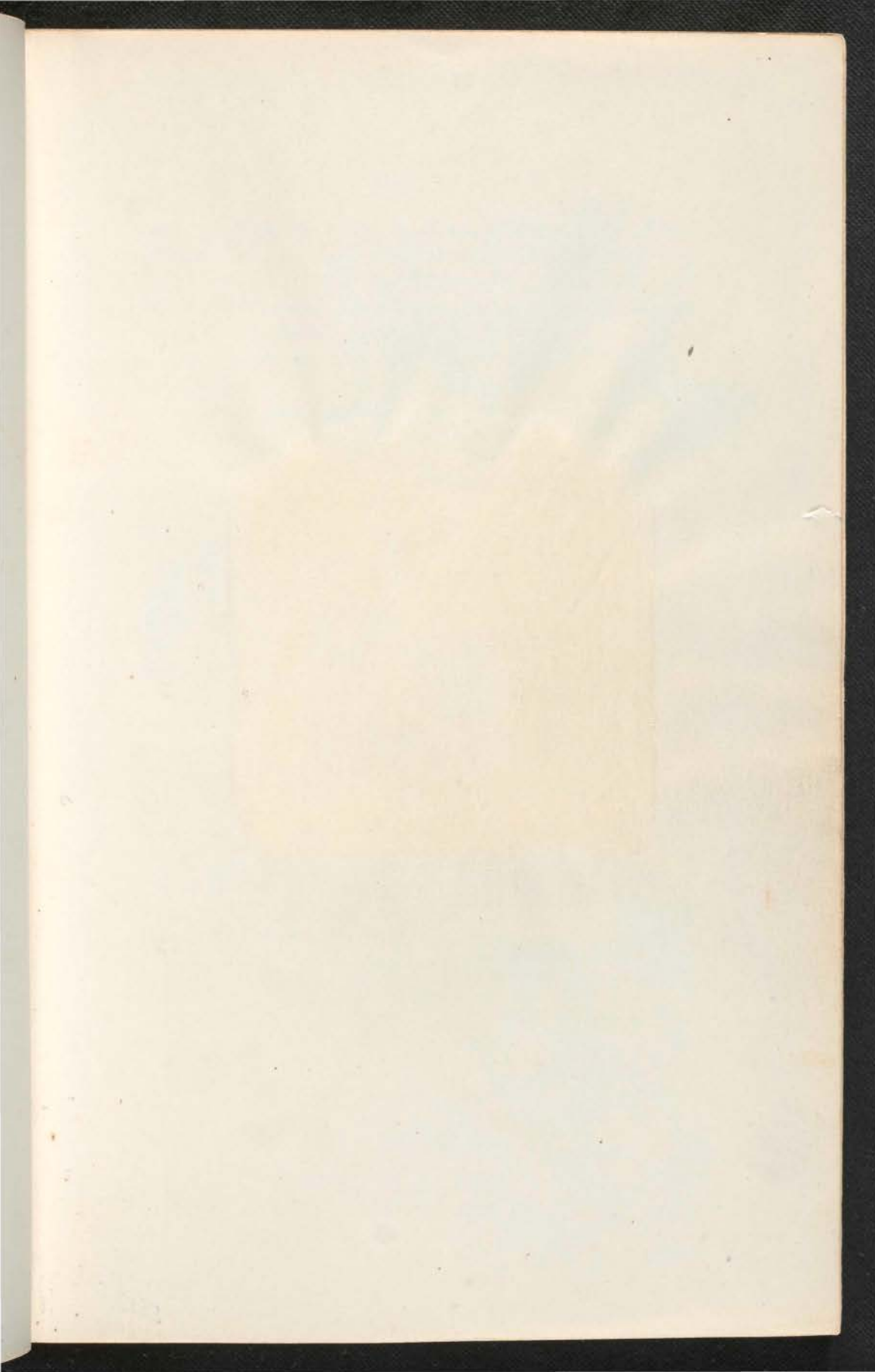
When the time came for choosing a representative, Judge Sprague, who had held the office many years, declined to be a candidate, and a vote was passed, "that the town do request him to accept of their thanks for his past attentions^{ve} and faithful services in that station." Capt. Samuel Ward was chosen in his stead.

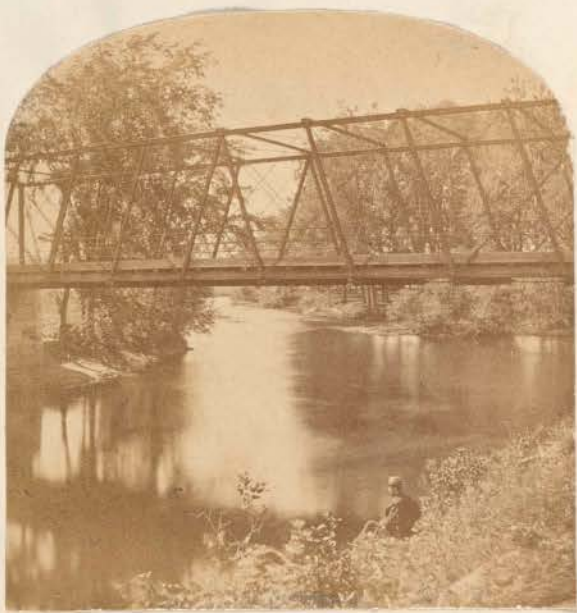
At the same meeting the duty of putting a "rail fence round the Old Common burying field" was assigned to Col. Jonas Lane, Capt. Timothy Whiting and Gen. John Whiting. This yard had already been occupied more than a hundred years.

There was, at the time, a project for building a turnpike through the Center, and Old Common to Bolton, and a com-

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"Custer Bridge & Meeting of Two Waters" - 1876.

mittee to whom the subject had been referred, reported in its favor, and recommended that a subscription be taken up in aid of the enterprise. The list of subscribers comes under a later date. The committee to raise subscriptions were ^{later} Merrick Rice, Samuel Ward and William Stedman.

It was voted that the small bridges in the town should be built with stones; that is, with stone abutments.

The town determined to have a road from the meeting-house, (then near the house of Mrs. Abbie Lane,) to the Old Common, and raised a committee to solicit subscriptions for a road and bridge. This was to avoid going round by the old Neck bridge. The committee were John Sprague, Timothy Whiting and Thomas Ballard.

At the October meeting another committee was elected to carry into effect the previous vote for building a road and bridge from the Center to the Old Common. John Maynard, Merrick Rice, John Thurston, Eli Stearns and Timothy Whiting were charged with this important undertaking.

Out of this action grew the present road from the Center by the railroad station and Center bridge to the Old Common. Previously the way was by the place of Charles L. Wilder, then along the Neck road on the west bank of the river to a bridge about sixty rods down stream from the present bridge. Soon after, that part of the Neck road which was on the intervale was abandoned by the town notwithstanding the people living on the Neck strove to have it retained, and even extended to the Center bridge after the old Neck bridge had been swept away for the last time.

*No Stone Carriage
abutments. Same in very
early days. When
timber cribs were
used perhaps.*

1802

CHAPTER XVII.

THE MINISTRY OF REV. TIMOTHY HARRINGTON, FROM 1748
TO 1795. STATE OF RELIGION AND MORALS AT THE
CLOSE OF THE CENTURY.

THE pastorate of Mr. Harrington continued during the long period of forty-seven years. In that period great events occurred which affected the whole people, and local affairs often stirred the feelings of the citizens of the town to the lowest depths. The last French and Indian war; the Revolution; the rise of parties, federal and democratic, which divided the nation, all concurred to bring about strife and division in communities, parishes and churches. The gradual change of sentiment in relation to religious truth, which came about in this period, brought its questionings and doubts into this community. Troubles in regard to the relative power of the church and the clergy, which agitated and divided churches in the immediate vicinity, threw their influence over the lines, and threatened to involve the minister and people here; but the mutual confidence of the pastor and his flock made all these disturbing elements harmless.

The first settlement of Mr. Harrington was at Swansey, N. H., then called the Lower Ashuelot. A note in the Church Records states that the plantation of the Lower Ashuelot was broken up by the French and Indian enemy ^{Nov. 1741} in the spring of 1747. ^{Apr. 13} The people were scattered, but the church, or a majority of it, seems to have been in Rutland the next year, as a document soon to be quoted, shows.

The church in Lancaster, at a meeting, August 8, 1748, "chose Timothy Harrington, pastor of the church late at the

It sometimes almost seems as though the author prefers a loose statement of a fact, even when the exact date is accessible and more brief than the expression chosen.

The note referred to is:

"N.B. The Plantation of ye Lower Ashuelot was broken up by ye French & Indian Enemy In ye Spring 1747."

The exact record is:

At a Meeting of ye Chh. on August 8th A.D. 1748
They chose Timothy Harrington Pastor of ye Chh.
late at ye Lower Ashuelot, to be Their Pastor,
desiring him if he accepted their Invitation,
to give ^{with} his Assent if of acceptance a
Testimonial from ye Chh. late of ye Lower
Ashuelot of yr Consent hereunto, which was
concurred by the Parish Assembled on ye Same
Day."

The alterations were made with the paper
beside the original record. To my apprehension
a modernized paraphrase, is not 'quotation'
nor history.

Lower Ashuelot, to be their pastor, desiring him, if he accepted their invitation, to give with his answer of acceptance, a testimonial from the church late of the Lower Ashuelot, of their consent hereunto; which was concurred ~~in~~ by the parish assembled on the same day." On the fourteenth of October, Mr. Harrington gave his answer of acceptance, and also the required testimonial, which will be read with interest by the generations following.

"At a meeting of the church late of the Lower Ashuelot, held by adjournment at the house of Lieut. Daniel Davis, in Rutland, on Wednesday, the twelfth day of October, 1748, assembled to consider and act upon the Rev. Timothy Harrington's request of a Testimonial of our acceptance of his Doctrines and Conversation amongst us, and of our consent to his settling in the work of the ministry either at Lancaster, or wherever God in his providence shall open a door for it;

"And having taken his request, with all circumstances, into consideration, (although we should have greatly rejoiced to have sat again under his ministry at the Lower Ashuelot) yet we grant his request, to testify to the first church in Lancaster, or to any other church wherever God shall open a door for his settlement, in the work of the ministry, that while he stood in a pastoral relation to us, his doctrines and conversation were acceptable to us. And we heartily can and do recommend him to the work of the ministry, either to the first church in Lancaster, or to any other church that shall call him to the work of the ministry among them.

"And may grace, mercy and peace be to him and you. And asking an interest in his and your prayers, we are yours in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. Nathaniel Hammond, Timothy Brown, Jonathan Hammond. In the name and on the behalf of the church late of the Lower Ashuelot."

The record of the church, after receiving the above document, proceeds. "There was a parish meeting called, at which the sixteenth day of November, 1748, was appointed for his Installment; and the first church in Cambridge, the church in

Lexington, the church in Watertown, the church in Waltham, the west church in Sudbury, the church in Southborough, the first church in Westborough, the church in Stow, the church in Bolton, the church in Harvard, the church in Lunenburg, the church in Leominster, and the second church in Lancaster were invited to assist in the solemnity by their elders and delegates.

"Who accordingly assembled at the time appointed, formed themselves into a Council, accepted of what had been transacted, and performed the solemn service."

The ministers present, from the churches above named, and in the same order, were, Rev. Dr. Appleton, Rev. Messrs. ^{Nathaniel HV 1712} Hancock, ^{Seth 1720} Storer, ^{Benjamin 1711} Williams, ^{Thomas 1714} Loring, ^{John 1718} Stone, ^{David 1718} Parkman, ^{John 1739} Gardner, ^{John 1741} Goss, ^{John 1718} Seccomb, ^{John 1718} Stearns, ^{John 1739} Rogers and ^{John 1741} Mellen. Rev. Mr. Hancock, father of Rev. John Hancock, of Braintree, and grandfather of Gov. Hancock, preached the sermon from the text, in I. Cor. 9: 19. "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more."

A meeting of the church was held in the meeting-house, March 2, 1749, ^{8, 05.} called by request of the Hon. Joseph Wilder, Esq., and Mr. Josiah White, to see if the church would consent to their resigning the office of deacon on account of advanced age. There was first a "solemn address to God by prayer;" then "some discourse upon the occasion of the meeting," whereupon it was voted not to "consent to their resignation of their office, *nem. contrad.* But to "relieve them in their advanced age." This vote was also unanimous. They then voted to choose "two persons more into the office of deacon," but because the attendance was thin, the meeting was adjourned two weeks, when, "God willing," they would proceed to the choice.

At the adjourned meeting, after a "solemn address to God," the church, by "written votes, and a great majority," chose Joseph Wilder, jr., Esq., and Mr. Joshua Fairbank. They "were desired not suddenly to refuse serving the church in

(a) The character of Judge Joseph Wilder is painted with flattering colors in a manuscript sermon of the Rev. Timothy Harrington. "Post Funera Hon. Viri J. Wilder karnigeri" - dated April 1757. The paragraph of eulogy is in these words -

"God furnished him with a penetrating judgment, strong Reason, and a tenacious Memory, and all, so far as we can judge, were consecrated to ye Honour of ye most high. God was pleased to advance him to numerous seats of trust and ^{9m. [Boston]} ye Town, County, and Province which he filled with Integrity & Honour.

In his domestic Character, a kind and faithful Husband, a tender and instructive and Exemplary Parent, a pleasant, cheerful and Christian, a friend to Truth and Virtue. A lover of God, man and his country, and a Benefactor to ye poor and ye Distressed. This, This is He whom God hath taken from us. Thence our fondness and we envy herself may allow this Tribute to ye memory of so great and good a man whose have good Reason to suppose died in ye Lord, and is at rest from his labours."

b. John Seccombe graduate of H. U. 1728. first minister of Harvard. The name is usually spelled without the final (e) by modern writers -

a The Scandalous offense was - Phineas Boughton
"having his first child within 184 days of marriage"

b The original will is in Worcester Probate Registry.
The copy opposite, as corrected, is the town record
of the bequest. In the original will it stands.

a Item - my will is that my aforesaid Executors
pay out of my Estate the sum of twelve
pounds to purchas a vessel for the use
of the Church in Lancaster, & that at or
before one year after my Decese "

The will was dated Decembar 15, 1735. proved
November 3^d 1756.

said capacity, but to take the matter ^{into} a deliberate consideration, and to give their answer at the next sacrament. After which they were recommended to God by prayer, and the meeting dissolved. Such was the becoming manner in which church business was transacted by the fathers. And the mode of accepting the office was characteristic of the times. At the sacrament in April, following, the deacons elect were desired by the pastor, if willing to accept the office to which they had been chosen, to "manifest it by assisting in the distribution of the Elements; which they did accordingly."

A troublesome case of administration came up in 1755, which lasted more than a year, in which the complaint related to a scandalous offence. It was somewhat intricate, but the church maintained its integrity by not admitting the accused party into fellowship, until he could make "proper satisfaction."

The church met, at the request of Dea. Joshua Fairbank, September 9, 1761, for two objects. The first was to determine what to do with a legacy left to the church by Mr. Thomas Sawyer. The church requested Br. David Wilder to obtain a copy of the will, and report to another meeting. The item in the will, dated 1735, was as follows. "My Will is that my executors pay out of my estate the sum of twelve pounds to purchase a Vessel for the use of the church in Lancaster, at, on, or before one year after my decease." The legacy was worth, when the will was made, £22-8 in the currency when the church took this action. As the estate had been settled, the question was whether the church should receive the £12 in depreciated currency, or the real value as the giver intended. That would depend on the good will of the heirs. Therefore, one of the brethren—Dea. Joshua Fairbank—was empowered to wait on such of the heirs of the Executors of the last Will and Testament of the said Mr. Thomas Sawyer, as have not paid their proportion, according to the said computation, and to see whether they will do it." In due time Dea. Fairbank reported that the aforesaid parties had "consented to pay their proportion, and it was done accordingly." They

were honest people, and appear not to have tried to evade an obligation.

Dea. Hooker Osgood had purchased two Silver Tankards with £5-10sh. of the money, old tenor. The church voted that the legacy should be made good out of the other money in the treasury; and then, in compliance with the exact terms of the will, the church empowered Br. William Richardson to procure a Silver Cup for the communion table equal to said legacy, with the said Mr. Sawyer's name inscribed at large upon it." The finale of this business occurred at a meeting December 30, 1762, when the church was informed that Brother William Richardson had agreed with Mr. William Swan of Worcester, to make a silver cup for the communion table equal in value to Mr. Sawyer's legacy, and that he was expecting the church would receive it at said table the next Lord's Day." Then comes this, "N. B. The said cup was received on the next Lord's Day." This Thomas Sawyer was son of the first Thomas Sawyer. He came into the place before the town was incorporated, and his son Thomas, the donor of the silver cup, was born in 1649. His death occurred in 1736, ^{one} ~~three~~ years after his will was made. He died in the eighty-ninth year of his age.

The other item of business proposed at the meeting of September, 1761, was the request of Dea. Hooker Osgood, that the church would elect another deacon in "consideration of a paralytic disorder incommoding him in the distribution of the sacramental elements." His request was granted and Br. Joseph White was chosen. There were now two deacons White, Josiah the aged, and Joseph. The new deacon desired time for consideration, which was granted. Dea. Israel Houghton next desired that "another person might be elected to the office of deacon in consideration of his distance from the meeting-house." In due time Br. David Wilder, the sturdy juror of whom we read in revolutionary times, was chosen.

The will made December 15. 1735. Thos. Lawyer
died September 5. 1736. Instead of three years
it was less than one. See preceding page

See foot of page 287.

~~x~~ It would have been a "Genuine child" indeed that
could have its paternity sworn upon a female church
member.

There is an entry in the Records, September 29, 1763, which was followed by subsequent action, and the case was not closed till nearly thirty years had elapsed. It is one of those cases which is read with sadness long after the parties have passed away, and when the person involved was exonerated in his own lifetime. A ^xmale member of the church, his name need not be mentioned, was "sworn to be the father of a spurious child." He denied the charge, and "affirmed his innocence in a most solemn manner." As however he could not prove a negative, the brethren were not satisfied, and he was desired to abstain from the "communion in the holy supper for the space of six months next ensuing." The design was to give opportunity for further light. At the next meeting his suspension was made indefinite, or until the church "~~should see~~ *shall have* further light and satisfaction." The sequel came in August, 1793, when the church took up the case of the accused brother, and as a final result, upon mature deliberation, voted "that in consideration of the sober life and conversation of our Brother *James Wilder* during the long time of his suspension, he be restored to communion and fellowship with this church." During nearly thirty years he had the burden of shame and ignominy, but by an upright life had compelled the confidence and esteem of his townsmen, and of his brethren in the church.

In Willard's History there is a condensed statement of the case of Moses Osgood and his wife, which lingered through fifteen years before reaching a final settlement. The chief feature of interest in the whole transaction was the infinite patience of all the parties concerned, so far as can be judged at this late day. The matter came before the church "after the afternoon service on Lord's day, January 27th, 1765." The parties had "absented themselves from communion in the holy Supper" more than twelve months. By vote of the church brother and sister Osgood were required to give the "reasons of their absenting themselves" in writing, to be communicated on the first Sunday in March. The pastor sent a copy

of the votes by Br. Benjamin Ballard; but for a "special reason" he "delivered the ^{ye} said copy to Br. ^{the} Joseph Abbot, who, in the presence of Br. John Sargeant, delivered it to the said Br. ^{the} Moses Osgood in his own house." *Tate & Brady's*

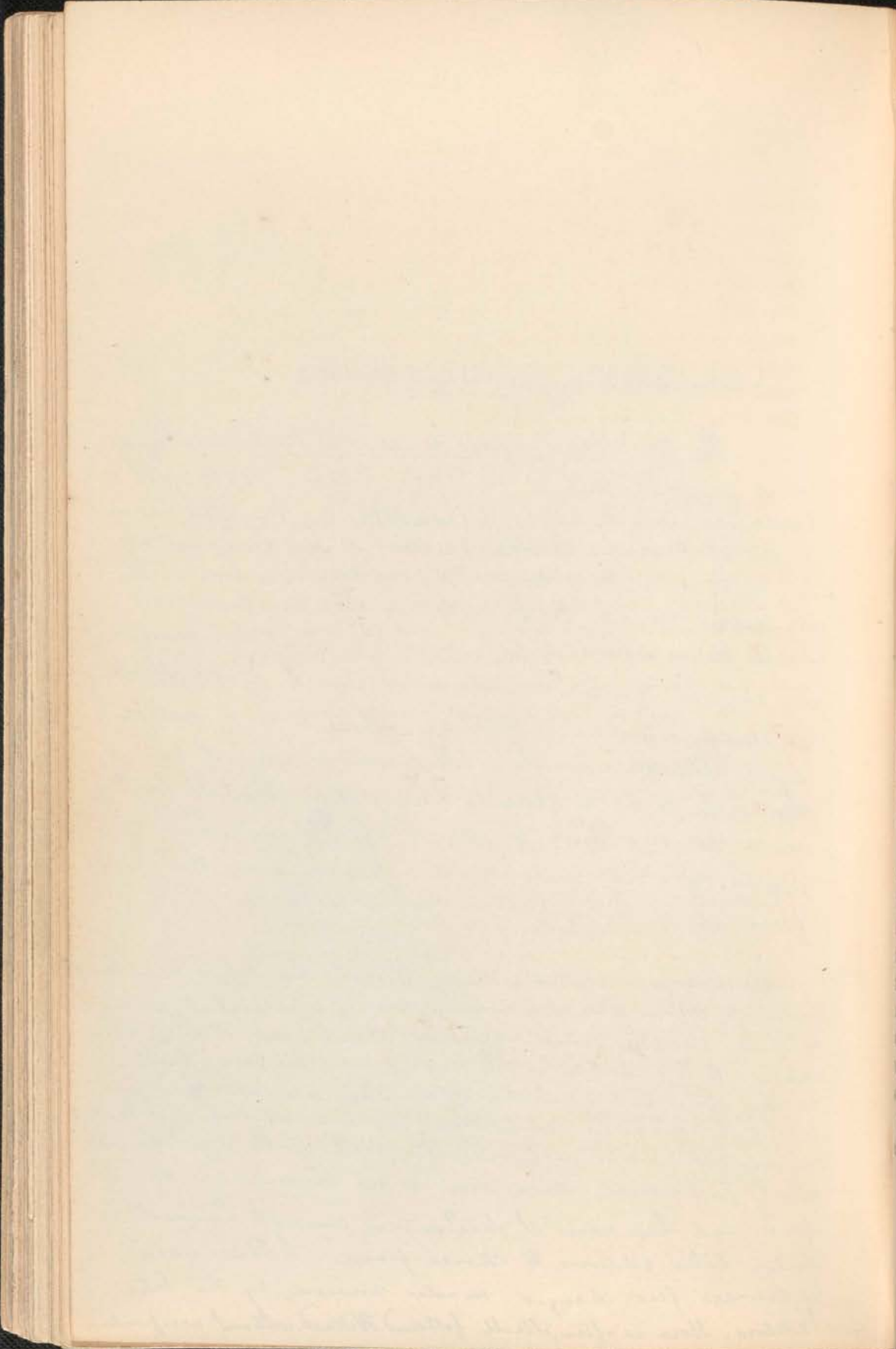
The occasion of the trouble was the introduction of a new version of the Psalms. In many places the bringing in of instrumental music caused divisions and unseemly demonstrations even in the house of worship. But it is stated that the most violent form of dissent in Lancaster was the shaking of one Mr. Wheelock's head when the pitch pipe was sounded, and the departure of ^{Thomas} Mr. Holt at the sound of the same harmless instrument, or when "funeral thought" was sung. Many however were grieved by the use of the new version. Dunster, president of Harvard College, had made an improvement on the translations of earlier New England writers, as John Eliot, Welde and Richard Mather, and his work was used in Lancaster till after the death of Mr. Prentice. The intricacies of the case need not be given, though interesting to a student of the past. Mr. Osgood was asked if he did not esteem it his duty to have made a regular application for redress of any grievance, instead of withdrawing from the Lord's table, and replied in the affirmative. Being called upon for their reasons for withdrawing, Mr. and Mrs. Osgood joined in the following statement to the church.

"We being called upon by you to give the reasons of our withdrawing from the Lord's Supper, (they are as followeth) viz. The bringing in the New Version, [that of Tate and Brady,] as we think, not in a prudent and regular way. — Also we find in said Version, such words and expressions as are unknown by us, so that we cannot sing with the understanding also. — The composers of the said ^{the} version we find have taken too great a liberty to themselves, as we think, to depart from the Scriptures. — And as for the Hymns taken from other parts of the Bible, we know of no Warrant in the Bible for them, and shall humbly wait on such as are the maintainers of them to produce and demonstrate the warrantable-

- by Willard; note to page 68 "History of Lancaster."

The first book upon music published in America was probably that of Rev. John Tufts in 1714. It contained twenty eight psalm tunes. In 1721 Thomas Walter of Roxbury in the preface of his work upon the rules of music, says - "No two churches sing alike. At present we are confined to eight or ten tunes and in some congregations to little more than half that number." The earliest tunes we find in use, were York, Hackney, St. Marys, Windsor + Martyrs. These were of course sung altogether by rote. The introduction of singing by note was a daring innovation, thought by the more conservatives to savor of Popery. The Organs of 1765 were merely following in the footsteps of their fathers in 1721.

(a) Mr Marvin here, rather blindly, refers to the "Bay Psalm Book" printed by Steven Day at Cambridge 1640. of which Eliot, Weller & Mather were the literary sponsors. Dunster and Richard Lyon revised the third edition of this book, printed in 1650. Another edition revised by a committee of ministers was published in 1691 & the 16th edition is dated 1709. Mr Marvin's statement that Dunster's edition was used until after death of Mr Prentice is utterly improbable, since there is no evidence in its favor, and there were at Mr Prentice's coming to Lancaster twelve later editions to choose from. There were of course few changes made, however, by the later editors. Here as often, Mr M. followed Willard without verification.



ness for them from the Word of God. — We are therefore waiting the removing, or in some way or other the satisfying the abovesaid Doubts; for they are a matter of Grievance to us, and we think we are wronged in our highest Interest. — But if Peace and Love should again reign among you as formerly, we should rejoice thereat; and should be glad to rejoice again with you as heretofore in all things. — These are the Reasons, why in Conscience, we cannot join with you in special Ordinances. From Yours in Sincerity.

MOSES, }
MARTHA } OSGOOD.

May, 1765."

These reasons were voted unsatisfactory, and then Judge Wilder, jr., one of the deacons brought forward other grounds of complaint. One was that they had said, "the Church had broken Covenant with them in bringing in the New Version of the Psalms, which they affirmed to be made for Papists and Arminians, to be full of heresy, and in an unknown tongue." Another was "their affirming that Mr. Harrington asserted at the conference meeting that he was half the church, and that he would disannul the meeting." And lastly "their positively denying that they had affirmed that the New Version was full of heresy."

The third point was not insisted upon, and the brother and sister "made such satisfaction as was accepted" in relation to the second. Dea. Wilder and his witnesses were then heard; and the accused offered what they had to say, under the first article of complaint, when the church adjourned to the close of the next public lecture, which was July 11, 1765. At that meeting the action of the church was modified to read as follows: "that they esteemed the said reasons insufficient to justify their said brother and sister in the manner of their late withdraw."

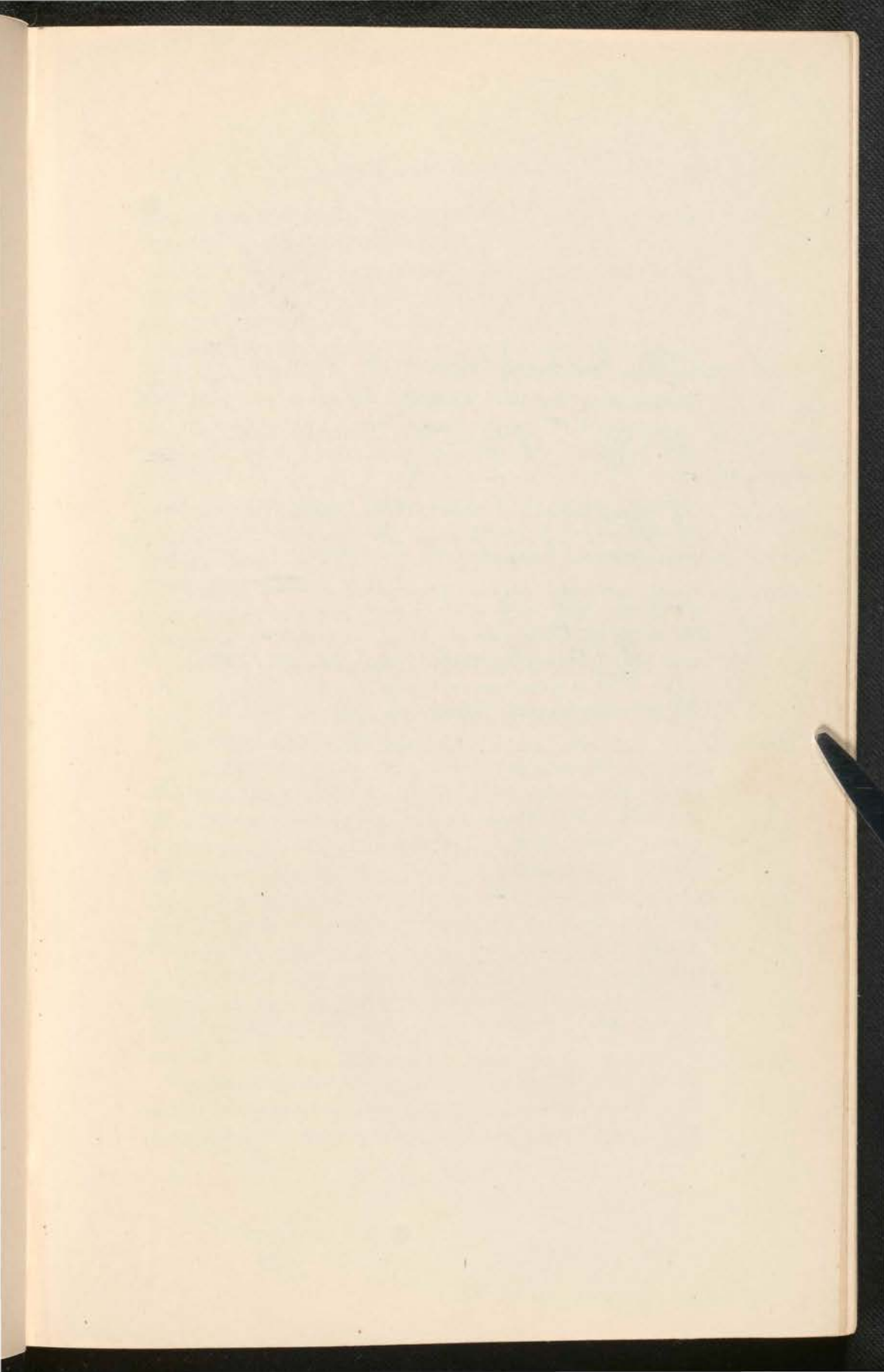
The trial was prolonged from meeting to meeting, until the church voted that the Pastor should send a letter of admoni-

tion to the erring parties. In the meantime they were suspended from communion. The letter was a solemn and faithful remonstrance, sustaining the action of the church and urging the brother and sister to perform their duty. The following entry shows how such business was done formerly. "October 25, 1765. Agreeable to the vote of the church on September 4, 1765, the Pastor proceeded to the house of the said Moses Osgood, and in the presence of Daniel Rugg and Joseph Abbot, brethren of the church, read the above letter of admonition and suspension to him. And as the wife of the said Moses was not at home, left a copy of it."

The case was before the church again, next year, but with no satisfactory result. Growing out of the difficulty, was the following rule, declared by vote, June 8, 1768, by the church, "that she expected of all her members who might henceforth labor under any grievance, that they should strictly pursue all those measures for redress prescribed in the constitution of these churches, before they withdraw from her communion."

In 1770 the church were on the point of voting "admonition and suspension," in the case of another member, Br. Benjamin Osgood. His offence was withdrawing from the Lord's table for more than two years before his reasons were demanded. What his reasons were we are not informed. But before the church took final action, he made the following confession. "I acknowledge, Brethren, that my withdraw from communion was just ground of offence to you; for which I desire to be humbled before God and you; and ask forgiveness of God and you, a restoration to your charity, and to the Table of the Lord." He was restored, and on his request, was dismissed to the church in Swansey, where Mr. Harrington formerly ministered.

But nothing appears to show that Moses Osgood ever acknowledged the error of his ways, or that he was restored. Neither does it appear that he was excommunicated. His death occurred in the year 1776, and we may charitably hope



"A respectable number of ladies in the first parish in
Lancaster assembled at the parson's house and presented
him with 208 Skeins of linen yarn and other
valuable donations; and in the evening a worthy
number of gentlemen assembled also, and in
wool and cash presented to the amount of 239
dollars: all which were gratefully accepted
by the said parson."

Worcester Spy July 15 1777

The clergy suffered especially from the great
depreciation in the currency at this time.

that he went where the "service of song" is more agreeable than any human performance.

Not so with Mrs. Osgood, who made a statement to the church, May 3, 1780, fifteen years after the trouble began, and four years after her husband's decease, that she had not concurred in any of the words used by her husband in his list of reasons, but that in withdrawing from the Lord's table she had acted irregularly through ignorance of the constitution, and contrary to her covenant engagements with the church, for which she asked forgiveness. She was restored to full communion.

In 1766 Dea. Josiah White, agreeable to his own request, was dismissed from the office of treasurer of the church, and received thanks for his fidelity. Dea. Joseph White was chosen his successor.

In 1777, April 2, Josiah Wilder, Esq., Capt. Benjamin Houghton and Mr. Cyrus Fairbank were elected deacons. In September, 1781, Mr. Josiah Ballard was chosen to the same office by ballot. John Whiting became deacon in 1789. This was Gen. John Whiting, who was chosen treasurer of the church in the following year.

The action of the church in the two following cases, evince discretion and a Christian spirit. A division of feeling had arisen between Dea. Cyrus Fairbank and Br. Joshua Fletcher. Being brought before the church, that body refused to take cognizance of it, but voted "seriously to recommend to them both to converse together freely on the subject, and reciprocally endeavor to bury their animosities in everlasting oblivion. But should they fail of obtaining so desirable a good, Br. Fletcher is most earnestly requested to examine himself, hoping that he may thereby be satisfied that it is his duty to return to the Table of the Lord from which he has absented himself."

Mother Ann Lee came to Lancaster ⁱⁿ about the year 1781, and by her preaching and conversation, awakened much interest in her peculiar views, especially in the northern section

of the town. Some members of the church living in that locality were led to "separate from their communion and join the sect of *Shaking Quakers*," in regard to whom the church, June 18, 1783, passed these votes. "1. That the ⁵⁴said members did not appear to them to be so compos^d in mind, at the present, as to be capable of receiving any benefit from Counsel, Reproof or Admonition; and therefore, 2. That committing them to the ⁵⁵mercy and ⁵⁶grace of God, the ⁵⁷church would wait until they were become more capable of receiving advantage from their Christian ⁵⁸endeav^ors for their ⁵⁹recovery."

These few cases seem never to have raised contending parties in the church, nor to have caused alienation between Mr. Harrington and his people. During his ministry there was violent agitation in neighboring churches and parishes, leading to a dissolution of the pastoral connection. In all these cases, the church in Lancaster was involved, both by neighborhood, and by the fact that the disturbed churches were all daughters of the mother church. The churches referred to were those of Leominster, Bolton and Sterling.

The Rev. John Rogers, the first minister of Leominster was settled in 1743. He married a daughter of Rev. John Prentice, and was well known to the people of Lancaster. At the time of his ordination, and for some years after, he was considered sound in the orthodox faith. But in the course of ten or twelve years, he began to avow opinions which caused grave anxiety among many of his people. This ultimately led to a proposal for a mutual council, which he declined. An *ex parte* council was then called, composed of pastors and delegates from fourteen churches, near and remote. Two delegates accompanied each pastor. The council found Mr. Rogers defective in several fundamental doctrines of the gospel, and the result was his dismissal from the church in Leominster, and suspension from the ministry.

Mr. Rogers was a man of ability and considerable learning, but as he had confessedly ceased to preach the body of truth which he engaged to advocate at his ordination, the manly

x Bancroft says "15"

For a brief, impartial statement of the Rogers Controversy
see Rev. Aaron Bancroft's sermon "at termination of
fifty years of his ministry" -

x John Rogers was second in rank in the class of 1739 N.H.

x and escaped general comment?
Rev. Geo E Ellis uses the phrase "without notice or observation" about
this same subject - in Introduction to Hist of 1st Church in Boston! answered.
Rev. Amos Bancroft inclines to censure both Mellen &
Harrington saying, "The particular acquaintances of
Mr Harrington entertained a persuasion that he did
not favour the peculiarities of Calvinism."

and Christian course for him to take was to withdraw from his church, and seek a more congenial field of labor. But leaving this, the special point of interest to the reader of our local history, respects the conduct of the minister of Lancaster on the occasion. Was he honest or hypocritical in joining with the rest of the council in condemning Mr. Rogers? It was claimed by some, that Mr. Harrington had gone through the same change as Mr. Rogers in his religious opinions, and that he gave his voice and vote in opposition to his convictions, to avoid suspicion and trouble at home, and in his larger ecclesiastical connections. Mr. Willard rather inclines to take a lenient and favorable view. In this the historian of Leominster, Dr. David Wilder mildly concurs, though evidently in spite of grave doubts. But it is easy to believe in the entire honesty and sincerity of Mr. Harrington in the whole affair. The change from Orthodoxy to Arminianism, Arianism and Unitarianism was very gradual {and without observation.} If, as is generally supposed, Mr. Harrington became an Arminian, so called, in the latter part of his life, there is no decisive evidence that he ever went the length of Mr. Rogers in the way of denying many main points of the Orthodox faith. And there is no proof at all, that at the time of Mr. Rogers' trial, only nine years after his own settlement in Lancaster, he had become conscious of the least departure from the system of truth which he avowed when installed in this place.

Mr. Harrington had not a leading mind. He was a good scholar, but not an original investigator. He took the doctrines in which he had been educated, or which became prevalent afterwards around him. He was like a man whose vessel imperceptibly glides along with the current, and who finds at length, that he is at some distance from his point of departure. Or as a man, leisurely ascending or descending a mountain, as the case may be, becomes conscious, after a while, that the air has become murkier or clearer, and that he is in a new atmosphere, so it is quite supposable that Mr. Harring-

ton, in later years, had imbibed the views which had become quite rife in fashionable circles, not only in Cambridge and Boston, but in the Nashua valley.

The troubles in Sterling and Bolton had a different origin, but the particular point which threatened disturbance here was the same in both instances. It became a question as to the relative power of the church and the clergy. The ministers claimed, not only the right as moderators of the church meetings, to give a casting vote whenever there was a tie; but as ministers and pastors, they sometimes claimed that no measure could be carried without their assent. In a word, they asserted the veto power.

Intemperance &
on a "Lord's day"

a

It will be sufficient for all the purposes of this history, to give a brief relation of the Bolton case. The difficulties arose in Bolton from the alleged misconduct of the minister, Rev. Thomas Goss. A majority of the church dismissed him, and a respectable minority, claiming to be the church, adhered to him. An ecclesiastical council was called which acquitted Mr. Goss of the charges brought against him, and censured those who had voted his dismissal. They tried also, as a logical result, to exclude them from partaking of Christian ordinances with other churches. This was on the ground that the majority, by uncongregational action, had unchurched themselves. In this condition of things, a committee of the majority, calling themselves the church in Bolton, applied to the church in Lancaster, to know whether they would be permitted to hold communion in special ordinances; or in other words, would be recognized as members of a Congregational church, in good and regular standing. The matter came before the church, July 8, 1772, when they were called, in the words of the Records, to "consider a letter from a number of the Brethren in Bolton, styling themselves the church in Bolton." The subject was considered, and "after some considerable Debate, without either ^{admitting} ~~receiving~~ or rejecting the ^{sa} ~~said~~ letter," the meeting was adjourned to the twenty-first of July, nearly a fortnight, that due deliberation might be exercised.

Thos Goss was a classmate of Timothy Harrington at Harvard.

For a fair & succinct account of the Goss & Wally War, see sermon of Rev Aaron Bancroft D.D. at the termination of fifty years of his ministry - Worcester 1836 - The political ferment of the times aggravated the troubles. Goss was conservative perhaps. Logicalist.

all A very respectable minority indeed, if Timothy Harrington's statement may be trusted, - "that there was not a majority of ye Church present at ye dismissal of ye Pastor; but 26 out of 52 or 3 and that of these but 25 voted in that affair".

In an undated manuscript entitled "Harrington's Answers to ye Charges &c." is a review of this whole Controversy. This document seems to have been prepared for a formal Church ^{or town} meeting, but touches upon the charges presented to the town through the Committee of Correspondence & Safety in 1777. (See p. 304 Vol. 1) - It is a long defence, shrewd in its argument, & eloquently worded. It bears evidence so far as rhetoric can, that its venerable writer was in advance of his people & his times, in respect of Christian Charity, if not of political virtue.

The Charges were four in number, the first being that of the "Walleyites" from Bolton. This is set down by Harrington as follows:

"My endeavoring to prevent the People in Bolton
" from having the Gospel administered to them in
" word and ordinances - Manifested by my protesting
" against all Candidates who should presume to preach
" to them - And against all Gentlemen in ye ministry
" who had been helpful to them in ye settlement of ye
" Gospel among them - which is considered as
" bringing me under ye Censure of shutting up ye
" Kingdom of Heaven against men".

To this charge calum answer is given by a statement of the history of the trouble. It closes

thus: Mediator, as I esteemed the
Proceedings of these Brethren at Bolton Disorderly
and Schismatical - and as the Apostles hath given
Direction to mark those who cause Divisions and
Offences, and avoid them. I thought it my Duty to
bear Testimony against y^e Conduct of, both y^e
People at Bolton, and those who were active in
settling a Pastor over them in the manner specified
and I still retain y^e Sentiment - and this
not to shut the Kingdom of Heaven against
them - but to recover them from their wanderings
to the Order of y^e Gospel and to the direct
way to the Kingdom of Heaven.

"And I still approve and think them just."

Charge 2 - "It appears to us that his Conduct
hath y^e greatest Tendency to subvert our religious
Constitution and y^e Faith of these Churches. - In his
saying that the Quebec Bill was just - and that he
would have done the same had he been one of y^e
Parliament - and also saying that he was in Charity
with a professed Roman Catholic - whose Principles
are so contrary to the Faith of these Churches. That
for a man to be in Charity with them we conceive
that it is impossible that he should be in Charity with
professed New England Churches. It therefore appears to
us that it would be no better than mockery for him
to pretend to stand as Pastor to one of these Churches"

To this Charge he first replies by asking
this pointed question. "Is not Liberty of Conscience
and y^e right of judging for themselves in matters

When the meeting came, the question took this form: "Whether the church be so far in charity with the brethren of Bolton, whose letter is before them, as to be willing to receive them to communion with them in special ordinances occasionally?" The vote was in the affirmative.

Mr. Harrington then added the following note and statement of his non-concurrence.

"Which Vote was non-concurred by the Pastor as follows. Brethren, I think myself bound in duty to God, to the Congregational church in general, to this church in particular, and to my own conscience, to declare, which I now do before you, that I cannot concur ^{with} this vote. *Non-concurrence*

"This vote shall be recorded, but my ~~vote~~ must be recorded with it.

"And as the brethren from Bolton now see your charitable sentiments towards them, I hope they will be so far satisfied.— But as the church ^{Act} in their favor is not perfected, I hope they will not offer themselves to communion with us, till their Society is in a more regular state."

Here we have the assertion of the veto power on the part of the pastor. It is not known that the brethren of Bolton ever put the matter to the test, by presenting themselves at a season of communion. But if they had, there can be no doubt as to the result. They would have been permitted to partake of the elements, unless they had come for the express purpose of carrying their point. In that case, probably leading members would have advised them to retire, and wait till better times. The claim by the clergy to exercise the power of vetoing the action of the church has long been obsolete. In Congregational circles the claim would now be considered extravagant and intolerable. But no alienation seems to have resulted between Mr. Harrington and his flock.

And herein we have an illustration of the influence he had over them. He must have been a lovable man, for his people clung to him, and respected him to the last, notwithstanding political differences, and great changes in religious and

*They did at
the Mallin's ch.
if not at
Harrington's.*

ecclesiastical opinions and usages. The words of Mr. Willard may be here fitly quoted: "Mr. Harrington continued to live in harmony with his people during a long and useful ministry; no lasting disturbance injured his good influence; no root of bitterness sprang up between him and his people. He is represented as possessing respectable powers of mind, with great mildness and simplicity of character. Liberal in his feelings, he practised charity in its extended as well as its narrow sense. True piety and an habitual exercise of the moral and social virtues, rendered him highly useful in his sacred office, and an interesting and instructive companion in the common walks of life."

p. 72 Hist of Lan.

Mr. Harrington was born in Waltham, on the tenth of February, 1716; he was in Harvard College in the presidency of Rev. Benjamin Wadsworth who died in 1737, the year when Mr. Harrington took his first degree. He was not an author, though three of his sermons were given to the press. One of these was from the text in Hosea 7: 9. "Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not; yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, and he knoweth it not." The subject was expressed in these words: "Prevailing wickedness and distressing judgments, ill-boding symptoms on a stupid people." Another, preached in 1753, when the town was one hundred years old, has been drawn from largely in the earlier part of this history. It is creditable to the author by its fulness of matter, lucid arrangement and ease of style. It has been reprinted several times, with notes, in connection with the "Removes" of Mrs. Rowlandson.

There were
34 in his
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See note opposite
p. 393

Mr. Harrington was twice married. His first wife and the mother of his children, was Anna Harrington, of Lexington, a cousin, born June 2, 1716, and died May 19, 1778. Their children were Henrietta, ⁽¹⁷⁴⁴⁾ who married John Locke, of Templeton, brother of Pres. Locke, of Harvard College; Arthusa, born in 1747, at Lexington, as was her eldest sister; received into the church in Lancaster, in 1768, and ancestress of many respectable families. Eusebia, born in Lancaster,

^{was} It has been reprinted several times, with notes, in connection with the "Removes" of Mrs. Rowlandson. ^{at Lancaster in 1806 & in 1853 at Clinton}

of Religion, one grand professed Principle in ye New England Churches? and one Corner Stone in their Foundation? He then explicitly states his abhorrence of the anti-Christian tenets of Popery, adding "However on the other hand they receive all the articles of the Athanasian Creed - and of consequence in their present Constitution they have some Gold, Silver, and precious Stones as well as much wood hay and stubble" - He characterises the charge in one pithy paragraph. "Too much Charity is the Charge here brought against me: would to God I had still more of it in ye most important sense. Instead of a Disqualification, it would be a most enviable accomplishment in ye Pastor of a Protestant New England Church" He closes with a sharp argumentum ad hominem: for the benefit of any ultra radical patriot present. "But the Moderator of my Charity towards some Roman Catholics disqualifieth me for a Protestant Minister. What, what must we think of ye honourable Congress, attending Mass in a Body in ye Roman Catholic Chappel, at Philadelphia? Must it not be equal mockery in them to pretend to represent and act for these United Protestant States." ✕ ✕ ✕

3d Charge

"My declaring myself and one of ye Brethren to be a major part of the Church" - This appears to be a revival of the charge made by the contumacious Osgoods in 1765. (See p 383) - Harrington meets it by condemning the sentiment "as grossly Tyrannical, inconsistent with common sense and repugnant to good order" and denies ever uttering it unless of another -

Lastly come the political Charges - "the substance of which" have been either before the Committee

of Correspondence or the Town at their meeting - or both -
"His despising contumacious and setting at naught
and speaking Evil of all our Civil Rulers - Congress
Continental and Provincial, of all our Courts, Legislative and
executive. are not only subversive of good Order. But we
apprehend, come under Predicament of those spoken of in
2. Pet II. 10. who despise government, presumptuous
self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of Dignities."
Mr Harrington frankly acknowledged the utterance to a
Mr North of this impudent speech. "I disapprove, abhor,
and detest the Results of Congress whether Continental
or Provincial" - but adds that he took the first oppor-
tunity to inform Mr North that he had respect only to
two articles in 1^d Results" He then publicly
apologizes for the manner of this speech. but defends
the justice of his criticism of the two articles as
arbitrary measures. He had also made a
remark to the effect "that ye general Court had no Business
to direct Committees to seize on Estates before they had been
Confiscated in a course of Law." That their Constituents
never elected or sent them for that Purpose -
but this he claimed had been retracted as
rash and improper. His remembrance
placed these objectionable remarks "before ye
19th of April 1775"

a Willard says 5 - In appendix to the "Century Sermon, edition of 1806, we
read "After being unable from the infirmities of age for nearly
four years to perform the duties of the ministry he died Dec 18. 1775"

His people "paid his salary in full to the day of his death and
generously defrayed the expense of the funeral."

May, 1751; received into the church the same day as the two former, wife of Paul Richardson; Timothy, born in 1753, graduated at Harvard, 1776, a physician at Chelmsford; Dea. Thomas, born in 1755, settled in Heath; Anna, born in July, 1758, married Dr. Bridge, of Petersham, and after his death, Dr. Joshua Fisher, of Beverly. Other children died in infancy. His second wife ^{Anna} was the widow of the Rev. Mr. ^{Matthew} Bridge of Framingham. *He arrived in Sudbury Mrs Ann Bridge April 11, 1780*

The death of Mr. Harrington occurred on the eighteenth of December, 1795, in the eightieth year of his age. Mr. Thayer, his colleague, preached a funeral sermon, December 23, which was printed, in which he speaks in high terms of the worth of his venerated predecessor. The intellectual faculties, the literary culture, the mildness, the affability and the remarkable charity of Mr. Harrington are extolled. His public discourses "exhibited ample proofs of the scholar and the divine. The purity, pertinency and fervor of his addresses to the throne of grace" were acknowledged and applauded by all. "In him," says Mr. Thayer, "was discovered a happy union of those qualities which gratify in the man, which please in the gentleman, and which delight in the Christian. He could so temper his gravity with cheerfulness, his decision with mildness, and his earnestness with moderation, that persons of both sexes and of every age esteemed, respected and loved him. The child looked to him as its father; the young as their friend and conductor; the aged as their companion and brother."

The annual list of admissions to the church shows a steady accession throughout the ministry of Mr. Harrington. Occasionally a year would pass when the addition was small, but the average number received, during the whole term of his pastorate, was a fraction over ten. The whole number admitted to full communion, in forty-seven years, was four hundred and seventy-eight. By reason of age and infirmity, Mr. Harrington did but little service in the pulpit, or in pastoral visitation, during the last five years of his life. Fifteen hun-

dred and thirty-one were baptised; probably the large majority of them in infancy or childhood.

It is known that Mr. Harrington, like his predecessor, did not desire the presence and aid of the celebrated Whitefield, in his own parish. It is quite possible that he mistook or undervalued the spirit and influence of the great pulpit orator and evangelist. If so, he was sustained by many of his clerical brethren who were steadfast in the formulas of the ancient faith. There is no evidence that the two ministers of Lancaster, in the time of Whitefield dissented from his statement of doctrines; they differed from him in methods. Many then as now believed that a parish minister could do more good in ten or twenty years, without help, except in times of extraordinary interest, than by the occasional aid of evangelists. Many now as then, believe that there is a numerous class in congregations and communities, who will never be aroused from spiritual sloth, and led to decision in religion, unless they are awakened by means out of the usual course. On this subject good and useful men may differ. Mr. Harrington took his course, and has gone to his account. The church appears to have had a large share of influence, and to have increased quite up to the average, in his day. His own personal and pastoral influence was always in favor of pure, earnest, vital godliness.

But he, in common with all the clergy, had much to contend against in the spirit of the times. The proof is abundant that there was a low state of morals, throughout the land, during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The laxity began before the Revolution, and, with local exceptions, lasted down to the time of the great temperance and religious reformation in the first third of the present century.

The influence of camp life: of absence from home; of political contention; of French infidelity, and of the free use of imported and home-made intoxicants, went far to counteract the power of domestic training in the ways of pristine morality and virtue, and the power of the pulpit in leading to the

The literature of the Bolton Controversy is some what voluminous - Besides the mss. work of 2 Councils, & the letters & sermons of neighboring Clergymen - pamphlets were published as follows.

- (1) A sermon by Zebadiah Adams of Lumbury.
- (2) A Treatise on Church Government - which contains
 1. A narration of the troubles in the Church in Bolton.
 2. Remarks on Mr Adams sermon preached there Aug 26 1772 with an appendix - & one page of comment by Col John Whitcomb
- (3) A second Treatise on Church Government - with a further narration of the troubles in Bolton Church & an appendix containing statements by various of the church members opposing Mr Goss.
- (4) Z. Adams, Answer to "A treatise on Church government" by T. Goss Boston 1773. 8^{vo}.
- (5) Result of the Council - convened at Bolton Aug 3 1773 at the desire of the Pastor Boston 1773. 8^{vo}

Pamphlets 2 & 3 are in the Boston Public Library. Though printed anonymously. their author was known to be Rev Ebenezer Chaplin of Sutton - They are addressed to Col John Whitcomb & Capt. Asa Whitcomb. & from the appendix we find the leading opponents of Mr Goss were:

Col John Whitcomb
 Paul Whitcomb
 Ephraim Fairbank
 Eliakim Atherton
 Nathaniel Longley
 Samuel Jones
 Robert Longley
 Silas Bailey
 John Pierce

N.B. these men were all ardent patriots, & most of them soldiers in the Revolution.

1, 3, 4, 5 are in Boston Museum. 2, 3, 4 in Lancaster Lib.

A sketch of Rev Geo Waller's connection with Bolton may be found in Vol. 16 of the Historic Genealogical Register page 260.

Note p. 390 - Working of title to Herington's Sermons of 1756 -

Prevailing Wickedness and distressing
Judgments, ill-boding Symptoms
on a stupid People.

A
DISCOURSE

Delivered at Lancaster

on
September 5th 1756.

By Timothy Herington A.M.

Pastor of the First Church there

Ye Hypocrites ye can discern the Face of the
Sky but can ye not discern the Signs of the Times?
Jesus Christ?

BOSTON.

Printed and Sold by Edes & Gill next to
the Prison in Queen Street.

MDCCLVI

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fear and love of God. Reckless speculation, horse jockeying, gambling, lottery drawing, litigation, loose living and intemperance combined to lower the tone of thinking and living. The vice of intemperance, especially, became fearfully prevalent. It rarely invaded the ministry, but it left its foul marks upon the records of the church ; and in the community at large its havoc was wide-spread and deadly. In the words of many who remember the men who lived in the end of the last and the opening of the present century : " everybody used to get drunk." This is, of course, a free expression, not claiming to be precise, but it contains a true charge. Everybody drank ; many drank freely, and to frequent intoxication ; a large number became sots, and if they did not die early, passed a sad and shameful old age. In these regards the former times were not better than those in which we live. Perhaps the lowest point of demoralization, in the large sense of the word, was reached about the year 1800 ; since which time society has been on the ascending grade.

CHAPTER XVIII.

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE TOWN FROM THE BEGINNING OF
THE CENTURY, 1801, TO THE YEAR 1843.

IN the opening of the century, John Adams was still president of the United States, in which office he continued till the fourth of March. Caleb Strong was governor of Massachusetts, a man of capacity and energy, and strong in the confidence of the people. The sentiment of Lancaster was almost unanimous in the support of the chief magistrate of the state and the nation. In this allegiance to the federal policy of Washington the town never wavered. State rights and national supremacy were united in the view of the voters; or more correctly speaking, they held that both the state and the national governments were sovereign in their spheres, and that the body of the people were under God, the source of power.

During the one hundred and fifty-seven years since the first three habitations were set up in this valley, and the one hundred and forty-seven since the town was incorporated, great changes had occurred. Besides the revolutions which had taken place in Great Britain, and which had affected the colonies in all their interests, our own revolution had severed the connection between the colonies and the mother country. All these events were a part of the education of the people during successive generations, by which their minds were stimulated to thought, and specially trained in political science.

Local changes had kept pace with the progress of external events. The town had been shorn of its magnificent proportions, and reduced to about one-third of its former size. The *Indians* natives had disappeared. The wild beasts had been extermi-

No. 67

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nated. The forests had been laid open to cultivation. The land had been cleared of stumps and stones. The rivers had been bridged, and made subservient to human use by means of numerous mills for cutting lumber, working in iron, and dressing cloth. The early log cabins, and one-story houses had given place to substantial, convenient, and in some cases, elegant residences. The schools had undergone gradual improvement, and there had been progress in general intelligence and refinement.

In regard to education and manners, there had been a marked difference between a few families and the mass of the town, from the first, through all generations. The former had been in close connection with kindred families in Boston and other ancient towns, and thus were familiar with the literature and the usages of cultivated society. But the generality of the inhabitants, though plain in dress, and homely in manners, were sensible, independent and self-respectful. They were of the true Puritan stock, and raised families of their own ways of thinking. Thus the town maintained its highly respectable position in comparison with other towns, and also sent off successive swarms to build up other communities.

FLETCHER'S REMINISCENCES.

The pen of the venerable writer who gave us, on a former page, incidents in connection with the coming of the Carter and Fletcher families, has furnished the following reminiscences of his early days. They give us a glimpse of life on George hill, and notes in relation to several prominent families in other parts of the town, near the beginning of the century.

"I recollect," writes Mr. Fletcher, "one old Mr. Carter who died about 1801. He was probably of the second generation. Of the third generation were living on their respective paternal farms, in my time, Joseph Carter, John Carter, Thomas Carter, and also Timothy Fletcher, Rufus Fletcher, William Fletcher, — all brothers and cousins. The children of these

six families, of whom I was one, all went to school together at the red school-house* at the foot of George hill. These six families raised at least thirty-six children, only two of whom settled on the old homestead, viz., Alpheus Carter and Otis Fletcher. The former died in middle age, without issue; the latter sold out and moved to Clinton where he now resides.

"Mary Ann Fletcher, daughter of Timothy, and great-granddaughter of John and Hannah Fletcher, was the last of the Fletchers on George hill. She was of the fourth generation; was born in 1798, and died in 1867. Other members of the family emigrated, and have descendants now in almost every state in the Union. Robert Fletcher, of the second generation, settled west of Blue hill, on a part of the Carter grant, known long after as the Fletcher farm. Next to him resided his sister Lydia, married to Abel Rugg. Their land was in a cold, rocky region. I have heard that Robert was killed by the Indians.

"I do not know the last of the Carters on George hill, but I believe none of them remain. Their descendants, like the Fletchers, are in many of the states where land and living are more easily obtained. The Wilder family is another family run out on the hill."

The Wilders are still numerous in other parts of the town, especially in the Center and South Lancaster. The Fletchers are represented by Charles T. Fletcher, nephew of the writer of the above. The Carter descendants in the town generally bear other names.

Our correspondent proceeds in his recollections as follows: "In January, 1809, a little past fifteen years of age, I left my native town for a situation in a store in Boston. My recollections are previous to that date. Of the old people whom I recollect faintly, are uncle Rugg, and his wife, aunt Lydia; Capt. Elisha Rugg, and his brother who was called [nickname] Chippirous Rugg; Mr. Moses Wilder; old Mr. Carter, perhaps the father of John Carter; Ebenezer Allen and his wife. Her I saw again several years after her husband's death, dur-

*Not the present brick school-house.

On the same site however.

Eli Carter still (1880) lives near the spot in which
she was cradled - brother to Alphens mentioned above.
He has nearly always been mildly insane.
Died January 3^d 1883 aged 83.

Dr. Noah Littage, in records of deaths 1818.
John Fuller remembers Dr. Littage as a peripatetic
with saddlebags out of which he drew sundry
tinker's tools & mended ironed tinware.

ing a visit from Boston to see my mother. I went with her to see aunt Allen. She was then about ninety-three years old, and her daughter Tabitha was near seventy-five; and at that age she talked to her daughter just as though she was only a child. 'Tabby, bring a chair; Tabby, do this and do that,' etc. They had always lived together, and the relation between mother and child had never been broken. We were shown large hanks of linen thread that aunt Allen had spun that summer, on the little wheel. What interested my attention was aunt's discourse about father's courtship. She described him as a fine-looking, high-spirited young man, who rode a handsome, dapple-gray horse, and was altogether superior to the other beaux who came to visit Mary. The distance between their houses was near three miles, quite a ride of a cold, frosty night, when the ground was covered with snow. She had much to say about the wedding day. She was married the next May, and moved into his father's house. His mother had then been dead eleven years. The original house was a log house. After a time a frame was built on the west end of the log house. Again, after a time, the log house was pulled down, and a frame built in its place; probably on the occasion of Joshua's marriage.

"I recollect Mr. Moses Smith, the blacksmith; Capt. Goss, *Daniel* the carpenter; Josiah Flagg, town clerk, a principal citizen and storekeeper."

Next follows a view of Lancaster as it appeared to the youthful Fletcher in 1808. "Beginning at the George hill school-house, and going westward, the first house was Samuel Wilder's, and adjoining, Calvin Wilder. Above the great hill, Maj. Fletcher. On the right hand road leading to Sterling, Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Stevenson, Capt. Elisha Rugg, Dr. Litta, × [sic]; and on the Sterling line, Joseph Peirce. Then in Sterling, Mr. Headley and the famous Capt. Thomas Wright. On the Worcester road,* first, William Wilder; then Moses Wilder, John Wilder, Capt. Gates, Esq. Thurston. From

* The branch on which Messrs. Baueroft, Pope and Tuttle now reside.

the school-house, north,* Joseph Carter, Joshua Fletcher, John Carter, Rufus Fletcher, Polly Conquerette, Peter Osgood. On the lane leading west, [by Frank Taylor's new house,] Thomas Carter, Isaac Rugg, Ephraim Carter, Jack Carter, widow Carter, Peter Divol. [In early times this was a county road, and the first road over George hill.] On the road leading south from the school-house, Manasseh Wilder, Capt. Goss. On the road leading east from the school-house, [towards South Lancaster,] Moses Smith, Capt. Ward, on the corner, [now Mrs. ^{May} Ware's,] and farther east, on the Boston road, [near the house of Mrs. Humphrey,] the splendid mansion of Dr. Atherton.

"Beginning at the meeting-house, and going south, (there was but one meeting-house, then, the old frame building which stood on the Common at the intersection of the roads,) first was Squire Sprague's house, now occupied by his grandson, Mr. Vose, near the river. Then the new graveyard, then the minister's house, the Rev. Nathaniel Thayer. Then Mr. Joshua Fletcher, jr., Capt. Goodwin, Gowen Newman. A hatter's shop was on the other side. Opposite to Dr. Atherton's, the old store with a court and open place, and beyond a large two-story frame building, unpainted. In New Boston, (South Lancaster was then called New Boston,) Squire Flagg's house and store; the widow Flagg's house; on the opposite (east) side, Mr. Ballard; on the same (^{east}~~west~~) side, Mr. Bower's tavern. On the other side, a blacksmith's shop, and then Mrs. Sawyer, Mr. John Thurston's hatter's shop and house, and near by, his brother's house. At the corner of the road leading [by Deers Horns] to Worcester, the stage house and tavern. Thence on the road south, a dreary waste until we came to uncle Allen's house, nearly opposite to where Fuller's saw-mill is now located. Here I used to stop and rest when I went to mill. The picture is — an old horse loaded with bags of corn and rye, and a little boy ten years old put on top, — bare-foot, linsey-woolsey jacket and pants, a felt hat less the crown. *That was me.*

* This road went west of the house of Mr. Henry B. Stratton, up the hill, and so on to the road by David Matthews.

Dolly was the local fortune teller & a queer character. I suppose her to be the daughter of that "Biggest Conqueror of Lancaster, wife of Lewis Conquest Makiner" who had a special order in her favor from the General Court - June 25 1767 -

(a) any proof of this old tradition? - It was not.

Moses Smith was a smith. His son? Moses a lawyer whose abilities were great, but his bad habits destroyed his usefulness.

The short pieces of road from the Draktherton place to the present school house, & from the Wellington Shop to the Turner blacksmith shop were not cut through until long after this.

Josiah Bowers a revolutionary pensioner known as Capt. Bowers kept tavern early in this century in the house opposite what is now known as the "old tavern".

The Allen place was just opposite the entrance to the street called Allen street in Clinton, E. A. Currier's house being almost over the old site. The old house was torn down 1878-9 -

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"Uncle Allen owned about two hundred acres of land in that vicinity. Journeying thence south, the next house was Capt. Gould's, [the home of the poetess, Miss Hannah F. Gould,] and one other house, (I forget the name,) and then I came to the mill,* where Clinton now stands. The mill and the miller's house was all of what is now Clinton. A loose sandy soil, with scrub oaks and acres of pine, and at the cross roads the district school-house, is my recollection of the site where the busy city [town] of Clinton now is. I suppose at that time much of the land might have been bought for five dollars an acre.

"My recollection of the Old Common is, Esq. Whiting's house on the south, and Gen. Whiting's house on the north side of the street, Capt. Lee's brick house, Mr. Safford's house and bakery, Jonathan Wilder, Horatio Carter, Mr. Pollard, &c.

"On the north road from the meeting-house, Maj. Rice, Mr. Prentice's store, the store-house, Mr. Sweetzer and others. On the north road, [through the North Village,] Maj. Fisher, Mr. John Bennett, and ascending the hill, Dr. Carter's large house. Near Wekapeket brook, Mr. Lawton's house and one other, and the saw-mill. On the cross road south through the woods, Mr. Houghton, Mr. Osgood, uncle Rugg. These are some I remember in my boyhood; also Esq. Stedman, Dea. Wales, Eli Stearns, and Mr. Torrey.

"The old people when they walked to church, wore white caps and broad-brim hats, and long, blue greatcoats, and walked with long canes."

The following paragraph in regard to the value of land then and now, will be read with interest. "On George hill and the farming section, the price of land has remained nearly stationary. About the year 1804, my father bought two acres of Mr. Wilder for sixty-six and two-thirds dollars. About the year 1870, C. E. Blood who resides in the same house, married to my father's great-granddaughter, bought three acres from the same farm, adjoining the other, for one hundred dollars. No alteration in value for nearly seventy years. While

*The site of Prescott's mill.

in the south part of Lancaster—now Clinton—land that might then have been bought for five dollars, is now worth more than five hundred dollars an acre.”

In regard to means of travel, Mr. Fletcher states that in his boyhood, a stage coach left the Lancaster house three times a week. The following words give his appreciation of the scenery of his native town. “In beauty of landscape, hill and dale, river and mountain, Lancaster and its surroundings, exceed any place which I have seen, and I have been in eighteen states in this Union.”

ANNALS.

The proceedings of the annual March and subsequent meetings, will bring before us Lancaster as it was in the year of our Lord, 1801. Gen. John Whiting was moderator, Josiah Flagg was clerk, and Daniel Stearns, treasurer. Josiah Flagg, Joseph White and Thomas Ballard, were selectmen. The assessors were Jonas Lane, Samuel Ward, John Maynard. An auditing committee annually inspected accounts. This year the duty was performed by Timothy Whiting, Eli Stearns and Ebenezer Torrey. The school visitors were Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, B. W. Willard, James Goodwin, William Gould, John Maynard, Jacob Fisher, William Stedman, Josiah Flagg, Timothy Whiting, John Thurston, John Hunt, Stephen Wilder. These men belonged to certain districts, as follows. Willard, No. 1; Goodwin, No. 2; Gould, No. 3; Maynard, No. 4; Fisher, No. 5; Stedman, No. 6; Flagg, No. 7; Whiting, No. 8; Thurston, No. 9; just as our schools are now numbered, with No. 6 dropped out. No. 10 was in Clinton. The Latin grammar school committee were Gen. Whiting, Maj. Rice and John Thurston. Their duty was to hire the master; Mr. Thayer had the principal care of the school.

The committee chosen the preceding year to regulate or bound the districts, made a report substantially as follows, which was adopted.

Names of land teachers

1831	No. 6	Fordyce Howse. 66 ^{120 1/2}	Irene Locke	15 wks at 13/6
1818	"	Sophia Stearns	14 wks + board	\$31.50
1827	"	Caroline Farnsworth	13 wks "	\$26.
1834	"	Edward Whitman	10 weeks.	60
1827	"	Samuel Barrett	12 "	54.
1825	"	Bliss Miller	29. at 13/6	
1822	"	Solon Whiting	8 "	\$40
1821	"	Mary M. White	16 "	\$20.25
"	"	Henry Lane	8 "	\$28 + 12 board.
1820	"	Mary N. Bridg	15 "	\$17.50
"	"	Henry Lane	7 "	43.17
1791	"	Timothy H. Curtis	14 "	10 to 105
1794	"	Artemas Sawyer	4 "	2 to 140
1793	"	Nabby Smith	10 "	2 £ + board 1.15
1790	"	Susanna Newhall	7 "	46 ³ 8 ²
"	"	Timothy H. Curtis	3 ^m 3 ^o 3 ^d	12 £ 15 ^s 9 ^d
1792	"	Sally White	12 ^w 2 ^d	2 £ 5 ^s 3 ^d
"	"	Blaney Abbot	3 ms	7 £ 6 ^s
1793	"	Samuel Farrar	2 1/2 ms	7 £ 10 ^s
1795	"	do do	8 wks	8 £ 2 ^s
1796	"	Oliver Ruddle	10 "	\$30
1797	"	Leonard Mellen.	8 "	\$37.33
1798	"	William Channing		\$35.58
1803	"	Sophia Bernard	18 wks	\$31.50
1805	"	Sarky Prescott	21 "	\$28.
1816	"	Migail H. Townsend	14 "	\$36.17
1817	"	John Bush	5 "	\$19.33
1818	"	Silas Thurston	5 "	18.75 + 6
1819	"	" Sophia Stearns	6 "	24. + 6
1819	"	"	16 "	36.

March 23
In 1820, a "Convention" of Districts 5, 6 + 12 was
held at the Inn of Isaac Childs, and the three were
united to form two. Then and afterwards called the
East and West sides of the Neck.

x No. 6 School House was sold to John Hawks Oct. 6, 1822
for \$20,50. New one built by Ephraim Whitney for
\$375. near the site of the old.

District No. 1. The inhabitants and estates living within a line drawn south of John White's farm, from the west bank of Nashua river, running westerly, north of the farm lately owned by Reuben Lippenwell, and Joseph Rugg; thence north, including the farm of John Mycall to Shirley line.

No. 2. The section of the town west of No. 1, to Leominster and Lunenburg lines.

No. 3. Nearly the same bounds as pertain to the present No. 3 school; from south of Samuel Damon's, westerly to the small bridge north of Asa Warner's. This bridge is over Canoe brook, between the house of Mr. Sawtell and Shoeshank.

No. 4 was the Ballard hill, or Walnut swamp district, including Ponakin, but excluding a few families west of the bridge in North Village.

No. 5. The school-house was on the west side of the river, near the house of Mr. Power. At one time the river undermined one side of the building. The district included some families near by, and extended easterly to the house of Caleb Lincoln, where Thomas Blood now lives; thence northerly to Quassaponakin brook.

No. 6 took in the whole Neck, east and west roads, southerly to the Sprague, Center and old Neck bridges. The school-house was near the railroad-crossing north of the house of S. R. Damon. At the same time the Latin grammar school was between the houses of Mr. Stowell and Mr. Symmes. x

No. 7 began at the river south of Sawyer's bridge, [now Carter's mill,] and went westerly over George hill, (between the house of George A. Parker and the summit,) to Sterling line. It included George hill and South Lancaster.

No. 8 included the Old Common and the roads extending south to the bend of the river.

No. 9 took in all of Deers Horns, and extended, on the west side of Mossy and Sandy ponds, to the Boylston line.

Nos. 10 and 11 included all the rest of what now belongs to Clinton on both sides of the river. The present Center and South Lancaster, now Nos. 11 and 10 had no separate school.

The town treasurer was directed to dispose of what stock the town held in United States funds. The amount was not large: \$104.76.

The committee on the Center bridge were empowered to build according to a specified model.

The selectmen were authorized to license Dr. Israel Atherton to "inoculate for the small-pox to ascertain the efficacy of kine-pox."

On the fifth of April the town cast ninety-two votes for Gov. Strong, and forty-seven for Hon. Elbridge Gerry.

For the new burying field, (now the Middle cemetery,) fifty-six dollars were appropriated. The Old Common burying yard was fenced at an expense of about thirty dollars. Eight hundred dollars were raised for highways. The roads had been damaged by a great flood. The price of labor on the highways was fixed as follows. Man's labor, eight cents per hour. Pair of oxen, five cents; horse, three cents; cart, two cents; plough, one cent.

It was the practice of the town, during several years, to put the great bridges under the care of certain men. The assignment this year was:

Edward Goodwin,	.	.	.	Sprague	bridge.
Ebenezer Torrey,	.	.	.	Neck	"
Jonathan Wilder,	.	.	.	Atherton	"
Daniel Stearns,	.	.	.	Paul Whiting's	"
William Haskell,	.	.	.	White's	"
Josiah Bowers,	.	.	.	Paul Sargent's	"
				<i>Sawyers</i>	

The Center bridge was not yet built, and Ponakin bridge had been washed away.

The subscriptions for the new road from the corner of Gen. Whiting's land, (Old Common,) to the guide post near Lancaster meeting-house, to be a post road instead of the old Neck road, and to be paid in labor or materials, were according to this list.

Paul Whiting's - now called ~~Paul's~~ North Village
Paul Sawyer's - since called Carter's Mills on So. Lancaster
Whites - Still River

This road completed in 1802. at its western end
runs "from the bridge to an Elm tree near the
west end of a school house."

x Ebenezer Torrey was a retired baker

(a)

Cleverly by name.

John Sprague, \$100	Paul Faulkner, \$5
Nathaniel Arnold, 20	Thomas Safford, 15
Thomas Ballard, 15	Prentiss and Atherton, . . 10
Jacob Fisher, 6	Paul Whiting, 5
Merrick Rice, 30	Stephen Wilder, 5
Oliver Carter, 15	Samuel Wilder, 2d. . . . 5
William Stedman, 20	Samuel Ward, 15
Timothy Whiting, 30	
Abner Pollard, 5	Total, \$311.00
Richard Haven, 10	

In May, Samuel Ward was chosen representative to the general court, and the vote for candidates for congress gave the following result. Gen. John Whiting, seventy-eight; Jabez Upham, Esq., forty-five; Seth Hastings, Esq., four. There was no choice, and at the next trial Mr. Upham was dropped, when Gen. Whiting had eighty-six votes to ninety-five for Mr. Hastings. The latter carried the district.

The committee to consider and report on building Ponakin bridge and repair the road, were John Whiting, Jonathan Wilder, Jonas Fairbank, John Carter, Jonathan Whitney, Asa Warner, Benjamin Wyman.

In August a plan was adopted with reference to pursuing and capturing horse-thieves, who then infested the region. On the ninth of November the plan was enlarged, and thieves of every kind were included. Two if not three lawyers were on the committee, viz., Merrick Rice, William Stedman and × Ebenezer Torrey. Probably it was hoped that a committee full charged with law would be a terror to evil doers. Perhaps it was at this time, and in reference to this state of morals, that the following lines were written by a cynical rhymster, (a) who had some wit, but [whose head] at times, was a little daft.

“Lancaster, a long and narrow strip of land,
Cursed at each end, and in the middle damned;
With well-fed jockies thickly peopled o’er,
A fair outside, and truly—nothing more.”

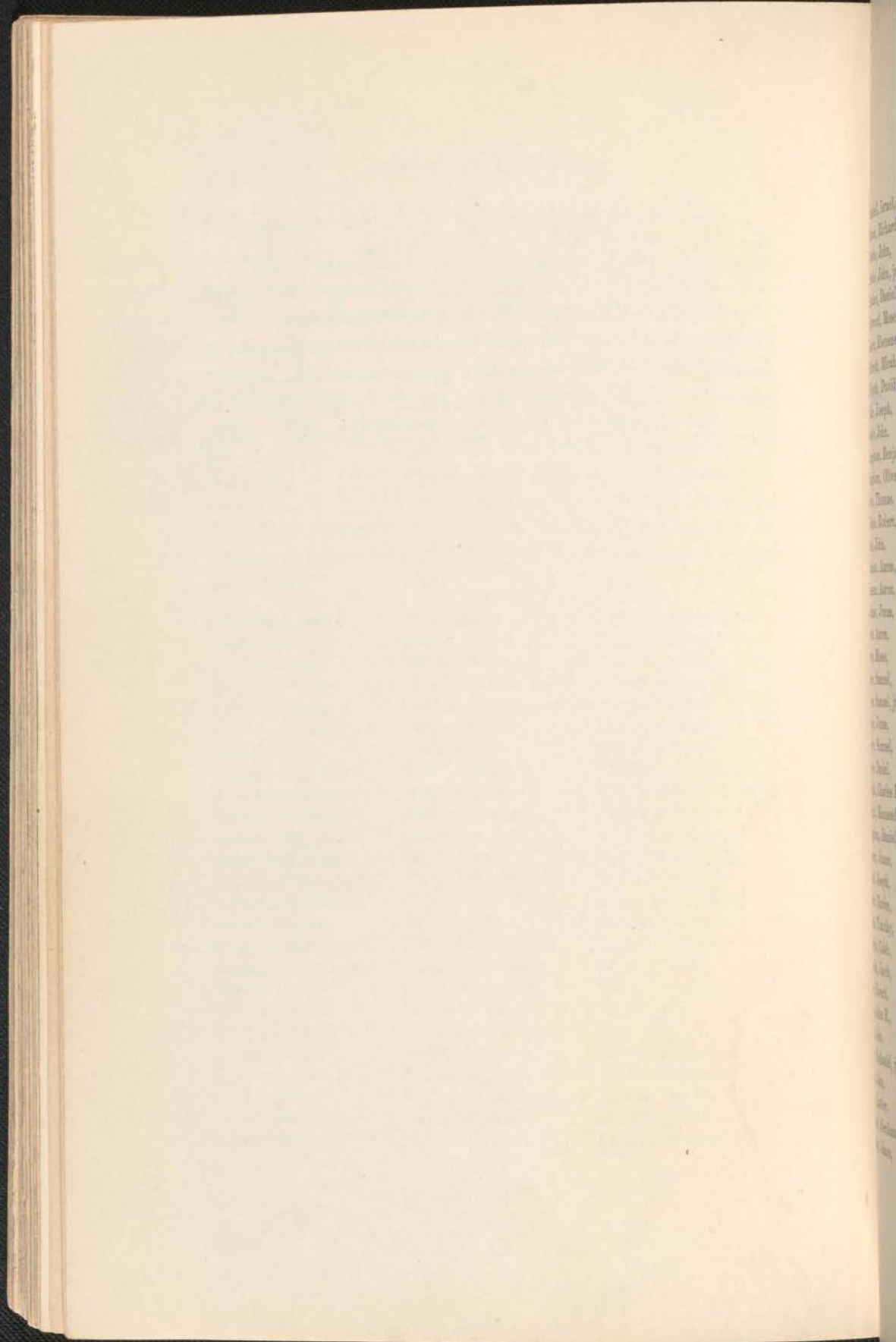
The building of Ponakin bridge was finally committed to John Maynard, Jacob Fisher and Daniel Laughton. This closes the municipal history of the year.

LIST OF VOTERS.

A roll of names is an important element of history. In the history of a nation we look for the names of the actors. But as the limits of such history forbid the insertion of many names, we are, of necessity, confined to those who filled the highest places. A town history is nothing without a multiplicity of facts, and the more names can find a place the better for the work. This is a sufficient reason for inserting the following list of voters in the town in the year 1807. These men, with those who had recently passed away, and those who soon were added to the list, were the town, in its corporate capacity, for a whole generation. The list was found among papers relating to Lancaster in the library of the Antiquarian Society, Worcester.

Allen, Ebenezer,	Carter, Oliver,	Farwell, Joseph,
Allen, Samuel,	Carter, Solomon,	Farwell, Leonard,
Atherton, Israel,	Carter, Thomas,	Faulkner, Paul,
Atherton, Peter,	Chase, Charles,	Fisher, Jacob,
Baldwin, Oliver,	Chinnery, Thaddeus,	Flagg, Josiah,
Ballard, Jeremiah,	Clark, Gregory,	Fletcher, Joshua,
Ballard, John,	Clark, James,	Fletcher, Timothy,
Ballard, Thomas,	Cook, Aaron,	Fletcher, William,
Barrett, Jonathan,	Daby, Nathan,	Fuller, Edward,
Barrett, Reuben,	Damon, Samuel,	Fuller, James,
Bennett, Elisha,	Damon, Samuel, jr.,	Fuller, Solomon,
Bennett, Nathan,	Divol, Ephraim,	Gates, Abraham,
Bennett, Thomas, jr.,	Divol, Manassah,	Gates, Thomas,
Blanchard, William,	Divol, Peter,	Goodwin, Edward,
Bowers, Josiah,	Dolleson, John,	Goodwin, James,
Brigham, Ephraim,	Eager, Horace,	Goodwin, John,
Burbank, Nathaniel,	Eaton, Nathaniel,	Goss, Daniel,
Buterick, Horatio G.,	Elder, James, jr.,	Goss, Daniel, jr.,
Carter, Calvin,	Emerson, Elias,	Goss, John,
Carter, Ephraim,	Emerson, Ephraim,	Goss, John, jr.,
Carter, James,	Fairbank, Cyrus,	Gould, Nathaniel,
Carter, James, jr.,	Fairbank, Jonas,	Gould, William,
Carter, John,	Fairbank, Jonas, jr.,	Harris, Daniel,
Carter, John, jr.,	Fales, Jeremiah,	Haskell, Elias,
Carter, John, 3d,	Fales, Jeremiah, jr.,	Haskell, Henry,

I must presume this to be an imperfect list or
carelessly copied since neither William nor Richard T. Cleveland's
names are in it - though their father-in-law's, Joseph Hiller's
is, H. Thayer does not appear, nor does Emerson. It is evidently
a tax-list, and the author could have found a trunk
full of tax lists - complete - from revolutionary days to the
present decade, in the possession of the town clerk! Why
copy an extract, because found in the Antiq. Soc. Lib.?



Haskell, Israel,
 Haven, Richard,
 Hawks, John,
 Hawks, John, jr.,
 Hayden, Daniel,
 Haywood, Moses,
 Hazen, Ebenezer,
 Hildreth, Micah,
 Hildreth, David,
 Hiller, Joseph,
 Hosley, John,
 Houghton, Benjamin 2d
 Houghton, Oliver,
 Howe, Thomas,
 Hudson, Robert,
 Hyde, John,
 Johnson, Aaron,
 Johnson, Aaron, jr.,
 Johnson, Jonas,
 Jones, Aaron,
 Jones, Moses,
 Jones, Samuel,
 Jones, Samuel, jr.,
 Joslyn, Jonas,
 Joslyn, Samuel,
 Keyes, Daniel,
 Knight, Charles E.,
 Knight, Manasseh,
 Laughton, Daniel,
 Lawson, James,
 Leach, Joseph,
 Lewis, Charles,
 Lewis, Timothy,
 Lincoln, Caleb,
 Lincoln, Jacob,
 Low, Edward,
 Low, Jabez B.,
 Low, John,
 Low, Nathaniel, jr.,
 Lyon, John,
 Lyon, Luther,
 Mallard, Abraham,
 Mallard, James,

Maynard, John,
 Mead, Theodore,
 Newman, Gowen B.,
 Newman, Joseph,
 Newhall, Pliny,
 Nichols, Joseph,
 Oliver, Joel,
 Osgood, Ephraim,
 Osgood, Joel,
 Osgood, Moses,
 Peabody, Calvin,
 Phelps, Abijah,
 Phelps, George,
 Phelps, Robert,
 Phelps, Sylvester,
 Pollard, Abner,
 Pollard, Gardner,
 Pollard, John,
 Prentiss, John,
 Prescott, John,
 Rice, Benjamin,
 Rice, Ezekiel,
 Rice, Joseph,
 Rice, Merrick,
 Rogers, Joseph,
 Robbins, John,
 Robbins, John, 2d,
 Rugg, Aaron,
 Rugg, Abel,
 Rugg, Abijah,
 Rugg, Daniel,
 Rugg, Elijah,
 Rugg, Ephraim,
 Rugg, Isaac,
 Rugg, Joseph,
 Safford, Thomas,
 Sargent, John,
 Sargent, Seth,
 Saunderson, Elisha,
 Savary, John,
 Sawyer, Amos,
 Sawyer, John,
 Sawyer, Luther,

Sawyer, Moses,
 Smith, Moses,
 Smith, Moses, jr.,
 Stearns, Daniel,
 Stearns, Eli,
 Stedman, William,
 Stevenson, Martin,
 Stowe, Jacob,
 Studley, C.,
 Sweetser, Jacob,
 Thomas, Joshua,
 Thurston, Gates,
 Thurston, John,
 Thurston, Peter,
 Thurston, Peter, jr.,
 Thurston, Silas,
 Torrey, Ebenezer,
 Tower, Asahel,
 Townshend, John,
 Townshend, Robert,
 Turner, Nathaniel,
 Wales, Joseph,
 Ward, Samuel,
 Warner, Asa,
 Wheeler, Reuben,
 White, Abijah,
 Whiting, John,
 Whiting, Paul,
 Whiting, Timothy,
 Whitney, Ephraim,
 Whitney, Jonas,
 Whittemore, Nathaniel,
 Whittemore, Nath'l jr.,
 Wilder, Abel,
 Wilder, Ebenezer,
 Wilder, Calvin,
 Wilder, Gardner,
 Wilder, Joel,
 Wilder, John,
 Wilder, Jonathan,
 Wilder, Manasseh,
 Wilder, Samuel,
 Wilder, Samuel, 2d,

Wilder, Stephen,	Willard, Amasa,	Willard, Simon,
Wilder, Titus,	Willard, Benjamin,	Willard, William,
Wilder, Titus, jr.,	Willard, Benjamin W.,	Worcester, Samuel,
Wilder, William,	Willard, Paul,	Wyman, Benjamin,
Willard, Abel,	Willard, Salmon,	Zweir, Jacob, jr.

ANNALS CONTINUED.

In 1802 Gov. Strong received more than two-thirds of the votes for governor. Gen. Whiting received more votes for senator than Mr. Gerry for governor. The general seems to have been personally popular, and to have received more than his party support, but being a Jeffersonian, was never elected to congress.

William Stedman now occupied a prominent position in the town. In May he was chosen to the legislature, and in November he was sent to congress, in which body he continued, by successive elections, till 1810.

The meeting-house needed repairing in 1803, and John Prentiss, Jacob Fisher and Merrick Rice were chosen a committee to attend to the business. In November, Dea. Joseph Wales had leave to set a store on town land near the Latin grammar school-house, a fact interesting as showing that there was a common at the north of the railroad station. At the same time the town chose Samuel Ward, Timothy Whiting and Merrick Rice a committee to apply to the general court for authority to hold a lottery. But on reflection, this action was wisely reconsidered.

At the presidential election, November 5, 1804, the republican or Jefferson party showed a large relative gain, the vote having been for federal electors, 96; for republican, 87. For congress, William Stedman, 76; John Whiting, 84. Stedman had a majority in the district, but Whiting was the favorite of the town.

It was a favorite plan of some, during many years to unite several towns in establishing a union workhouse, and a committee of five was appointed in March, 1805, to confer with

*Timothy Whiting
became Postmaster
1803. July 25.
There is more.*

The Mass. Spy for June 17 1801 has upon its 3^d page among the political articles, a biographical sketch of Gen. John Whiting then the Jeffersonian Candidate for Congress. "Being a member of a company of minute men at the age of about 16 yrs. he commenced military service at the memorable battle of Lexington April 19 1775. & continued in the army to the close of the Revolutionary war; received a Commission of Subaltern rank at the commencement of the Campaign of 1777 In the course of the war although his inclination led him to the military duties of the line, as service required, he was assigned to and discharged the various staff duties of Quartermaster, Adjutant, Judge Advocate & Aid-de-camp. Soon after embracing the life of a citizen, he was elected Captain of the militia in Lancaster his native town, and has been promoted through the various grades to the command of a Brigade in which station he has continued nearly nine years. - is a correct scholar - being master of the English, Latin and French Languages - has without the aid of great wealth or family connexions acquired a stability and weight of character amongst his fellow townsmen, having for many years, generally been employed in managing the presidential affairs of the town: has been twice Representative to General Court, his sustaining the office of deacon in the church evinces his love of order & attachment to religion" - In later articles in the Spy his political opponents sometimes attempt to throw ridicule upon the General for his very polite manners, and discredit the depth of his scholarship. One speaks sneeringly of his ability to "enter & depart from a room with a gentel air" and of his entering military life as a fifer - Commends him as "a good deacon and a good book binder" & says of the three candidates the General undoubtedly could "make the best boy" -

June 16. 1806. was the total eclipse of
the sun. The sky was cloudless; for five minutes
the sun appeared like a dark globe. and the stars
came into view.

the towns of Sterling, Bolton, and other towns in the vicinity in regard to erecting a suitable building for the purpose. The project was never carried into effect.

In April the selectmen were directed to build a hearse house and magazine. The town supplied the military with ammunition in those days. The next year the sum of \$22.-67 was voted to "provide powder for the militia." The bass viol came in for repairs every year, and the town voted a dollar or two to keep it in working order.

At the congressional election in November, 1806, Mr. Stedman received ninety-four votes, and Gen. Whiting sixty-four.

The Records contain several references to law suits in successive years. In 1807 Merriek Rice, Esq., was appointed to defend the town in a suit brought by Sterling. The cases were not of historical interest, with possibly one or two exceptions. Some illustrate the state of morals, but the scandal of the past may sleep in the records of the courts. In general the town had costs to pay without the satisfaction of gaining its case.

The plan of having the selectmen nominate all officers to be chosen at the annual meeting except those elected by ballot, was brought before the town in May, 1808, and at other times; but the article was always passed over. It does not appear that the town ever gave any time to the consideration of the subject, feeling doubtless fully competent to select its own officers.

From the year 1808 to the close of the last war with England in 1815, the people of Massachusetts felt a deep interest in the foreign policy of the national government. The commercial pursuits of the people in seaboard towns were thought to be unfavorably affected by the embargo laws, and other measures of the administration. The war was very unpopular in this state, though the prowess of the army and navy was recognized with patriotic pride. The first reference to this phase of national politics to be found in the town Records, is under date of September 15, when the town voted to present a petition to the president of the United States urg-

x ing him to suspend the embargo laws. Major Hiller, William Stedman and Samuel Ward were the committee to draft the petition. Their report was adopted, and by vote, the document was signed by the selectmen, attested by the clerk, and sent to president Jefferson.

A special meeting was called, John Maynard in the chair, February 1, 1809, "to take into consideration the alarming state of our public affairs, and to petition or address the legislature of this state on the subject of our grievances." The subject was referred to a committee of five,—Joseph Hiller, Moses Smith,^{sr} Jonathan Wilder, Samuel Ward and John Thurston. The meeting adjourned to three o'clock, P. M., when the committee reported. Their report was adopted by the town, signed by the selectmen, and sent to the general court. This was an effort to reach the general government through the state legislature. The town was strong in support of the federal party, as was evinced by the state election in May, when the vote was for Gov. Gore, 198; Levi Lincoln, 97. This was the elder Levi Lincoln, who was attorney-general of the United States under Mr. Jefferson.

194 to 87 The next year, 1810, Gov. Gore received nearly three-fourths of the votes for governor, against Elbridge Gerry. However the latter was chosen, and was re-elected the next year, when Caleb Strong was brought forward again, and was elected.

The militia companies and town stock of ammunition cost \$70.95.

The ravages of the small-pox received the attention of the legislature, and a law was passed giving the towns increased power to deal with the evil. Therefore the town held a meeting, May 7, in compliance with the law, and chose a committee of five,—Eli Stearns, Moses Emerson, Merrick Rice, John Maynard, John Thurston—to "superintend the inoculation of the cow-pox." The inhabitants were required to assemble in the several school-houses at specified times, for the purpose of being inoculated.

x The Petition

"The inhabitants of the Town of Lancaster in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in legal town meeting assembled, respectfully solicit the attention of the President of the United States to the following representation

It has been with an honest pride that we have viewed the rising glory and wealth of our nation. We have cheerfully contributed by the "sweat of our brow" to the support of the federal government, believing that human wisdom could not devise a more perfect system for the protection of our national rights, and for encouraging us in the diligent use of the means of subsistence and accumulation.

Trained up in the belief that Agriculture and Commerce are reciprocal in their supports, and inseparable in their interests, we cannot silently endure the long continuance of the Embargo, a measure calculated (as we conceive) to sever those supports and interests; to check the spirit of enterprise, and take away the hopes and rewards of industry.

When the embargo was laid by Congress, altho' we could not perceive its necessity, we were induced to acquiesce by an habitual resolution to respect the constituted authorities of our Country and to obey the laws. We frankly confess it has not been in our power to reconcile the reason assigned, viz, "to keep in safety our vessels, our seamen and merchandize from the dangers with which they are threatened on the high seas and elsewhere, from the belligerent powers of Europe", with extending the restrictions on Commerce to the safe & peaceable inland parts of the Community.

Seeing that by this measure, after an unexampled experiment, the chief sources of our Country's wealth are closed; sensibly feeling the injury, in the depreciation of our agricultural products, and in the inevitable waste of a proportion of them, for want of a market; finding also, that the imported articles without which we cannot comfortably subsist, have so risen in value that we have no means to procure them, we are imperiously urged to address the President of the United States for relief.

The evils we have recited are in comparison of little moment. We deeply lament, that by annihilating the customary incentives to virtuous industry and by multiplying the temptations to violate the laws and to commit fraud and injustice, a state of things may be introduced which can scarcely be equalled by the desolations of war. The changes which have recently taken place among the

bellicent nations & the prospect some of them present, of emancipation from the dominion of the Common Usurper, and the consequent security promised to the Commerce of the United States we presume are sufficiently apparent. The relaxation of the British Orders in Council as respects neutral trade with those parts of Spain which are struggling for self government, opens to the United States an extensive Commerce. South America and the West India Islands also, offer safe & profitable markets for American produce. Indeed there appear to us many other sources of profitable trade, inviting the enterprise of the merchant, which to the President need not be mentioned. Could the Commercial advantages they offer be enjoyed even under the restrictions the President is authorized to require the labors of the husbandman and mechanic would again be encouraged and they rescued from those distresses which threaten to destroy that competency their industry has acquired, and those blessings which the wise policy of former measures had promised. -- We therefore earnestly entreat the President to exercise the powers vested in him by Congress, to suspend the whole or in part the act laying an Embargo, & the several acts supplementary thereto, or to convene that honorable body, as soon as may be, for the purpose of terminating the sufferings those acts have occasioned. Sept 3 1808

Stedman resigned & and this vote was at a special Election to fill the vacancy. October 8th. At the regular Election Nov. 1819, Regelow had 132 votes & Whiting 11.

5 - June 21st 1812. A committee appointed for the purpose made a Report & Resolutions in opposition to the War. partly in compliance with the views & wishes of the patriotic Town of Boston. This was ordered printed in the Columbian Centinel & appeared in that paper July 4 1812. (An copy will be found in Vol 4th ^{of this history} p. 118) This is what Mr. Garrison calls "a petition"

Three days later a special meeting was called by "personal notice," that is by leaving a notification of the meeting at each voter's residence twenty-four hours before the time of meeting. The town was alarmed by an *epidemic fever* which prevailed at the time. It appears that the selectmen had called in physicians from other towns, in addition to those residing here, and the town voted to authorize the fathers of the town to "pay those physicians whom they have employed from other towns the charges they have against persons unable to pay such charges, and afford further supplies to such as are sick and in distress."

At the ^{a special} election (Mr. Stedman ^{having resigned} declined to be a candidate for congress] and the vote of this town was as follows: Abijah Bigelow, of Leominster, 130; Timothy Whiting, of Lancaster, 23; Moses White, 8; Ephraim Emerson, 1.

At the annual meeting, March 2, 1812, the late law regulating the choice of town officers, and town meetings was read. In the Records of different years, it is noted that this law, or the law concerning riots, or the law against profane cursing and swearing, was read in open town meeting. The clerk also always recorded that prayer was offered at the opening of the annual meeting, by Rev. Nathaniel Thayer. Sometimes he noted that the prayer was "appropriate;" then, that Mr. Thayer prayed to the "Governor of the Universe;" and again to the "Great Author of all existences."

As the war was about to be waged, the federal or anti-administration sentiment became more pronounced. Gov. Strong, the head of the peace party, received votes as follows, 217, while for Gov. Gerry only 74 were cast. But the town was ready to support the governor in repelling the invaders of the state, and provided knapsacks for the militia.

In June a petition to president Madison was voted by the town, calling on him to "avert the calamities of war if it can be done consistent with the honor and dignity of the nation." Or to "memorialize congress on the subject of the war." Passed by a vote of 115 to 15. In August, John Maynard, Jona-

than Wilder and William Cleveland were sent to a county convention, and Joseph Hiller, Jacob Fisher, Eli Stearns, Benjamin Wyman, John Thurston were chosen a "committee of correspondence and public safety." This measure had a smack of the old revolutionary spirit. At the November election, when presidential electors were chosen, this town gave but twenty-two votes in favor of Mr. Madison, to one hundred and eighty-six for the opposition candidate.

The question came up, whether the town would employ the celebrated Dr. Nathan Smith, of Hanover, N. H., to operate upon the eyes of Archibald McIntosh; and the question was referred to Drs. James Carter, Samuel Manning and William Smith.

* not 1812
but 1809 when
Dr. P. began
this mill.

This year marks the extension of business in the south part of the town, now Clinton, when it was voted to exempt Messrs. Poignand and Plant from taxation. They started a ^{Cotton} factory on the site of the old Prescott mill, ^{in 1809} and another ^{about 1810} where the yarn factory of the carpet mill now stands, and being men of enterprise, did a large business for those days. Mr. Poignand was a native of the Isle of Jersey, one of the islands in the British channel, near the coast of France. [The people are French, but subjects of the sovereign of England.]

At the election in April, the vote was for governor, Caleb Strong, 226; Joseph Varnum, 62. For first representative, Jacob Fisher, 155, and four scattering; second representative, William Cleveland, 95, with 79 for others.

In 1814, February 21, a special meeting was called to "consider the propriety of petitioning the legislature of this commonwealth to adopt such constitutional measures as to them shall seem necessary relative to the oppressive operation of the late embargo laws of the United States, as well as to insure to the people of this commonwealth their rights as citizens and as a state." The matter was referred to Eli Stearns, Moses Smith, Jonathan Wilder, Jonas Lane and Samuel Manning, who made the sensible report that "considering the present session of the general court is near closing, and also the

Poignand + Plant. came here in 1809. Their coming and enterprise was of vastly more importance than the author makes them ~~appear~~ deserve more than this brief inaccurate mention in Lancaster history. This cotton-factory was one of the very earliest in Massachusetts to use the power loom.

The statement that the town voted to exempt P & P from taxation is not copied from town records. The warrant for March meeting 1812. article 5 is: "To consider the expediency of remitting to Messrs Poignand + Plant all or any portion of the taxes which have been assessed upon them and their estates + also the propriety of exempting from taxation for a limited period the hands they employ in the Manufactory, or act anything relating thereto." The subject was referred to a committee who reported in May + their report was adopted + put on file, but I could not find it. I don't believe Mr. Mainw could.

(a) David Poignand a native of the island of Jersey and Samuel Plant his son in law - Feb. 12, 1821 their business had grown to such an extent that an incorporated Company was formed, called the Lancaster Cotton Co. David Poignand Samuel Plant, Benjamin Rich, Isaac Bangor Seth Kewkes being the incorporators. In 1825 S. J. Wildes in a letter to the Canal Commissioners estimates the capital employed in the two factories, at 100,000 - In 1835 Poignand being dead the property was sold, being advertised as 177 acres of land, one brick factory with 900 spindles - 1 wooden factory with 32 looms + other machinery - Blacksmith shop, Machine Shop - 11 Dwelling Houses + other buildings - The Clinton Co. Chartered in 1835 succeeded -

David Poignand died suddenly in the house of Mr John G. Thurston August 28 1830 at 72. Samuel Plant died in Northampton January 1847 -

Poignand was a bald-headed man wearing a queue + carrying a gold-headed cane -

From Records of Deaths -

"Henry Moore son of John and Anna, was killed in a battle with British troops and Indians at a) Brownstown".

x They are in the State Archives (Adjutant General's Office) + I found them there, as given in Roll below. (40 in number). If the author means the rolls of the "regulars", of course they have no business in Mass.

(a) The reason always assigned by the soldiers was that Capt John Lyon deserted his company.

Roll of the detached Company of Artillery of Capt. Silas Parker from Lancaster and vicinity in Lieut. Col. Edwards Regt in service at Boston from Sept. 8th to Nov. 5th 1754.

Silas Parker, Captain, John Taylor Lieut., Abraham, Mallard Lieut.
Sergeants - Abijah Brown, Hannibal Laughton, Artemas H. Brown,
Nathaniel Thayer.

Privates - Edward Brown	Gardner Maynard	Liberty B. Flores	Horin Randall
Thomas Safford	William McLalen	John Lyetch	Ebenezer Widen
Samuel Damon	Ephraim Walden	Ephraim C. Fisher	Robert Hewson
Jonathan Osgood	Apollus Osgood	Pinchas Sawyer	John Lyon
Titus Wilder	Thomas Phelps	Israel Haskell	Ebenezer Taylor
Nathaniel Gould	Asa Godard	Benjamin S. Rice	George Phelps.
Josias Johnston	Samuel Meece	Calvin Wheeler	
Rubens Blood	Odel Brown	Prosper Randall	
Samuel Churchill	Henry Houghton		

The guns were kept in a building next to the old town house, near where Mrs Abbie Lane lived 1880 - for many years, and it was said that "Brooks's Students" loaded one of the guns, attached a slow match to it + blew out one side of the gun house, one night about 40 years ago - startling the neighborhood,

small glimmering prospect that a peace may take place, and the oppressive restrictions on commerce be removed," therefore the subject should be referred to the May meeting.

The militia expenses in 1813-14 for powder and other articles were nearly \$200.

It is known that several men belonging to the town were in the military service during the war with Great Britain, in the years 1812-15, but the number cannot be given. The rolls containing the names of the soldiers in the national army are ~~not~~ in the state Archives. Perhaps the record office in Washington contains the needed information, but it could not be conveniently examined.

In the autumn of 1814, the company of artillery belonging to this town was summoned, in haste, to Boston. This was a volunteer or independent company, containing ~~fifty or sixty~~ ⁴⁰ members. Capt. John Lyon led the company when they marched away on a Sunday, and continued in service about two weeks. Then Capt. ~~Lewis~~ ^a Parker, of Sterling, for some reason, took the command. Perhaps a fourth of the company was made up of Sterling men. A few from other towns were in the company. John Taylor was ~~second~~ ^{first} lieutenant, and Abraham Mallard was ensign. The company was in service ~~thirty~~ ^{2 months} days. Capt. Carter Fisher, a venerable citizen still living, went as a substitute, being too young to be a member of the company. He remembers the return, when the soldiers marched through the Center to the gun-house in North Village, where they were dismissed. The company was in no action, and the alarm having subsided, it was sent home.

There were two infantry companies at that time; one in the north and the other in the south part of the town. The latter marched, having been called out on the supposition that it was a volunteer company. When the mistake was discovered, the company was dismissed. The cannon of the artillery company belonged to the state, and with the tumbrils and other property were kept in the gun-house, which stood nearly opposite the house of Henry Jewell.

a, Silas

E. C. Fisher

In the latter part of this year, an effort was made to secure a better observance of the Sabbath. The files of the "Massachusetts Spy" about the close of the war, show that conventions of ministers and laymen were held in different places, for the purpose of checking the alarming increase of Sabbath desecration, growing out of the war. Dr. Thayer and other gentlemen of Lancaster, were prominent in this movement. Probably the action of the town in November was in the same direction. The question was, shall there be an addition to the number of tything-men? The town voted in the negative, but chose the following committee to aid them in carrying out the laws relating to the due observance of the Sabbath: viz., Jonathan Buttrick, Joseph Leach, Moses Emerson, John Goss, Abner Pollard, Calvin Wilder, Jacob Fisher, Caleb Lincoln, Jonas Lane, Pliny Newhall, Jeremiah Dyer, Benjamin Willard, Elisha Sanderson, Charles E. Knight, Moses Jones, Daniel Wilder and Solomon Carter. These men were in different sections of the town, and occupied "strategic points," where they could notice all travelers, or strollers, and ascertain if such persons were abroad on errands of "necessity or mercy."

FIFTH MEETING-HOUSE.

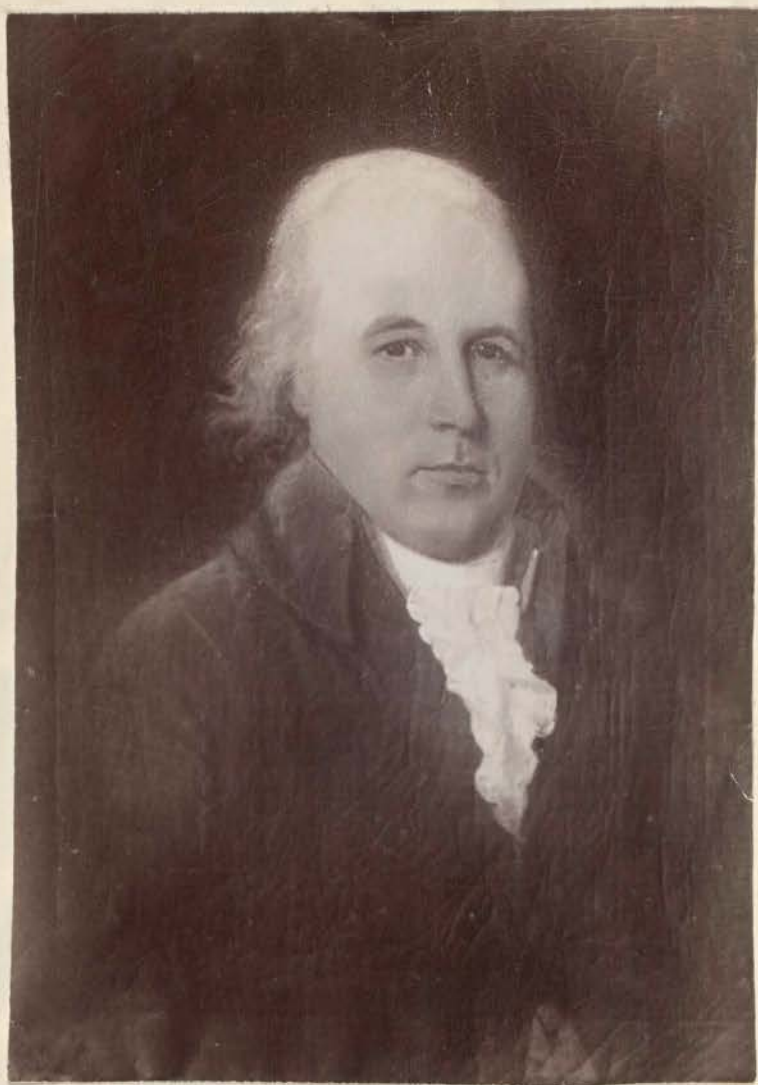
The time had come for better accommodations on the Sabbath. The old meeting-house, — the fourth since the settlement of the town, — was built in 1743, and was unsuitable in style and dimensions, for the altered circumstances of the people. The town was still united in one parish, though there were individuals besides the Shakers who did not attend the ministry of Mr. Thayer. There were a few Baptists, Swedenborgians and Quakers; and some were connected with no religious society, though but few families entirely neglected public worship. The town regarded Mr. Thayer as their minister, and there was an uncommon degree of harmony in church and society.

2
Quakers.

The Quakers were chiefly found in Bolton. In the south part of Bolton there dwelt a Quaker by the name of Holder, in an humble house, near which stood an unpainted shop, wherein he plied the trade of Shoemaking. Holder was no common workman, The exceeding excellence of the shoes he made for ladies' wear was soon well known. Mrs Cleveland after patronizing him could find no work to equal his, and when she went to Havana, was accustomed to send him orders from there. Mrs Sampson Wilder living in Paris sent home for all her shoes, and not that alone; many friends of hers in that city desiring to be as well shod as their Yankee acquaintance saw no way to do so, but to become patrons of friend Holder the obscure Shoemaker of a Bolton byway - whose handiwork put to shame the skill of all the Parisian Cuirpains -

X2 In Massachusetts Spy for Wednesday Oct. 5. and in Columbian Centinel for Saturday December 3. 1814 - is report of Convention as follows:

At a Convention of Delegates from the congregations in the towns of Lancaster, Sterling, Bolton, Harvard, Shirley, Weston, Pepperell, Townsend, Ashby, Westminster, Lunenburg, Fitchburg and Princeton, held at Shirley on 26 Sept. 1814 for the purpose of adopting measures for the more effectual execution of the Laws of the Commonwealth, providing for the due observance of the Lords Day: - (Hon. James Kendall Chairman. A Committee appointed, (Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, Rev. Daniel Chapin, Luther Lawrence Esq. Rev. Isaac Allen, Hon Josiah Stearns, Hon Silas Hobman, and Mr Jonathan Wilder) reported sundry resolves - &c



David Poynand

At a town meeting, May 1, 1815, a committee — Messrs. Jonathan Wilder, John Thurston and Jonas Lane — was chosen^u to confer with Capt. Benjamin Lee “respecting the purchase of his farm, or such part of it as the committee may deem ^{desirable} desirable for the purpose, suitable to build a meeting-house thereon.” The subject came before the town, October 23, upon two articles in the warrant, when on motion of Moses Smith, Esq., it was voted “that a committee of one from each school district be appointed to view and consider what spot would be most eligible to erect a meeting-house upon, and how much land would be necessary. If a spot on Capt. Lee’s place should be considered preferable, whether the town can afford to give the price he asks; and how the residue, after selecting the spot, can be disposed of. Also to make some estimate of the probable expense of building a meeting-house with brick as well as with wood. Also to consider the propriety of compensating the pewholders, and otherwise dispose of the old meeting-house.” The committee represented every section of the town. No. 1, Elisha Sanderson, near the Shirley line; 2, John Robbins; 3, William Gould; 4, Thomas Ballard; 5, Jacob Fisher; 6, Eli Stearns; 7, Samuel Ward, 8, William Cleveland; 9, John Thurston; 10, Daniel Harris, now in Clinton; 11, Titus Wilder, near Clam Shell pond; 12, Josiah Bridge, west Neck road, or Main street in the Center.

On the fourth of December the committee reported that Capt. Lee’s place was desirable, and that two acres were needed. They further estimated that a building seventy-one feet square inside, if made of wood, with porch, tower and cupola, would cost \$12,000. A brick building of the same dimensions would cost \$14,000. If a portico were added, the expense would be increased.

At another meeting held the same day, it was voted to build a new meeting-house, seventy-one feet square in the interior. It was decided to use brick, and have a cupola. Major Fisher agreed to buy the whole farm of Capt. Lee, and sell two acres

to the town at a price "fixed by three judicious, disinterested men." The building committee were chosen, viz., Eli Stearns, Jacob Fisher, William Cleveland. The town voted to borrow money to defray current expenses in building.

A meeting was held, January 3, 1816, to fix upon the size of the house. The subject was referred to a committee who were to report in half an hour. Their report was indefinite, though within certain bounds. "Reported to build so as not to contain more than 4,400 nor less than 4,200 square feet. It was also agreed to build both a porch and portico."

The committee chosen to appraise the two acres of Capt. Lee's land, which had been selected for the site of the meeting-house, were James Wilder, Moses Thomas and Thomas H. Blood, all of Sterling, who decided that the "land was worth \$633.33, and no more." The land was conveyed directly to the inhabitants of the town of Lancaster, and the selectmen were authorized, March 4, to receive the deed. It was voted to have a clock dial, and a committee was raised to prepare sheds to cover lime, and for the shelter of the workmen. The house was to face the south, with the door on the south front.

This arrangement did not meet with general concurrence, and another meeting was called on the twenty-first of March, when the vote in favor of facing west was ninety-nine to fifty-seven in favor of fronting south. The kind of wood for the pulpit was left to the judgment of ~~the architect~~, Mr. Hersey. Tradition sends down to us an amusing incident, which probably occurred at this time. It is said that Capt. Cleveland, then living on the Old Common, was the only man in town who kept a coach. He came to meeting in what seemed quite an imposing style. A Mr. Rugg made this an argument in favor of placing the front of the house towards the south, for, said he, "Mr. Cleveland comes up the road from the south, and thus will directly approach the door." An eccentric man, named John Willard, and nicknamed "old beeswax," of whom many anecdotes used to be told, immediately rose, and replied that the reason just given reminded him of an invention of

* The architect was Charles Bulfinch - see p. 417!
 Capt. Thomas Hershey was master-builder only.



Respectfully submitted by your Committee

Saml Plant

a This story is taken from "Life Sketches in Our village"
by Mrs Ch. W. Tyler.

Capt Samuel Ward's Memoranda, giving his reasons for locating the church as it is, are instant and as follows:

"mem^o The Land on which the Meeting House is to be placed a Ridge, and it seems to be a dictate of Nature that it should not be placed across it - The view from the inside of the building if placed West or South - if West the Hotel + stables on one side and Mr Smiths House & Barn on the other, if South two of the most delightful scenes in the Country. The building itself will appear better with its length which will be about 107 feet on the road 62 ft wide, an awkward appearance to have this length running back into the Field. more convenient towards the South as all the Carriages and Sleighs will come and go from the Portico in one direction on account of the situation of the Sheds - more comfortable in Cold weather as we shall not be exposed to the north west winds blowing into the House or at the time the people are in the Portico waiting for their Sleighs + Carriages as that they may leave it. - The view of the Building better if at the South. Should it be seen from the East side of the Neck, from the Old Common or Bottom Road, from the Worcester road; and equally good if looked at from George Hill, on the Leicester road a handsome view of the Broad Side of the Building. After we pass the village it can not be seen till we pass the Hotel and then we have a good view of it, if the Entrance be at the South the Land will admit of a handsome and convenient Common, if at the West, this beauty and convenience will be entirely lost. "

his which would remove all difficulty, and meet the minds of every person in town, no matter from what point of the compass he might come. His machine, he continued, was an improved bed wrench, and by placing that under the meeting-house, each man, as he came up, could take hold of the handle and bring the ^{front of the} house round towards himself. There was a shout of laughter, and the meeting adjourned.

But the matter was not settled, and another meeting was held on the eighth of April, when the former vote was reconsidered, and Hon. Moses Smith submitted a motion to "settle this question in a manner which shall be fair, and satisfactory to all the inhabitants, and prevent the ill consequences which always flow from disputes and quarrels in towns, and to promote that peace and harmony for which this town has ever justly been distinguished and celebrated." He proposed a plan for selecting a fair committee, which being amended on motion of Dea. Lane was adopted as follows, in substance. A committee of twelve, half of them in favor of the south entrance, and half of them in favor of the west, should be chosen, who should choose a committee of six. These six were to select a locating committee. The committee of twelve were "nominated, voted for and chosen" as follows. For the south entrance, Samuel Ward, Benjamin Wyman, Jonas Lane, Jonathan Locke, Jonathan Wilder, John Thurston. It may seem strange that Messrs. Lane, Wyman and Locke should represent the south end, seeing they all lived on the Neck, and north of the location; but at that time there was no cross road to the Center, and they came to meeting by the present residences of Charles L. Wilder, and Dr. Thompson. The west-siders were Thomas Ballard, Levi Lewis, Edward Goodwin, James Carter, Isaac Child, Thomas Howe. The meeting was then adjourned "twenty minutes to give time for said committee to retire and select from the inhabitants, the two committees of three each to choose the locating committee." The committee soon reported the following list, viz., Samuel Ward, Jonas Lane, John Thurston, (south;) Thomas Ballard,

+ Isaac Childs, Edward Goodwin, (north). Ballard lived on Ballard hill, Childs near the North Village, and Goodwin on the Lunenburg road. The town accepted the list. The names of the locating committee are not recorded. The matter of clock dials was left to the building committee.

There was another meeting, June 3, when the locating committee who were probably gentlemen not belonging to the town, reported in favor of fronting the meeting-house towards the south, as it now stands. The west-siders were not satisfied, and asked to have an entrance on the west, with a suitable porch in addition to that on the south. The old house had doors on three sides, so that the proposition did not seem so absurd as it would at the present day. After much questioning and answering and debate, it was voted that the locating committee, and the committee who selected them, had acted "with fairness and candor," and "that no undue influence was had on the occasion of locating the meeting-house." The vote was unanimous. The decision of the committee was accepted according to previous agreement. It was then voted, that the "gentlemen of the locating committee, being at this meeting, all present by particular invitation, are entitled to the thanks of this town, for their polite attention in attending this meeting, and that they be invited to retire to Mr. Rand's tavern, where refreshment is provided for them by the selectmen."

The question was then put, whether there should be an additional entrance and portico, that is, one on the west end, and the vote was decisive. In favor, twenty; against, seventy-five.

b' The location being finally settled, the corner stone was laid with appropriate services on the ninth of July. Beneath the stone a silver plate was deposited with these words inscribed: "Fourth house built in Lancaster for the worship of God. Corner stone laid July ^{9th}, 1816. May God make our ways prosperous, and give us good success. Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, pastor of our church." The pastor made an address before the laying of the stone. The 87th Psalm in Belknap's

Each committee selected six names. The twelve were
 James Brazer Esq of Groton Col^o Eager of Northboro
 Stewart Park do Stephen Williams do.
 Lemuel Parker of Pepperell Col^o Crawford do.
 Doct Amos Bancroft of Groton Saml Hoar jr Concord
 John W Stiles Esq of Westminster Tilly Merrick do.
 Jonathan Cutting Jun of Templeton Jonas Whitney Esq Westminster

Five "tickets" were then "drawn" and the committee
 of five to decide the location were thus decided by lot.

Col^o Eager
 Tilly Merrick
 Jonathan Cutting Jun^r
 Lemuel Parker
 Jonas Whitney Esq

Two supernumeraries were
 also drawn

Stephen Williams
 Amos Bancroft

b

It is related that Dr James Carter was one of those
 most stubbornly opposed to the present location of the church.
 & when the final decision was made, openly declared he
 never would enter the church if it was built facing south.
 He kept his word, for he died within the year.

In Dr Thayer's record is "A.D." not 9 and way not ways

b' p 416. Copy of a memorandum made by Jared Sparks at the time of the laying of the corner stone of the brick Church. he being then principal of the new Latin school on the old Common.

"On Tuesday July 9th was laid in presence of a numerous Collection of Spectators, the corner stone of a spacious meeting house which is now erecting in Lancaster.

The exercises were preceded by a very full procession composed of the inhabitants of the town, after which a well adapted address was delivered by the Rev^d Mr Thayer, in which some of the principal motives for erecting and dedicating temples to the worship of God were urged with force and clearness.

The 87th Psalm was then sung to the tune of Old Hundred by a full choir of singers followed by a peculiarly appropriate and impressive prayer.

The ceremonies were closed by placing under the corner stone a plate containing the following inscription.

Fourth House built in Lancaster
for the worship of God.

Corner stone laid A.D. 1816

May God make our way prosperous

And give us good success.

Rev^d Nath^l Thayer Pastor of our Church.

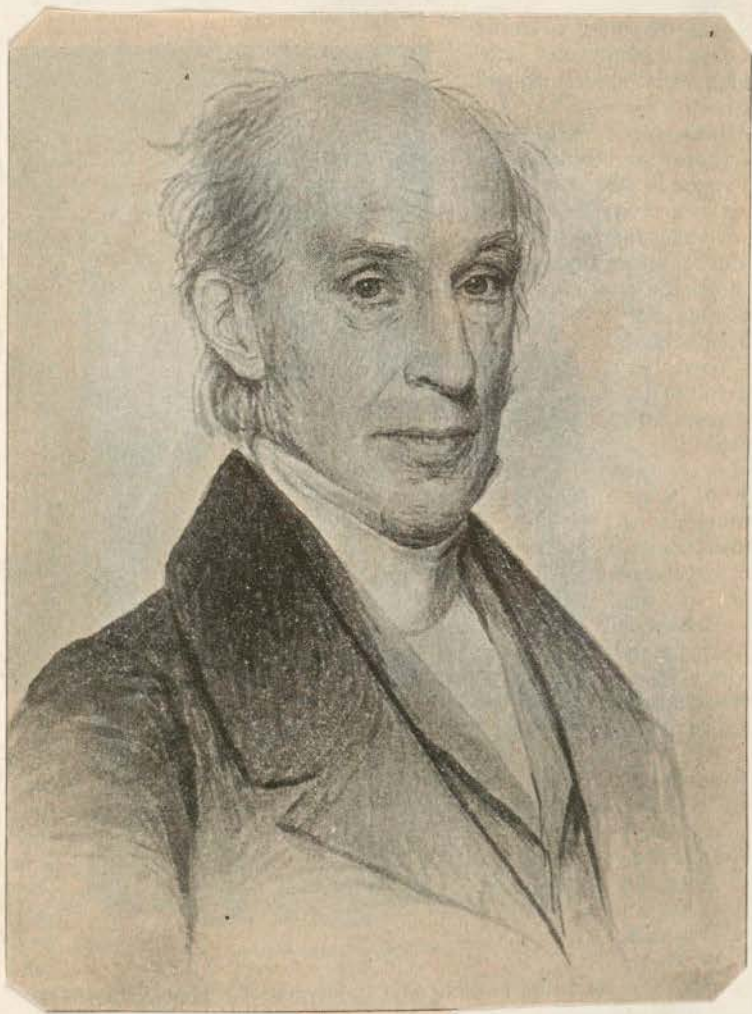
21

p 417

(a) It is not at all probable that Joseph Willard wrote this description. It is taken by Willard, a few words only omitted, - from an appendix to the published dedication Sermon of Dr Nathaniel Thayer, and was also published in the Columbian Centinel for January 4 1817 - Joseph Willard did not come to Lancaster to reside until over four years after this date, sometime in 1821.

" (aa) The Capt Thomas Hervey mentioned on page 417 was the Master Builder. He received 500 for his salary.

It was voted. " That the Pew nearest the Pulpit on the right side of the broad aisle be appropriated to the use of the ministers family." " 2 That the first & second pews on each side of the pulpit on the lower floor be considered as free pews."



Charles Bulfinch.



The Unitarian Church
1876-

Collection was sung by a full choir of singers led by Mr. James Newhall, and at the close, Mr. Thayer offered prayer. This was in fact the fifth house of worship.

Compare
pp. 119-120

The town, August 20, voted to have a bell, and that the weight of the bell should be left to the building committee. November 4, it was voted that the shed ground should be "sold to the highest bidders, and that sheds should be built on a uniform plan."

On the sixteenth of December a committee consisting of the building committee, and one from each district, with Capt. *Thomas* Hersey, was authorized to "assess the whole expense of building the meeting-house upon all the pews according to their relative value." The building committee were directed to sell to the highest bidder all the pews not reserved by the town, and the town treasurer was authorized to make and execute good and sufficient deeds. The dedication was fixed for January 1, 1817, and Davis Whitman, Moses Emerson and Jonas Lane were chosen a committee of arrangements.

(a2)

The following description of the meeting-house, published at the time, should be read before coming to the exercises at the time of dedication. The extract is found in the History of Lancaster by Mr. Willard, and perhaps was from his pen. "The design of the edifice was by Charles Bulfinch, Esq., of Boston, (afterwards national architect at Washington). The body of the building is 74 by 66 feet, with a porch, portico, tower and cupola. The portico is 48 by 17 feet, of square, brick columns, arched with pilasters, entablature and pediments of the Doric order; the vestibule or porch is 48 by 19 feet, and contains the gallery stairs; the tower is 21 feet square; the cupola is circular, and of singular beauty;—it is surrounded with a colonnade of 12 fluted pillars, with entablature and cornice, of the Ionic order; above which is an Attic encircled with a festoon drapery, the whole surmounted by a dome, balls and vane. The height from the ground is about 120 feet. Inside, the front of the gallery is of balustrade work, and is supported by ten fluted pillars of the

a - (back)

It has a clock in front
 Doric order, presented by a gentleman of the society, Major Jacob Fisher. The pulpit rests on eight fluted columns, and four pilasters of the Ionic order; the upper section is supported by six Corinthian columns, also fluted, and is lighted by a circular-headed window, ornamented with double pilasters fluted; entablature and cornice of the Corinthian order. This is decorated with a curtain and drapery from a Parisian model, which with the materials, were presented by a friend, S. V. S. Wilder, Esq. They are of rich green figured satin. A handsome Pulpit Bible was presented also by a friend, Mr. Abel Wrifford. A bell weighing 1,300 pounds was given by gentlemen of the town."

The interior of the building has since been altered and improved, but the architecture and general appearance, both within and without, remains unchanged; and distant be the day when its grand and comely features shall be marred by the dissolving touch of time or the vandal hands of man.

On the last Sabbath of the year, the people took a formal farewell of the ancient meeting-house. At the afternoon service Mr. Thayer preached from the text: "Thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof." Psalm 102: 14. Passing by the history of the church and the town, on the ground that an edition of Rev. Mr. Harrington's Centennial discourse had recently been printed, he merely glanced at a few general facts in relation to the character of the people in the past. The spirit of union and harmony had enabled them to go through severe trials without division and alienation. The town had been privileged with "reference to the men of honor and affluence" who had been its inhabitants. He could "recount many worthies who were the friends of the ministers of Christ; who were the unfailing observers of religious institutions; and whose example, talents and riches were consecrated to the interests of virtue, and to advance the prosperity and quiet of this church and town." A tribute was paid to the freemen because of the "propriety, the order, the union and despatch" which had characterized their elections

Jacob Fisher presented the clock not the pillars!

Henry R. Cleveland in an article upon "American Architecture" in the North American Review Vol. XLIII No. XCIII. says of this edifice.

"The same architect who planned the State House, designed many years afterwards a much smaller dome for the Church in Lancaster Massachusetts, the proportions of which are almost faultless. The Church itself is beneath criticism; but the Cupola which surmounts the tower, consisting of a circular Ionic Colonnade, with open arches between the columns, and a light and elegant dome springing from it, is hardly equalled for beauty in our country."

Charles Bulfinch was the first professional architect of Boston - He died 1844 aet. 80 - His chief designs were the 1st Boston Theatre ¹⁷⁹³, the Fontaine Crescent Franklin Place, the State House (1795), - Mass. Gen. Hospital, - Old City Hall (on site of present one) - Boylston Market, - University Hall Cambridge - Insane Asylum South Boston - State House Augusta Maine - & several Boston Churches not now standing - He was of N.H. class of 1781

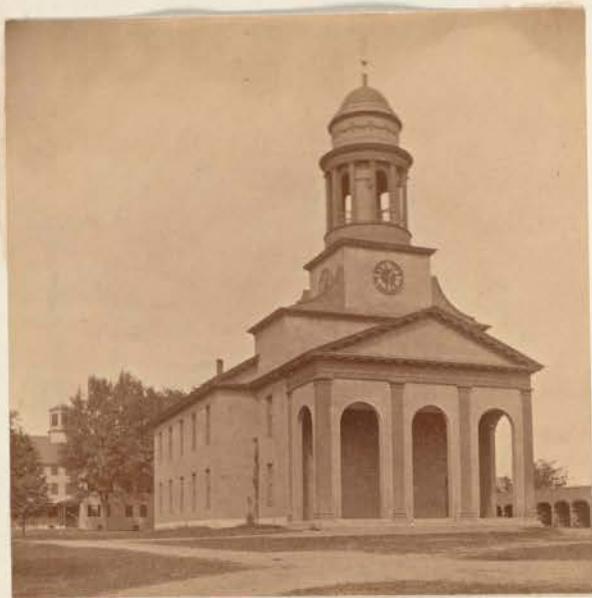
H.W.S. Cleveland still surviving (1880) fell from the belfry of this church

Sept. 1830 - His account of the accident is as follows:

I had gone up to the belfry with a party of my schoolmates after dinner and after being there for a time some one suggested that it must be near school time & we had better go down. I said I would see what time it was, and climbed over the railing of the belfry and standing upon a narrow ledge and holding by the lightning rod I leaned forward to look down at the clock below me - when the staple by which the lightning rod was fastened to the wall drew out from between the bricks and finding it impossible to save myself, I jumped down to a projection twelve feet below, hoping to be able to stop myself there. - It was but a few feet in width however & so steep that with the impetus already acquired I could not stop myself, but went over the edge and then fell fifty eight feet to the ground. I struck on my feet on a platform built around a pump. The joint under the platform was broken, the plank bent & recoiled throwing me several feet in the air & I fell senseless with a broken arm and dislocated ankle! All this I have learned from others, as I have never to this day had the slightest recollection even of going to the church or of

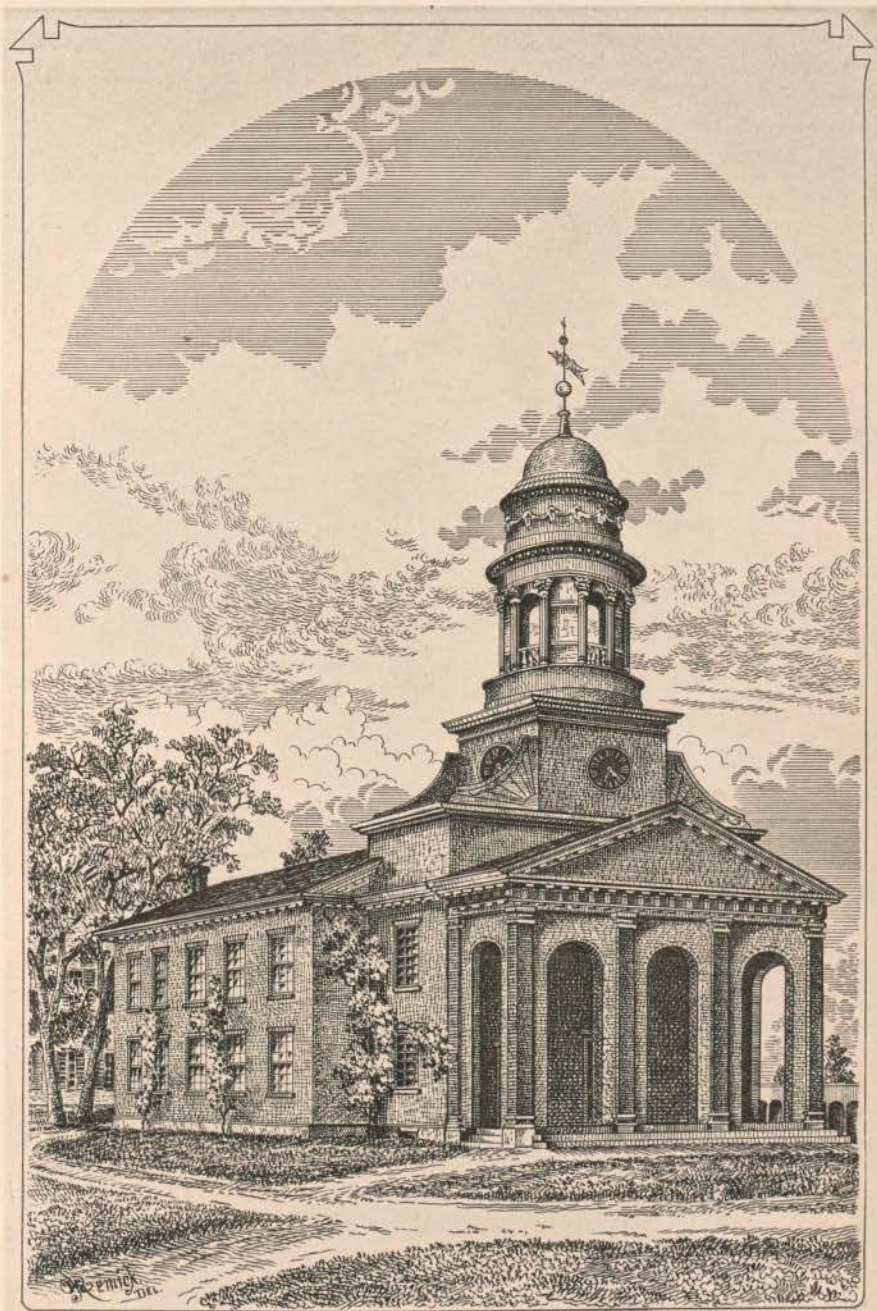
any event connected with it. (see next page.)

I cannot omit from its history however the fact that I owe my life to the thoughtfulness and self possession of one of my companions - a girl then only twelve years of age who immediately hurried down from the bluff - sent one of the boys over to the tavern for help, and while all the others were looking aghast at my lifeless body, she knelt by my side, loosened my cravat & taking my head in her lap sat fanning my face till Dr. Lyman Moore appeared & carried me to the tavern where Dr. Carter soon after arrived. This display of courage so remarkable in a child of such tender years is only in keeping with the characteristics which have marked the course of life of the woman, the present Mrs. Mary E. Ware. -"



The "Brick Church"

1876



FIRST PARISH CHURCH.

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and town meetings. They had obtained distinction by their hospitality and charity. The early settlers were a sober and virtuous race. "The Christians," he continued, "who here took up their early residence, or received their first views of religion, appear to have been men extraordinarily enlightened, and whose hearts were full of the charity of the gospel." He spoke of it as "a memorable fact" in our history, that in one hundred and eight years there had been only ten months, the time which elapsed between the death of Rev. Mr. Prentice, and the ordination of Rev. Mr. Harrington, in which the church had been without a settled minister. Then follows this reference to his two immediate predecessors. "It is no less worthy of being mentioned with gratitude, that our records are not defaced with any instance of a controversy between this church and either of their pastors. I have ever contemplated those two holy men as remarkably displaying a model of the ministerial character at the time in which they respectively lived. In the Rev. Mr. Prentice were united the commanding dignity, the severity of manners, the pointedness in his public preaching, which were thought by the generation he served to be indispensable characteristics of a Christian minister. 'The young men saw him and hid themselves; and the aged arose and stood up.' The Rev. Mr. Harrington exhibited the urbanity, the condescension, the cheerfulness, the candor for youthful errors and frailties which are congenial with the spirit of more modern times, and a nearer imitation of the temper of the Great Master. While classical learning shall be viewed an honorable attainment: while charity and the general practice of the ministerial and Christian virtues shall enhance personal worth, or be esteemed an ornament to society, and to the church, the name of Harrington will be in precious remembrance."

Mr. Thayer, speaking for the people, took leave of the old place of worship in these words. "We now bid these walls adieu, which are remembrancers of the worth of our fathers, and of the ancient moral glory of this town. We bid them

adieu as precious memorials of many religious privileges, blessings and consolations we have ourselves shared. We bid them adieu; and we appeal to Him in whom is 'all our sufficiency,' to aid us in executing this solemn purpose: that we will, by our example, our public spirit, our condescension, consecrate every power he has given us to preserve the reputation, to advance the prosperity, and to promote the peace of this church and town."

The next day was devoted to the sale of the pews, of which there were one hundred and thirty-four. They were valued at \$20,000, an average of about \$150 for each. The highest valuation was \$230, and the lowest, ³⁰~~40~~. The financial results will be found under a subsequent date.

On Wednesday, January 1, 1817, the new meeting-house was dedicated to the worship and service of God. Aged people who were present remember that there was a great congregation present on the occasion. The spacious house, including gallery, aisles and porch, was crowded. Rev. Mr. Capen, of Sterling, made the prayer of invocation, and read the prayer of Solomon at the dedication of the temple, as recorded in I Kings, chap. 8. The prayer of dedication was offered by Rev. Dr. Bancroft of Worcester. The concluding prayer was by Rev. Mr., afterwards Dr. Allen, of ^{Bancroft} ~~Berlin~~ ^{Olton}. A large choir, trained for the occasion led in the service of song. The pastor, Dr. Thayer, preached the sermon from Ephesians 2: 19-22. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." The points of the sermon were: "1. The *equality* of churches of Christ. 2. Their *common foundation*, being 'built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.' 3. The *means* by which

instrumental as well as vocal.

In the Centinel Janry. 8. 1817 is the following
letter "Mr Russell"

"The notice taken of the Dedication of
the Lancaster Meeting House in your last was
pleasing to the friends of that ancient and respectable
town. When it is considered that on the 9th of July last
the corner stone was laid, and that in the short space
of 157 working days the building was completed, it reflects
great credit on the committee, the workmen and the
Master Builder, Mr Thomas Hearsay late of this town, on
whom much responsibility and care devolved. Such
was the rapid sale of Pews that with the addition of
a few more, the entire expense of the House will be
realized. We rejoice at the success which has attended
their labours & especially that they are blessed with a
Pastor whose mild and Christian virtues are so eminently
conducive to the happiness of Society" (J)

a. Saut. Ward paid \$275 for Pew No. 4
Capt. Cleveland paid 255 for No. 57
Jonathan Whitney paid \$232 for No. 9.
Jonas Lane paid \$240 for No. 96
18 pews were appraised at the highest value \$230 each.

a 134 Pews were appraised - The highest value given to an
Pew was \$230 - the lowest \$50.

The order about blinds was as follows: "As many Blinds
to the windows of the New Meeting House as will be necessary
to shade the trimmings of the Pulpit and one at the Pulpit
window."

The brick of the church were from Daniel Pembanks yard
+ cost \$1365.57 -

The final cost of the Meeting House was \$20428.99
This included Land \$633.33
Clock 415.89
Shed 27.64

(ab) - This pleasantry is unfortunately forced from
a misquotation - The sum mentioned was for
"entertainment of musick at dedication."

1881-2. Trayer Memorial Chapel built at rear of church.
Building Committee - H.S. Howe, Ch. - Rev. G.M. Bartol, C.T. Fletcher,
S.R. Damon, Arba Esty, Mrs Humphrey Barrett, Mrs Rufus Eager
Architects - Messrs Cabot + Colander of Boston.
Cost, including complete furnishing, about \$15000. The funds
were raised by general subscription among friends of the
Church.

the churches may be made to appear as a well-proportioned and perfect spiritual structure." The sermon in tone and spirit, was finely adapted to promote harmony in the church and community. A report of the dedication in the *Boston Centinel* states that the assembly "testified by their profound silence and solemnity their approbation of the services."

At the March meeting the appraisal of the pews by a committee was approved, amounting to \$20,000; the pews remaining unsold were left with the committee to be sold; and it was voted to procure blinds for the pulpit window, ^{to shade} ^{such other windows as may be necessary} the trimmings of the pulpit.

In April the selectmen were authorized to "regulate the ringing and tolling of the bell;" and \$14.34 were allowed for "entertaining^k music at the dedication." It is supposed that the word "entertaining" does not refer to the quality of the music so much as to the entertainment provided for the performers who gave their acceptable services on the occasion. (abt)

May 5, the town being in session, voted that the clock should be paid for by the town, as that was the only tax on the town for the house. Before the business was finally settled the town was obliged to meet quite heavy arrearages. At the same meeting the building committee reported that the whole cost of the house, including interest on borrowed money, was \$19,088.66. One hundred and four pews had been sold for \$16,297, which were settled for. Four pews had been sold, but not paid for, which brought \$501 including choice money. One pew was reserved for the minister, and four were free, equal to \$800; and twenty-one pews remained unsold, valued at \$3,480.

This was a good exhibit on the supposition that the unsold pews should be disposed of at the appraised value; that those sold and not paid for, should be paid for; and finally that the notes of those who had settled for their pews should all prove good. In that case there would be a surplus of \$198.34, besides the free pews.

We return to the narrative of events, as they occurred.

At the April meeting, 1817, \$30 were equally divided between the two military companies to procure instruction in military music, and uniform clothing for the musicians. The money to pay the expense was taken from fines received from military exempts. These companies had their regular fall and spring "trainings" besides the "regimental muster" in the autumn. It was a great day when training came, not only for the militia, but for hucksters and small boys.

In May, 1818, the question came up in regard to exempting some from expenses in support of religious services, when a committee reported that the "expense incurred for the purchase of the meeting-house spot, support of singing-school, expense of the meeting-house sheds and clock, ~~be~~ a parochial and not a town charge." This was probably a compromise to pacify some who thought the town ought not to be chargeable for things pertaining to the parish.

The old meeting-house was used as a town-house, though sometimes when the weather was cold, an adjournment to the tavern was effected. In 1821, April 2, the matter of building a town-house, and selling the old house, was referred to Jacob Fisher, Jacob Stone and John Thurston. At the May meeting the question was whether the old meeting-house, or town-house, and the Latin grammar school-house should be sold, and a new town-house built. The committee in charge of the question were Davis Whitman, Jonathan Buttrick and Jacob Fisher. Nothing was done. But in April, 1823, the matter was again agitated, and Jonas Lane, Davis Whitman and Jacob Fisher were entrusted with the business. They bargained with Henry Moore, of Bolton, to build a new town-house for \$440 in cash, in addition to the old house, from which he took materials so far as they were available. The town granted \$200, and \$298.80 were raised by subscription. The old house was estimated at \$150. Part of the surplus was laid out on a new piazza instead of an old porch. The new house was placed near the site of the former, and remained there until the present town hall was built in 1848, and several

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years later. It was sometimes used for thinly attended town meetings in cold weather, and was also occupied for other gatherings. It was finally sold, moved near the depot, transferred into a boot and shoe shop. ~~It is now unoccupied, but~~ contains much of the timber and some of the framework of the fourth meeting-house.

The work being finished, the town, on the first of March, 1824, resolved "that the thanks of the town be presented to Davis Whitman, Esq., and his associates, a committee appointed to contract for, and superintend the building of the new town-house, for their faithful services, gratuitously rendered in that behalf; and particularly to Mr. Whitman, the chairman of that committee, for his liberal donations, his constant and unwearied attention generously bestowed in the erection and completion of ^{the} said house, whereby the town is furnished with a handsome and commodious building for the transaction of their ^{municipal} concerns."

cost: 648.00

The Latin grammar school was sold to "the best advantage of the town," an Academy having been established.

Lancaster, in August, 1820, voted against a constitutional convention; but as the state decided to call such a body, the town sent as delegates, Jacob Fisher, Esq., and Mr. Davis Whitman.

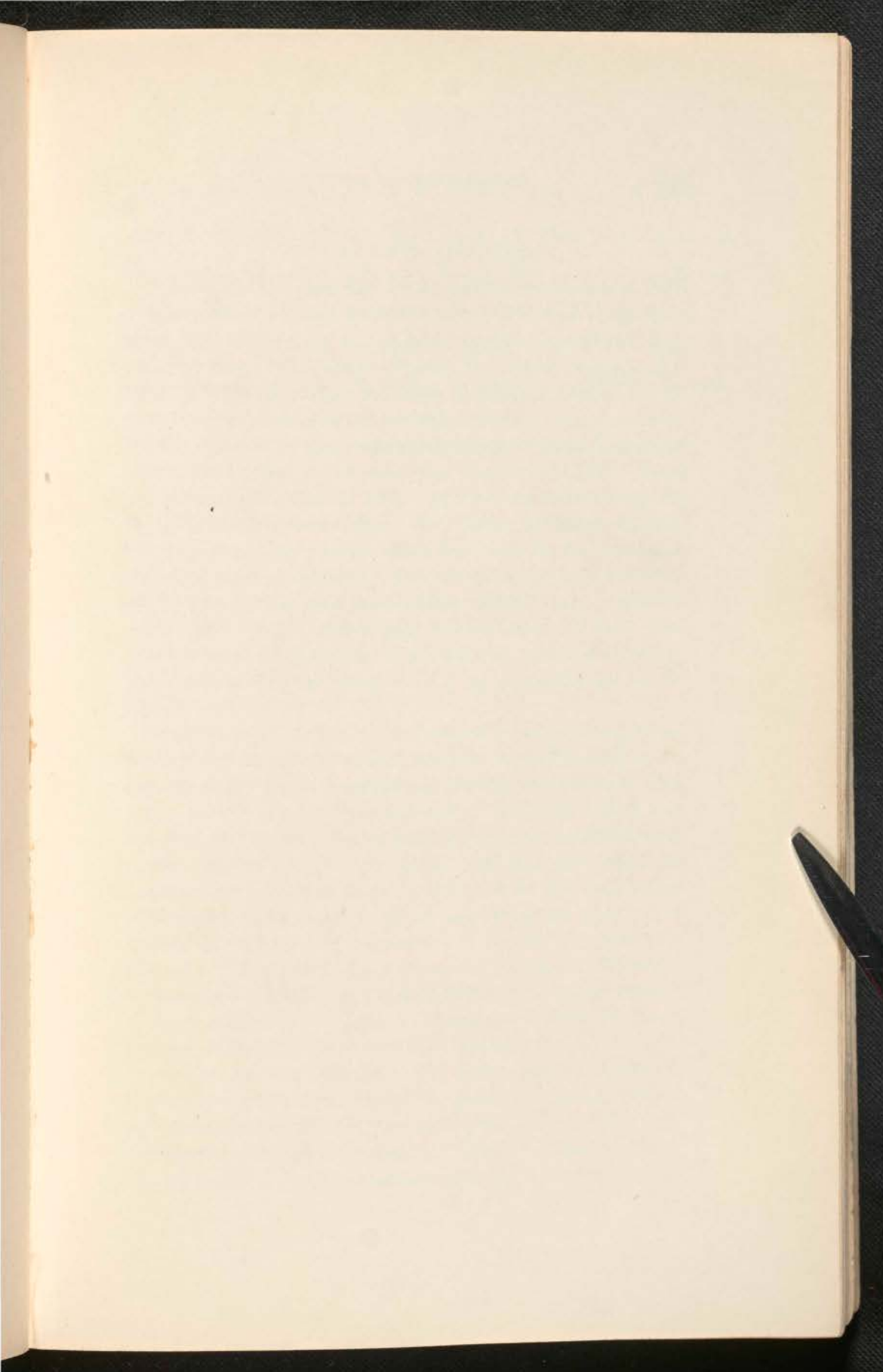
Eli Stearns was treasurer for the business of the new meeting-house from the inception of the enterprise to 1820, when it appeared that he had a bill amounting to \$90.98 for services as agent. This and some other matters were referred to a committee, who made the suggestive report that the charges were not greater than those by other men charged with such business, but that the town in future ought to be careful to see that such business should be done in the most economical manner. In November, Benjamin Wyman, Esq., was made treasurer for the new meeting-house. The next April he was authorized to rent unsold pews for less than the interest on their appraised value; and in November he was directed to adjust the settlement of pew notes with those who were un-

able to pay, and also to sell to the highest bidder all or any of the unsold pews.

At the March meeting in 1822, Rev. Dr. Thayer proposed to the town to relinquish fifty dollars of his salary, as his proportion of the loss sustained by the society in the late sale of pews. The town, evidently with reluctance, accepted the generous offer, stating in a resolution that he had stood in the front rank with the friends of that enterprise; had bought two pews, and had paid choice money; but to gratify his feelings, complied with his suggestion.

After consulting a "learned and able lawyer" the town May 30, voted to raise \$1,500 to pay arrears of expense in building the meeting-house. In May, 1823, the sum of \$1,000 was raised for the same purpose. It was stated that so many pews had been taken back, the debt for the house was still large; and that if it were not paid, families would not be attracted to the town. The bell which had been broken, was recast, with a weight of eleven hundred pounds. In 1824, the sum of \$2,000 was applied to the extinguishment of the meeting-house debt; but the minister's salary was restored to its former sum, \$550. This closed the business, but in the meantime, quite a number had left the parish, having "signed off" under the provisions of a law made to relieve those who objected to paying for the support of religious views which they did not approve. Previously all were taxed for the support of the parish, which was Congregational, just as they were taxed for the support of schools, on the ground of public good. The new law allowed all dissidents to withdraw, and give their money in accordance with their own convictions. That was a step towards the complete freedom which now prevails.

The Constitutional Convention, which has already been referred to, reported to the people, fourteen amendments, nine of which were approved by the voters of the state. The people of Lancaster voted in favor of every amendment except the fourteenth, which provided for making future amendments without calling a convention.



(a) This "curious fact" is not so curious, when it is found that he never did take the poor into his own house, but cared for them in an old house on the opposite side of the road called the Heart House, marked "121" on the map. Moreover Dr James Lattin's house was burned, and the present building merely occupies the site of the old one.

PROVISION FOR THE POOR.

The care of the poor had been confided to successive individuals almost without exception since the time when there were indigent persons who needed support outside of their own families. For a series of years Dr. Calvin Carter, a physician of wide reputation and large practice, had taken charge of this unfortunate class, at a stipulated annual compensation. Adding the cost of those who received aid at home to the sum paid to Dr. Carter, the amount often ran above \$1,000. Some years it was more than \$1,200. And yet the town charge for the poor was less than before. Dr. Carter had ample room in his large three-story house which was built for the accommodation of medical students. The school having been abandoned, he took in the poor, and added medical care to general supervision. It is a curious fact, that his house and farm, after nearly fifty years occupancy as a hotel and a private dwelling, was purchased by the town in 1872, as an asylum for the indigent.

*James, father
of Calvin.*

(a)

In the year 1824, Rev. Asa Packard, a retired clergyman, having been for several years a resident, moved in town meeting, March 1, "that a committee be chosen to ascertain at what price, for the money at the delivery of the deed, a farm may be purchased in this town, suitable for a pauper establishment, in the opinion of said committee; and that the committee consider the subject at large, and report on the expediency of changing the present mode of supporting the poor." The subject was referred to a committee of twelve, one from each district. From No. 1, Levi Farwell; 2, Simeon Whitney; 3, Nathaniel Warren; 4, Thomas Ballard; 5, Jacob Fisher; 6, Davis Whitman; 7, John G. Thurston; 8, Richard Cleveland; 9, John Thurston; 10, Daniel Harris; 11, G. Pollard; 12, or Center, Asa Packard. The latter acted as chairman, and has always been considered the prime mover in establishing the modern system of supporting the poor in this town. At the May meeting the committee reported in favor of buying a farm for a pauper establishment, and a new committee

was chosen to make the purchase. John Thurston, Davis Whitman, Jacob Fisher, Joel Wilder and Asa Packard. Voted to borrow not more than \$3,000. The committee reported, November 1, that they had bought a farm of Benjamin Willard, containing one hundred and forty acres, for \$2,000; and had borrowed \$2,000 of Robert G. Shaw, of Boston, payable in two, three, four and eight years. They had also purchased another piece of twenty acres for \$300. The town was to have possession on the first of March, 1825. Asa Packard, Benjamin Farnsworth, 2d, and Calvin Wilder were chosen a committee to have charge of the business till the March meeting, make suitable repairs, and get things in order.

At that meeting the committee reported that they had bought furniture, tools, stock, hay and articles of food, at a cost, including wages, of \$796.66. The following overseers were chosen, Benjamin Farnsworth, 2d, ^{scab} Joseph Farwell, Nathaniel Rand, John Thurston, jr., and Jonathan Locke. The committee had engaged Abel Osgood to be superintendent. All the bills for the poor in the preceding year amounted to \$1,254.70.

In 1828 a bill of \$1,528.99 was paid for new buildings to complete the pauper establishment. The poor were provided for on this farm till the year 1872, when the present house and farm were purchased of Edward Phelps. It is believed that the unfortunate wards of the town have been kindly cared for in all generations.

ANNALS CONTINUED.

At the annual gubernatorial election in 1825, there was no contest, Levi Lincoln receiving for governor, 123 votes, and Marcus Morton the same number for lieutenant-governor. There was a single scattering vote for each office.

At this time the towns on the northern side of the state from Boston to the Connecticut river and beyond, were deeply interested in the project for digging a canal from the valley to the seaboard. At a meeting, June 20, Jacob Fisher, Will-

November 1824 Asa Packard advertises in Mass. Spy for "a man and wife to take charge of a pauper establishment."

Calvin Wilder was father of Alexander H. Register of Deeds. at Worcester 24 years. He lived on Georgy Hill in a small house near the old Wilder house called the Spalding house in later years. He was the son of Jonathan (John^d. John^s - Thomas)

* These new buildings were not upon the site of the old. but on the other highway near. see map of 1831.

July 4 1825 was celebrated by a procession, dinner, and an oration (afterwards printed) delivered in the meeting house by Jos. Willard Esq. February 21 1826. the 150th anniversary of the destruction of the town by the Indians was celebrated. An oration was delivered by Isaac Goodwin Esq & a poem by Williams Lincoln Esq of Worcester. The oration was published.

(a) A survey was made, one line running through
Bolton & Lancaster, crossing the Wallum at Carter's Mills.

This portion of vote is omitted destroying its sense.

xxx "from Connecticut River to Dartmouth as he may desire
and generally, as far as in their power, to promote
the project of such canal passing through this town."

This was no novel project. In 1792, the idea of
a canal from the seaboard to the Connecticut through
Lancaster & Worcester, attracted public attention,
& preliminary examinations of the route were
made.

3 In the summer of 1827 the brothers Ferdinand & Joseph Andrews natives
of Wingham took up their residence in Lancaster. The former had for
four years been editor of the Salem Gazette. He was a wood
engraver and his brother engraved on copper - They opened a
printing office in November 1827. the brothers Horatio & George
Barton erecting the brick building for their use nearly opposite
the present Lancaster House. The first thing they printed was an
advertisement for the sale of certain real estate of the late Saml.
Wood Esq Nov 22. 1827.

See p. 604 notes &c

May 3, 1829 The citizens dwelling in the village of New Boston
set out a row of trees on each side of the main street.

iam Stedman and Davis Whitman were appointed a committee to ^{afford such} give information to the civil engineer, (the famous Lo-
 a Ammi Baldwin,) in relation to his ^{view and} survey of ^a the route for a canal, and promote the project so far as in their power. The ^(a) canal was not made, but the public spirit of the citizens should be remembered to their lasting honor. It is by securing means of transit to and from all points of the compass, that towns and cities are builded.

The first notice of measures for warming the meeting-house, is found in May, 1827, when Davis Whitman brought the subject before the town, and \$200 were appropriated. Mr. Whitman, Joseph Willard and Nathaniel Rand were charged with the business. The furnaces cost \$188.70. Painting the wood-work on the meeting-house cost \$175. Joseph Willard got the buildings on the town farm insured at \$1,400.

At the November election, 1828, the electors in favor of John Quincy Adams for president, received 102 votes to 8 for Andrew Jackson.

April 6, 1829, the selectmen were authorized to act "according to their discretion about preventing the river changing its course, and cutting off Atherton and Center bridges." The river in its course between Carter's mills and the Center bridge has varied much since the settlement of the town, sometimes flowing back and forth across the whole breadth of the intervale.

At the May meeting, after some very pertinent remarks by Rev. Asa Packard in relation to the purchase of fire-engines, the subject was referred to Levi Lewis, Ferdinand Andrews and Luke Bigelow, to inquire and report. Fire-hooks, ladders and buckets were procured at a cost of \$50, but nothing is recorded of engines. 2

In accordance with a Resolve of the general court, in relation to a survey of the several towns of the commonwealth, James G. Carter,—April 5, 1830,—moved that a committee be chosen to cause a survey to be made of this town. The plan included the making of a map, fixing the position of

school-houses, dwelling-houses, etc., and giving topographical information. Referred to John Thurston, jr., Anthony Lane and Nathaniel Rand. The survey was made that same year, by Major Fisher, and the map was drawn by James G. Carter, in 1831.

The election in 1830 gave Levi Lincoln for governor, 166 votes, and Marcus Morton, 5 votes.

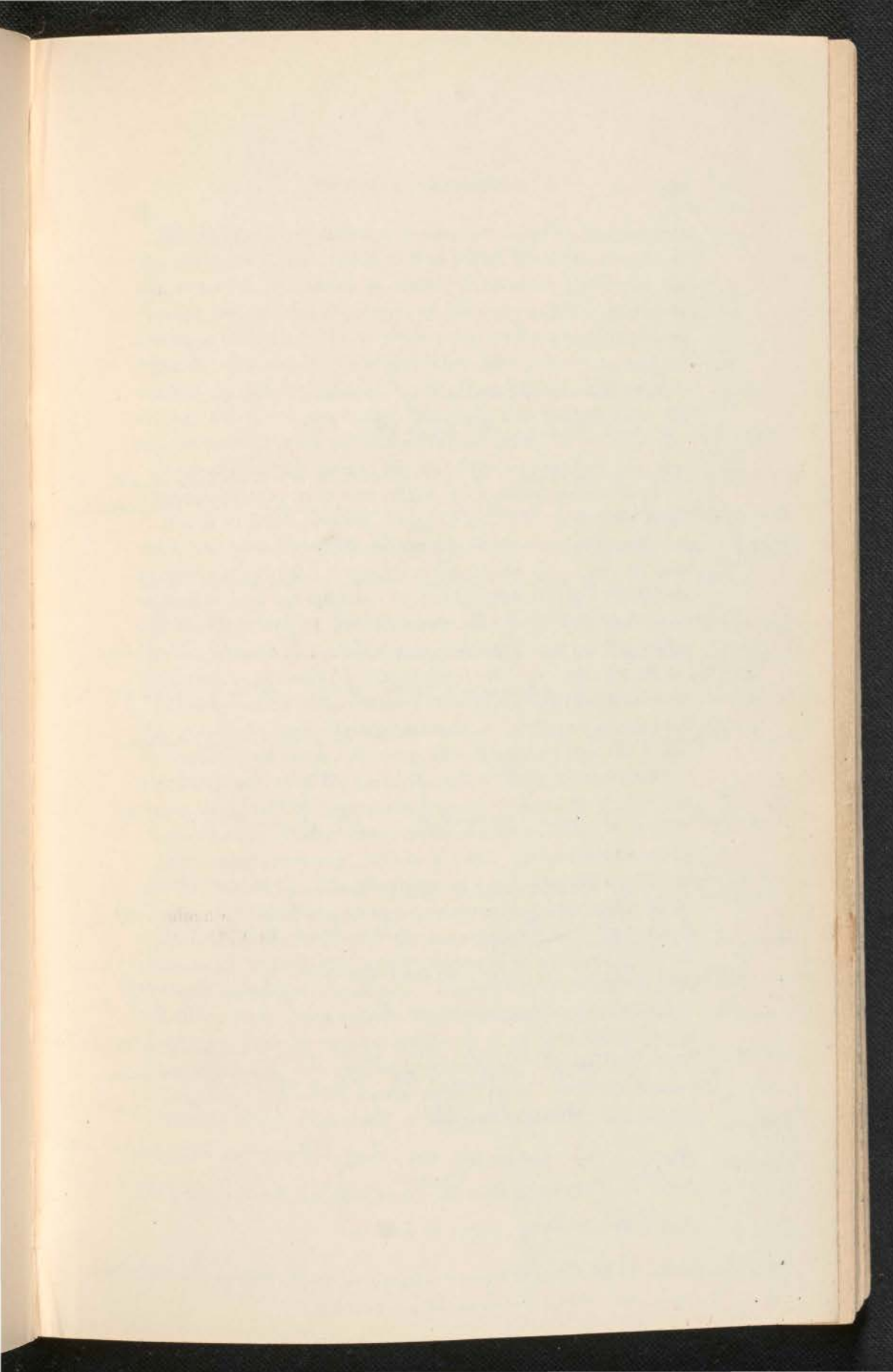
In 1831 the town voted to pay for digging graves and attending funerals.

An amendment of the constitution came before the town, May 11, changing the beginning of the political year from May to January: yes, 69; no, 42.

Firewards were chosen in 1832, April 2, as follows: Solon Whiting, Jacob Fisher, jr., Ephraim C. Fisher, N. Rand, Ezra Sawyer, John G. Thurston, Luke Bigelow, jr., Samuel Plant, Asahel Harris, Jonathan Locke, Horace Faulkner, Farnham Plummer, Ferdinand Andrews. The plan seems to have supplied a large number of men with an office.

At the presidential election in 1832, there were 173 votes for Henry Clay, and 16 for Martin Van Buren. The next April, John Davis received every vote cast for congressman. In November the vote was as follows: for governor, John Davis, 176; Marcus Morton, 26; John Quincy Adams, 26. Mr. Adams was the candidate of the Anti-Masonic party. At the congressional election in 1834, Levi Lincoln received ~~100~~ votes, and Isaac Davis 7. *Chas Allen's Dining Room.*

190 At a special meeting, February 4, 1838, Amos Wheeler and others asked for the use of the town hall to hold religious meetings. The article was passed over. The question was renewed at a subsequent meeting, when Davis Whitman, a member of the old society, strenuously supported the request, maintaining broad views of religious comity. The Orthodox, Universalists, and others who had no place of meeting, were specially interested in the measure, and the vote was carried in the affirmative.



(a) For some account of Josiah Flagg, see
Vol. 27 p. 246 et seq. N.E. Hist. Gen. Register.

He was grandson to Benjamin Franklin's sister
Mrs. Jane Mecom, and for five months was Franklin's
Clerk - as the following certificate shows:

"This is to certify whom it may concern, that
Josiah Flagg has lived with me near five months,
being employ'd as a Clerk and Accountant, and has
behav'd in his Employment with great Ability, Diligence
and Fidelity, so as to give me perfect Satisfaction.

Philadelphia. Sept. 4. 1786

This Testimony is given unask'd B. Franklin "

John Flagg of Boston died 1732. leaving three Sons
Ebenezer, Gerrish, & Eleazer. The last had Son William
who married Sarah Mecom oldest daughter of Edward & Jane
(Franklin) Mecom. Josiah was their only ^{Born, Nov. 12 1766} son. He had three
sisters Jane, Mary & Sarah. the first only surviving child. ^{born}
Jane married a brother (Elihu) of General Nathl Greene.
Josiah married Dolly Thurston June 7. 1789 They had
children. William 1790 - died at sea 1806 - Sally b. Nov 19 1791. d 1891 July 24. at 89. 5
Dolly b. ^(Spooner) 1793 d 1878 - Rebecca ^(Dodd) 1795 d 1880. Geo. Washington 1797 d 1819
Saml. Ward. 1803. d 1871 by accident.

Josiah. died. 1840 at 79. An injury or disease in youth destroyed the usefulness
of one leg. & he was always dependent upon crutches.

Mr. Whitman declined a re-election as town treasurer at the spring election, when it was voted "that the thanks of the town be presented to Davis Whitman, Esq., for the prompt and faithful discharge of his duty as town treasurer during a period of fifteen years past, without any pecuniary reward. And while we would most fully appreciate such an example of fidelity and trust, alike honorable to the individual and the town, we cannot but hope that its influence will not be lost upon his successors in the office."

Expense for the militia, \$186. This was the last year that a minister's tax, as it was called, was raised by the town.

March 7, 1836, Josiah Flagg, Esq., who had been town clerk thirty-four years, declined a re-election; when it was voted unanimously, "that the thanks of the town be presented to him for his long, faithful, efficient, and highly acceptable services." The Records were kept with great care by Mr. Flagg, and his penmanship is almost as legible as good print. Joseph W. Huntington, Esq., was his successor.

At the election in November, Edward Everett had 245 votes for governor, and Marcus Morton 42. Levi Lincoln, the second of that name, received ~~2~~23 votes for congress. The electors who voted for Gen. Harrison as president, had 227 votes, and the Van Buren electors 44. James G. Carter was elected to the general court unanimously.

The annual meeting, March 6, 1837, was presided over by Jacob Fisher, jr. Mr. Huntington was re-elected clerk, and James G. Carter was chosen treasurer, and also agent to receive the town's portion of the surplus revenue. The selectmen were to loan the money to any one who would refund in forty-eight hours ^{demand} on hand. This was a part of the surplus revenue of the United States which was nominally loaned, but really given to the several states, on condition that it might be reclaimed by the general government. It was then voted to pay the "town debt for the pauper farm," with this money. This vote was reconsidered, at the April meeting, and on the

(a)

of Jacob Fisher
37

sixteenth of May, it was voted to "receive the surplus revenue according to the terms of the law." It was deposited in the Lancaster bank, and loaned to the bank at five per cent.

Deer Reeves were chosen till the year 1838, when that office seems to have been dropped. But Fish Wardens were chosen: viz., Benjamin F. Tidd and Torrey Fitch. A vaccination committee consisting of Calvin Carter, Wright Cummings and Henry Lincoln, M. D.'s, was elected.

The election in 1838 drew out a full vote. Gov. Everett received 305 votes; Judge Morton, 60. There was quite a contest about the ^{two} representatives. The vote was as follows. Silas Thurston, ⁹⁷221; John G. Thurston, 215; Joseph W. Huntington, 122; Anthony Lane, 127. James G. Carter was state senator. 1838-9

In 1839 a bounty on wheat, amounting to \$62 was paid. The town-house was repaired and painted. Davis Whitman had charge of the business.

The presidential election in 1840 showed a democratic gain, though the Whig party was largely in the ascendant. Gen. Harrison polled 287 votes to 94 for Mr. Van Buren. Gov. John Davis had 279, and Judge Morton 105.

Repairs on the Almshouse cost \$182.55.

The election in 1841 is marked by the first appearance, in this town, of the Liberty Party. Lucius Boltwood had nineteen votes for governor, out of three hundred and twenty-seven. A small beginning, but the party had in it the principle of life, and through its successors, the Free Soil and Republican parties, became dominant in the land, and abolished slavery. Dea. Charles Humphrey received twenty-three votes as a candidate for the state senate.

The meeting, March 2, 1842, deserves honor for the following. "Voted, that the town instruct the selectmen to decline approbating any person or persons, the ensuing municipal year, for the sale of intoxicating liquors, except for medical and mechanical purposes."

a I find no indications of "quite a contest." It was voted to send two Representatives & they were sent, each man elected receiving nearly two thirds of the votes cast.

b A whig gain of 42
+ a democratic gain of 52
Compared with the presidential } not worth mentioning.
Election of 1836

a These two years 1800 & 1801. were the only years that
Capt. Saml Ward served in the legislature - according to
Milans. or the town records ~

John G. Thurston was elected representative 1831 & 2 but
declined to be a candidate in 1833 -

James Gordon Carter was State Senator 1838-9.

Capt. John Thurston declined election 1818.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL TOWN OFFICERS.

As the above closes the record of miscellaneous business during the period under review, it will be convenient, in this place, to insert the names of the principal town officers, except those of the school committee.

Josiah Flagg continued in the office of town clerk, ^{from 1801} with the exception of the year 1828, when he declined a re-election, till 1836, a period of thirty-four years. The Records, accurately kept and legibly written, are his best monument. See p 429

Jacob Fisher, senior, or Major Fisher, was clerk in 1828.

Joseph W. Huntington, Esq., held the office in 1836 and 1837.

John G. Thurston was chosen in 1838, and was in office in 1842. All who consult the Records will esteem these several clerks for their works' sake.

The treasurers were as follows.

Daniel Stearns in 1802,³ and Eli Stearns from 1803 to 1820. Davis Whitman was elected in 1820 and served till 1837.⁵ He declined a re-election, and received the thanks of the town. James G. Carter was then chosen, ¹⁸³⁵⁻⁶⁻⁷⁻⁸ and served ~~two~~ years. Nathaniel Rand was treasurer from 1839 to 1842. The treasurers, without exception, appear to have been honest and capable men.

The following gentlemen were representatives in the general court.

Samuel Ward, Esq., or Capt. Ward, in 1801. ^{1800th} He had been delegate several years previously. This was his last term in the legislature. a

William Stedman, Esq., in 1802. The next year he was elected to congress, where he continued till the year 1810. Colonel

Jonathan Wilder, 1803⁶; Eli Stearns, 1806-10; Jonas Lane, 1808-12;

^{Major} Jacob Fisher, 1811-13, 1821, and 1823; William Cleveland, 1813-15; ^{Capt.} John Thurston, 1814-~~16~~, 1826, and ~~1840~~; Edward Goodwin, 1816; Benjamin Wyman, 1817-19; Solomon Carter, 1818; Joseph Willard, 1827-28; Davis Whitman, 1827, 31; Solon Whiting, Esq., 1829-30; Ferdinand Andrews, 1832; John G. Thurston, ¹⁸³¹ 1832, 1838; Levi Lewis, 1837³; Dr. George Baker, 1833; James G. Carter, 1834-36; ^{Deacon} Joel Wilder, 1834, 1835; ^{Deacon} Silas Thurston, 1837, 1839; Jacob Fisher, jr., or Capt. Jacob Fisher, 1841, 1842. ^{1840 John Thurston for} ^{1834 Anthony Lane elected but declined}

For convenience the moderators, selectmen and assessors will be tabulated. In some years there was a different moderator at each meeting.

MODERATORS.	SELECTMEN.	ASSESSORS.
1801. <i>Sent</i> John Whiting. <i>Sent Ward</i>	Josiah Flagg, Joseph White, T. Ballard.	Jonas Lane, Samuel Ward, J. Maynard.
1802. John Whiting, <i>Col</i> Jonas Lane. <i>Sent Ward</i>	Thomas Ballard, Jacob Fisher, Wm. Wilder.	Jonas Lane, John Maynard, Benj. Wyman.
1803. Samuel Ward.	Jacob Fisher, William Wilder, J. Prentiss.	Benjamin Wyman, John Thurston, J. Whiting.
1804. John Whiting. <i>Sent John Whiting</i> <i>Merrick Rice</i>	Jacob Fisher, J. Prentiss, Wm. Wilder.	Messrs. Wyman, Thurston and Whiting.
1805. John Whiting, <i>Wm Stedman</i> Jonas Lane, S. Ward.	John Prentiss, Jonas Lane, Ed. Goodwin.	Assessors re-elected.
1806. Samuel Ward, <i>John Whiting</i> John Prentiss.	Jonas Lane, Ed. Goodwin, Thos. Safford.	John Whiting, Benj. Wyman, Wm. Gould.
1807. John Whiting, <i>Timothy Whiting</i>	Selectmen re-elected.	Benj. Wyman, William Gould, Jacob Fisher.
1808. J. Whiting, Wm. <i>Sent Ward</i> Stedman, J. Lane.	Jonas Lane, Moses Smith, jr., C. Lincoln.	Benj. Wyman, Jacob Fisher, Ed. Goodwin.
1809. <i>capt.</i> John Maynard.	M. Smith, jr., C. Lincoln, Jere. Ballard.	Assessors re-elected.
1810. John Maynard.	Selectmen re-elected.	"
1811. Merrick Rice. <i>Capt. Benjamin Wyman</i>	Moses Smith, jr., Moses Emerson, J. Ballard.	"
1812. John Maynard, <i>Asses Smith</i> Joseph Hiller.	Ed. Goodwin, Joel Wilder, Calvin Wilder.	B. Wyman, Jacob Fisher, Solomon Carter.
1813. John Maynard, <i>Col Jonas Lane</i> Moses Smith.	Moses Emerson, John Thurston, Samuel Manning.	Assessors re-elected.
1814. John Maynard, <i>Eli Stearns</i> Joseph Wales.	Selectmen re-elected.	"
1815. Eli Stearns, Jonathan Wilder.	Sam'l Manning, Calvin Wilder, Joel Wilder.	Re-elected.
1816. Jacob Fisher. <i>Eli Stearns</i> <i>Edmond Sanderson</i>	Re-elected.	B. Wyman, Solomon Carter, Moses Smith.
1817. Jacob Fisher. <i>Col Jonas Lane</i>	S. Manning, Joel Wilder, E. Sanderson.	Re-elected.
1818. Jacob Fisher. <i>Jonas Lane</i>	Elisha Sanderson, Jacob Fisher, J. Whitney.	B. Wyman, Moses Smith, Isaac Childs.
1819. Jacob Fisher.	Re-elected.	Re-elected.
1820. Jacob Fisher, <i>Sent Allen</i> Jonas Whitney.	Jonas Whitney, Jonas Locke, Josiah Bridge.	B. Wyman, Isaac Childs, Ebenezer Wilder.
1821. Jacob Fisher.	Re-elected. <i>Prot Bridge</i> <i>Ebenezer Wilder</i>	B. Wyman, Jacob Fisher, Jonas Lane.
1822. Jacob Fisher.	Jonas Whitney, Jonathan Locke, John G. Thurston.	Re-elected.
1823. Jacob Fisher. <i>Timothy Whiting</i>	Re-elected.	"
1824. Jacob Fisher.	John G. Thurston, Calvin Wilder, B. Farnsworth, 2d.	"

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1832 - Rand declined to serve as selectman + Ezra Sawyer
Chosen -

MODERATORS.	SELECTMEN.	ASSESSORS.
1825. <i>Saml Allen</i> Jacob Fisher.	J. G. Thurston, C. Wilder B. Farnsworth, 2d.	Jacob Fisher, B. Wyman, S. Thurston, jr.
1826. <i>Jonas Lane</i> Jacob Fisher.	B. Farnsworth, 2d, John Thurston, jr., Jacob Fisher, jr.	Silas Thurston, jr., John G. Thurston, Solon Whiting.
1827. Jacob Fisher.	Re-elected.	Re-elected.
1828. Solon Whiting.	Jacob Fisher, jr., John Thurston, jr., An- thony Lane.	S. Thurston, jr., John Thurston, jr., An- thony Lane.
1829. Solon Whiting.	John Thurston, jr., Ja- cob Fisher, jr., An- thony Lane.	S. Thurston, jr., Solon Whiting, Martin Lin- coln.
1830. Solon Whiting. <i>Jonas Lane</i>	John Thurston, jr., An- thony Lane, Nathan- iel Band.	Re-elected.
1831. Solon Whiting.	John Thurston, jr., An- thony Lane, S. Carter.	Jonas Lane, Jacob Fish- er, Samuel Carter.
1832. Solon Whiting, <i>John G. Thurston</i>	Anthony Lane, Samuel Carter, N. Rand <i>Ezra Sawyer</i>	Solon Whiting, John G. Thurston, M. Lin- coln.
1833. Solon Whiting.	Samuel Carter, Ezra Sawyer, Silas Thurs- ton, jr.	Solon Whiting, John Thurston, jr., Jacob Fisher, jr.
1834. Solon Whiting.	J. G. Thurston, N. War- ner, Wm. Townshend.	Solon Whiting, Martin Lincoln, Anth. Lane.
1835. Solon Whiting. <i>J. G. Thurston</i>	John G. Thurston, Levi Lewis, J. Wilder, jr.	Re-elected.
1836. J. G. Thurston. <i>Solon Whiting</i>	Joel Wilder, jr., Levi Lewis, Chas. Sawyer.	Silas Thurston, jr., Mar- tin Lincoln, A. Lane.
1837. J. Fisher, jr.	Re-elected.	S. Thurston, jr., Anth. Lane, C. Atherton.
1838. J. Fisher, jr.	Anthony Lane, Eph- raim Fuller, Sidney Harris.	Re-elected.
1839. <i>Solon Whiting</i> J. G. Thurston.	Solon Whiting, Joel Wilder, 2d, Charles Sawyer.	S. Thurston, jr., Nath. Warner, Warren Da- vis.
1840. Solon Whiting.	Re-elected.	Re-elected.
1841. Solon Whiting.	Joel Wilder, 2d, War- ren Davis, Sidney Howard.	Silas Thurston, Sted- man Nourse, Fordyce Nourse.
1842. Solon Whiting.	Warren Davis, Anthony Lane, Nathan Bur- ditt.	Stedman Nourse, For- dyce Nourse, Levi Farwell.

DELEGATES.— Capt. John Maynard, Jonathan Wilder and William Cleveland, Esq., were delegates to a County Convention at Worcester, August, 1812.

Major Jacob Fisher and Davis Whitman, Esq., were delegates to the Constitutional Convention, in Boston, November, 1820, for revising the State Constitution after the separation of Maine.

SENATORS.—Moses Smith, from 1814 to 1817. James G. Carter, from 1837 to 1839.

CLERK OF THE COURTS.—William Stedman, 1810–11, and 1812–1816.

ASSISTANT JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF SESSIONS.—John Whiting, from 1808, March 1, to April 20, 1809. Timothy Whiting, 1811.

CONGRESSMAN.—William Stedman, eight years from 1803.

EDUCATION.

For convenience, the action of the town in relation to education during the period included in this chapter, will be stated in a brief but connected narrative.

Previous to 1803, the town had been divided into eleven districts. No. 6 embraced nearly all the Neck, on both roads, and the cross road by C. L. Wilder. The school-house was near the crossing of the railroad on the east Neck road. The families living on the west road—between the Center and the North Village—wanted a school by themselves. The subject was referred to a committee, and when they reported in May, the old sixth district was divided. The east part extended from the south end of the east Neck road as far north as the fork of the road on the south side of Ponakin hill. The new district, No. 12, reached from the house of Deacon Wales, round by the meeting-house, and north to Mr. Hosley's, who lived a little west of the brick yard, on a discontinued road.

The appropriation for schools in 1804 was \$1,000. Of this sum, the Latin grammar school was to draw \$400, and the school was kept in one place. The school money was divided among the districts in proportion to the taxes; but a deduction was made from the five central districts in favor of those more remote. No. 5 yielded seventeen per cent.; Nos. 6, 7 and 12, thirty per cent.; and No. 8, twenty-five per cent.

The question of repairing the Latin grammar school-house was before the town at different times, but on March 3, 1806, the whole subject of the Latin school was put into the hands of a committee of eleven, representing all parts of the town.

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No. 12 lost 60 pr. ct. -



The committee were Leonard Farwell, John Robbins, William Gould, John Maynard, Jacob Fisher, Eli Stearns, ^{Stark} ~~John~~ Flagg, Timothy Whiting, Jonas Fairbank, Nathaniel Lowe, John Wilder, 2d. The committee decided that the school should be stationary eight months, from September 1 to the end of April; two months in No. 7, and two months in No. 4 districts.

For the first time the school committee were directed to visit the schools at the beginning and the end of the term. The singing-school was held every year, costing from fifty to eighty dollars. The money was divided between the districts according to the following table.

No. 1 district, . . . \$87	No. 7 district, . . . \$90
“ 2 “ . . . 45	“ 8 “ . . . 36
“ 3 “ . . . 62	“ 9 “ . . . 72
“ 4 “ . . . 95	“ 10 “ . . . 52
“ 5 “ . . . 39	“ 11 “ . . . 49
“ 6 “ . . . 66	“ 12 “ . . . 29

The record does not state the basis of this division, whether of population, number of children, or taxation. It may be noted that the expense of the schools uniformly overran the appropriation. The repairs of the Latin school-house, cost \$94. The Neck scholars were better accommodated than the other by the Latin grammar school, and probably this was considered when the money was apportioned.

In 1810, the Shakers applied for a portion of the school money, as they occupied one establishment in Lancaster, at that time. The matter was referred to a committee, — Eli Stearns, Jacob Fisher and Solomon Carter, — who made inquiries, and reported that the Shakers had a good school, and that as long as they had as many as five scholars, they ought to draw nine dollars. This arrangement was made.

The following vote, passed November 2, 1812, indicates that the terms of admission to the Latin school were not very high. "No child shall attend the Latin grammar school, (except by permission of the selectmen,) unless he or she can read in

the plain, easy lessons, by spelling the same." It is supposed that some young children, living near the Latin school, and at some distance from the other schools, were permitted to attend the former. But there must be *some* limit. ⁸⁵

In 1815, the school money amounted to about \$1,000. The next year ^{\$1100} that sum was voted, besides fifty dollars for a singing-school. The committee to hire the Latin grammar school-master in 1817, were Dr. Manning, Mr. Eli Stearns and Col. Jonas Lane. The expense of the school in 1813 was ~~\$328~~; ^{277.99} The following year the expense was \$229.54, including board, wood and smaller items. In 1815, \$307.20; in 1816, \$157.73. This decrease in the expense of the Latin grammar school was followed by an increase the next year, when the appropriation was \$300, but the actual cost was \$375.91.

But the days of the school were numbered, though it had a lingering death. In 1818, at a meeting, November 2, it was voted that the school should be kept five months instead of twelve, commencing on the first of December. At the same time, there was a re-distribution of the school money between the districts, in the following proportion.

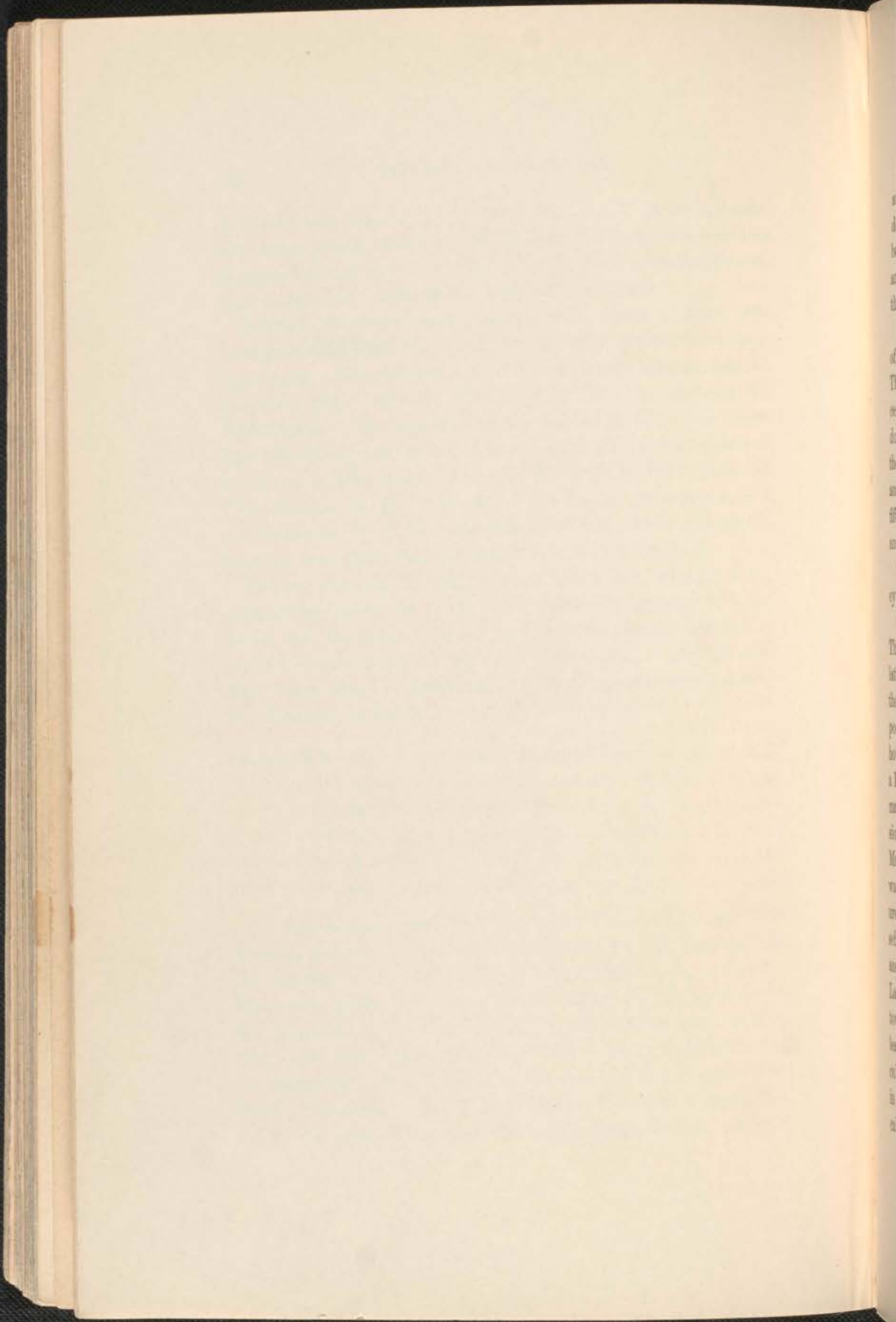
District No. 1, . . . \$80	District No. 7 . . . \$100
" " 2, . . . 50	" " 8, . . . 48 ⁵
" " 3, . . . 70	" " 9, . . . 80
" " 4, . . . 95	" " 10, . . . 70
" " 5, . . . 60	" " 11, . . . 60
" " 6, . . . 85	" " 12, . . . 40

In this arrangement No. 7 included George hill and New Boston, and the school-house was at the foot of George hill. No. 12 was on the south or west side of the Neck, or Center. The above table indicates a great change in the location of the population. South Lancaster and George hill united, drew only five dollars more than No. 4, or Ballard hill; and the majority in No. 7 lived on George hill as compared with South Lancaster. No. 6 drew eighty-five dollars, while No. 12, or the west of the Neck drew only forty dollars. Nos. 1

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and 9, which were numbered then as now, drew each eighty dollars. Both the schools in the Clinton territory received but one hundred and thirty dollars, leaving seven hundred and eight dollars for the schools within the present limits of the town.

A further examination shows that a very large proportion of this amount was expended in the north part of the town. The six northern districts, including no part of the Center except the east road of the Neck, drew four hundred and forty dollars, leaving but two hundred and sixty-eight dollars for the Center, the Old Common, South Lancaster, George hill and Deers Horns. At the present time more than three-fifths of the population live in the latter section of the town; and a far greater proportion of the valuation.

The Shaker family were allowed ten dollars of school money, in the above arrangement.

The committee spent \$280.75 on the Latin school, in 1818. There appears to be nothing in the accounts for 1819, in relation to the school except a few dollars for repairs. In 1820 the town raised \$160; but the committee spent \$256.46 in support of the school. The next year the question of selling the house was referred to a committee, but a committee to hire a Latin grammar master was chosen as usual: Davis Whitman, Jonas Lane, Solon Whiting. The school was in session in 1821 long enough to run up a bill of \$142. At the March meeting, 1822, the question of abandoning the school was raised, and was referred to a committee. The treasurer's report shows that fifty dollars were expended for the school. There was no appropriation for the school in 1823, and the next year a committee was directed to dispose of the Latin grammar school-house to the "best advantage of the town." Thus ended a school which had been in existence at least sixty-five years, and which had been a blessing of incalculable value to the youth of Lancaster. It was established in 1757 as a grammar school, while the other schools were called reading and writing schools. It seems to have had a

classical teacher from the first; certainly very early in its history, and after some years took the name of the Latin grammar school. Before the set-off of Sterling, it was sometimes kept part of the year in each precinct. After the separation, it was generally kept in the Center, near the house of Daniel
* Stowell; but at times it held sessions on Ballard hill and George hill about two months each, and the rest of the year in the Center. It is believed that some of the classical, and perhaps other scholars, followed the school in all its migrations.

The necessity for the school ceased before it was discontinued, since the Lancaster Academy was started in the year 1815. Some interesting facts in the history of this institution will be found on a subsequent page.

Continuing the history of the town schools, we find that a new distribution of the money was made in 1822, the boundaries of the districts remaining nearly the same. The amount divided was increased about one hundred and fifty dollars, or eighteen per cent., and the sum which each district received, except Ballard hill, was also increased, but the relative increase was not uniform. Thus No. 6 increased about thirty per cent., and No. 7 just fifty per cent., and No. 12 eighty-five per cent., while the other districts held nearly their relative position. The population was evidently gaining in the Center and New Boston. The Shakers were allowed fifteen dollars of school money. By joining all the children in their three families, they had quite a school.

In April a vote was passed to join No. 6 with the part of No. 5 east of the river, while the remainder of No. 5 was united with Ballard hill district. The town also voted to comply with the new law which required that teachers should be qualified to give instruction in Orthography, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography and good behavior. Perhaps no citizen of the state had more influence in raising the standard of education, at this time, than

This easy method of locating old time buildings etc. by stating that they were near where John Smith lives, is very common with Mr. Marvin. Mr. Stowell's residence here was rather brief; he came in his old age and died the next year after this history was published. Moreover there are here at the cross-roads more permanent reference points than wooden houses. The grammar school stood on common land at the cross roads near Sprague Bridge.

a. And what is more noteworthy - he was
the first to advocate the establishing schools
for the special education of teachers for the
common schools. He was the father of
the Massachusetts Normal Schools. For
his writings upon education see p. 627

the Hon. James G. Carter. He was eminent as a teacher; at different times he was a member of both branches of the general court; he was an able and persuasive speaker, and in many ways awakened a deeper interest in the subject of general education. It was thought by many that the place of Secretary of the Board of Education, when that office was created, belonged to him rather than to the Hon. Horace Mann, since he was more intimately identified with the cause of education at that time.

In April, 1826, district No. 7 was divided, Roper's brook being the boundary line. The school-house fell to the George hill section. New Boston was allowed \$90, and George hill \$60 of the school money.

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See notes to page 352.

It was voted, April 2, 1827, that school districts might choose prudential committees. The law permitting this action was found on trial, to be unfavorable to the selection and location of the best teachers, and finally was superseded by the law abolishing districts. This year the town paid a bill of \$23.49 for school books. The singing-school was kept up by the town, costing between fifty and seventy-five dollars. The committee were Solon Whiting, Ezra Sawyer, George Carter. During several years from 1822 the schools were supported at an annual expense of about \$1,000.

The year 1831 witnessed an advance in the appropriation for schools, the town having raised the sum from \$1,005 to \$1,400. A new distribution of the money was made according to the table below. The boundaries of the districts are not given. There were twelve districts before the division of No. 7, and but twelve are numbered after that event.

District No. 1, . . . \$131.00	District No. 7, . . . \$92.00
“ 2, . . . 82.00	“ 8, . . . 90.00
“ 3, . . . 92.00	“ 9, . . . 97.00
“ 4, . . . 106.00	“ 10, . . . 157.00
“ 5, . . . 184.00	“ 11, . . . 92.00
“ 6, . . . 120.00	“ 12, . . . 157.00

This arrangement was changed in 1835, but the difference in the apportionment was scarcely worth the trouble of making it.

The money raised by the town for schools was divided nearly according to the number of school children in the several districts; but the money received from the state, for this purpose, was, in 1837, and thereafter, divided equally between the districts. In 1838 the expense of the schools was \$1,522.04; the appropriation was \$1,400. Probably the committee overran the sum voted; they also used the money from the state school fund.

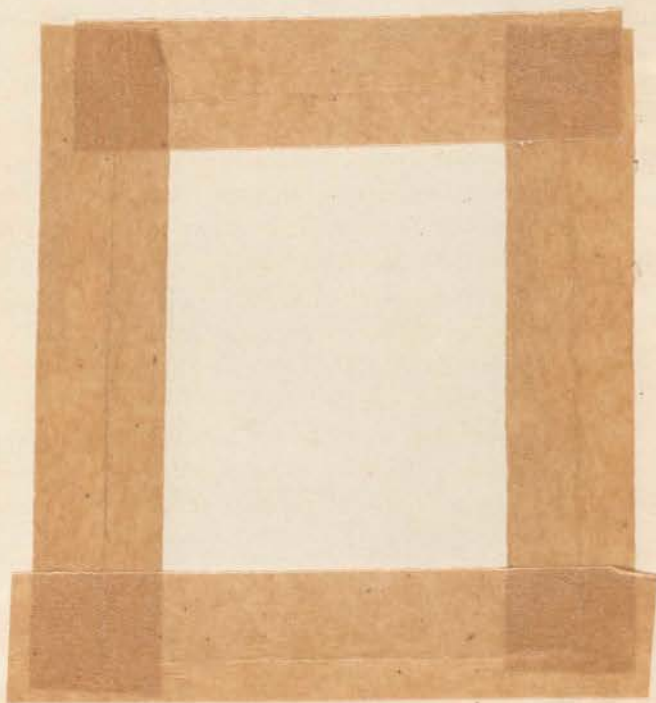
In 1839 it was voted that prudential committees should select and contract with teachers, in the districts where they resided. The plan was popular for many years, but within ten or a dozen years past, the authority to select and employ teachers has been restored to the superintending committees.

An effort was made in 1841 to divide district No. 5, but it failed for the time being. This finishes the educational record of the town to the close of the second century after Prescott and his comrades struck their first blows in the forests of the Nashua valley. The names of the members of the school committee from 1801 to 1843 are here in place. Rev. Nathaniel Thayer was chairman of the committee during all these years till 1840, when Rev. Edmund H. Sears, who was his immediate successor, was chosen to the same position. Some of the names here given were found on the committee several years, others but a year or two. Perhaps some have escaped notice. It is well to bear in mind, that the chief care of the schools was assigned to Mr. Thayer, and that the duties of the other members were mainly prudential. The committee in 1803 were Mr. Thayer, Samuel Ward, Josiah Flagg, Thomas Ballard, Ebenezer Torrey, Jonathan Wilder, John Whiting, Israel Atherton, Jonas Lane, John Maynard, John Thurston, William Gould. In subsequent years, besides Mr. Thayer and some of the above, were the following gentlemen.

School Committee

AB.

- (a) Nathaniel Thayer D.D. - - - 1800 to 1840
Capt Samuel Ward - - - 1803-4-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15¹⁶
Josiah Flagg - - - 1803-18-19-21
Thomas Ballard - - - 1803-14-17
Benjamin Torrey - - - 1803-4-5-6-7-8-10-12-13-14
Jonathan Wilder - - - 1803-7-10-14-15-16-17-18-19-24
Genl John Whiting - - - 1803-4-5-6-8
Dr. Israel Atkinson - - - 1803-4-6
Jonas Lane. - - - 1803-5-11-12-14-15-22-3-4
John Maynard - - - 1803-4-5-11-12-13
John Thurston - - - 1803-4-6-17-18-19-22-3-4
William Gould - - - 1803-13.



The names opposite should be in Chronological order as nearly as possible, but, as appended dates will show, are set down in haphazard way -

At first the number of the Committee seems to have conformed to the number of districts - before 1826 for a time there were twelve; in 1827 seven in 1842 - five; in 1843 seven again.

xii Silas Thurston Jr., a veteran Schoolmaster, was a member of the School Committee during a longer period than even Dr. Thayer, having served in 1820 & 1867. In 10 years ^{only} during this term of years, his name does not appear among the School board. He was Elected 1820-1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 30, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 40-1-8, 9.

1850-1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 60, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. or 37 years -

He died October 25, 1868.



Silas Thurston Jr. born June 10, 1793

1804 Jeremiah Ballard	1815-16-18-19	Farnham Plummer,	Amos Wheeler, 25. 26
1804 James Carter,		Davis Whitman, ^{1817 to} 1823	Henry Wilder, 28
4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 10. 11. 12. ¹³⁻¹⁴ Jacob Sweetser,		Josiah Flagg, <i>back page</i>	James G. Carter, 27-31
5. 7. 9. 10. 12. 13. 18 Moses Smith, jr., ¹⁹⁻²⁰⁻³⁰⁻¹⁻⁵		Elisha Sanderson, 1820	Alanson Chase, 35-37-38-39
1805 Consider Studley,		Solon Whiting, ¹⁸²⁰⁻¹⁻²⁻⁵⁻⁶⁻⁷⁻⁸⁻⁹⁻¹⁰⁻³⁰⁻³⁶ 1843	Henry Lincoln, 37-38-39-41
1807 Reuben Wheeler,		R. J. Cleveland, 1821-2-3	Artemas Barnes, 38
1808 1/10 Richard Haven,		Joseph Willard, 23-4-5-6	Fordyce Nourse, 40
1804 Thaddeus Chennery,		Ezra Sawyer, ²⁵⁻⁶⁻⁸⁻⁹ 31-2-4-7-43	Charles Mason, 42
1809 Jonas Fairbank,		Anthony Lane, 25-6-39	Josiah Bridge, 11. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20
1804 Benjamin Lee,		David Goodrich, 28 29	John Davis, 13.
1805-6-10-20-22 Timothy Whiting,		Ferdinand Andrews, ²⁹ 30	Benjamin Houghton, 2d, 15, 16
1805 Samuel J. Sprague,		Stedman Nourse, 33 ³²	C. G. Pickman, 17.
1806-7 Joseph Wales,		Luke Bigelow, 36, 8, 9, 40-1	Paul Willard, 17
1807-9, 10, 15, 16 Eli Stearns,		Aaron Burbank, 37	Charles Thurston, 20. 21. 25. 26
1808, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 Joseph Hiller,		William H. Brooks, 40	Levi Farwell, 20-1-2-3-4-5-6-33-4-5-7
1809-10, 14, 17, 20 William Cleveland,		Rev. Charles Packard, ⁴² 43	Samuel Plant, 21, 22
1800-16 William Blanchard,		Jeremiah Dyer, 11, 12, 16	John G. Thurston, 23, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 30
4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12 Merrick Rice,		Moses Emerson, ^{13, 15, 16} 18, 19	Moses Pearley, 23
5-7-9, 18, 19 Jacob Fisher,		Calvin Wilder, 14	Horatio G. Carter, 24, 25, 26
5, 6, 7, 8 John Prentiss,		Edward Goodwin, 15	Martin Lincoln, 28 to 36
6, 12, 13 Thomas Safford.		Isaac Childs, 17, 18, 20, 21	Dr. Goodrich, 29 <i>David. see ante</i>
7, 9 Titus Wilder, jr.,		Wm. Townshend, ¹⁸⁻¹⁹⁻²¹ 32-3-4	Edward P. Whitman, 23 & 42
1808 Calvin Briggs,		Silas Thurston, jr., 21	J. W. Huntington, 29, 36
1809-11 Solomon Carter,		Rev. Asa Packard, 21-22	Wright Cummings, 37, 8, 9, 40-1 & 43
1811 to 1821 Samuel Manning,		Nathaniel Peabody, 22	John M. Washburn, 39-40-41
1811 John McGaw,		Levi Lewis, 23, 26 30, 31	Rev. E. H. Sears, 41-2-3
1812-14-15-16-13 Joel Wilder,		George Baker, 24 25 26 ²⁷	John Harriman. Rev. 42 -
1814 Joseph Leach,			Benjamin Holt 48
1824 Wm. Stearns			
1824 Levi Fletcher			

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The routes of travel about and through the town, with few exceptions, had been fixed nearly as they remain, previous to the close of the last century. Between that time and the year 1842, one or two important roads had been opened, and others had been altered more or less, as private or public interest required. The bridges, however, were a continual cause of expense. Almost every unusual rise of water washed away causeways, and sluiceways, while every great flood bore off one or more of the large bridges. The narrative of these constant casualties and rebuildings cannot fail to be interesting to all those who have the care of such public works.

After the Center road and bridge were opened for travel, there was an effort made in 1802, to continue the east Neck road along the west side of the river from the old Neck bridge to the Center bridge, a distance of about sixty rods. This would have been a great convenience to all living on the east side of the Neck, and also to all coming down the Harvard road while on the way to the Old Common. Nor would it have been a difficult road to make. Why then did not the town comply with the wishes of the petitioners? And why, when they persisted, did the town appoint a committee to oppose the project? The reason is not on record, but probably the shifting channel of the river below the Center bridge was the prevailing motive with the town. Roads and bridges between the site of the Center bridge and Charles L. Wilder's corner had made a large bill of expense to every generation from the first settlement, and it is not strange if the town was willing to abandon the work of keeping them in repair, and rebuilding them when borne away by floods. The committee chosen to oppose the project before the county authorities, were Samuel Ward, Josiah Flagg, John Thurston, Jonas Fairbank and John Maynard. The road was not granted.

The old bridge, however, still remained, and the road from Wilder's corner; and they continued a charge for several years. The same year a plan of a road from Sterling to Lancaster was brought before the town, and a committee was chosen to oppose it, viz., William Stedman and Merrick Rice, esquires. Formerly a road went from South Lancaster by the house of Jonas Goss, and over the south end of George hill, across the land of George A. Parker, and westward on the south side of the house of George K. Tuttle. Nothing was effected at this time.

In the spring of 1803 inspectors of the river bridges were appointed as follows.

Sprague, Samuel John Sprague; Center, Thomas Safford; Atherton, Jonathan Wilder; Whiting, Samuel Rugg; White, William Haskell; Ponakin, John Maynard.

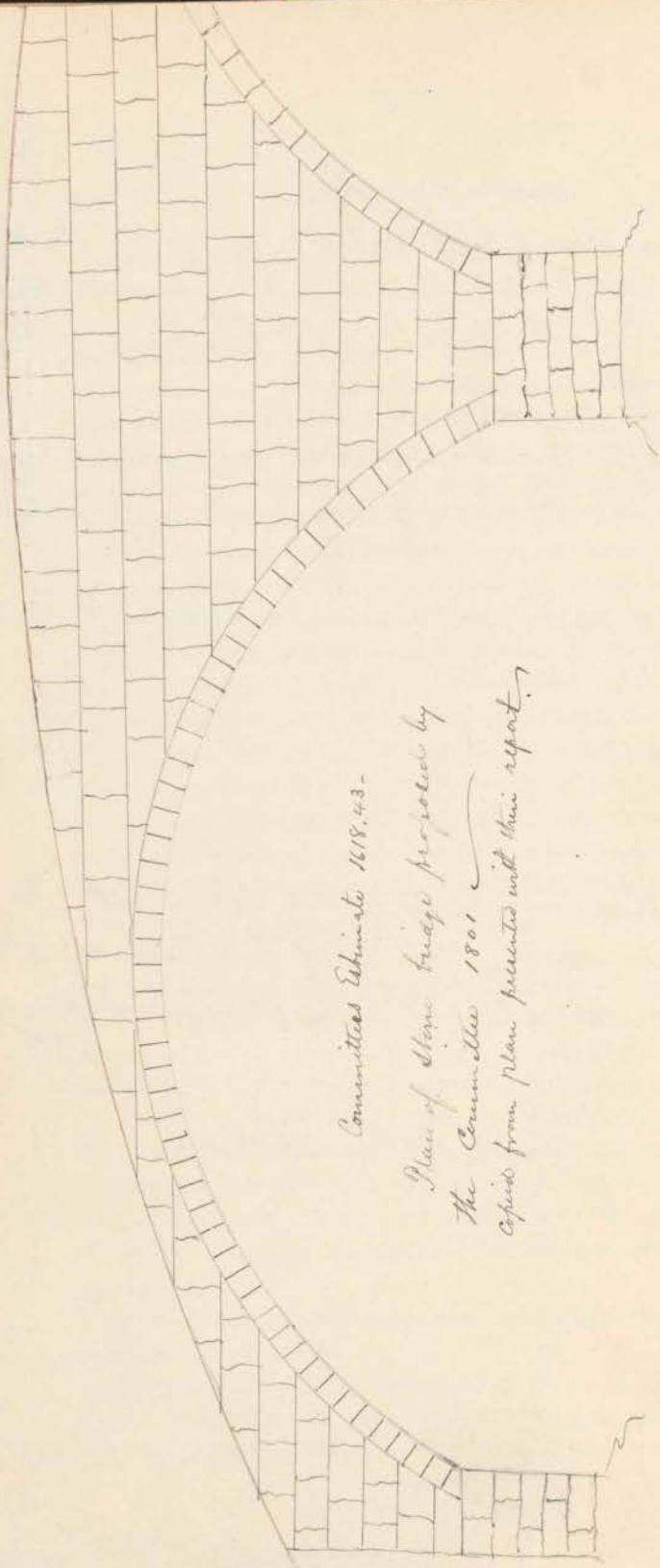
* The present road to the centre bridge from Mr Lyman's Corner was built in 1802, and a bridge was built the same year. The cost of both stands in the town ledger at \$2058.88, less \$311. subscriptions: or 1747.88

The road "across Fairbank's mill-pond" now called the "four ponds" at Deerborn's, was built in 1804, costing \$337.11

New road from Old Common to Bolton built 1832-3, at cost \$625.85

a. Is there any proof of this statement. It is certainly recorded in Vol. 6. of the Worcester ss. Records as discontinued 'from Ebenezer Farveys to the river'

I find no proof of this, but it may have been a private way for a time.



Committee's Estimate 1618, 43.

Plan of Stone bridge proposed by
the Committee 1801
Copied from plan presented with their report.

The road over Ballard hill was formerly called Walnut swamp road, and as its name indicates it was difficult to keep in repair. The sum of \$300 was laid out upon it this year.

A committee was raised to consider the best method of repairing and building bridges in future. It was an important matter. The following strong committee were chosen, and reported at the April meeting. Samuel Ward, Eli Stearns, Ebenezer Torrey, Merrick Rice, John Prentiss, Jacob Fisher and John Maynard. They recommended that the town should have materials ready for building stone bridges when the wooden ones should need to be rebuilt. One experiment could be tried, and then the town could judge: The probable expense of a stone bridge would not exceed two thousand dollars. A new committee, Messrs. Rice, Stearns, Fisher, Maynard and John Whiting, was directed to examine the bridges, and decide where to begin on the proposed plan.

New Boston and George hill were united as a highway district. Provision was made for necessary sluiceways on the Center road east of the bridge.

At the November meeting a road was granted over the pond of Jonas Fairbank at Deers Horns corner. At this time a turnpike company contemplated building a road through the north part of the town, from Leominster to Harvard. A motion was made in town meeting to take measures to oppose the building of the turnpike, but the town decided to make no opposition. It was feared that travel would be diverted from the North Village and the Center, but probably there was a conviction that opposition would be useless. The turnpike was made, and was nearly in the line of the present road from the northwest part of the town by the brick tavern, as far as the old Poor Farm, now the property of Levi P. Wood, jr. From the school-house the turnpike ran nearly straight across the meadow, through the woods to the river, which it reached two or three hundred rods below Still river bridge. The road is still visible in the woods, well rounded towards the middle, but covered with a growth of bushes and

small trees. The bridge was carried off not far from the year 1816, and was never rebuilt. The course of travel took the old road to Still river, and has continued to this day.

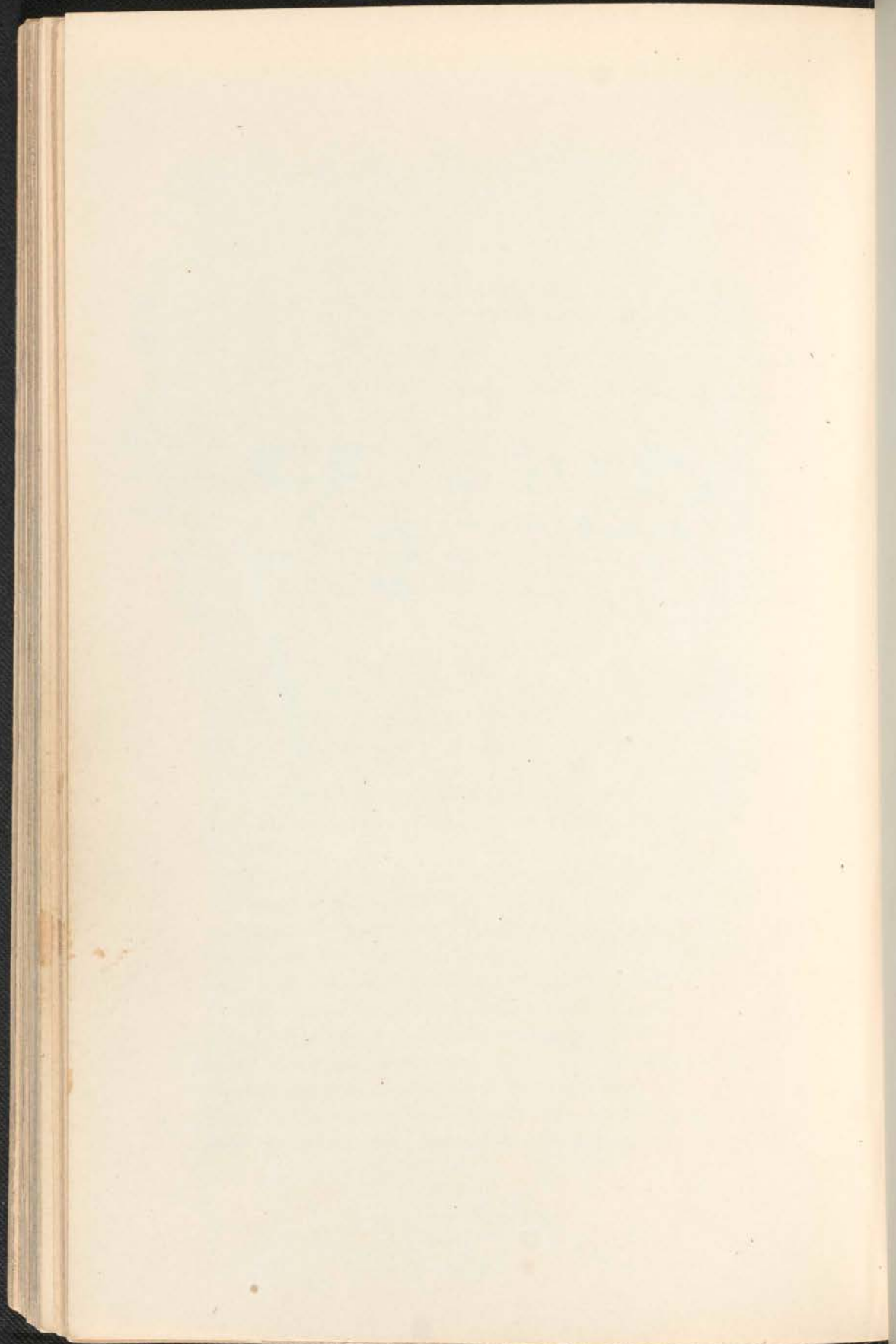
In May, 1805, the selectmen were authorized to furnish the several highway districts with scrapers. At the same time the question was raised whether the town would oppose the passage of the Union turnpike across the intervale. That is, the road from Lane's corner or crossing, by the brick-yards, and over the intervale and river towards Bolton. The town voted against making opposition; but in November instructed their representative in the general court, Jonathan Wilder, to use all his influence with the legislature to secure a provision in the charter that the turnpike across the intervale should cause no expense to the town. This pike was a benefit to the North Village, but diverted teams from the Center. The stages however came through the Center as aforetime.

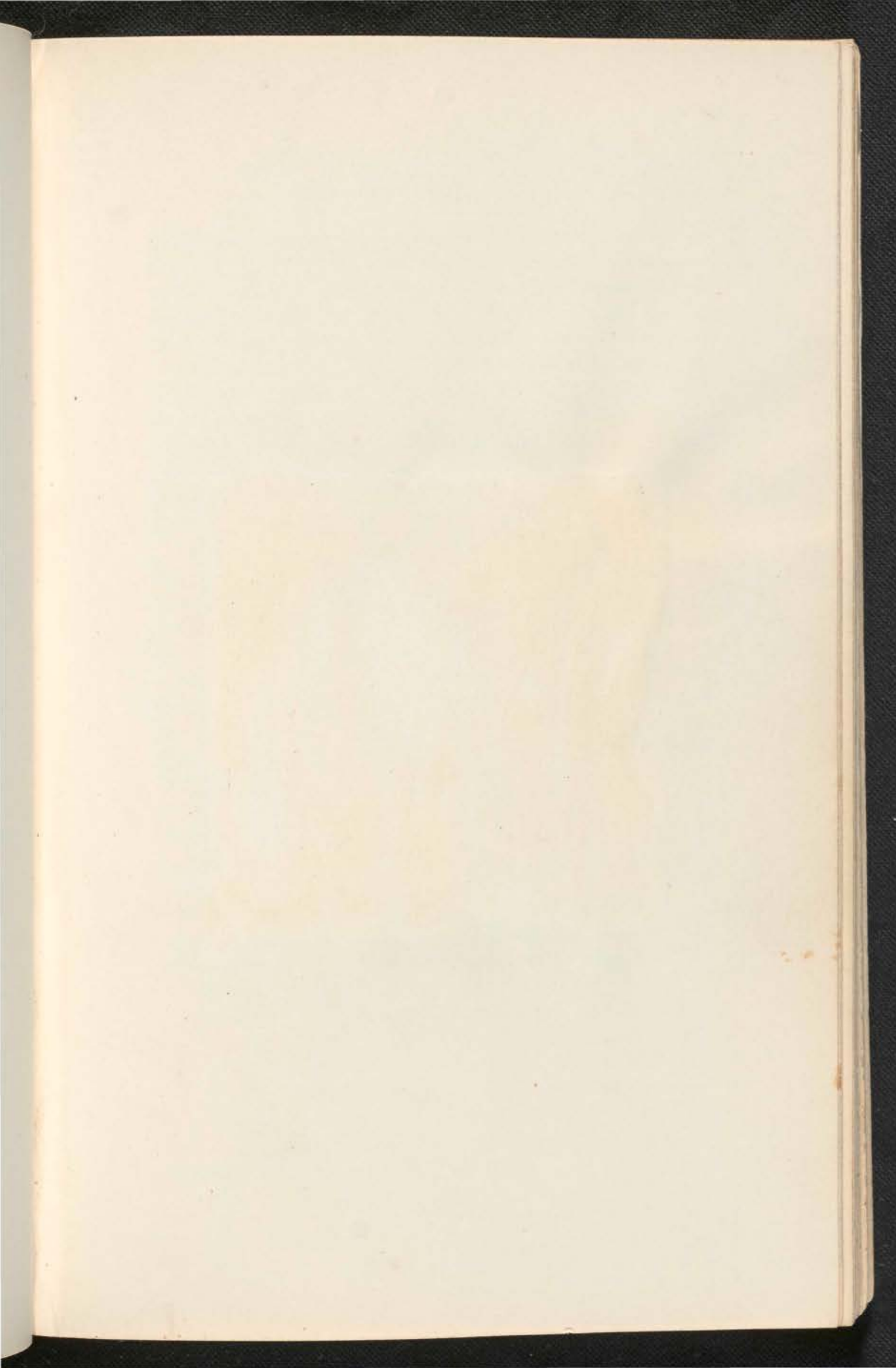
An attempt was made to get a road allowed from Bennett's bridge to the house of Capt. Sweet^Ser. In other words, from the bridge, in North Village, down the river some distance, and thence across the intervale eastward to the present residence of Frederick Johnson. No public road was made, but there are still traces of roadways between the two points. Probably the owners of the land used these for their special convenience.

The road and bridge expenses for 1806 were considerable. For repair of the Center road and sluiceways a sum "not exceeding \$200" was voted. The Center bridge needed \$144.16 for repairs, and \$750 were spent on the new road from Sterling. This came by the corner between Messrs. Thurston and Parker, and on to the south end of New Boston.

In 1807 attempts were made to open more convenient ways to the north part of the town, by the middle route, through Greenbush and Goatham, but the town was not ready to build, and appointed Moses Smith, Esq., to oppose the measure. It had to wait a few years. There were two roads to

Mr. Marvin here evidently does not know where the "Union Turnpike" was. The Union Turnpike joined the Concord pike with Seconister - running through the central part of Howard. It is shown on the map of Lancaster at p 565. of this work. and is in the northern part of the town. The Bolton and Lancaster Turnpike about which Mr. M. here comments is a very different affair. He describes the Union Turnpike on page 403. without knowing its proper title apparently.







Hawkins Bridge
1976.

Shirley, in old times. One was by the Harvard road about three miles from the Center, and then by the road that goes to the Shakers. The other was by Ponakin, Rugg's mill, and diagonally to the northeast, up Babel hill; thence by the brick tavern to Shirley.

The town in May, refused to build Prescott's bridge, so called, east of Clinton Village, over the Nashua, but agreed to help those interested in the work to the amount of \$150. At a meeting, July 6, a vote was passed to lay out \$150 on Sawyer's bridge, and to allow half the school money belonging to residents on the Neck road to be spent in repairing the old Neck bridge. The bridge was again repaired the next spring.

The pressure became stronger for a road to and from Shirley, and the selectmen, November 7, 1808, were directed to "make such accommodations with the petitioners for laying out a road from Shirley line to Lancaster meeting-house as will best promote the interests of the town."

At the May meeting in 1809 the town voted "that after making the necessary repairs of the road on the east side of the Neck, the surveyor should work out the residue of the highway tax belonging to that section, in rebuilding the old Neck bridge." The inference is that the bridge had followed several previous ones down the stream. The town however was determined not to make a road from its site to the Center bridge, nor to pay money out of the treasury to build bridges. If the people on the Neck chose to put a part of *their* highway money into a bridge, they might do it.

In like manner, the Messrs. Hildreth were permitted to work out their highway tax on their road and bridge. This is now known as Hawkins' bridge.

The Center and Bennett's bridges were carried away in August, and a meeting was held near the last of the month, when it was voted to rebuild them. Eli Stearns, John ^{Wheeler} ~~Wheeler~~ ^{Thurston} and A. ^{Wheeler} ~~Pollard~~ were to build the Center, and Bennett's was committed to Richard Haven, Jacob Fisher and John Maynard. The selectmen were directed to make a sluiceway ^{near} ~~between the Dyer place and White's bridge.~~

The bridges which the town appointed agents to have in charge in 1810, were Ponakin, Bennett, or North Village, Sprague, Atherton, Center and White. The Neck was omitted, and that in the intervale was a part of the turnpike. The Shaker bridge over the Nashua, east of the Shaker farm, was more a private than a public work. One-fourth of the highway tax, for the Neck, was allowed for repair of the Neck bridge.

Every year the bridges caused expense. This year, repairs on Ponakin were \$8.15; Atherton, \$16.41; Sprague, \$79.40; Bennett, \$96.99; Center, \$94.82. Guide posts cost \$7.25. The Center and Atherton bridges were swept away, and a meeting was held, September 10, when it was concluded not to rebuild that season, but a committee was chosen to report a new plan. This new plan was reported on the seventeenth, and Eli Stearns, Jacob Fisher and Merrick Rice were chosen a building committee.

Repairing the Neck bridge was paid for as usual, in 1811, and \$345.79 were paid for the work on the Center bridge. The road to Shirley was authorized, and a committee chosen to build it. The new part was from Capt. Lincoln's, (where Thomas Blood now lives,) through Greenbush and the woods to Goatham, so called. The remainder of the route was a readjustment and repair of an old road. The expense was \$821.91.

April, 1813. The Messrs. Locke, successors to Hildreth, had leave to work out and expend a sum not exceeding the taxes set to them in the surveyors' list, on their road and bridge, so called, under the direction of the surveyor of highways in the district whereof they are inhabitants. Twenty dollars of the taxes in the surveyor's list were allowed for repairing the Neck bridge. Repairs on the Sprague bridge ^{for 1812} cost \$87.36. December 20, Messrs. Stearns, Fisher and John Thurston were chosen to rebuild the Atherton bridge similar to the Center.

x. What he means by "neck" I don't know. The Centre bridge was always known as the Neck in early days. The Locke or Hawkins bridge was a private one, and so was the Deerpike while toll^{to} be paid.

The Shaker bridge was known as Wilds', named for Elijah the chief Shaker, and built by the Shakers. It was in no sense "a public work".

x The Jones' Bridge over the Nashua was the same as Locke's, now called Hawkins', always a private bridge - The Wickapaket bridge was doubtless over the brook - none over the river in that locality.

a - Buttrick had a right in the water power at the bridge, & sold to Ephraim Fuller. He built the large house just over the bridge on the right. The road laid out was as stated plainly in town records - "from Mr Buttrick's Clothing Shop over the Bridge to the road leading from Lancaster to Berlin" - or as expressed in another warrant "from Doylestone to Timothy Whitings Iron"

The old Neck bridge never staid long in good repair. In 1814 Ebenezer Torrey's highway tax was allowed for "necessary repairs." The Lockes had liberty to apply their highway tax to their road and bridge. The Joneses were permitted to do the same by their bridge, ~~over the Nashua and northeast of the Wikapeket mill.~~ ^x The neighbors living near Deers Horns asked and received the same privilege for the bridge and roads in that vicinity. People in the northeastern section were similarly favored. Benjamin Houghton and E. Haven, on the road from Ponakin, north, had leave to work out their tax on that road. November 7, it was determined to ^{re}build ^{the} a dry bridge south of the Sprague bridge, and ^{to rebuild the} a similar bridge near the works of Poignand & Plant. The expense for bridges, this year, was \$567.09, as follows: Atherton, rebuilt, \$329.76; Bennett's mills, South Lancaster, ^{near} repaired, \$85.32; Bennett, North Village, \$35.87; Wikapeket, or Jones, \$116.14. ^{rebuilt}

At the May meeting, 1815, the town voted to stop diverting highway taxes from public to private roads. The experience of the years just preceding justified this action.

Not much was done for roads or bridges in 1816, the year when the meeting-house was built. That is still remembered also as a season when frosts and storms almost ruined the crops, as the preceding year is memorable for the "September gale," when thousands of trees were thrown down. Perhaps the next vote was the result of those distressful events. July 2, the town voted that cows should be allowed to run in the highways on conditions. The selectmen must give a license; the cows were to be labelled; the owners' names posted in all public places; no man to have more than one cow in the highway, and none to have the privilege except the necessitous.

A road was granted from Buttrick's Fulling mill east; that ^a is from New Boston eastward by Carter's mills bridge. But as there had been a road in that direction nearly a hundred and seventy years, it was probable that the old road was straightened and repaired.

Nothing was done in 1817 to incur expense except some repairs on Bennett's bridge. The care of all the bridges was assigned to the persons named below. Ponakin, Benjamin Houghton; Bennett, Abraham Mallard; Sprague, Peter T. Vose; Harris, (east of Clinton,) Gardner Pollard; Bennett's mills, (New Boston,) Elias Bennett; Atherton, Jonathan Wilder; Center, Abner Pollard; White, Jeremiah Dyer.

March 2, 1818, the town resolved to oppose the opening of a new road from Shirley to the Union turnpike. The plan is not recorded, and it is not possible to conjecture what route was contemplated. A great freshet was the occasion of calling a special meeting on the fourth of March. Three bridges (Bennett, Atherton and Center) were gone, and the Harris bridge was damaged. It was voted that the three must be "rebuilt as soon as may be," and that the latter must be repaired. The Bennett bridge was to be laid on the old abutment. Committees were chosen for the work on each bridge. Bennett, —Jacob Fisher, Caleb Lincoln; Atherton, —John Thurston, Farnham Plummer, Elijah Wilder; Center, —Jonas Whitney, Solomon Carter, Timothy Whiting; Harris, —Gardner Pollard, *Daniel* David Harris, John Goss. Sprague bridge stood firm, but the road on the south side was piled high with cakes of ice three feet thick. A passage was made through the ice-cakes for travel.

Another special meeting was held, April 6, when it was voted to rebuild the bridge at Bennett's mills. Committee, Farnham Plummer, Elijah Wilder, Calvin Wilder.

May 4, the town passed a well deserved vote of thanks to the selectmen for unremitting services. The state of the roads and bridges necessarily imposed severe duty upon them. The same day a short road from the Village school-house to Jonas Joslyn's was granted. The school-house was just below the North Village bridge, at its former site, and on the west side, and the road extended a little beyond the house of John Cunningham. Formerly the road ran southwest, up the hill, where was a house within memory, and then went southwards on the west side of the Cunningham place.

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Sometimes not far from 1824 or 1825 the short piece of road from Stampfore's Corner to the school-house of So. Langfellow was built, & later still the piece between Wellington's Smithey by the "Old Tavern Stand" and Turner's Smith-shop was given to the public by David Wilder. Before that travel went around the triangle.

No matter how many men were needed for important service, the town seems always to have had enough and to spare, and they worked with energy and despatch. The bills reported at the November meeting were: Ponákin, \$67.51; Bennett, \$324.32; Sluices of the same, \$167.82; Harris, \$139.00; Bennett's mills, \$487.99; Atherton, \$128.90; Center, \$287.-60. The total was \$1,639.71, besides expenses for minor repairs.

The next year was one of exemption from damage, but in 1820 Ponákin and Sprague bridges needed repairing, the expense on the latter being \$263.82.

The Ponákin bridge went on its travels again, and in November, 1821, Jacob Fisher, Benjamin Houghton and Isaac Childs were chosen a committee to build anew. The Harris bridge was rebuilt in 1822, by a committee, elected, April 1, as follows: John Buttrick, Daniel Harris, Jonas Whitney. The selectmen were instructed in November, to cover the Center bridge.

But this bridge followed many a predecessor, and had to be replaced in 1823. On the twenty-third of April the selectmen were instructed to "build an arched bridge, sixteen feet wide, on the old abutment." The frame was to be of white pine of first growth, or of chestnut. The planks, white pine, three and a half inches thick. This year the town began to buy gravel of William Townsend for the Walnut Swamp road. It swallowed up a great quantity, first and last. The bridges cost—Ponákin, \$395.87; Harris, \$146.87; Bennett's mills, \$43.18; (Center, \$528.62. *in 1824.*

There was a respite three or four years, from heavy damages on roads and bridges, the annual charge for ordinary work on highways being not far from \$800. Atherton bridge needed repairing in 1823. In 1826 it was rebuilt at a cost of \$690.64. (*on the Plummers arch place - 70ft. span*

May 7, 1827, the following arrangement in relation to White's or Still river bridge was made. Lancaster was to "support" forty-five feet and two and one-half inches, and Harvard do the same for the length of thirty-nine feet and six inches.

The original bridges were sustained by trestles, several of these standing in the river, the ends of the bridges resting on log-abutments, which lay upon mudsills. Every unusual rise of the water caused the destruction of one or more of these frail structures. Soon after the opening of this century, stone abutments were laid for the ends, but trestles were used to sustain the center. When the Center bridge was built in 1823, and the Atherton bridge in 1826, a new plan was adopted. An arched bridge, so called, was constructed on a plan furnished by Farnham Plummer, who then resided in the town. He was an ingenious mechanic, and had a reputation in that line of business. Each bridge was a single arch, spanning the stream from side to side. The material was wood. This was considered a "better and by far more secure style of building," says Willard.* The bridges "are entirely out of the reach of the spring tide fury, and though more expensive at first, their durability ^{will} prove their true economy." Doubtless the new bridges were superior to any that had preceded them, on our streams; but some of these in time, yielded to the resistless pressure of a great flood.

The bridge at Ponakin was carried off in 1829, and at a meeting, September 4, a committee,—John Thurston, jr., Jacob Fisher and Anthony Lane,—were chosen to rebuild it. For repairing the road from Dr. Carter's to the Leominster line, (Ballard hill road,) \$500 were appropriated.

Repairs on the old bridge at Knight's mill (Ponakin) cost \$40; and the new bridge cost \$489.58. Probably the old bridge was kept in passable order while the new one was in process of building.

In 1830 a road was wanted from North Village to William Townsend's, on the Harvard road, north of the house of Ben-

*Sketches of Lancaster in Worcester Mag., 1826.

N.W.S. Cleveland remembers "going to New Boston to see" Plummer's model of his arched bridge. "It was made of hickory about three feet long, and my astonishment was great at seeing that it would bear the weight of a man, though made of sticks the size of the finger. From this model the new Centre bridge was constructed"

Daniel Farahan Plummer's chief invention was a "Comb Cutting machine" still used. He was born in Rowley Dec. 17, 1780, and died Oct. 12, 1857, at Haverhill. His 2^d wife was Abigail Richardson Ballard widow of Henry Ballard who was killed by the falling of a tree - See page following -

These looms gave way for the "Covered bridges" which stood until the days of Iron Bridges - The "Covered Bridges" were ordinary Lattice Girders Bridges, the roadway passing between the two girders, upon which a shingled roof was framed. They served well in their day.

The Rowkin Bridge 1830 - & the North Village of 1831 were Covered bridges of this construction -

The "Arch bridges" stood only about 10 years each.



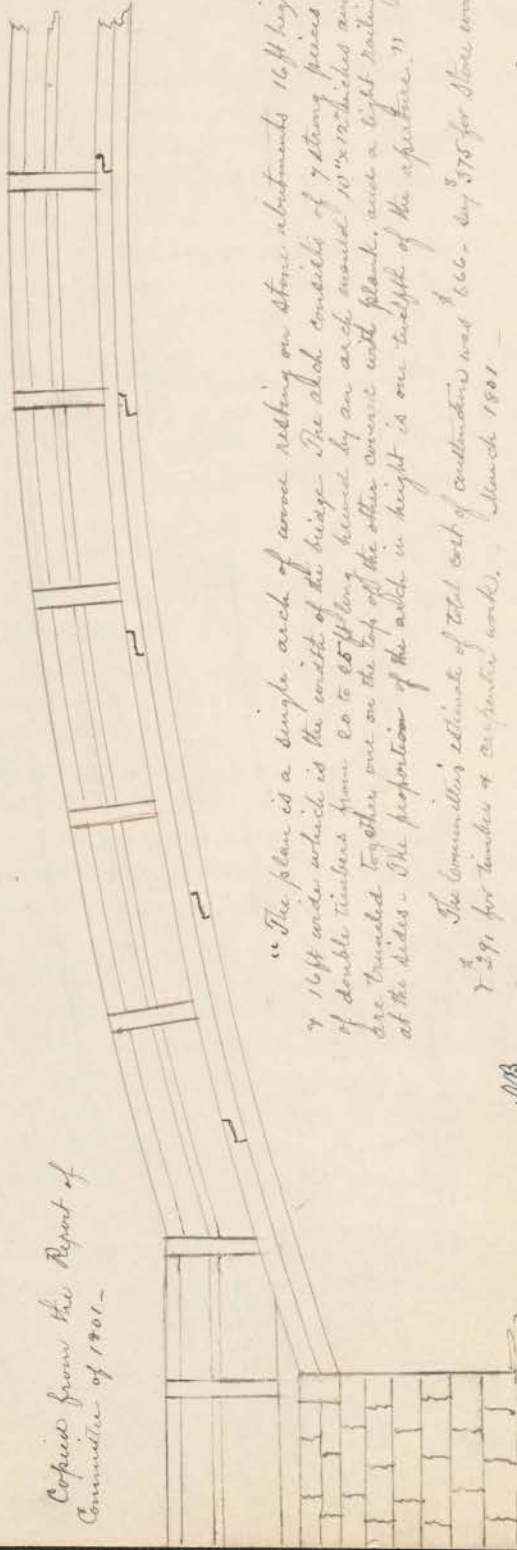
The above sketch shows Plummer's principle. No nails or spikes were used & few bolts - the "points" being connected by lock joints, with exception of a few mortises -

The Centre bridge was 98 ft 6 in long 16 ft wide
The Atherton do 72 ft 18 -

"Farnham Plummer's Arch Bridge"

See p. 450 p. 455.

Copied from the Report of
Committee of 1801.



"The plan is a single arch of wood resting on stone abutments 16 ft high & 16 ft wide which is the width of the bridge. The arch consists of 7 strong pieces of double timbers from 20 to 25 ft long, bound by an arch made of 10" x 12" timbers and are braced together one on the top of the other across with planks, and a light railing at the sides. The proportion of the arch in height is one twelfth of the aperture."

The Committee's estimate of total cost of construction was £66. say \$375 for Stone work & 291 for timber & carpenter work. March 1801.

MS.

I presume Farnham Plummer is not entitled to be called the inventor of this bridge. A structure very similar in principle, called "Steele's Patent Bridge" was advertised and depicted in Centinel of 1797, by John Stearns of Worcester. However both are utterly unscientifically system-

For sketch of stone bridge presented by same Committee see p. 443.

} The "Arch Bridge" of Farnham Plummer built in 1823
} of it was given in the Lancaster Gazette of Feb. 3 1829.
} See preceding page.

jamin Farnsworth. Not granted. Another road was proposed from the Fitch tavern, (now Hotel Lancaster,) to the corner near the house of ^{Anthony} Jonas Lane. This project had to wait till ¹⁸³⁴ next year, when it was adopted by the town on condition that it should not cost the town anything. Probably nothing was done, since there is a vote recorded under date, November 12, 1832, stating that a road was accepted from Capt. Lane's to Samuel Hasting's. Hastings lived in the house south of the brick store. There was difficulty in adjusting the southern terminus of the road. It was fixed at last on the present route. It seems almost incredible that the town existed nearly two hundred years without the convenience of this piece of road.

In the year 1831⁰⁺¹, the sum of \$859.92 was paid for a new bridge at North Village. Sewall Carter, who lived at Shoeshank, was allowed to work out his highway tax from his mill to Canoe brook. ¹⁸³¹⁻² Work on the North Village bridge cost \$268.17; on Sprague bridge, \$240.18. The expense incurred for the Still river bridge in 1832 was \$555.82. *(rebuilt with Harvard.)*

April 1, 1833. The following committee were chosen to rebuild Center bridge. Jacob Fisher, jr., Davis Whitman, Joel Wilder, Jonas Lane, Levi Lewis. They were to advise with the selectmen, who had been previously directed to prepare timber for the purpose if necessary. The total expense was \$1,187^{1/2}.58. A new road to Bolton cost \$625.85.

An anecdote in relation to a worthy and highly respected citizen, probably belongs to this period. Jonathan Wilder, father of the late Henry Wilder, Esq., was noted for his firmness and inflexible resolution. When the matter of discussion in town meeting, on one occasion, related to the difficulty of laying a firm foundation for Center bridge, a foundation which no flood could upheave or force from its position, it was suggested by one of the speakers that it might be well to plant Mr. Wilder under one end of the bridge, because he was the most immovable thing in town.

Nothing of general importance was done in road building

*Perhaps the
town knew it
was as well
as the late
Comm.*

(a) in 1834. Local convenience was secured by a short road in New Boston, and another at Deers Horns.

Bennett's or North Village bridge was down again, and Calvin Heywood was appointed to superintend the building of a new one, after consultation with the selectmen. This action was taken at a special meeting held February 4, 1835. In May the old road through Ponakin intervale from the mills to Josiah Billing's, (the residence of the late Benjamin B. Otis,) was discontinued as a public highway, and a short road was opened for the convenience of the Shakers.

1835-6 The bills for bridge-building were quite heavy. North Village, \$1,508.13; Sprague, \$323.16; Carter's mills, \$307.⁰²

An effort was made several years in succession, to open a new road from the North Village towards Leominster, by a route which would avoid the ascent and descent of Ballard hill. At this period many large teams from the upper towns, and even from Vermont and western New Hampshire, went through Lancaster to Boston. These teams sometimes numbered as many as six, eight, and even nine horses. They drew enormous loads, and often were unable to ascend the long rise east of Phelps' mill. The same difficulty was experienced in ascending the eastern side of the hill, and it was necessary to hire extra horses or oxen to draw the loads up at either side. To obviate this trouble, delay and expense, it was proposed to go round the hill, on the north side, from the Village bridge to Wikapeket bridge. But as several families lived on the old road, and the proposed road would be of little local benefit, the plan was defeated. The through travel was secure because the road through the Village was more eligible than that by the brick tavern, across the upper end of the town.

In April, 1836, Atherton bridge was in a bad condition, but instead of rebuilding, the town repaired it at a cost of \$203.88.

The expense in accommodating travel in 1837 was very onerous. For ^{rebuilding} the Harris bridge was paid \$489.15; for repairing

The short road in New Boston was that from the old
tavern (now Wellington's) to where S. Turner's shop now stands -
This had been laid out however nine or ten years before -
but was now accepted - The Deer's Horns road was simply
a private road to Eben Goddard's house & mill - to be
maintained by Goddard -

This Ballard Mill work was paid for out of
the "Surplus revenue fund" -

a Harris bridge. The road from Prescott's Mill eastward
was relocated by the town February 8. 1782 and accepted
in April of that year. "on condition that the sd Town
is not Burdened with the cost of a Bridge" x c c
December 4. 1815 the town accepted the bridge as
then standing and the road beyond to its junction
with the Berlin road. In the map of 1795 the
bridge is marked Prescott's Bridge. The Prescott family
owned the land through which the road ran the whole
distance in 1782.

^{center} Carter bridge, \$128.93; for Ballard hill road, \$3,550. Perhaps the repairing of this road cost enough to pay for a new one, but this accommodated many families living on the line, and was made more available for through travel.

In 1838, April 2, a road was accepted from the factory school-house, (near the Clinton station,) to Pitts' mills, where the Lancaster Gingham mills now stand.

Ponakin bridge could find no certain abiding place. It could not stand before a freshet. In June, 1839, a vote was passed to rebuild, and the bill for bridge and road on either side, amounted to \$568.19. Work on the New Boston bridge cost \$58.27

The next year Ponakin bridge again went on a voyage to the sea, and the town was obliged to put another in its place. April 6, 1840, a vote was passed to rebuild the bridge, and \$1,200 were appropriated to make the structure permanent. When the bill came in at the November meeting, it was found to exceed the appropriation. The abutments cost \$657.33, and the bridge, \$749.98, a total of \$1,407.31. ^{Advt 179.62 for "Tansell &c"} The repairs of New Boston bridge cost \$165. ^{\$1581.93}

When the building committee reported to the town, March, 1841, in regard to the building of Ponakin bridge, they stated a fact which was probably entirely new in regard to such works in this town from its first settlement. These are the words: "And they further report that the said bridge was erected without the use of ardent spirits." The names of the committee are subjoined. Capt. Jacob Fisher, who had charge of the masonry; Nathaniel Rand, Stedman Nourse and Levi Green, who superintended the wood-work.

At this meeting the town took the following action. "Voted, that a committee of one from each end of the town be chosen to take charge of the bridges during the year, who are authorized to do all that may be necessary to keep the bridges in repair during the year; and chose Capt. Austin Davis for the south part of the town, who is to have charge of Sprague, Center, Carter and Harris bridges; and chose Capt. Anthony

*It was a
Covered lattice
Garden Bridge*

e

Lane for the north part of the town, who is to have charge of the Village, Ponakin and Harvard bridges." Atherton bridge is not mentioned in the vote. The bridge on the Intervale was kept in repair by the turnpike company.

A claim for damages came before the town, from Charles Knight, on account of the building of Ponakin bridge. The subject was referred to a committee, who reported, April 4, 1842, that the bridge was not a damage to Mr. Knight, but that the "cutting away of a part of his dam to turn the channel of the river, was a damage, and they recommended the payment of one hundred dollars." The town adopted the report. The dam, at that time, was just below the present bridge. In earlier times the bridge was thirty or forty rods down stream, and at the foot of the road which extends from the almshouse by Mr. Schumaker's and the Capt. Maynard place to the river.

The main lines of road in the town have not been much altered since 1840. Minor changes will be noted in their place. There have been several periods of bridge-making. At first, bridges were hastily built, and as hastily swept away. The abutments were not on solid foundations, and the trestles,—from three to five,—in the bed of the stream, were floated off by every freshet, or broken down by every rush of ice. By degrees the mudsills were set deeper and anchored more firmly, but the thick ice which formed around them in the winter, when lifted by the spring floods, raised the timbers also, and the whole bridge was borne along. The broken timbers struck the next bridge below, and it was started for the sea.

The third stage was reached when near the opening of this century, the town voted to build solid abutments on solid foundations. Where a ledge existed on either side of the river, the abutment was placed upon it. Where the stone basis could not be found, spiles were driven down to hard pan. These formed a secure base for the abutment. But the bridges were not secure because the floods forced out the trestles in mid-

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a On page 450. he is rightly named Farham Plummer.
His name was really "Daniel Farham Plummer!"

The "arch bridges" shortly disappeared, and
the Covered Lattice Girder Bridges took their
place - at Ponikini, North Village & Centus-
Mi Marwin speaks of them as a "good investment."
No bridge would be so called by engineers of today,
that could not withstand wear & the elements a few
years. The covered bridges that succeeded them
stood safely about forty years & were probably
stronger & safer when torn down than the arch
bridges when new, the latter being unfitted to resist
any lateral strain, or to long endure the thrusts of
movable loads —

stream, and dropped one or more lengths of timbers and planks into the river.

Next came the arch-bridge, so called, invented and built by Avery Plummer, an ingenious man of the last generation, who then resided in the town. These bridges extended from side to side by a single span, and were comparatively safe. The money laid out on them was a good investment. But wooden bridges decay, and must be rebuilt.

In consequence the town has recently adopted the plan of building iron bridges. The first bridge put up on this plan was the Atherton. This was built in 1870. Since then the town has replaced all the old wooden bridges over the Nashua with handsome iron structures, which bid fair to be durable, though he would be a rash prophet who should predict that they are above the reach of any possible flood.

During the period now reviewed — 1801 to 1842 — there were many business changes in the town, but these may be more compactly noted in a separate chapter. It will be enough in this place to state that the *Lancaster Gazette* was established in 1828, and was continued about two years. It was a small but well printed paper, and was filled with interesting and instructive matter. The editorials and correspondence evinced ability and culture. In connection with the *Gazette* was an extensive printing and publishing establishment, which gave employment to many persons, and made the Center quite a lively mart of business.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE PASTORATE OF DR. THAYER.

THE Rev. Nathaniel Thayer was the sixth pastor of the first church in Lancaster, and the sixth and last minister and religious teacher of the town. The first, Rev. Joseph Rowlandson, after a continuous service of twenty-two years, from 1654 to 1676, saw his ministry terminated by the total destruction of the settlement, and the dispersion of the church. There is no record to tell us whether he ever received a formal dismissal, or even a release from his engagement, but it is supposable, that previous to his settlement in Wethersfield, he had consulted with some of his leading parishioners, wherever he might meet them in their scattered homes. During the broken and stormy period between Philip's war, and the year 1708, two excellent men, besides several temporary supplies, fulfilled the duties of a pastor. The Rev. John Whiting, invited as a candidate in 1688, and settled in 1690, probably, continued till his ministry was closed by his tragic death in 1697. The Rev. Andrew Gardner served the church and town in the capacity of a minister, though not ordained, from 1701 to 1704, when a mistaken but fatal shot filled the town with sorrow.

In May, 1705, Mr. John Prentice began to preach, and on the twenty-ninth of March, 1708, he was ordained. As his death occurred in the first month of 1748, his ministry lasted nearly forty-three years. His successor, Rev. Timothy Harrington, closed a long pastorate of forty-seven years in 1795, having been aided or superseded during the last two years by a colleague.

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Thomas Gray N.H. 1790. S.T.D. 1826. died 1847

Herrickiah Packard N.H. 1787 - Tutor S.T.D. 1818 - Pro Præses Bowdoin x 1849

Aaron Green N.H. 1789. M.A. died 1853

Thomas Cushing Thacher N.H. 1790 M.A. died 1847.

Salary

In 1804 Mr. Thayer's salary was raised to \$510. In 1805 it was \$400 again. In 1811 it was permanently increased to \$525 -

Phineas Wright N.H. 1772. died 1802 - Boston minister.

That colleague was Mr. Nathaniel Thayer. Before he was invited to the pastorate, several gentlemen had been heard. These were Rev. Thomas Gray, D.D., of Roxbury, Rev. Hezekiah Packard, D.D., of Wiscasset, Me., Rev. Aaron Green, of Malden, Rev. Hezekiah Goodrich, of Rutland, and Rev. Thomas C. Thatcher. Mr. Thayer began preaching here in the early part of 1792, and in June it was voted "that the town will hear Mr. Thayer a further time." But not till nearly a year had elapsed was the town ready to concur with the church; but on the third of June, 1793, a vote was unanimously passed to invite him to settle, with a salary of £90 during the lifetime of Mr. Harrington, and of £120, or about \$400 after his decease. Besides he was to have a "settlement" of £200, or \$666.67.

The farther action of the town in relation to Mr. Thayer's pastorate has already been recited. We turn now to the history of the church. The first meeting of the church, according to the Records, to take action in reference to a new minister, was held on the eighth of April, 1793, at the house of Mr. Harrington. The aged minister was infirm, and probably the church met with him in consideration of the state of his health. The Rev. Phineas Wright was requested to preside as moderator.

The business was to "confer together relative to settling a colleague;" but not being ready to act, the meeting was adjourned to the last Tuesday of April; and that meeting was adjourned to May 28, when the following votes were passed. "Voted 2, unanimously to invite Mr. Nathaniel Thayer to settle as a colleague with the Rev. Timothy Harrington. 3, That Mr. Ebenezer Allen, Dea. Cyrus Fairbank, Dea. Benjamin Houghton, Dea. Josiah Ballard and Mr. Moses Sawyer be a committee to request the selectmen to call a town meeting for the purpose of the town's concurring with the church in the choice of Mr. Nathaniel Thayer to settle as a colleague with the Rev. Timothy Harrington." Then the meeting was "adjourned to the place when and where the town

should meet pursuant to the request of the committee aforesaid."

June 3, a meeting was held, when Mr. Ebenezer Allen was chosen moderator, *pro tem.*, and Timothy Whiting, jr., clerk.

The town having concurred, the church chose the following committee,—Mr. Allen, and Deacons Ballard, Fairbank and Houghton,—to "join with the town's committee to present Mr. Nathaniel Thayer the doings of the church relative to his settling in the work of the ^{the} gospel ministry in this place, and to request his consideration thereof and answer thereto."

The doings of the church and the town, in extending a "Call" having been presented to Mr. Thayer, he wrote the following letter of acceptance, dated Cambridge, July 11, 1793, addressed to the "Church and Congregation" in Lancaster.

"BRETHREN: The votes entrusted by you, to the committees, have to me been duly communicated. The unanimity which prevailed in your meetings has engaged my most de- x
liberate attention to your request. Although the duties attendant on the office, to which you have called me, are by all acknowledged to be arduous, yet after intreating direction of Heaven, and asking the advice of friends, a sense of duty urges me to an acceptance of your invitation. Permit me now earnestly to solicit an union of your prayers with mine, that all needed assistance may be afforded, that the health of your present Pastor may be restored, and the evening of his days rendered serene and happy; that, by harmony of affection, and the exercise of our best abilities, the interest of religion may here flourish, and that after a constant and laudable conformity to its principles, we may receive the *approbation of our Judge*, and *enjoy each other's society for ever*. This is the wish, and shall ever be the prayer, of your affectionate friend and humble servant. NATHANIEL THAYER."

The church held a meeting by adjournment, August 26, and voted that the "following churches be invited to ordain Mr. Nathaniel Thayer as a colleague Pastor," viz. The church in Leominster, Rev. Francis Gardner, pastor; Lunenburg,

"Diligent" in town records - Copy -

"I retain a very vivid recollection of some of the Clergy men who used to exchange with Dr Thayer - and their peculiarities of manner + tone. Old Dr Bancroft of W. the father of the historian, was tall with white hair + a venerable appearance, the effect of which was increased by a very peculiar sepulchral voice + a very emphatic utterance. His singing tones are yet distinct in my ears as he read the hymn "Hark from the tomb" or concluded his prayer with the Peroration "Power + Glory, Dominion + Delight, world without end - Aaaa men. Mr Conant of Linninston had a nasal twang of a very strong + disagreeable character - Mr Allen of Bolton a short jerky utterance. It was his custom always to accompany the choir in singing standing not in the desk, but in the side of the pulpit - and the first hymn for the afternoon service was always the same + must be sung to his favorite tune "Lyons" Mr Osgood of Sterling had a mild benevolent expression of countenance + a thin piping voice - + Mr Puffer of Berlin a habit of emphasizing his prayers by a continual succession of bowing down of his head so as almost to bury his face in the pulpit cushions -" W.W.S.C.

a The record here is -

2^d Voted That Timothy Whiting Jun Esq. Mr Ebenezer Allen and Deacon Benjamin Naughton be a Committee, in behalf of the Church to join with the Rev^d Timothy Harrington in writing letters mission to the foregoing Churches."

Rev. Zabdiel Adams ; Shirley, Rev. Phineas Whitney ; Harvard, Rev. William Emerson ; Bolton, Rev. Phineas Wright ; Berlin, Rev. Reuben Puffer, D. D. ; Sterling, Rev. Reuben Holcomb ; Hampton ; Brooklyn, now Brookline, Rev. Joseph Jackson ; Newburyport, Rev. Thomas Cary and Rev. John Andrews ; Medford, Rev. David Osgood, D. D. ; Worcester, Rev. Aaron Bancroft, D. D. ; Cambridge, Rev. Abiel Holmes, D. D. ; Boston, First Church, Rev. John Clarke, D. D. ; Federal Street, Rev. Jeremy Belknap, D. D. ; New North, Rev. John Eliot, D. D.

Timothy Whiting Mr. Ebenezer Allen and Dea. Houghton were chosen a committee in behalf of the church, to join with Mr. Harrington in writing Letters Missive to the foregoing churches. The committee were directed to write to the "President of the University at Cambridge," Rev. Joseph Willard, D. D., a descendant of the famous Major Simon Willard, and invite him to be present at the ordination, "and to partake, with the venerable Council, in the entertainments of the day."

At a meeting of the church, September 29, Capt. Ephraim Carter, jr., Mr. Ebenezer Allen, and Brig. Gen. John Whiting were appointed a committee to present the Venerable Council with the doings of the church and town relative to settling Mr. ^{Nathaniel} Thayer, * * and in behalf of the church to do and transact any matters and things which should be deemed expedient and necessary on the day of his ordination." The meeting was then adjourned to the ninth day of October, the time fixed for the ordination.

The meeting held on the day of ordination passed a vote which has an interest still, because it shows the intelligent purpose of the fathers in maintaining Congregational rights and usages. The question has been raised, at different times, whether a church may send a delegate to a council called by itself. Churches have taken such action, but it is believed that councils universally decline to allow such delegates to act. The question before the church in Lancaster was whether a member of the parish in this town, though belonging

to another church, might sit in the council. The following action was taken, and doubtless the council approved of it, though the minutes are not recorded.

"Voted, that on account of Mr. Samuel Thurston, being an inhabitant of this town and a legal member of the Congregational society in this place, it is improper, and against the unanimous opinion of this Church that he be allowed to sit as a member of the ordaining Council now convened for the purpose of ordaining Mr. Nathaniel Thayer to the work of the Gospel ministry, * * * notwithstanding his being delegated with the Rev. Reuben Holcomb, by the Church in Sterling."

The proceedings of the Council will be stated in the words of the Church Records. "Pursuant to the unanimous invitation of the Church and Congregation in this place, and agreeably to the unanimous vote of the Council, Mr. Nathaniel Thayer was solemnly separated to the work of the Gospel Ministry, and ordained as a Colleague Pastor with the Rev.^d Timothy Harrington, October Ninth, Anno Domini, 1793.

"The solemnity was introduced ^{with} by an anthem. A prayer followed, by the Rev.^d Dr. Belknap of Boston. To this succeeded a Discourse by the Rev.^d David Osgood, of Medford, from Acts 20:27. ["For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."] The Rev.^d Phineas Whitney, of Shirley, made the Ordaining Prayer, and the Rev.^d Joseph Jackson, of Brooklyn, gave the Charge. The Concluding Prayer was made by the Rev.^d John Clark of Boston, and the Rev.^d William Emerson, of Harvard, expressed the Fellowship of the churches. A Hymn closed the solemnity. The auditory, though large, observed the strictest decorum."

The new minister, thus happily settled, was twenty-four years of age, having been born in Hampton, N. H., July 11, 1769. His father, the Rev. Ebenezer Thayer, was for many years the respected minister of the place, and was widely known as a man of learning, and was remarkable for the dignity and sauvity of his manners, and the placidity of his tem-

Rev. Ebenezer Thayer died in 1792 Oct. 58. A brief
obituary was inserted in Columbian Centinel at the time.
(issue of Sept 12. 1792) He was graduate of Harvard 1753.

The children of Rev. Nathl. Thayer and wife Sarah Toppam,
were Martha wife of John Stanton Esq. U.S. Consul at Palermo - Mary
Ann who never married, and died in Lancaster - John Eliot,
Nathaniel and Christopher Toppam besides those who died in
infancy - Sarah Toppam the wife, was daughter of Hon
Christopher Toppam of Hampton -

He was called to succeed his father at Hampton but (1793)
declined. see 'Historical Discourse' by Joseph Dow - 1839. p. 58.

per and disposition. His mother, ^{Hanthe} daughter of Rev. John Cotton, of Newton, was a descendant, through a long line of clergymen, of the celebrated Rev. John Cotton, of Boston, England, and Boston, Massachusetts. Under the wisely religious training of such parents, the boy became "uncommonly thoughtful and sedate," and in the language of the discourse preached at his funeral, by Rev. Dr. Hill, of Worcester, "probably could not remember the time when the great truths of religion did not exert a hallowing influence over his thoughts, motives and conduct." He was prepared for College at Phillips Academy, Exeter, in the first class sent to Harvard from that institution. Leaving the academy without a stain upon his reputation, he entered college with high hopes. There he maintained a high rank as a scholar, won the esteem of his classmates, and the approbation of the faculty. He was "graduated ¹⁷⁵⁹ with distinguished reputation, and filled for one year the office of tutor." He was nineteen years old at the time of his graduation, and commenced the study of divinity, when he was twenty, with Rev. David Osgood, D. D., of Medford, at the same time taking charge of the grammar school in that town.

It is probable that he received approbation to preach in the year 1791, and he immediately began to attract attention as one well qualified to fill an important position as a minister of the gospel. He was heard with favor by two churches in Boston, and efforts were made to settle him in the pastoral office. Appealing to the reason of his hearers, possessing a large share of common sense, "never offending the most fastidious taste, possessed of a voice of rich, deep and varied tones, and a manner peculiarly impressive," it was a matter of course that he would win favor, and acquire reputation.

His first year of settled ministerial life, 1792-3, was at Wilkesbarre, Pa., where he resided nearly a year in the family of Col. Timothy Pickering, a Massachusetts man, who had removed to the Keystone state, and was secretary of war. Coming to the east in the spring of 1793, he was heard

anew by the people of Lancaster, then in search of a colleague for Mr. Harrington, and he seems to have made a deep impression, and to have won that place in the hearts of his hearers, which secured him an invitation to settle, in preference to several able and afterwards distinguished men. With such an origin, such training, and such a character, he began his ministry with the most favorable prospects. A long, respected and useful pastorate was the natural sequence of such an auspicious beginning.

An impressive incident on the day of ordination, long had a hallowing influence, and is fondly cherished by tradition. The aged minister was too feeble to be in the sanctuary, and while his youthful colleague was being inducted into the sacred office, he was confined to his house and his bed. But though his enfeebled frame was at home, his thoughts were in the house of God. It was a beautiful day, just in the season when, in this valley, all nature is richest and loveliest with the lingering glories of summer, and the ripened fruits of autumn. The public services being finished, the youthful pastor and his friends were passing from the meeting-house by the home of his venerable colleague, who lived between the house of Mr. Nathaniel Thayer, and the road, under the spreading elms, when Mr. Harrington rose from his bed, and was carried to the gate in front of his dwelling. Standing thus, upheld by friendly aid, with eyes dim by reason of age and with tears, his white locks streaming in the breeze, he placed his hand on the head of his young brother, and with his own benediction, invoked upon him the blessing of God. Having done this graceful and gracious act, he said: "I now die in peace. I can now go and bear witness to my brother, [Mr. Prentice,] from whom I received this people, that I leave them united, prosperous and happy."

There had been a great change in the public mind, silently affected, on religious questions, between the death of Mr. Harrington's predecessor, and the settlement of his colleague. He was settled as a strictly Orthodox believer, and there is

See Journal Discourse by Menzo Still . pp. 13 & 14.

This is from Hill's Sermon pp. 13. 14.

They must have gone thither purposely - or he may have had a
home at Capt. Ward's. It is a tradition he at first lived in
the old house lately owned by Mrs (Tidd) Carleton - after his
marriage to Sarah Toppam. daughter of Hon Christopher Toppam of
Haughton. Oct. 22. 1795.

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no public avowal of a radical change in his doctrinal views, though it was known, that in his advanced years, some points were not presented so distinctly as in the earlier days of his ministry. It is supposed, that consciously or unconsciously, he had drifted into a variety of what goes by the name of Arianism. But there was no break between him and the most high-toned Calvinist in ministerial intercourse.

On the other hand, in the words of Dr. Hill, "Mr. Thayer was from the first a Liberal Christian." He was in full sympathy with the movement led by Dr. Kirkland, Mr. Buckminster and Dr. Channing; and though there was no visible split in the denomination for twenty years after his settlement, yet there was a gradual drawing together of those who held to the ancient faith, on the one hand, and of those who followed the new departure on the other, into hostile ranks. When the separation was completed, nearly every Congregational church in the valley of the Nashua, on both branches and the main river, from Leominster to West Boylston, and from Berlin to Pepperell, was found on the Liberal or Unitarian side, and Dr. Thayer was their most conspicuous leader. His theological views will be stated hereafter; it is sufficient to state here, that, avoiding the extreme length to which some have gone, he continued till the close of his life, a conservative Unitarian. But when the reaction came on, towards the end of his ministry, he ever bore himself towards the friends of the new movement, with the kindness and urbanity of a Christian gentleman.

At the first meeting of the church after the ordination of Mr. Thayer, it was voted to have the Lord's Supper once in two months, beginning with the first Sabbath in December.

At the same meeting, Brothers Ebenezer Allen, Joshua Fletcher, William Phelps, Moses Sawyer, Cyrus Fairbank, Jonathan Whitney, Ephraim Carter, Timothy Whiting, jr., and John Whiting, were "chosen to assist the Pastor in devising a method for the introduction of members into the church."

The committee reported, December 16, when the following "method" was adopted.

"1. Any person desirous of being a member of the church, shall signify his wish to the pastor, who shall propound him to the church in presence of the congregation, three weeks previous to his making a profession of religion; or if it shall be deemed expedient by the pastor, two weeks only. The profession shall be the following.

"In the presence of God and of this assembly, you declare your faith in the only living and true God.

"You believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that he was sanctified of the Father, and sent into the world, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify to himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

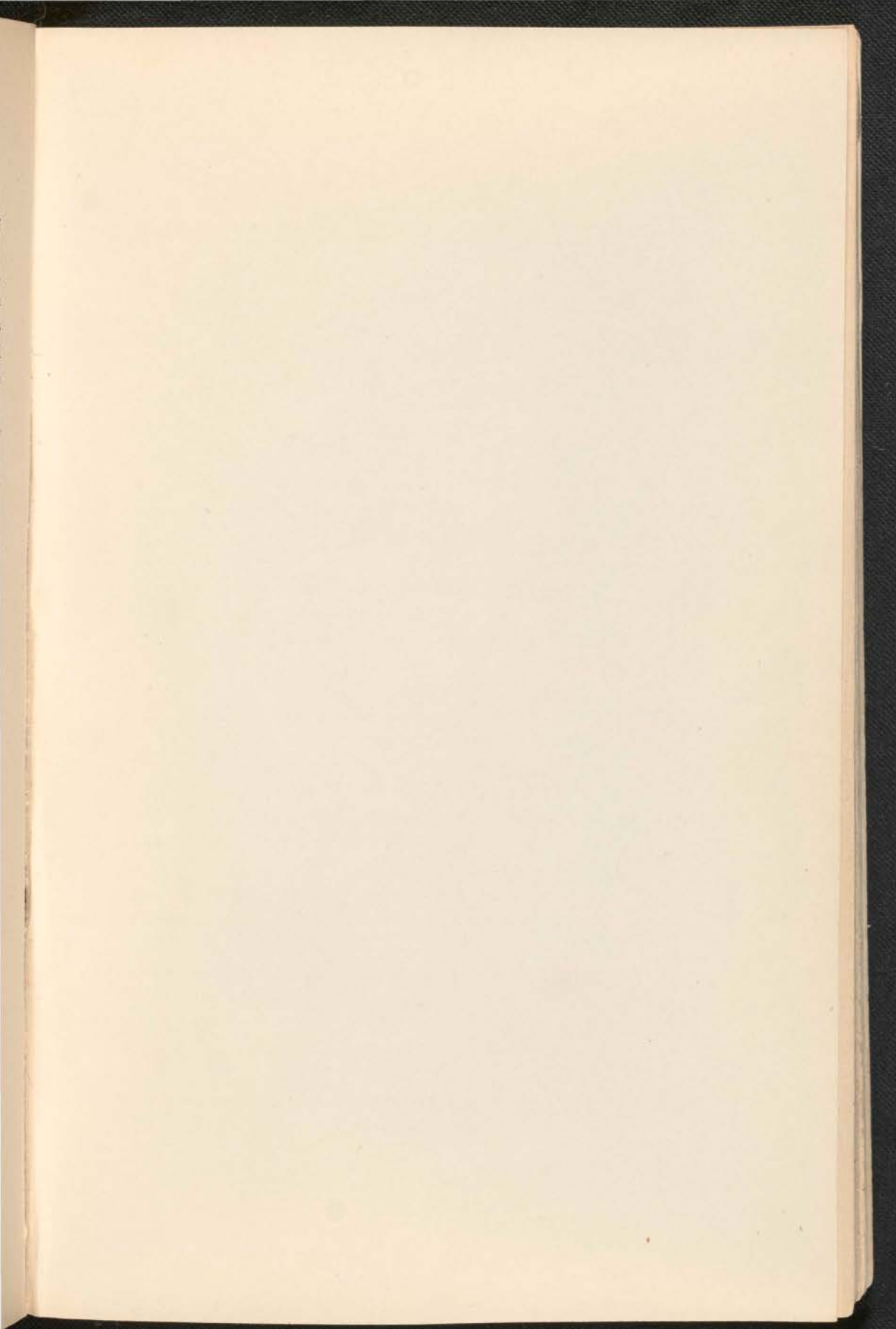
"You believe in that gospel which was ratified by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and solemnly promise to make it the only rule of your faith and practice.

"You do now yield yourself to God, through Jesus Christ, penitently confessing to Him all your sins, and intreating the assistance of his Holy Spirit, that you may be enabled acceptably to perform your whole duty.

"To this you consent.

"I do then, in the name of Jesus Christ, declare you a member of the same body with ourselves. In behalf of this branch of the church, I promise that being united by the ties of one Lord, and one common faith, we will live with you in Christian love, that we will watch over you for your good; and this with a spirit of meekness, love and tenderness; that we will counsel and assist you whenever there shall be occasion; that we will be faithful to our Master, and faithful to each other, waiting in joyful hope of an eternal and happy intercourse in the heavenly world.

"2. Provided persons, at the time of making the above profession, shall object against partaking of the sacrament, they shall at any future period be admitted, after standing propounded to the church for one week.



"3. That this church will commune with persons in regular standing of all Protestant churches."

This was the new "Method," or Covenant, which may be compared with that which was renewed at the settlement of Mr. Prentice. It was recommended by the whole committee, and for aught that appears, was unanimously adopted by the church.

It was made a rule, at the same time, that persons making a profession, need not make a public confession of a certain scandalous sin. And also "that the names of persons recorded for having been guilty of any sin be erased."

The following action is quoted, as revealing a custom more prevalent in former times than now, though there are cases which are believed to warrant it at the present day. "July 20, 1794, voted that Brothers Josiah Ballard, James Carter and Joshua Fletcher attend, with the Pastor, at the house of Joseph Osgood, (being sick,) and receive him to the communion of the church."

September 30, 1797. The following rule was adopted as a "suitable mode of censuring a guilty member of the church."

"That when a brother or sister is chargeable with any misdemeanor, liable to censure, it shall be the duty of such person to repair to such place as the Pastor shall appoint, where, in presence of a committee of the church, he shall admonish the faulty member, that by serious reproof, he or she may be induced to walk conformably to the rules of the gospel, and be restored to the communion of the church." Brothers Joshua Fletcher, Benjamin Houghton, Thomas Gates, John Whiting, Joseph Wales, Ephraim Carter and Moses Sawyer were chosen a committee to aid the Pastor on such occasions.

At a meeting held on Fast Day, April 7, 1802, the church voted "unanimously to accept the following as a substitute for Article Second, and that this should regulate the admission to the Lord's Supper of those who have owned the Christian covenant.— Provided persons, when they make a profession of religion, had scruples of conscience against partaking of

the sacrament, or any who make the above profession, have similar difficulties which shall hereafter be removed, having signified their desire to the Pastor, they may attend on this ordinance."

The Society adopted Belknap's Collection of Psalms and Hymns for use in public worship, instead of the old book of Tate and Brady, with one dissenting vote.

Br. Joel Wilder was chosen deacon, on the third of October, 1806.

The following communication from Dea. John Whiting, who had received a military commission in the army of the United States, was read to the church, October 23, 1808. "To the church of Christ in Lancaster: Brethren; At an early stage of life I was elected an officer in this church, the duties of which I have endeavored to discharge with fidelity. The recollection of the harmony so constantly prevalent among the brethren, will cheer me through the vale of life. Engaged in a military profession, and called to go forth from among you, I cannot be found at my post as in times past. Therefore I ask leave to resign the office of Deacon. Under the divine protection of the Great Head of the church, I anticipate the period when I shall again participate in those holy rites with my Christian brethren. Wherever I may be destined the remainder of my days, my prayer shall be for the peace and prosperity of the church of Christ in Lancaster."

Dea. Whiting held the rank of brigadier-general in the Massachusetts militia, and had received the commission of colonel under the United States. In view of his letter of resignation, the church voted:

"That for the reasons assigned in the above communication, the resignation of Dea. John Whiting be accepted." Also voted unanimously that the "church of Christ in Lancaster cordially approve the circumspection and fidelity of their brother, John Whiting, in sustaining the office of Deacon. They regret the necessity for his resignation, and wish him the divine protection and blessing, and the comforts of religion on the future scenes and pursuits of his life."

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Deacons Joel Wilder lived at the foot of the hill near the
Starling line on the old Worcester Road. ^{July 7, 1767} born ^{May} died 1837. father
of Joel Jr + Chas. J. —

b ^ "to pass" is omitted

(a) See note p 406. (a)

* Judging by the price given on the following page
\$130.14 for eight cups. this "furniture" must be solid
silver not "plated"

Under the head of "Deaths," at the date of September 3, 1810, are these words. "Col. John Whiting, 51, apoplexy, at city of Washington."

August 31, 1809, the deacons reported that it was expedient to exchange the church furniture, and that the probable expense would be two hundred dollars. Deacons Wales, Lane, Wilder and Wyman, with Brs. Jeremiah Ballard and Jacob Fisher were chosen a committee to collect subscriptions, who reported, September 28, that the requisite sum could be collected. Brothers Joseph Hiller and Jacob Fisher were directed to sell the present furniture with the "exception of a silver cup, and to procure a sett of plated furniture for the Lord's table, and a baptismal bason." Thanks were voted to a "Friend who had presented a silver spoon." x

A similar vote was adopted, April 8, 1810, to present the sincere thanks of the church to "Mr. William Cleveland for the baptismal bason he has given them. They ask as a favor that he will allow them to place his name under the present inscription." Mr. Cleveland could not consent that his name should be engraved on the bason. The church also gratefully acknowledged the kindness of Major Joseph Hiller in providing a frame for the accommodation of the bason; and of Mrs. Dorcas Cleveland in furnishing a cloth and napkins for the communion table.

Many churches have had applications like the following, but their action has not been uniform. "The Pastor, April 21, informed the brethren that Bro. Edward Fuller had applied to the Baptist church in Harvard for admission to their communion, and that by their direction, he requested of us a dismission and recommendation." Having considered the matter, the church voted that we "have no desire to lay restraint upon the conscience of a fellow Christian, but as a dismission under present circumstances would be a virtual exclusion from the Christian brotherhood, and as a recommendation from us would not secure for our brother in the church to which he has applied, the privileges he has here enjoyed, we do not

consider it expedient or a duty to give him a dismissal or recommendation; but should the Baptist church in Harvard see fit to take our brother E. Fuller to their communion, we shall be ready, upon being regularly notified of this, to withdraw our watch over him."

In May, 1811, Mr. Fuller's wife made a similar request, and in the absence of the Pastor, Dea. Wales proposed to grant her a regular dismissal and recommendation; but the church voted, "as the application is similar to that of her husband, that the same principle be adopted in this case."

The cost of eight new silver cups was \$130.14, and the repairing of the old vessels cost \$2.00.

In 1812, September 12, the subject of collecting money for church uses was considered, the object being to avoid frequent collections. The result is given in the following regulation: "That the contribution for each year be made after the public exercise on the annual Fast."

Under date of July 9, 1816, it is recorded that the Pastor and Deacons assisted in laying the corner stone of the new meeting-house; and a similar entry relates to the dedication of the sanctuary. The particulars of both these services have been already given.

Mrs. Catharine Prescott, wife of the Hon. William Prescott, of Boston, [son of the famous colonel, and father of the celebrated historian,] sent a Silver Cup to the church, with the following letter to the Pastor, dated January 1, 1817. "My Dear Sir: Will you permit me, through you, to offer the ~~Silver~~ cup which accompanies this, to your church as a trifling memorial of the respect and affection I bear it, and to congratulate you on the erection of so noble a temple for the worship of Him, who, I trust, will long continue to bless you and your people in the society of each other." The present was gratefully received, and the Pastor was requested to express their thanks in a "suitable mode" to Mrs. Prescott, for this "valuable memorial of her respect and affection."

In 1817 Nathaniel Thayer was given the degree of
S.T.D. by Harvard College - He preached the
Dudleian Lecture that year upon "the Church of Rome"

a. not capital S in original

1 a) In 1832, a verbal war which had raged for some time outside, in local politics, - invading library, bank, & social circles - at last forced its way into the church - Whether justly or not, the pastor & a majority of his congregation deemed Jas. G. Carter, a deacon of the church & in a literary point of view perhaps the most able man in Lancaster at that time, to be a traitor to all his trusts. He was dismissed from his office of Deacon July 13. & smarting under the stigma his caustic pen was soon diligently employed in a pamphlet controversy - ending with his -

" Letter
to the
Rev. Nathaniel Thayer D.D.
touching his conduct in connection with
the recent proceedings of the Church in
Lancaster under his pastoral care and
upon the rights, dignities and tenure of the
office of Deacon in a Congregational Church.

Boston. J. E. Hurdley & Co. Printers 14 Water St.

1833 "

This pamphlet contained 136 pages. Octavo -

A gift which has precious associations is doubly valuable. June 20, 1824, the Pastor informed the brethren, that their brother, Joseph Wales, in conformity to the bequest of his late wife, had procured for them a Silver Cup, made of a Porringer which descended to her as a relative, from the late Rev. John Prentice, former Pastor of this church. The gift was "accepted with gratitude" and by vote, "added to the furniture for the communion table."

In November a request came from Catharine Eaton to be dismissed and recommended to the Calvinistic church in Leominster. The church having been informed that their certificate would not secure for her admission into that body, voted the following certificate. "This certifies that Catharine Eaton is a member of regular standing in the church of Christ in Lancaster."

At a meeting held April 6, 1826, a plan was adopted by which baptised persons, but not communicants, could have their children baptised. It was in these words: "That any parent or guardian who have been baptised, and who, in the judgment of charity, are conscientious in requesting that the ordinance of baptism may be administered to their children, shall, upon making a regular application to the Pastor, without any other ceremony or profession, be indulged with this privilege."

Dea. Wyman died on the thirtieth of December, of consumption, aged sixty-one years. Mr. Tarbell Bancroft was chosen to fill the vacancy, on the ensuing Fast day, April 5, 1827.

Votes passed in 1830 and following years, indicate a change of opinion which was going forward in the community. For example, Dea. Horatio Carter, January 12, 1830, resigned the office of deacon "because he had embraced the doctrines of the New Jerusalem Church." In February, 1832, it was voted, "in compliance with the request of David Osgood, that he be furnished by the Pastor with a certificate of his regular standing as a member of the church of Christ in

He died 1823.

a

Lancaster." At the same time, Rev. Asa Packard, Ruth Marsh Packard and Sophia Stearns received similar certificates. The Hillside church, in Bolton, was formed about this time, and the persons above named were interested in that enterprise.

December 15, 1833, it was moved to exchange Belknap's Psalm Book for Greenwood's Collection of Psalms and Hymns. The new book came into use on the fifth of January following. In the course of the year, three more members of the church received certificates as heretofore.

Dea. Jonas Lane, March 25, 1838, communicated his desire, on account of "bodily infirmities and age," to resign his office as an "officiating deacon of the church." The resignation was accepted, with the assurance of the brethren, that they entertained "a respectful and grateful sense of his long, exemplary and faithful service in the office of deacon." They fervently prayed that he might have "divine support and consolation under the infirmities of age, and the present and final reward of a faithful servant of Christ."

The last action of the church, previous to the decease of Dr. Thayer, was taken at a meeting held April 19, 1840, in reference to the mode of admitting members to the communion. The following rule was adopted. "Candidates for admission to the church shall be propounded as usual. Having stood propounded one or two weeks, the Covenant shall be read to them after the congregation is dismissed, before the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and they shall be admitted to the communion of the church."

During the pastorate of Dr. Thayer, three hundred and eighty-eight were admitted to the church, about one-fourth of whom were males. The number of baptisms, nearly all of children or youth, was one thousand and seventeen. The very last communion which he attended, June 7, 1840, just before he started on the journey from which he never returned, three persons were received into the church, and eight received the rite of baptism. It was to him an occasion of peculiar enjoyment.

Hillside Church built 1828. Pastor ordained 1830.

See Hills Disconto p. 22.

(25) Jas. G. Carter was removed from office of Deacon July 13, 1832
Peter Osgood resigned the office, having been converted to the
Aid of the neighboring Church

The Records show how many Ecclesiastical Councils the church was invited to attend during the long pastorate which we have been reviewing. The whole number was about eighty, or an average of two a year. Unless sickness or distance prevented, he was sure to attend. The Councils almost invariably were called to settle ministers; rarely if ever to compose difficulties. (*Or certainly in Privation*)

During his term of service the following persons were chosen deacons. 1794, July 31, Joseph Wales was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dea. Josiah Ballard, who laid down the office on account of bodily infirmities.

In 1801, November 2, Jonas Lane was chosen to supply the vacancy made by the decease of Dea. Cyrus Fairbank.

1802, December 1, Joseph White was elected in place of Dea. Benjamin Houghton. He was reluctant, but finally consented.

October 3, 1806, Joel Wilder was chosen.

Benjamin Wyman was elected, July 23, 1809.

Josiah Bridge was elected in consequence of the resignation of Dea. Wales, in 1817. Dea. Bridge removed from the town in 1824, and on the first of April, Horatio Carter was chosen to supply his place.

Dea. Wyman died, December 30, 1826, and on the first of April following Tarbell Bancroft was chosen his successor.

April 18, 1830, James G. Carter succeeded Horatio Carter, who had become a disciple of Swedenborg. (a)

Peter Osgood was elected in 1835; and Silas Sawyer in 1838. The latter expressed his thanks, but declined the office.

Samuel ~~N.~~^{F.} White came into the office in 1839, thus retaining it in the family through every generation for more than a hundred and fifty years. *died March 16 1843.*

The above is an outline of the history of the First church during the forty-seven years of Dr. Thayer's labors. His personal history is bound up with it, to a great extent; yet his work and influence were felt in other spheres. Probably few New England ministers ever had greater influence over

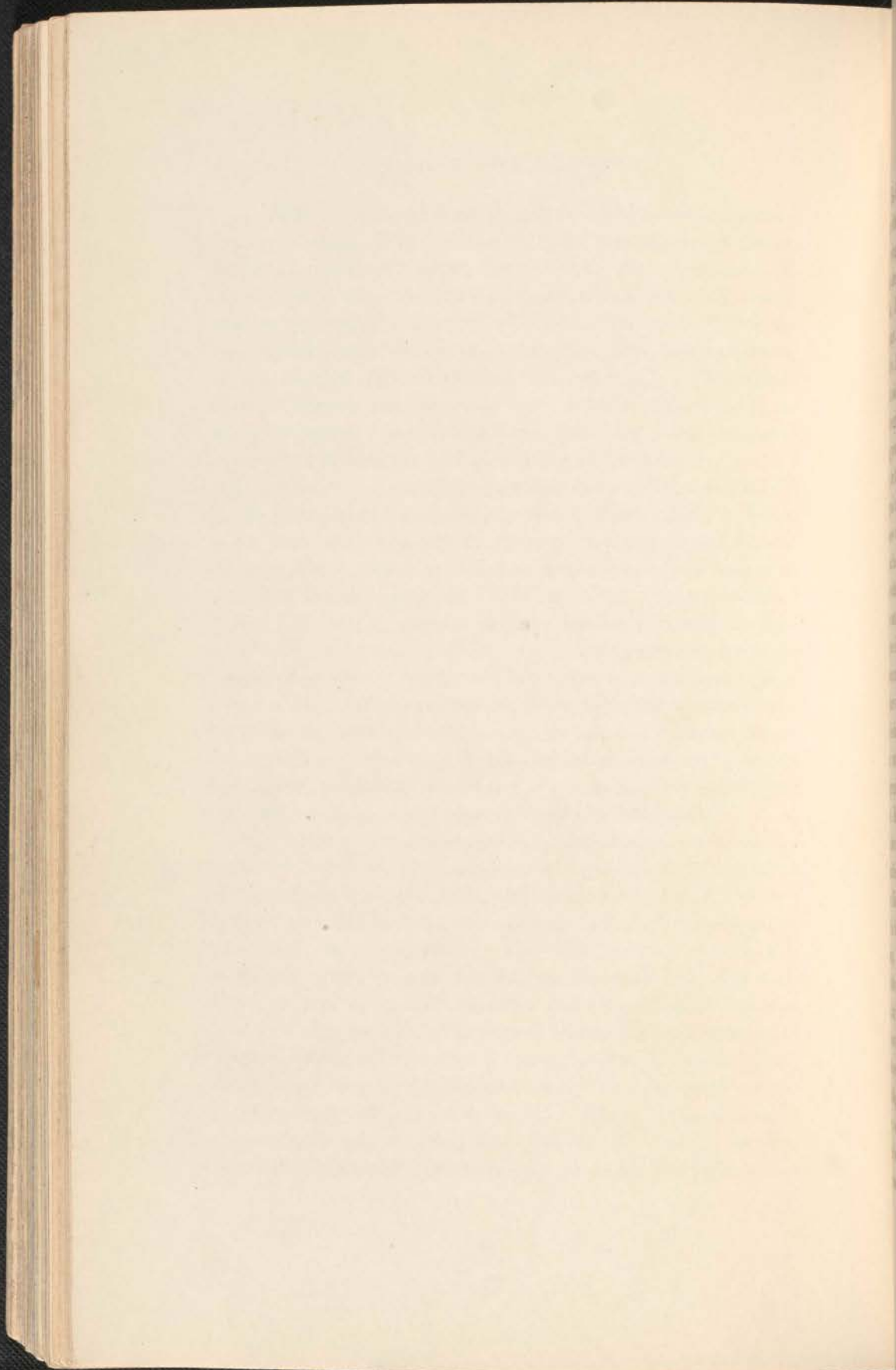
town affairs. Without holding any political or municipal office, aside from his connection with the schools, and without seeking to intermeddle with the duties of other men, it is yet certain, from the testimony of those who lived in his time, that he was consulted in regard to every measure of importance which came before the town; and by officers in relation to the matters with which they were charged. The extent of his influence has been playfully, yet truthfully stated, in the oft-repeated remark, that "the selectmen did not mend a piece of road without first consulting Dr. Thayer."

From the first he had the principal care of all the schools in the town, from the Shirley to the Boylston line, and the evidence is abundant, that he exercised a faithful supervision over the whole eleven or twelve districts into which the town was then divided, and the Latin grammar school besides. It was his duty to examine all the teachers, though sometimes aided by others. While the schools were in session, his afternoons were very much devoted to their welfare. Frequent visits, kindly suggestions to teachers, and instructive, but pleasant remarks to the children, consumed much time, but carried a wholesome influence to every child, and youth, and family in all the extended town. Indeed, it might be said that his benignant presence filled the schools.

But he was a minister more than an educator, or a townsman, and he was laborious and faithful in performing the duties of his high and sacred office. By birth, by training, and by aptitude of mind and disposition, he was formed for the pulpit, and for the pastoral office. He was a student and a thinker, and therefore brought forth things new and old. He was laborious, and in his old age, after his congregation had almost entirely changed, he preferred to prepare new sermons, and would not, unless necessary, repeat an old discourse. His pulpit labors were held in high esteem by his own people, and by other congregations far and near. In prayer he was devout, earnest, humble, grateful. He entered into the wants and feelings of his parishioners with true and heartfelt sym-

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pathy. His discourses were scriptural according to his understanding of the Bible, and were replete with sense and thought. Rarely rising to eloquence, he avoided commonplace, and held the attention of his hearers. As a pastor he was indefatigable. If any were sick, or in affliction, his sympathy was prompt and sincere. No matter how distant the family might live, if they were in trouble, their minister was with them, in rain or shine. His pleasant countenance and cheery voice brought solace and encouragement. He earned the blessing pronounced by the Prince of Peace upon the peacemaker, for it was a peculiar feature of his ministry, to preserve good neighborhood and brotherly kindness; and when differences or quarrels arose, none knew better how to remove and heal them. This is a field in which few can intermeddle without more embroiling the fray; but Dr. Thayer had the tact, the fairness, the kindliness and the authority which gave him success.

He was a man of consummate prudence. During his ministry, there were fierce political disputes. He and a majority of his charge, belonged to the school of Washington and Adams; but there were friends of Jefferson and Gerry, in his congregation and church, and even in the ranks of his deacons. He opposed and preached against the war of 1812. In his later ministry, there were strong divisions of sentiment and feeling in relation to temperance, to masonry and to slavery. His own course was clear and decided; and yet he maintained his hold upon his people, so that there was no thought of change. In building the new meeting-house, a troublesome debt was incurred, and many "signed off" from the parish, but the position of the minister was unshaken. At length new societies were formed, on either side, and drew respectable congregations; yet he ministered to a large, wealthy and intelligent people, till a serene old age; yet he was no temporizer, concealing his opinions, and trimming to catch the popular breeze. He knew how to maintain his opinions, and at the same time, keep his place. In this he was aided by the

stable habits of his parish, which knew the value of a permanent ministry; yet much was due to his own especial prudence.

Dr. Thayer was a fine public speaker. He was ^{of medium size} large in person, ^{but} and had an imposing presence. Though pleasant in speech, he was grave, dignified and impressive. He had a voice of great power and compass, which filled the largest hall or church with ease. He was thus fitted to speak on special occasions, as well as in his stated ministry. When Lafayette was passing through the country, on his triumphal tour, in ~~1825~~, he tarried for a night at the hospitable mansion of Mr. Sampson V. S. Wilder, in Bolton, and in the morning gratified the citizens of Lancaster with a reception. It was assigned to Dr. Thayer to address him on that occasion. Standing on the Common, near the Brick church, and surrounded by an immense multitude from this and neighboring towns, he spoke as follows:

"GENERAL LAFAYETTE.—In behalf of the inhabitants of Lancaster, I offer you their cordial congratulations on your arrival in a country whose wrongs you felt and resented; whose liberties you valiantly defended; and whose interests and prospects have ^{always} been dear to your soul.

"We all unite with the few surviving veterans which were with, loved and respected you on the high places of the field, in giving you a welcome to this village, ^{once} the chosen residence of savages, and the scene of their ^{modest} boasted triumph; and rejoice that you visit it under the improvements of civilized life, in prosperity and peace.

"It gladdens us that we and our children may behold the man, whom we have believed, and whom we have taught our children to believe, was second only to his and our friend, the immortal WASHINGTON. We participate in your joy, on beholding our institutions in vigor, our population extended, so that since you left us, from a little one we have become millions, and from a small band a strong nation; that you see our glory rising, our Republic placed on an immovable basis,

Sept. 24
23
1824

The Bolton Rifle Co. in their green uniforms, stood guard over the horse of Mrs Wilder while Lafayette remained there - Lafayette is said to have complimented his graceful hostess in her beautiful home, by styling her "the fairy mistress of the enchanted Castle"

From the Mass Spy Sept 15 1824. "Reception of La Fayette in Lancaster"
"The General left Bolton at half past six o'clock on Friday morning, the 3^d inst. & proceeded to Lancaster, under the escort of the Cavalry of the second brigade commanded by Col. Bance. When he reached the boundary of the town on the turnpike road, a national salute was fired. The turnpike gate was dressed with wreaths of flowers & evergreens and had for an inscription
"The Free welcome the Brave"

In the midst of the town, nearly opposite the Church, was erected a wide elliptical arch thirty feet in height, decorated by the ladies with much taste and beauty & bearing the following inscription

"Welcome La Fayette"
"The American Eagle in triumph shall wave
Its pinions of glory to welcome the Brave".

At a short distance from the church the General was met by the Lieutenant Artillery & the Standing Company of Infantry in Lancaster who joined in the Escort. Lines were then formed by a large Concourse of ladies Citizens & soldiers through which the General and his suite passed. At the arch he was received by the Rev. Dr Thayer & the Committee of arrangements & was then conducted to a platform a little elevated above the street where the following appropriate Address was made by Dr Thayer - "General La Fayette", - (See opposite)
& & & This Address was listened to with great attention & delight by a large collection of people and excited strong emotions in the General. The following is his reply, very nearly in the words in which it was expressed.

"Accept my thanks, Sir, for the kind welcome you

have here offered me in the name of the inhabitants of Lancaster. In returning to this Country after so long an absence, in receiving such proofs of gratitude & affection wherever I go, in witnessing the prosperity of the lands, a prosperity you are pleased to say I have been instrumental in promoting, I feel sensations for which no language is adequate; in meeting again my former friends in seeing the children & grand children of those who were my companions in the war of our Revolution. I feel a gratification which no one can express. I beg you to accept sir, & to offer to these people my acknowledgments."

"The surviving soldiers of the Revolution dwelling in towns were ^{then} introduced, to the General, who received ^{them} in the most cordial and touching manner. He expressed himself highly gratified with the interest which the ladies discovered, pressing forward with eagerness to greet this distinguished friend of mankind. After remaining on the platform fifteen minutes receiving the various attentions & reciprocating the heart-felt delight experienced by the assembly he returned to his Carriage amid cordial huzzas & the discharge of a national salute from the Artillery. The General fully appreciated the feelings his presence occasioned. On his way to Sterling he repeatedly expressed the pleasure he felt at the reception he met with in Lancaster, and mentioned, in the strongest terms, how deeply he was affected with the Address of Rev. Dr Thayer. Nor was he insensible to the beautiful Scenery in Lancaster, it came in for a full share of his praise. He was highly pleased with the Westminster Company & observed to a gentleman standing near him - "This is a fine Corps of Artillery" -"

all of which are in part, under Providence, to be ascribed to your sacrifices, dangers and toils.

"We wish you health and prosperity. We assure you that wherever you shall go, you will be greeted by our fellow-countrymen as one of the chief deliverers of America, and the friend of rational liberty and of man. It is especially our prayer, that ^{on} that day in which the acclamations and applauses of dying men shall cease to reach or affect you, you may receive from the Judge of character and Dispenser of imperishable honors, as the reward of philanthropy and incorruptible integrity, a crown of glory which shall never fade."

It is said that when these closing words were uttered, "the veteran Lafayette trembled with emotion," and that he was often afterwards "accustomed to refer with pleasure to the beautiful scenery of the banks of the Nashua, and the heart-thrilling address of the venerable minister of Lancaster." Aged men, now living, who were present, tell us that the words of the speaker were heard distinctly by all in the great throng, and that the tones of his voice were audible across the intervale, and half way up the side of George hill.

The funeral discourse already drawn from, speaks in warm terms of the hospitality of Dr. Thayer, and extols his character in all his domestic relations. Living among his children as a companion as well as a father, he approached the close of life with scarcely any abatement of his natural force. Unusual labors in the winter and spring of 1840, led him to seek recreation in extended travel. His last public service, as already stated, was on the seventh of June, a day which he declared to be one of the happiest of his life, when he communed with his people at the Lord's table, received some into the church, and laid his hand, in baptism, on the heads of some of the lambs of his flock.

The next day, accompanied by a daughter, he started for Saratoga Springs. After spending a week there, he went on his way towards Niagara Falls, enjoying the scenery and the climate, in the most genial season of the year. Monday, June

22, was spent in traveling, and it is said that "large portions of it had been occupied in most interesting conversations on religious subjects with fellow travelers." Having reached Rochester that evening, he retired to rest at the usual hour, and in wonted health. Nothing led his daughter or himself to apprehend the solemn event which was near. But the voice from Heaven came to him, at two o'clock in the morning, and he was ready to hear and to obey. "Without a murmur or a sigh of discontent, he yielded to the decisions of an unerring Providence, and serene and cheerful, awaited the final issue. His heart was with his family and his people. He said: 'Give them my dying love. Tell them I cheerfully submit. I die in the faith I have preached.—I die in peace, and in the hopes of the gospel.'"

The good people of Rochester, without regard to denominational sympathies, showed the greatest respect to his remains, and the most delicate kindness to his bereaved daughter. The lifeless form was brought to Lancaster, and by a singular felicity was placed under the same elms, where the venerable Harrington, nearly forty-five years before, had invoked upon him the blessing of God. Here prayers were offered, and on Monday, June 29, the funeral solemnities were observed in the church where he had preached the word during a long and happy pastorate. A great multitude filled the house, below and in the galleries. After appropriate services of song, discourse and prayer, the remains of the venerable and lamented minister were borne from the house of God to the house appointed for all the living. They buried him, but his memory and influence remain. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

The chapter will be closed with an extract from a sermon delivered by Dr. Thayer, at an installation in 1828, when in the ripe maturity of his powers. It will serve as a favorable specimen of his style, and at the same time, express his views in relation to an important doctrine of the gospel. Speak-

H. W. S. Cleveland tells of Dr. Thayer that he used to dine at Capt. Cleveland's on Wednesday afternoons. The Capt. never drank anything stronger than tea & coffee but put upon his table as the custom was a decanter of Madeira or Sherry. When Mr. Allen of Bolton exchanged with Dr. Thayer - he stopped at the Captain's for his Sunday dinner, and a glass of brandy and water was always set before him.

One summer Dr. Thayer accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Cleveland in their carriage on a journey to the White Mountains, he furnishing one of the horses. "While on the journey Dr. Thayer read aloud a very quaint and humorous old novel "The Annals of the Parish" the incidents of which came home to him with peculiar force. I remember perfectly hearing my mother tell how much he enjoyed it and the hearty laughs they had over it."

"Other worthies of "Held Lang Syne" rise like phantoms before my mind's eye, and some of them in a style of garments that are no longer seen. Small clothes, ruffled bosoms, high boots with tassels dangling in front - or shoes with ornamental buckles.

Queens too were common & were worn on Sunday in considerable variety, from the simple straight "pigtail" to the clubbed mass of hair with an ornamental bow of ribbon."

"But on the Old Common I remember perfectly "Squire Whiting" "Judge" Carter (Oliver), "Deacon" Josiah Bridge, Abner Pollard and Paul Faulkner. The last named was the "Village Blacksmith" a worthy and very intelligent man, & withal an excellent & zealous trapper, hunter & fisherman possessing the innate faculty of learning the habits of animals which insure success in those pursuits."

In 1798, June 4. the anniversary of the Ancient & Honorable
Artillery Company - "the Rev. Mr. Thayer of Leicester delivered,
a pertinent, spirited and patriotic Sermon, animated by
the true spirit of the times: and pronounced with an independence
worthy a clergyman of Massachusetts." ^{from} Columbian Centinel

He preached the Duffin Lecture at Harvard
College. in 1817. subject - "the Church of Rome".

ing of Christ, he asks : " What did the world more need than an Instructor to enlighten them in all the will of God ; a Model of undeviating and spotless virtue and holiness ; a Saviour from the present and distant evils of moral corruption ; a Redeemer from the power of the grave ; and a Guide to direct their upward course to Heaven and to God ? Give me a Saviour who shall by his gospel impart light to my mind, purity to my heart, and tenderness to my conscience. Give me a Saviour who shall lead me by his instructions and perfect example in obtaining a victory over my sinful propensities, appetites and passions. Give me a Saviour who shall secure me in the possession of a sure and unfailing promise of the mercy of God, if I am penitent and obedient. Give me a Saviour who shall lead me in triumph, by faith in him, through the dark valley of the shadow of death. Give me a Saviour who by his resurrection from the grave has set before me a proof of my own resurrection. Give me a Saviour in whom I can confide when he tells me that in his Father's house are many mansions, and that if I am faithful, where he is I shall be also. Give me a Saviour who can teach, practice, promise all this, and whose authority to reveal the promise is unquestionably established ; and I need nothing more to constrain me to acknowledge that I believe him to be all-sufficient, able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him."

CHAPTER XX.

TOWN AFFAIRS FROM 1842 TO 1878.

IN this chapter the continuous narrative of events, will be brought down to the present time, with the exception of the story of Lancaster in the war of the rebellion. The Academy and other private schools, the Library, the Cemeteries, the Churches, and miscellaneous matters not easily classified, will need separate treatment, but the town history, as gathered from the Records, is drawing to its close.

It is a curious and singular fact, that at the point of time when the town was two hundred years old from its first settlement, its history took, as it were, a new departure. Near that time Rev. Dr. Thayer died, by which event some of the cohesive power of the first church and society was removed. About this time the Evangelical church was formed, and the society connected with it erected a house of worship. The Universalist society, whose meeting-house was in South Lancaster, or as then styled, New Boston, came into existence at the same period. In consequence, public sentiment was much divided, and the new societies were obliged to contend for recognition.

Then came a new element of discord, which caused the political waters to ferment like a maelstrom. The Liberty party was formed in 1840, and soon began to have adherents in this town. The town was overwhelmingly whig, the democrats being few and helpless in all political contests. The Liberty men came from the whig party, and as they increased in numbers, they incurred the most determined opposition. This went on for sixteen years, till 1856, when Lancaster fell into





line as a republican town. In 1848, when the county went for the Free Soil party, this town adhered to the whig organization. This was a stronghold of the whigs, and the Liberty men, under different names, had to wage a strenuous warfare. But in time the hostile elements were quieted. The several religious bodies learned to respect each other's rights and convictions, and the whole mass of citizens, with inconsiderable exceptions, were banded together in abolishing slavery, and putting down rebellion.

Returning to our narrative, we have first to string together various isolated matters, which interested the town during the period under review; and then to continue the history of education, and of roads and bridges from year to year.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

The first effective action of the town in relation to the temperance reform, was taken in 1843. Indeed, this phase of the temperance revival might have been noted as one of the divisive elements when the town reached its two hundredth birthday. But since the movement began, as a moral reformation, ten or fifteen years before, it could not be referred to the time when this chapter opens. At the April meeting, 1843, the selectmen were instructed to prosecute all persons who should "sell spirituous liquors without license during the ensuing year." So far the record is good, but under the various changes of the laws in relation to liquor-selling, the town has not uniformly voted in favor of prohibition. In 1848 it was voted not to prosecute; and later in the year, in favor of prosecuting the violation of the law. Whether the question has been in regard to prohibiting or limiting the sale of spirituous liquors, or the milder beverages which contain alcohol, as cider, ale, porter and lager beer, the vote has generally been in the negative. And when the matter has been left with the selectmen, the action has frequently been in favor of license. More recently, licenses have been withheld, with partial approbation, and general acquiescence.

In April, 1844, the town voted to purchase a "salamander safe" to keep the town Records and other books. The safe cost \$139.99. At the same time measures were taken to obtain the Proprietors' Record Books, and place them in safe keeping. By this time the Proprietors had sold nearly all their property, and rarely met; but as their records are a part of the history of the town, it was desirable to obtain them.

A memorial from Joseph Willard, Esq., whose writings have done so much to illustrate the early history of Lancaster, was presented to the town, in November, 1846, in relation to the town records, and specially in regard to the records of births, marriages and deaths. He represented that some of the books were very ancient, and by frequent examination, were liable to be defaced and worn out; and as they were becoming more valuable by the lapse of time, it was important that copies should be taken, and the originals be preserved from wear and tear. In consequence, a committee of three was chosen "to superintend the copying of such of the town records that are ancient, as they may think expedient." The committee were John G. Thurston, (town clerk,) Solon Whiting and Ezra Sawyer. In 1860 Dr. J. L. S. Thompson, (town clerk,) Joel Wilder and Silas Thurston were chosen a committee "to superintend the copying of the old tax books."

Previous to this, in June, 1853, when Francis ^{F.}Hussey was chosen clerk, a committee was appointed, — Henry Wilder and S. J. S. Vose, — "to receive the books and papers from former clerks, and pass them to the present." The committee understood the vote to mean that they should inspect the records, and report for correction any errors that might be found. Several clerical mistakes were noted, and the town voted to have them rectified. No intentional errors were charged upon former clerks, but the town showed a commendable purpose to have the records correct.

The enrolled militia numbered two hundred and fifty-eight in 1844. The number increased very fast until Clinton was set off as a new town, but the glories of the muster field were already among the things of the past.

Francis Folger Hussey, born in Nantucket
December 29, 1798. married Anna Fitch daughter of
George Fitch of Nantucket. was in early life a
seaman in merchant service from N.Y. with
Josiah Macy. Later went into business with brother
Valentine, building whale ships &c. making candles,
dealing in whale oil etc. Moved to Lancaster
two Nantucket men Capt. Henry Swift and Capt.
John H. Shaw having preceded him, and bought
farms in Lancaster. He died September 27,
1863.

The 3^d section of report is here omitted. It reads - "That it be built in general conformity with the plans which will be herewith presented for examination"

John C. Hoadley, then a Civil engineer in Clintonville, since a noted engineer of Lawrence.

The second story added in 1852.

The annex at the rear and lock-up beneath were added in 1881-2.

None but those who know the fact would imagine that there ever was a mill on Cumberly brook, though at one time there were two small mills. In 1847, ^{Capt. J. B. B.} Levi Farwell obtained leave from the town to raise the road which runs east by the No. 1 school-house, and make it a dam, where the brook crosses. The mill was near the road, and in certain seasons of the year, did its quantum of work. The other mill was farther up stream.

The question in relation to building a new town-house came up in 1847, and was referred to Wilder S. Thurston, Charles Humphrey, H. N. Bigelow, Josiah Fay and Levi Farwell. This was at the March meeting. A month later the committee made an able and elaborate report, and recommended: "1, That the town proceed to the erection of a town-house the present year; 2, that it be built of brick; and ~~3~~, that it be placed upon the open space between the academy and the brick meeting-house, provided ^{that the town} they (the town) have or can obtain a title to the land."

The town accepted the report, and voted to "build in accordance with plans drawn by Mr. J. C. Headley." The borrowing of \$7,000 was authorized. The building committee were John G. Thurston, John C. Headley and Anthony Lane. In September, 1848, the committee were instructed to buy necessary furniture for the new hall. The committee were thanked for the "faithful and efficient manner" in which they had performed their duties.

On the seventh of November the meeting for the choice of presidential electors was warned to assemble in the old town-house. The meeting adjourned to the new town hall, when the citizens cast two hundred and eighty-six votes for the whig candidate, Gen. Zachary Taylor; one hundred and eighty-nine votes for Hon. Martin Van Buren, the Free Soil candidate, and sixty-five votes for the candidate of the democracy, Hon. Lewis Cass.

The total outlay for the new hall was \$7,023; and the old town-house was still the property of the town. It was

occasionally used for town meetings and other gatherings, when a full meeting was not expected. Finally it was sold and removed to its present location near the station of the Worcester and Nashua railroad. It will be remembered that this was the old meeting-house, built in 1743; and that it was reduced in size, and made into a town-house in 1816. The timbers of the original house, cut down, are still the main-stay of the building. It may be a matter of interest to some to know that the three porches of the meeting-house were sold separate from the main building. Two of them joined together, now make the house of Benjamin Morse, in the North Village, and the third was for a long time, the L part of the present L part of the house of Wright S. Keyes, before the new house was built in front, a few years since.

At the November meeting, 1848, a movement was begun, looking to a division of the town, by the separation of Clintonville. The subject was referred to the following gentlemen, living in both sections, as a committee. Elias M. Stillwell, James G. Carter, John H. Shaw, H. N. Bigelow, Ezra Sawyer, Sidney Harris, Charles G. Stevens, J. T. Otterson and Jacob Fisher. The committee, as might have been expected, were divided in opinion, and at a meeting held in November of the next year, presented majority and minority reports. Both reports were laid on the table.

At the ~~same time~~ another committee made a report in regard to the land under and near the old town-house. It seems that a Mr. Danforth had built where Mr. Royce now resides, in 1832, and Capt. Shaw was then living in the house. By some means the town had six hundred and fifty-two feet of Capt. Shaw's land, and he had two thousand ^{three} ~~five~~ hundred and seventy-two feet of the town's land. How the matter was settled, the records do not inform us; but probably all that belonged to the town is now in the highway between the houses of Mrs. Abby Lane and Mr. Royce.

The dividing of the town was a matter that could not rest, as Clintonville was rapidly increasing in population and busi-

12. Nov. 1849

x x

x Nov. 7. 1848. Article 4 of Warrant was:

"To see if the Town will consent to a division thereof and allow that part called Clintonville to form a separate Township or act in any manner relating thereto."

*x The settlement was simple enough. Mr Dauphth had allowed the town to set the House back upon his land, preferring to give the ground rather than have the building upon site of old church - obstructing his view up the street - The selectmen were instructed to straighten the line in equitable manner and did so.

We don't care a picayune for what a "prominent citizen" told the editor of the Times, or for what Elias Nason says in his Gazetteer about the origin of the name of "Clinton;" both have as good a right to be mistaken as our critic; some thirty-six years ago, one of the Messrs. Bigelow being pleased with the excellent hotel at which he was stopping in New York city, suggested "Clinton" as the name of our new town; the New York hotel was named for a previous hotel in Albany, of same name, and owned by same parties; to give DeWitt Clinton the credit of acting as a sort of godfather for all the hamlets, hotels, halls, parks, lanes, etc. in the United States is a good deal like making George Washington responsible for all the literary men that now bear his name; it is clear sacrilege, and not warranted by the facts.

Clinton Courant, October, 1856.

* The 2^d article in the warrant for this meeting was:
To see what action, if any the Town will take in reference to the Petition of Chas G. Stevens and others to the legislature of this Commonwealth for a division of the town of Lancaster."

* * 4. That the line of division shall be the same as this day proposed by Chas G. Stevens Esq as follows: Beginning at a monument on the East line of the town 287.50 rods northerly from a Town bound, a corner of Bolton, Berlin and Lancaster; thence north $65^{\circ}30'$ west 488.11 rods to a monument near the railroad bridge at Goodrich Hill; thence south $48^{\circ}30'$ west 783 rods to a Town bound near the Elder Farm so called; thence by the old lines of the Town to the place of beginning.;

ness. Therefore a special meeting was held on the fifteenth ^x of February, 1850, with Solon Whiting, Esq., in the chair. Charles G. Stevens, Esq., then a young lawyer, recently ¹⁸⁴⁶ settled in Clintonville, submitted a preamble and resolve to the meeting in favor of a new town.

The subject was discussed, but before any action was taken, a committee was appointed to confer with a like committee, chosen by the people of Clintonville, and "report as soon as may be, what terms, in their opinion, ought to satisfy the town of Lancaster to consent not to oppose a division of the town." The committee chosen by the town were John G. Thurston, Jacob Fisher, Silas Thurston, Henry Lincoln and Nathaniel Warner. The meeting then adjourned, forty minutes. On reassembling, the committees unanimously reported as follows.

"1. That all the property, both real and personal, owned by the town of Lancaster, at the present time, shall belong to, and be owned by the town of Lancaster, after the division shall take place.

"2. That the inhabitants of Clintonville shall support and forever maintain those persons who now receive relief and support from the town of Lancaster as paupers, who originated from the territory proposed to be set off; and also forever support all persons who may hereafter become paupers, who derive their settlement from this territory.

"3. That Clintonville, or the town of Clinton, if so incorporated, shall pay to the town of Lancaster, the sum of ten thousand dollars in consideration of the large number of river bridges and paupers that will remain within the limits of the old town. The same to be paid in ten equal annual payments of one thousand dollars, with interest semi-annually on the sum due, the first payment of one thousand dollars to be made in one year after the separation shall take place. And the amount shall be in full for all the town debt ^x which Lancaster owes." ^{\$ 3000 then.}

The fourth article fixed the bounds as they now stand. ^{x x}

^ Henry Wilder, Benjamin Whittemore and John G. Thurston were chosen a committee to see the substance of the foregoing articles put into the act of incorporation.

The report was adopted by the town; Clinton was incorporated by the legislature at its ^{that} next session, and in due time, paid for its freedom, according to agreement, and went on its way prospering, with the good-will of its venerable, but still growing and comely mother. Comparing the two, and reversing the words of Horace, we may write—

O filia pulchra mater pulchrior.

The number of families in the town previous to the division, was six hundred and ninety-two. Supposing the families averaged five persons, the population was three thousand four hundred and sixty. Now the population of Clinton is probably double the latter number, while that of Lancaster is less than two thousand. But the old town has time and room for growing.

At this time, and during subsequent years the town took special pains to have the accounts of the selectmen and other officers carefully audited. Samuel J. S. Vose was chosen auditing committee in 1850; and with others at different dates, did much to effect a careful keeping and rendering of accounts. It has now become a settled thing to have an auditing committee annually chosen.

A division of the county of Worcester has been agitated, every few years, for nearly a century. The attempt always comes from the same source, but has hitherto failed. From the first Lancaster has been solid in her allegiance to the old county. The question was brought before the town in 1851, March 19, when the vote was unanimous against division. Again and again the measure has been pressed down to the present time, but always with the same result. At one time, a single citizen was in favor of the new county. At another time four voted for it. The highest number of votes on that side was seven. The feelings of the town in favor of pre-

^ 5. If a division of the Town is effected the substance of the foregoing articles having been put in legal form shall be inserted in the act of Incorporation -

signed J. G. Thurston

C. G. Stevens

Chairman of town Committee

* Amend 14, 1850. date of act.

Was not the whole farm bought. 1824 Nov. (Zerary)
as stated p. 425. with buildings on both roads?

(a) Capt. Bowers lived in South Lancaster and drowned himself in an old well back of the Bancroft House, now Stackell's. John Loughton lived on the height of George Hill. Bowers was an "Inholder" in South Lancaster 1800-1804. He offers his farm of 33 acres for sale, in Centinel, Jan'y 3rd. 1816. He was a revolutionary Pensioner & aged 84 at his decease in 1836. — His wife was Rebecca daughter of John Prescott & Mary White. She died November 30. 1836. no issue. Bowers was at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

servicing old county lines and associations have been emphatically expressed. Whether a direct line of railway between Lancaster and Fitchburg, would effect a change in public opinion, is a matter of conjecture.

The home or asylum for the poor was, ~~at the first~~, on the road not far from the Slate ^(Mire) ~~Mire~~. In a few years, the house of B. W. Willard, where Levi P. Wood, jr., now lives, was bought. A large addition was made, when needed, by erecting what is now the main building, of two stories. In 1851 the selectmen were authorized to sell a small part of the poor farm to neighbors. Other inconsiderable changes were made, but nothing which demands notice, until the new farm was purchased, at a later date. *dated May 31, 1851*

April 7, 1851, the town accepted the Act incorporating the "Lancaster Charitable Fund." Sometimes this is called the "Poor Widow's Fund." The minister of the First Congregational Church and his successors, is one of the trustees. Rev. George M. Bartol has held that position since the Fund was established. The first board of trustees elected by the town was composed of the following citizens, viz., John M. Washburn, Charles Humphrey, Henry Lincoln, Levi Farwell, John Bennett.

The origin of the Fund dates farther back. The late Samuel Ward, Esq., who died August 14, 1826, gave and bequeathed to the "settled Congregational minister and selectmen of the town of Lancaster for the time being, and their respective successors in said office, five hundred dollars, in trust, to be placed at interest by them, and the interest annually arising therefrom to be by them distributed to those who are unfortunate and in indigent circumstances, in said Lancaster, but not to the poor actually maintained by said town."

According to the terms of the will, the minister and the selectmen administered the Fund until 1851.

Capt. Josiah Bowers, who lived ^{in So Lancaster} on the summit of George hill, made a bequest to the Fund, as appears by the follow-

ing extract from his will, proved November 15, 1836, in these words: "As to the residue and remainder of my estate, it is my will and order that one hundred dollars be put out on interest under the care and trust of the selectmen of the town of Lancaster, for the benefit of poor widows belonging to said town, of good moral character, and who are not supported by the town."

A much larger addition was made to the Fund by the will of Joel Wilder, dated August 2, 1847. This Mr. Wilder was Joel Wilder, 2d, as Dea. Joel Wilder was first, and the latter's son was Joel Wilder, jr. Joel Wilder lived near the George hill school-house, where A. ^WD. Howe recently resided. He left one-third of his estate to one of his ~~sons~~, but it was to remain in the hands of his executor, for the benefit of his ~~son~~, and the residue, after his ~~son's~~ decease, was to go to the "poor widow's fund of said Lancaster." Mr. Wilder's gift, with \$28.51 interest, amounted to \$1,701.51.

A clause of the will of Mr. John Laughton, proved June 4, 1850, provides that after his wife's decease, all the remainder of his property "be paid to the Widow's Fund, so called, a fund established for the benefit of the poor widows in said Lancaster." This has not yet come into the custody of the trustees.

The Act of incorporation above referred to authorizes the town to "elect five persons, who, with their successors, and the minister for the time being, of the First Congregational Society in ^{the} said town, duly settled over the same, and his successors in office shall thereafter be constituted a body corporate by the name of the Trustees of the Charitable Fund in the town of Lancaster." In case of a vacancy by death, resignation, removal or otherwise, the town was to fill the vacancy. The trustees are required to elect a clerk and treasurer, to keep a record of their doings, and to administer the fund, "regard being had to the wishes of the donors when known."

The Assets of the Charitable Fund, in 1871, June 2, amounted to \$2,301.51.

Joel Wilder 2^d cannot be traced in "Book of the Wilders".
He died October 16, 1847. He had no "sons" - but three
nephews; Daniel K.; Alexander H. and Joel Wilder. The
last two were of Worcester. The first was Captain
of a vessel, and was accidentally killed in Cuba by
a fall, not long after the uncle's death.

John Langhton died April 29, 1850. Mrs Nancy Priest
Langhton died February 17, 1883 aged 93y. 10m, 28d, when
the Charity funds were increased by the sum of about \$5000

Requests	
Capt. Saunt. Ward	500
Josiah Bowers	100
Joel Wilder	1701.51
John Langhton	5100.
Soldiers Relief Fund	800
	<hr/>
	8201.51



Town Hall & "Academy".
1876.

February 5, 1872, "At a meeting of the Trustees of the Charitable Fund in the town of Lancaster, holden this day, it was voted to accept of the trust or donation from the subscribers of the Soldier's Relief Fund, amounting to eight hundred dollars." The Fund on the second of March, 1878, amounted to \$3,083.67.

The annual donations have been made to about twenty persons, in sums varying from two to twelve dollars. In 1851 the amount paid out was \$112. In 1860, it was \$118. In 1870, twenty-one persons received \$124. In 1877, the sum of \$160 was divided among twenty-six beneficiaries.

The trustees, in addition to those first chosen, have been Dea. Charles Wyman, Col. Francis B. Fay, Messrs. George W. Howe, Caleb T. Symmes, Spencer R. Merrick and Levi P. Wood, jr. *Nicholas Frost 1845. H. S. Howe 1886. George F. Howland 1888. (declined) Lewis*

In 1851 a proposition came from the general court to hold a convention for the revision and amendment of the Constitution. At the November meeting for the election of state officers, this town gave fifty-seven votes in favor and one hundred and ninety-three against the measure. But as the people of the commonwealth in 1853, decided in favor of the convention, the town, March 7, on the third ballot, chose Joel Wilder delegate. When the result of the convention was presented to the people for approval or rejection, every amendment or alteration was voted against by Lancaster. The average vote was seventy in favor, and one hundred and seventy in opposition. However, at different times, when presented to the people by the legislature, most of the amendments which the convention had recommended, were adopted by large majorities.

Action in relation to enlarging the town hall was taken, May 5, 1852, when it was voted to proceed according to a plan made by W. J. Whitaker. The expense was not to exceed \$2,000. Dr. Thompson, Capt. Fisher, Dea. Humphrey, Henry Wilder and Rev. B. Whittemore were the committee. The upper story was added to the hall, and other improvements made, the cost of which was \$2,539.67.

March 7, 1853, the fire wards were directed to put the fire hooks and ladders in order. Probably their duties were not very onerous.

This year the town began to make a discount on taxes when promptly paid. The discount for those who paid by September 1, was five per cent., and one per cent. less each month to the first of January.

The question of a new pauper establishment came before the town, from time to time, chiefly because the poor farm was in a remote section, but no action was taken.

As the time drew near when the town had been incorporated two hundred years, measures were taken to commemorate the event. November 29, 1852, a vote was passed to have a celebration in the coming year. A committee of seven, in addition to the "clergymen of the town to head the committee." The following were the general committee: Rev. Charles Packard, Rev. Benjamin Whittmore, Rev. George M. Bartol, Messrs. William Townsend, Ephraim C. Fisher, John G. Thurston, Jacob Fisher, John M. Washburn, George Cummings and Charles Humphrey. The day fixed upon for the celebration was the fifteenth of June, and the committee were directed to invite all the towns which had sprung from Lancaster, to be present as guests. These were Harvard, Bolton, Leominster, Sterling, Berlin, Boylston, West Boylston and Clinton. Money was appropriated to carry out the design, but as funds were raised by subscription, the vote was rescinded. As the proceedings were printed in a handsome volume, including the very able oration of Joseph Willard, Esq., the orator of the day, it is not necessary to give the particulars in this place. It is sufficient to say, that the day was celebrated in a manner highly honorable to the town. The people gave up the day to the occasion, and a great number came from the towns invited. The church was thronged, and the tables spread on the lawn, since owned by Col. Fay, were loaded with viands, and surrounded by an immense multitude. Speeches and letters gave a zest to the occasion. The whole

Joseph Willard was the youngest son of the
President of Harvard College of the same name, and
was born in Cambridge, March 14, 1798. He died at
Boston May 13, 1865. He was graduated in the class
of 1816, studied in the office of Hon. Chas. H. Atherton,
Amherst, Mass. was admitted to the bar in 1819, and opened
an office in Waltham. He came to Lancaster in 1821
He married in 1830 Miss Susannah H. Lewis
and his first child, Sidney, was born in Lancaster
shortly before he removed to Boston, in 1831.
From 1840 until his death he was Clerk of the
Suffolk C.C.P. and Superior Court. He was
Secy of the Mass. Hist. Soc. 1835 to 1864.

The outrageous assault upon Sumner and the Kansas outrages of 1856. called out indignation meetings in Lancaster. At one such meeting June 19. \$2500 in cash was raised for the Kansas relief-fund. and considerable material aid in the line of clothing etc. was sent from the town.

July 5. 1856. the Cotton-factory in So. Lancaster was burned to the ground. The fire took in the picket in 3^d story, between 8 & 9 N. Sts. & considerable stock & "machinery" was saved.

5 This did not straighten the road" but merely gave liberty to enclose common land, by building a fence parallel with that on the present south side of road.

a - At the March meeting 1855. such a report was presented by J. W. Phelps & Lucius L. Farwell. I find no other recorded. Right Cummings was of Committee but for some reason did not sign report.

b - This is an error. That act was rejected at that time. and not accepted until May 9. 1859 - The act accepted at this date (Apr. 5 1858) was another passed by the Legislature of 1857 respecting Schoolhouses &c.

c - The Hall was not granted, to Brass Band & Sons of Temperance, but the Small room.

d - Not for enlarging the building, but "for furnishing the upper town hall" which had been done for the Stebbins School.

Dec. 1854. Ott's Sutor pardoned. half his term expired. been in 9 years. - He was required, however, to leave the country

Jan'y. 24. 1855. a shop in So. Lancaster in the cross yard burned.

of a long June day was too short for the crowded and interesting services.

In July, 1855, action was taken in reference to the location of the State Industrial School for girls. It was voted to straighten the road from Capt. Orice King's to the Emerson place; and also to discontinue the road from the Stillwell house to the Emerson place. The Stillwell house is now in ruins in consequence of a fire. The Emerson place is now occupied by Frederick Whitney. This arrangement improved the broad and pleasant avenue across the Old Common, and left the land on the north of it in the yard of the school.

John G. Thurston and Wright Cummings, M. D., a committee on the almshouse, presented an elaborate report, in which, among other things, they insisted upon kind treatment of the insane, and recommended that they should be sent to asylums for insane persons.

The Act of the legislature respecting shade trees was accepted by the town, April 5, 1858.

The town has always been liberal in letting the town hall for the convenience or advantage of the citizens. In 1858 the use of the lower hall was given to Charles Safford, Jeremiah Moore and Dr. Thompson, a committee, for instruction in music. The next year the town warmed and lighted the hall for the use of singers. In 1860 the Brass Band and the Sons of Temperance were allowed the free use of the hall, warmed and lighted, "but not more than twice a week." This has been the uniform practice until recently.

The cattle disease spread consternation among the farmers of the state in the spring of 1860, and strenuous measures were everywhere taken to arrest the distemper, or prevent its outbreak. The legislature authorized certain commissioners to slaughter animals liable to communicate the contagion, at their discretion. This town gave the selectmen authority to deal with the matter as circumstances might require.

It appears that certain persons had subscribed, to raise money for enlarging the town hall, to the amount of \$463.52.

The town having paid for the enlargement, these subscribers were allowed seventy-five per cent. on that sum, "whenever an appropriation shall be made." Perhaps there was an appropriation, but there is no record of it. This was in 1861. In the same year, April 1, lamps for the town hall, the cost not to "exceed fifteen dollars," were obtained.

April 3, 1865, the selectmen were empowered to open a door on the south side of the basement of the town hall, near the west end, and a year later, were directed to prepare a room for the convenience of the ladies, with a cooking stove, closets for crockery, etc. The town voted to accept a present of crockery, and a stove.

a The old road on the west side of the river to the Neck bridge, so called, had been out of use for many years, but it seems that the town had some rights pertaining thereto, because the selectmen, April 3, 1865, were instructed to "vindicate the rights of the town to hold a certain tract of land near the barn of C. L. Wilder."

The Freedman's Aid Society was allowed the use of the town hall, in 1866, to give entertainments, the proceeds of which were to be given for the benefit of the newly enfranchised colored people of the South. This was one of the beautiful manifestations of a spirit which then animated the public heart, and filled the freedmen with hope and gratitude.

The town voted, March 2, 1867, that the selectmen should close their books on the twentieth of February, each year, in time to print their annual report, and circulate it through the town previous to the March meeting. Subsequently a similar vote included other officers or committees, but the school committee have not been able to comply with it strictly, because the schools do not close in season to be reported before the last week in February.

In 1869 there was considerable interest in relation to the Massachusetts Central railroad, and efforts were made to have the line run through the town. A committee was raised in January to have the matter in charge, consisting of George

a Nothing to do with that "old road"! This was only an episode in the long quarrel between the town and Charles S. Wilder, about an alteration of the highway - referred to on page 498 - "That part of the old neck road so called west of the river" had been discontinued in Nov. 1857.

After attending the Peace Jubilee in Boston January 14, 1869, the President, General U.S. Grant, spent the night with Ex-Governor Geo. S. Boutwell of Groton. While on his way to Worcester the following day, by a special train, he came out upon the car platform at Lancaster and shook hands with sundry of the crowd there assembled to see the hero of the war, and the savior of the nation.

The Farmers Club was organized November 9, 1869
William A. Kelborn, President.

The "Grange" was organized 1885.

This perseverance had to surrender after the
action of 1876, taken by the town upon motion and
argument by H. S. House. Lancaster has ever since
been a pattern for neighboring towns to copy in this
respect - but they have not copied.

In 1870 Nathaniel Thayer announced his intention to
pay his taxes thereafter in Lancaster - thus doubling
the town's valuation.

A. Parker, Charles L. Wilder, Caleb T. Symmes, Calvin Holman and Lucius L. Farwell. At a meeting held in March the committee were directed to do all in their power to perfect surveys and get a charter for a road from Gardner to Boston. This was in pursuance of a plan to bring the Vermont and Massachusetts road from Gardner to Boston, avoiding Ashburnham and Fitchburg. All these efforts failed.

In 1871 the town undertook to abate the nuisance of bills, notices and signs on the shade trees and bridges in the town, but the perseverance of those interested in these has proved worthy of a better cause. ×

Previous to this year there were patches of sidewalk in the villages, but at the spring meeting the town voted to "accept and maintain sidewalks built by citizens." At present there is a tolerable walk on the west side, from the North Village to the south end of South Lancaster street, between two and three miles. In the villages there is a walk on both sides of the main street.

There being no fire-engine in the town, resort has been had to the fire companies of Clinton, in case of emergency, and they have always been prompt to respond to any call in case of fire. In April, of this year, the town presented the fire department of Clinton with \$200, and thanks for efficient aid. Similar action has been taken on several occasions.

At the same meeting the town treasurer was directed to deposit the town's money in the Lancaster National Bank, and also to give bonds for the faithful discharge of his duties. In old times the treasurer received no pay, but made use of any surplus money in his hands.

About ten years since measures began to be taken for stocking our ponds and streams with fish. April 5, 1869, Dr. J. L. S. Thompson, William H. McNeil and George A. Parker were chosen a committee to consider the practicability of restocking Nashua river with salmon. The sum of \$200 was put to this use. In March, 1871, encouragement was given to the plan of introducing certain kinds of fish into several

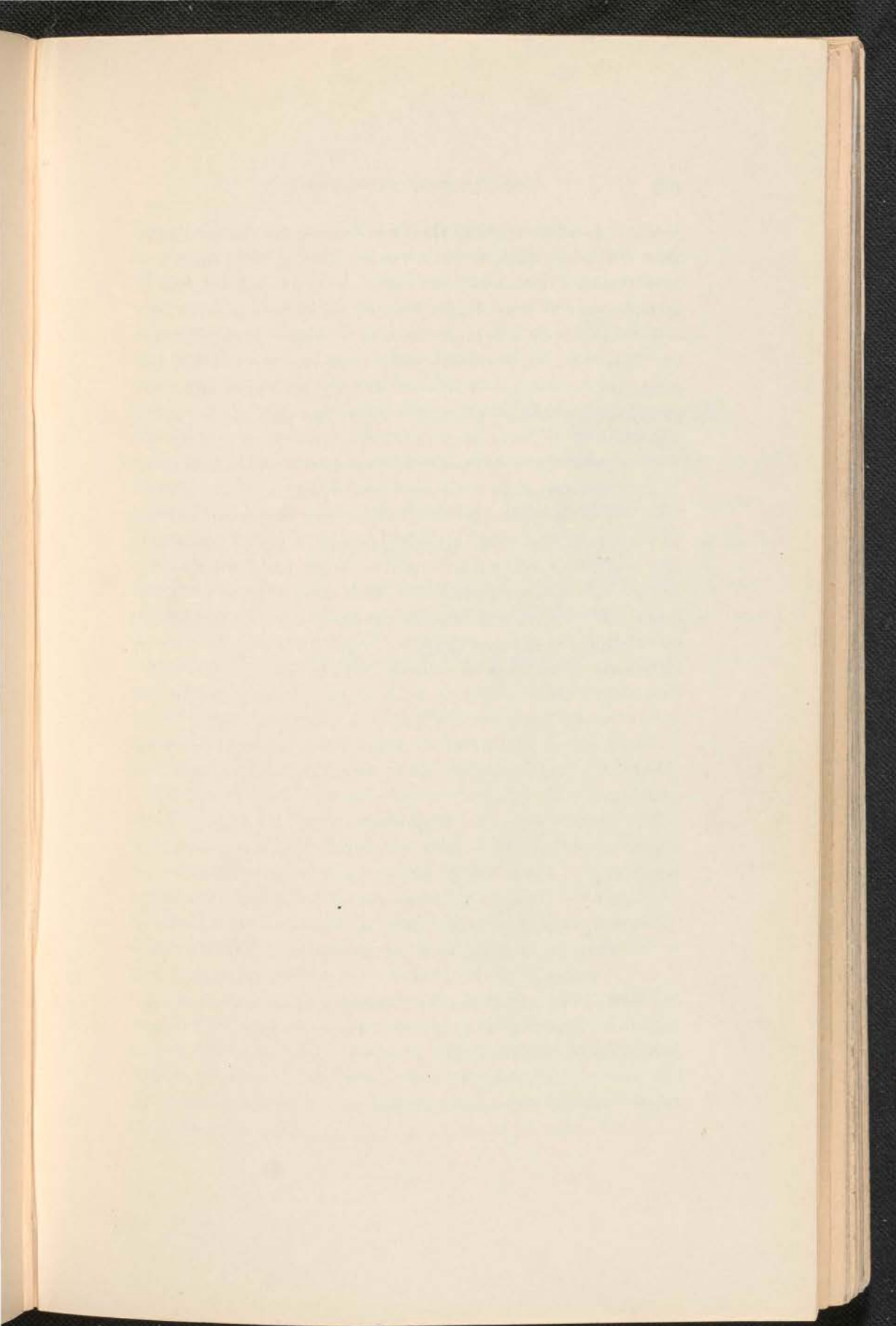
ponds. In March, 1873, \$300 were voted for the use of the town commissioners on fresh water fish, and they employed it in stocking one or more ponds. This has been followed up from year to year, Rufus Eager having been added to the committee. Spectacle pond has been stocked with black bass. In 1854, the commissioners were authorized to petition the commissioners of inland fisheries to open Nashua river for the passage of salmon.

At the March meeting, 1873, the question of selling the old "pauper establishment," and purchasing a new house and farm, was referred to a committee, consisting of John Bennett, Jeremiah Moore, Henry Wilder, Dr. Thompson, and the selectmen for the year, Messrs. Holman, Farwell and Day. Without going into particulars it may be stated briefly, that the old establishment was sold, and the farm and house of Edward Phelps, (formerly the property of Calvin Carter, M.D.) was obtained at the cost of \$6,500. The farm contained about sixty acres of very excellent land, and the house of three stories, was ample for all the purposes needed in an almshouse. In 1874 a new barn was erected, which cost \$3,876.21.

At the April meeting the selectmen were directed to provide the "best system of drainage for the main street in South Lancaster."

The Hon. Charles Sumner died on the eleventh day of March, 1874. The following extract from the Records, dated April 6, give the action of the town in view of that event. "Voted, by a unanimous rising vote to adopt the following resolution, ^{presented by the Rev. A. P. Larwin} relating to the death of the Hon. Charles Sumner. Whereas, in the unerring Providence of God, the Hon. Charles Sumner has recently been removed from earthly scenes and labors, the inhabitants of Lancaster in town meeting assembled, desire to put on record some testimonial of their appreciation of his character and services, therefore

"Resolved, That in the decease of Mr. Sumner our commonwealth and the world has lost one who was a model as a scholar, a statesman, a philanthropist and a man. As a scholar,



After the Chicago Fire, October 1871. at a meetings of the
Citizens of Lancaster about \$1000 in money, and as much
in value of clothing etc. was subscribed and collected in
behalf of the sufferers. Committees were appointed to
canvass the town, and the ladies for three days
were engaged at the town hall receiving material,
sewing and forwarding clothing bedding &c.

he was diligent, patient of labor, various in culture, studious in every worthy branch of human knowledge, enriched with all that science, art and literature could add to his nature, while holding his vast acquisitions in readiness for instant use; as a statesman, sound in judgment, acquainted with the varied wants, interests and achievements of his countrymen, ruled by great principles yet familiar with details, above partisan, or personal, or sectional aims; proud of his native state, yet embracing his whole country in his heart, while seeking to bind his own country in amity with all other peoples on the true ethical basis of international law; as a philanthropist, guided by the precepts of the Christian religion, above prejudice, pitying the prisoner, breaking the fetters of the slave, and protecting the rights of the alien and the stranger; and as a man, pure in life, rigid in integrity, a fast friend and placable enemy, enduring slander, violence and wrong without revenge, brave, resolute, aggressive, but courteous and regardful of others. As such a man, philanthropist, statesman and scholar, we hold him up as an example for our youth, and for such a gift we render devout thanks to the great God who made him, gave him to us and to all humanity, and who has now taken him in the fulness of his undying fame to himself."

An unusual and perhaps unprecedented vote was passed, April 5, 1875, under an article in the warrant "to see if the town will pay Joel Wilder the sum of two hundred dollars for services rendered the town in years past." No special services were mentioned, but probably the fact that Mr. Wilder had served the town in many offices and on various committees, during a period of nearly fifty years, was effective in procuring a unanimous vote in favor of the grant.

At the same meeting a permanent rule was made in relation to overdrawing orders. The selectmen were instructed "in no case to draw orders in excess of appropriations, beyond the sum of one hundred dollars." At the ensuing March meeting, 1876, the following orders bearing on the same subject, were adopted. Ordered

"1. That no committee appointed by the town^{of Lancaster} for the expenditure of any specific appropriation, be allowed under any circumstances, to exceed such sum appropriated, unless the written approval and consent of the board of selectmen to such proposed excess of expenditure, shall first be obtained." The second order forbade the selectmen to pay all "drafts drawn on them by any committee, in excess of the specific sum voted by the town," unless they had given their consent or approval, in writing, to such expenditure. The subject was presented to the town in this shape, by Messrs. E. Warren Smith, S. J. S. Vose and Henry Jewell.

At the April meeting the town voted to accept the "Betterment Act," so called, passed by the general court in the year 1871.

The town, at the same time, took action in favor of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, on the ensuing fourth day of July. One hundred and fifty dollars were appropriated for the purpose, and the following were chosen a committee to superintend the celebration. Rev. George M. Bartol, Rev. A. P. Marvin, and Messrs. Charles T. Fletcher, G. F. Chandler and Henry S. Nourse. In accordance with the vote of the town, the celebration was held. The committee "besides procuring a Centennial Address, an Original Hymn, and an Original Ode suited to the occasion, further secured the services of a Band of Music, and for the evening a display of Fireworks." The whole expense, including the printing of the address, the band of music and the fireworks, was \$468.42. In payment the town voted \$150; subscriptions covered \$131.85, and the balance, \$186.42, was paid by Nathaniel Thayer, Esq. The order of exercises was as follows. Opening remarks by the chairman, Rev. George M. Bartol; prayer by the venerable Rev. Benjamin Whittemore; hymn by Mr. Benjamin^{B.} Whittemore, of Boston; address by John D. Washburn, Esq.,[^] of Worcester; ode by Mrs. Julia A. [Fletcher] Carney, of

In 1873, Henry B. Gowin, a native of Shirley, resident of Boston bought the Lancaster Hotel and renovated and extended it. In the summer of 1874 he effected the removal of a line of horse sheds which had for many years stood between the north end of the brick church and the hotel.

1 Reading Declaration of Independence by H. G. House

October 14, 1876, the citizens of Lancaster awoke to find the landscape white with snow, nearly an inch having fallen in the night.

LANCASTER.

—The committee to whom the purchasing of heating apparatus for public buildings was referred, have contracted with a responsible firm in Boston, to put under the town hall a sectional boiler of sufficient capacity to heat the town hall, memorial hall and new school-house. The work is to be of the best quality, and done immediately. For 15, 1879.

In the afternoon of Sunday July 21, 1878 a terrific gale from the west, accompanied with thunder lightning and hail or rain, swept through the town, strewn the orchards and streets with boughs of trees, throwing down chimneys and breaking glass. The central line of the storm passed through the center of Lancaster, its chief fury being expended upon the Elms near the Sprague Bridge four of the grandest of which were uprooted, two upon each side of the river.

Illinois; benediction by Rev. A. P. Marvin. The services were held in the Brick Church, and the choir rendered acceptable aid in the service of song. All the school children of the town were present by invitation, and seated in the galleries. No public entertainment was provided, except an ample supply of lemonade. The day and evening were pleasant, and all the exercises of the day, and the display in the evening, from the grounds east of the street in front of the residence of Mr. Thayer, passed off without accident, and to the general satisfaction.

March 5, 1877. Dr. Thompson, Calvin Holman and Horatio D. Humphrey were chosen a committee to make inquiries in regard to the cost of a fire-engine and necessary appendages. At the April meeting the committee reported and recommended the purchase of a small engine after trial. And at a meeting, May 15, S. R. Damon and Sewall Day were authorized to build a reservoir on some part of the Center Common.

The committee attended to the duty of their appointment, and built a capacious subterranean reservoir by the roadside in front of the town hall. The first thought was to gather water from the roofs of public buildings in the vicinity, but it was found that an ample supply could be collected from the surface drainage of the Common.

A fire company was formed consisting of about twenty members. The following are the names of the officers. Foreman, John E. Farnsworth; first assistant foreman, William H. Blood; second do., Nathan Turner; secretary and treasurer, Nicholas Frost; steward and section hoseman, Henry H. Stowe. *Company disbanded & engine sold two years later.*

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

There have been but few important changes in the roads of the town during the last thirty or forty years; but there has been a complete revolution in the construction of bridges. The roads will first receive our attention.

x In 1843 a road was authorized by the town, on condition that it should be made at private expense, reaching from the house of Gen. Thomas Davis, (now occupied by E. Warren Smith,) to the town road leading by the house of Jonas Goss. As this place had been occupied a long time, it is probable that a private way had accommodated the families residing upon it.

The road from Clintonville to Boylston, by the west side of Sandy pond, was projected in 1845. In the same year it was shown to the town that the usual way of repairing roads was a plan by which men shirked the business, and prevented all system. It was recommended that the selectmen should have the care of roads, instead of highway surveyors in the districts. The plan was adopted.

In 1846 an effort was made to close the road to Pine hill, from the Harvard road, but failed. That way should ever be kept open, since it leads to one of the pleasantest resorts in all the region, to the lover of nature.

x The road and bridge at Fuller's mills was widened, gravel was taken from ~~Guttridge~~ or Goodrich hill. The owners agreed to keep a watering trough in running order. Fuller & Conant were paid \$75 for the alterations near the mills.

Dea. Humphrey, as chairman, reported that of the hundred miles, more or less, of road in the town, not ten miles were properly bounded. The selectmen were then ordered to survey ten miles of road, as laid down in the Records, and erect suitable monuments. After careful perambulation, they reported that it was impossible to reconcile the present location with the original survey.

The crossing of the railroad, just north of Fuller's mill, has always been a source of annoyance. The first plan was for the railway to cross at grade. Then the hill was cut away, and the highway was built under the railroad bridge. Since then repeated efforts have been made to induce the Worcester and Nashua railroad company to widen the bridge and give room for making the traveled way safer and more direct. Appeals have been made to the county commissioners,

x The whole affair which called out this valuable contribution of six lines to Lancaster history, was simply this: Gen. Thomas Davis attempted to pervert the town to assume the care of the private avenue leading to his house, and the vote was a snub.

I find this name sometimes spelled Goodridge in Records. It was very commonly pronounced Gutteridge in bucolic dialect.

3 Wilder S. Thurston had nothing to do with the
Shoeshank power; but did own the site of the
mill and pond that existed on the little brook,
that joins the river a short distance above the
Bonikin dam, a mile below "Shoeshank".

^(four or five)
a This only refers to a few roads, abandoned when
the road was altered to run under the W. & N. R.R.

^a awkwardly stated. The new road was from
Clinton to Pratt's junction, utilizing for some portions
of the central distance, the old Sterling & Lancaster
road.

the courts, and the legislature, but nothing has been effected. ^{until 1886}

An alteration was made in the road above Ponakin mill, in 1847, and Wilder S. Thurston, ~~who improved the power~~ ^b ~~at what is now called Shoeshank,~~ was allowed \$25 for the improvement.

In 1848 a road was proposed from the Lancaster ^{Mills} to the Sidney Harris mill, down the valley. This failed, ^{at first} but in a short time, ~~a road~~ was opened ~~from the Lancaster mills,~~ north, over the Harris hill to the road that goes from the railroad station to the Harris mill.

This year the Hon. James G. Carter, chairman of a committee, presented a long and able report on the subject of roads and bridges, and closed with the following resolve: "That the selectmen be authorized and instructed to employ a suitable person to take charge, under their general direction, of the construction and repair of all the highways and bridges of the town," and also purchase teams and tools." The plan was adopted and adhered to several years.

The Rigby road was altered and improved, and several streets in Clintonville were accepted. The road from the Lancaster mills south to Franklin Wilder's was altered and improved. Twenty-one guide boards were set up in 1849. The old road from New Boston to Clintonville was discontinued in 1850. ^a

About this time a road was made from Clinton to Sterling, ^{Pratt's junction} through the Deers Horns section, and ~~another from Pratt's~~ ^a ~~junction to Clinton.~~ These roads were of no advantage to the town, but on the contrary served to take business away from the stores. The people of Lancaster rightly considered it unjust to be compelled to spend money on such highways, and appealed to the county commissioners to make them a county charge.

In 1851 the town voted to join Bolton in getting the old turnpike from Lancaster toll-house to Bolton line discontinued.

Not until August 18, of this year, was the road from the Evangelical church to the Neck road authorized. To be strictly accurate the road extended from the Neck road to William Nowell's corner. It was laid out one hundred and twenty-five rods. It would seem as if public convenience would have demanded such a road a hundred years before. The road was built in the following year.

The greatest flood but one in the memory or tradition of the people, occurred in 1851, and did much damage. It was necessary to construct a dry bridge, road and causeway at Still River. The bridges over the main river stood firm, owing to the improved method of building on stone abutments instead of mudsills.

June 13, 1853, the road from Fuller's to Carter's mills was proposed. In due time it was built. At the same time the project of making a road from a point near the house of Nathaniel Burbank to a point near the old school-house in the third district, not far from the house of James H. Holman, was mooted. The plan was carried into effect in a year or two, and the school-house was placed where it now stands. This road was a great convenience.

In November, 1859, the old Neck road, west of the river, was finally discontinued. The bridge, about sixty rods below the present Center bridge, had long since disappeared. Thus one of the old highways of the town, which thousands had traveled over, was closed.

Charles L. Wilder altered the road extending from the railroad to the corner east of his house, and the town, after a protracted difference, in which the intervention of the county commissioners was invoked, finally, in June, 1860, accepted it. It is ^{a part of} the earliest county road, altered, and is a beautiful avenue.

At the March meeting, 1862, it was voted that thereafter, the roads should be entrusted to a superintendent or the selectmen, and that they should expend the highway tax. In these years the appropriation for highways was about \$800.

a The Turnpike & Locks bridges were carried away -

(a) This alteration was made at the expense & in the interests of C. L. W. at the time he built his house & barns, but was to be made under directions of delectation, & in manner satisfactory to the town -

(a) A straightening of the old highway -

April 14, 1864, the town accepted the road laid out by the selectmen in front and near the house of George A. Parker, provided it could be done to their acceptance, and without expense to the public. This was a splendid piece of work, and the town subsequently voted the sum of two hundred dollars to Mr. Parker simply as a testimonial to his public spirit. (a)

In 1867, June 23, the old road from Peter Osgood's, on the top of George hill, to the road passing over Ballard hill, was discontinued. This was probably the earliest way to Leominster. It was a section of the road from South Lancaster to Phelps' mill. The rights of the town in the soil were reserved. Eastwood cemetery was accepted in 1870.

The road on the west side of Eastwood cemetery was accepted in 1870, in place of the old road from the Emerson place, northeast to the old county road.

The town in 1871 accepted the road from the Shoeshank mill to the Lunenburg road, eighteen hundred feet in length, and appropriated \$1,000. The road at Babel hill was greatly improved.

Known as the "Narrow Lane"

In March, 1877, the lane extending from South Lancaster street, westward to the road leading by the house of Jonas Goss, was widened into a road, and accepted by the town. At the April meeting a road was authorized from the road near the house of Levi P. Wood, jr., across his farm to the road that goes by the Shaker families to Shirley village.

The last action of the town in the matter of road making, was at a special meeting in September, 1878, when it was voted to open a way from the Lunenburg road to Little Spectacle pond. This road is on the Shakers' land, and is bounded on the south by the fence of E. W. Divoll. The design of the road is to give easy approach to the beautiful little lake. If now a public or private way could be opened to the larger and more beautiful lake,—Spectacle pond— one of the loveliest spots in the whole region, would be made accessible to the public.

This closes the history of the opening, altering and repairing of roads in the town during the term of two hundred and thirty-five years. The condition of the roads, at the present time, which, as a whole, are unsurpassed if not unequalled by those of any town in the county, is mainly due to two facts. The first is a full treasury, augmented by the residence of Nathaniel Thayer, whose legal domicile and paternal home are here; and the second is the industry, fidelity and skill of Calvin Holman, who for many years has had the care of the highways.

BRIDGES.

It has already been noted that a change in the building of bridges was effected not long after the opening of the century. In the course of time, as the bridges needed replacing, they were laid on stone abutments, and thus were rendered permanent, except as the wood-work decayed. The next, and perhaps most important change, was brought about by the substitution of iron for wooden bridges. Before coming to this point in our history, it is in order to note the various repairs or reconstruction of bridges between 1842 and the new "age of iron."

The expense for bridges in 1843, was \$1,082.23, including \$663.45 for the Lancaster mills bridge.

No great expense was incurred in repairing bridges for ten or twelve years; but in 1855 the sum of \$409.56 was laid out in improving the Sprague bridge. It was also voted to repair the bridge at Carter's mills.

In 1867 John Bennett, J. W. Barnes and Joel W. Phelps were chosen a committee to repair bridges. The amount expended by them has not been found.* From this time until 1870 there were small sums spent from year to year on the large and small bridges, but no great charge was incurred.

The new policy in relation to bridges was inaugurated in 1870, when, at the March meeting, the sum of \$4,000 was

* It is in the printed report of expenditures for that year

Boston Journal.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, Sept. 19, '83.

MORNING EDITION.

SINGLE COPIES TWO CENTS.

A GREAT ESTATE.

The Value of the Property Left by the Late Nathaniel Thayer Appraised at \$16,076,822 62.

The appraisers of the estate of the late Nathaniel Thayer, Messrs. John A. Burnham, Francis J. Amory and Frederick Fernald, have filed the following inventory with the Probate Court in Worcester:

Shares.	PERSONAL ESTATE.	Amount.
	Household furniture, horses, carriages, etc., in Boston.....	\$15,000
	Household furniture, horses, carriages, live stock, etc., in Lancaster.....	5,000
	Silver plate of J. E. Thayer, \$5000.....	3,000
915	Housatonic Railroad Company, preferred stock, at 130.....	118,950
	6 Boston Athenaeum Company, at 200.....	1,200
	100 Lancaster Mills Company, at 57.50.....	5,750
9,168	Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company stock, at 125.....	1,146,000
2,300	St. Mary's Canal Mineral Land Company, at 25.....	57,500
24	Hadley Company, at 1000.....	24,000
30	Kansas Desiccating and Refining Company, at 100.....	3,000
214	Union Coal and Mining Company, at 10.....	2,140
600	Lehigh Coal and Mining Company, at 20.....	12,000
1,684	Chicago, Wilmington and Vermillion Coal Company stock, at 65.....	109,460
5	New Boston Aqueduct Company, at 1.....	5
554	Pennsylvania Steel Company, at 200.....	110,800
8,410	Kansas City, Fort Scott and Galt Railroad Co. common stock, at 75.....	630,750
6,000	Kansas City, Fort Scott and Galt Railroad Company preferred stock contracts, at 120.....	720,000
50	Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, at 125.....	6,250
4,000	Boston, Clinton Fitchburg and New Bedford R. R. Co. pref. stock, at 130.....	520,000
118	Missouri Land Ass. stock, at 8.....	944
192	Iowa Land Association stock, at 1.....	192
1,900	North Chicago Rolling Mill Company stock, at 90.....	171,000
204	Tredgar Company stock, at 50.....	10,200
4,000	Union Stock Yard and Transit Company stock, at 450.....	1,800,000
1,408	Kansas City Stock Yard Company stock, at 150.....	211,200
200	S. Missouri Land Co. stock at 100.....	20,000
1,950	Mrs. Kan. and Tex. R. R. Co. at 30.....	58,500
240	New York and Texas Land Co. at 30.....	7,200
1,410	Grand River Valley R. R. Co. at 40.....	56,400
400	Boston Co-op. Build'g Co. at 12.....	4,800
292	Hidley Park Association at 1.....	292
1,659	Mar. H. & O. R. R. Co. com. stock at 50.....	82,950
1,840	Marquette, Houghton and Ontonagon R. R. Co. preferred stock at 110.....	202,400
600	Michigan Land and Iron Co. stock, at 100.....	60,000
2,000	Geoola Consolidated Mining Co. stock at 30.....	60,000
400	Boston Sugar Refining Co. stock, at 75.....	30,000
500	Continental Mills Co. stock, at 75.....	37,500
8,725	Chicago and West Michigan R. R. Co. stock, at 55.....	479,875
3,650	West Mich. Lumber Co. stock, at 250.....	90,000
26,000	Thayer Lumber Co. stock, at 25.....	650,000
55	Saginaw and Grand Rapids Railroad Company stock at 100.....	5,500
40	Kaw Valley Town Site and Bridge Co. stock, at 100.....	4,000
100	Radio Valley R. Co. stock at 1.60.....	160
1,000	Detroit, Lansing and Northern R. Co. common stock, at 75.....	525,000
2,508	Detroit, Lansing and Northern R. Co. preferred stock, at 110.....	308,880
40	Waterbury and Washington Railroad Co. stock.....	1
830	Denver Coal Company.....	1
	Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad Co.....	117,000
	Albany and Rensselaer Iron and Steel Co.....	39,140
	Atchison and Nebraska Railroad Co.....	233,850
	Lincoln and Northwestern Railroad Co.....	185,000
	Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Co.....	8,075
	Memphis, Kansas and Colorado Railroad Co.....	74,200
	Short Creek and Jonlin Railroad Co.....	48,700
	Rich Hill Railroad Co.....	100,000
	Fort Scott, St. Charles and Memphis R. Co.....	154,700
	Seton Valley Railroad Co.....	18,000
	Quincy and Palmyra Railroad Co.....	5,000
	Burlington and Missouri River R. Co. in Neb.....	272,000
	Kansas City and Cameron Railroad Co.....	91,250
	Central Branch Union Pacific Railroad Co.....	97,900
	Central Branch Union Pacific Railroad Co.....	32,040
	Atchison, Colorado and Pacific Railroad Co.....	36,000
	Atchison, Colo. and Council Bluffs R. Co.....	416,028
	Nolanway Valley Railroad Co.....	81,500
	Tokio Valley Railroad Co.....	118,650
	Kansas City, Lawrence and Southern R. R. Co.....	328,120
	Southern Kansas and Western Railroad Co.....	337,900
	Summer County Railroad Company.....	32,700
	Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R. R. Co.....	461,450
	Eastern Kentucky Railway Company.....	12,345
	Eastern Kentucky Railway Company.....	36,800
	Kentucky Improvement Company.....	50,000
	Houston and Texas Central Railroad Co.....	43,200
	Reading and Columbia R. Co., 2d mortgage.....	72,250
	Marquette, Houghton and Ont. R. Co.....	51,000
	Boston, Clinton and Fitchburg R. Co.....	12,210
	Chic., Mil. and St. Paul R. Co. Div. div.....	626,200
	Chic., Mil. and St. Paul R. Co. Wis. Val. div.....	292,300
	Wisconsin Valley Railroad Company.....	178,930
	North Chicago Rolling Mills Company.....	30,000
	South Chicago Rolling Mills Company.....	51,500
	Saginaw Valley and St. Louis R. R. Co.....	81,200
	Chicago and West Michigan R. R. Co.....	428,850
	New York and Texas Land Company Scrip.....	15,840
	Mortgage Note Unitarian Church of Kansas City, Mo.....	2,000
	Twenty-six pews First Church, Boston.....	250
	One pew Trinity Church, Boston.....	2,000
	Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston Railroad Company land tax title receipts.....	1
	LEDGER ACCOUNTS.	
J. Hampden Robb.....	\$100,000 00	
Ridley Park Association loan.....	14,704 24	
Dover Coal Company loan.....	10,320 00	
E. B. Wright.....	3,732 76	
A. M. Nichols.....	4,430 00	
W. A. Kilbourn loan.....	3,606 50	
Eugene V. R. Thayer.....	354,767 07	
Nathaniel Thayer, Jr.....	674,437 75	
Marquette, Houghton and Ont. subscription.....	14,500 00	
Mrs. H. M. Wall.....	1,000 00	
George M. Bartol.....	4,323 04	
Mrs. E. V. R. Thayer.....	8,967 49	
Basard Thayer.....	11,010 00	
Miss Harriet Thayer.....	6,048 15	
Cash.....	42,843 97	
Faculty Loan and Trust Company.....	15,293 05	
Winstow, Lanier & Co.....	6,495 55	
Mrs. C. T. Robb.....	5,003 00	
James H. Blake.....	248,122 15	
William Newell.....	804 51	
George L. Goodale.....	324 83	
Charles W. Eliot.....	1,113 07	
George O. Harris.....	120 30	
George B. Nettleton.....	46,512 52	
Treasurer Eastern Kentucky Railroad Company, special account.....	26,783 84	
Miss Sophia E. Emery.....	150 00	
George H. Lyman.....	3,000 00	
Kansas City, Springfield and Memphis Railroad Company, subscription.....	520,200 00	
Tamarack Mining Company, subscription.....	9,100 00	
Nathaniel Thayer, Jr. (additional).....	32,395 53	
F. H. Carter.....	2,200 00	
Loomis & Sutely.....	9,275 00	
Eben H. Brown.....	500 00	
Town of Lancaster.....	1,392 28	
	\$15,702,511 85	
	REAL ESTATE.	
Lots in Grand Rapids, Mich.....	\$60,000 00	
Lots in Muskegon.....	6,000 00	
New England Colony Association of Missouri, \$28,000.....	20,000 00	
H. T. Russell Iowa Land Trust.....	55,000 00	
House No. 70 Mt. Vernon street, Boston.....	55,719 77	
Estate in Lancaster, Mass.....	1,400 00	
House and land in Brookline, Mass.....	65,000 00	
Stable, No. 7 Lime street, Boston.....	11,500 00	
Stable, No. 7 1/2 Lime street, Boston.....	7,000 00	
House, No. 121 Beacon street, Boston.....	25,000 00	
Land, No. 45 1/2 West Thirty-seventh street, New York.....	3,000 00	
Lot in Mt. Auburn.....	200 00	
Total.....	\$314,310 77	
Grand total.....	\$16,076,822 62	

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delivered, \$1 13 delivered Monday next; No 1 red State \$1 17; No 1 white State \$1 17; No 2 white 86c; No 2 red September, 96,000 bush at \$1 10 1/2 @ 1 11, closing \$1 11; October, 1,120,000 bush at \$1 10 1/2 @ 1 12 1/2, closing at \$1 11 1/2; November, 2,538,000 bush at \$1 13 @ 1 14 1/2, closing \$1 14; December, 1,272,000 bush at \$1 15 1/2 @ 1 16 1/2, closing \$1 16 1/2; January 452,000 bush at \$1 17 1/2 @ 1 18 1/2, closing \$1 18 1/2. Rye steady; Western 60 @ 70c; State and Canada 25 @ 75c; sales 27,000 bush Western 67 1/2 @ 70c in elevator and delivered. Barley nominal. Corn—Market opened 1/4 @ 1 1/2 lower but afterward recovered 1/4 @ 1/2, closing firm, with a fair export inquiry and a more active speculative business; receipts 233,125 bush; exports 185,596 bush; sales 1,008,000 bush futures and 343,000 bush on the spot; No 3 at 58 1/2 @ 59 1/2; No 2 at 60 1/2 @ 61 1/2; No 1 elevator, 61 1/2 @ 62 1/2; No 2 white 70 1/2 @ 70c; No 2 September 60 1/2 @ 61 1/2, closing at 61 1/2; October 61 1/2 @ 62 1/2, closing 62 1/2; November 60 1/2 @ 61 1/2, closing 61 1/2; December 59 1/2 @ 60c, closing at 59c; January 57c. Oats—Market for spot 1/2 higher and more active; options opened 1 1/2 @ 1 3/4 lower but subsequently advanced 1/4 @ 1/2, closing strong with only a moderate trade; receipts 84,000 bush; exports 10,000 bush; sales 453,000 bush futures and 165,000 bush on the spot; No 3 at 32 1/2 @ 33 1/2; No 3 white 31c; No 2 at 33 1/2 @ 34 1/2; No 2 white 34 1/2 @ 35c; No 1 at 34 1/2 @ 35 1/2; No 1 white 42c; mixed Western 35 @ 36c; white Western 35 @ 43c; white State 38 @ 44c; including 65,000 bush No 2 September at 33 1/2 @ 34 1/2, closing at 34 1/2; 140,000 bush No 2 October at 34 1/2 @ 35 1/2, closing 34 1/2; 100,000 bush No 2 November at 35 1/2 @ 36 1/2, closing at 35 1/2; 20,000 bush No 2 December at 37 @ 37 1/2, closing at 37 1/2. Coffee steady; fair Rio at 10 @ 10 1/2; Rio on the spot 8 20c. Sugar very steady; sales 600 bags East India 6 1/2; refining 6 9-16 and 11-16c; refined quiet; C 6 1/2 @ 7 1/2; extra C 7 1/2 @ 7 3/4; white do 7 5/8 @ 7 7/8; yellow C nominal; yellow extra C 7 1/2 @ 7 3/4; yellow 4 1/2 @ 6 1/2; off A 7 1/2 @ 8 1/2; mold A 6 1/2; standard A 8 1/2; standard B 7 1/2; A 7 1/2; cut loaf but crushed 9c; powdered 8 1/2 @ 9c; granulated 8 11-16 @ 8 1/2; cubes 8 1/2; Molasses—Foreign dull; 50° test, refining 25 @ 25 1/2; New Orleans 30 @ 32; Porto Rico 35 @ 45; English Island 35 @ 40. Rice steady; domestic 5 1/2 @ 7 1/2; Kaengoon 4 1/2 @ 5 1/2; Patna 5 1/2 @ 5 1/2; Java 5 1/2 @ 5 1/2; sales 50 bags Huntoon at 2 1/2 in bond. Petroleum—United at \$1 14 1/2; crude in bids 7 1/2 @ 8c; refined 8 1/2 @ 8 1/2. Tallow weak; sales 67,000 bush at 7 1/2 @ 7 1 1/2. Resin quiet at \$1 60 @ 1 04. Turpentine steady at 40 1/2. Pork firm; sales 175 bbls mess on the spot at \$12 @ 12 50; 170 bbls family mess at \$15 @ 15 50; 250 bbls clear back at \$17 @ 17 25. Beef quiet. Lard weak at \$19 00 @ 19 50. Tallow quiet; city extra India mess \$17 50 @ \$19. Cut Meats firm; sales 600 pickled Shoulders at 6c; 1100 pickled Hams at 13 1/2 @ 14c; 11,000 lbs pickled Bellies at 8 @ 8 1/2. Middles nominal; long clear \$7. Lard opened weak but afterward advanced 1 1/2 @ 10 points, closing strong and trade less active; prime steam on the spot at \$8 45; sales 2550 tierces October at \$8 13 @ 8 38; 1000 tierces November at \$7 99 @ 8 15; 750 tierces December \$8 25 @ 8 10; 250 tierces January at \$7 99 @ 8 10; 250 tierces city steam at \$8 25; refined for the Continent \$ 7 1/2; for South America \$ 8 40. Butter firm; State 17 @ 28c; Western 10 @ 27c; and Pennsylvania cream 27 1/2. Cheese—Foreign State factory 5 1/2 @ 1 1/2; acreary 8 1/2 @ 1 @ 4c; Western flat 8 @ 10 1/2; Western cheddar 8 @ 9c. Pig Iron weak; Scotch \$20 65 @ 23 50; American 8 1/2 @ 22. Copper steady; lake 16 1/2 @ 16 1/2. Lead quiet; common \$1 35; refined nominal. Tin steady; plates 24 75 @ 25 00; refined English 21 1/2. Spelter dull; domestic \$4 50 @ 4 90; Silesian \$5 @ 5 12 1/2. Freight to Liverpool firmer; Cotton by steam at 1/8; Wheat by steam 3 @ 3 1/2.

NEW YORK DRY GOODS MARKET, Sept 18. (From the Daily Commercial Bulletin.) The jobbing trade continues very active and there is an improved demand for re-arrangements at first hands. Cotton goods are in better request and the tone of the market is firmer. Prints are doing fairly and dress goods are active and firm, but ginghams are mostly quiet. Men's wear woolsens, cloaks and jersey cloths are in fair demand. Foreign goods are sluggish.

CINCINNATI, Sept 18. Flour is quiet; common to choice ending wheat at \$3 50 @ 5 00; common to fancy Minnesota at \$3 50 @ 4 25; bakers \$3 50 @ 3 75; patents \$3 75 @ 5 75; Southern Illinois and Missouri winter wheats \$4 50 @ 6 25; Michigan \$4 00 @ 5 25; low grades \$2 00 @ 3 50. Rye Flour at \$3 60 @ 5 80. Wheat opened lower but closed higher; regular at 93 1/2c September, 95c October, 96 1/2 @ 97 1/2 @ 98 November, 98 1/2 @ 99 1/2 @ 100 December; No 2 Chicago spring 92c; No 2 red winter 98c. Corn unsettled at 4 1/2 @ 4 3/4; cash 45 1/2 @ 45 1/2; September, 43 1/2 @ 44; October, 43 @ 43 1/2; November, 40 1/2 @ 41; all the year. Oats higher at 27c cash, 27 1/2 @ 27 1/2 September, 27 1/2 @ 27 1/2 October, 28c November, and 27 1/2 @ 27 1/2 all the year. Rye lower at 6 1/2. Barley dull at 59 1/2c. Pork opened lower but closed at outside prices at \$10 50 @ 10 65 cash, \$10 65 @ 10 75 October, \$10 75 @ 10 75 November, \$10 75 @ 10 75; all the year. Lard higher at \$7 95 cash, \$7 95 September, \$7 95 @ 7 95 1/2 October, \$7 70 @ 7 7 1/2 November, \$7 97 1/2 @ 7 70 all the year. Bulk Meats in fair demand; Shoulders \$5 25; short ribs \$6; short clear \$6 15. Whisky steady at \$1 16.

At the close wheat unchanged. Corn irregular at 43 1/2 @ 44 1/2 September, 44 1/2 @ 44 1/2 October, 44 1/2 @ 43 1/2 November, 47 1/2 @ 47 1/2 all the year. Oats higher at 27 1/2 @ 27 1/2 October, 27 1/2 @ 27 1/2 November, 27 1/2 @ 27 1/2 all the year. Pork firmer, not higher. Lard weaker at \$7 92 1/2 September, \$7 92 1/2 @ 7 95 October, \$7 72 1/2 November, \$7 62 1/2 @ 7 65 all the year. Receipts—12,000 bbls Flour, 151,000 bush Wheat, 406,000 bush Corn, 143,000 bush Oats, 36,000 bush Rye, 50,000 bush Barley. Shipments—2000 bbls Flour, 50,000 bush Wheat, 75,000 bush Corn, 210,000 bush Oats, 5500 bush Rye, 29,000 bush Barley.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK MARKET, Sept 18. Hogs—Receipts 16,000 head; shipments 4000 head; the market is 10 @ 15c lower; common to good mixed packing \$4 40 @ 4 65; heavy packing and shipping \$4 65 @ 5 00; light \$4 65 @ 5 00; skips \$3 50 @ 4 40. Cattle—Receipts 3500 head; shipments 1500 head; market 1 1/2 @ 1 1/2 lower; good to choice shipping steers \$4 45 @ 5 50; common to medium shipping \$4 75 @ 4 85; grass Texas \$3 90 @ 4 05; hair-breds \$4. Sheep—Receipts 1500 head; shipments 200 head; market steady; interior to fair \$2 50 @ 3 25; good \$3 95; choice \$4; Texas \$2 50 @ 3 75.

MILWAUKEE, Sept 18. Flour quiet at \$2 50 @ 4 75. Wheat strong; No 2 spring cash 92 1/2c, September 92 1/2c, October 94 1/2c, November 96 1/2c, and December 98 1/2c. Corn scarce and weaker; No 2 at 40c; rejected 35 1/2c; lower; No 1 at 34c; No 2 at 30c. Barley—Higher; No 2 at 63 1/2 @ 64 1/2; extra No 3 at 63. Provision irregular; Mess Pork \$10 50 cash, and \$10 50 October; Lard, prime steam, \$7 90 cash, \$7 90 October. Hogs lower at \$4 40 @ 4 65.

Receipts—15,000 bbls Flour, 5000 bush Wheat, 27,000 bush Barley. Shipments—23,000 bbls Flour, 6000 bush Wheat, 18,000 bush Barley.

ST. LOUIS, Sept 18. Flour steady. Wheat unsettled, closing about the same as yesterday; No 2 red fall 65 1/2 @ 67c cash, 67c mid September, 98 1/2 @ 98 1/2 October, \$1 01 1/2 November, \$1 03 1/2 December; No 3 red fall 62 @ 63 1/2. Corn steady at 44 1/2 @ 45 1/2 cash, 43 1/2 @ 43 1/2 September, 43 1/2 @ 43 1/2 October, 43 1/2 @ 43 1/2 November, 41 1/2 @ 41 1/2 all the year. Oats dull at 24 1/2 @ 25c cash, 24 1/2 @ 24 1/2 September, 25 1/2 @ 25 1/2 October, 25 1/2 @ 25 1/2 November, 24 1/2 @ 24 1/2 all the year. Rye dull at 62 1/2 @ 63c. Barley dull at 60 @ 60 1/2. Whisky steady; Meats steady; long clear \$6 10; short (in) \$6 20; short clear \$6 40. Bacon quiet; long clear \$6 62 1/2; short rib \$6 75; short clear \$7. Lard nominal.

Receipts—4000 bbls Flour, 57,000 bushels Wheat, 51,000 bush Corn, 23,000 bush Oats, 2000 bush Rye, 3000 bush Barley. Shipments—1000 bbls Flour, 65,000 bush Wheat, 10,000 bush Corn, 3000 bush Oats.

Cotton Markets—Sept 18.
PHILADELPHIA—Market firm; middling 10 1/2 @ 10 1/2.
NEW ORLEANS—Market steady and in fair demand; middling 10 5-16c low to 9 7/8c; good ordinary 9 7-16c.
NEW YORK—Market quiet and steady; middling 10 3/4.
CHARLESTON—Market quiet and unchanged; buyers and sellers apart; middling 10 1/2.
MOBILE—Market quiet; middling 10 1/2.
LOUISVILLE—Market firm; middling 10 1/2.
NORFOLK—Market steady; middling 10 1-16.
GALVESTON—Market firm; middling 10 3/4.
SAVANNAH—Market steady; middling 10 3/4.
AUGUSTA—Market steady; middling 9 3/4.
ST. LOUIS—Market steady; middling 10 1/2.
MEMPHIS—Market firm; middling 10 3/4.
BALTIMORE—Market firm; middling 10 1/2.
WILMINGTON—Market dull; middling 10c.
CINCINNATI—Market steady; middling 10 1/2.

CONSOLIDATION. Net receipts at all United States ports for 4 days 45,441 bales; exports to Great Britain 7500 bales; exports to France 4003 bales; exports to the Continent 2003 bales; exports to the Channel — bales; stock 208,355 bales.

Havana Market.
HAVANA, Sept 18. Spanish Gold at 212 1/2. Exchange quiet. Sugar—15,000 bags and 328 bbls Centrifug.

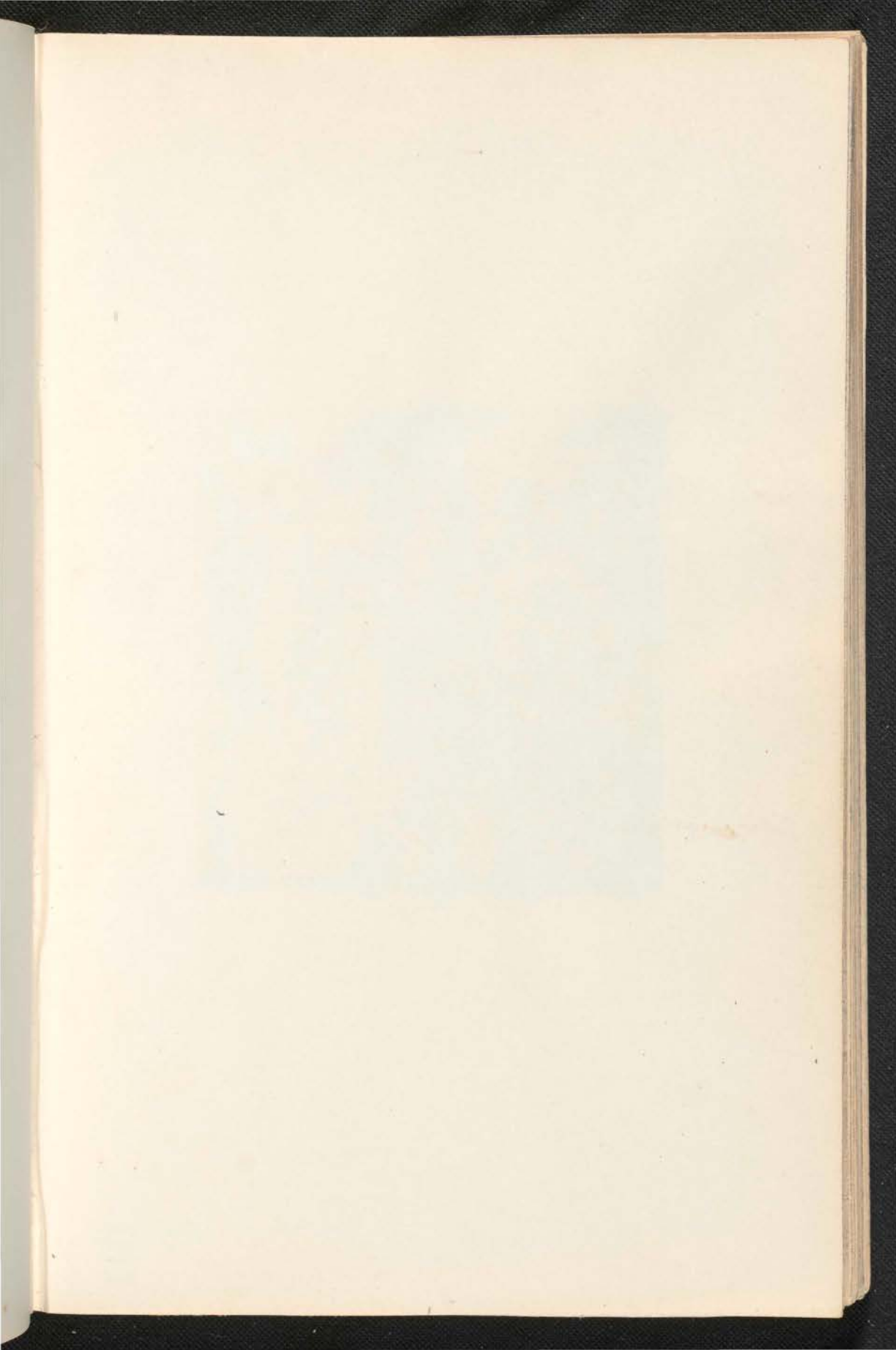
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St. Thayer's House from near site of Rowlandson House.

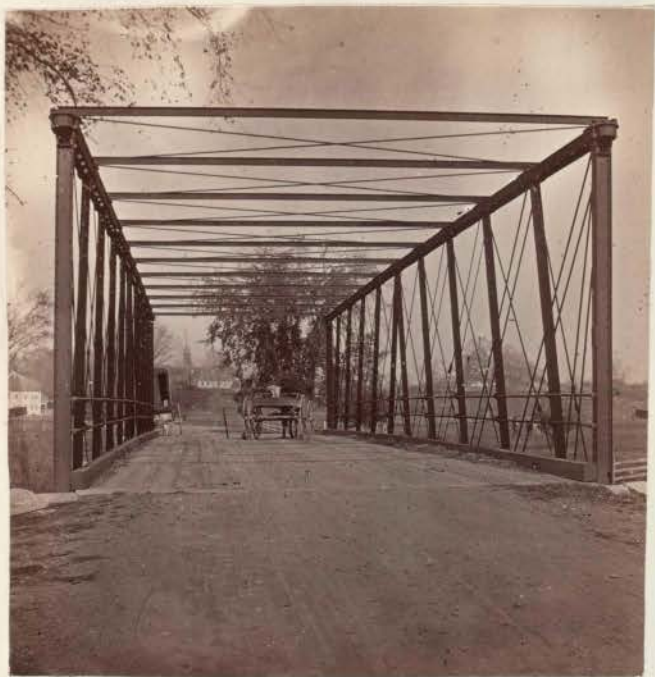
1876.



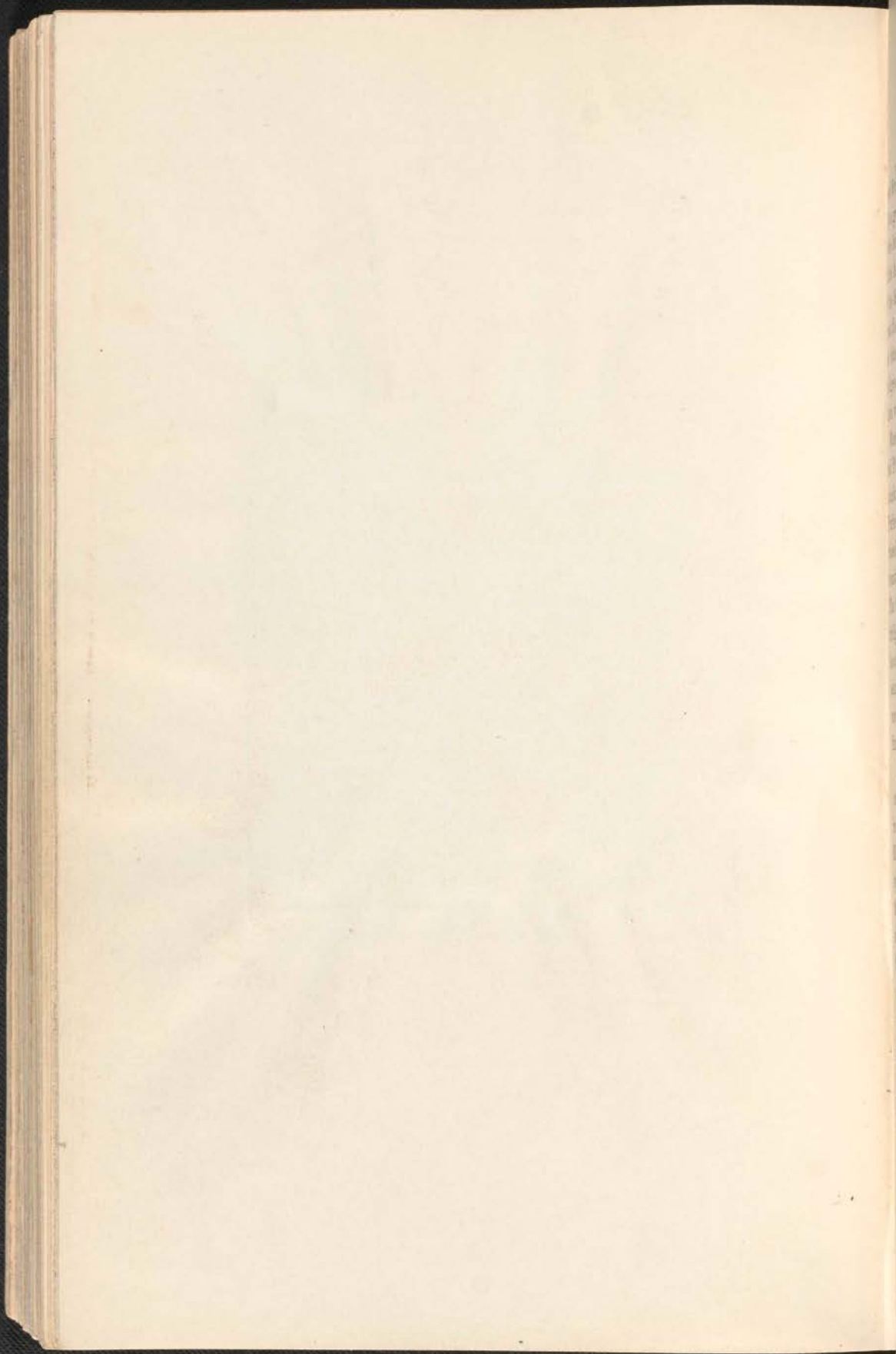




"Benton Bridge"



"Center Bridge" 1876.
Looking north.



raised for ^{the} building the Atherton bridge. ^{of Iron} In the autumn of 1869 a great flood was sent whirling down the river, (caused by the heavy rains of that season, which broke away the dam of the Ashburnham reservoir,) and then swept away many of the dams and mills upon the stream. There was also a great flood in the early spring of the year 1870 which made the intervale a broad and rapid river. However, the old bridges in Lancaster stood firm, though the approaches to them were partly washed away. ++

March 6, 1871, a vote was passed to rebuild the Center and Ponakin bridges, using iron instead of wood, with heavy planking of Southern pine. The committee were George A. Parker, Calvin Holman and John Cunningham. The money raised at the meeting amounted to \$27,000, besides state and county tax. The appropriation for the bridges was \$12,000. ++ The two bridges cost \$12,386.60. Of this sum, the Center bridge took \$6,405.39, and Ponakin bridge \$5,981.21. The location of Center bridge was changed by moving the western abutment up stream. The distance between the abutments was also increased so that a larger volume of water can flow through than formerly.

At a meeting on the first of April, action was had in reference to the rebuilding of the Sprague bridge. It was to be an iron bridge. The span was to be increased, and the dry bridge filled. The work was done in the next year. Increasing the span made it necessary to relay the abutments. The road on the south side was raised several feet, and all passage of water stopped except under the bridgeway. The span is so large that no flood of which there is any remembrance would exceed its capacity. The next year, June 17, 1872, the selectmen were directed to rebuild the bridge at North Lancaster. It was to be of iron, and constructed in the course of the year. This made two bridges in 1872 as in the year previous. By this time five of the eight bridges over the Nashua, including both branches, were finished. ++ The cost of the last two was as follows. For the Sprague bridge, \$6,968.39. For the

++ North Lancaster bridge, \$3,989.22. The iron railing near Sprague bridge cost \$670.88, in 1873.

The railing of the approaches to the Center bridge was moved to correspond to the new location. The selectmen were authorized to put up iron railing on both sides of the Sprague bridge.

+ + The bridge at Carter's mills, and the turnpike bridge, so called, needed repair, whereupon the town voted, March 2, 1874, to replace them both with iron structures. The selectmen were charged with the work, which was done vigorously, at an expense of \$2,430.20 for the former, and \$3,538.50 for the latter.

+ + This completed the work of rebuilding all the large bridges which wholly belong to the town. The bridge at Still River is partly in the town of Harvard. By an arrangement between the towns, an iron bridge was erected there, in 1875³, at the joint expense of the towns. Lancaster paid \$1,808.04² as its proportion.

TOWN OFFICERS.

The chief officers of the town during the last period were as follows. The town clerks were John G. Thurston, from 1843 to 1853; ^{Matthew} William F. Woods, 1853, died in office; Francis F. Hussey, from 1853 to 1856, with the exception that L. S. Burbank was clerk *pro tem.*, at a single meeting in 1855; J. L. S. Thompson, from 1856 to the present time, with the exception of William A. Kilbourn, clerk in the year 1874. Without disparagement to former incumbents of the office, it may be said that the Records for the last twenty years are a model in respect to arrangement, orthography, legibility and accuracy.

The treasurers of the town have been Nathaniel Rand, 1843; Anthony Lane from 1844 to 1857⁷; except in 1855 when John Bennett held the office; John M. Washburn from 1858 to 1862; C. A. Pollard from 1862 to 1865; George W. Howe from 1866 to 1870; Solon Wilder in 1871; Henry C. Ken-

x
+ Sec pp 501-2-

The Atherton Bridge, Iron, bought of J.H. Coffrade
rCo cost \$2312.50 - The total expenditure, bridge, abutments
approaches &c, was \$4124.43 - (Very strong truss)

The Centre Bridge bought of Watson Manufact-
uring Co. cost \$3570 - and the railing \$153. The total
expenditure for bridge, rebuilding abutments, approaches &c
was \$6405.39. (Truss an excellent pattern)

The Ponikin Bridge is a duplicate of the Centre
bought of same parties for the same price - The abut-
ments had to be rebuilt - Total cost \$5981.21 {Bow String
Pattern}

The Sprague Bridge bought of the King
Iron Bridge & Manufacturing Co. cost \$2640
The total expenditure of \$6968.39 includes a long
embankment to the west - (Bow String Pattern & very weak)

The Village Bridge (North Lancaster) was
from the King Iron Bridge & Mfg Co. & cost \$2820 -
Total expenditure \$3989.22 - (Bow String pattern)

Cactus Mills Bridge also the King pattern
cost \$1873 - Total expenditure 2430.20 - (Bow String)

Tumpiko Bridge of same make cost \$2590
Total expenditure 3538.50 (Bow String with overhead tie)

The Still River Bridge is also of the King
Co's make 2427.50 half of which was paid by Lancaster
Bow String pattern -

The Sprague Bridge was condemned in 1886 as unsafe.
having broken down & been repaired in 1884. It was replaced
(by the King Bridge Co.) in 1887 by a wrought-iron structure
suitable for the location - The K.B.Co were paid \$2400 &
the old bridge, and the total cost of renewal was
\$2559.20.

a a John M. Washburn omitted 1842-3. The
years given are those when elected at November
election, the service being in the following year.

(a) George W. Howe was never elected representative!
Rev. C. M. Brown of Clinton defeated him

(b) John G. Thurston was State Senator in 1844-5

Col. Francis B. Fay was Senator in 1868.

Gas. S. Carter was a candidate for Representative
to Congress 1847 -

drick in 1872, 1873 and 1874; and Solon Wilder from 1874⁵ to the present year.

The following have served the town in the office of representative in the general court. Jacob Fisher in 1844; Joel Wilder, 2d, in 1845; Joel Wilder² in 1846; Ezra Sawyer in 1847, 1848. In 1849, after ³ repeated trials, ^{ballots rolls not to send} no choice was made. Anthony Lane in 1850, 1851; John G. Thurston in 1852, 1853 and 1855. Francis F. Hussey in 1854; James Childs in 1856. Since 1856 Lancaster has been joined with other towns in the election of representative, and has supplied the district with a successful candidate occasionally. Dr. J. L. S. Thompson was chosen in ~~1858~~, 1860 and 1862; George W. Howe in ^a 1864; Jacob Fisher in 1868; George A. Parker in 1869, 1870 and 1871. Since the last date the town had only a fractional part of a representative furnished by other towns, till 1878, when Samuel R. Damon was elected. ^b

MODERATORS.	SELECTMEN.	ASSESSORS.
1843, Solon Whiting.	Warren Davis, N. Burditt, Geo. Howard.	S. Nourse, Fordyce Nourse, Levi Farwell.
1844, Jacob Fisher.	Nathan Burditt, Chas. Humphrey, J. Bennett	Anthony Lane, H. Wilder, Ezra Sawyer.
1845, Jacob Fisher.	C. Humphrey, N. Burditt, John Bennett.	Same Assessors.
1846, Jacob Fisher, James G. Carter.	Charles Humphrey, J. Bennett, E. Sawyer.	Anthony Lane, Henry Wilder, Levi Greene.
1847, Jas. G. Carter, Luke Bigelow.	Same Selectmen.	Levi Greene, S. Whiting, John Bennett.
1848, Solon Whiting.	John M. Washburn, L. Greene, S. Carter.	Luke Bigelow, Thomas B. Warren, A. Knight.
1849, Solon Whiting.	John M. Washburn, T. Wellington, S. Carter	Re-elected.
1850, Rev. B. Whittemore.	John M. Washburn, J. Wilder, L. Farwell.	Thomas B. Warren, S. Thurston, J. Bennett.
1851, B. Whittemore. G. R. M. Withington.	Joel Wilder, Levi Farwell, Solon Whiting.	Silas Thurston, George Howard, W. Davis.
1852, B. Whittemore	Re-elected.	Re-elected.
1853, W. S. Thurston.	Joel Wilder, J. Thurston, James Childs.	"
1854, J. M. Washburn.	Re-elected.	"
1855, W. S. Thurston.	Wilder S. Thurston, J. Moore, L. L. Farwell	Stedman Nourse, Ephraim Fuller, C. Wyman.

MODERATORS.	SELECTMEN.	ASSESSORS.
1856, G. R. M. Withington.	Joel Wilder, J Childs, George W. Howe. Re-elected.	W. Davis, Joel W. Wilder, C. J. Wilder. Re-elected.
1857, Solon Whiting, Wright Cummings.		
1858, J. M. Washburn.	J. M. Washburn, G. W. Howe, B. S. Phelps.	Joel W. Phelps, C. J. Wilder, L. L. Farwell. Re-elected.
1859, Solon Whiting.	G. W. Howe, Barney S. Phelps, J. M. Washburn.	
1860, Solon Whiting.	G. W. Howe, Barney S. Phelps, S. H. Turner.	S. Whiting, C. J. Wilder, L. L. Farwell.
1861, Solon Whiting.	James Childs, J. Moore, Warren Davis.	W. Davis, Solon Whiting, Silas Thurston. Re-elected.
1862, Geo. W. Howe.	J. Moore, J. Buttrick, G. W. Howe.	
1863, Solon Whiting.	G. W. Howe, J. Buttrick, S. R. Merrick. Re-elected.	W. Davis, S. Nourse, Charles Safford.
1864, Solon Whiting.		W. Davis, Sewall Day, Jeremiah Moore.
1865, Solon Whiting	J. Buttrick, S. R. Merrick, L. L. Farwell. Re-elected.	S. Day, C. J. Wilder, Stedman Nourse. Re-elected.
<i>of G. F. Chandler</i> 1866, ^{Rev} Q. Whitney.	S. R. Merrick, C. Holman, C. W. Burbank.	S. Day, W. Davis, Benjamin B. Otis.
1867, Quincy Whitney.	C. Holman, L. L. Farwell, S. H. Turner.	W. Davis, S. Nourse, Charles J. Wilder.
1868, Q. Whitney.	C. Holman, L. L. Farwell, S. H. Turner.	Sewall Day, S. Nourse, Charles T. Fletcher.
1869, L. L. Farwell.	Calvin Holman, G. W. Howe, J. Buttrick.	S. Day, John Bennett, J. Moore. Re-elected.
1870, G. W. Howe.	C. Holman, L. L. Farwell, S. Day. Re-elected.	"
1871, L. L. Farwell.	"	"
<i>of L. L. Farwell</i> 1872, W. H. McNeil.	C. Holman, J. Bennett, S. R. Damon. Re-elected.	John Bennett, J. Moore, Andrew J. Bancroft.
<i>do</i> 1873, G. W. Howe.		J. Bennett, A. J. Bancroft, F. A. Willard.
1874, W. H. McNeil.		A. J. Bancroft, F. H. Willard, H. D. Humphrey.
<i>of L. L. Farwell</i> 1875, G. W. Howe.	* S. R. Damon, Sewall Day, A. J. Bancroft.	A. J. Bancroft, Francis H. Willard, J. Moore.
1876, W. A. Kilbourn, Caleb T. Symmes.		A. J. Bancroft, F. H. Willard, J. Bennett.
1877, W. H. McNeil.	E. Houghton, C. Holman, A. J. Bancroft.	
1878, W. H. McNeil.	E. Houghton, A. J. Bancroft, F. H. Willard.	

* Messrs. Damon and Day resigned, and Edward Houghton and Frederick A. Willard were chosen.

	Moderator -	Selectors -	Assessors -
1879 -	Wm. Kilbourn	Ed. Houghton Wm. H. Blood	A. J. Bancroft F. H. Willard S. R. Merrick
1880.	W. A. Kilbourn	do.	A. J. Bancroft F. H. Willard Solon Wilder
1881	Wm. A. Kilbourn	Edw. Houghton Wm. H. Blood Dan. M. Howard	do.
1882	Wm. A. Kilbourn	Wm. H. Blood Dan. M. Howard George W. Howe	do.
1883.	do.	do.	do.
1884	do.	Geo. Willow Wm. H. Blood F. H. Willard	do.
1884.	Arthur S. Safford	Town Treasurer	vice Solon Wilder
1885.	W. A. Kilbourn	Wm. H. Blood F. H. Willard Nath. Thayer	

(a) In 1842. Districts No 10 + 11 purchased libraries.
In 1844 each of the 13 districts was provided with
a library there being seven different sets of books
for convenience of exchange.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

In the year 1843 there were thirteen school districts in the town. The tenth and eleventh were in the part now belonging to Clinton. South Lancaster having been separated from George hill was numbered twelve. The old sixth district, whose school-house was some rods north of the house of S. R. Damon was divided, and all living on the road from the old Gen. John Whiting place to Sprague bridge and around to the house of Charles L. Wilder, were constituted the thirteenth district. The school money was divided as follows.

No. 1,	\$100	No. 5,*	\$	No. 9,	\$103
“ 2,	39	“ 6,	103	“ 10,	163
“ 3,	100	“ 7,	103	“ 11,	100
“ 4,	105	“ 8,	100	“ 12,	163
		No. 13, or Center,	\$115.		

The school committee were directed to print five hundred copies of their annual report.

This was the era of school libraries, when each district was expected to have its little library of interesting and useful books. Many can still remember how the choice collection of books—the family library, and works of that sort—went from house to house through all the families of the district. Sometimes the districts exchanged libraries so far as the books differed, and thus extended the circulation of a wholesome literature. In 1844, the town directed that each district should receive fifteen dollars to be expended in the purchase of books. There was a district librarian, and a regular time for receiving and returning the volumes. The sum of \$1,400 was raised for schooling. The town passed a vote of thanks to Rev. E. H. Sears for the “very able” report of the school committee, and ordered the printing of five hundred copies. The next year the appropriation was raised to \$1,600, and the money from the state fund was divided equally among the districts.

* Amount not given.

Nothing occurred in relation to the schools worthy of special note for several years. In 1847 there were some who favored the selection of teachers by the superintending committee, but the town voted that the selection should be left with the prudential committee, subject to the approval of the former, after examination. The appropriation was raised to \$2,000.

The next year witnessed a great advance in the appropriation, when the sum of \$3,200 was devoted to schooling. An unsuccessful effort was made to abolish the second and eighth districts. Each district was to have one school. In districts where there were more than fifty scholars, as the average attendance, there was to be a "separate school, or part of a school." The money was to be "divided as there were schools or parts of a school" in a district.

a It was in this year that the first move was made, so far as appears in the Records, to set up what is now definitely called a *high school* in this town. It was connected with the effort to abolish one or two of the smaller districts. It seems from a communication published in the *Boston Courier*, that great excitement prevailed in the town because the school committee had in their report "recommended the abolishing of two district schools, and in place thereof, a high tax to support *high schools*, which were to be placed at a very inconvenient distance from the *doomed districts*." The subject was freely discussed in town meeting, April 10, 1848, when the following remarks were made by Samuel Rugg, a man of great sense and ingenuity. The reporter states that he differed from Mr. Rugg on the main question, but "took particular pains to note correctly the words which flowed from the venerable gentleman's mouth." He sent the report of the speech "on account of the originality of its ideas, and the rich expressions contained therein." The report is inserted here as a fine illustration of what has often been seen and heard in town meetings in every generation of New England history.

(a) According to printed School Reports a High School, so called
was started in Clintonville 1846-7 by Miss Adolphia
Rugg. George W. Bigelow was its teacher 1847-8-9 + 1850-
a very successful educator, afterwards Principal of
Frammingham Normal Institute.

"What can be more important for us, when we meet together, than to devise ways and means for the training up of our children in the way they should go? It is for our individual, social and national prosperity. We ought to keep the fountain of sovereignty as pure as possible, and teach the young idea how to shoot. On this question I claim a privilege to speak and act, being the oldest man in the house, and not only born in this town, but my father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, I believe,—for the town clerk has told me (from the access he has had to the old records) that my name was among the first settlers of the town. Were my living descendants here present, I should have the pleasure of voting with my grandchildren on this important question.

"Elderly people are apt to be tenacious of their ancient landmarks, rights and privileges, habits and customs, and they do not like to give up their old school districts. How were our fathers and their children qualified to do much of anything? They gained their independence, rights and liberties. We have had self-taught men. Gen. Joseph B. Varnum, I believe, never went through college, but went to congress, and was speaker of the house. I will mention a man of this town, who, when living, was about my age. When young he had little or no chance of schooling, but he improved daylight, candle-light and torch-light in his studies, to acquire an education, and after he came to this town, he received a justice's commission, and went to general court repeatedly. He told me that when on committees, they would put it on him to cast up accounts, as he was expert in figures; he was a ready and good penman, correct speller, and used good language; he was qualified for business, and did a good deal of it. That man's name was Jacob Fisher, senior. He was a self-taught man, and I would give more for *one* self-taught man, than I would for *twenty* educated things.

"The convention that framed our federal constitution were not all college-learnt men. Yet they were as wise and patriotic an assembly of sages as ever adorned a convention hall.

I would raise money enough to qualify every male child for business men, and even *functionaries*, and also for governing the plough handles with as much skill and pleasure as did Cincinnatus, the Roman general. But there appears to be a high fever at the present day for building Babels, and we are called upon to establish high schools to learn the *confounded languages*. I have heard it predicted that the high schools would take place in this town in five years! If any should say that there would be a tall educating ladder erected, and our children sent up to the moon, and there kiss the old man, I would not gainsay him. *If* such a tour could be effected, and return made with intelligence *how to prevent the potato-rot*, it would be a valuable acquisition.

"The wise man has told us that man is grass; we find by observation that one species of vegetation will take the place of another, and we hope that there will be *wheat* enough brought into Lancaster to root out all the *tares*.

"It has been a question in my mind whether I invented a blessing or a curse to the country, when I set up the power *loom*, and wove thirty yards of good shirting cloth from yarn spun in Clintonville. It was done by turning a crank, as it was calculated to go by water. This was done about thirty-nine years ago. That loom has become the mother of villages, and one *entire city*; [Lowell] and is in exercise for giving laws to Lancaster and the country.

"If I had the money which I might have made by that invention, I would give money to every town in the state to educate their children in the outside districts. I will stop, for I do not expect to gain our point by a multitude of words, nor to lose it by long speeches."

The high school plan was defeated, for the time, but was renewed successfully the next year. Mr. Rugg was right in one main point, which was that the children living in remote parts of the town, had rights equal to those whose homes were nearer the center. And it is now the well-established policy to educate all the children without regard to district

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as Geo. N. Bigelow was principal of the Clintonville, and
Henry C. Kimball of the Centre High School.

limits, and ability to pay taxes, and to enable them to have schools of equal length and value throughout the town.

At the March meeting, 1849, John H. Shaw, Esq., moved that it was "expedient, proper, and highly desirable that there should be one or more schools of a higher order" than those then existing. He also moved that "two such public schools should be established." The prudential committee men of the town were to locate the two schools. The cause of this movement was the growth of Clintonville, where the population was fast increasing. Capt. Shaw lived in the Center, (in the house now occupied by Mr. Royce,) and his plan contemplated a school in Clintonville and another in the Center, to accommodate, as far as possible, the youth of the whole town.

The whole subject was referred to a committee, who reported on the seventh of May. The majority were in favor of two high schools. They were opposed to building two school-houses, but advised hiring a room in the academy for the school in the Center, and in the chapel for that in Clintonville. The minority reported in opposition to the whole project, as both schools would be south of the center of the town. The subject was discussed throughout the town, and on the eleventh of June, it was voted to have two high schools. The first was to be kept in Clintonville, ten months in the year, (a) and the second in the Center for the same length of time. The sum of \$1,500 was raised for these schools. At the same time \$2,700 was devoted to the district schools. This amount — \$4,200, — exceeded all former appropriations. It was fixed that thirty-five scholars should make a school. To No. 2, the sum of \$75 was accorded. From the whole amount raised for district schools, districts 1, 3, 4 and 7 were each to receive \$50, in addition to their quota.

The town of Clinton having been incorporated in the winter of 1850, two districts, Nos. 10 and 11, were taken out of our list. In consequence, No. 12 [New Boston] was changed to No. 10, and No. 13 [Center] was changed to No. 11, which numbers they still retain. The high school in the Center was discontinued. *but H.C. Kimball continued the school as "the Academy" —*

In 1851 an important change was effected. On motion of Charles Humphrey, it was voted to abolish the school districts; appraise the school-houses, and pay the avails to the inhabitants of each district in proportion to their tax. The school committee were authorized to select as well as examine school teachers. The sum of \$1,500 was raised, with the provision that the superintending committee should divide the money according to their discretion. This action was ^{had been} authorized by recent legislation, and was one of the most beneficent and equalizing changes ever made in relation to public education. Before this time the children in the larger districts had enjoyed the advantage of longer terms, and sometimes of better teachers than those in districts less populous. By degrees it has come to pass that all the schools are in session an equal length of time, and the teachers are distributed more judiciously than they could be possibly, under the old system. At the same time the school numbered six was abolished, and the children sent to Nos. 5 and 11.

(a) The brick school-house for No. 7, [George hill] was built in 1852, costing about \$800. The sum of \$1,600 was raised for schools, and \$200 for a public singing-school, free to all inhabitants of the town. At the April meeting measures were taken for building the house for No. 9 school. Stedman Nourse, John Bennett and Thomas B. Warren were the building committee. The school committee were joined to the building committee for the purpose of locating the house. Half an acre of land was allotted to the school. With rare sagacity the town chose Rev. Messrs. Packard, Bartol and Whitemore a committee to design a plan. The house was not to cost more than \$1,000. That house is still by far the best specimen of school architecture in the town. It was well built, and makes a very pleasant appearance.

This year the town voted that the prudential committees should engage the teachers, subject to the approval of the superintending committee, and that the former should make repairs under the superintendence of the latter.

George Hill School House, torn down 1977 and rebuilt,
costing \$1000.



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At the fall meeting, November 2, a vote was passed that the building committee for No. 9, should erect a school-house for No. 2. This house was also well built, of sound lumber, and is still in good repair. However, the work was not done till next year, when, April 4, the town voted that No. 2 should be provided with a school-house "as soon as may be."

At the same meeting, 1853, John M. Washburn, Charles L. Wilder and Matthew F. Woods were chosen a committee to build a school-house for No. 10, [South Lancaster;] \$2,000 were appropriated, and the committee were directed to obtain forty rods of land in addition to that already belonging to the school. The land cost \$200, but the owner would not give a deed, and it will revert to the heirs whenever the town ceases to occupy it for school purposes. The land in Nos. 2 and 7 belongs to the town.

Matters of considerable interest came before the town in 1854. There was some talk of enlarging and repairing No. 6 school-house; of building a new house for No. 8, and of moving the house of school No. 3 to a spot on the new cross road, where the brick school-house now stands in the beautiful and fragrant pine grove. The last two plans were effected in due time.

September 9, a committee was chosen to see if the academy could be purchased for a school-house for No. 11. September 23, the report came that the academy could not be bought. On the tenth of October the committee were directed to inquire if the academy could be hired by the town for the term of ten years. The committee reported, the same day, that the proprietors would "lease the lower room of the academy to the town for five, seven or ten years, for sixty dollars per annum, and make such repairs as the town shall direct, with twelve and a half per cent. on additional repairs." The town was to provide stoves and seats.

The subject came up again, November 13, when it was voted to "buy the the academy on terms offered." This was a new phase of the business. The price demanded for the acad-

emy lot and building was \$1,250. The conditions were that "the town shall ever support and keep the building in good repair in every part, except the part reserved by the proprietors. The upper rooms, together with the wood room below, or rooms of equal convenience and accommodation in the immediate vicinity, shall be reserved, rent free, for a high school or academy, to be under the control of the trustees or their successors." This arrangement or something like it, was effected.

Silas Thurston, Stedman Nourse and John Bennett were a committee chosen in 1855 to build the No. 8 school-house. The old house for No. 4, was repaired next year. The brick school-house, No. 3, was ordered in 1857, and \$1,000 raised for the purpose. A year later it was voted to, "prosecute all who injure school-houses." The money raised for schooling was \$1,800. In 1860 the appropriation was \$2,000.

In 1862 the duty of employing teachers was again given to the superintending committee. Owing to the great expense of the war, probably, the appropriation for schools was cut down to \$1,600.

Again the town, in 1863, entrusted the hiring of teachers to the prudential committee men. So hard was it for the sections to yield this point. The law finally settled the matter.

The school money for 1863 was \$1,600. This was raised at the March meeting. In April it was determined to have a high school, and \$400 were raised to support it. The upper town hall was given for the accommodation of a "free high school."

The town directed the selectmen to put the school-houses and out-buildings in repair.

At the same time it was voted that the "superintending school committee shall have all charge of the school-houses, and make all incidental repairs of the same," and they were empowered to enforce certain regulations recommended in their last report. This rule is still in force.

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The number of the superintending committee was increased to six in 1863, and reduced to three again the next year. For schools, \$2,000. In 1865, the sum was raised to \$2,200.

The reason why the appropriation was reduced to \$1,400 in 1866, is to be found probably in the fact that the town raised \$5,000 as a town, and the same sum by subscription, for a Memorial Hall.

The next year the appropriation exceeded all that had preceded it, except just before the separation of Clinton. It was \$2,800. From this year, 1867, the practice of drawing orders by the school committee has been in vogue. The vote reads: "the school committee are instructed to keep an accurate account of all monies expended, and the town treasurer is authorized to pay money on their order to an amount not exceeding the appropriation for school purposes."

The appropriation in 1868 was \$2,400, and in the year following, \$2,400, besides \$400 for repairs, and \$200 for a singing-school. In 1870, the first appropriation was \$2,700 for schooling; \$300 for repairs; \$100 for apparatus, and \$200 for singing, amounting to \$3,300. Later the sum of \$1,500 was added, either to pay for scholars sent to the Lancaster academy, or to establish a free high school. The town was divided in opinion. It was voted to send scholars to the academy when advanced enough to enter a high school. It was also voted to establish a high school in the autumn. But at a meeting held June 18, a vote was passed to "postpone the high school for one year from September 1, 1870." At the same time the town voted to "pay for all scholars qualified to enter a high school, at Lancaster academy, said scholars to be recommended by the school committee, and to be under their control," as in the case of other scholars in the schools of the town.

In the winter of 1871 the project of a Normal school in the interior of the state was before the legislature. On the supposition that the location was still undecided, and therefore open for competition, the citizens of Lancaster made suitable

efforts to secure its establishment here. A special town meeting was held February 13, when a vote was passed "that the town, in its corporate capacity, by its selectmen, should petition the legislature to establish the projected Normal school in Lancaster." A committee of five, Charles L. Wilder, Marcus Ames, Jacob Fisher, J. L. S. Thompson, and A. P. Marvin, were chosen to present the claims of the town to the general court. The committee appeared before the educational committee, and stated that the town, by a unanimous vote, had offered to give a site for the school, but very soon found that the effort was fruitless. Several towns were present on the same quest, but it appeared to be a foregone conclusion that the school should be located in Worcester.

At the annual meeting, Henry Wilder offered the following motion, which was adopted: "that the school committee be requested to require that reading, spelling and English grammar be made distinct and primary studies in the high school; and that no pupil of the high school shall, in school hours, study any language but English, until the school committee shall, after full examination, certify that in their judgment, the time required for such study could not be otherwise better spent." At the April meeting the committee were directed to "prescribe a course of study for the high school." The sum of \$4,000 was raised for school purposes. At another meeting, July 5, a vote was passed that the town would pay the tuition, at the Lancaster academy, of such scholars as were fitted to enter a high school. A committee was chosen whose duty would be to "frequently visit the Lancaster academy, examine and ascertain the branches taught to town scholars, and what progress was made, and report to the town." The committee were A. P. Marvin, F. H. Thompson and Mary G. Ware. These appointees never acted, as the duties assigned belonged to the school committee, who alone had power to examine schools. Vocal music was successfully taught in the Center, for all scholars who could attend from all parts of the town, on Saturday afternoons, by George ~~X~~ Gardner.

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Collins resigned 1881, having ceased to give "general satisfaction"
to his numerous creditors at least. Seldon L. Brown succeeded.
Collins.

At a meeting in 1872, September 7, two propositions were before the town. First, to authorize the school committee to send scholars to the academy, if fitted to attend a high school, and pay their tuition. Second, to establish a high school. Both were laid on the table. In consequence the school committee decided that they were not authorized to draw orders to pay for the tuition of scholars in the academy. The town, March, 1873, voted to pay the tuition of such scholars, for the fall term of the preceding year. The connection between the town and the academy now terminated. The trustees of the academy gave up their organization, and presented certain articles of school furniture to the town.

Strenuous efforts were made in 1873 to secure the erection of a school-house in the Center, large enough to accommodate the primary, grammar and high schools. Caleb T. Symmes, Jacob Fisher, John Bennett and Henry Wilder were joined to the school committee, with directions to examine lots, draw up a plan, and report to the town. The committee gave much time and thought to the subject; but the town declined to adopt their recommendation. Repeated attempts have met the same fate.

The school committee started a free high school in the spring of 1873, the town having at the annual meeting raised \$1,200 for the purpose. The teacher for the first term was Charles E. Batchelder, a member of the senior class in Harvard University. Miss Anna H. Whitney was assistant, and has continued in the situation to the present time. Alfred F. Washburn, a classmate of Mr. Batchelder, commenced the fall term *& taught 5 weeks*. Both these gentlemen were excellent scholars, and won the esteem of their pupils, and the community. There was some deficiency in government and order. LeRoy Z. Collins, a graduate of Bowdoin college, ¹⁸⁷⁰ and a man of considerable experience as a teacher, was engaged near the beginning of the year 1874, and has continued at the head of the school to the present time. The average attendance has been between forty and fifty. The school has given general satisfaction.

In 1874 the appropriation for schools was \$5,000, and at the same time, \$600 were raised "to improve the stairs and paint the school-rooms in the town hall." The expense was about \$1,000. Miss Addie C. White was engaged to give instruction in vocal music. She gave lessons in the high school, and in the primary and grammar schools in the Center and North and South Lancaster. The scholars of George hill school attended the lessons in South Lancaster. This was continued with success the next year, when the money raised for education was \$6,000. In the same year, 1875, the sum of \$3,800 was appropriated for building a new school-house for schools number four and five, which were consolidated, with the intention of having a primary and grammar school in the same building. The old school-houses of Nos. 4 and 5 were sold. The state of business at Ponakin caused some families to leave, in consequence of which the number of scholars has not warranted the division of the school into two departments.

The appropriation for education in 1876 was \$6,000, besides the income from the state, something less than \$200, and also the tuition of scholars from other towns. The actual expense of the schools for the year was about \$5,700. In 1877 the sum raised for schooling was \$5,500, in addition to income from other sources, which amounted to about \$250.

At the last March meeting, 1878, the town adopted a series of Rules under the truant laws. It was voted to raise \$5,500 for schooling, in addition to the income from the state school fund, which is something less than \$200, and the amount for tuition of out-of-town scholars in the high school. For vocal music in the schools the sum of \$200 was voted, and \$100 for extra repairs; in all, about \$6,000. An effort was made to erect a new school-house in the Center. Two or three plans were before the town, at successive meetings, but none of them met the views of a majority. The need of a house that will accommodate the primary, grammar and high schools is still pressing.

(a) \$8000 was voted in May 1879 to erect a building about 38' x 40' of two stories, and the old Academy was torn down to give its site for the new structure, a convenient and handsome brick edifice, with two schoolrooms.

At the town meeting held Monday, May 6th, after much discussion the school building question was settled. The sum of \$8000 was voted to be used in building a house on, or near, the site of the present "academy building" to accommodate the grammar and primary schools. Size of building to be about 38 x 40 and two stories high; the sum of \$5000 was voted to be used in building a boiler house with other conveniences, to be placed in rear of town hall. A building committee consisting of Rev. A. P. Marvin, S. R. Damon, W. A. Kilbourn, N. C. Hawkins and C. T. Fletcher are to have charge of the business. 1878



Since districts were abolished, and the whole management of schools was committed to the superintending committee, some of the smaller schools have been discontinued. This process was begun in 1869-70, when three ladies, Mrs. Ware, Miss Bradley and Miss Fisher, were on the committee. There was dissatisfaction at the time, and the action was reversed. But in a few years there was a general conviction that the policy was right, and the committee have now, for four or five years, joined the scholars of No. 2 to No. 1, and the school in No. 8 to No. 11. As said already the numbers four and five have been permanently consolidated, and the new school is number four. The arrangement of the schools at present is as follows. A high school in the Center to which the youth from all parts of the town resort. A grammar school in the Center, and another in South Lancaster. A primary school in the same places. Schools including primary and grammar scholars, in Nos. 1, 3, 4, 7 and 9; in all, ten schools. The music teacher, Miss Ellen S. Fisher, visits the schools once a week, except the more remote, which she instructs several times each term. The teachers have the scholars practice on a given lesson every day.

Lancaster has long held a high rank among the towns in the state, in the matter of appropriating money for education. The amount divided among the scholars, gives for each one about twenty dollars. The town stands first in the county, and among the fifteen or twenty highest in the whole state in the appropriation per head.

Here follow the names of the members of the superintending school committee since the year 1842, with their term of service.

Rev. Edmund H. Sears,	1843-47	Rev. B. Whittemore,	1844-53
Rev. Charles Packard,	1843-54	Rev. J. R. M. Eaton,	1846,7
Benjamin Holt,	1843-6	John H. Shaw,	1847,8
Edward P. Whitman,	1843	Charles G. Stevens,	1847,8,9
Wright Cummings,	1843,4	John M. Washburn,	1847-54
Solon Whiting,	1843,4	Rev. George M. Bartol,	1848-72
Ezra Sawyer,	1843,4	G. R. M. Withington,	1848

*1848
- 1848-72
declined service*

Horatio Bailey & A. J. Bancroft 1870

<i>Dr</i> George W. Burditt,	1848,9	E. M. Fuller,	1868
Silas Thurston,	1848-67*	William H. McNeil,	1868-8-
<i>Dr</i> G. M. Morse,	1848.9	Rev. George T. Leavitt,	1869-71
Rev. C. M. Bowers,	1849	Mrs. Mary G. Ware,	1869-71
Rev. Franklin B. Doe,	1855-60	Rev. Quincy Whitney,	1869-71
Wilder S. Thurston,	1855	Miss Charlotte Fisher,	1869,70
Levi S. Burbank,	1855-7	Miss Levancia Bradley,	1869
Rev. Quincy Whitney,	1856,7	George W. Howe,	1870,1
H. C. Kimball,	1856-61	Charles F. Wilder,	1869-71
<i>Amos E.</i> Rev. E. A. Lawrence,	1861-64	J. D. Butler,	1872-3
Rev. M. C. Stebbins,	1862-65	Rev. A. P. Marvin,	1872-8,9,80,1-
C. W. Burbank,	1863-71	Charles L. Wilder, jr.,	1872-5
Levi Farwell,	1863	Dr. F. H. Thompson,	1873-6
John Cunningham,	1863	Edward Houghton,	1870-8,9,80,1-
William A. Kilbourn,	1865-72	Miss Anna H. Whitney,	1876-8,9,80,1,2
<i>James Childs</i>	<i>1863</i>	<i>Herbert Parker</i>	<i>1852</i>
<i>Nath. H. Whittmore</i>	<i>1863</i>	<i>Henry S. Wourde</i>	<i>1852</i>

At the beginning of this period there were seven men on the school committee. The number has varied from time to time. In 1863 three were added to the committee already elected, for some special purpose. In 1871 the number was fixed at three, one to be chosen each year, as the law provides. By resignation or removal some have not served out the term of their appointment, in which cases the vacancy has been filled, till the annual meeting, by the school committee and selectmen in joint convention. The members who have served as chairmen are Messrs. Sears, Packard, Bartol, Kilbourn, Marvin, and ^{several} ~~perhaps~~ others.

TEXT BOOKS.

The following books are used for study or reference in the various schools and the list is here inserted for future reference.

Dictionaries.—Webster and Worcester.

Spelling.—Leach, Soule and Campbell's Hand Book.

Language Series.—Primer, Lessons, Composition, Grammar,—Swinton.

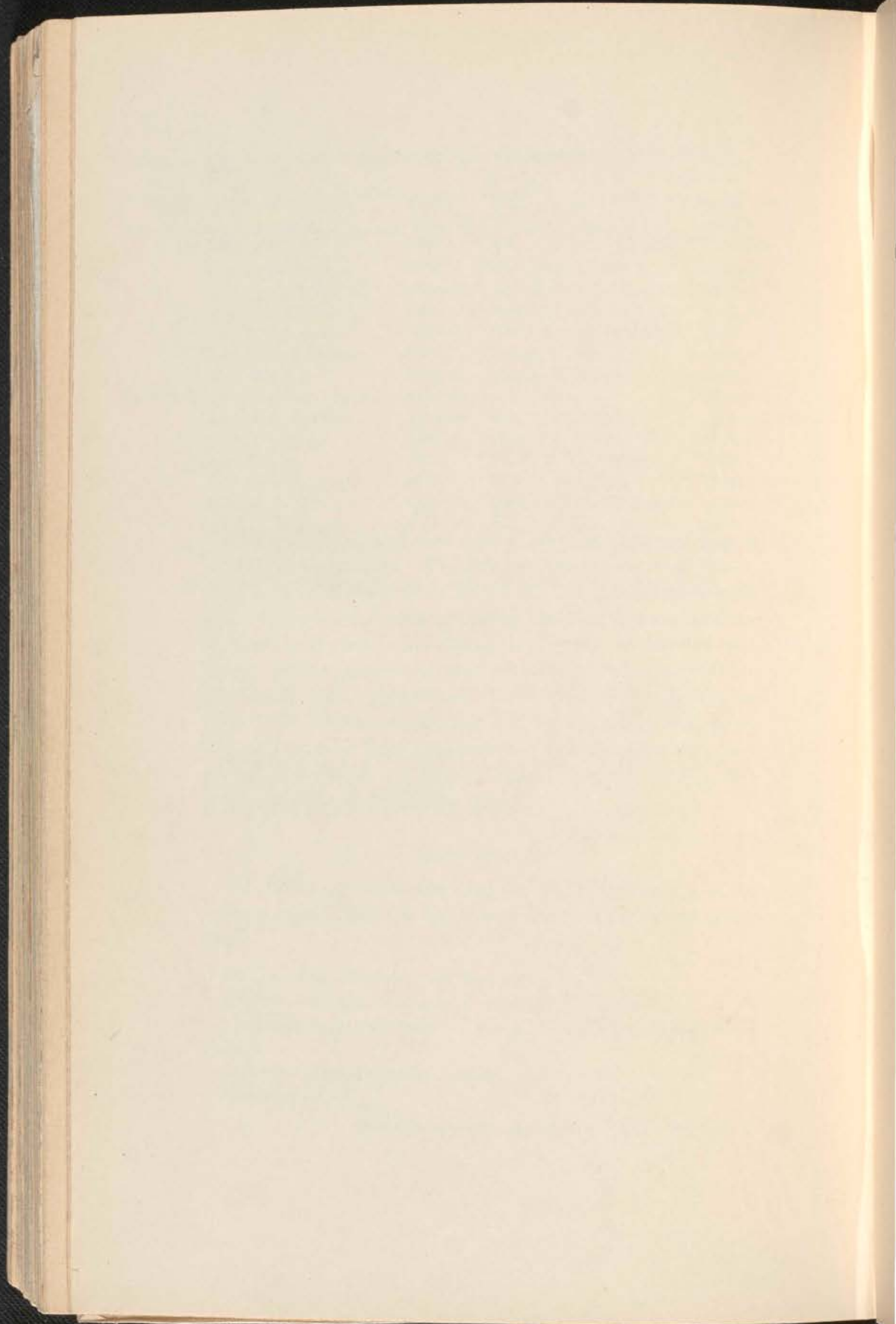
Writing.—The Duntonian System.

Drawing.—Smith.

^{ONE}
*Several intervening years excepted. 1855 See note p. 441

A list of School Committee between 1800 & 1843 will be found on pp. 440 & 441 - The earlier visiting Committees, beginning with the first one in 1788 are enumerated on pages 354 to 357 -

a There were 8 on the board in 1844; 5 in ¹⁸⁵⁰ 1845; 6 in 1870. 3 in 1858. When the new method of election (one for each year) was inaugurated, according to law -



- Singing*,—L. W. Mason's Books and Charts.
Geography,—Guyot's Physical Geography, Warren's Primary and Common School Geography, Classical Atlas.
Physiology,—Brown.
Botany,—Gray.
Natural Philosophy,—Steele.
Chemistry,—Steele.
Mineralogy,—Teacher's Notes.
Zoology,—
Geology,—
Grammar,—Greene and Swinton.
Arithmetic,—Eaton.
Astronomy,—Peabody.
History,—Higginson and Dickens, Lyman's Historical Charts, Thalheimer's General History.
Political Economy,—Nordhoff.
Algebra,—Eaton.
Geometry,—Eaton.
Trigonometry,—Eaton.
English Literature,—Gilman.
French,—Bocher's Otto's Grammar and Reader; Fleury's French History; Selected French Plays; Fisher's Readers; Spiers' Dictionary.
Latin,—Harkness' Grammar and Reader; Sallust, Cæsar, Virgil, Cicero.
Greek,—Goodwin's or Crosby's Grammar; Introductory Greek Reader; Anabasis; Iliad.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY.

The following course of study was adopted in 1877, after several years' experience. It is, of course, subject to change. The first Diplomas were given to a class of four at the close of the winter term, in March, 1878.

COURSE OF STUDY.

FIRST YEAR.	SECOND YEAR.
<p>FIRST TERM.</p> <p>American History. School Composition. Arithmetic. Botany. * Latin.</p>	<p>FIRST TERM.</p> <p>School Composition. Arithmetic. Physiology. Latin. * French.</p>
<p>SECOND TERM.</p> <p>American History. School Composition. Arithmetic. Natural Philosophy.</p>	<p>SECOND TERM.</p> <p>School Composition. Algebra. Physiology.</p>
<p>THIRD TERM.</p> <p>American History. School Composition. Arithmetic. Natural Philosophy.</p>	<p>THIRD TERM.</p> <p>Composition. Algebra. Physical Geography. * Greek.</p>
<p>General Exercises. Drawing. Singing. Gymnastics.</p>	<p>Select readings and declamations.</p>
THIRD YEAR.	FOURTH YEAR.
<p>FIRST TERM.</p> <p>General History. Algebra. Physical Geography.</p>	<p>FIRST TERM.</p> <p>English Literature. Geometry. Zoology. Political Economy. Topical Reviews.</p>
<p>SECOND TERM.</p> <p>General History. Algebra. Geology.</p>	<p>SECOND TERM.</p> <p>English Literature. Political Economy. Trigonometry. Chemistry. Topical Reviews.</p>
<p>THIRD TERM.</p> <p>General History. Geometry. Mineralogy.</p>	<p>THIRD TERM.</p> <p>English Literature. Astronomy. Chemistry. Topical Reviews.</p>
<p>Original readings and declamations.</p>	

* Languages optional through the whole course. Public literary exercises on the last Friday afternoon of each month.

Valuable history this!



Jared Sparks.
Mary C. Sparks.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE ACADEMY AND OTHER PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

THE Lancaster Academy was established because the Latin grammar school did not meet the wants of a portion of the families for a higher education. A law passed in the early years of the colony, required towns containing a hundred families, to maintain a grammar school. This law was either enlarged in its scope by subsequent legislation, or liberally interpreted by the people, since it became the custom in some of the towns to have the ancient languages taught in the public school. This was the case here, it is believed, in the first quarter of the last century. There was a stated grammar school in Lancaster before 1757, as we learn from the Records that the following vote was passed in that year. "Voted that the grammar school be kept in each precinct — Lancaster and Sterling—according to what they pay." In 1762 Col. Abijah Willard and others had leave to build a school-house, on public land, ^{"belong"} not far from the meeting-house. The school-house was probably near Dr. Thompson's corner. Two years later in consequence of a petition of Levi Willard, Esq., ^{of the} a grammar school was to be kept in the Center, the ensuing year, provided the petitioners should build a house, and support the school, "after the amount of their taxes had been appropriated for that purpose." But the school alternated between the two sections of the town until Sterling was incorporated. In 1790 the town voted to build a school-house opposite the Mansion house, so called, now occupied by Dr. Edgecomb. It stood near the house of Mr. Stowell. After the division of the town, in some of the years, the Latin grammar mas-

sec. pp. 267-8

*This school house stood near the elms by Mr Symmes
just at the north end of the road to the Old Common.*

ter taught in different districts, as the Center, George hill and Ballard hill. Latin was taught in the third district, some sixty years ago, and there is an old Latin dictionary still in existence, with which its owner once knocked the school-master flat upon the floor. From the Records of No. 7, or George hill school, it is inferred that the district, at times, had a Latin master at their own expense.

This plan of a migratory school, which the scholars had to follow from district to district, or abandon continued study, was very unsatisfactory to those who desired their sons and daughters to pass beyond the branches taught in the ordinary schools. As early as the year 1815, a number of gentlemen belonging to Lancaster and some of the neighboring towns, united together, and established the Lancaster Academy. Still the town made an annual appropriation for a Latin grammar school, though not without opposition. This went on till 1823, when sixty dollars were appropriated for the Latin grammar school; from which date the school disappears from the Records.

Before taking a final leave of the Latin grammar school, a brief reference should be made to the masters of the school, all of whom were respected in their day, and some of whom obtained a lasting reputation. Not repeating the names of those who taught the classics before the middle of the last century, we find that Edward Bass, who graduated at Harvard in 1744, and became the first Episcopal bishop in Massachusetts, taught here in 1746; and his classmate, Joseph Palmer, afterwards a clergyman, had the school in 1747. Edward Phelps, and Abel Willard, Esq., followed in 1749-52. Hezekiah Gates was master in 1756, and Moses Hemenway, afterwards a distinguished minister in Wells, Me., in 1757-9. Gen. Joseph Warren, of Bunker Hill fame, succeeded him. Next came a Mr. Parker, a graduate of Harvard. Dr. Israel Atherton, the first liberally educated physician in Worcester county, came next. His name occurs often in our annals. His successor was Joseph Willard, afterwards president of

H. W. S. Cleveland claims with probably excellent reason that his father and mother did more to establish this Classical School than all others - and Captain Cleveland made direct application to President Kirkland of Harvard College, who was his personal friend, and it was by his advice that Jared Sparks, George B. Emerson and Solomon Pillsbury were successively secured as teachers. Some of the schools at first were Scott's Lessons Adams Arithmetic - succeeded by "English Reader" & Warren Colburn's "First Lessons" & "Sequel" -

Some of the boys of this School were Horatio Greenough and his brother - Wm. H. Channing, James Perkins - Six sons of General Custis U.S.A. nephews of the then Governor of Mass. Richard H. Dana & his brother Frank, all under Emerson's rule.

Joseph Palmer was not the classmate of Edmund Bass, but graduated three years later.

For a Chronological list of teachers, more complete than this here given (which follows Willard, but omits many items of interest) see next blank pages. Willard copied his names from the Records of the "Prudentials" of the town - & some of these persons named received orders "for schooling" which is not a proof that they "kept school" - Perhaps Frederick Albert & John Warren only, save the teachers in their district.
On page 523 the age of Peter Green (91) was copied from Willard - but that author has corrected the statement in his errata. It should be "81" - It is usual the author copied every error of Willard's & the printer - "Mann" for Man; "91" for 81; "Ballard" for Ballard; He added two original errors: "1767" for 1765 - & calling Ballard & Albert "graduated" -



Wm Ellery Channing.

Harvard
No. 4—
Very
I had pr
182

Harvard University. Then came Ensign Man^g X, Mr. Brown, Joseph Bullard,² Frederick Albert,³ Mr. Hutchinson a graduate. Peter Green, M. D., of the class of 1766, taught here about 1767⁵ and lived here as a physician many years afterwards. He removed to Concord, N. H., where he was active in his profession in 1825, at the great age of 91 years. John Warner, Robert Fletcher and Dr. Josiah Wilder taught previous to the Revolution.¹⁷⁶⁶⁻⁷⁷ The above facts, ^{and 3 typographic errors etc.} are given on the authority of Willard.

see note opposite
p. 522

There is difficulty in tracing the succession of teachers for some years, but it is known that William Ellery Channing, whose fame has gone out wherever English literature is enjoyed, was master of the school about the close of the last century. The names of his immediate successors have not been found, but the following came after him: viz., Solon Whiting, Miss Caroline Lee Whiting, Miss Ann F. Vose, Miss Susan Prescott, Silas Thurston, Charles^H Stedman and Frank^W Dana.

H. U., 1798.

Not Latin Grammar School Master, but

Teachy of private schools or English Grammar School
* district schools - Some were kept in the old Latin Grammar School House -

LANCASTER ACADEMY.

As said above, the academy was founded in 1815. But it seems from the following statement of the venerable Rev. C. C. Beaman, of Boston, a descendant of Gamaliel Beaman, that there was a school here, several years before, which was called "the academy." [Perhaps this was a preliminary school in order to see if an academical institution could obtain support. One of the earliest masters was Abel Whitney, of whom and his school, Mr. Beaman gives pleasant reminiscences.

It was the old Latin Grammar School opposite the old house, called "the academy"

"Mr. Whitney taught in a building called the Academy, located in the center of the town. I was his pupil for one winter term, about 1811, while spending a season with my grandfather, Joseph Beaman.

x 1815?

"Very pleasant memories come back to me from that school. I had previously spent a summer term at the school-house—No. 6,—taught by Mr. James D. Farnsworth, quite a young

* This date cannot be correct if the statement below about J. D. F. is so, for he ^{was} graduated 1818 at Harvard.

man, and still a college student. He became a Congregational minister.

"The school of Mr. Whitney was of larger pretensions in its size and fitting up, and had a greater number of scholars, and more advanced studies. * * * It embraced students from all parts of Lancaster, and contained pupils of advanced age, and of both sexes, to the exclusion of younger ones. * * * The older boys or young men had learned something by report, and talked freely of him, leading the school to expect a very strict disciplinarian. I remember his first entrance. The house was full, and a tall, stout man with dignified step and self-possessed, resolute aspect, entered and walked up to the teacher's desk. All eyes were intently fixed upon him. He spoke pleasantly, and mentioned his purpose of dividing his school into classes as soon as he could learn the capabilities of his scholars. Among the scholars I call to mind the three sons of Dr. Thayer, John Eliot, Nathaniel and Christopher; also a daughter of Dr. Thayer; two daughters of Mr. Robert Townsend, one of whom, (a young lady generally beloved for her amiability and personal attractions,) Mr. Whitney afterwards married; Henry, son of Dea. Lane, Warren, son of Robert Townsend; and the families of Wyman, Stearns, Whitney, Torrey, Stedman and Phelps, who were represented by sons and daughters.

"I had been a member of Lawson Lyon's academy, at Boston, where my father lived, and Mr. Whitney had heard of the school, and asked me many questions about it. Notwithstanding all the reports of the severity of the teacher, he was by no means a hard master, and there was very little scolding or whipping. The young ladies were very sensitive when any severity was practised, and no doubt exercised a reasonable restraint both upon the teacher and the biggest boys. I was uniformly kindly treated by the teacher, and I recollect no unkindness extended to any of the scholars. He kept good order in the school, and the application of the students was of a commendable character. The school examination at the

A list of Teachers in Lancaster Chronologically arranged

gathered from all accessible sources of information (chiefly town records)
 of Rev. Henry was hired ¹⁷¹⁵ 1718. Samuel Snow (See page 185) is the first teachers name to be found
 in the town records. He received 40^l by the year. Graduate of Harvard 1716.

1722-5. Edward Broughton see pp 188-9. From the friendly consideration shown by a grant of land, in 1723. I judge he had taught some years earlier
 N.B. I have since found by Jos. Wilder Not. Book. that he taught 1721-2-3-

1726. Ebenezer Flagg Graduate of Harvard 1725 - afterwards Clergyman, Chester, N.H.
 Son of Ebenezer of Woburn

1727. According to Willard "Henry Houghton, Saml. Carter & Jonathan Moore" were teachers - I find no authority for this except that they received the school rate. The first two were selectmen 1725 & probably hired ^{the} teachers at Biddford & were of the President of N.H. (1740 died)

1728. Samuel Willard graduate 1723 ^{at Biddford & father of the President of N.H. (1740 died)} Thomas Sprague Graduate of Harvard

of ^{Charlestown} Jabez Fox Graduate of Harvard 1727. Mr Briant and Jacob Willard

1730. Jabez Fox H. 21 1727 son of Rev. John Fox of Woburn

1731. Jabez Fox "

1732. Jabez Fox " Josiah Swan graduate of Harvard 1733. afterwards a clergyman at Dunstable N.H. & Joseph B. Beebe graduate H. 21 1731. & Thomas Prentice H. 21 1726 - afterward clergyman of Charlestown.

1733. Josiah Swan H. 21 1733 -

1734. Josiah Swan " } Rev. John Prentice for his second wife married Swan's widowed mother. Mrs Prudence Frost Swan.

1735. Josiah Swan "

1736. Josiah Brown 1735, Thomas Prentice H. 21 1726.

1737. Josiah Brown Graduate of Harvard 1735. { Brown married Prudence Prentice. He died Feb 6 1774 never settled. See Boston Weekly News Letter March 3 1774.

1738. Josiah Brown " " "

1739. Josiah Brown " " "

1740. Stephen Frost graduate of Harvard 1739 died 1749

1741. Stephen Frost " "

1742. Stephen Frost " "

1743. Stephen Frost " & Josiah Brown "

1744. Stephen Frost " & Peter Fry graduate of Harvard 1744

1745. Peter Fry H. 21 1744 { Peter was a pale youth, for Mary Richardson Aug. 1745 swore a child upon him before Judge Joseph Wilder.

1746. Edward Bass 1st Bishop of Ellas. S.T.D. of Harvard. 1744.

1747. Edward Bass & Joseph Palmer graduate of Harvard 1747.

Schoolmasters of Lancaster

1748. Joseph Palmer. H. U. 1747. a clergyman.
1749. Joseph Palmer " } Willard adds Edward Phelps. but
 1750. Joseph Palmer " } he is only paid for "Keeping
 school - master". see Records.
1751. Josiah Swan. H. U. 1733 - Swan had been settled as clergy-
 man in Dunstable 1739 - 1746 & ~~was~~ resumed teaching again.
1752. Josiah Swan. Josiah Brown - Sam^l Locke graduate H. U. 1755
 S.T.D. & President of Harvard College. also Abel Willard graduate
 of Harvard 1752
1753. Josiah Brown.
1754. Josiah Swan
1755. Josiah Swan. Josiah Brown & Capt. Hezekiah Gatis?
1756. Moses Hemmingway. graduate of Harvard 1755. S.T.D.
1757. Moses Hemmingway "
1758. Moses Hemmingway - "
1759. Moses Hemmingway. Josiah Swan & Joseph Warren
 graduate of Harvard 1759 General at Bunker Hill.
1760. Joseph Warren. & Josiah Swan.
1761. Josiah Swan. & Levi Moor?
1762. Josiah Swan, Israel Atherton M.D. graduate of
 Harvard 1762. Joseph Willard graduate of Harvard
 S.T.D. S.L.S. & President H. U. & a Mr Parker
1763. Names of teachers do not appear in Records ^{Ex. Brown?}
1764. Josiah Brown. Sam^l Widder. & Endign Mann a graduate
 of Harvard 1764.
1765. Endign Mann, Josiah Brown. a Mr Hutchins (W^m or Elisha
 of Harvard 1762) Peter Green M.D. of Harvard 1766.
 Mr Willard adds Fred^l Albert & Jos. Ballard. but I think without
 good authority. They are citizens who rec^d orders "for schooling" i.e. "prudential
 commitments"
1766. Endign Mann, John Warner, Robert Fitch & Israel
Houghton. graduate of Yale 1767.
1767. Josiah Widder graduate of Yale 1767. His name appears
 as connection with "schooling" for several years. but perhaps only
 as Committee of his Squadron. Swan also received a small sum for
 teaching in 1767.

close of the term, was highly spoken of by the committee men who were in attendance.

"The principal recreation of the school in recess, was in skating on the river, * * * and there was no quarreling among the boys, but on the contrary, much kindness and sociability. Looking back now for over sixty years, I recall with pleasure the scenes and general aspect of the school-room and the grounds adjacent, while I was a pupil. There is nothing to cloud the remembrance, and much to admire in the deportment and intelligence exhibited. * * * I never met with master Whitney after leaving his school, but for some time heard of him as a noted teacher. School-masters, after we grow up, assume a higher place in our grateful memories, as we realize our great obligations to them, and very few are the scholars who would not respond cheerfully to the demand for a subscription to the erection of a Memorial Stone over the grave of an instructor."

To proceed with the narrative, Mr. Willard said in 1825, "few institutions of the kind have probably ever done more good. Many have already been taught there, who but for its establishment would have been much less favored in their opportunities for learning."

He refers to the school on the Old Common.

The academy was ~~now~~ located on the Old Common. ^{in 1815} The Latin grammar school-house which was erected near the house of Mr. Stowell in 1790, was moved across the river, and on to the ^{Old} Common, for the accommodation of the academy. Here it remained until the academy building on the Common in the Center was built in 1825. Afterwards the old house started again on its travels, and finally reached its present location in the rear of the house of John A. Rice, in South Lancaster, where it serves the purpose of a meat market.

See note to p. 530
x

See note (a) p 352

The teachers of the academy, while on the Old Common, seem to have been superior men; some of them have acquired a wide reputation. The first was Silas Holman, M.D. He was here in the summer of 1815, and then removed to Maine, where he was a practising physician.

*M.D. Harvard
Old School 1817*

See
 Memoir in
 Proceedings Mass.
 Historical Socy.
 May 1868.

Jared Sparks had charge of the academy one ^{7/4} year, from the ^{Summer} autumn of 1818.⁵ He was graduated at Harvard in 1815, and was tutor there two or three years after leaving Lancaster. He became distinguished as a clergyman in Baltimore, as the editor of the *North American Review*, and as president of Harvard University. His most lasting title to fame is founded on his biographical and historical labors.

John W. Proctor, a graduate of Harvard in 1816, had the care of the academy one year. He was afterwards attorney and counsellor at law in Danvers, where he maintained a respectable rank in his profession, and as a public man.

George B. Emerson, who was graduated at Harvard University in 1817, and was a tutor therein from 1819 to 1821, ^{LLD 1859} taught the academy two years from the summer of 1817. Mr. Emerson ranks as one of the foremost educators in the country. ^{Died 4th March 1881. Born Kilmabuckville, Sept. 12, 1797. He was the 1st Principal of the Boston English High School. 1821.}

The next principal was Solomon P. Miles, a graduate of Harvard in 1819, and tutor from 1821 to 1823, who conducted the school through the two years commencing with August, 1819. He was afterwards preceptor of the high (English classical) school in Boston. ^{1823 to 1838}

Nathaniel Wood, another Harvard graduate, 1821, and tutor in the years 1823 and 1824, was here two years, closing in 1823. He studied law in Boston, and afterwards settled in Fitchburg, where he was a leader of the bar during a long and busy life. He was a member of the Senate of Massachusetts, and also a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1853.

Levi Fletcher was at the head of the school from August, 1823, about one year. He was a graduate of Harvard University, like his immediate predecessors, having taken his degree in 1823. In 1825 he was chaplain on board the frigate *Macedonian*.

The next preceptor was Nathaniel Kingsbury, who belonged to the class of 1821, in Harvard, but left during the third year. He came to Lancaster in the fall of 1824, and con-

School Teachers in Lancaster

After 1767 the teachers seem not to have been paid directly by Town Treasurers, and their names are not given in town records after that date, with a very few exceptions. Orders "for schooling" appear, but seem always to be in favor of prominent citizens, who were probably the "Committee men" of the various squadrons hiring & paying the teachers.

1771-2-3-4 Samuel Prentice has orders "for schooling" & may have been the graduate of Harvard 1771 - & teacher of the Grammar School.

1777 - William Starns - graduate, Harvard 1776, taught two terms. "School Days" there must have been from the earliest days of the town's history, but these are the only names I find recorded.

1783. Lucy Priest -

1787-8 Kannah Dunsmore -

1788. Lucy Bachelor.

1788. Lois Waldo.

1788. Samuel Mead graduate of Harvard 1787 -

1792-3. Samuel Farrar graduate of Harvard 1799 taught 2 winters, at these dates, according to his letter at Centennial Celebration -

1798? William Ellery Channing who was graduated in 1798 taught the Latin Grammar School. The appropriations for a Latin Grammar School are regularly recorded from 1790, but I find no record anywhere of the teachers names.

The Records of the George Hill District, No. 7 (which included New Boston until 1826) are complete from 1800, and as the Latin Grammar School was often kept part of the year there, we find several college men among the teachers, besides the names of several veteran schoolmasters natives of the town -

1799-1800-1-2 Moses Smith Jr. the lawyer is the first recorded.

1802. Jeremiah Stinson graduate of Harvard 1804

1803. Mr Ripley Samuel or Daniel? graduate 1804 or 1805

1804 Ephraim Thinds graduate at Harvard 1805

1805 Mr Abbot - probably John S. or Ephraim graduate 1805 + 1806

List of Lancaster Teachers. Continued
George Hill District 1807

1806. Mr. Sloan
 1807. Mr. Hildreth - Two of this name graduate 1805
 1808 - Mr. Crosby - Perhaps Georgian class of 1804
 1809 - Mr. Farham - Probably John H. class of 1811 or Timothy of 1809
 1810 William Swift - of Harvard class of 1809.
 1811-12-13 James Savage
 1814-15-16-17-18 Ebenezer Newhall
 1819-20-21. Charles Thurston - a native teacher of repute in his day.
 1823-24 Silas Thurston a veteran teacher who taught in various districts & had been usher for Abel Whitney in his Boston School.
 1825 Saml. Hampton - (District Divided)
 1826 Frank Warner ^{George Hill} Stedman ^{New Boston}
 No. 7- 1826-7-8-9 Capt. Martin Lincoln a veteran teacher
 1830 Saml. Hastings - 1831 J. Richardson 1832 Wm. Lincoln
 1833 Thomas D. Andrews - 1834 Elbridge G. Wood - 1835 Saml. Carter
 1837 Grad Sawyer - 1838 Adolphus F. Brown - 1839 B. F. Farnsworth
 1840- Isaac F. Woods 42 Mr. Lawrence 43 Jas. Pumphrey.
 1844 Henry Townsend 1845 Saml. Longley

To return to the school at the Center known as the Latin Grammar School, or sometimes as the Academy - From 1800 to about 1822, the teachers names are lost except so far as they have been held in memory by their pupils - From 1815, a private school, the Academy on the Old Common, contended with it for the patronage of the citizens of Lancaster & finally took its place.

1808. About 1808 Jared Wood a graduate of Harvard 1807 taught for some years, probably as Grammar School master.
 1811? Abel Whitney taught some time - see p. 523.

Paul Willard, graduate of Harvard 1817, was master of the school for a time -

Solom Whiting had the school for some years.

N.B. The other names on page 523 (connected with S. Whiting's) were of teachers of District Schools not of the Latin Grammar School so far as I can learn. Charles H. Stedman M.D. Harvard 1823 & Francis Dana, Harvard graduate 1829, were pupils in this school or the Academy - but did teach district schools - Silas Thurston was a veteran schoolmaster, but only of district schools & English Grammar School.

tinued at the head of the school during several sessions. The academy sustained a high character for discipline and instruction.

He was followed by John H. Warland, formerly a well-known editor, Martin Lincoln, father of Mrs. Prof. Walton, Mr. Cummings and Henry Kimball, still kindly remembered by many pupils.

As already stated, the academy was first opened on the Old Common about 1815. At that time several important families lived there, and Mr. ——— Higginson, father of Col. T. W. Higginson, was residing in Bolton. These families naturally set up the school in the place most convenient to themselves. Before following the academy to its new location in the Center, it will be pleasant to linger awhile, and in the company of one who was familiar with the brilliant circle on the Old Common, learn something of literary life there nearly sixty years ago. The following extract from a recent letter of MISS ELIZABETH P. PEABODY, widely and favorably known in this country and abroad, as an author and educator, gives a view of one stratum of society in Lancaster which could be derived from no other source. She came hither in 1820, with her father, who was a physician. There were three daughters in the family, who have since become distinguished. One was the wife of Hawthorne; another of Horace Mann, and the third is the writer from whom we quote.

"It had been represented to us that a girls' school was wanted, and as I had been educated chiefly by my parents for a teacher, I was to have this school. This proved a failure, for it was not a good locality for a girls' school, especially one that must depend for scholars on other places, because there was a boys' school there, and boys were boarding all over town. Nevertheless I did keep school there more than a year, and had some pupils from out of town, nearly as old as myself, and one was older."

She then speaks of the founders of the school, and some of the first teachers, whose names have been given already.

(a) Francis Cummings
of Salem
Ms. 1835

And in the
last years of her
life at "The
Transcendental
Revolution"

Sophia Amelia
Mary.

(B) see note
opposite page 529

With such instructors the school had great success. The writer proceeds: "Many boys were sent to board in town, and go to the school. There were also two young southerners named Allston, who were confided to the care of Mr. Lyman Buckminster, who was paid a liberal salary to prepare them for college; and he called to his aid Mr. James G. Carter. Mr. Carter was the most intimate friend of Warren Colburn who had inspired him with his own idea of reforming education.

The old Stillwell house, so called, which was purchased by the state for the Industrial school for girls, and which was burned in 1876, was occupied, at the time of Miss Peabody's residence here, by "Capt. Richard Cleveland and his very remarkable wife. Capt. Cleveland had retired on his fortune gained in a successful mercantile career begun in Salem, where both he and his wife were born, and whence he first set sail for India as a sea-captain in the employ of Hasket Derby, senior. But he soon worked on his own account, and was one of those navigators who organized the wide commerce of Salem. He was a noble, original, heroic character, who, inspired with the love that was eventually crowned by a most happy marriage, worked with the enthusiasm and self-devotion of an old knight of the days of chivalry, to win a fortune for his bride elect, and with a kindred high sense of honor. His two volumes of voyages indicate the exceptional character of his career. In the course of it he met and united in a bond of friendship, (as exceptional as his love,) with Mr. ^{Wm.} Shaler, who subsequently bought and lived in that same house."

Pleasantly mingling her own life here with that of the cultivated friends among whom she moved,—one of the youngest and most accomplished of them all, though only seventeen,—Miss Peabody proceeds. "As soon as we arrived in Lancaster, we were called upon by Dr. Thayer, who gave me his youngest daughter for a pupil; and Mrs. Cleveland called and invited me most cordially to her house, where

Susan Prescott was a noted "Schoolmarm" from the George Hill District. Probably not a winter passed in which there were not some undergraduates of Harvard College relieving the tedium of Study, or replenishing their purses by teaching district school in Lancaster. The names of many of these, since the printing of the School Committee's reports - begun in 1842, - can readily be found, but of those before that date, none are recorded save in their pupils' recollections -

The "Academy" was kept in the building, now a Dwelling House occupied by J. A. Sawyer, at first, Thomas a house built ¹⁸¹⁷ a little beyond to the east. List of Lancaster Academy teachers -

1815 - Silas Holman of Cambridge, Ill. School 1817 taught 3 mos.

1815-6 Jared Sparks LL.D. - Praiser etc H.U. 1815.

1816-7 John W. Proctor - H.U. 1816

1817-19 George B. Emerson LL.D. H.U. class of 1817

1819-21 Salomon P. Miles - tutor & H.U. class of 1819

1821-23 Nathaniel Wood tutor w H.U. class of 1821

1823-24 Levi Fitcher H.U. class of 1823

1824-27 Nathaniel Kingsbury - was 3 yrs at Harvard but not graduate
 J. C. Carter H.U. 1820 assisted by Wm H. Brooks H.U. 1827 until Sept 1828 - May 1829 Wm H. Gardner

1829 June John H. Warland H.U. class of 1827 remained until July 1831 when

the academy was closed for several years & building sold to Thomas Carter -
 Elias Nason.
 In May 1829 Wm H. Gardner H.U. was engaged for Academy as ad. in Gazette on 5th

1833-4-5 - Captain Martin Lincoln not a graduate - The School of James S. Carter took all the out-of-town pupils preparing for college, & ruined the Academy. Lincoln was a native of Lancaster & an experienced teacher from George Hill.
 1835 Francis Cummings of Salem H.U. 1835
 For many years the Academy Building was unoccupied as a school.

1842 Charles Mason graduate of Harvard 1834 LL.D. 1839. Kept 1 term 1842.

Mrs Mary Tower had a girls school in Academy Building.

List of Academy teachers Continued.

1845-6-7. Isaac F. Woods. a veteran schoolmaster from the
Lancaster District schools. not a graduate -

1848 to 1861 Henry C. Kimball - graduate of Harvard 1840.
Part of the period 1849-50 Kimball's school was supported
by the town as the "High School." & George W. Bigelow
1847-50 kept the second "High School" in that part
of the town now known as Clinton.

1862 Levi S. Burbank had the Academy a term or
two - a native of Lancaster, since a professional
teacher - Edward Foughton a graduate of
Yale 1852 - took his place to complete a term.

1862 S. W. Hathaway taught one term. & two.

1863-73 - Wm. A. Kilbourn N. H. class of 1858 -

a. Mrs Cleveland wrote sundry articles for the press upon
Education &c. a few specimens of which are in Lancaster Library.

a' see "Memoir & writings of James Handasyd Perkins" by
Wm. Henry Channing pp. 4 to 16.

b page 527. Of Mrs Peabody's School. I cull from the Mass. Spy
of May 11 1821 - this advertisement - "Lancaster
Boarding School" - "Mrs Peabody and daughter will open
a Day and Boarding School for young Ladies the 3d
Monday in May instant, in Lancaster about half a
mile north of the Meeting House &c * * * * Terms,
Board & Tuition \$28 per Quarter &c * * * Mrs
Peabody & x x intends her school shall be equal
to any Ladies' Academy in the State"

every evening there was an assemblage of all those who were interested in education, a subject in which Mrs. Cleveland was wholly absorbed, having herself educated her three boys with help in the last years, of Messrs. Sparks, Emerson and Miles, to all of whom her hospitable mansion was a home, and she was their most respected and beloved counsellor. She had studied Rousseau and Pestalozzi without losing her own originality, and she believed a true and natural education the foundation stone of the national edifice. The evenings at her house were the greatest inspiration to all these educators. I had my own ideas already very strongly fixed as to the principles, and was very eager to learn methods more natural than those of the ordinary schools. There was a general educational Revival at this time.

"There I met Colburn, and learned from his own lips his idea of making children discover and make the rules of arithmetic, which he proposed to teach very differently from the manner in which his arithmetic came to be taught. He believed his plan of leading children to discover, could be applied to every science. Mr. Carter undertook to carry it out in the science of geography. Colburn suggested to me that it was the true way to teach grammar. But it was not merely new methods of intellectual education that were discussed at these *symposia* at Mrs. Cleveland's, but the necessity and method of building up *character* on the Christian and heroic ideal, of inspiring children with the power to educate themselves—anticipating *Fröbel*."

Passing over for the present, other passages in the letter of Miss Peabody, the following is pertinent to this place. "The mother of Rev. William H. Channing, a magnificent specimen of noblest womanhood, was a cousin of Mrs. Cleveland, and had recently left Lancaster when I went to live there. She had retired thither in her early widowhood, and put her son at the academy. At her house had died the celebrated Miss Eloise Payne, elder sister of Howard Payne, who was called the American Roscius when a boy, and who is still

known by his beautiful song 'Home, sweet home.' This gifted woman lies under a simple monument in the graveyard on the Common, which was erected by the now venerable John G. Palfrey, who was a pupil of the father of Eloise, and school companion of herself, and who thus wished to testify his respect and love for the inspirer of his youth and companion of his studies.

"When I think of these two years of my life at Lancaster, it seems arrayed in all the glory of the Ideal. The enthusiasm for study among the young people; the enthusiasm of educating in the teachers; the extraordinary beauty of nature, the classic music which always formed part of the entertainment, and which Mrs. Cleveland always played to her husband, who enjoyed it so much that she never allowed any visitor to interrupt it; Mr. Cleveland's unwordly nobility of character, all blend to make it an oasis in the desert of this 'work-day world.' Life has never seemed to me tame or uninteresting anywhere; but this season is glorified in my memory not merely by the subjective enthusiasm of my own youthful season, but by the objective reality of so many rare individualities congregated together."

x
 (a) The writer of the above left Lancaster in 1822 or 1823, and the academy was transferred two years later to the Center. Mr. Willard informs us that a "subscription to erect a new building in the center of the town" was made in April, 1825. A large and ample sum was obtained for this purpose with but little difficulty. The land just south of the church—the town hall has since been placed between—was given by Messrs. Horatio and George Carter, who with their brothers, also subscribed most liberally to the undertaking. A new and very tasteful building of brick, two stories in height, with a cupola and bell was erected. It was intended to add to the academy, a "distinct and permanent school for females," but this part of the plan does not appear to have been realized. Instead of that, girls were admitted to the advantages of the academy.

The Peabody family went to Exeter & then to Boston. There were six children & their income was small

In the Columbian Centinel for April 26 1817 - is the following advertisement "The Latin Grammar School in Lancaster will commence on the 22^d May next on an improved plan. A commodious house is erecting for the purpose, and an approved instructor is provided. Tuition is five dollars a quarter, and board may be had in respectable families near the school at two dollars a week including washing, fire &c. Lancaster is a pleasant and healthy town thirty four miles from Boston and combines as many advantages for a school of this description as perhaps any town in the Country. A Stage runs between this town and Boston every day. It is believed that parents designing to fit their sons for college or for active life in any employment, will find this school perfectly adapted to their wishes - For further particulars inquiry may be made of Rev. President Kirkland or of Mr J. Sparks Tutor at Cambridge or of Dr Jackson, Summer St. Boston - This new "commodious house" was on the old common & shows that the school was called not academy but "Latin Grammar School" at this time. Thomas Safford however in advertising his farm of 120 acres March 1817 - says "an Academy is to be erected in the course of the approaching summer within a few rods of the premises" -

a April 21. 1826 "the Building Committee" David Whitman, Nathaniel Rand, Horatio Carter & Joseph Willard, advertise for proposals to build the Academy 36 ft by 38 ft - see deas 474 -

This Building was torn down in 1879 & a new one for two Schools erected costing \$6476 -

The Trustees of "Lancaster Academy" were incorporated February 11 1828 - but their powers probably lapsed by inaction, making the second act of incorporation, recorded on p. 532, necessary - The names of the Trustees were Solomon Strong, Nathaniel Thayer, Ira H. F. Blanchard, Joseph G. Kendall, Joseph Willard, George Baker, Horatio Carter, David Whitman, Peter Asgood, Calvin Lincoln, & Solon Whiting.

The Academy building was completed Oct. 14, 1826. and dedicated October 18. A part of the services were in the church, there being a large audience. Introductory prayer by Reverend Peter Asgoud of Sterling; Address by Rev^d Dr Thayer, preceded by singing - Those present then proceeded to the Academy where a hymn was sung, a Dedicatory prayer offered by Rev^d David Damon of Lunenburg - The same afternoon the school was opened

Nathaniel Kingsbury, already mentioned, held the position of principal after the academy was established in the Center, but the duration of his mastership has not been ascertained. The school seems to have declined, and the Records of the academy do not give the names of successive teachers, if any there were, for several years.

About twenty years after the building was completed and the academy was opened in the Center, a change was effected by the formation of a new company. A meeting of gentlemen interested in the education of their children, in a "good private school," was held, March 9, 1847, in the academy building. Henry Swift was chairman, and Wilder S. Thurston secretary. Mr. Swift explained the object of the meeting, and remarks were made by Messrs. Washburn, Lincoln, Whiting, Humphrey, King, Thurston, Shaw and Vose upon the expediency of the undertaking. The meeting resolved to purchase the building, if practicable, and to see how many shares would be taken by the company present, at \$25 per share. Sixteen shares were taken on the spot, and a committee, — John M. Washburn, Henry Swift and Dr. Lincoln — was chosen to procure subscriptions to purchase the building. Fifty shares were needed for buying the building. Rev. Charles Packard and ^{John H.} Capt. Shaw were added to the committee, who were requested to report "regulations for the government of this company."

At a meeting held one week later, the committee reported in favor of applying to the legislature for an act of incorporation. This was agreed upon, and the committee were directed to petition to be "allowed to hold real and personal estate to the value of twenty thousand dollars." Here follows a list of the original subscribers, with the number of their shares.

Henry Swift,	4 shares.	Orice King,	1 share.
Stedman Nourse,	1 "	Nathaniel Gage,	1 "
John H. Shaw,	1 "	J. M. Washburn,	2 "
Henry Lincoln,	1 "	S. J. S. Vose,	1 "

Joel W. Phelps,	1 share.	Josiah Fay,	1 share.
Charles Humphrey,	1 "	Wilder S. Thurston,	1 "
Thomas B. Warren,	1 "	G. R. M. Withington,	2 "
Ephraim C. Fisher,	1 "	Alanson Chase,	1 "
John G. Thurston,	2 "	George Stratton,	1 "
George Howard,	1 "	S. H. Turner,	1 "
Matthew F. Woods,	2 "	Charles Sawyer,	1 "
Charles Packard,	1 "	Samuel Carter,	1 "
Jacob Fisher,	3 "	Ephraim Fuller,	1 "
Luther Billings,	1 "	Henry Wilder,	2 "
Anthony Lane,	2 "	James Pitts & Co.,	1 "
Charles L. Wilder,	2 "	Hollis Davis,	1 "
Nathaniel Chandler,	2 "	John Bennett,	1 "
Ezra Sawyer,	2 "	Solon Whiting,	1 "
Sidney Harris.	1 "	Samuel A. Hastings,	1 "

Others soon became proprietors by purchasing shares of the original subscribers, or new shares. These were George M. Bartol, Jeremiah Moore, Jonas Goss, Dolly Chandler, G. F. Chandler, Peter T. Homer, Curtis P. Smith.

An act of incorporation, signed by Gov. George N. Briggs, April 7¹⁸⁴⁷, was obtained, which authorized the "Lancaster Academy to hold real and personal estate" amounting to \$25,000, which was to be devoted "exclusively to the purposes of education." This act was accepted, June 7, when an organization was effected, and a rule adopted that each proprietor, whatever his number of shares, should be entitled to only one vote. The following officers were chosen: Henry Swift, president; John M. Washburn, secretary; Charles Packard, John H. Shaw, John G. Thurston, Henry Wilder, Charles Humphrey, Ezra Sawyer, Henry Lincoln, trustees.

The president reported, August 23, that the academy building had been bought for \$1,100, when it was voted to put the house in order, and to procure a teacher. Rev. Charles Packard was chairman of the committee for the latter purpose. The building and lot were purchased of John Bennett, James Pitts and Moses Stow of Lancaster, and Joseph Whitney of Bolton.

The previous act of Incorporation dated Feb. 11 1828. had
perhaps lapsed by inaction of trustees.

(a) Mr Henry Coleman Kimball, late principal of the Westford Academy was teacher of the Centre School, and George W. Bigelow taught in the "Chapel" in Clintonville where the present High School is situated. \$1500 was appropriated for the two schools. - This subject has before been fully set forth on p. 509.

Kimball was graduate of Harvard 1840. He had lost one leg, having so injured the other in athletic sports while at Cambridge, as to render its amputation necessary to save his life. He died (a suicide?) 1894, being lost from a steamer on its way to Philadelphia from Boston. His body was recovered drifting upon Long Island shore.

The meeting in May, 1848, requested the trustees to "advertise for a teacher, and offer the use of the room rent-free, with such assurance of aid as they can obtain." Action was taken in June, looking to an arrangement with District No. 13, for procuring a teacher in connection with the district. In July a committee was chosen to obtain a teacher.

At a meeting, April 16, 1849, the committee having the care of the building were authorized to rent the upper rooms to the town for a year from the first of September, for sixty dollars, with the privilege of removing the partition, and erecting additional seats at the expense of the lessees. It appears from the Records that the committee, May 7, were authorized to grant the use of the upper rooms, on the same terms, to Mr. Henry C. Kimball, provided the town did not want them for the purpose of a high school. Turning to the town Records, we find, under date of June 11, that a vote was passed in favor of two high schools, one of which was to be in Clintonville, and the other in the Center, to be kept ten months. ^a Probably an arrangement was effected for that year, and perhaps Mr. Kimball was the teacher. The next year the town was divided, and its population being diminished about one-half, it was not required by law to sustain a high school.

The next year the use of the upper rooms was granted to a competent teacher, and the lower room to school district No. 11, for forty dollars. By the division of the town, districts No. 10 and 11 had been set off, and the old district No. 13 became No. 11, or the Center district. Mr. H. C. Kimball had the use of the upper rooms for a year from the first day of September, 1850. Mr. Kimball had charge of a school in the academy building for several years. In 1851 he had the free use of the upper rooms, besides the sum of twenty-five dollars for fuel and incidental expenses.

Efforts were made by some of the proprietors in 1851 and the year following, to sell the property and divide the proceeds, but without success. The rent of the lower rooms to

the district, brought into the treasury from forty to sixty dollars a year. In 1854 an arrangement was proposed with the town for the use of the lower rooms during five years, at an annual rent of sixty dollars, and fifteen per cent. on all moneys needed to improve the rooms; or for one hundred dollars per annum, the corporation making all necessary repairs and addition of furniture.

Several meetings were held in the year 1854 with reference to selling the academy building to the town, for the use of district No. 11, and finally it was voted to make the sale for the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars, with the following among other conditions, viz., "the upper rooms, together with the wood room below, or rooms of equal convenience and accommodation in the immediate vicinity, shall ever be reserved, rent-free, for a high school or academy, to be under the control of the trustees and their successors." This was passed by a vote of seventeen to fourteen, but the seventeen voters held only twenty-two shares, while the fourteen held twenty-seven shares.

November 15, at a meeting held this day the trustees were authorized and requested to "execute a deed of conveyance of the academy lot and building to the town of Lancaster," for school purposes. This was passed by a vote of eighteen to two. In consequence of this action, a vote was passed, April 16, 1855, authorizing the treasurer to pay the several shareholders \$26.28 on each share held by them.

a It is not necessary to recite the farther proceedings of the corporation, while it existed, or notice any changes in its organization. The use of the upper rooms of the academy was given to Mr. Kimball until 1861, a period of nearly fourteen years, when he withdrew, owing to the stringency of the times. The war of the rebellion was raging, one of the early effects of which was to withdraw scholars from private schools. Mr. Kimball was held in high esteem.

Mr. S. W. Hathaway was granted the free use of the "academy rooms and all the apparatus and privileges belong-

(a) Mr Kimball did not however use the rooms, during the later years of his stay, but taught in the upper hall of the Town House - Among his assistants were Levi S. Pembank, Miss Mary E. Stone, Prof. Herman Kensi, Elizabeth Fisher, H. S. Howle (1860) - Mr H. was Principal of the Town High School, 1849-50-51 & for a year or two before leaving Lancaster, was so considered, though the school was really not supported by general taxation, but by private subscriptions at the latter date.

a W. A. Kilbourn had as assistants-

1865. John Frowbridge & Anna St. Whitney

1866. Henry F. Russell & Wm. H. Merrill

1867 & 8. Henry F. Russell & Anna St. Whitney

Kilbourn was graduate of Harvard 1858 - Frowbridge of Harvard Scientific School 1865. Now adjunct Professor of Physics. Russell was a Harvard graduate, class of 1866.

x6

J. G. Carter kept his school in the "Pickman House" in 1828 & an assistant Miss Lewis, who afterwards became Mrs Joseph Willard, had a female department in the Popkin house, so called because once owned by Professor S. Popkin of Harvard College. H. W. S. Cleveland who went to school to him when he opened school in 1828 says he never "began in the house of Mr Miller on the old common".

Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte - graduate of Harvard 1826
Studied in Lancaster under ^{Jos. G. Carter as} private tutor for eight months to make up deficiencies in Greek &c. entering college Feb. 1823. Again, being rusticated, he lived here during August, September & October 1824 & Madame Bonaparte came here to reside with her son. (See Didi's Life & Letters of Madame Bonaparte 1879) pp. 109, 111, 117, 156 & 7. Jerome boarded with the Savage family awhile & afterwards with Solomon Carter.

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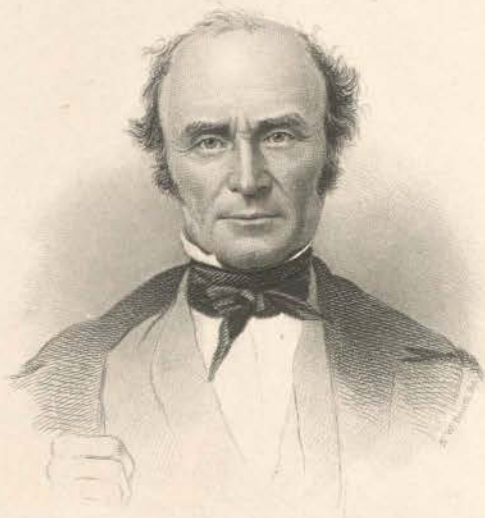
ham

Cham

1770

r





J. G. Carter

Born in Leominster Sept. 7. 1795.
Died in Chicago Ill. July 22. 1849

ing thereto," by a vote passed April 18, 1862. Mr. Edward Houghton had a similar privilege.

In 1863, October 6, Mr. William A. Kilbourn was granted the free use of the academy, and also fifty dollars for the year beginning on the first day of December. A similar grant of money had been made to Mr. Kimball. Mr. Kilbourn had charge of the academy until the winter of 1872-3, and conducted it with vigor and success. At a meeting, May 30, 1870, it was voted to "tender the use of the upper room in the academy building to the school committee." At the town meeting on the seventh of March preceding, a vote was passed to send scholars properly qualified to the Lancaster academy, under the charge of Mr. Kilbourn. The academy had now the use of the upper town hall, and the town had the use of the upper rooms in the academy building, by a mutual arrangement. The academy and high school were united two or three years, when the academy corporation was dissolved, by a vote passed on the first of March, 1873. Since then the town has maintained a free high school.

THE SCHOOL OF HON. JAMES G. CARTER.

Mr. Carter took his degree, with high honors, at Harvard in 1820, and soon entered upon his work as an educator. ~~(He began in the house of Mr. Wilder, on the Old Common, but soon came to the Center, and~~ opened his school in the Popkin house, (now the barn of Wm. H. McNeil). He soon proved himself "worthy of the family name of Rev. Thomas Carter, of whom Gov. Winthrop said, 'he was apt to teach.' He gathered around him, as pupils, a family of young men. They were boys who needed, for a time, a closer supervision than the college faculty could give. Some of them were of southern birth, and these especially taxed his wisdom and patience to the utmost."

The statistics of his school are not at hand, but it is known that he gave special attention to his scholars four or five years,

(a) when he became interested in other literary and educational work. However, he taught, with the assistance of others, several years longer, while giving attention to other pursuits of a private and public nature.

He had no connection with it, but kept a record of school.

Mr. Carter took an active part in the plan for removing the academy from the Old Common to the Center in 1825, and for a time had the principal care of the institution. Besides, his general influence in favor of a higher condition of the schools, was very great.

"For more than twenty years," says one who holds his memory sacred, "young men at the most critical point in their history, were placed under his influence, and to him many a useful and honorable life owes its success."

The personal influence of Mr. Carter over his pupils was peculiar. Says one of his pupils, "it was never his habit to reprove the boys in each other's presence, but they always felt that the master's eye was on them. The power of the eye in discipline, was a vital point in his educational system. A tremendous force lay in his steady, searching glance. It was like the touch of Ithuriel's spear; before it all false and contemptible things shrank to their true proportions."

?

b

PROF. WILLIAM RUSSELL'S NORMAL SCHOOL.

In the year 1853, May 11, the "New England Normal Institute" was opened, on which occasion an address was delivered by Prof. Russell, stating the origin and design of the school. He had been engaged as an educator for many years, and stood in the front rank of his profession. A Normal Institute had been started by him in New Hampshire, but he was induced by flattering prospects to undertake a new enterprise in Massachusetts. The public spirit of the citizens induced him to select this town as the seat of the institution. There were already two or three Normal schools in the state, but it was believed that an institution of higher grade would meet a general want.

John Percie D.D. in his diary [see Mass Hist. Soc. Proceedings, Jan'y 1870] records of the commencement parts of 1820: "Carter, in opposing the right of legislative bodies to provide by law for the support of religion, was supposed to evince greater intellect than any performer on the occasion."

James Gordon Carter in 1826 went to Boston & assumed charge of the Literary Gazette, In 1827 he married & settled in Lancaster Harvard College often lent his pupils to him & this as late as 1843 - William H. Brooks, a graduate of Harvard 1827. was associated with him in editing various text books, and took charge of the school, then kept in the Hanson House (1830-7) so called. Among many students who are remembered as attending this boarding school, now was more noted in his day for uproarious mischief than Dick Taylor, afterwards Confederate General. For a series of years the pranks of "Brooks's Students" furnished an important part of the village gossip. A mock duel, in which ^(Spear) one of the principals was dead in earnest, and the blowing out one side of the "gun house" at midnight by firing one of the cannons, were two of the most notorious of their attempts to relieve the monotony of Lancaster quietude.

Very brief mention is made elsewhere of Dr. Carl Fiedhof - or as he preferred to call himself Dr. Charles Fiedhof. He kept a boarding school for boys in the Stewart House, now in the Industrial School grounds on the Old Common. He came here in 1857 from Newton Centre where he had a similar school. In Germany he had been Rector of a Gymnasium. His sons & daughters assisted in the school, which was not very flourishing, & was abandoned after three years experience. See p 673 & note.

Rev. M. C. Stebbins had a private school for boys in the Hanson House, & a mixed school in the upper rooms of the Town Hall 1859-60. He continued his boys school some years later until his removal from town - 1865.

In the mock duel Spear & Barclay (a Southerner) were the principals. Dick Taylor a prime warrior. Spear was the dufer. The pistols were loaded with powder only, & Barclay made believe not to be wounded. But Spear was so cowardly though dufer, won all the glory there was in the affair.

1827-30 + 1837-42 (He was principal of Salem High School) or Pickman House first in Hanson House 1837-1842

material for

affair

(a) This list is quite incomplete. Louis Agassiz lectured before the Institute. Osgood Collette was instructor in music. Algonon P. Chittuck in Penmanship. George S. Houghton taught mathematics; Levi W. Russell Rhetoric & Elocutions. and Levi S. Burbank assisted Sanborn Tenney in the Dept. of Natural History. The Records of the School with Catalogues Circulars &c. are to be found in Lancaster Library. The author gives no clue here to the location of the school rooms. The upper story of the town hall was granted for the use of the Institute.

b. This apologetic antithesis is mere impertinence. The scholarly enthusiasm, large literary attainments, & Christian character of Prof. Russell were undisputed, & gain nothing from such labored ~~explanation~~ of a business failure. The scheme had too much of the ideal in it. & lived as long as enterprises of a visionary character, unadulterated with "hard common sense", usually do live. - (Three Summers)

-A charter for the South Lancaster Academy association has been obtained by the Seventh-day Advents with a capital of \$75,000. The following officers have been elected: President, S. N. Haskell; treasurer, C. W. Farnsworth; secretary, D. A. Robinson; trustees, S. N. Haskell, D. A. Robinson, J. C. Tucker, C. L. Palmer, C. W. Cummings, G. H. Bell, C. W. Farnsworth. Dec. 1883

The school started under the most favorable auspices, with an able and accomplished corps of teachers, and an encouraging number of scholars. The following gentlemen and ladies were in the list of instructors: Prof. Russell, principal; Dana P. Colburn, ^{mathematics} Henry C. Kimball, ^{classics} Herman Krüsi, ^{modern languages} Sanborn Tenney, William J. Whitaker, ^{drawing} Mrs. C. T. Symmes and Miss Anna U. Russell, besides assistant teachers and occasional lecturers. Among the lecturers were Lowell Mason, Calvin Cutter, Prof. S. S. Green and Francis T. Russell.

There were about eighty scholars during the first term. The total number for the academic year 1853-4, was one hundred and thirty-nine. These came from towns in all parts of the state, and from seven or eight different states.

Such a school was an honor to the place, and a benefit to the commonwealth. But it was soon brought to an end. Perhaps its success hastened its close. The state was stimulated to raise the standard of attainment in the Normal schools. In this way the necessity for the "Institute" was removed, and as a private enterprise it could not compete with public institutions. The ground was cut from under the Institute and it ceased to be in the autumn of 1855. But it had wrought a good work whose influence will be felt, far and wide, for a long time to come. It demonstrated what a Normal school should and might be, and raised the standard of education in public schools of every grade, as well as in academies and other private seminaries. Thus this apparent failure was one of the most fruitful efforts of Prof. Russell's noble and beneficent life.

There have been other private schools in the town, of different grades, and taught by competent teachers. But sufficient space has been given to the subject, and other matters are pressing for room. It may be truly said that in recent times, the public schools, including the primary, grammar and high schools, are so good that there is little call for private instruction.

CHAPTER XXII.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

PRIVATE libraries, as the words are here used, include those belonging to individuals, and those which are formed by a company clubbing together, and using the books in common. The volumes may be used exclusively by the owners, or let out at a small price, per day, or week, or month. By a public library is meant one which belongs to a parish, church, town, or city, the volumes of which are circulated, without charge, among the families composing those bodies.

The first library of which any trace is found in the annals of the town, was the property of the first minister, Rev. Joseph Rowlandson. No catalogue of it remains, but it is believed to have been respectable in the number and value of its volumes. Being a man of some culture and taste, it is safe to assume that he enjoyed good books. In order to sustain himself twenty years in the ministerial office in the same parish, he must have had some resources besides his native sense. Living remote from other towns, he must have depended mainly on his own library for works needed in the preparation of his discourses.

His parishioners probably had little leisure, even if they had the taste for reading. Every family had its bible and psalm book, and some religious reading besides. Probably some brought volumes of sermons and other works, like Fox's Martyrs, from England. We can easily believe that such a man as Major Willard, though his life was filled with business, both private and public, would have a shelf or two of valuable works in his house, relating to religion, history and biography.

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 In 1731 the town voted that Samuel Willard's Complete
 Body of Divinity should be bought and kept "in the meeting-
 house for the towns use, so that any person may come
 and read therein as often as they shall see cause".
 This was a public library, though excluded by Mr
 Marvin's careless definition. There are public reference
 libraries as well as circulating

(a) The fact that at his death in 1678, he had collected a
 library valued at 82^l, a very costly one for the times,
 would indicate his fondness for books. Mather in his
 Magnalia speaks of the burning of his "goods and books",
 at the Destruction of Lancaster, so that we have a right
 to infer his loss in this respect was a considerable one.
 John Harvard's noted library contained only 320 volumes
 & Negokin's was appraised at 300^l -

1698	In Rev. John Whitings inventory,	his "books" were appraised at	7 ^l 14 ^s
1693.	" " Samuel Carter's	" " "	15 ^l 10 ^s
	" " " "	" " "	1 ^l 10
1681.	In John Prescott's	" " "	1 ^l 10 ^s
1670.	" William Kerly's	" " "	1 ^l
1667.	" Thomas Wilder's	" " "	1 ^l 10 ^s
1677.	" Jacob Farrar's	" " "	12 ^l 12 ^s 6 ^d
1747	" Dr. John Dunsmoor's	" " "	53 ^l 8 ^s 3 ^d .
1748	" Rev. John Prentices	" " "	

Reverend Timothy Harrington's (1795)

Library - see his inventory. Worcester, Ry.

Bible
McKnight's Harmony
Doddridge's Expositions 6 vols.
Doddridge's Lectures
Baileys Dictionary
Ball's Power of Godliness
Watts Sermons
Beunets Christian Oration
Gordons Geography
Latin & Hebrew Psalms 2 v.
Turnbull's Moral Philosophy
Groves Lord's Supper
Prideaux History of the Bible, 4 v.
Amersons Remonstrance
Calvins Institutes of Religion
Kennets Roman Antiquities
Bions Works
Ciceros Orations
Traills Sermons
Homer's Iliad
Simplicius Commentary
Worthies of England
Regius of Parnassus.

Coudens Concordance
Confessions of faith, Moral Essays
Horace
Salmons English Nability
Euclids Elements
Dialogues on Eloquence
Gullivers Memoirs
Juvenal
Parable of Ten Virgins
Dr Mayhews Sermons
Dr Withins Natural Religion
Traps Trinity
Channings State of Religion
Latin Bible
Latin Grammar
Greek and Latin Testament
Princes Chronology
Flavels Works
Scott's Christian Life
Willard's Body of Divinity
History of the Church of Scotland
Perkins Works
Lord Chesterfields Exposition
Poles Synopsis, Latin 5 vols.
Theological Works, Latin 2 vols.

(a) Willard names also Joshua Atherton Attorney Gen^l. NH
Rufus Chandler, Nathaniel Chandler.

The Rev. John Whiting and the Rev. Andrew Gardner were "university men," or graduates of "old Harvard," and without doubt, owned and used books in Latin, Greek and Hebrew, besides a commentary, a body of divinity, volumes of sermons and other works in different branches of reading or study. The next minister, Mr. Prentice, must have had a respectable collection of books. Mr. Hancock in his funeral sermon says, that "God gave him the tongue of the learned." As that gift of God is always conveyed to a man through the use of his own faculties in studying the works of God and the writings of other men, the inference is warranted that Mr. Prentice was familiar with valuable works in sacred and secular literature. Like other ministers in early times, he gave instruction to the young men who were preparing for college, as well as to other young men and women who desired to proceed farther in their studies than could be done in the town schools. Before his decease there were several families in the town—Wilders, Willards, Houghtons and others—who were above the average in cultivation and intelligence. The elder Joseph Wilder was a judge, and his son Joseph was rising in reputation as a public man. Col. Samuel Willard was prominent in the colony, and his three sons who resided here, Abijah, Abel and Levi, were all men of ability and information. Abel was a highly respected lawyer. Doubtless their houses contained many volumes of substantial, though few of light reading.

The Rev. Timothy Harrington was a man of letters. He read and taught the classics. The testimony of his survivors warrants the conclusion that he was familiar with a large range of literature. As there was no library nearer than Cambridge, his chief supply of reading must have been in his study. Among his students was Mr. Samuel Locke, afterwards a minister, and president of Harvard college. His influence was in favor of liberal culture, and a generation grew up around him who were interested in good books. Just before the close of his ministry a library was formed, which proved

that there was a reading class in the town, and which served to promote a wider and deeper interest in the better grade of literature.

THE LANCASTER LIBRARY.

On the fourth of October, 1790, there was a meeting of the Proprietors of the Lancaster Library, over which Dea. Cyrus Fairbank presided. Timothy Whiting, jr., Esq., was clerk. A committee of five was chosen to frame by-laws, and report a list of books to be purchased. The members of the committee were Israel Atherton, Esq., Capt. Samuel Ward, Lt.-Col. John Whiting, William Stedman, Esq., and Timothy Whiting, jr., Esq.

This committee reported on the eighteenth, and the "Regulations" which they recommended were adopted. The preamble will bear perusal. It reads as follows: "We the subscribers to the following Articles, being sensible that a general diffusion of knowledge has a tendency, not only to promote individual happiness, but to strengthen the bonds of society, by making 'man mild and sociable with man; And it being incumbent on us as members of a free and independent community, to use our endeavors to preserve the liberty, freedom and happiness we enjoy; and convinced that we cannot effect this in a more eligible way than by enlarging our minds with such useful knowledge as will best serve to increase our estimation of such invaluable blessings, — Do for the purpose aforesaid, severally and reciprocally promise and agree to and with each other that we will associate ourselves together, and purchase a *Library*, to be denominated Lancaster Library, and to consist of such Books as we shall in future agree to purchase under the regulations hereafter expressed, which regulations we solemnly promise to observe and keep."

This preamble is followed by twenty-one Articles which provide for the election of officers, the purchase and custody of books, and their circulation among the proprietors. The library was always to be kept within a mile and a half of the

Doctor William Dunsen's Library, as set forth
in his inventory at Worcester Registry. (1784.)

1 Large Folio Bible with cuts.

Henry Mower agst Deism.

Robert Morda's Sermons 5 vols.

Burn's Justice, abridged.

Bailey's Dictionary

Perry's Theatre of Physick 2 vols.

Huxham on Feavers

Brown's Art of Physick

Allen's Synopsis

Shaw's practice of Physick.

Salmon's Practical Physick.

The Marrow of Surgery

John Dayrell in Vindication of the Church.

Snake in the Grass. 3 vols.

Tate and Brady's Psalms.

Bundle of Magazines and Pamphlets

Yoricks Sermons 2 vols.

Humphrey Clinker 3 vols

The Devil on two sticks

Chapman's Letters.

"Original" proprietors? no! if by that is meant those of 1790. For instance William Cleveland did not become a resident of Lancaster until 1804, and several others were but boys in 1790.

meeting-house. A person could become a proprietor by being elected by a two-thirds vote, and paying three dollars, at least, and signing the articles of agreement. A proprietor living within five miles could keep a book six weeks; between five and ten miles, three months; upwards of ten miles, four months. A fine of two pence for every day beyond the time was levied.

Many will be gratified by seeing a list of the original proprietors, as it includes a large proportion of the leading families in the town, at the time, as well as some from other towns, including Rindge, N. H.

Samuel Ward,	Richard Haven,	Nath ^r . Willard,
Timothy Whiting, jr.,	Cyrus Fairbank,	Robert Phelps,
Daniel Stearns,	Israel Atherton,	Thomas Legate, jr., <i>of Lisminster</i>
Benjamin Wyman,	Jonathan Whitney,	Robert Townshend,
David Phelps,	Edm. Heard,	Joel Phelps,
Jonas Lane,	Eben'r Torrey,	Joseph Rogers,
Michael Newhall,	Ephraim Carter, jr.,	Amos Farrington,
Isaac Fisher,	John Maynard,	Isaac Willard,
Joseph Wales,	John Whiting,	John Wilder,
Nathaniel Wyman,	Levi Holden, <i>Wilder</i>	Edward Goodwin,
Edward Clarke,	Jona. Wilder,	Sam'l J. Sprague,
Jeremiah Ballard,	Henry Haskell,	W. Cleveland.
Nathaniel Eaton,	Jonas Fairbank, jr.,	John Carter, jr.,
Samuel Rugg,	Joseph Carter,	Charles Bridge, jr.,
Elisha Allen, <i>of Princeton</i>	William Wilder,	John Goodwin,
John Thurston,	Josiah Flagg,	William Bridge,
William Stedman, <i>Eli</i>	Ch. Carter,	Titus Wilder, jr.,
Asa Warner,	Jona. Prescott,	Joseph Leach,
Seth Payson, <i>of Rindge</i>	Paul Willard,	John White, jr.,
Daniel Goss,	Thomas Ballard, ~	Seth Sergeant.
Catharina G. Hickling.	Jacob Fisher,	Moses Smith, jr.,
Josiah Bowers,	Joseph W. Page,	John Prentiss,
Pearson Thurston,	Eli Stearns,	Joel Wilder,
John Ballard,	John Prescott, jr.,	Moses Rice.
Thad. Pollard, <i>of Harvard</i>	Benja ^r . Houghton.	

The company was organized by the choice of the following officers, giving names and titles, Mr. Joseph Wales, librarian; Mr. Ebenezer Torrey, treasurer; Timothy Whiting, jr., ^{clerk} clerk;

Lt.-Col. Edmund Heard, Lt.-Col. John Whiting, Mr. Josiah Flagg, committee. The Rev. Mr. Harrington, and the master of the Latin grammar school for the time being, were by annual vote, allowed the free use of the library. The same privilege was given to Rev. Mr. Thayer, after his settlement.

The first list of books comprises sixty works, but the number of volumes is not given. It was probably above one hundred, as it included Addison's *Spectator* in eight volumes, and the historical works of Gibbon, Hume, Rollin, Robertson, Voltaire, Catherine Macaulay, and John Adams' *Defence of American Constitutions*. It was really a choice collection, containing one or more of the works of the following authors: Milton, Cowper, Pope, Gay, Thomson, Young, Barlow, Dwight, Goldsmith, Sterne, Mason, Blair, Richardson, Beccaria, Brydone, Montesquieu, Ferguson, Lady Mary Wortley Montague, Price, John Adams, Jefferson's *Notes on Virginia*, Dr. Morse's *Geography* and others. The first bill for books after deducting "ten per cent. for part, and five per cent. for part," was £38-13-2. American history was not neglected, as shown, by the purchase, at first, or later, of Ramsay's *American Revolution*, Hutchinson's *Massachusetts*, Belknap's *New Hampshire*, Williams' *Vermont*, Trumbull's *Connecticut*. Volumes of sermons and other religious works added value to the library.

In 1792 these works were added: *The Man of Feeling*, *The Lounger*, *The Mirror*, *Evelina*, *Man of the World*, and *Children's Friend*. Miss Burney was then in the full glow of her reputation, and her novels were eagerly read, not only by the crowd of novel readers, but by such men as Burke and Johnson, with delight. Mr. Torrey, the treasurer, was also authorized to subscribe for the *Encyclopædia*, which came in numbers.

It would be needless to give the annals of the Lancaster Library from year to year. There were changes in the membership by additions and removals, and changes in the officers by election; there were frequent additions to the library by

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purchase or gift, and occasionally volumes were sold or exchanged for others more desirable. For example, the meeting in 1795 voted that the standing committee should "exchange Smollett's History of England for other books, giving a preference to those included in the catalogue of books to be purchased, and those on the subject of Divinity." The reason for dropping Smollett is not given, but perhaps it is to be found in that elaborate dulness which is so unlike the vivacity, sense and wit of his novels.

Forty-eight volumes were bought in 1797, among which were Hunter's Biography in ~~three~~⁶ volumes; Addison's Evidences, Watts on the Mind, Paley's Philosophy, and Evidences of Christianity, Baron Trenck, Life of Franklin, and Goldsmith's Poems. In some years there were purchased as much as forty dollars worth of books.

In the year 1800, "seven of the proprietors of the library, *in Lancaster in said county.*" desirous of forming themselves and associates into a society or body politic, for the express purposes of holding, increasing, preserving and using such library," requested William Stedman, Esq., a justice of the peace, to grant a warrant to some one of them, directing him to call a meeting of the proprietors; for the purpose of reorganizing. The subscribers were John Whiting, Samuel Ward, Ebenezer Torrey, John Ballard, Josiah Bowers, Edward Goodwin and Joseph Wales. By this operation the Lancaster Library was changed to the "Social Library," at a meeting held May 5, 1800, when Israel Atherton was called to the chair. Thanks were voted to Dea. Wales for his services as their clerk and librarian for the last ten years. Josiah Flagg was chosen clerk and librarian; Ebenezer Torrey, treasurer; Eli Stearns, collector. The standing committee elected were Jonathan Wilder, Josiah Bowers, Edward Goodwin. An assessment of twenty-five cents on each share was levied. The Records show however, that the title of Lancaster Library was occasionally used.

Among the volumes added in 1801 were Lathrop's Sermons, Whitby's Discourses, and Camilla, by Miss Burney.

The next year these were bought, besides other valuable works, viz., Campbell on Miracles, Mrs. Chapone's Letters, Volney's Travels and Lectures on History, Winthrop's Journal, and Hannah More's Strictures on Female Education.

A new set of regulations and by-laws was adopted in 1805, which are of no interest now, and probably were of little consequence at the time, it being one of the amusements of societies of the kind to tamper and fuss with their constitution and laws. A matter of much more serious importance was the laying of taxes, and the collecting of those unpaid. In 1811 an examination brought out the fact that the "unpaid taxes" between 1804 and 1811 amounted to more than forty dollars. The income, however, enabled the committee to make valuable additions to the library in 1812, such as Clark's Travels in Russia, Turkey, etc., and Silliman's Travels, both works of great interest at the time, and still readable, Marshall's Life of Washington, and works of Hannah More and Mrs. Opie. In the years following Shakespeare's Works were purchased, and the Novels and Poems of Sir Walter Scott, as they appeared.

(a) ^ In 1823 it was voted to allow the account of the clerk and librarian, and the policy of paying him for his services was endorsed. Ten dollars was the compensation for two years. By this time many of the generation who instituted the library had passed away, but their successors appear to have supported it vigorously by making additions of standard as well as less durable works. The North American Review, Blackwood's Magazine, and other periodicals of the first class were taken. By degrees, as new authors became conspicuous, their writings were obtained. Prescott, Dickens, Irving, Bulwer, Allison, and Stevens the traveler, furnished a large quantity of choice reading. Taken as a whole the collection was of a high order of literature for general perusal. It reflected credit on the community which could be interested by it, and it could not fail to raise the tone of thought and sentiment in proportion as it was read.

(a) In 1821 was an association called the Lancaster Reading Room each member paying \$5 per year. It had 300 volumes in 1826.

In 1828 the Lancaster Social Library was kept at the store of Horatio & George Carter - then in the brick building nearly opposite the Lancaster House



At length in 1850, for some cause unrecorded, the company ceased to be, and the books were sold at auction. The whole number sold was about one thousand and twenty. The price obtained per volume was small compared with the cost or the value of the works, but as they were purchased in great measure, by the owners of the library, the loss was of no account, and the books went into families where they supplied the next generation with a generous and nourishing mental pabulum.

SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARIES.

Before the Social Library was scattered, a new enterprise was started which resulted in the opening of hundreds of small libraries in different sections of the commonwealth. The plan was to have a small but choice library in every school district. It is not known how extensively this plan was carried out, but it is certain that a large number of towns employed these auxiliaries to the system of public instruction. Lancaster was in this list of towns, and ^{all} some of its districts, at least, had libraries of their own. See p. 505 note.

For example, the old third district, according to the ancient book of Records, whose first date is December 1, 1800, availed itself of this aid. The first minute relating to the district library is under the date of August 21, 1844, and reads as follows: "Chose B. Whittemore, C. Atherton and C. Studley a committee to report rules and regulations for the library." The rules having been reported, they were adopted by the meeting. They need not be recited, as they simply provided for the custody, circulation and security of the books. The circulation was confined to the district, unless by special permission, they were allowed to go beyond its bounds. Sometimes districts whose libraries consisted of different works, made an exchange, and thus doubled their facilities for good reading. The selection was judicious, having been recommended by those who knew the wants of the public in the line of miscellaneous literature. The "Family Library" so

called, well remembered by elderly people, was a component part of many school libraries.

This arrangement lasted in district No. 3, until the year 1859, when it was "voted to sell the Library at auction, Monday evening, March 9, at 6 o'clock, and the proceeds to go for paying in part for the outline maps, and varnishing the same." This last item indicates the time when outline maps were introduced, and hung upon the walls of school-rooms. It was a starting point in the better study of maps. The action of the third district may be taken as an example of what was done in other districts of the town. By this means an entertaining and useful kind of reading was supplied to families in all sections of Lancaster.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

Before the district libraries were sold and scattered, the churches had begun to supply the children and youth with a new species of literature, under the name of Sunday or Sabbath school books. These books are well printed and handsomely illustrated. With some exceptions, the reading is of a wholesome character, tending to promote the religious education of the young. Probably the books of this kind which have been read, worn out and given away by our Sunday school libraries, would amount to several thousand. The library of the First and the Evangelical Sunday school, each numbers between two and three hundred.

THE AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY.

About twenty-five or thirty years since, there was an awakened interest in the business of agriculture, horticulture and landscape gardening. At that time agricultural libraries were established in many towns. The same set of works formed the bulk of these collections. Lancaster had a library of the kind. At first owned by individuals, it was afterwards given to the town, and became a part of the public library. The number of volumes was above one hundred and fifty, includ-

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ing thirty-six volumes of Massachusetts and United States Agricultural Reports.

This was a valuable collection of books, as will appear by the following list of authors: Liebig, G. P. Marsh, H. Colman, J. F. W. Johnson, ^t~~D~~^o~~o~~^d, Langstroth, C. L. Flint, Nichols, Donald G. Mitchel, ~~Stephens~~, Buel, Fessenden, Breck, Downing, Emerson, Olmsted, and others.

LIBRARY CLUB OF LANCASTER.

The Social Library was dissolved in 1850, but as there was a need of something of the kind, a new organization was effected the next year which took the name of the LIBRARY CLUB OF LANCASTER. The preliminary meeting was held at the town-house, December 1, 1851, with Henry Wilder in the chair, and Henry C. Kimball as secretary. A committee of three—Henry Lincoln, J. L. S. Thompson and H. C. Kimball—was chosen to request some magistrate to call a legal meeting, and also to prepare a code of by-laws, for the association. Accordingly George R. M. Withington, Esq., issued a warrant, under which a meeting was held on the seventeenth of December. Dr. Lincoln called the meeting to order, when John M. Washburn was chosen moderator, and C. A. Rand, clerk. It was voted that those present should "become a corporation under the provisions of the law in such cases made and provided." A code of by-laws to the number of fifteen, was adopted. H. C. Kimball was elected secretary and sworn into office. A paper containing the names of twenty-four signers was read, each signer pledging the sum of three dollars annually. After appointing a committee to nominate a list of officers and a book committee, the meeting adjourned.

Monday, December 22, the Club met, and placing Mr. Henry Wilder in the chair, proceeded to the choice of officers, as follows. President, Henry Wilder; Vice-president, J. L. S. Thompson; Treasurer and Collector, Julius H. Siedhof. The following were the first committee for the purchase.

of books. Rev. George M. Bartol, Rev. Charles Packard, Henry Lincoln, M. D. and H. C. Kimball, the secretary, and Miss Mary G. Chandler. Then follows a list of the original members, with their own signatures.

George M. Bartol, <i>(Rev)</i>	Samuel J. S. Vose,
Charles Packard, <i>(Rev)</i>	Emily Leighton,
Henry Lincoln, <i>(Dr)</i>	Jacob Fisher,
H. C. Kimball,	<i>(Mrs)</i> H. L. Thurston,
Julius H. Siedhof,	J. Forbush, of Bolton.
Francis F. Hussey,	<i>(Mrs)</i> S. B. Dodge,
Christopher A. Rand,	Sarah A. Lane,
C. T. Symmes,	J. E. Edwards, <i>(Rev)</i>
J. L. S. Thompson, <i>(Dr)</i>	<i>(Miss)</i> C. Sweetser,
Henry Wilder.	Mrs P. T. Homer,
The following joined soon after.	John M. Washburn,
C. L. Wilder,	<i>Miss</i> Mary G. Chandler,
G. R. M. Withington,	Eliza Ann Walton.

The same officers were chosen at the next annual meeting, with the following book committee, Rev. Messrs. Packard and Bartol, and Mary G. Chandler.

At a meeting held, January 8, 1853, it was provided that an "inventory be kept by the librarian of the cost of all books purchased for the library, and of the time when they are purchased;" also that the book committee should procure a book in which a list of the books purchased, and at what price, should be kept. The meeting discussed the question of establishing a "Natural History Association in connection with the Library," after which it was moved by Mr. Bartol that a "committee of three be appointed to ascertain the expenses necessary for commencing, and to suggest a plan for further action." The motion was adopted, and Messrs. Bartol, Wilder and Thompson were chosen.

The first gift of books to the new library was made by C. Gayton Pickman, Esq., of Boston, but formerly a resident of Lancaster, and owner of the estate now belonging to Mrs. Elmina ^MGreene. He presented the "Works of Daniel Webster in six volumes." This was the edition prepared by the Hon. Edward Everett.

? owner, as Paul was of "his own, hired house"

a. The treasure was not Dr Sieckhof-
but his son - see p. 547.

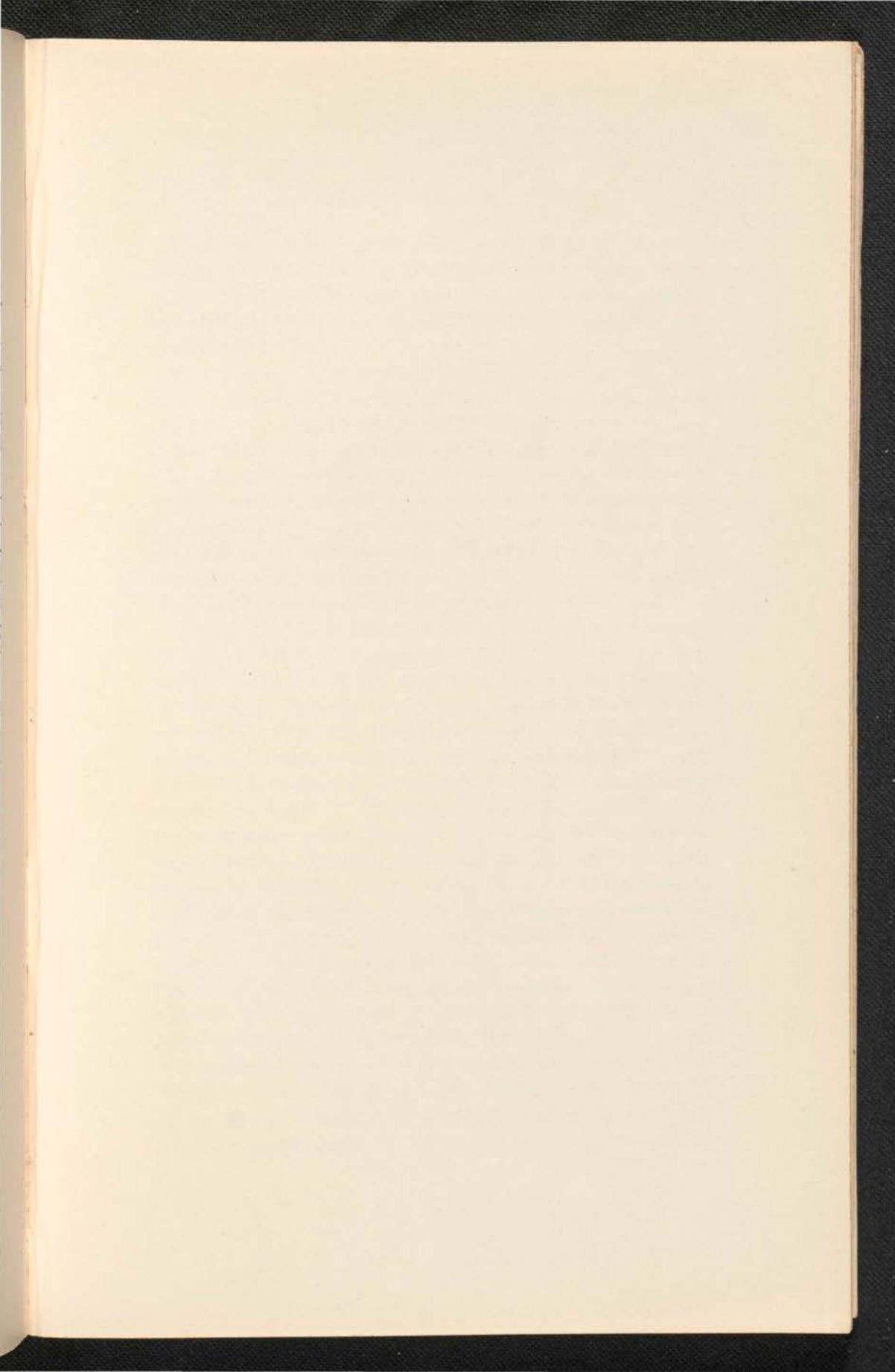
The first annual report was made at the meeting in the early part of 1853, but was confined to proceedings previous to November 29, of the preceding year. At that time there were twenty-five members, all of whom except the librarian, Mr. Vose, had paid an assessment of three dollars. As the librarian provided a room and gave his services, he was not assessed. The sum of \$73.38, including \$1.38 in fines, had been received into the treasury, and \$58.30 had been expended for books and periodicals. As showing the character of the library, the following list of periodicals, and the titles of some of the books are given. North American Review, Silliman's Journal of Science and Arts, Edinburg, North British, Westminster and London Quarterly Reviews, Blackwood's Magazine, and Horticulturist. Among the books were Lake Superior, by Agassiz and Cabot; Young's Chronicles of the Pilgrims; Young's Chronicles of the First Planters of Massachusetts; Life and Correspondence of Southey; Irving's Columbus, Sketch Book, and other works; Life of Franklin by Sparks; Old Red Sandstone, by Hugh Miller; Earth and Man, by Guyot; Life and Letters of Lord Jeffrey, and Parkman's Conspiracy of Pontiac. The number of volumes purchased was thirty-five; the number given, was sixty-seven. Among the donors were Henry Wilder, Mary G. Chandler, George M. Bartol, Charles L. Wilder, Capt. Hussey, Dr. Thompson, G. R. M. Withington and H. C. Kimball, besides several from members of congress and other men in public life.

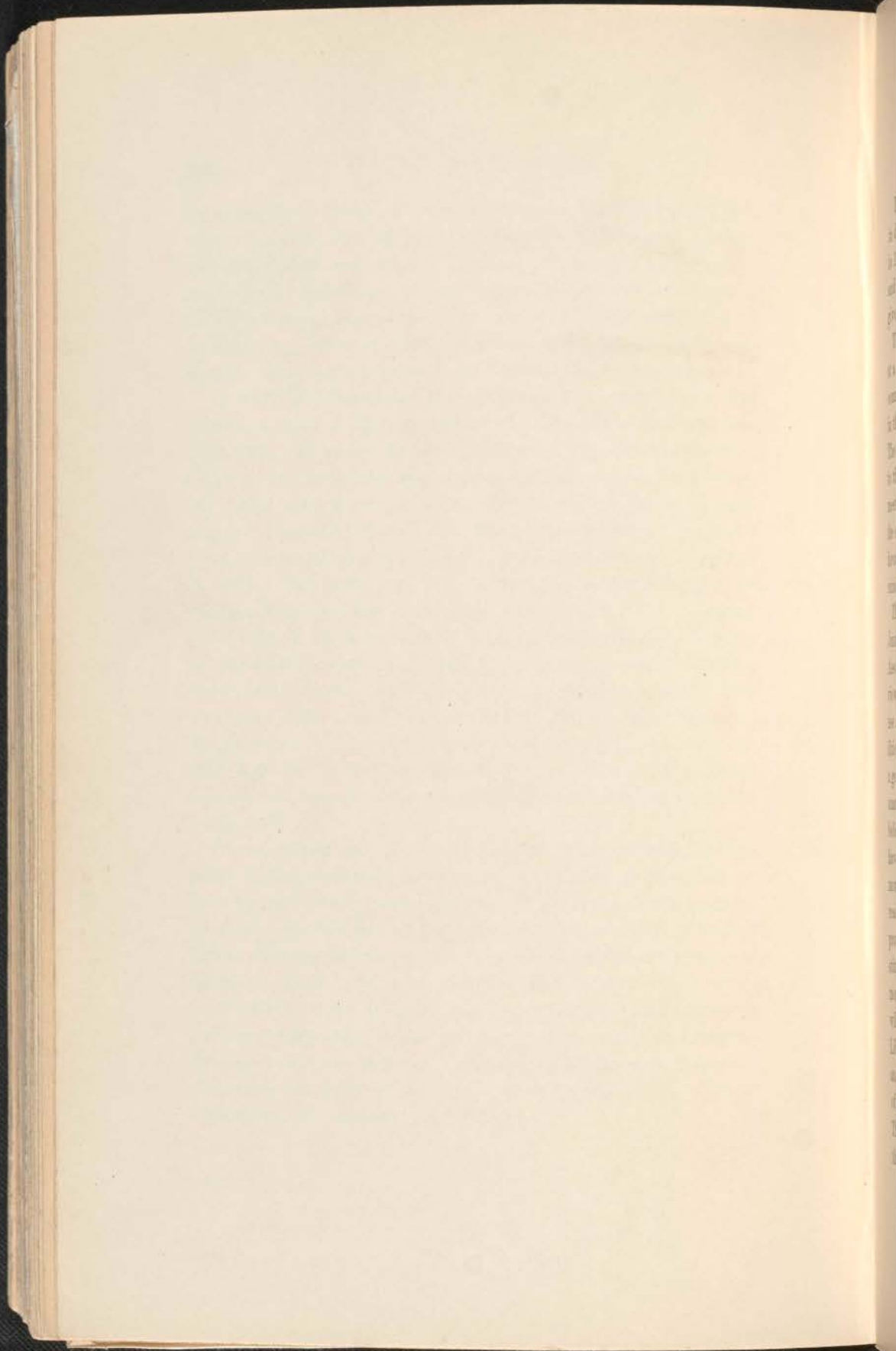
The officers were re-elected, December, 1853, with the exception that ~~Dr. Siedhof~~ ceased to be treasurer, and Mr. Kimball took both offices of secretary and treasurer. Mr. Kimball was added to the book committee. Provision was made for printing one hundred copies of the catalogue, and it was voted that any person might have the "benefit of the library by paying one dollar per quarter." The committee voted the addition of several new works of great value, such as Macaulay's England, 2 volumes; Sparks' Life of Washington;

Frothingham's *Siege of Boston*; *Crayon Miscellany* and five other works by Irving; *Natural History of Selborne*, Longfellow's *Poems*, and others. Quite a number of volumes were received by donation; among others, ninety-six numbers of *Littell's Living Age*, from Rev. G. M. Bartol; eight bound volumes of *Niles' Weekly Register*, from Dr. Lincoln, and *Harris' Report on Insects*, from the secretary of state.

In 1854 Dr. Thompson was librarian, and continued in that charge as long as the Club existed. Rev. Mr. Packard had left town, and ceased to be a member of the book committee. Otherwise it remained the same. The officers were unchanged. And here it may be stated that Messrs. Wilder, Thompson and Kimball retained the offices of president, vice-president, and secretary and treasurer, until the Club was dissolved in 1862. The same was true of the book committee, except that the librarian, Dr. Thompson, was added in 1857. Among the works in 1854 were five volumes of Bancroft's *History of the United States*; *Works of Addison* in five volumes; *Household Words*, eight volumes; *Boswell's Johnson*, two volumes; *Life and Works of Robert Burns*, four volumes; the *Poetical Works of Campbell and Rogers*, each one volume, and the *Autobiography of Hugh Miller*. The whole number of bound volumes amounted to two hundred and forty-one.

At a meeting held February 2, 1855, it was moved that the price of shares should be twelve dollars, paid at one time, or in successive yearly subscriptions. Proprietors of more shares than one, should have a vote for each share, not exceeding three; but no member could vote while indebted for assessments or fines. At a meeting in November, 1856, these propositions were adopted, with the addition that transient readers might take books at twenty-five cents per quarter. Subsequently the price was put at fifty cents, and Saturday afternoon was fixed as the time for taking out books. Three dollars was the assessment for 1857.





The farther history of the Library Club need not be given in detail. A few items will be of interest. By a report made in 1859, it appears that four persons owned one share each, and thirteen owned two shares. A valuable book-case was given by Mr. Bartol.

The question of giving the library to the town was mooted at a meeting, November 26, 1860, and referred to the book committee to consider and report. The number of volumes in the library now amounted to five hundred and fifty-three. The committee to whom the matter of donating the library to the town was referred, reported to the Club, at the annual meeting in 1861, that they "had not thoroughly considered the subject, but their impression" was that the time was not favorable, owing to the "distracted condition of the public mind and the probable increase of taxes."

The subject was before the Club at an adjourned meeting, January 1, 1862. It appears that the Agricultural Library Association had sent the Club a vote purporting that they viewed with "favor the proposition to grant to the town the use and care of the two libraries, on proper and suitable conditions, to be made the basis for a future town library." After a general discussion of the subject, the following action was unanimously taken. "The proprietors of Lancaster Library believing that a public library in the town, to which all can have access, would greatly aid the cause of education and good morals, by affording to the young, innocent and profitable reading, and to all the means of knowledge and mental improvement, desire to aid in the establishment of such an institution. They therefore offer to the town their library of more than six hundred volumes, on condition that the town will this year appropriate, as a foundation for a public town Library, the sum of one dollar for each of its ratable polls, and thereafter annually for three years appropriate the sum of fifty cents on each of its ratable polls, for its increase." Those present to vote were Henry Wilder, at whose house the meeting was held, G. M. Bartol, Dr. Thompson, F. F.

Hussey, Mrs. H. L. Thurston, Miss M. A. Thayer, Miss Mary G. Chandler, Mrs. Emily Leighton and H. C. Kimball. Mr. Wilder was charged with the business of bringing the proposal before the town at the ensuing March meeting, and Mr. Kimball was requested to procure the signatures of the proprietors to the proposal. The action of the town was in accordance with the proposal. The last meeting of the Library Club was held, August 16, when Dr. Thompson was chosen secretary in place of Mr. Kimball, who had left the town. It was stated that the town, at a legal meeting in April, had accepted the offer made by the Club. A report was made, showing that the sum of \$12.10 was in the treasury, when it was "voted that the members of the Library Club hereby make over such funds as now remain in the treasury, to the library committee of the Lancaster Town Library, to be used by them for the benefit of said library; but the members of the Club would prefer that such funds should be expended in furnishing cases for minerals." The last clause of this vote, reveals the fact that a Natural History department of the Library Club had engaged the attention of the members, and some collections had already been made.

The Records of the Club were then, by vote, passed into the custody of the librarian of the town library, when the following vote closed forever the active life of the Lancaster Library Club. "Voted, that as the town has accepted the offer and conditions of the Club, we do now adjourn to such time as we shall be called to meet by the officers of the Club."

THE LANCASTER TOWN LIBRARY.

The establishment of a public library for the free use of all the inhabitants of the town, was brought forward in the annual meeting, March 3, 1862, by an article in the warrant. The subject was referred to the following gentlemen. Rev. George M. Bartol, Rev. Amos E. Lawrence, Mr. M. C. Stebbins, Rev. Jonathan E. Edwards and Henry Wilder, Esq. At an adjourned meeting, April 2, the committee reported

John E. Edwards.

John Erskine Edwards. not Jonathan

a 600 is the number stated on p 551. and the
correct one.

in favor of founding a library on the "conditions offered by the Lancaster Library Club," and also presented a series of rules and regulations. The report was adopted in full, and the following were chosen the first library committee. George M. Bartol, A. E. Lawrence, Jonathan E. Edwards, M. C. Stebbins, Quincy Whitney, J. L. S. Thompson and Henry Wilder. Thanks were given to the Library Club for their valuable donation.

It is pertinent to state that public attention had been called to this subject, by the school committee for the year 1860-61, Messrs. Bartol, Kimball and Silas Thurston. In their annual report, it was stated that the law authorized towns to tax their inhabitants "for a public library, for a library building, for library books, or for anything pertaining to a library." This law was secured by the judicious action of Rev. John B. Wight, a member of the legislature from Wayland, in 1851. The act was amended in 1859, and has been followed by the establishment of many libraries in the towns and cities of the commonwealth.

The town library had thus a vigorous start. With more than a ~~thousand~~⁶⁰⁰ volumes from the Club, with one hundred and thirty from the Agricultural Library, and with many more from the district libraries, it formed at once, a large collection of books for an inland and agricultural town. Some of the volumes were duplicates, as the school libraries were much alike, but these made the basis for exchange with other libraries, and therefore were a real gain to the central library. Altogether there were not less than twelve hundred volumes in the collection, when it was opened to the free use of the public, on the fourth of October, 1862. The books were of a better class and higher order than are generally found in miscellaneous collections, as has been already shown in noticing the additions from year to year. The committee always had competent judges of books among its members, and they exercised their judgment, with due respect to the popular demand for light reading and ephemeral productions. The in-

come, the first year, was not far from three hundred dollars, a much larger sum than had ever before been devoted to the replenishing of libraries in this town.

In 1863 there was some change in the library committee, Rev. Messrs. Edwards and Whitney having removed. Their places were filled by the election of Spencer R. Merrick and C. W. Burbank. The next year the last two members were succeeded by Rev. Benjamin Whittimore and Rev. Marcus Ames. In 1865 William A. Kilbourn took the place of Mr. Stebbins, who had closed his school, and entered on the work of the ministry at Ayer, then Groton Junction.

The year 1866 was a golden year in the history of the library. The town received, through Rev. Mr. Bartol, a communication from Nathaniel Thayer, Esq., offering \$5,000 for a library, and \$3,000 for the cemeteries, to be used in keeping them in order. At this time the town was interested in the setting up of some suitable Memorial or Monument, in honorable memory of her soldiers who went into the war for the suppression of the rebellion. The favorite plan here, as in other towns, was a monument simply, inscribed with the names of those who fell in the war, whether from wounds, sickness or imprisonment. At the April meeting a vote was passed that the town would give \$5,000 for the erection of a Memorial Hall, provided a like sum could be raised by subscription. Jacob Fisher, Anthony Lane and George Cummings were chosen a committee to receive such sums as the citizens might be inclined to give. The proposition met such a favorable response that the chairman reported to the town, June 30, a subscription of over \$4,000, which had been procured without effort. There was no doubt that the whole sum of \$5,000 could easily be raised.

A committee of seven was chosen, November 7, to have charge of the location, of building, and erection of the hall. These were the committee: Nathaniel Thayer, George M. Bartol, Jacob Fisher, F. B. Fay, Henry Wilder, J. L. S. Thompson and Quincy Whitney. Col. Fay declining, the va-

Action of the Town in the matter of Nathaniel Thayer's Letter

After the reading of the foregoing letter the following Resolutions & votes were presented by Rev. G. M. Bartol and unanimously adopted— Resolutions—

Whereas in a communication received from Nathaniel Thayer Esq. he offers to this town Five Thousand dollars as a permanent fund the annual interest of which shall be expended by the Committee of the Town Library in the purchase of books for said Library on condition that the Town shall raise each year by tax the amount authorized by law of the State for the same purpose; therefore: Resolved, That sympathizing with him most fully in the belief which he expresses that no other provision could be made for the Town, more certain to promote its well being and increase its means of usefulness; we do hereby as Citizens of the town legally assembled to act upon his proposition, accept the same with sincere and hearty gratitude and strictly upon the conditions he has specified in his letter— And Whereas he also offers to the town a further sum of Three Thousand Dollars, as a permanent fund, the interest of the same to be paid by the Town Treasurer as received to the Committee of the Town Library to be by them expended in ornamenting and keeping in repair the several Burying Grounds in the town, therefore Resolved, That we desire to honor the sentiment by which he has been actuated in making this proposition and that, tendering him the thanks of all our inhabitants we do in their name accept the same, and upon all the conditions he has named in his letter. — Voted that upon receiving these funds the Town Treasurer hereby is instructed to open upon his books, two separate & distinct accounts, one with the Thayer Library Fund, and one with the Thayer Burying Ground Fund; also Voted that he shall state each year in his annual report to the town how each fund is invested and the amount paid over to the Library Committee for each— Voted, that the town in receiving from Mr. Thayer the funds described thereby agrees with him his heirs and assigns to forever hold the same in trust upon the conditions named in his letter— Voted, That an attested copy of these votes and Resolutions be sent to Mr. Thayer and that the same with his letter to the Town, be copied into the Town Records—

cancy was filled by the choice of E. M. Fuller. The selectmen for the year,—Messrs. Buttrick, Merrick and Farwell were added. Besides the \$10,000 thus raised, the committee were authorized by Mr. Thayer, who paid a large part of the tax, to expend all that was necessary to make the memorial hall worthy of its object, and an ornament and blessing to the town.

The committee to whom the whole subject had been referred, made a report which was unanimously adopted by the town. In the words of the "Report on the town library," made in 1869, by Mr. Bartol, chairman, the vote included three points: "to erect a Memorial Hall; 1st, as being as worthy of the town and of the object as any other monument; 2d, because, owing to the munificence of a well-known and ever to be honored townsman, to do this would not carry us beyond our means; and for the third reason, that the town was in great need, not only of a fire-proof room for its Records, but also of accommodation for a rapidly increasing town library; the rooms which the latter then occupied threatening to prove in a few years too narrow." The Report continues: "the building is not only correct in style, but accords with its surroundings, and is very much to the credit of its architect, Mr. Harris. It is unusually compact and convenient and tasteful, and it is difficult to conceive how its main purpose could have been made more prominent."

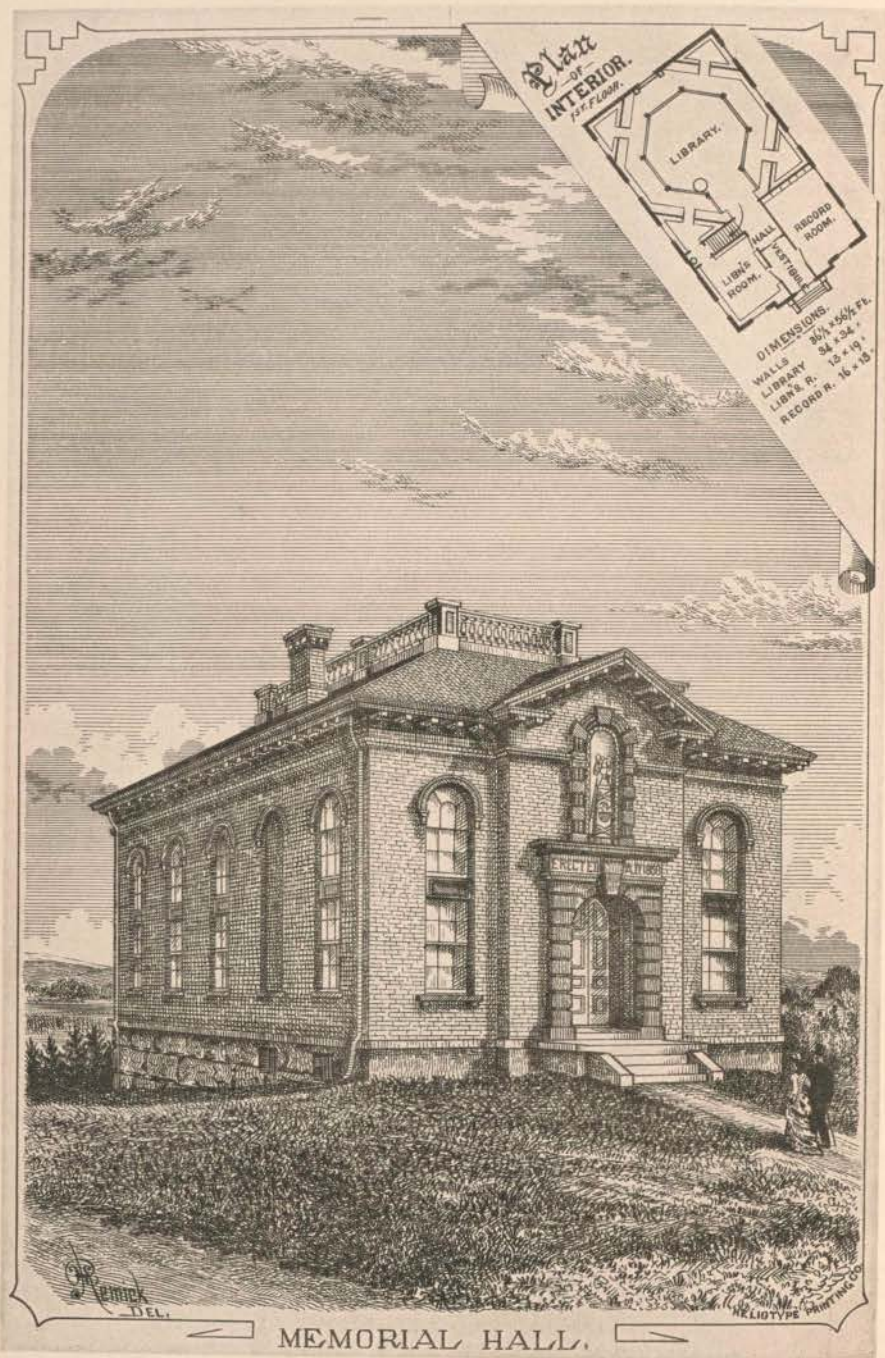
The cost of the building was nearly \$30,000, of which more than two-thirds was paid by Mr. Thayer, in addition to his endowment of \$5,000 for the purchase of books. The Report above quoted says farther: "that the Hon. Francis B. Fay, in addition to his original subscription of \$1,000, has placed in our hands \$100, for the purchase of a clock; and also that George A. Parker, Esq., with a truly enlightened view of the possibilities of such an institution, has presented us with \$500 worth of fine art works selected by himself, and also with seven hundred dollars for the further increase of such a department, outright, or in permanency, at discretion of the committee."

The letter of Mr. Thayer making a permanent endowment of the library, and also providing for the care of the cemeteries of the town, finds its place in this connection. It was dated Boston, January 22, 1866, and addressed to Rev. Mr. Bartol, in the words following.

"DEAR SIR: You have often spoken of the great good you considered the town library was doing, and the pleasure which its very general influence gave you. I do not see any way in which any one can more certainly promote the well being of the town, than by helping to increase its means of usefulness.

"And I hereby authorize you to offer to the town of Lancaster, as trustees, five thousand dollars, say 5,000\$ New York Central railroad bonds, payable in 1883, with interest payable half yearly, in May and November, upon the following conditions, viz., the town treasurer shall hold the said bonds, or invest any money received on account of the principal as a *permanent fund*, the interest of which he shall pay over as received, to the library committee, to be by them expended in the purchase of books. And the town shall further agree to raise by tax each year for the library, the amount authorized by law of the state.

"You have often spoken upon another subject, the condition of the burying grounds, and I have mentioned to you the great pleasure it has recently given me to see the general interest manifested in regard to the burying ground near my house, and the respect shown for the memory of past generations. I do hope that for the future all the burying grounds may be kept in a condition which will be creditable to the town; and in furtherance of *that object*, I hereby authorize you to offer to the town as trustees, three thousand dollars, say 3,000\$ New York Central railroad bonds upon the following conditions, viz., the town treasurer shall hold said bonds, or invest any money received on account of the principal of said bonds, as *permanent funds*, and shall pay over the interest as received, to the library committee, to be expended by them in ornamenting and keeping in repair the several burying grounds in the town.



Plan
of
INTERIOR.
1st Floor.



DIMENSIONS:
WALLS 36 1/2 x 50 1/2 FT.
LIBRARY 34 x 34
LIBR. R. 12 x 19
RECORD R. 16 x 18

MEMORIAL HALL.



Memorial Tablet.
1876.







CARBON PHOTO ALLEN & ROWELL

W. Briggs

Born in Lancaster Sept. 11, 1808. Died in Boston March 7, 1889

"Upon being furnished with an attested copy of a vote of the town, agreeing with *me*, my *heirs* and *assigns*, that they will receive the money and *forever* hold it in trust, upon the foregoing conditions, I will at once pay over the eight thousand dollars of bonds to the town treasurer, and I know of no better security."

The letter having been laid before the town, soon after its date, the following action was taken. "We hereby, as citizens of the town, legally assembled to act upon his proposition, accept the same with sincere and hearty gratitude, and strictly upon the conditions he has specified in his letter."

The building was erected in 1867, and finished in the spring of the following year. Appropriate dedicatory services were held on Wednesday, June 17, 1868, Nathaniel Thayer, Esq., presiding. The following was the order of exercises, with a statement by the executive committee, and music by the band. Reading of Scriptures, by Rev. George R. Leavitt; Dedicatory Prayer, by Rev. George M. Bartol; Address, by Rev. Christopher T. Thayer, of Boston; Ode, by H. F. Buswell, Esq., of Canton; Prayer and Benediction, by Rev. Dr. Whittemore. The address was elegantly printed, and will be read with interest in after times. The two objects of the memorial hall were presented at length. The first was "to dedicate a suitable and grateful memorial of ^{your} brave fellow-citizens, who at their country's call, and in the ardor of patriotic impulse, went forth, ^{from among you} life in hand, ready to peril life and all they held dear on earth, to do and die, and actually did lay down their own lives for the saving of that of the nation." Then followed a lengthened reference to the military history of the town, and especially the part taken in the war for suppressing the rebellion.

The second object of the building was to "enlighten, enlarge, fructify and imbue with just, generous and elevated sentiments and aspirations our own and others' minds." The influence of letters and libraries was the theme of the orator in the remainder of the address. A great assembly were

.N.B.

The actions taken will be found in full opposite page 555.

p. 10

C. T. Thayer's

Address

deeply interested in the services, and in the occasion which called them together.

Some account of the hall should be put on permanent record. The following is gathered from a statement prepared by William E. Parkhurst, Esq., and printed in the Clinton *Courant* of June 20, 1868.

"The two-fold design of the building—as a library and as a memorial hall—everywhere appears. The main hall is constructed in the form of an octagon, the distance from side to side being 34 feet. The height from the floor to the skylight is 26 feet. Directly in front of the entrance door, and on the farther side of the room, is a large marble tablet, bearing the names of the soldiers, citizens, or natives of the town who died in the war, arranged in the order of date of decease, with age. Upon the upper part of the tablet appears the following:—

THAT OUR POSTERITY MAY ALSO KNOW THEM, AND THE
CHILDREN THAT ARE YET UNBORN.

The names of the deceased soldiers, not only of those there inscribed, but of those who have since died, and also of all who represented the town in the war, will be found on other pages of this history.

The building is situated in the rear of the Center Common. "The style is classic, of the so-called Renaissance; the material being granite, brown freestone and brick. Dimensions: 56½ by 36½ feet. Inside, the walls and ceilings are frescoed in the highest style of the art, by Brazier.

"Immediately above the porch, and architecturally connected with it, is a recessed panel or niche of freestone, bearing in bas-relief an urn surrounded by a wreath of oak-leaves, draped in mourning, and resting upon a pedestal of bound staves, representing the Union intact. On the pedestal appears the national coat of arms, and against it lean a musket and sword." "The entry bears on either wall a marble tablet; that on the right thus inscribed:—

*Willingham
a
See next blank page*

a' 40.

*W.S. Brazier
Boston*

a. p. 558. It would have been more exact to say the account here given was copied in part from the Appendix to the published Address. The quotations sometimes differ essentially from the Courant Report, having been adapted by condensation & slight verbal alteration for republishing.

" Mr Marvin omits the appropriate inscription below the names taken from the Apocrypha - Wisdom of Solomon cap. 111 - v. 2 & 3:

" In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die; and their departure is taken for misery. And their going from us to be utter destruction; but they are in peace.

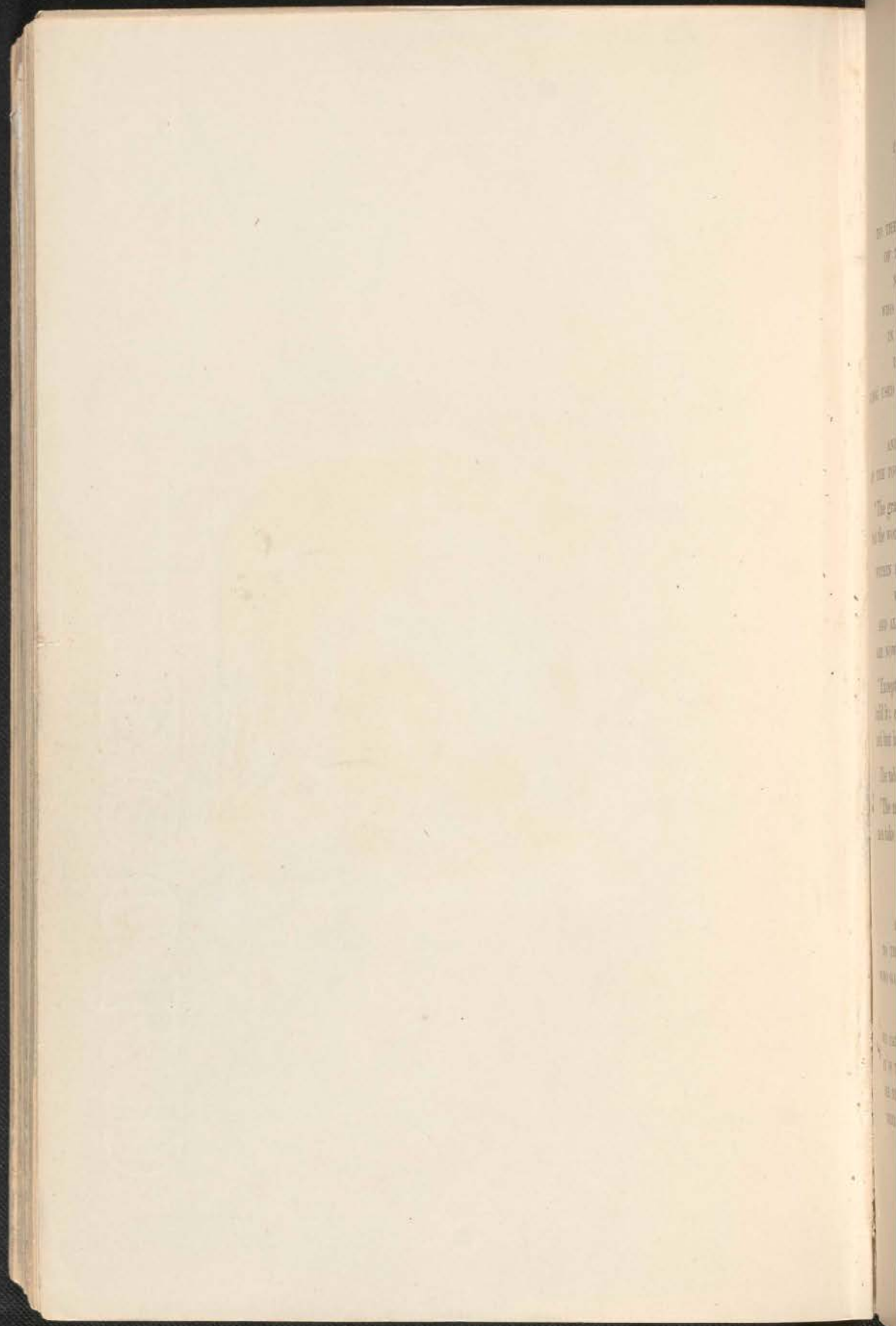
a. The ordination of the first minister, Poole, was not until 1660. He began his ministry however in 1653 or 4. The date 1653 is that of the, so called, incorporation of Lancaster - & the 1st church was then "instituted", though not "organized" fully until 1660.

17.1 Apocrypha. Wisdom of Solomon, except from
Cap. IV. Verses 1 & 2.

(a) From Philip James Bailey's
"Festus".



Memorial Hall, 1876.



C

1653 — 1868.

THIS EDIFICE,

TO THE SOLE HONOR AND MEMORY, UNDER GOD,
 OF THOSE BRAVE AND LOYAL VOLUNTEERS,
 NATIVE OR RESIDENT OF LANCASTER,
 WHO FELL MAINTAINING THE NATION'S CAUSE
 IN THE BATTLES OF THE GREAT REBELLION,
 IS ERECTED ON THE VERGE OF A FIELD
 LONG USED BY THE INHABITANTS AS A MILITARY MUSTER-
 GROUND,

AND NEAR THE FOURTH [FIFTH] BUILDING ?
 OF THE TOWN'S FIRST CHURCH, INSTITUTED 1653, ~~1660~~. (a)

"The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away;
 but the word of the Lord endureth forever." *1 Peter 1.24 & 25*

WITHIN ITS WALLS THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE TOWN,
 WASTED BY FIRE AND OTHER ACCIDENTS,
 AND ALSO THE TOWN'S LIBRARY, FOUNDED IN 1862,
 ARE NOW MORE SAFELY THAN HERETOFORE DEPOSITED.

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that
 build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen wa-
 keth but in vain." *Psalm, cxvii. 1*

The tablet on the left has this inscription:—

↓ "The memorial of virtue is immortal. When it is present,
 men take example at it; and when it is gone, they desire it."

THIS BUILDING,
 BEGUN AND COMPLETED A. D. 1867-8,
 IS DEDICATED, BY THEIR FELLOW-CITIZENS,
 TO THE SACRED MEMORY OF THOSE MEN OF LANCASTER
 WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC
 IN THE CIVIL WAR, 1861-1865.

WE CAN NEVER BE DEATHLESS TILL WE DIE.
 (a) IT IS THE DEAD WIN BATTLES — NO: THE BRAVE
 DIE NEVER. BEING DEATHLESS, THEY BUT CHANGE
 THEIR COUNTRY'S VOWS FOR MORE, — THEIR COUNTRY'S
 HEART.

Since the library was transferred to the memorial hall, it has been greatly increased in number and value. The whole amount expended in 1868, including a sum raised by public entertainments, was \$578. The number of volumes purchased was 300, and the number received by donation, 554. The whole number of volumes in the library in the spring of 1869, was 4,051.

The income in the year 1869-70 was \$780, including a town grant of \$300; interest of Thayer fund, \$280, and donation of George A. Parker, \$200. There was a balance in the treasury raised by fairs, which enlarged the amount to over \$900. The number of volumes was now 4,983. By purchase during the year, 380 were added, and 572 by donation. These last, with few exceptions, were the gift of Mr. Thayer, to the value of \$1,200, and from an unexpended principal and interest of \$500 deposited by Mr. Parker, and \$200 afterwards added. Among the works selected by these gentlemen were the "most valuable books in the market, whether for standard merit or beautiful illustration."

At the annual meeting in 1870 the town raised \$1,000 for the library, and this has been the annual appropriation to the present time. To this sum the dog tax has been added a few years past, making an addition of nearly two hundred dollars. The library in the spring of 1871 numbered 5,667 volumes. During the year "six hundred and eighty-eight dollars worth of costly and valuable books" were received from Mr. Thayer, including a complete set of the "Columbian Centinel" in fine condition.

The annual report dated April, 1872, gave 6,306 as the number of volumes in the library, showing an addition of 645 in the year preceding. Among the books added of permanent value were the Harleian Miscellany, Baine's History and Antiquities of Lancashire, and Gregson's Portfolio of Fragments; the photo-lithographed first folio of Shakespeare, Parker's Glossary of Architecture, and History of Early English Domestic Architecture, Fergusson's History of

a The will of Miss Mary Whitney was dated Oct. 28. 1873 &
filed Dec. 10 1873.

Sections 7 & 8 of her will also interest the Town.

7. I give & bequeath to Dorcas Farnsworth, Lydia Farnsworth Angeline Farnsworth and Fanny Osgood my cottage and the lot of land upon which it stands in Lancaster aforesaid to have and to hold the same to them and the survivors of them so long as they or either of them shall desire to occupy the same. In case neither of them shall desire to occupy said cottage I give devise and bequeath said cottage and land to said Fanny Osgood, Diana Locke and Irene Locke, to have and to hold the same to them the survivor or survivors of them for and during the term of their natural lives.

8. Upon the determination of the estate herein before limited I authorize and empower my executor hereinafter named to sell my said cottage & land either at public auction or private sale as he may deem best and to execute and deliver to the purchaser thereof proper instruments for the conveyance of the same, and to pay over the proceeds of said sale to the Town of Lancaster Massachusetts whenever said town shall vote to accept such proceeds in trust to expend the interest thereof annually in the support of free public lectures in the Town Hall in said Lancaster."

a' The Catalogue of 1868 was the second. The first was printed in 1865. when the library contained about 2700 vols.

Architecture, Perkins' Tuscan Sculptors, Lubke's History of Ancient Art, and Harding's Selected Sketches. Costly works on Natural History were in the library.

The additions in 1872-3 were 638, and the whole library contained 6,943 volumes. The library had been open returning and taking books, and for a reading room, in the afternoon or evening of every day except Friday and Sunday.

The year closing in the spring of 1874 was signalled by large and valuable additions. The new books were 499, mostly by purchase. Among them were the French Etching Club, one large volume in sheets, \$50; Roberts' Egypt and the Holy Land, four splendid volumes with colored lithographs, \$200; the entire series of the London Illustrated News to 1873. The number of volumes taken out during the year was 8,457, being 896 over the year preceding, showing a remarkable increase in the love of reading.

By the first of February, 1875, the library had accumulated 8,525 volumes, showing an increase of 780 during the year. The number loaned was 9,521. A bequest of \$100, made by MISS MARY WHITNEY, for the improvement of the library, was received from the executor of her will, and placed in the town treasury.

The next year, 1875-6, carried the library up to 9,217 volumes, (including 479 duplicates,) and 2,923 pamphlets. Some of the duplicates have since been exchanged. Only two volumes were lost during the year. Many had been covered anew, and some re-bound. The number of volumes added, by purchase and donation, in 1876-7, was 503, making 9,720 in all. The report at the end of the year 1877-8, in March, gives the whole number of bound volumes in the library as 10,569; the number of pamphlets, 3,578.

The ^{2^d} first catalogue was printed in 1868, after the town library had been founded. It was a classified catalogue, and contained about four thousand volumes. The Card catalogue was made in 1872-3 and has been enlarged as books have been added. In the spring of 1877 a new catalogue, in the

alphabetical form was published, making a volume of one hundred and sixty-eight pages. The work upon this and the Card catalogue, was chiefly done by Miss Alice Chandler, the librarian, assisted by Miss Anna H. Whitney. [The number of volumes in the library in March, 1878, was 10,569, besides 3,578 pamphlets.]

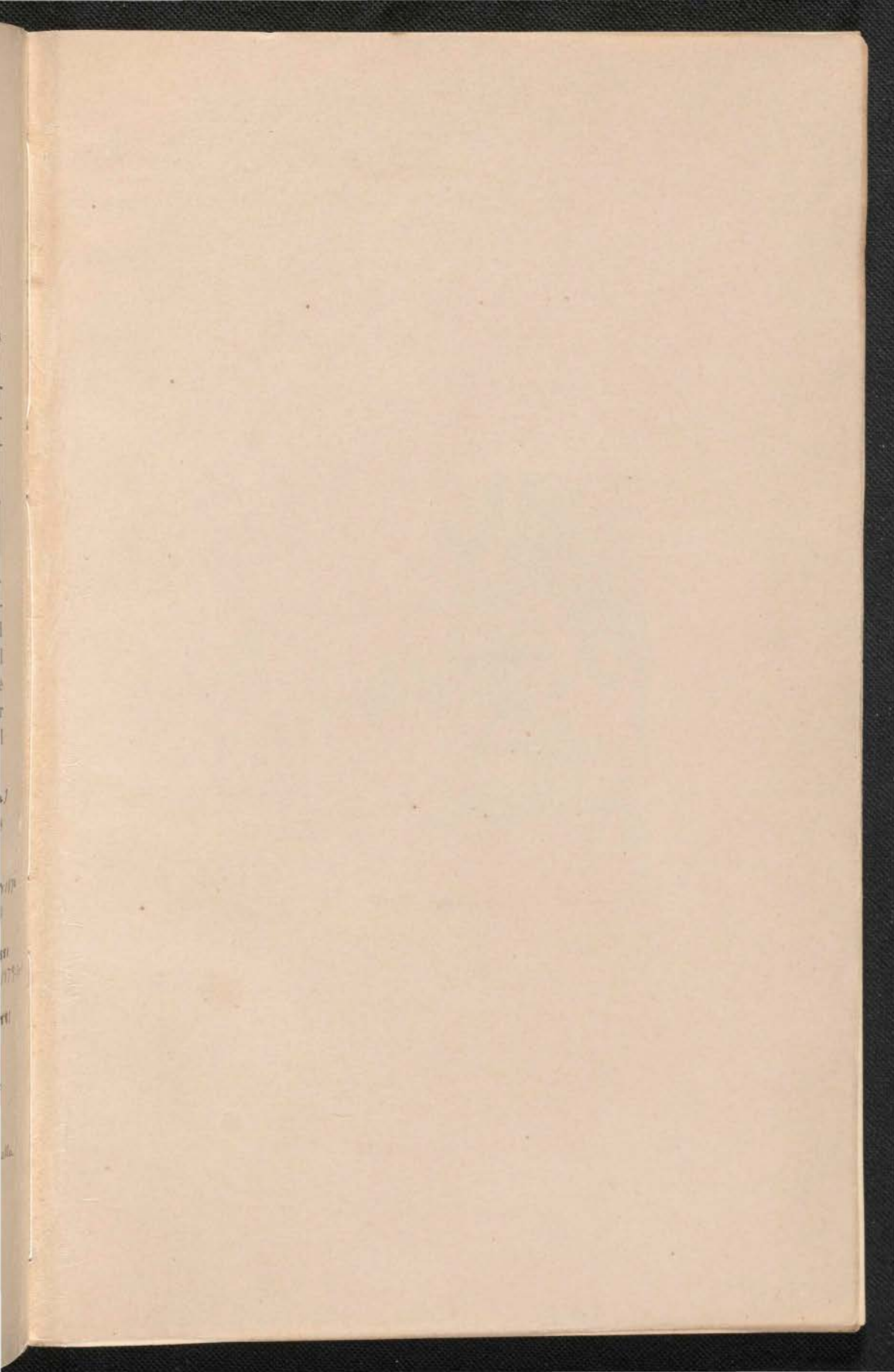
The following gentlemen have been members of the committee since the public library was founded. The figures indicate the years in which they have served. A dash following the year shows that the member is still in office.

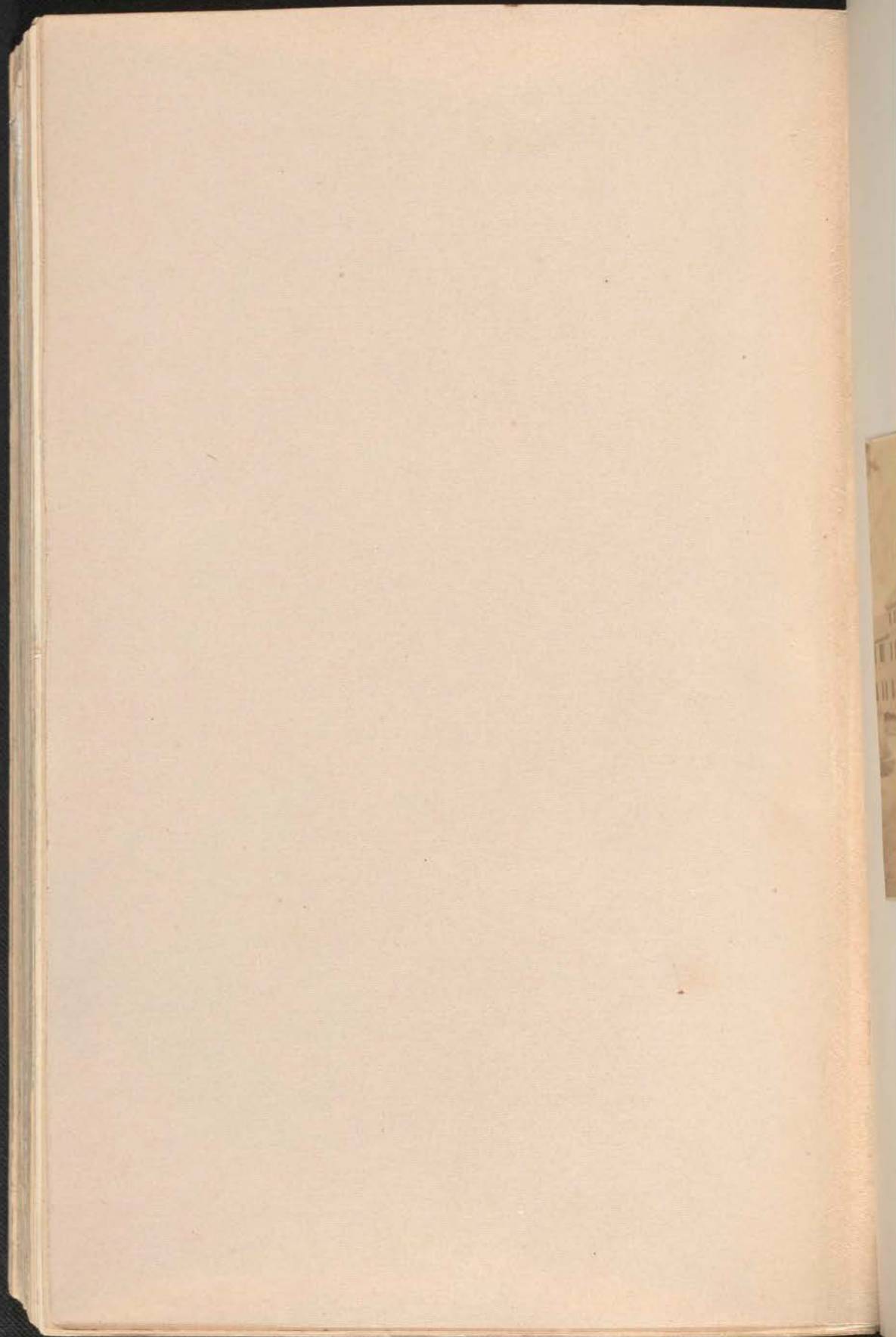
Rev. George M. Bartol, 1862-. Henry Wilder, 1862-76, with the exception of one year. He was a man of much intelligence and public spirit, and gave time and interest to the library and natural history room without grudging. J. L. S. Thompson, M. D., from 1862 to 1878, with the exception of one year. He was one of the original members, and performed the duties of librarian for many years, as he had previously done for the Club. His presence has secured the addition of many scientific works. He, with Messrs. Wilder and Bartol, has always taken a deep interest in the natural history department.

Rev. Amos E. Lawrence,	1862-5	Rev. <i>John G. Chandler</i> 1872 Jonathan E. Edwards,	1862- ^(a)
Rev. M ^r . C. Stebbins,	1862-4	" "	1866-68
Spencer R. Merrick,	1863	Rev. Quincy Whitney,	1862-3
Rev. Dr. ^{Wm.} Whittemore,	1864, 7	Ch ^{as} . W. Burbank,	1863
William A. Kilbourn,	1865-72	Rev. Marcus Ames,	1864-7 & 1870
Edward M. Fuller,	1868	William H. McNeil,	1868-73
J ^o . D. Butler,	1871-2	Henry C. Kendrick,	1871-3
Ed ^w . H. Thompson, M. D.,	1873-5	Rev. A. P. Marvin,	1873-1881
G ^e . F. Chandler,	1874-9	Nathaniel Thayer, Esq.,	1873-4 / 1879-80-81
Miss Anna H. Whitney,	1875-	Horatio D. Humphrey,	1874-9
Henry ^S . Nourse,	1878-	Miss Charlotte Fisher,	1876-1881
		<i>Charles T. Fletcher</i>	1877-

Mr. McNeil was librarian in the year 1872, succeeding Dr. Thompson, but Miss Alice Chandler, assistant, had the care of the library. Since that year she has been the librarian, having the assistance of Miss Mary E. Fisher, and Miss Belle Lyman.

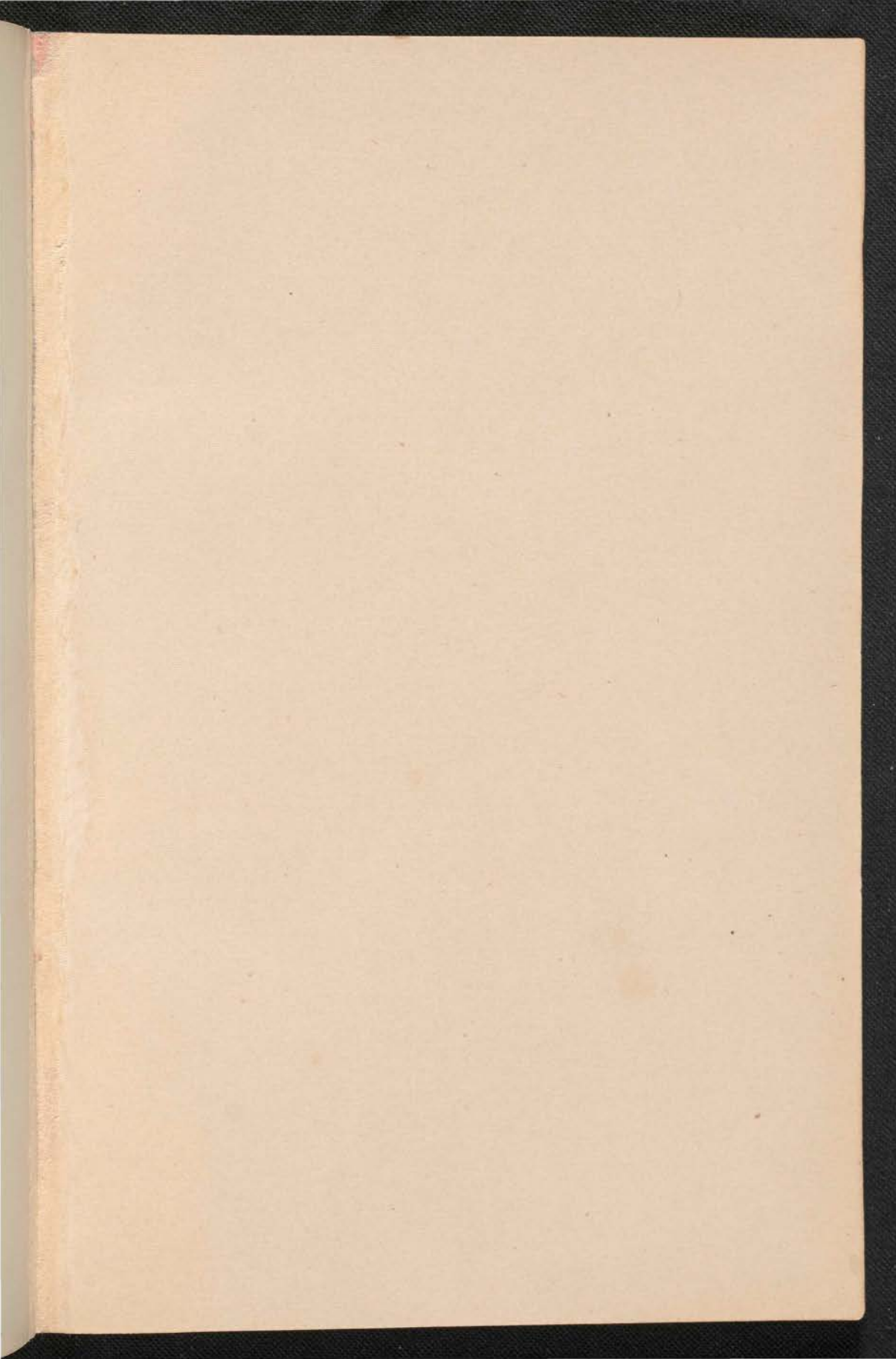
S. Sabella

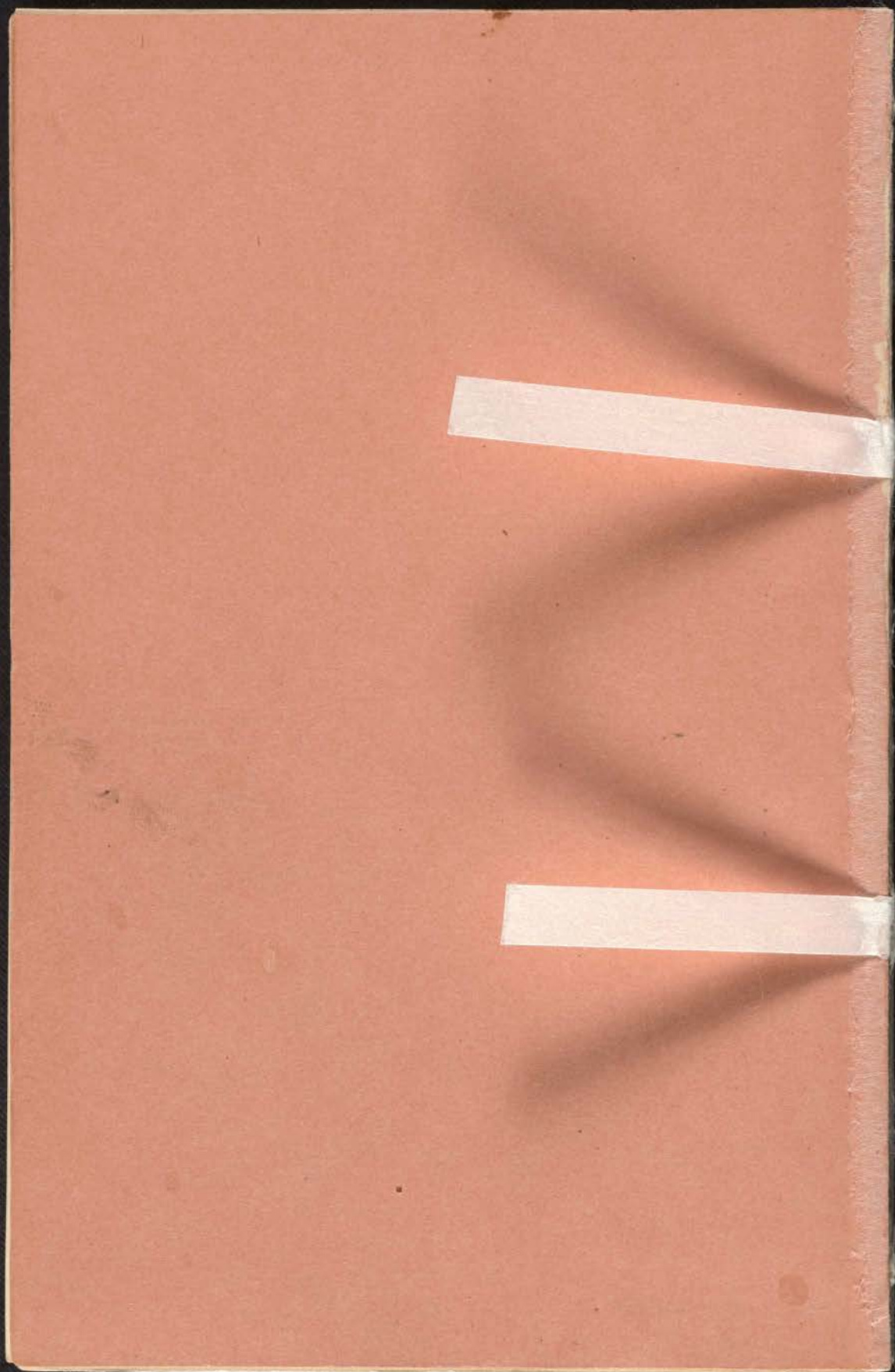


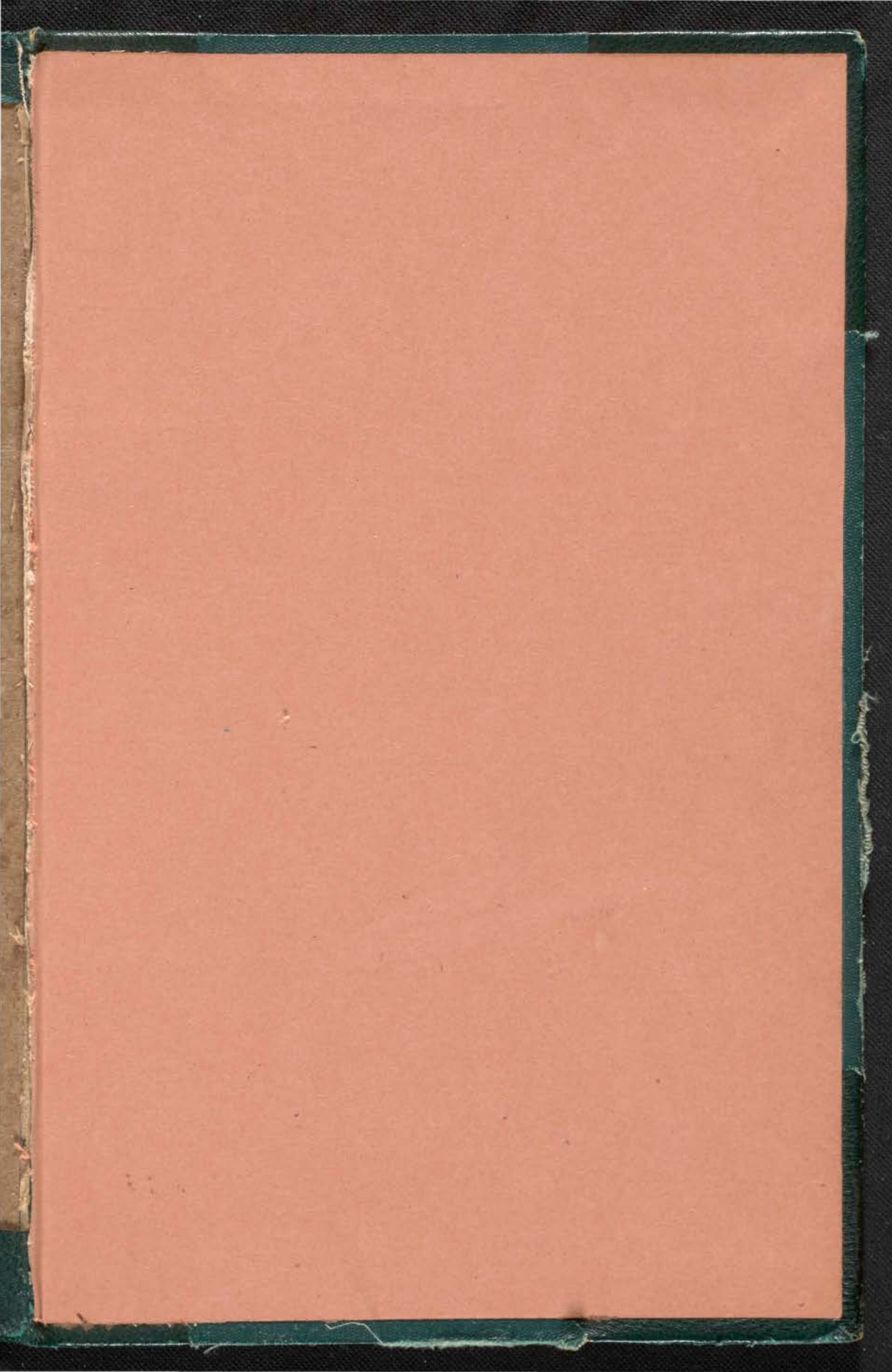


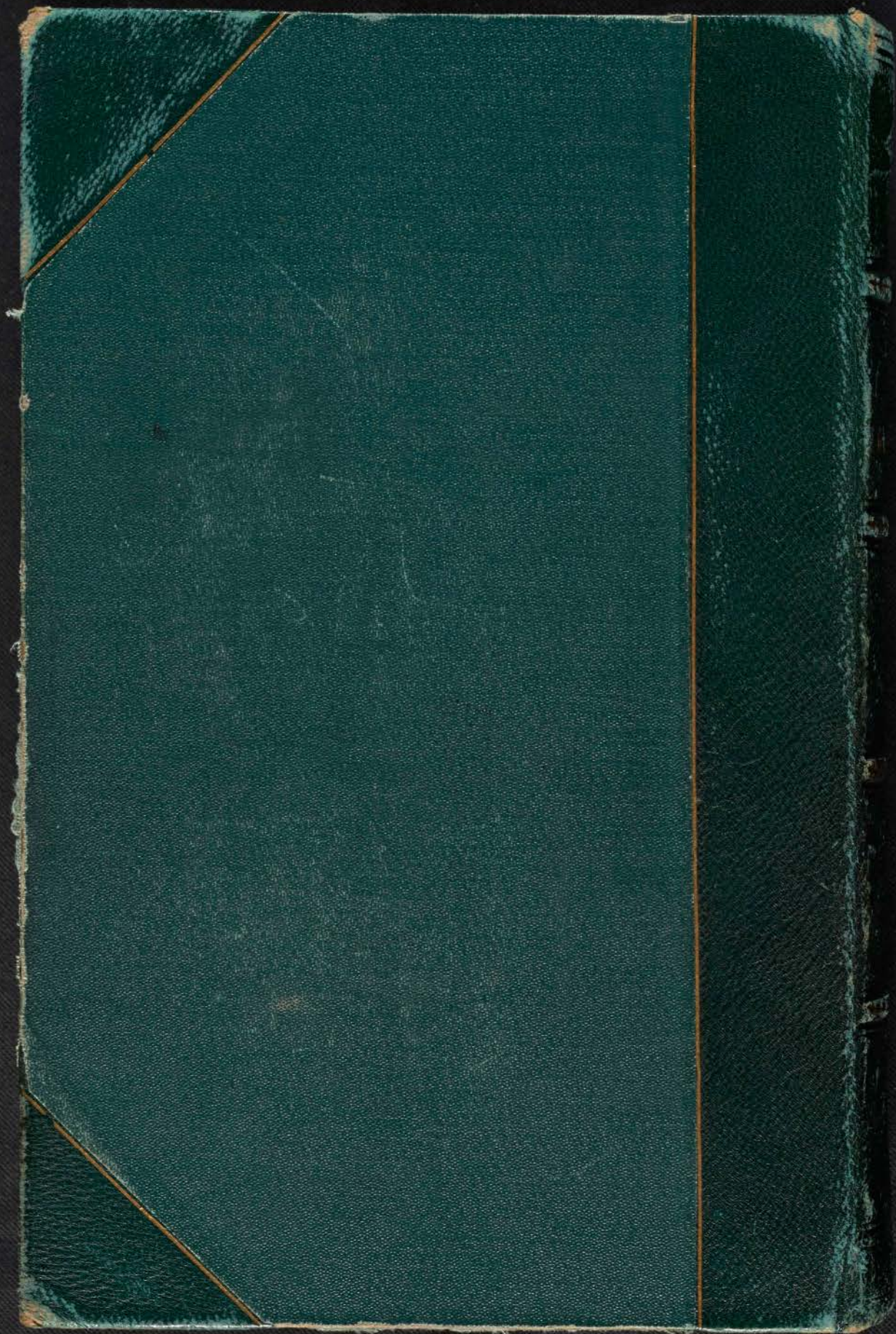


Hotel Lancaster from N. W. St.
1876.









HISTORY
OF
LANCASTER.

VOL. II.