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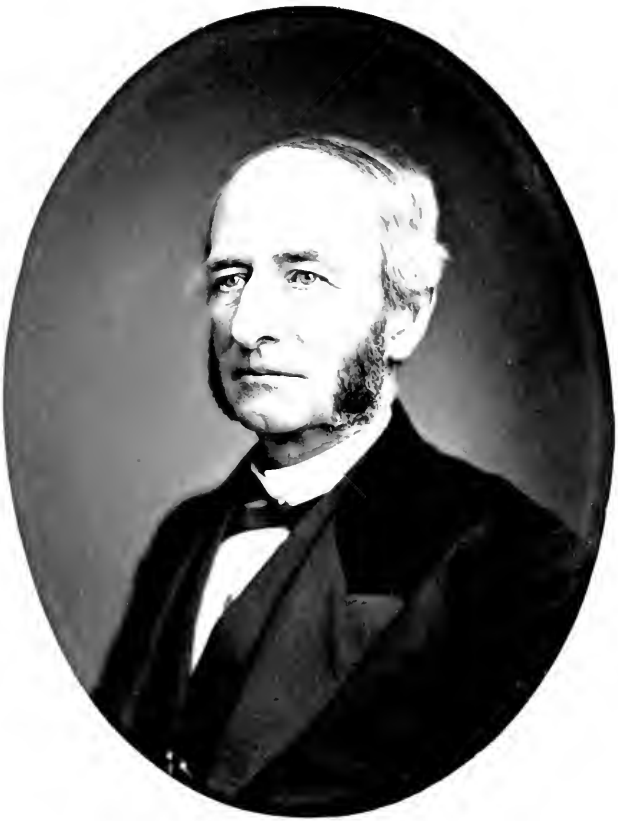

Henry Chapin

The Heliotype Printing Co. 211 Devonshire St. Boston.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

UNITARIAN CHURCH,

IN UXBRIDGE, MASS.,

IN 1864,

WITH FURTHER STATEMENTS, NOT MADE A PART OF THE ADDRESS, BUT INCLUDED IN THE NOTES.

BY

HENRY CHAPIN.

Worcester:
PRESS OF CHARLES HAMILTON,
311 MAIN STREET.
1881.

Edited, with Preface, Biographical Sketch of Judge Chapin, and Appendices relating to the History of Uxbridge, by

Rushton D. Burr.

Ayer, Mass., Nov., 1881.

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Appendices.

CORRIGENDA.

Page IX, Preface, line 6th from the top of page, for *in relating it*, read *relating to it*.

Page 39, line 4th from the bottom of page—Omit † after *strange* and supply it after *ago*.

Page 108, note to Appendix.—With what is here said of the place of worship used by the Baptist Society, compare what is said of this hall, on page 154, last paragraph but one on the page.

Page 119, line 10th from the bottom of page—After *home*, place a comma, omitting the semicolon.

Page 146, line 4th from the bottom of page—For *employes* read *employees*.

Page 190, line 5th from the bottom of page, second note—In place of *on the occasion of his having settled*, read *when he settled*.

Page 200, the fourth name from the top, in the first column, should read, *Burrell*.

PREFACE.

In the winter of 1863–4, Mr. Chapin was invited to deliver a lecture in Uxbridge, in the course given for the benefit of the First Congregational Church. He selected the early history of the town, in which he took great interest, for his subject, and collected so much valuable material in relating it, that some of the public-spirited citizens felt it to be very desirable that the information thus obtained should be preserved in a permanent form, and requested him, some four years since, to give them his manuscript for publication. He consented, but wished to render it more valuable by the addition of various details equally worthy of record, which would have made his lecture too long for delivery, and others that have since come to his knowledge. His illness and subsequent death prevented him from preparing the work for the press; and in the spring of 1879 it was intrusted to me, and was immediately entered upon as a sacred trust. The address as originally delivered, the notes which Judge Chapin was engaged in preparing, and the title page he had written, are now presented to those specially interested in the matters here spoken of.

I have endeavored, by carefully studying the address, to enter into the spirit in which it was written, and in this way to complete the notes that were left,—some of them,

in the nature of the case, in a very fragmentary state. I have added information about some matters not touched upon by Mr. Chapin, and I wish I could have done much more: but the knowledge of some things very interesting to the town, as for instance a list of the men from Uxbridge who served in the armies of the Revolution, it was impossible to procure.

Some of the information here given it has been difficult to obtain; and my acknowledgments are here made to the several gentlemen who have assisted me: but my thanks are especially due to Charles A. Wheelock and Jonathan F. Southwick.

Those who read this address will please remember that it is not a history of the town of Uxbridge they are reading, but *memorabilia*, and if its history should ever be written, I have no doubt the writer will duly appreciate the labor here expended. Much later information than that here given, and naturally finding a place in a history of the town, is, for obvious reasons, omitted. I recommend that with this address, the address of Judge Alphonso Taft, given at the Taft gathering in Uxbridge, August 12th, 1874, be also read.

Judge Chapin always retained a warm attachment, not only to his native town, Upton, but to the people of Uxbridge, where he began his professional life. His name I know is, and long may it be, a cherished and household word among them.

RUSHTON D. BURR.

May, 1881.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

HENRY CHAPIN was born in Upton, Mass., May 13th, 1811. His parents possessed small means and he had no early advantages beyond those commonly enjoyed by all the sons of New England. By the sudden death of his father, when he was fourteen years old, he was thrown almost wholly upon his own resources, and decided to learn the carpenter's trade, but became convinced after a few months trial, that he had neither the natural aptitude nor the inclination for that avocation. He now determined to apply himself to study and began at once to fit for college. He was graduated at Brown University in 1835. He then taught school in his native town, afterwards studied law with the late Emory Washburn and at Cambridge, and on his admission to the bar in 1838 began to practice in Uxbridge. In 1846, he removed to Worcester and became a partner of the late Rejoice Newton. His practice at the bar was large and successful. He was distinguished for industry, faithfulness and accuracy in professional business, and his competent knowledge of the law, with his simple, direct and persuasive style of address, gave him great success in the trial of causes. In 1858, the courts of Probate and Insolvency, up to that time distinct, were united, and Mr. Chapin was appointed to preside over the new court. His appointment gave great satisfaction at the time and an experience of twenty years only served to confirm its wisdom. During that period, probably, more than half the estates in Worcester

County passed under his jurisdiction, in one or the other side of his court, and he was brought into official relations with a larger number of persons in all conditions of life, than any other public officer of the county. His patience, fidelity and impartiality have been universally admitted, and his suavity of manner—the natural expression of a kindly heart—gave him a strong hold upon the affection as well as the respect and confidence of the people of the county.

Though his political opinions were strongly held and expressed freely, in public and in private speech, Judge Chapin had little taste for political life. He represented the town of Uxbridge in the General Court of 1845, and was nominated for Congress in 1856 by the republican convention, but declined the honor. He was elected mayor of Worcester in 1849, and again in 1850, declining a third nomination, but accepted the office again in December, 1870, when he was chosen by the council to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mayor Blake, but declined to be a candidate for the full term, and retired after a few months service, as soon as a successor could be provided by a popular election. He was chosen delegate to the constitutional convention in 1853. In 1848, he was appointed by Governor Briggs Commissioner of Insolvency; and in 1855, by Governor Gardner, commissioner under the "personal liberty law" of Massachusetts, designed for the protection of persons charged with being fugitive slaves. He was for many years a member of the State Board of Education and for fifteen years one of the Trustees of the Worcester Lunatic Hospital. His capacity for business caused his services to be required in connection with several institutions of the city. He was for many years president of the People's Fire Insurance Company, a director of the City National Bank, and vice-president of the Worcester County Institution for Savings. He served as a director of the Providence and Worcester railroad about thirty years.

Judge Chapin's active benevolence found scope in many directions. He was always ready to do a kind act, and next to doing good directly, he liked to organize plans and institutions by which the charity of others might be combined with his own, and made more effectual through an orderly system of administration. The Old Men's Home of Worcester, recently incorporated, was one of the latest benevolent enterprises that he conceived and aided. In religious belief he was decidedly a conservative Unitarian, and a devoted member of the Church of the Unity in Worcester, being for many years superintendent of its Sunday School. After he resigned the superintendency, he joined the Bible class of the school, and remained a member of it until his failing health prevented him from meeting with it. He was active in the denomination, and for many years took a leading position in it, being twice elected President of the American Unitarian Association, and was for four years a member of the Council of the National Conference of Unitarian Churches.

These numerous and diverse employments illustrate the varied activity of his mind, the kindness of his heart, the trust that he inspired in all who came in contact with him. Another kind of service that was often required of him, and seldom declined, was public speaking on all kinds of occasions. His good nature, wit, and an unfailing store of anecdotes, told with remarkable spirit and humor, made his impromptu speeches always acceptable. During the days of the anti-slavery agitation he spoke frequently and effectively in behalf of the free-soil and republican parties; but after his acceptance of a judicial office he thought it unbecoming to take a conspicuous part in political controversies.

Three years before his death, he received the degree of LL.D., from Brown University, R. I. Judge Chapin's health began to fail in the summer of 1877, but he continued to

attend to the duties of his office, and perhaps longer than was prudent. He died Sunday afternoon, October 13th, 1878.

After the services at the house, public services were held in the Church of the Unity, October 16th. The church was filled by the representatives of the various bodies with which Judge Chapin had been associated, and by those who from far and near came to pay his memory their heartfelt respect. The services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Blanchard, and Rev. Mr. Shippen, a former pastor, and secretary of the American Unitarian Association.

Mr. Chapin married October 8th, 1839, Sarah, daughter of Joseph Thayer, Esq., of Uxbridge. Mrs. Chapin died April 30th, 1869. Their only child, a son, died at the age of seven years and ten months. In 1871, May 23d, he married Louisa, a sister of his former wife, who, with their daughter, six years of age, survives him.

The limits of this sketch of the life and character of Judge Chapin, necessarily prevent the insertion of the beautiful and honorable tributes paid to him by the City Government of Worcester and the American Antiquarian Society, at meetings held for this purpose, after his death. And for the same reason we are compelled to omit the equally appreciative resolutions passed by the Alumni of Brown University at their annual meeting; by the Worcester County Conference of Unitarian Churches; by the Boards of various Corporations; and by the Representatives of the Educational and Charitable Institutions in whose behalf Mr. Chapin had so long and so faithfully served, gratifying as it would be to introduce them all; but it seems specially becoming that as the law was the chosen pursuit of his life, and so dear to him, that the slightest aspersion, cast, even in jest, upon the honor of the profession, was always more indignantly repelled than any personal attack, a place should be found for the resolutions

passed October 7th, 1879, by the Worcester County Bar at the first session of the Supreme Court, held after his decease.

Resolved, That in the death of Henry Chapin, the Worcester County Bar realizes the loss of one of its members, who while engaged in the practice of his profession brought to its duties the better elements of an exalted professional probity and fidelity. Genial by nature, courteous and considerate in his intercourse with men, earnest in his devotion to the side he espoused, faithful to the interests of his clients, conscientious in his relations with the courts, at times eloquent in his addresses and always painstaking in the preparation and presentation of his cause, with a mind well balanced and abundant self-control, he furnished in his professional life the model of an admirable lawyer.

His simple tastes, cordial manners and well cultivated mind enabled him to win a social position of influence and respect which has rarely been surpassed in this community.

In the official relations to which he was called by the voluntary suffrages of a grateful constituency, he carried with him an undivided devotion to the public welfare. He possessed an abiding faith in the people and an especial confidence in the character and stability of the people of Worcester. In his inaugural address as Mayor in 1871, he said, "Our power is in our men."

He graced informal occasions with wit and eloquence, and in public exigencies his face and tongue were a power in promoting the welfare of the people.

He was by nature admirably fitted to fill the office and perform the duties as Judge of the Probate Court. His patience was untiring, his sympathy unsimulated, his taste and strong common sense sufficed him in emergencies. The urbanity, courtesy, modesty and simple dignity with which he conducted the business of his court, won for him universal confidence and respect. His official duties in his relations to the philanthropic and eleemosynary institutions of the Commonwealth were always scrupulously performed, and by his death they and the State are deprived of a faithful servant and a generous benefactor.

We regard the life of Henry Chapin as one of usefulness, honor and success. He was a bright example to youth, a

pleasant companion to those of riper years, a useful citizen and a true man in the relations of social, professional and domestic life.

Resolved, That the sympathy of the members of the Bar be extended to our deceased brother's family, and that these resolutions be presented to the Supreme Judicial Court and the Probate Court of said County with the request that they be entered upon the records.

Mr. Justice Morton in receiving the resolutions referred to his association with Judge Chapin, when they were in college together in 1835, speaking of the deceased as a prominent member of the literary society, that he then became interested in him and had watched his future life. He said he could with entire cordiality and intelligence endorse every word of the resolutions. Judge Chapin's record as a Judge of Probate extended farther than his own county and his example was felt throughout the State. It is seldom that you see on a bench three such gentlemen as those which the Probate Court of this county can boast. The examples of Barton, Thomas and Chapin will long be remembered. The resolutions were then ordered to be entered upon the records of the Court.

ADDRESS.

A FIGURE of speech, often appropriate and expressive, represents one as being out of his element; and many a man often realizes in his own experience the truth of the expression. In an age, when lecturing has become a kind of profession and men cultivate themselves for it with all the appliances which eloquence and literature can furnish, he who rashly enters the field is liable to learn that he had better never have made the attempt, and is apt to retire from it a wiser and perhaps a sadder man.

I do not come before you in the capacity of a lecturer. In answer to invitations, to say the least, *pressing*, in an unguarded moment, I gave some encouragement to stand the draft, or furnish a substitute. No substitute having been procured, I am here.

It will be impossible to present to you what has been prepared for this occasion, without laying myself open to the charge of dealing too freely with the personal pronoun of the first person singular. There are times in a man's life, when he has a right

to speak in the first or second person, and about himself or anybody else, as best suits his pleasure, or convenience. For instance, when one is holding sweet converse with parents, brothers, sisters, or friends, the rules of criticism are not apt to be applied very relentlessly, and he is allowed to say pretty much what he pleases, to talk as much and as long as he pleases, and to dress his ideas in the garb which suits them best. With this feeling, I come hither to-night, trusting that you will allow me to present to you the thoughts which have occurred to me upon subjects local in their character and have no special attraction for any person who does not feel a deep interest in the character and history of the town of Uxbridge. It would be far more easy to give you an hour filled with general ideas upon some of the popular and exciting subjects of the day; to talk about this gigantic rebellion, and the best method of putting it down, to discuss some of the questions which fill the hearts of the men and women of this generation, but I shall avoid them all. My apology is this: when I reflect upon the last twenty-five years, and call to mind those with whom it has been my lot to hold pleasant intercourse, it is a source of deep regret that I have not treasured up, and put into some tangible form, many facts of a local and interesting character, now forever buried in the dark ocean of the past. If by the crude and

desultory effort of this evening, I can make any reparation for past neglect, or pay any part of the debt of gratitude I owe to this section of the county, the labor of preparation will not have been spent in vain.

I need not say to you, that this town combines much natural beauty of scenery and was once a fair specimen of a New England farming town. The younger Bezaleel Taft used to say, "I do not place Uxbridge in the first class of farming towns in the county, but it stands among the first of the second class."

The territory now included within the limits of Uxbridge and Northbridge was originally a part of Mendon, and was set off from the parent town June 27th, 1727, under the name of Uxbridge.* This part of Mendon was called by the Indians who early inhabited it Wacantug.† It is said, these Indians had Indian teachers among them to instruct them in the principals of the Christian religion.

The first town meeting of Uxbridge was held July 25th, 1727, one hundred and thirty-six years ago last July. The members of the first board of selectmen were Robert Taft, Ebenezer Read, Wood-

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* Uxbridge received its name from Henry Paget, Earl of Uxbridge, at the time a member of the King's Privy Council. See William Henry Wesencraft's Essay upon the names of Massachusetts towns.

† This name is sometimes spelled Wocantug and Wocantuck. The true spelling is probably Wacantug.

land Thompson and Joseph White. The first town clerk was Edmund Rawson. The town remained in the form in which it was originally organized, until Northbridge was set off as a separate town in the year 1772. The fact that these two towns were originally one municipality explains the reason why, until a period comparatively recent, their annual March meetings were held upon different days of the week, one being held on Monday and the other on Wednesday. Those who had been in the habit of meeting together on this occasion, talking politics, swapping oxen, drinking flip, or doing something more useful, by mutual consent made this convenient and satisfactory arrangement, in order to enable them to continue the same, or similar acts of kindness and good neighborhood.

It is interesting to examine the early records of the town, and observe the prevalence of certain names which seem to have come down like heir-looms from generation to generation. For instance, take the name of Taft. I have had the curiosity to observe casually how often this name appears in the list of town officers. In 1741, 1742 and 1743, it appears six times in the list of town officers for each year, and in the year 1775 it appears sixteen times. One is reminded of the old story of the stranger in Uxbridge, who, meeting a gentleman whom he had never seen before, exclaimed, "How

are you Mr. Taft?" "How did you know my name was Taft?" was the answer. "Well," said he, "I have spoken to twelve persons since I came into this town; eleven of them answered to the name of Taft, and I concluded it would be safe to address you by that name."

The town clerks of this town have been:—

Edmund Rawson, 1727—1753.
John Sibley, 1753—1757.
Moses Taft, 1757—1766.
John Sibley, 1766—1773.
Simeon Wheelock, Jr., 1773—1777.
Seth Read, 1777—1778.
Bezaleel Taft, 1778—1782.
Josiah Read, 1782—1783.
Bezaleel Taft, 1783—1784.
Aaron Taft, Jr., 1784—1799.
Frederic Taft, 1799—1804.
John Capron, 1804—1821.
Daniel Carpenter, 1821—1844.
Amariah Taft, 1844—1855.
Wiliam W. Thayer, 1855—1856.
Henry Capron, 1856—the present time.*

You will observe that generally the town has adopted a wise course in reference to numerous

* Henry Capron held the office of Town Clerk for twenty years, 1856–1876, and was succeeded by Charles C. Capron, who holds the office at the present time.

and successive elections of the same town clerk, and in this way has secured far more uniformity and accuracy in the town records, than would have resulted from more frequent changes in the recording officer of the town.

The people of the town, according to the early records, had an eye to their own interests and were quite distinct and emphatic in their expressions in regard to them. They had their own views of matters and things, and stated them quite unequivocally. Soon after the separation from Mendon, we find their loyalty to the parent town illustrated by the following vote:—

"*Voted*, About Worcester's being a sheir town, that unless Mendon be made a sheir town as Worcester, to hold half y^e^ county courts at, they had rather remain as now, in the county of Suffolk."

When I first read the record of this vote, I was struck with the statement, implying that Uxbridge was once a part of the county of Suffolk. Upon examination I find, that down to the time of the creation of Worcester county, this territory was embraced within the limits of the county of Suffolk. From the tenor of the vote, we may naturally infer that the question of a new county was discussed as early as 1728, and the people of Uxbridge thought fit to express their opinion in the form already stated.

The whole territory of Massachusetts in 1643 was divided into four counties; Essex being the eastern, Middlesex in the middle, Suffolk in the southern and (Old) Norfolk in the northern part. Hampshire county was created in 1662. Essex county, embracing all of Old Norfolk which had not been set off to New Hampshire, was created in 1680. Plymouth, Barnstable and Bristol counties were created in 1685. When the islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard were transferred from New York to Massachusetts, they constituted Dukes county, from which Nantucket was set off as a separate county in 1695. Worcester county was created in 1730, just two years after the vote referred to. Berkshire in 1761, Hampden in 1811, and Franklin in 1812.

For nearly one hundred years after its organization, Uxbridge remained simply an agricultural town with the usual amount of such mechanical business as was carried on in the rural towns of New England. When we examine its records and traditions, we find many of the same proceedings which were common in towns of similar character and position during that period. The location of roads, the building of bridges, the care of the schools, the support of the poor, and the thousand-and-one municipal matters, either more or less important, were voted upon and acted upon from

year to year, in a manner that fills one with a feeling of deep respect for the care and fidelity with which the men of that day performed their municipal duties, and with a feeling of wonder and astonishment at the cheapness and economy with which they carried them on. In 1728, they allowed Mr. Solomon Wood, for services as town treasurer one year, five shillings, and at the same time allowed Lieut. Joseph Taft seven shillings for a barrel of cider. Truly, apples must have been scarce in 1728 in the territory of Wacantug. In 1735, the town voted to raise twenty pounds to defray the town expenses this year. In 1734, Mr. Edmund Rawson was allowed twenty pounds for keeping school six months and boarding himself. In 1731, the town sold their stock of ammunition to help defray town expenses. In the same year it was voted, that "We will make choice of a man to go on y^e^ town's behalf to see about letting y^e^ fish come up y^e^ great river in case other towns should send to Providence to joyn with them in agreeing to have y^e^ fish let up y^e^ great river at Jenekes falls."

From the year 1775, during the revolutionary war, we find that the fires of patriotism burned here brightly and steadily. Although they voted that inoculation for the small-pox should not be set up in Uxbridge, the people showed, not only

that they were not afraid of Great Britain, but that they were willing to contribute their full share towards the prosecution of the war.

At the meeting in May, 1776, in the spring previous to the declaration of independence, an article of which the following is a copy was acted upon: "To see if the town will vote if the honorable Congress should, for the safety of the United States colonies, declare themselves independent of the kingdom of Great Britain, whether that they will solemnly engage with their lives and fortunes to support them in the measure." Have you any question how they voted? Of course they voted in the affirmative. This is not all. In 1778, the town voted "to pay one quarter more than the County rate for 1777," and although an attempt was made at a subsequent meeting to defeat it, or rescind it, the attempt signally failed. In the same year the town voted to raise a committee to procure clothing for the soldiers, and a man to carry it to them. This, you will bear in mind, took place long before any public conveyance was established in this vicinity, and when a journey to and from different sections of the country, was a formidable undertaking in labor and endurance. Prices having been much increased by reason of the war, the town also voted "to pay one-half of the minister's salary in products and labor at the same prices

at which they were furnished at the time of his settlement." What a splendid arrangement it would be now for a minister, or any one else, who is dependent upon a salary, if a similar spirit of liberality could be exercised towards him, at a time when coal is fourteen dollars a ton, and all the other necessaries of life are proportionally as expensive. A word to the wise is of course sufficient.

In the early histories of the towns of New England, we are struck with the attention which was given to the matter of public worship. The people of this town were of the old puritan stock, and the puritans, whether sincere or not, were always marked by their care for the institutions of religion. One of the earliest votes of the new town in 1727, was that they would maintain public preaching by way of rate, and "would build a meeting house forty feet in length, thirty-five feet in breadth and nineteen feet between joynts." In 1752 it was voted to pay £48 to Mr. Webb for his salary, and see whether he has been honorably maintained according to the agreement with him. In 1773 immediately after Northbridge was set off, the town voted to remove the old meeting-house, if it could be, and that the new one be set in the same place. If I am not mistaken, what is spoken of as the old meeting-house was the one which stood upon the

common until after the year 1830, and was the one where all sorts of meetings from time to time were held. If any one here has any curiosity to know more of the common and the location of that meeting-house, which stood upon the hill near where Mr. Hayward's house is situated, he will find under vote of May 11th, 1797, a copy of an agreement signed by Bezaleel Taft, John Capron, Silas Rawson and Robert G. Tillinghast, selectmen of Uxbridge, and John Capron, Elihu Brown and Samuel Willard, parties adjoining the common, fixing the several lines and boundaries of the same.* He will also find annexed thereto a plan of the common, which is quite curious and interesting. The lines and their bearings are given, there is a drawing of the meeting-house, the house formerly occupied by Dr. Samuel Willard with its gambrel roof, a building which I suppose to be the old hotel, the horse-sheds, the house formerly occupied by Elihu Brown, now Mr. Jepherson's, and the old school-house. In addition to these, is a drawing (not a photograph) of the surveyor with his instrument. I *scarcely* recognize the features, but my opinion is that the surveyor was Frederic Taft.

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* The following vote, with date of March 5th, 1794, appears: "VOTED to choose a committee to see all the incumbrances removed off the common, that lies about the town's meeting-house." Nicholas Baylies, Asa Thayer and Samuel Taft were chosen a committee for the purpose.

Compare that sketch taken in 1797, with Uxbridge as it is in 1864, and you will be able to form a pretty clear idea of the growth of this village within the last seventy years.

As a fact tending to show the manners and customs of men with a puritan education, at the time of the raising of the first meeting-house in Uxbridge, in 1730, it became the duty of an appropriate committee to purchase fifteen gallons of rum. One can hardly help asking himself, what raisings wouldn't there be now, if there should be procured and distributed on such an occasion fifteen gallons of what we call rum at the present day. It is probably true, that if the quality of the liquors of that time had been as poor as it is now, and raisings had been characterized by the purchase and distribution of such material, there would at the present time have existed few descendants of the men of 1730 to listen to any speaker upon an occasion like this.

The first settled minister in Uxbridge was the Rev. Nathan Webb. He was settled February 3d, 1731. He died March 16th, 1772, after a ministry of over forty years and in the same year in which Northbridge was set off as a separate town. All that can be learned about him tends to the conviction, that he was a faithful preacher, an earnest, true-hearted man, and that he exerted a

beneficial influence upon the minds and hearts of the people. I have in my possession one of his written sermons which shows deep religious feeling, good sense, clearness of style, and tends to convince me that he was a sound thinker and good writer. He was a man of good temper and genial humor. He used to tell, with much merriment, the following anecdote. A couple came to him to be married. Having tied the knot, he was inquired of by the happy groom about his terms. Mr. Webb told him that he generally left the compensation to the parties. The bridegroom handed him four coppers, and with his bride left the house of the parson. Mr. Webb enjoyed it so much that he could not keep it to himself, and the story reached the ears of the generous party. Meeting Mr. Webb, he told him if he was not satisfied, he would make him satisfied, and handed him another copper. Mr. Webb always said he was satisfied.

The second settled minister was the Rev. Hezekiah Chapman, who was settled January 27th, 1774, and was dismissed April 5th, 1781. In 1778, Mr. Chapman asked for a dismission, but the town voted to pay one-half of his salary in any of the produce of their farms at the price which was current for the same articles at the time of his settlement in the ministry of the town, or, in labor at the price which labor was worth at the same

time. In April, 1781, we find the entries of which the following is a copy:—

"At a meeting of the church in Uxbridge, April 5th, 1781. Whereas, the Rev. Hezekiah Chapman, the pastor of this church, some time since signified to us his desire of a dismission from his pastoral relation to this church and congregation on account of the languishing state of his health. The church having maturely considered the reason he was pleased to assign for his dismission, and previously consulted with the congregation, voted unanimously, that a dismission be granted Mr. Chapman agreeable to his request."

Mr. Chapman's reply is as follows:—

"Mr. Chapman being dismissed from his ministerial relation to the church in Uxbridge, feels himself in justice bound to declare, that they have treated him with tenderness and respect, and that it is with reluctance that he leaves them. The care of his health, which for years has been languishing, obliges him to leave such worthy and valuable friends. He wishes them prosperity, and shall never cease to rejoice in their welfare."

The real reason for Mr. Chapman's leaving does not appear in the foregoing copies. It is a sad fact, that the real cause of his leaving Uxbridge was intemperance. After his dismission, he left the town and his wife remained for some time alone. She was obliged to sell sundry articles of household furniture to procure the necessaries of life, and some of the furniture, after a lapse of seventy-five years, may be seen in this town in a good state of preservation.

The third settled minister was the Rev. Josiah Spaulding, who was settled September 11th, 1783,

and was dismissed October 27th, 1787. It has been written and printed, that both Mr. Chapman and Mr. Spaulding were dismissed more on account of the peculiarity of their religious sentiments than from any other cause. In my opinion this statement is not a correct one, about one of them at least. Mr. Spaulding was unmarried. He was distinguished by a remarkable fondness for the Proverbs of Solomon. In the Bible which he was in the habit of reading, the Book of Proverbs became so soiled and worn, that one could readily discern the locality of his favorite reading by the appearance of the well thumbed pages, that were subjected to his frequent perusal. It appears that in 1787, a vote of the town was passed and sent to Mr. Spaulding, advising him to ask a dismission, and the action of the church and an ecclesiastical council is contained in a certain vote of which the following is a copy:—

"*Uxbridge, Sept. 10th, 1787.* At a Chh. meeting regularly warned at the Meetinghouse: After reading a vote sent to our Rev. Pastor from this Town, or Congregational Society, in which he was advised to ask a dismission from us: and after some conversation, the question being put to see if this Chh. will join with their Pastor in calling a mutual Council of Pastors and Churches to advise upon the expediency of his being dismissed or not—The Vote passed in the affirmative.

Voted, again, that nothing shall be laid before the Council except what is first laid before the Chh. and their voice had upon it, if they see fit, and that 14 days before the Council sit."

(In Council.)

The Church gave the Rev. Mr. Spaulding the following recommendation:—

"*Whereas*, Rev. Mr. Josiah Spaulding is dismissed from us as to his pastoral relation, and as he has requested a dismission from his membership from this Chh. and a recommendation to the communition and fellowship of the Chh. of Christ wherever God in his providence shall call him: this is therefore a testimony that he is a brother in good and regular standing; and in consequence of his request, we do dismiss him from particular membership in this Chh. and do recommend him to the Chh. of Christ, wherever God in his providence shall call him, as a brother in good and regular standing. This vote passed y^e^ Presence of the Council and was signed by the Moderator at the request of the Chh.

AMARIAH FROST,
Moderator."

(In the result.)

"The Council feel it incumbent on them to declare that they view Mr. Spaulding's christian character in a fair and amiable light, and cannot but hope Christ will still use him as an instrument of spreading his Gospel, and promoting his cause in the world. And accordingly we recommend him as a preacher of the Gospel."

Mr. Spaulding was afterwards settled in Worthington, Mass. It would be pleasant to know the reason why the town saw fit to pass the vote referred to, but I have not been able to ascertain any of the facts relating to the same.*

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* After the dismissal of Mr. Spaulding, Mr. Samuel Mead preached for some time in Uxbridge, and in December 1791, the town voted "to concur with the church in giving Mr. Mead a call to be settled over them in the ministry," also, "VOTED £100 as an encouragement to settle, and £90 per annum salary." No answer appears on the records to the foregoing votes.

The fourth settled minister was the Rev. Samuel Judson, who was settled October 17th, 1792, and dismissed in 1832. In the language of the epitaph upon his tombstone, "He was for forty years the faithful and beloved pastor of the church of Christ in Uxbridge, where, after a life of purity and benevolence, he died in the faith and hope of the gospel, Nov. 11th, A. D. 1832, aged 65." I find that he was born in Woodbury, Conn., December 7th, 1767. He married Miss Sally Bartlett of Salem, May 28th, 1797. He was a man of remarkable conscientiousness, rare good nature, much native common sense, and during his long ministry he retained the love and confidence of the people of his charge.*

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* The call given to Mr. Judson was unanimous, and was accompanied by the following votes: "Voted, to give Mr. Samuel Judson £200, provided he shall accept the call and settle in said town; one-half to be paid in one year from the time he is ordained, the other half two years from said ordination, without interest." Also, "Voted, To give Mr. Judson £75 as an annual salary, so long as he shall be our minister."

In relation to the incorporation of the First Congregational Society, the following appears on the record, April 3d, 1797. "Article 3d. Voted, That the petitioners mentioned in said article (the names are not mentioned in the article as it stands on the record) have said town's consent for their being incorporated agreeable to the prayer of their petition, with an amendment (that is) that they have the right to improve the ministry money so long as they shall remain a society as petitioned for and support the Gospel therein."

From the petition mentioned in the foregoing vote, originated the act of incorporation of the "First Congregational Society in Uxbridge," which passed at the next session of the General Court. From this time all connection between the "Congregational Society" and the town ceased. The town occupied the meeting-house for town-meetings and business purposes, until it was taken down for the purpose of building a new church in 1831.

The new church of the First Congregational Society was dedicated in January 1835, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Clarke, preaching the sermon. This building

At the dismissal of Mr. Judson, the elements of religious opinion came to an open rupture, and those who had united under his ministrations, formed themselves into separate societies, according to mixed motives of personal feelings, or religious principles, and the two houses for religious worship, which now stand upon opposite sides of the common were erected, and the members of the two societies, who unitedly paid Mr. Judson a salary of $400 a year, settled the Rev. David A. Grosvenor, at a salary of $600, and the Rev. Samuel Clarke, at a salary of $600; and from that time to the present both societies have been reasonably prosperous: and after the first few years following the separation, with few exceptions, the most kindly feeling has prevailed between the members of the different societies. I do not propose to follow the histories of these two religious societies since the time of their separation, but knowing as I did both Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Clarke, under circumstances which furnished good opportunities for forming an impartial judgment, I am free to say, they were both true and earnest exponents of their different views of theology; both were men of more than ordinary talent, good citizens, good friends, and, as

was thoroughly repaired in 1864, at a cost of about $4,500; and again in 1878, at a cost of some $4,000.

The house of the Evangelical Congregational Society was built the same year, 1833, and dedicated in the autumn. It was repaired some seventeen years ago and much improved.

it appeared to me, sincere Christians and honest men.

Rev. Samuel Clarke, the son of Ninian Clarke of Scotch ancestry, "an extraordinary man, of large sympathies, a noble spirit and trusted by every one," was born in New Boston, N. H., April 21st, 1791. He fitted for college with the Rev. Mr. Beede of Wilton, and was graduated at Dartmouth College in the class of 1812. He studied theology with Dr. Channing, and was ordained at Princeton in Worcester County, June 18th, 1817. He married Miss Sarah Wigglesworth, of Newburyport, September, 1819. On January 9th, 1833, he was installed over the First Congregational Society in Uxbridge, and his connection was not severed during his life. He died in Worcester, Saturday morning, November 19th, 1859, and was buried at Uxbridge on Tuesday, November 22d. The services at the meeting-house of the First Congregational Society were as follows: reading of the Scriptures by Rev. Mr. Ferry; remarks by Rev. Messrs. Hill of Worcester, Boyden of Woonsocket and Ball of Upton; and a prayer by Rev. Mr. Shippen of Worcester. The services were appropriate and impressive. The funeral was attended by a large concourse of people of the various religious societies. The business of the village was suspended, the stores were closed; and, although the

day was stormy, the whole community seemed to wish to pay their last tribute of respect to the memory of a good man and truly Christian minister. It was well remarked by one of the company at the grave, "There lies a man who was more beloved than any other man in the town of Uxbridge."

When a good man passes away, it is well to review his life, and learn the true qualities of his character. The ministry of Mr. Clarke extended over a period of forty-two years; fifteen of which were passed in Princeton, and twenty-seven in Uxbridge. It having been the privilege of the writer, during a portion of the time, to listen to the religious exercises of Mr. Clarke from week to week, to meet him almost daily in the intercourse of life, to confer with him in scenes of joy and sorrow, to witness his spirit under circumstances of peculiar trial and anxiety, he feels at liberty to offer his grateful tribute to his memory. There existed in him a beauty and consistency of character rarely witnessed. He was a true friend. To all who knew him his presence seemed a benediction. But, in the familiar intercourse of life, we were often surprised by the gushing out of emotions and sympathies, which a stranger, who had only witnessed the calm dignity of his deportment, would scarcely have expected. A man of rare modesty, great self-denial, imperturbable good nature, excellent gifts,

large culture and unflinching fidelity to duty, he went in and out before us during twenty-seven years; and, eloquent and appropriate as were his religious exercises, his life was one of the richest legacies which he bequeathed to win us to a higher life, by the living power of a pure Christian example. Blest during the greater portion of his ministerial life with the companionship of a wife of rare accomplishments, combined with large common sense and devoted Christian principles, he always found his home a happy one, where he ever met ready sympathy, kind words, and hearty co-operation. No man in the community fulfilled his duty more faithfully. The poor, the sick and the unfortunate always found in him a friend; and his labors in the cause of education and good order are held in grateful remembrance. Although he was far from robust, and exhibited for a number of years symptoms of declining health, his religious exercises seemed to increase in excellence from year to year, and the genuine beauty of his character became more and more apparent. He labored faithfully until a Sunday in the July preceding his death, when, in the performance of his usual duties, exhausted nature gave way, and he fell to the floor of his pulpit in a fainting condition. Feeling that his work was done, he sent in a letter resigning his office, and requesting the Society to accept his resignation,—a request

which, to their honor, they promptly declined; not only voting to supply the pulpit, but to continue the salary of Mr. Clarke. From that time, although the seal of coming death was on his brow, it brought no terrors and the kindly voice and beaming smile seemed to speak of a heaven within.

Again he met his church at the communion table, distributed to them the symbols, and, in language which those who heard him can never forget, he commended them to God, committed all to His hands, and bade them farewell with the hope, that, if it was God's will, they might meet again this side of the grave, but be fully prepared for whatever in God's providence was in store for him. Another meeting in life was not vouchsafed to them. While the tones of his parting farewell seemed yet to linger in our ears, we were startled by the announcement that the beloved and faithful pastor had quietly dropped to sleep "like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."*

There has long been a society of Friends, or Quakers, in this town; but their faith has been so internal and undemonstrative, that there is but little on an occasion like this to say of them. We all know that this denomination of Christians early

*See Appendix I. for an account of the successors to Rev. Mr. Clarke and Rev. Mr. Grosvenor.

adopted firm and decided views upon the great questions of slavery, intemperance and the prevailing evils of society; but their style of enforcing their views has been so quiet and unobtrusive, that we hardly realize that many of these questions, which seem to some of us so new, are, to the members of this denomination, as old as the plain bonnet and the straight collared coat: and these questions have been so well considered by them, that their opinions about them seem to them as natural and as much a thing of course as the air they breathe.

There is a Baptist society in the north part of the town, but its history is so modern that I leave it with the statement of the fact of its existence, although it would be pleasant to refer to some of its preachers and to its more prominent and influential members, among whom was the late Dea. David D. Payne.*

Within a few years past you have found established here a Roman Catholic Church; but of this you must know so much more than I, that I content myself with the mere recognition of a circumstance which would have seemed so strange† twenty years ago. With these remarks I leave the ecclesiastical history of the town,‡ and refer to some other events in its history.

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*See Appendix II., Baptist Church. †See Appendix III., Roman Catholic Church. ‡See Appendix IV., Methodist Episcopal Church.

In the month of November, 1789, Gen. George Washington, then President of the United States, passed a night in Uxbridge, at a tavern, kept, in his language, by "one Taft." I need not tell you where what was then the tavern, is now situated,* nor who occupies it. I need not express the hope that the building may long be spared as an object of patriotism in trust. From Hartford, General Washington wrote on the eighth of November, 1789, on his way home, the following letter to "Mr. Taft, near Uxbridge, Massachusetts":—

"*Sir*:—Being informed that you have given my name to one of your sons, and called another after Mrs. Washington's family, and being moreover much pleased with the modest and innocent looks of your two daughters, Patty and Polly, I do, for these reasons, send each of these girls a piece of chintz; and to Patty, who bears the name of Mrs. Washington, and who waited upon us more than Polly did, I send five guineas with which she may buy herself any little ornaments she may want, or she may dispose of them in any other manner more agreeable to herself. As I do not give these things with a view to have it talked of, or even to its being known, the less there is said about the matter, the better you will please me; but that I may be sure the chintz and money have got safe to hand, let Patty, who, I dare say, is equal to it, write me a line informing me thereof, directed to 'The President of the United States, New York.' I wish you and your family well, and am your humble servant."

There is a circumstance, related to me by a venerable clergyman a few weeks since, which may be interesting to you. General Washington called at

* The house now occupied by Mr. Warner Taft. The daughter Polly, mentioned in the letter, married Joseph H. Perry, of Milford.

the house of Col. Ammidown in Mendon, whom he had known in the Revolutionary Army, but not finding him at home, passed on his way to Uxbridge. Soon after he had retired, Col. Ammidown, accompanied by his daughter, arrived, both being very anxious to see the President. To the surprise of his attendants, he arose and, attired in his dressing-gown, had a very pleasant interview with his old friend and the daughter. At the close of the interview, said the General to Miss Ammidown, "Allow me to ask you one question; you have come a good ways to see an old man, how far would you have gone to see a young one?"

Col. Samuel Cragin was a soldier in the old French war, was present at the capture of Quebec, and was a captain in the war of the Revolution. He once kept a hotel in the house now occupied by Mr. Charles E. Seagrave, and afterwards in the large gambrel-roofed house, known as the John Capron house. This house was built by Col. Seth Reed, who once owned the most of the real estate in this village. The oft-asserted claim of Reed Parsons to a title in the common had its origin in some way connected with the ownership of Col. Seth Reed.

The first store in Uxbridge was kept by George Southwick in the south part of the town; and the second, by a Mr. Russell in a building opposite to what was formerly known as the John Seagrave

place, and was afterwards owned and occupied by Daniel Seagrave. As an illustration of the change in the places, and modes of doing business in this town, permit me to refer you to one spot, about which but few young people know anything. On the old road to Slatersville, you may observe a cluster of wood-colored buildings of small dimensions that now bear the marks of neglect, and you may wonder what should have caused them to be erected. The truth is, this comparatively deserted spot was once among the most active and business-like localities of Uxbridge. Here Esek Fitts carried on the business of manufacturing hats, with numerous journeymen and apprentices; Royal Southwick, tanning and currying; Enoch Aldrich, coopering; Parley Brown and Mason Buffington, shoe-making; and here George Southwick did the most extensive business in the store-keeping line which in those days was carried on in this section of the county, and manufactured large quantities of potash which he exported to England, besides keeping a circulating library for the neighborhood. The change in the lines of travel and the use of rivers for manufacturing purposes, changed the places of trade and of business, and grass now grows where once everything was alive with the bustle of trade and industry. Allow me in this connection to relate an incident somewhat characteristic of the times. A

person known as "Old Croney," had paid a bill to George Southwick, and after he had arrived at his home, he found, or there was shown to him upon the bill, a large number of "dittoes." He told Dr. Samuel Willard, who was rather fond of fun, that he had had no dittoes, and the Doctor told him he had better go back and have the bill corrected. Croney called upon George Southwick and stated his grievance. Said George, "Who sent you here?" Said Croney, "Dr. Willard." "Well," said George, "you tell Dr. Sam. Willard that he is a d——n fool and you are a ditto!"

The first distillery in town was established by Col. Daniel Tillinghast, upon what has recently been known as the Royal Thayer place. He manufactured malt in the building on the corner of the old road, which was afterwards converted into a residence by Mr. John Seagrave. The second distillery was owned by Thaddeus Taft, and was located upon what is now the farm of Mr. John S. Taft. They manufactured gin and cider brandy. In the year 1826, the remains of the distillery of Col. Tillinghast were visible upon the Royal Thayer place, and the pipes showed a form of construction which gave the observer a very distinct idea of the worm of a still.

The first Postmaster in Uxbridge was Dr. Samuel Willard. The first post-office was kept at

North Uxbridge by Capt. Samuel Read, the Deputy-Postmaster. All the travel from Boston to Hartford and back, passing through this town, passed through the northern part, at the time of the establishment of the post-office.

Here it may be proper to say, that there is one peculiarity of this town that must be considered unfortunate. It has always seemed to me to have more south-west to it, than any other town of its size with which I am acquainted. This is probably owing to the fact that Northbridge was originally part of its territory. At any rate, the fact is a notable one to any person who is either acquainted with its geography, or has had occasion to look up a client who was reported to reside in the south-west part of the town. I well remember the remark of one of your citizens at the time of the dispute about the Rhode Island boundary line, which was, that he hoped the line would be removed because it ran so near his house that he thought it was demoralizing. I do not know that I should assent to this proposition, but I do think, that the nearer to the line of a border town you can bring its educational, moral and religious institutions, the better it will be for the moral, educational and religious welfare of the immediate neighborhood.

The mail from Boston to Hartford, sixty years ago, was carried weekly to and from Boston in a

one-horse gig, by a man of the name of Steele. At that time, there was no mail from Providence to Worcester. It is said that the first ride through the Blackstone valley was made by William Blackstone on the back of a bull. Professor Gammell has playfully remarked, that this was the origin of the term, "Bullgine." Sometime between fifty and sixty years ago, the first mail from Providence to Worcester was carried by Abner Cooper, who resided in Northbridge. He used to go to Providence on one day, return to Northbridge on the second day, go to Worcester and return to his home in Northbridge on the third day. He traveled at first on horseback, next in a one-horse gig, and finally in a two-horse vehicle, and carried passengers, who used frequently to stop at his house over night. It is said that he carried his oats with him, and stopped by the roadside to feed his horses. It is to be feared that New England passengers of the present day might be somewhat impatient with this kind of locomotion.

The first stage upon this route was established by one Henry Richardson in 1812. He drove through from Providence to Worcester in one day, and back the next. Although he succeeded in depriving Mr. Cooper of his passengers, he failed in his enterprise. Mr. Cooper continued to carry the mail until another line of stages was established, when the

stages proved too strong for him, and he retired from the field. It would be pleasant to recall the times when staging was at its full tide through Uxbridge, when such men as John Bradlee held the ribbons, before the time when the railroads had ruined the business; to tell of the social scenes of a long day's ride with the pleasantest people in the world, of the handsomest women and the jolliest men; to describe how Luther Spring used to welcome the drivers, and mix the toddy, and get up a dinner which was a dinner; and how the drivers would blow their bugle blasts, and come dashing up to the door as though the whole rebel army was in hot pursuit; but there is no time on this occasion to indulge in any such luxury, and we must hasten to speak of other subjects.

I shall say nothing of the later members of the legal profession in this town; but I feel at liberty to say, that the town was fortunate in the character of the lawyers who early settled here. The members of the profession who have practiced here, so far as I can learn, have been Nathan Tyler, Benjamin Adams, Bezaleel Taft, Jr., George Wheaton, Joseph Thayer, Francis Deane, Henry Chapin, Lucius B. Boynton, George S. Taft, and George W. Hobbs.* A lawyer of average ability in a

* We add to the above list, Frederic B. Deane and Judge A. A. Putnam. Francis Deane and his son, Frederic B. Deane, now reside in Worcester.

country town, can do much for the good or evil, the credit or disgrace, of his home. He may do much toward producing a spirit of peace, or a spirit of strife in the community. I have sometimes thought he might do more evil than the preacher could do good, or he might be one of the most efficient aids to the spiritual teachers of society. His peculiar relations to the business interests of the people, give him an insight into the hearts and motives of men, which are often hidden from the view of other persons. To use a plain illustration, the preacher sees his people in a sort of Sunday, church-going garb, while the lawyer sees them in their every-day clothes, and reads the hearts when unveiled by any shadow of hypocrisy. Such being the case, the minister is not the only man whose settlement in a town is a matter of transcendent importance, because the lawyer may have full as much to do with its character and prosperity as the minister.

Nathan Tyler, the first lawyer in Uxbridge, was a colonel in the revolutionary army. Mr. Tyler lived in the house occupied by Mr. Wheeler and known as the Esq. Frederic Taft place. Of Mr. Tyler there is but little known. His name appears occasionally upon the records of the town. He was probably not only the first lawyer in Uxbridge, but the first lawyer in the south part of the county. Although from what can be learned of him, I have

no doubt he was a man of good standing in the community, I infer he never came to be very prominent as a lawyer, from the fact, that the former Governor Lincoln once informed an elderly lawyer of my acquaintance, that at one time the whole section between himself at Worcester and Judge Wheaton at Norton, was filled by Seth Hastings.

Mr. Tyler was succeeded by Benjamin Adams. Mr. Adams was born in Mendon, December 16, 1764. He was graduated at Brown University, studied law in Uxbridge, in the office of Col. Nathan Tyler, practiced law one year in Hopkinton, Middlesex county, and upon the death of Mr. Tyler, succeeded to his office and his business in this town. Mr. Adams was too young to enter the army of the revolution, but his father and his brothers were all soldiers, and when he was but sixteen years old, he mowed six weeks, cutting all the grass upon his father's place, while the women of the family made the hay. He was a member of Congress from Worcester south from 1815 to 1823. He was defeated by Jonathan Russell by reason of a speech of Mr. Adams in favor of the protection of American manufactures, Daniel Webster and the commercial interests of Boston having taken the field against him on account of his sentiments and vote in favor of the protection of American industry. How strange, that forty years ago, a man should have

been sacrificed politically on account of views and opinions, which time seems to have taken pleasure in demonstrating was the true policy for New England. It reminds one of the splendid old hymn upon the martyrs:

"Flung to the heedless winds,
Or on the waters cast,
Their ashes shall be watched
And gathered at the last."

Mr. Adams was a man of peculiarly even temperament, embodying in himself the idea of a pure minded man, an honest lawyer and a christian gentleman. He seemed from principle, to endeavor to make himself a useful man in the community. He never spoke unless he had something to say, and he always left off when he had said it. He was perfectly contented with whatever disposition was made of him by his fellow-citizens, and he wished to prosper, if at all, with them. Possessed of an ample fortune for the time in which he lived, at an unfortunate moment, he was induced to engage in manufacturing, and he shared the fate of many professional men who venture out of their sphere. The hurricane which swept over the manufacturing business of New England involved him in pecuniary ruin, but his integrity was left untarnished, and from the year 1828, to the time of his death, he passed a quiet life, going to his grave respected by

all. His memory is yet green in the hearts of those who knew him, and his name is a household word of respect and reverence in the valley of the Blackstone. His simple epitaph is this, "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

George Wheaton was originally from Bristol county. He married in Uxbridge, and after practicing law here a few years, returned to Bristol county and died there. He was a man of fair abilities, and gentlemanly deportment. His health, after he entered his profession, was never very firm and he died early. His legal business was not extensive. Those who knew him, speak of him with kindness and regard. My own impression is, that his tastes were more literary than legal, and that he lacked those masculine qualities which fit a man for the rough-and-tumble of the profession of the law.

An article in one of the Worcester newspapers contains certain views relating to Hon. Bezaleel Taft, senior, formerly, and for many years, a magistrate of this town, to Hon. Bezaleel Taft, Jr. and to George S. Taft, Esq., the last two having been lawyers here, which express my views so nearly that I take the liberty to adopt them as my own.

"Hon. Bezaleel Taft, senior, was born in 1750 and died in 1839, in his 89th year. For many years he was one of the leading men in the south part of Worcester County, and

the tokens of the confidence of his fellow-citizens, while they imposed upon him the burdens of life, strengthened him for their faithful fulfillment. He was for two years a member of the State Senate, and for some thirty years a member of the House of Representatives from Uxbridge. He was a strong and decided Federalist and never swerved from his political faith.

Firm, compact, honest, dignified and able, he went through life fulfilling its various duties with rare fidelity and conscientiousness; and left to his family and to all who knew him, a character which is always referred to with reverent pride and pleasure. He became a large landholder in his native town, and the old homestead is yet in the hands of his descendants. The stately elms which shelter the home of the patriarch, built of timber hewn by his own hands, and firm as the hills around, are emblematic of the man whose memory is embalmed in the hearts of his friends and kindred. The brief and appropriate inscription upon his tombstone reads thus: "His life was a bright example of private and public worth, and the hoary head was to him a crown of glory, being found in the way of righteousness."

"Hon. Bezaleel Taft, Jr., was born in 1780, and died in 1846, in his 66th year. He was a gentleman of polished manners, excellent culture and high standing in his profession. He was graduated at Cambridge, in the year 1805, and after being admitted to the bar, established himself as a lawyer in his native town. He always resided in Uxbridge, and enjoyed largely the confidence of his fellow-citizens. He was twice elected a member of the State Senate, twice a member of the Executive Council, and for a number of years a representative to the Massachusetts Legislature. He was very active in the establishment of the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, and always referred with much pleasure to the part which he had taken in its origin and success. He was the second president of the Blackstone Bank, and held the office at the time of his death. He was a man of genial humor, rare hospitality, enlightened public spirit and unbending integrity. His name and character are held in grateful remembrance by those who knew him best, and his children and his children's children still cherish them as a priceless legacy.

And now the third in the line has fallen at the age of thirty-three years, almost at the commencement of his business life. Graduating in 1848, he pursued his legal studies in the office of Henry Chapin, in Worcester, until June, 1851, when he was admitted to the bar of this county. Attracted by strong feelings of affection for his kindred and home, he could not bring his mind to think of settling in any other place than Uxbridge, and he accordingly opened an office in that town during the same year. His life has been a happy one. Surrounded by those whom he loved, doing a respectable business, the idol of his friends, and the general favorite of every circle, he had become one for whom a whole community will mourn. Not subjected to the pressure which compels some young men to become able and acute lawyers, he had not risen to that height in his profession which his talents might have commanded; but as the years rolled on the responsibilities of his position seemed to become more and more real to him, and high hopes were entertained of such a success as should do full justice to the powers which we all felt that he possessed. But such was not the order of Providence. Smitten by a fatal and insidious disease at a time when he seemed to be in the full glow of health and hope, he lingered a few months among us, happy, genial, loving and beloved, and then without a murmur or a pain went the way of his fathers, and the places that have known him will know him no more.* C."

Of those now living it would be inappropriate, however desirable, to make any remarks at this time. I leave it to later days and other tongues to do them justice.†

The first physician in Uxbridge, to whom I have occasion to refer, was a Dr. Wood, who occupied a house standing formerly upon the old cellar situated

* George Spring Taft was born December 26th, 1826, and died February 2d, 1860.

† For a notice of Joseph Thayer, Esq., written by Mr. Chapin, see Appendix V.

near the road, northerly from the spot where the boat house formerly stood. After he had been in Uxbridge a number of years, Dr. Samuel Willard came here from Mendon and began the practice of medicine. After Dr. Willard had practiced in Uxbridge awhile, on a dark and stormy night he was called upon to visit a patient in a remote part of the town, or in the edge of Burrillville. Dr. Willard started on horseback, with the caller behind him, and after proceeding a considerable distance he found he was riding alone, and soon crossed a stream which was swollen by a freshet. The next morning Dr. Willard found that the covering of a bridge had been taken or carried away, and that his horse had crossed upon one of the string-pieces of the bridge with the Doctor upon his back. Soon after this Dr. Wood suddenly disappeared from Uxbridge; and some persons were uncharitable enough to suppose that he was the means of the call which was made upon his young competitor.

Dr. Samuel Willard was born in 1748, and died September 11th, 1811, aged sixty-three years, in the house now occupied by Joseph Day. He was an eminent physician, a man of strong feelings and of much intellectual acumen. He did a very large and lucrative business in his profession, and accumulated considerable property and extensive possessions of real estate. He was a Tory in

the days of the revolution, but escaped the penalties of that offence, and spent here his busy life, retaining to the last that quaintness of thought, that positiveness of statement, that keenness of satire, and that wit and humor, which marked him in the early days of his professional life. For twenty years, or more, he had in charge a large number of insane persons, and was supposed to possess peculiar skill in their management and medical treatment. In this way he was instrumental in bringing much ready money into Uxbridge. The old school-house which stood upon the hill, he used as a sort of insane hospital, and the small building which formerly stood where the shuttle shop is situated, was a kind of water-cure establishment, where some of the unruly ones used to suffer the wet pains and penalties of their misconduct. One of your citizens has described to me a novel bath which Dr. Willard used in managing his insane patients. He used to put them in a box made full of holes, the head of the patient protruding above the box. The box was then placed in the water. He said to one of his patients, "Come, be a good Democrat and all will come right." Said the patient, "I have done everything bad, almost even to murder, but I never did so bad a thing as to be a Democrat." Two of these patients, named Hancock and Ayers,

whose forms and features are fresh in the memory of many of the present generation, belonged to families of wealth and standing in Boston. They met each other at dinner on their way to Uxbridge in charge of their friends respectively, and they both remained together in the care of different persons during a period of more than forty years. The famous Hancock house in Boston was the home of the patient of that name, whose courtly manners and stately form showed the wreck of one who should have been a worthy descendant of the patriot of revolutionary memory. If you will excuse one more epitaph, I will relieve you from any more graveyard literature after reading the following, copied from the tombstone of Dr. Samuel Willard:

"For worth departed, tears of sorrow flow;
Science and friendship mourn in silent woe:
In each pursuit to honor's precept true,
He claims this tribute as in justice due.

Genius and truth acknowledge him their own,
Which in their sphere a constellation shone.
Reader attend, and emulate his plan,
Be what he was, a strictly honest man."

Let me now speak of two other physicians who here practiced their profession, though both of them subsequently removed from the town.

Dr. Augustus C. Taft was the son of Dea. Chandler Taft. He practiced successfully in his

profession in Upton and afterwards moved to Uxbridge and practiced in this town for awhile. From Uxbridge he moved to Boston, and from there to Framingham, where he died early. After leaving Uxbridge, he devoted himself to other pursuits. Dr. Taft was a man of fair abilities, great kindness of heart, with a fund of bright, sparkling humor, which made him a general favorite. I am not aware that he ever injured the feelings of any one, or left an enemy behind him. He married a daughter of the Rev. E. T. Taylor, of the Seamen's Bethel at Boston, who still survives her husband. The tragic death of a beautiful daughter, by an accident at the railroad crossing near her father's residence in Framingham, is still fresh in the minds of those whose sympathies were so deeply moved for the grief-stricken parents.

Of Dr. Smith it is impossible to speak in too commendatory terms. He was in Uxbridge a few months only, and then settled in Sutton, where he remained during the most of his professional life, although he spent his last few years in Providence, where he died. He was a remarkable man. Belonging to a family eminent in the medical profession, he achieved, in a quiet farming town in the County of Worcester, a reputation which any one might envy. Called in every direction for consultation and medical advice, he sustained a position

in the confidence of the people rarely equalled in this vicinity. His splendid form, his magnificent head, his modesty of deportment and his clearness of intellect combined to make him a sort of idol among those who had the good fortune to secure his services. He loved his friends, but he did not love indiscriminately. As an instance of his local attachments, it is related of him that upon his return from Providence on his first visit to Sutton, he was met upon the common with tears coursing down his cheeks and in explanation of the circumstance said, "Why, it looks like New Jerusalem." It used to be said of him that he was rather uncertain about answering calls, although he was quite attentive to the cases of his old friends. A lady, whose mother was sick sent for the doctor, and he did not appear under two or three days. The mother was one of his early friends. Upon his arrival, the daughter met him at the door with the exclamation, "Doctor, why didn't you come and see mother sooner?" Said he, "I thought it was you who was sick; if I had known it was your mother, I should have been here before," blunting the edge of his remark with one of those contagious bursts of laughter, which were absolutely irresistible.*

* See Appendix VI., for a notice of James Watson Robbins, M. D. The other physicians of the town are Alonzo W. Bemis, Charles A. Wilcox and J. M. Macomber. For a notice of Dr. Macomber, see Appendix VII.

John Capron, whose name has been continually connected with the history of Uxbridge, was born in Cumberland, R. I., July 28th, 1757, and died July 11th, 1834. He became a citizen of Uxbridge about the year 1792, and purchased property, which with the additions afterwards made to it, has since been known as the Capron estate. He was the first President of the Blackstone Bank, and was Town Clerk of Uxbridge from 1804 to 1821. He was a plain, blunt man of consistent character, sturdy honesty, solid material and no veneering. It has been said of him, that after vainly endeavoring to decline a re-election to the office of Town Clerk, at a time when that officer was in the habit of orally publishing the intentions of marriage, he quietly made the proclamation on the next Sunday after the town meeting at which he was re-elected, that "I, John Capron, intend marriage," adding whatever more was necessary according to the custom of that day. Almost his first entry as Town Clerk was, "voted that swine run at large being yoked and ringed, according to law." At May meeting, 1804, after recording that Bezaleel Taft was chosen representative, he adds, "N. B. A considerable number of votes were given for Benjamin Adams, Esq., for representative, the precise number I forgit." At May meeting, 1808, he writes, "met according to the foregoing warrant,

and gave in their votes as follows:—for Mr. Peter Farnum 101, Hon. Bezaleel Taft, Esq., 89, for the Hon. Benjamin Adams, Esq., 1. Of course Farnum was chosen and accepted the choice, and returned his thanks to the meeting."

Daniel Day was born in Mendon at the Kempton place, and died Oct. 23, 1848, aged 81 years. He was a man of great industry and energy. He purchased a large farm in Uxbridge and carried it on with eminent success. He was engaged in trade for a number of years. His store was formerly situated opposite the house of Captain Otis Wilcox, and afterwards in the village. He was a man of large information, strong mind and retentive memory, and although he had but six weeks schooling in his life, he was one of the most thorough and careful readers in town. He was the first person in Uxbridge to make woolen goods by machinery, and was the second person to manufacture them in this country. He acquired a respectable amount of property, and has left descendants who carry in their marked qualities of mind and character, the traits of an ancestor whom they will learn to respect the more, the more they reflect upon the qualities which won for him the estimation in which he was held by the men of his day and generation.

Joseph Richardson was born in Burrillville, R. I., and spent the larger portion of his life on the farm

now occupied by Caleb and William B. Richardson. He was the first democrat elected from this town to the Legislature. He was a large farmer and probably acquired more property by farming than any other person in this vicinity. He was always present in the town meetings, and always listened to with marked interest and attention, and often had pitched political battles with his brother-in-law, Bezaleel Taft, senior, who was a Federalist of the deepest dye. Mr. Richardson was a man of much modesty of feeling and demeanor, and repeatedly refused to accept the office of Justice of the Peace. The office at that day was free of charge, but at the present day, most men are happy to pay the sum of five dollars which is charged for it. He was an out-and-out Universalist from the deepest conviction, and made much exertion to attend the meetings of that denomination. He was a man of such simple habits of thrift and industry, that he probably never spent an hour in a store or hotel, when he was not engaged there in business. He possessed a wonderful faculty for the accumulation of property, and whatever he touched may be almost said to have turned to gold. I close my remarks upon him with one simple illustration. As he showed to a neighbor his various notes and mortgages, the neighbor inquired, "How under the heavens did you come by so much property?" "Ah!" said he,

"any fool can make money, but it takes a wise man to keep it!" He has gone, but his mantle may be floating over some of his kith and kin.

In this connection, allow me to refer to one or two men of a very different style of character. Who has not heard of Simeon Richardson, son of the gentleman of whom I have just spoken? Imagine to yourselves a genial, burly-looking man, weighing between two and three hundred pounds, who with all his good qualities, had a large infusion of those of a more questionable character; who threatened to set fire to his father's house if he would not alter his will; who applied the nose of a simple minded neighbor to a grindstone until he would say, "Blessed be Simeon;" who said, that he thought he never really loved his wife until he had taken so much comfort sleeping with a pair of twins, one on each arm; who threatened one of the most respectable magistrates in Uxbridge, that if he could catch him in the state of Rhode Island he would boot him within an inch of his life; who was romping, rollicking, genial, profane, witty and clever by turns; whose heart, in spite of his errors, often overflowed with generosity and kindness, and who left upon one the impression of an unhewn, or more properly speaking, of a rough-hewn, diamond; and you have a tolerably correct idea of Simeon Richardson.

Who has not heard of Ananias Gifford, the sprightly little brickmaker of the valley? Who that ever met him has forgotten his friendly greeting? And who, to whom he chanced ever to become indebted, will not recognize his stereotyped jocularity, "Oh! yes; all easy, cousin, my name is Ananias; and wait"?

It would be pleasant to me to speak at length of many of the former people of Uxbridge—of Jonathan Whipple, who was the soul of hospitality and good cheer, the pride of whose life was, that no man could say that he was not an honest man;* of Samuel Read, who possessed the elements of permanent popularity; of Ephraim Spring, whose sneeze was said to have been heard in a clear morning from North Uxbridge to Lumpbottom; of Alpheus Baylies, once so active and enterprising; of Frederic Taft, the unsurpassed land-surveyor of the town, from time immemorial; of Eastman Taft, the dream of whose life was to be elected representative from the town, and whose experience uniformly was to be defeated; of Jerry Wheelock, so thoroughly informed, and yet always so modest and unassuming; of Amariah Chapin, so smooth and gentlemanly and so kindly of speech; of Jonathan Gregory, the first cashier of Blackstone Bank; of Abiel Jaques, the blunt, outspoken

* See Appendix VIII., Jonathan Whipple.

preceptor of Uxbridge Academy; of Dr. George Willard, whose accommodating nature rarely allowed him to contradict one; of Dea. Daniel D. Payne, who, among his many decided opinions, believed that it was a misfortune for a girl who had been in the habit of earning large wages to marry a man of small means, because she would be likely to have contracted extravagant habits; of Adolphus Spring, with a temper so even and a character so pure; of Daniel Carpenter, the puritanical liberal, the Unitarian worshipper with Trinitarian proclivities; of Cato Willard, one of nature's noblemen in spite of the color of his skin; of Daniel Farnum, who with all his wealth and shrewdness, loved to pitch coppers with the boys at a copper a game; of Peter White and Peter Freeman, each of them every inch a man; of the families of Taft, Thayer, Spring, Seagrave, Wood, Farnum, Thompson, Williams and others, some of which seemed almost to rival in number the descendants of the father of the faithful; of glorious women, past and present, to describe whom successfully, would need a pen of sapphire dipped in a sunbeam; but time would fail me, if I should make the attempt. One thing, however, I will say in this connection, that no town of the size and population of Uxbridge, has been more successful in bringing up a large number of active and energetic business men than

this. Without referring to the business citizens of to-day, let me say, that the town which has within a given period, sent out such men as Stephen C. Greene; Josiah, Royal and Amory Chapin; Jacob, Josiah, Edward and George W. Seagrave; John, Paul, Peter, Moses, Welcome and Darius D. Farnum; Sylvanus Holbrook; Effingham L. Capron; Asa Newell; Joseph Carpenter; Daniel Day; Royal C. Taft; David F. Wood; George T. Murdock; Stephen and Jason Emerson, and others; need never be ashamed of its record in this respect; while other towns may well look for the cause which has produced so remarkable a result.

Before proceeding to consider this, let me say, that among the objects of interest to the people is growing shade-trees. I have learned to make an estimate of the public spirit of a village, or neighborhood, by the simple test of the presence, or absence, of trees of this kind. In one of Scott's novels, entitled, "The Heart of Mid-Lothian," Dumbiedikes is represented as saying, "Jock, when ye hae nothing else to do, ye may aye be sticking in a tree; it will be growing, Jock, when ye're sleeping." When you look upon the beautiful trees which adorn your common, it may be pleasant to recall something of their history. Early in the present century, when the blacksmith's shop of Elihu Brown stood upon the spot now occupied by the

Academy building,* directly in front of it stood a large oak tree, which having become somewhat decayed, was blown down in a gale of wind. The two horse chestnut trees that stand near the Academy building were set out by my classmate and friend, Mr. Charles C. Jewett, the accomplished librarian of the Boston Public Library. The fact that he placed them where they now stand, has probably long since passed from his mind; but there they stand to dispense their beauty, fragrance and shade, comforting and blessing those who will never know to whom they are indebted for the pleasure. The rest of the trees upon the common, with the exception of one or two more ancient ones, and some that have been set to replace others which have died, were provided in accordance with a subscription which was made not far from twenty years ago. Who that now looks upon them would suppose that some persons not only refused to aid in the enterprise, but actually threatened to cut them down. Yet such things are true, and it is a fact well known to some persons, that if after those trees had been set out, they had been willfully injured, the aggressor, if discovered, would have learned the penalty which the law imposes for willful and malicious injury to shade-trees. No money or labor was ever better invested than this.

* See Appendix IX., Elihu Brown.

They stand here to-day, as far as they go, the silent mementoes of a true public spirit; and for a common, not large enough to bear the seeming constraint and confinement of a fence, they combine utility and grace, and will long be looked upon as one of the crowning beauties of this village; and although it is true that our railroads, as they are constructed, often impress one with the idea of the barbarism of civilization, yet if each land-owner would line them with shade trees, at reasonable distances on each side of the track, these very embankments, which extend like artificial deserts through so many homesteads in the land, might be made "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

We come now to consider a new feature in the history of this town.

The population of Uxbridge in 1790, was 1,310; in 1800, it was 1,404; and in 1810, the same. In twenty years, the increase of population had been but ninety-four, and all the increase had been in the first half of the twenty years. If no additional element of industry had been brought into use, I see no reason why the increase in population, between 1800 and 1860, should have exceeded the increase between 1800 and 1810, which is represented by a cipher; for this has been the experience of some of the towns where the only business has been farming.

In one of the stories in an interesting little book, entitled, "John Hopkins' notions on Political Economy," John is represented as being located on a lonely island and getting rather a poor living by the labor of his own hands. During one of his journeys over the island, he discovers a huge giant, and manages by his superior intelligence to make the giant quite useful. He mounted the giant's back, made him carry him home, transport his burdens, draw his wood, logs and various other commodities about the island and thus relieve John from much of the drudgery of his life. He then made the giant grind his corn, saw his wood and lumber, and manufacture cloth, until at last this giant, who had been lazily basking in the sun, or running uselessly about from the time of his creation, by means of the skill and ingenuity of John Hopkins, became the comfort and civilizer of the island; and by prudent management, became so safe and tractable, that while he had the strength of a thousand horses, even a child could lead him whithersoever he would, and ride upon his back with an impunity wonderful to look upon. The name of this giant was *aqua fluentes*, which in plain English means running streams, or flowing waters. The giant of John Hopkins is a thing of everyday life, and in this favored valley, the giants are all around us. They vary somewhat in size and power, but have

become more or less beneficent and useful to the community, and have added much to its wealth, industries and population.

The only streams to which I purpose to call your attention are, West River, Blackstone River, Mumford River, Ironstone River, the Rivulet and Shuttle Brook.

West River has its origin in the town of Upton, and although it runs through the easterly part of Uxbridge, it takes the name of West River from the fact that Mill River seems to monopolize the eastern part of the town where West River has its rise. Near the head of one of its branches in Upton, is what is known as Pratt's pond, and although it once had the reputation that many of the New England ponds formerly possessed, of being bottomless, it does not now look quite as unfathomable as formerly. It is one of the hard lessons taught by the experiences of life to have the poetry attaching itself to the scenes of one's childhood all knocked out of him, and to find the visions that once filled his boyish soul, all dwarfed and contracted; but every boy of any imagination has been obliged to learn the disagreeable lesson.

Starting down this stream, small as it is, we find the giant has been at work, and as time has rolled on, his work has become more and more important. It is true, that the old fashioned saw mills have in

some places disappeared as the result of the clearing off of the logs and timber, formerly so abundant; but the grist-mills still remain to grind the grain which has taken the place of the primeval forest, and box-work, sash-work and various kinds of lighter and richer labor mark the progress of civilization and the improvement in the machinery of our time. Still the giant stands ready, to the extent of his power, to carry into full effect the various inventions to which the active intellect of man has made him subservient.

The first attempt to manufacture woolen goods by machinery in this country, was made at Watertown in the spring of the year 1811. In the autumn of the same year the next attempt was made by Daniel Day. He erected a small building upon a brook which may be called a part of West River, upon the spot now occupied by the mill of Samuel W. Scott. A part of it was used by Mr. Wheelock for turning bobbins, and the other part of it was occupied by Mr. Day, with a billy, a jenny with thirty spindles, and a carding machine. He sent to Watertown and procured an Englishman to work for him. In the spring of 1812, Mr. Orsmus Taft* went into this mill to work and is supposed to be the first yankee who learned to

* For a notice of Orsmus Taft, see Appendix X.

weave satinet in this country. Everything, except the picking and carding, was then done by hand. No looms were run by water in Uxbridge until a number of years after this time. It seems to me eminently becoming, when giving this brief sketch of this town, that we should not forget the man who had the foresight and the courage to commence here the manufacture of woolen goods, nor the humble river which was considered worthy of running the first card and the first picker in this neighborhood. There may be larger rivers than West River, and there may have been better pickers and cards than those which were run by Daniel Day; but I doubt not that you will agree with me that none are more entitled than these to our generous and candid notice.

The next privilege above, upon West River, now occupied by Messrs. C. A. and S. M. Wheelock, was afterwards, about the year 1828, taken up and occupied by Luke Taft and George Wall, both recently deceased. The praise of both these men is upon the lips of all who knew them, and their memories are fresh and fragrant to those who loved them. The time may not have come to say all we should love to say of these men, but whoever shall have occasion to speak of their lives in detail, will have a large margin of what is truthful, honest and of good report to pass to their credit.

After leaving West River we come to Blackstone River, which, in the days when people used to meet to arrange about letting the fish run up stream, went by the name of "y^e^ Great River." I suppose this name was given to it, from the fact that this river becomes the receptacle of all the other streams referred to, and conducts their waters to the great ocean that absorbs them all.

The most northerly source of the Blackstone, or Great River, is North Pond, in Worcester. From this pond flows a small but beautiful stream called Mill Brook. Its main branch originates in Paxton; thence it passes through the easterly part of Leicester and entering the south-western part of Worcester, passes into Auburn, where it is called Kettle Brook. There it receives the waters of Ramshorn Pond from Sutton, then again appearing in Worcester, it unites with Tatnuck, or Half-way River from Holden. After uniting with Mill Brook, it passes through Millbury, Sutton and Grafton, where it receives the Quinsigamond River from Quinsigamond Lake, or Long Pond, situated in the eastern part of Worcester, and passing through Northbridge, Uxbridge and Blackstone, it enters the State of Rhode Island. Says a writer in the year 1826, "The Blackstone is one of the most important rivers of the county. This noble stream washes some of the most flourishing and opulent districts of

the county." He speaks of the traveler as delighted by the hum of a continued series of manufacturing establishments, furnishing employment for a vast amount of capital and subsistence to an enterprising, intelligent and thriving population. This statement must strike one as rather poetical when he remembers it was made in 1826, when Worcester, now numbering over 30,000 souls, by the then last census numbered 2,962; and Uxbridge numbering according to the census of 1860, 3,000 souls, by the then last census numbered 1,551. This was before the Blackstone Canal had been laid out; before what is known as the river-road had been constructed; before the Uxbridge Woolen Factory had been incorporated; when the old meeting-house stood upon your common; when the old hotel had not been removed; when the Union Building was nowhere; when old Mr. Baker's tannery stood near the spot where the Union Building, Mr. Whiting's carriage factory, Mr. Wing's shop and their surroundings are now located. It was the time when the Central Village of Uxbridge was rejoicing in a woolen factory built a few years previously, in the famous Capron brick store, the admiration of all the surrounding country; when the people were interested in the establishment of a new bank; when Esq. Jaques kept school in the Academy; when Ayers the lunatic used to dress in uniform, brandish his sword, or

play the flute without making a noise, and declare he was playing inwardly; and when the portly Hancock used to indulge his voracious appetite at every house where the people would give him anything to eat, and write acrostics upon the name of every man, woman and child, who requested him to do so.

The first factory in Uxbridge, operated by the waters of the Blackstone River, was owned by the Uxbridge Woolen Manufacturing Company. The original company consisted of Amariah Chapin, Dr. George Willard, John Taft and Orsmus Taft. In a short time, Jacob Chapin also became a member of the company. The canal was dug and the water was let in, on Thanksgiving day, 1825. There was then no road within the distance of half a mile from the spot where the factory now stands. The first factory was a wooden structure, eighty feet long, thirty-five feet wide and three stories high. It started with two sets of machinery on kerseymeres. This building was burned August 28th, 1828. If any one should ask Mr. Orsmus Taft when was the first time he ever had occasion to limp in his gait, he would fix the date at the same time. Including the date of August 28th, 1828, within the term of one week, seven woolen mills in New England were destroyed by fire. All these fires were supposed to be the work of an incendiary. There are traditions to this day of the mysterious stranger who was supposed

to have ridden like a destroying angel through the country, and of the gleam upon the clouds which seemed to mark his treacherous journey. The factory was re-built of brick in 1828, somewhat wider, but of the same length as the wooden mill which was burned. The proprietors soon afterwards obtained an act of incorporation. A few years afterwards, the mill was extended forty feet, making it one hundred and twenty feet in length. This brick mill was burned in 1853, and was re-built the same year. There are now in the mill twelve sets of machinery; and in the difference between two sets of machinery in 1826, and twelve sets in 1864, we see something of the increase and growth here of the business of manufacturing, with the same amount of water-power.

It would be interesting to follow the varying fortunes of this establishment from the time when the water was let into the canal up to the present time; to show who has made money in the business and who has lost it, because it might be taken as a sort of exponent of the fate of the infancy of woolen manufacturing in this country; but time will not allow it. In its history, there is an illustration of the common law principle, that the owner of land through which water runs, has the right to the run of the water without its being diverted and carried past his land. This right may be parted with by

grant, or, it may be lost by twenty years adverse use by the party making the diversion of the water. The waters of the Blackstone River, when they were let into the canal of the Uxbridge Woolen Co. were illegally diverted from the owners of land situated on Blackstone River, and before the twenty years had expired, most of the land owners found out their rights and acted accordingly. I well remember about the year 1846, when this matter came home to Mr. Edward Seagrave, the principal owner of the establishment. It came almost like a clap of thunder in a clear day. He walked into the office of a young man who formerly practiced law in the Union Building, and commenced counting out ten dollar bills until he had reached five of them,—rather a liberal fee for Uxbridge in those days,—"There," said he, "help me out of this." The matter was subsequently adjusted. The rigid application of the same law against the diversion of water, prevented the establishment of a manufacturing village at Skull Rock Bridge by the Messrs. Lockwood.

The only other mill in Uxbridge operated by the waters of the Blackstone River, is the one now run by Messrs. Bradford and Taft. I could say something of the history of this mill, and of a valuable privilege at Goat Island yet unoccupied; but the facts about it are so modern, and Mr. Moses Taft knows

so much more about them than I do, that it will be left for him to tell the story.

About seventy years ago, Mumford River was described as follows: "Mumford River has its rise in Rocky woods, or Douglas woods, in Douglas, being increased by streams from Badluck Pond and from Manchaug Pond in Douglas, and by springs and rivulets, and runs in an easterly course into Uxbridge; then it turns and runs south-easterly within a few rods of Uxbridge meeting-house, where there are several sorts of mills in excellent order and where much business is well performed. This river continues its course and joins the Blackstone River about one mile south-east of the meeting-house." This description was given about the time when John Capron settled in Uxbridge. As nearly as I can learn, the several sorts of mills in this village at that time consisted of a grist-mill on one side of the stream and a saw-mill on the other side.

In the year 1821, the Capron factory in this village was built under the supervision of Luke Chilson, of Cumberland, R. I., and the first application of water-power to the running of a satinet loom by machinery in this vicinity was made by Mr. Chilson at this factory. The mill was at first sixty feet long; in 1837, sixty feet were added to its length, and in 1855, forty feet more were added. At first, it ran two sets of machinery; now it runs six. The

house now occupied by Col. Capron was built for a tenement and a finishing shop; what is now the parlor having been originally used for finishing cloth. This factory was never destroyed by fire, but no building probably ever had a more narrow escape from it. Nearly twenty years ago, in a tremendous thunder shower, it was struck by lightning. In a few moments after the explosion, Mr. Salmon Brown discovered that the wool near him was on fire. He instantly seized the burning wool in his arms and threw it out of the window and saved the establishment from destruction. Had the fire been at any other point in the building, or had Mr. Brown less presence of mind, it would probably have been impossible to prevent a conflagration.

The first manufacture of cotton goods in Uxbridge, at what is now the village of the Uxbridge Cotton Mills, was by Forbes and Benjamin Clapp. Benjamin Clapp had previously manufactured shovel handles and shoe pegs at the old Col. Tillinghast distillery building; and he and his brother, Forbes Clapp, about the year 1812, purchased the privilege now occupied by the Uxbridge Cotton Mills, and erected a small cotton mill which was afterwards removed and converted into a boarding-house. There they manufactured cotton thread until about the year 1816, when they failed. They had been stocked by Mr. Robert Rogerson, who was at that

time a merchant in Boston, and the concern passed into his hands. Mr. Rogerson manufactured cotton thread there until about the year 1825, when he removed the Clapp mill and commenced the erection of his first stone factory. Near it, and a few years afterwards, in accordance with his original plan, he erected a second stone factory; and as you well know, since the property passed out of the hands of Mr. Rogerson, both mills have been united. Of Mr. Rogerson I can speak with knowledge, and much of it was derived from personal acquaintance. It has rarely been my lot to become acquainted with a man who impressed me more forcibly. My first knowledge of him was when I was about twelve years of age, when he and his brother Handel came to my father's house and spent the night. The arrival of two men from Boston, whose forms, features and style of dress were so marked, was an event in the history of our quiet neighborhood. It was before the days of railroads, and the vehicle in which they rode savored of the city and was got up in a style somewhat unusual in our vicinity. At that time, the contract was made and concluded for the erection and completion of the first stone factory. Some persons now living can recollect, but few can recall the appearance of the spot where the Uxbridge Cotton Mills are now situated, before it felt the touch of the hand of Robert Rogerson.

He expended there in buildings and machinery, the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. He laid out a village, which at that time had more of the quality of perfection than almost any other manufacturing village in New England. For a time, prosperity attended him; but at length, crushed by pecuniary reverses and reduced to penury, he disappeared from the town; and the magnificent property that had been erected by his genius and enterprise, and through which he furnished the means of industry and emolument to many of your people, passed into the hands of strangers; and it became the duty of the speaker, who as a boy had looked upon the grave, stern man with a reverence almost unbounded, to give this same man the written notice to abdicate his home. Robert Rogerson was no ordinary man. Upon all whom he met, he left a distinct impression of his peculiar individuality and personal independence. His handwriting was *sui generis*, neither easily read nor easily forgotten. He began with small means and became rich. For a number of years he was engaged in Boston in the manufacture of thread by means of an apparatus operated by horse-power. The horse was kept quietly at work in a cellar, and was no more ignorant of what his owner was doing than the public, who were unable to solve the mystery of his success. He was engaged quite early in life in manufacturing in West

Boylston, and when the Crown and Eagle mills were erected, he was a man of large property and remarkably prosperous. He was a man of extensive reading, much thought and rare musical genius. It was a luxury on the Sabbath, to listen to the strains of sacred melody which were produced by his skill in the use of the organ, which the Unitarian society owe to his munificence,—and during the last thirty years, it has always had an organist who has played it without compensation,—or to join with him in the rich music in which his soul delighted. With all his superior qualities, he was not without traits which tended to make him unpopular with the mass of the people. He had little of the small-talk of the world and he did not readily adapt himself to all men and to all occasions. He had an indomitable will and a deep undercurrent of pride, which led him, if possible, to accomplish alone whatever he undertook, and to scorn to ask for aid until it was too late to be of any avail. He vainly endeavored to bear up under the load of debt which accumulated in his business, and he stood like the oak which bends not to the storm. The crash came at last, and it came with such force that he never rallied from it. He sank so deep that no bubble ever rose to the surface; but even to the last, he proved himself a benefactor to Uxbridge; for scarcely a debt was owing by him in this vicinity that was not paid

in full. He left the splendid property that he had erected here, to beautify and benefit the town, and the capitalists were the only losers by his misfortunes. Whatever may have been the feelings of some who imagined they were his enemies, Uxbridge owes him a debt of sincere gratitude, and whatever may be the verdict of the rest of the world, the people of this, his adopted and cherished home, should love and reverence his memory.

It may not be uninteresting to refer to the progress of manufacturing upon the Mumford and Blackstone Rivers so far as the same are situated within the limits of the original town of Uxbridge. When one visits Whitinsville, and remembers that thirty years ago there was but one machinist in the village, then called South Northbridge, he begins to realize the progress which has been made there within the present century. At some time before the memory of any living man, there was a forge not far from the spot where the Stone Factory now stands, because there were the remains of one there sixty years ago. A forge was afterwards built by Col. Ezra Wood,* the grandfather of Samuel Fletcher, Mrs. Paul Whitin and Mrs. Amasa Dudley, upon the spot which is now occupied by the brick shop near the bridge. The grist-mill that formerly stood at the upper dam was

* For a notice of the Wood Family, see Appendix XI.

removed about the year 1804 and was located close to the forge. The shop of Col. Paul Whitin stood on the west side of the road, on the north side of the stream, and next south of his house; and these buildings, together with three or four residences, constituted in 1808, what is now known as Whitinsville. In 1809, Col. Whitin erected what is now the upper cotton mill at the upper dam. A company consisting of Mr. Whitin, Samuel Fletcher and others, was formed for the manufacture of cotton, and was incorporated by the name of the "Northbridge Cotton Mills," and continued the manufacturing of cotton goods down to the year 1825. In 1825, the estate was sold to Thomas and William Buffum, who owned and occupied it until 1829, when they failed. The property passed into the hands of Samuel Shove for one year, and was then purchased by Paul Whitin and Sons who have owned it ever since. In 1814, Paul Whitin converted the forge building into a cotton factory and it was occupied as such by Whitin and Fletcher until 1826, when the original building was taken down by P. Whitin's Sons and the present brick building erected in its place. In the year 1844, the splendid stone factory was built on the east side of the road, and in 1847, the large brick machine shop was built to take the place of the wooden structures which from time to time had been growing up to accommodate the immense

increase in the building of machinery; and if we visit the premises to-day, we shall witness the evidences of growth and prosperity which leave us utterly unable to foresee the results of the next half century; for who can tell what the combined power of steam and human intellect may not be able to accomplish.

Upon the Blackstone River, at the spot where is now the village of Rockdale, early in the present century were a saw-mill and a grist-mill known as Eddy's mills. After the last war, as we used to say, about the year 1815, a corporation was formed called the "Northbridge Cloth Manufacturing Company," consisting of the elder Governor Lincoln, Daniel Waldo, Judge Nathaniel Paine, Jesse Eddy and others, who built there a factory and manufactured woolen cloths. Mr. Waldo became frightened and gave his stock to the younger Governor Lincoln and Col. John W. Lincoln. If I am correctly informed, the corporation sold out its interest in the estate before the death of the elder Governor Lincoln, who died in 1820. His executors sold a large quantity of wool, which he had raised to be worked up in the mill of the corporation, at the price of two dollars a pound; and they made more money on the wool than the Governor had made in manufacturing. Three-fourths of the estate was conveyed by the corporation to John Farnum, Samuel Willis and Esek Fitts, and on the 17th of December, 1821, it

was conveyed by said Farnum and Willis to Sylvanus Holbrook. On the 11th day of October, 1822, the other fourth was conveyed by Jesse Eddy to Sylvanus Holbrook. Mr. Holbrook did a very extensive business there for a number of years. Enterprising and ambitious, for a time he seemed to be a favorite of fortune. Some of us remember the time before he was overtaken by misfortunes by fire and flood, when in robust health, with glowing cheek and flashing eye, he used to drive that white horse and sulky over this section of country; and, as we turned to look upon his splendid form, and one of the most striking faces we ever beheld, we unconsciously said to ourselves, there goes one of nature's noblest specimens of a man. He afterwards became the owner of Dunn's mills, situated about a mile below Rockdale. Dunn's mills were once a famous spot. I well remember when West River failed and the grist could not be ground in my native town, that a sort of pilgrimage was made over an old narrow, hilly road to Dunn's. There was a mystery about the still, deep-flowing river which astonished those whose experience was confined to shallower streams; and David Dunn, who lived in the green house by the mill, east of the river, and Henry Dunn, who lived in the red house upon the hill, west of the river, with their coats all covered with meal and their hats all caked with dough, were

objects of peculiar reverence. If at that time, as now, scythes and bayonets had been manufactured in the stone shop, almost as rapidly as a man can wink, the days of witchcraft would seem to have come again, and Blackstone River might have been in imminent danger of becoming an object of idolatry.

Rising in the north-westerly part of the town, a small stream runs into the Mumford River. It bears the euphonious title of "The Rivulet." Upon this small stream, the "Rivulet Manufacturing Company" established themselves in 1815. The company consisted of Samuel Read, Alpheus Baylies, John Capron, Daniel Carpenter, Jerry Wheelock, George Carpenter, Joseph H. Perry, Luther Spring, Ezbon C. Newell, Samuel Judson and Amherst Billings. It was formed March 14th, 1815, with a capital of fourteen thousand five hundred dollars, for the purpose of manufacturing wool and cotton into yarn and cloth, to continue eight years and as much longer as three-fourths of the company should agree to continue it; and to make no dividend of profits within the term of eight years, unless by a vote of three-fourths of the company. They manufactured only satinets and purchased the warps. Either because the stream was so small, or for some other reason, a dividend of profits was never declared; and the privilege was abandoned, so far as the manufacturing of wool was concerned, between thirty and

forty years ago. From that time to the present, the factory has passed through a variety of fortunes, and it remains as a standing admonition not to build too large an establishment on too small a stream. The power of the Mumford River has been enlarged and economized by means of the construction of two or three splendid reservoirs, operating on the same principle as the interest which accures upon reserved profits in business; but the poor little rivulet, that like the little stream in the orchard described by Grace Greenwood, was scarcely worth a dam, never arrived at the dignity of having a decent sized reservoir to encourage it in its efforts to furnish constant power to the establishment.

There runs through this village and empties into the Mumford River another small stream known as Shuttle Brook. As I have before stated, the building, which formerly occupied the spot where the shuttle shop now stands, was the scene of the ablutions of the crazy crowd congregated under the care of Dr. Samuel Willard. From Dr. Willard, the property passed into the hands of Abiel Jaques, who about the year 1825, sold the water privilege and building to the late Capt. George Carpenter, who erected the building where the water privilege is now used. Capt. George and Col. John Capron, for a few years occupied the shop for the building of looms and other articles of machinery. The

estate then passed into the hands of Messrs. Aldrich and Hopkins, who carried on the business of making shuttles. It then passed into the hands of John White, who carried on the same business. It then passed into the hands of Joseph Thayer, Esq., who, so far as I can learn, never manufactured shuttles, cotton or wool, but who seems to have had, first and last, about as many titles in the manufacturing establishments of Uxbridge as all the manufacturers put together. It then passed into the hands of Robert G. Taft, who carried on what is known as the "kit business," that is, making shoemakers' tools. It then passed into the hands of George W. Thurston, who also carried on the "kit business." It then passed into the hands of Robert Taft, who did not carry on the "kit business," and from him it passed to the present owner. Before I became an inhabitant of Uxbridge, I used to hear about a mineral spring situated somewhere in the neighborhood of the shuttle shop, but like the springs at Ballston, it has been over-shadowed by the splendors of Saratoga and is heard of no more.

The next stream, to which our attention would naturally be directed, is the Emerson Brook, upon which there was once a factory, a saw-mill and a grist-mill, but they have been substantially abandoned. Those who are more acquainted with the stream than I am, can tell whether it possesses any

power that is worth the expense of attempting to apply it, although I see no reason why the quantity of water and the extent of the fall would not authorize a reasonable effort to make the same subservient to the good of the community.

The last stream that I shall refer to is the Ironstone Brook. About the year 1814, the factory of the Ironstone Manufacturing Company was built by William Arnold, Moses Farnum, Dr. Comstock and Laban Comstock, and they manufactured cotton yarn. About 1820, William Arnold came into possession of the property, and it was used for the manufacture of cotton cloth. The mill was burned in 1832, and was not by him re-built. The property then passed through various hands, and Jonathan F. and Elisha Southwick re-built the mill in 1836. Since its re-building it has been owned by sundry individuals and firms, and has generally been devoted to the manufacturing of different kinds of woolen goods. The mill takes its name from the peculiar appearance of the stone of which it is built, indicating the presence of iron in it.

Upon the privilege below the stone mill, manufacturing was begun by means of a small wheel, which was put in a short time before Mr. Farnum raised the dam at Millville. The reason why a manufacturing establishment in miniature was erected there, is to be found in the fact, that the owner of a lower

privilege has the right to flow out an upper privilege upon the same stream, provided the upper privilege is not occupied for mill purposes. Mr. Southwick, the owner of the privilege of which I am speaking, in accordance with the advice of counsel, established rather a small mill and wheel there, and I have always felt a decided conviction that it was not an unprofitable investment.*

There is one other object to which the waters of the Blackstone valley have been appropriated, that deserves a passing notice; I refer to the Blackstone canal. The subject of a canal, from the waters of Narragansett Bay to the centre of Massachusetts, had been agitated at various times from 1776 to the time when the Blackstone Canal Company was incorporated. In 1822, the project was taken hold of in earnest. Acts of incorporation were granted by the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island respectively; and on July 5th, 1825, the two State corporations were united under the name of the "Blackstone Canal Company." The excavation was begun in Rhode Island in 1824; in Massachusetts in 1826; and the first boat passed over the whole line and arrived at Worcester, October 7th, 1828. Amid

*See Appendix XII., for note upon Ironstone; and especially Appendix XIII. for the very valuable communication of Charles A. Wheelock upon the history of manufacturing in Uxbridge. Mr. Wheelock has most heartily entered into the publication of this Address and the preparation of the several notes to it. To him the town is much indebted.

the booming of cannon, the waving of flags and the general rejoicing of the people along the route, the waters of the Narragansett and the centre of Massachusetts were at length united. The expense of the work was about seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, over two-thirds of which was paid by citizens of Rhode Island. It has been truly said, that the canal was more useful to the public than to the owners. I know that some persons have been accustomed to sneer at the Blackstone canal; but to my mind, it was a magnificent enterprise. To the Providence and Worcester railroad, it was a sort of fore-runner, hinting at its grade, furnishing its path, and opening an avenue for the transportation of heavy freight up and down through the valley, until the day should come, which would demonstrate the necessity and the possibility of more rapid communication.* As a proof of this, we give the quantity of freight carried over the canal from Providence to Uxbridge during five years; in 1831, 964 tons; in 1832, 1,184 tons; in 1833, 1,069 tons; in 1834, 1,497 tons, and in 1835, 1,534 tons.

The changes which soon took place in the methods of travel and transportation, will always prevent

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*The Blackstone canal ceased to be used in Massachusetts after the opening of the Providence and Worcester railroad in 1847. It continued in partial use in Rhode Island for several years longer; not for its value as a means of public transportation, but to secure water rights obtained by means of the canal charter.

any accurate statement of what the canal would have accomplished if it had been constructed twenty years earlier; but many of the best informed men, —men who have had the best opportunities for forming a sound judgment, will tell you to-day, that not only Providence and Worcester, but every town along the whole line of the canal is deeply indebted to it, for its present growth and prosperity.

I have thus referred to running water and to some of the results of its application to machinery, or ortherwise. It has increased wealth and comfort and productive industry. In the little story to which I have referred, John Hopkins is represented as coming in contact with another giant, to which I propose, for a few moments, to call your attention. "*Aquæ fluentes*" is not the only giant here made useful. John's new giant was far more difficult and dangerous to manage; and much more rapid and impetuous in his manner of doing business. When the first was not powerful enough to perform the tasks imposed, the second could be brought to his aid, and while the first was mostly limited to the lines of travel in which he had been accustomed to run and never could be managed with any success on an ascending grade, but there came to a dead stop, the latter could be made to work at any place and at any time; and the more closely he was confined and the more abundantly he was fed, the more

powerful and active was the strength that he put forth; and while the former was a comparatively slow and lazy traveler, the latter moved as swiftly as the wind. Go to Wheelock's factory and you will find a twenty-five horse-power engine already added to the force of the original stream. Go to the Uxbridge Woolen factory, and you will find an addition of a forty horse-power of the same kind. Go watch each shrieking engine as it thunders along the iron track which passes through this village, and you will find the steam giant of John Hopkins. Had this giant been confined at the Rivulet factory, and had the means of feeding him been as readily furnished as now, that weather-beaten estate might have been as bright and as busy as any, and never have been struck by the desolation which seems to have marked it. The use of steam as a power in this town (if I remember accurately) did not exist until after the opening of the Providence and Worcester railroad. The increase which it may give to your power, productiveness and industry, time only can tell. It would be less easy to tell what you may become with it, than to tell what Worcester would be without it.

About twenty years ago, two gentlemen were seen riding on horseback from Providence to Worcester, and paying rather careful attention to many of the localities of their journey. They were Messrs.

Moses B. Ives and Alexander Duncan, two of the most wealthy and influential citizens of the State of Rhode Island. The object of their singular ride was to ascertain the feasibility of a railroad from Providence to Worcester. According to their suggestions, meetings were held, facts were collected, stock was subscribed for, and after a few years a railroad was completed between the two cities. When we see the immense and numerous freight trains which pass over this road daily, when we observe the crowd of passengers who fill the cars, when we find the stock selling at one hundred and thirty-five dollars a share, whether gold is one hundred and forty, or one hundred and seventy, paying from its earnings a semi-annual dividend of four per cent., with a handsome surplus to be applied to building a double track, or to any other improvement which may tend to the accommodation, or safety of the public, it is hard to realize, how, at first, the matter dragged, and how difficult it was to induce capitalists to invest in the enterprise. But time, as truly the vindicator of a great enterprise as of a virtuous deed, has demonstrated even to the timid and hesitating, that the hour had fully come for building the rail-way; and as the beacon lights of free-labor stream out from the mills as we glide so smoothly by, they speak in tones of genuine eloquence of the energy, com-

fort and resources of the valley of the Blackstone.

As an illustration of the manner in which the world is making progress, I have selected the following facts from the *Scientific American:*—

"One man can spin more cotton yarn now, than four hundred could do in 1769, when Arkwright took out his first patent."

"One man can now make as much flour in a day, as a hundred and fifty, a century ago."

"One woman can now make as much lace in a day, as a hundred women, a hundred years ago."

"It now requires only as many days to refine sugar, as it did months thirty years ago."

"It once required six months to put quicksilver on glass; now it needs only forty minutes."

We have thus briefly referred to the local characteristics of this town and its inhabitants. We have referred to some of the sources of its industry and the manner in which they have been developed. We come down to the year of our Lord 1864, and we find here more of the elements of substantial prosperity than were ever found here before. Here are more rich men, more productive industry and more to commend it to our hopes and expectations than have existed at any former period in its history. It is true, that more of the foreign element is found here than formerly, and a Catholic church exists where formerly not a Catholic was found; but the day has come when the Catholic and the Protestant, the Calvinist and the Liberal Christian, can

dwell together in peace and harmony, each one worshipping God in his own way, and standing, or falling, to his own Master. The future success and prosperity of this town depend, not upon its water-power, although this is always desirable as an incidental circumstance; not upon its steam-power, used either to drive fixed machinery, or for rapid locomotion; not upon the fertility of its soil, nor the beauty of its location, but upon skilful, industrious, intelligent, true-hearted and virtuous men and women.

If you ask, what are the conditions of growth and prosperity for any city, town or village, I answer, that it is not the advantages of the best location, not the most fruitful soil, not the largest water-power, not the best facilities for communication; but if in addition to a reasonable supply of these, there are men who have the brains to plan, the wills to undertake, and the nerves to carry on such business as will furnish the blessings of well-paid labor, and if there are women with heart and brains enough to appreciate and aid them, your question is readily answered.

And here we learn one of the unpleasant lessons taught by the facilities which are now furnished for cheap and rapid travel, and transportation. No longer than thirty years ago, it was about a three days' journey to visit Boston, attend to business and

get fairly home. Now you can reach there in season for business, attend to business during business hours and be at home in time for tea. But have you ever thought that the tendency of this state of things is to steal away your brightest and your best, and before you are aware of it, to convert them into citizens of some commercial metropolis, whither everything seems to be moving. Centralization is the result naturally springing out of this rapidity of communication, which tends to carry away the active and energetic men with a power almost irresistible. How is this tendency to be counter-balanced? I answer, by building up at home the means of lucrative employment, and by giving to skilful, honest labor, its just and honest reward. Teach your children, that the object of human life is not greatness, but goodness; that the real philosopher's stone is an elevated standard of human virtue; that the demand upon a human being is to do well the duty which lies nearest him and make the world better by his having lived in it. All men cannot be great, but every man can be good. All men cannot reach what are falsely estimated as the points of desirable elevation, but every man can be respectable. All men cannot exert a wide and prominent influence, but every man may be a blessing to the loving circle which surrounds him. All men have their particular localities to which they transfer

their affections; but I envy neither the head, nor the heart of him, who does not often turn with a deep and heartfelt longing to the scenes, the remembrances and the friendships of his early home; and I honor with my heart of hearts, the man, or the woman, who amid the allurements of this changing world, retains in large measure the purity and guilelessness of an innocent and happy childhood.

We see them in our sweetest dreams,—
These fruitful hills and flowing streams;
And listen, with a half drawn sigh,
To melodies of days gone by.

But soon there soundeth loud and clear,
A voice we must not fail to hear;
There pointeth, with a warning hand,
An angel to the stern command:—

The past must bury up its dead:—
The future comes with earnest tread,
It crowds each moment of to-day,
And drives the cherished past away.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

The Successors of Rev. Mr. Clarke.

The successors of Rev. Mr. Clarke as pastors of the First Congregational Church in Uxbridge have been:

Rev. Charles Taylor Canfield, ordained and installed October 12th, 1860, and resigned March 31st, 1862.

Rev. Rushton Dashwood Burr, was installed November 12th, 1862, and resigned May 4th, 1868.

Rev. Samuel Russell Priest, was ordained and installed Jan. 20th, 1869, and resigned Jan. 2nd, 1871.

Rev. James Thompson Lusk, was hired March, 1872, and resigned July 1st, 1875.

Rev. George Bremner, was ordained and installed Nov. 16th, 1875, and remains pastor of the church. Much might be kindly said of the last five whose names appear, but the time has not yet come. H. C.

The Successors of Rev. Mr. Judson.

David Adams Grosvenor, son of Nathan and Lydia Adams Grosvenor, was born at Craftsbury, Vermont, July 10th, 1802. His parents were from Windham County, Connecticut. In 1818, he entered Phillips Academy, Andover, and began his preparation for college, having the christian ministry in view. He entered Yale College in 1821. An inflammation of the eyes during his junior year, rendered

him unable to read for nine months, and compelled him to fall back a year in his standing, from the class of 1825 to that of 1826. After graduating he spent a year in the family of Judge Hall, of Ellington, Conn., as principal of his "High School." The next three years were spent at the Theological Seminary of Yale College. After being licensed to preach, he supplied for nine months the pulpit of the Congregational Church in Pomfret, Conn., his father's native place. He began preaching in Uxbridge, August, 1831, and on June 6th, 1832, was ordained and installed pastor of the First Evangelical Congregational Church in this town, and was dismissed at his own request, June 15th, 1842. He was what is known as a "Taylorite" in his views; these views representing the New Haven school of orthodoxy in contra-distinction to the Andover school. He was a faithful preacher, a man of fair learning and ability, and performed his pastoral duties with much patience and fidelity. No man could have more at heart the interests of his church, and no man ever gave himself more zealously to his calling than he. In February, 1843, he was installed pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, in Elyria, Ohio, and remained there till the summer of 1852. In 1853, he became pastor of the Congregational Church in Medina, Ohio, where he remained several years.

Mr. Grosvenor published several sermons and articles for reviews. He married in May, 1835, Miss S. Whitney, and their only child, who died in infancy, is buried in the Uxbridge Cemetery.

Mr. Grosvenor died at Cincinnati, Ohio, August 11th, 1866, of cholera. His widow lives upon the valuable estate

which her beloved husband left in Elyria, Ohio. "He was a faithful servant of the Lord and through the grace given to him, was uncommonly successful in his labors."

The successors of Rev. Mr. Grosvenor, all of whom, except Mr. Abbot, are living, have been:—

Rev. John Orcutt, installed Dec. 18th, 1842, and dismissed May 1st, 1849;—

Jacob Jackson Abbot, D. D.,—a notice of whom we give below;—

Rev. J. B. Johnson, installed December 15th, 1864, and dismissed February 6th, 1868;—

Rev. Thomas C. Biscoe, installed December 2d, 1868, and dismissed May 25th, 1876;—

Rev. George H. Johnson, hired for one year from May 1st, 1877, and left when the year expired;—

Rev. William H. Cobb, installed September 18th, 1878, and remains pastor at the present time.

Jacob Jackson Abbot, D. D., was born in Groton, Vermont, July 17th, 1813, and died in New Haven, Conn., December 3d, 1878, at the age of sixty-five years. He commenced his preparation for college after he attained his majority, entering the academy at Peacham, Vt., late in the year 1834, and the Sophomore class in Dartmouth College in the summer of 1836; and he was graduated in 1837 at the head of his class. The next two years he was engaged in teaching in the State of Mississippi. Returning to New England in 1841, he entered Andover Theological Seminary; but was now persuaded to accept a tutorship in Dartmouth College, which he held for two years. In 1843, Mr. Abbot declining any further service in the college, entered the

middle class in Union Theological Seminary. He used to say that the theological course was a "perfect feast to him." He was graduated in 1845, and immediately accepted a call from the church in Bennington, Vt. He was ordained and installed August 27th, 1845, as the successor of the Rev. Dr. Hooker. He married Miss Margaret Fletcher Whitin, of Whitinsville, September 16th, 1845. The work upon which he entered was a large one, and his health failed him during the first year, and at the end of the second year he was dismissed, his physician giving him little encouragement of regaining his health. As soon as he was able to travel, he accepted an agency from the American Tract Society, and set out on horseback to make a tour through the States of North and South Carolina, and Georgia. His health gradually improved, and at the end of seven months, he was able to return to New England, although he was not immediately able to resume the responsibilities of a pastorate. In 1850, he accepted a call from the Evangelical Congregational Church in Uxbridge, after having supplied the pulpit there for six months. Here he had "precious fruits of his labors and warm hearts still attest his faithfulness." During the pastorate of Mr. Abbot, September 3d, 1856, Mr. William Banfield Capron, son of Deacon William C. Capron, was ordained as a Christian minister. Rev. Mr. Capron was afterwards appointed to the Madura mission, where he died Oct. 6th, 1876. Mr. Abbot resigned his pastorate in 1862, and preached for some time in Whitinsville and other places in the vicinity. In 1863, he went to Washington to engage in the work of the Christian Commission. This service, which he undertook for six

weeks, lasted almost two years, or until the close of the work of the commission. He discharged with fidelity and great success the delicate and perplexing duties of the position. From Washington he went directly to the Central church in Yarmouth, Maine, which had been waiting for him for some months. He was installed as pastor and remained here until the final failure of his health, and was dismissed October 1st, 1875. He then spent a year and a half at a health-retreat in the interior of New York, and in 1877, he went to Colorado, but finding no permanent relief from the change of climate, he came back to his home in New Haven, Conn., to die. During his last illness, which was accompanied by intense suffering, he used to say, that he "wanted to feel that everything, all his trials even, came from the hand of God." "Second causes trouble me," he said, "I want nothing to come between me and God." The final change came at midnight. "I think the death struggle is over," he said; "I pray for you all;" and so he fell asleep. Dr. Abbot was frequently appointed on the examining committee of Bowdoin College, and such was his familiarity with the classical languages and with mathematics, that he was able to enter into the different examinations as readily as if he had been a professor of only a single department of study. He was a careful student of the Scriptures in the Hebrew and Greek tongues, and a clergyman who knew him well says, "he was the only parish minister I have ever known, who had worn out his Hebrew Bible, so that it had to be re-bound." In 1874, Bowdoin College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

As a minister, Dr. Abbot was remarkable for his clear and

discriminating views of the truths of the Bible. His sermons were remarkable for simplicity in the statement of the truth and for their evangelical tone. In the pulpit he seemed under restraint, as one possessed with a sense of the glory of the place. He was a judicious counsellor and a faithful friend.—[ED. *Condensed from an obituary written by Rev. E. H. Byington, and published in the* VERMONT CHRONICLE, *of January 18th, 1879.*

APPENDIX II.

The Baptist Church.

The Baptist Church, in North Uxbridge, was organized June 22nd, 1842, and was called the "Uxbridge Baptist Church." On the same day, Austin Robbins was ordained and installed pastor of the new church.

David D. Paine and Ira Parkis were subsequently chosen deacons of the church. The church rapidly increased in numbers, receiving forty-seven members during the first year of its organization. Rev. Mr. Robbins remained with the church until 1850, when he resigned after a successful pastorate of eight years. For the next four years the pulpit of this church was supplied by Rev. Jon Boomer, Rev. Joseph Smith, Rev. Joseph Tillinghast and Rev. S. S. Mallory, each officiating about one year. Rev. James Russell became pastor of the church November 11th, 1854, and resigned in 1864, after a very successful pastorate of nearly ten years. Rev. Joseph Barber became pastor in April, 1865, and resigned in November, 1868, and was followed by Rev. J. W. Dick, in April, 1869, who continued his ministry here until July, 1871. In October, 1871, Rev. J. H. Tilton was installed pastor of the church and remained six years, closing his labors October, 1877. In the following month, November, 1877, the present pastor, Rev. B. H. Lane, was installed.

This church has always occupied the hall, which was fitted up as a place of worship, by Mr. Robert Rogerson, over the store which was built about the time of the organization of the church; and the Messrs. Whitins have furnished it for the same purpose since they came into possession of the property.

The church has recently purchased a house for a parsonage, with a site for a house of worship, which they hope to erect at some future time. The membership of the church, for the last twenty years, has not varied much from one hundred members. (A. A. W.)

APPENDIX III.

The Roman Catholic Church.

The earliest account of any Roman Catholic Church service that we have been able to obtain, is, that a service was held for the few Catholics in Uxbridge in the year 1850, by the Rev. Patrick McGrath, of Hopkinton, in one of the farm-laborer's tenements of the late Joseph Thayer, Esq.

Uxbridge was erected into a parish by the late Right Rev. J. B. Fitzpatrick, Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts; and Rev. E. J. Sheridan was appointed pastor, August, 1853. The parish then included the towns of Grafton, Millbury, Northbridge, Douglas and Uxbridge.

St. Mary's Church, in Uxbridge, was dedicated 1855; the sermon, on the occasion, being preached by Rev. James A. Healy, now Bishop of the Diocese of Maine.

In May, 1867, Rev. Dennis O'Keefe was appointed pastor and remained one year, when he was removed to Clinton, Mass.

In May, 1868, Rev. D. F. Moran was appointed pastor, who, in 1870, caused to be built St. Patrick's, Whitinsville.

In 1871, Rev. H. L. Robinson was appointed pastor, and in 1876, St. Mary's Church was repaired and re-decorated at a cost of $2,500. The present parish includes the towns of Uxbridge and Northbridge. St. Patrick's in Whitinsville, Northbridge, was built in 1869. St. Mary's in Uxbridge is the parish church. The whole number of souls in the parish is about 2,000.

APPENDIX IV.

The Methodist Episcopal Church.

The first Methodist preaching in Uxbridge Centre began about September 1st, 1874. Some of the citizens, desiring to reach a class that was not hearing the Gospel, made arrangements with Rev. Mr. Merrill, then pastor of the M. E. Church, in Whitinsville, to preach in Taft's Hall on Sunday evenings; and Mr. Merrill continued his services up to February 7th, 1875.

Mr. F. T. Pomeroy, of Shrewsbury, a local preacher of the M. E. Church, succeeded Mr. Merrill, and remained here until April, 1877. His appointment was considered a mission of the Church.

In the Autumn of 1875, a Sunday School and prayer and class meetings were initiated. The mission was formally organized as a Methodist Episcopal Church, with eight members, December 19th, 1875, by Rev. Dr. Haskell, presiding elder of the Worcester district.

Mr. Hunter, of the Boston University, succeeded Mr. Pomeroy, but soon left. He was succeeded by Rev. John W. Collier. He began his labors June 9, 1877, and closed them June 23d, 1878, to go as missionary to Peru, South America. He was an earnest, christian minister, abundant in his labors, and was eminently successful. For the remainder of the conference year, Rev. J. H. Thompson supplied the pulpit; Mr. Thompson was returned to

Uxbridge for the conference year 1879–80, which was the first appointment made here by the Conference.

In March, 1878, the society purchased of the town, as a site for a church edifice, a lot in the old burying ground, in the centre of the town. Subscription papers for the church were opened in January, 1879, and on April 1st, the amount pledged was $3,500. A plan for the church has been accepted, and the work of building has begun. It is expected that the church will be ready for use in January, 1880. The membership is now about 60.—[*July, 1879. Compiled from the account of Rev. Mr. Thompson.* Ed.

APPENDIX V.

Joseph Thayer, Esq.

The death of this venerable gentleman occurred in Worcester, on Tuesday, January 9th, 1872.

"Esq. Thayer," a title by which he was so well-known, was born in Douglas, in the year 1792, and was the last of a family consisting of three brothers and two sisters. He was fitted for college under the Rev. David Holman of Douglas, entered Brown University in 1811, and graduated in the class of 1815. Among his classmates were Rev. Jasper Adams, Rev. George Taft, Rev. Alvan Bond, Hon. Charles Turner, and others, who were men of standing and influence in their day and generation. Dr. John E. Holbrook, the eminent physician and naturalist, who recently died, was at one time a room-mate of Mr. Thayer.

After leaving college Mr. Thayer studied law with Hon. Levi Lincoln, in Worcester, and Hon. Bezaleel Taft, Jr., in Uxbridge. He commenced business in Uxbridge, about the year 1818, and from that time made Uxbridge his home. He married Chloe Taft, a daughter of Hon. Bezaleel Taft, a lady of rare intellect, and of a most pure, sweet and religious nature. For a number of years he was largely engaged in the practice of law, and in various business matters which found their way into his hands. Of rare financial ability, had his lot been cast in the midst of favorable surroundings, according to the estimate of his cotem-

poraries, he would have been among the millionaires of the land. With no patrimony, he accumulated a property which would have been considered large at the time when, some twenty-five years ago, with failing health, he substantially retired from active business. Economical and thrifty, he was always remarkably ready to assist persons by loans and pecuniary aid, and when he had once given his confidence, he was slow to withdraw it, and he suffered loans to lie uncollected, apparently without anxiety, not according to the practice which is common among men of shrewdness and sagacity. The same spirit was apparent in reference to some of his poor tenants, who although comparatively pensioners upon his good-will, were rarely disturbed or troubled. A man of large perceptions and calm, clear judgment, he relied much upon his own mental resources and rarely sought the advice of any one else. His advice was much sought in municipal matters and he always took a deep interest in the honor and prosperity of the town of Uxbridge. His intuitions were clear and distinct, and his mental faculties rarely failed when any emergency demanded their exercise. An illustration of his skill in the management of men is related of him. He contracted to build a portion of the Providence and Worcester railroad, leading through his farm. While the work was progressing the Irishmen struck for higher wages. Seeing the workmen sitting around, Esq. Thayer informed the sub-contractor that he would attend to those fellows. He proceeded to his house and taking the Riot Act, read it to the Irishmen with a loud voice and an impressive manner. By the time he had closed, each man had seized his shovel and proceeded to his

work; one fellow suggesting to his neighbor in a low voice, "Be jabbers, I didn't know there was such a law as that in this country!" A characteristic anecdote is related of him by one who took part in a consultation between himself, Judge Barton and Esq. Thayer. The question related to a suit upon a certain bank note. Judge Barton suggested certain points of law. Esq. Thayer, losing all patience, exclaimed, "Ira, I tell you there ain't but one *pint* in the case. He must pay the note." In this case as in many others, his intuitions were correct in spite of nice questions of law which troubled those more learned and better lawyers than himself.

By general consent he was elected a delegate from the town of Uxbridge to the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention in 1853.

He was deeply interested in Freemasonry, was a member of the Royal Arch Chapter, and at one time was one of the most prominent men of the Order.

He was a life-long democrat, and was formerly very influential in the counsels of the party; still he never allowed his party feelings to interfere with his friendships, and he was loyal to the government in the great rebellion. When inquired of once why a near relative of his always voted the Whig ticket while he voted the Democratic ticket, his reply was, "why, God bless you, he was brought up in a Whig neighborhood." Would that the same amount of charity might always be exercised towards political opponents! He was elected a representative from the town of Uxbridge for several years, and took a strong and active interest in the leading questions of the day, including banking, the Warren

bridge, &c., &c. He took an active part in the construction of the Blackstone canal, and of the Providence and Worcester railroad, having been one of the first directors of the last-named corporation.

He was fond of his classmates and friends; and until his mind became somewhat clouded, was remarkably clear in his recollection of names, faces and dates. Probably no man was better acquainted with men and affairs in the south part of Worcester county than he was when blest with health and vigor. However differing from many of the prominent men of his time, he enjoyed their respect and confidence. He has passed away full of years, and many whom he has befriended will bless his memory. H. C.

APPENDIX VI.

James Watson Robbins, M. D.

James Watson Robbins, M. D., was born at Colebrook, Conn., November 18th, 1801, and died in this town, January 10th, 1879. His ancestors on his father's side, for several generations, were Orthodox clergymen. He was graduated at Yale College, in 1822, and stood amongst the foremost members of his class. For three or four years he taught in families in Virginia, and amongst those whom he fitted for West Point, was the famous Robert E. Lee, Commander-in-chief of the Confederate army, in the rebellion of 1861. In Virginia, he began his botanical studies, a branch of natural science that he zealously pursued for the remainder of his life. He returned to Connecticut in 1825, and now entered upon his medical studies; and in 1828 he received his degree of M. D. From May to November, 1829, in company with another botanist, he made a botanical journey through the New England States, and it was at this time that he met Dr. George Willard, of this town, and by him was persuaded to make Uxbridge his home. He formed a partnership with Dr. Willard, but it was soon dissolved. In 1836, he became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and was twice elected delegate to the American Medical Association. From 1860 to 1864, he spent his time with certain mining companies, as physician and

surgeon. In 1864 he made a botanical tour through Louisiana, Texas, Mexico and Cuba; his former pupil, General Lee, furnishing him with a pass and many other facilities for passage and safe traveling through the rebel States. The sufferings of his last sickness, which was not long, were borne with his usual good nature and patience. Dr. Robbins was unmarried, but he found a home with those who made him such a home as was perfectly congenial to him—with those who ministered to his every want and looked up to him with a genuine reverence.

His medical scholarship was profound and accurate; but it is said, that "a certain sort of intuitive practical sense" was denied him. His specialty was botany; and for his studies in this line, he deserves our particular notice. Here he had few superiors. His acquaintance with the leading botanists of this country was wide, and it was also intimate. His correspondence was extensive with botanists in England, France, Germany and other lands. He probably had the most complete private botanical library in the country. He kept up his acquaintance with the classical languages; and read, wrote and spoke French and German, and could read and write Italian and Spanish.

In his practice, Dr. Robbins believed that in certain diseases much help was to be derived from mesmerism. He was also a believer in spiritualism and it was his dying faith. By his special request, Rev. Adin Ballou, of Hopedale, conducted the funeral services in the Orthodox church, which was filled with his acquaintances and professional friends from this and the neighboring towns.—*Compiled from an obituary notice published in the* COMPENDIUM *of January 18th, 1879.* ED.

APPENDIX VII.

J. Mason Macomber, M. D.

Dr. Macomber was born in New Salem, Mass., October 11th, 1811. In "early boyhood, he not only showed a fondness for books, but declared it his purpose to be educated. Save as he went a term or two to the New Salem Academy, he prepared himself for college as a solitary student, studying much of the time in his father's kitchen, and now and then teaching to obtain what means he must needs have under such circumstances. At the age of twenty, he entered Amherst College, where he remained one year, when he entered Brown University, where he graduated in the class of 1835." While in college, and to accommodate a friend, he came to Uxbridge and took charge of the Academy; and now began his interest in the town which finally lead him to spend here the last years of his life. After leaving college, he taught in two or three academies, and in 1841, he came again to this place. For ten years, but not continuously, he was principal of the Academy here. In 1851, Mr. Macomber began the study of medicine, and was graduated from the New York Medical College in 1854. After leaving New York, he was for five or six years professor in the Pennsylvania Medical College in Philadelphia; and as occasion required, he assisted in filling the chairs of some of the other professors.

Dr. Macomber had been married in 1838 to Miss

Sarah A. Lee, of Chester, Mass., and it was while he was professor in Philadelphia that his only son and child, Charles Lee, a youth of great promise, died at the age of 18. The Doctor remained here after this sad event for a year or two, but a settled sorrow, combined with feeble health, resulted in his resignation, although the University would most willingly have retained him in its service. In 1861, he came again to reside in this place, and here he died, February 9th, 1881. His funeral services were held in the Unitarian Church, Sunday afternoon, February 13th, a very large audience being present.

Dr. Macomber was brought up a Baptist, and early in life he became a member of that church, and sometimes preached in Baptist churches, while engaged in teaching. His ancestral and accepted faith he gradually outgrew, and became one of "the most liberal of the liberal christians." The marked characteristic of his latter years was, a deep interest in religious thought; and no one was ever freer in his expression of the extremest views than he;—always ready to receive new light and doing his best to impart it. After he made Uxbridge his home; he was a constant attendant upon the Unitarian church, and as constant a member of the Bible class in its Sunday school, ever taking a leading part, with Bible in hand, in all that was going on. In 1876, he was made a life member of the American Unitarian Association; and after the establishment of the Unitarian local conferences, he was often present at them as delegate, and frequently participated in their debates with great earnestness. [*Compiled by the Ed. from an obituary published in the* COMPENDIUM.

APPENDIX VIII.

Jonathan Whipple.

Jonathan Whipple was born near the spot now occupied by the railroad depot at Lonsdale, R. I. He was a hatter by trade and served his apprenticeship in Boston. In the year 1780, he lived in Douglas, and removed to Uxbridge in 1790. He was a man of much dignity of manner, exceedingly hospitable, and a thorough gentleman. When he lived in Douglas, there occurred the severe winter of 1780–81. Snow fell November 4th, 1780, on an average four feet in depth in Massachusetts. Water from the eaves did not drop for forty days. Friends on a visit staid six or eight weeks; people were drawn on sleds to Mendon, where their horses staid during the winter; marketers from Douglas went with hand-sleds to Boston, this being the only manner in which they could go.

When General Lafayette was passing through New England in the time of the Revolutionary war, he called at Mr. Whipple's in Douglas, and being in want of two horses employed Mr. Whipple to get the horses for him. Mr. Whipple furnished his own horse and one belonging to a neighbor, and the General and his suite passed on. Three months went by and the horses were not returned. Learning that General Lafayette was in Boston, Mr. Whipple went there and called upon him with a friend. The General

was shaving up-stairs but immediately came down and inquired where he had met them. Mr. Whipple informed him that he furnished him with two horses three months before, which had not been returned to him. Said the General, "It is not my fault, but the fault of my secretary. They shall be returned to you, and I will compensate you for the horses and pay you for your trouble;" and he did so to Mr. Whipple's entire satisfaction. Mr. Whipple used to tell the story in his old age with great interest. When General Lafayette visited this country in 1825, and was at the laying of the corner-stone at Bunker Hill, Mr. Whipple took especial pains to call upon him; and after he had shaken hands with him, told him that he once lent him two horses. Upon this the General gave him a second good shake of the hand, and Mr. Whipple left him, highly gratified with the greeting; and from this time onward, he always related the story of the second interview as an interesting appendix to the first.

Mr. Whipple had a strong tendency to collect all sorts of articles with which to supply his customers. No person who ever had an opportunity to observe his collection in the upper story of the old shop that he occupied, will be likely to forget it. It was a common saying, that one could not ask for any article which Mr. Whipple could not supply. To test the accuracy of the statement, two friends called for goose yokes, and were surprised to find that they were at once furnished.

Mr. Whipple married Mary Jennison, a daughter of Dr. William Jennison, who practiced his profession in Mendon, Douglas and Brookfield. Among the children, were twin

brothers, who were born October 31, 1777, soon after the surrender of Burgoyne, and who, at the urgent request of their grandfather, were christened Liberty and Independence. The sympathy between these two brothers was very remarkable. When either of them spoke of any other brother, it was, "brother Charles," or "brother Henry," or "brother William;" but when he spoke of his twin brother, it was always simply, "brother." The resemblance in their personal appearance was very striking, and it required an intimate acquaintance to prevent mistakes in their identity.

When Independence Whipple was eleven years old, an incident occurred which made a very strong impression upon him. Standing in the road near his father's house in Douglas, he saw the equipage of Gen. Washington, which proceeded in the following order:—

1st. A gentleman in uniform on a beautiful dapple-gray horse.

2d. Two aids in uniform on dapple-gray horses.

3d. Bay horses with two negro boys as riders; the horses being attached to a travelling carriage in which sate Gen. Washington.

4th. The baggage wagon, drawn by two horses.

The boy with his native politeness exchanged salutations with the General, and never forgot the meeting, nor the illustrious man whom he so deeply venerated. H. C.

APPENDIX IX.

Elihu Brown.

Elihu Brown was born in Douglas, and died in Uxbridge in 1840, aged 79 years. He married Nancy Thwing of Douglas, who died the year before her husband at the age of 76. Mr. Brown at first hired the house formerly occupied by Mr. Royal Jepherson, and afterwards purchased the estate. He was a blacksmith, and once occupied a shop that stood where the Academy building now stands. Mr. Brown resided in the Jepherson house until a year or two previous to his death, when he sold the estate in order to pay a debt which he was determined to pay, although he was not pressed for the payment. He afterwards moved back to the house, and occupied it a short time as a tenant; but he finally died in the Esq. Adams house, where he was living with his son, Capt. Pemberton Brown. He was found dead in his bed, having apparently died without a struggle.

Mr. Brown was a man of strong common sense, sterling honesty, excellent judgment; he was one who said what he meant, and meant what he said. He did considerable town business and his opinion was frequently sought and followed in the affairs of the town and neighborhood. He lived respected and honored, and died sincerely lamented by those who knew him. H. C.

APPENDIX X.

Orsmus Taft.

Mr. Orsmus Taft died at his home, in this town, July 8th, 1880. Here he was born on January 1st, 1795, and here, too, he spent his life, with the exception of nine or ten years, when he was engaged in business elsewhere. Mr. Taft left the ancestral farm, in the easterly part of the town, when he was eleven years of age, to enter the woolen mill of Daniel Day, the first mill started in this place—and he always believed that he was the first Yankee to learn to weave satinet. With Mr. Day he spent seven years—the old term, in New England, of serving one's apprenticeship at a trade. From 1819 to 1822, he was engaged in this mill as a partner. In 1824, he had charge of the carding and spinning department of the "Capron Mill." When the Uxbridge Woolen Mill was started in 1825, he was interested in it as owner, and also held the position of agent for it. In 1838, he sold his share in it to Edward Seagrave. He soon formed a partnership with his nephew, Robert Taft, and opened a store. His interest in this continued until 1844, when he sold out to his nephew, and was not a resident of the place again until 1853, when he was made station-agent of the Providence and Worcester railroad. This position he held for ten years, when he gave up business

altogether, and passed the remainder of his life in the quiet of his home, surrounded by his family, that ever most thoughtfully and generously cared for his wants. Thus quietly, cheerfully, always interested in local, national and church affairs, he came to his end.

"Cheerful he gave his being up, and went,
To share the holy rest that waits a life well spent."

Mr. Taft was lineally descended from Robert Taft, the early settler of Mendon. The order of succession is—Robert; Robert, Jr.; Israel; Jacob; Jacob, Jr.; Orsmus.

On the 28th of October, 1821, Mr. Taft married Margaret Smith, of Mendon, who survives him. Of a large number of children, eight are now living, either in this town, or in Providence, R. I.—[*Compiled by the Editor from an obituary notice in the* COMPENDIUM, *July, 1880.*

APPENDIX XI.

The Wood Family.

About a mile and a half north-east from the meeting-house, is what is known as "the city." It consists of a few houses near the entrance of what is known as the Pudding street road. This road leads to the town of Upton, and is reported to have received its name from the fact, that on a certain occasion, all the inhabitants had pudding for dinner. Whether the tradition is correct or not, the name is as well defined and understood as Beacon street, or Pennsylvania avenue. The large house on the north side of the old Hartford and Boston turnpike, and easterly of the road above referred to, was built on the spot where there was once a tavern, probably one of the earliest in town, kept by Mr. Ezekiel Wood, the father of the wife of Captain Emory Wood, and grand father of Wheelock Wood and ——— Wood, who formerly resided upon the spot. The house was burned after it was given up as a hotel. Few facts are now known of this hotel, or its owner. It is said, that before insurance was common in this neighborhood, the barn of Mr. Ezekiel Wood, the former hotel-keeper, was burned. According to the custom of the time, a subscription was made; and among the subscribers was Captain Samuel Reed who subscribed ten dollars. When Captain Reed called to pay his subscription, Mr. Wood said

thoughtlessly, but not very complimentary to the giver, "I suppose I should not have had this, had it not been for Mr. John Capron." Captain Reed being a rather high-spirited man, suggested that if Mr. Capron was to have the credit of his subscription, he should hardly subscribe a second time. Yet how natural it is at times to ascribe an act to a wrong motive, and to fancy that a kindness has not come from the dictates of the heart of the one who does the kindness, but from some outside influence. The "city" was not the result of any particular business, but was a settlement of some members of old families, who built their houses in the vicinity of the old homestead.

From Mr. Elias Wheelock, who was brought up in the eastern part of the town, and married a daughter of Mr. Samuel Wood, I learned that Dexter Wood,—the father of Samuel and Uncle Ezekiel Wood, as we used to call him,—and Ezekiel Wood who kept the hotel at the "city," were brothers. Dexter lived on the Pudding street road, in the house now occupied by James S. Farnum and formerly occupied by Samuel Wood and Amariah A. Wood. David Wood, with whom Mr. Wheelock was brought up, lived in the house formerly owned by Luke Taft, and more recently by Amariah A. Wood. David Wood was a brother of Solomon Wood, who formerly lived in Mendon, and was the father of the late Obadiah Wood of Milford; was also the father of the late Nathan Wood of Milford, familiarly known, as "Uncle Nathan." Mrs. Luke Taft and Mrs. Reuben Wood were daughters of David Wood. Josiah Wood formerly lived on the place now occupied by Luke S. Farnum. He was the father of Sumner Wood, Captain

Emory Wood, Mrs. Daniel Carpenter, Mrs. Cummings, the mother of Josiah Cummings, and others. Dexter Wood and Ezekiel Wood were brothers-in-law to Col. Ezra Wood of Upton, the father of Mrs. Col. Fletcher of Northbridge, and Mrs. Frederic Taft of Uxbridge. Mr. Wheelock is unable to give the name of the father of Josiah Wood, but my opinion is, he was a brother of Col. Ezra Wood above named. From Mr. Wheelock, I learn further, that Josiah Wood was a Universalist; that he had frequently heard him announce at the old meeting-house in Uxbridge, that a Universalist meeting would be held at—and time and place were mentioned. He also informed me, that David Wood, Solomon Wood and Obadiah Wood, the above named brothers, lived in different towns and that each resided at the end of the road that led to his house. It must be quite a convenience to know that a traveller is coming to see *you*. This can generally be accomplished by living at the end of the road. The large house, on the old turnpike west of the Pudding street road, was formerly owned by a family by the name of Rist. One of the sons was a bachelor; one was Thaddeus Rist, the father of Judge Rist, who died in Alabama; and Esbon C. Rist, who died in Uxbridge. The red house, formerly owned by Dea. Bullard, was built by Hatter Ezekiel Wood, so called, who formerly lived a short distance beyond the Daniel Farnum place. "Hatter" Ezekiel was the son of Ezekiel Wood and a half-brother of the wife of Capt. Emory Wood.

Reuben Wood was not a native of Uxbridge, but came from the State of Vermont. The relationship between his children and the Luke Taft family came by way of their mother. H. C.

APPENDIX XII.

Ironstone.

The Village of Ironstone is situated on Forge Brook in the south part of Uxbridge. The Brook takes its name from the fact, that about one hundred and forty years ago Benjamin Taft erected a forge and dam there, and the dam of the Ironstone Factory pond is but an enlargement of the first one. "Forge Brook" is mentioned in the town records of 1734. A few years previous to 1800, (history nor tradition is very clear about the date), there were a saw-mill and trip-hammer shop near the head of Ironstone pond, which was occupied by Caleb Handy. Tradition says he made guns, scythes and other useful articles. In 1813, William Bacon, son of Miles Bacon, who was many years ago the old tavern-keeper at Slatersville, purchased the privilege of Samuel Buxton. Mr. Bacon first put in a spinning frame or two, and spun cotton yarn for the late John Slater of Slatersville, R. I. Mr. Bacon subsequently erected a foundry at this place; and in 1823 and '24 made satinet power-looms; also, castings for Col. Joseph Ray of Mendon.

Forge Brook has two branches. The south branch has no name, or history, except that Seth Wheelock in 1824 or '25, put up a building there for carding wool into rolls for the neighboring farmers. The other branch is called "Goodstone Brook," because the stone upon its margin was

good for various purposes. Here, Thomas B. Shove, previous to 1800, erected a blacksmith shop and set up a trip-hammer, nearly on the site of the shop of the late Daniel H. Aldrich.

Ironstone Factory was built in 1815. It was a company enterprise, the stock being divided into thirty-two shares, without any determined value. Dr. Ezekiel Comstock subscribed for eleven shares; Daniel Jencks ten shares; Joseph Smith one share; Moses Farnum five shares; William Arnold three shares, and Tillson Aldrich two shares. The three last named stockholders were citizens of Uxbridge. The first cotton yarn both spun and wove in Uxbridge was from this mill. This yarn was woven into cloth at home by the "fly-shuttle" loom, of which improvement in weaving, David Knight of Smithfield, R. I., was the inventor. This mode of weaving cloth directed the attention of Moses and Darius D. Farnum to manufacturing pursuits. The first superintendent of the mill was Tillson Aldrich. About 1820, William Arnold became the owner of the Ironstone manufacturing property. He increased the water-power by the erection of a reservoir of considerable dimensions; built two tenement houses and a store; and through his influence a post-office was opened,—John Bradley, of stage-driving fame, bringing and carrying the mails. Mr. Arnold manufactured cotton cloth for several years, and in 1832 the factory was burned. The factory property passed from William Arnold to Samuel Shove; from Mr. Shove to Jonathan F. Southwick; from Mr. Southwick, one-half to Albert Fairbanks, the other half to Charles A. Messinger. The factory was rebuilt, and Fair-

banks and Messinger manufactured Kentucky jeans for some years. After the decease of Mr. Fairbanks, the property passed into the hands of Messinger and Esty. The factory was burned again in 1865, and in 1866, the property was purchased of Messinger and Esty, by Messrs. J. C. Keith and Co., who bought, at the same time, of Jonathan F. Southwick, the mill below. John C. Scott, of Millville, soon purchased of Mr. Keith his share of the property, and Mr. Scott and Stephen H. Benson became the owners of it.

H. C., AND EDITOR.

APPENDIX XIII.

Manufacturing.

It is well known that Samuel Slater, about 1790, was the first to manufacture cotton goods in this country; but it is not so generally known, that John and Arthur Schofield, who came from England in March, 1793, introduced the manufacture of woolen goods; an interesting account of which may be found in a Report made in 1871, to the "Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry," by Royal C. Taft, of Providence, R. I.

In this report, Mr. Taft takes notice that it was begun in Uxbridge by Daniel Day; but no account of it appears in the very elaborate "History of American Manufactures from 1608 to 1860," by J. Lander Bishop, A.M., M.D., Philadelphia, 1864. It might reasonably be expected that Mr. Taft would do justice to his native town about a matter of this kind, in which his father and all his relatives have been so actively engaged.

He says:

"In 1809, Daniel Day built his first mill in Uxbridge, Mass., size twenty by forty feet, two stories high, and in the same year put in a carding machine and picker for the purpose of carding rolls for home manufacture. In the spring of 1811, he built an addition to the mill of twenty-five by thirty feet, three stories high, and in July put in a billy and jenny for spinning. In September, he added a hand-loom; early in 1812, he put in another loom, and dur-

ing the year added three more, making five looms in all. The same kind of a picker was used as is in use at the present time. It was operated by a picker-string attached to a picker-stick held in the hand, while the harnesses were operated by the feet of the weaver."

By "the same kind of a picker," etc., is meant the mechanism used by the weaver to throw the shuttle. This "same kind" might equally well be applied to the picker mentioned in connection with the carding machine, there being no practical difference in the operation of the common wool-picker of to-day and then, but much difference in the mechanical perfection of its construction.

Some three years since, in looking over some old papers of my father's which came into my hands on the decease of my mother, I found a receipt of which the following is a copy:

"Uxbridge, August 27th, 1811.

Rec'd of Jerry Wheelock seventy-five dollars in part payment for the picking and carding machine I have lately built and put in opperation in the shop of Mr. Daniel Day in Uxbridge. Artemas Dryden, Jr."

Here we have a glimpse of the beginning of the woolen manufacture in Uxbridge; and, as I believe, of the first woolen carding machine and picker built in Worcester county. I am inclined to think from Dryden's receipt, and from some papers I have examined in which some account of this machinery would be likely to appear, had its date been as early as 1809, that the date given by Mr. Taft should be 1810, instead of 1809; 1810, was the year in which the first mill was built, as I have been informed both by my father and my mother. I prefer to claim the earlier date, but with the knowledge I have, I cannot do it.

In this same year, 1810, as I was told by Charles A. Thwing, now deceased, in a conversation I had with him several years since, the first movement was made towards the manufacturing of cotton goods in Uxbridge. This was first seen in building the works of the "Uxbridge Cotton Mills" in that year by Mr. Clapp,—Ebenezer, I presume, as I find his name somewhat prominent then in town matters. This statement, if correct, and I have no doubt it is so, as Mr. Thwing was a native of North Uxbridge, and almost always a resident there, as his father was, and was of sufficient age to have some slight recollection of operations so prominent as these must have been — this statement shows the beginning of the cotton and woolen manufacture in this town to be co-eval.

The billy and spinning jenny were made by Arthur Schofield, of Pittsfield, Mass. Mr. Schofield, with his brother John, built and put into operation a carding machine in Byfield, Mass., in 1793, which was the first one erected in this country.

The "old billy!" Does any one remember it, and its top-roll which would at times come a little *too close* to the heads of those boys and girls who were *always* faithful to their work?

As all the weaving at this time was done on hand-looms for some years after the erection of this mill, looms were set up in houses and in shops built for the purpose, till they became almost as common as were the shoe-shops a few years since.

Sometimes, jennies were set up for the purpose of spinning the yarn used for filling. The principal goods made

being satinet, the warp was of cotton yarn obtained at the cotton mills. Of course, the yarn used for filling (or the roping when the spinning was done in the shops) was procured at the mills where there were carding machines.

The embargo, and the war with England following, created a demand for manufactured goods which the Yankee nation was not slow to endeavor to supply; and as a consequence, it suffered for being too eager to make money on the closing of the war and the re-establishment of commercial relations with England.

The next attempt at woolen manufacturing was made by the Rivulet Manufacturing Company, which was incorporated in 1816, although the company was formed and buildings erected in 1814, and the business of manufacturing was begun in the winter of 1814 and '15. The capital paid in was $14,000; the shares were $500 each. It was agreed that no dividend should be paid until the expiration of eight years, a most wise provision to make in this instance. As a matter of fact, no dividend was ever paid; and when the business was closed up, the stockholders received little, if any, more than half the amount paid in and without interest.

Is the question asked, Why was the act of incorporation delayed so long, or why was the company incorporated at all, or what advantage was it to the individual members of the company? When the company entered upon its business, it was found necessary, as it frequently is now, to use process of law to collect accounts for goods sold. To begin a suit required the name of every member of an un-incorporated company to appear in the writ. Any failure in this respect would invalidate the writ and make it necessary to

begin again. In the meantime, the debtor had an opportunity to put his property into the hands of a favored creditor, but an act of incorporation enabled a company to do business by an agent; to sue and be sued; but gave individual corporators no advantages whatever, above what they would have enjoyed as simple corporators. It thus became a simple co-operative association, with power to act by an agent instead of being obliged to act by all the members of the company.

The original members of the company were, Daniel Carpenter, Samuel Read, Ephraim Spring, Alpheus Baylies, John Capron, Jerry Wheelock, Samuel Judson, Joseph H. Perry, Thomas Farnum and Esband Newell. The two last-named persons, I think, soon surrendered their shares to the other members of the company. Daniel Carpenter was a merchant, and had been engaged in trade outside of an ordinary country merchant's trade, which well fitted him for the position he was now to assume — that of agent. Samuel Read was a farmer, hotel-keeper, and owner of the privilege on which the mill was to be built. Ephraim Spring was also a farmer, and owner of real estate available for business purposes, besides having a son desirous of becoming a manufacturer in some of its branches. Alpheus Baylies was a farmer with sons who wished to become manufacturers. John Capron was a clothier by trade, cloth-finisher and dyer, whose proposition to the company will appear by-and-by. Jerry Wheelock was a mechanic, and one of the original Daniel Day company, and well acquainted with the construction and operation of machinery, and with the management of stock, which would fit him for

the place of Superintendent. Rev. Samuel Judson, the Congregational minister, was, so far as I know, the only man who might be considered a capitalist. He joined the company for the sake of the profits from his investment, and a poor investment it proved. Joseph H. Perry was a young man who came from Dudley, Mass., and had money enough to take a share in the company and have an opportunity to learn a trade. These men were all of moderate means, of sterling integrity and good business qualifications and intelligence. Surely such men were, and are now, the very men and the only men fit to try the co-öperative principle in business. This was a co-öperative association — nothing more, nothing less.

John Capron came to Uxbridge near the close of the last century. The first mention of his name that I have noticed on the town books, is as one of the committee to superintend the building of the school-houses of 1797. He had acquired the trade of a custom clothier at the Cargill mill in Pomfret, now Putnam, Conn. He purchased the Col. Read estate and water-power, and set up the business of finishing the cloth woven in families in this vicinity. This will account for the following proposition:

"At an adjourned meeting of the Rivulet Manufacturing Company, holden January 2d, 1815, at Capt. Samuel Read's, I made the following proposition to the meeting in order to join said company, viz., that I would take shares to the amount of $1,000, $1,500, $2,000, or $2,500, and give my note to the company on interest; then to do the dyeing of all the wool and the dressing of all the cloth for the company, at the common price of doing the same, till I had paid for as many shares as they should choose I should take with them, and that all charges for the same should be endorsed

on my note at the end of every ninety days from the beginning till the whole be paid; that I should then be entitled to the same value of dyeing and dressing cloth, for which said company are to pay me at the end of every ninety days; that is to say, that I shall do or cause to be done, in manner as above stated, work to the value of $5,000 in the whole.

Then it was voted unanimously that I should take five shares, being the highest sum I had proposed, and in every respect agreeable to the foregoing proposition.

Uxbridge, March 24th, 1815. JOHN CAPRON."

It is therefore easy to be seen why John Capron became a co-öperator in this company.

Artemas Dryden, Jr., made the carding machine and picker for this company; and John and George Carpenter of this town built the billy and jennies,—the first machinery built in this town, unless they had previously built a jenny for Daniel Day. The weaving was all done by hand-looms, and the goods were chiefly satinets, although some broadcloths and cassimeres were made.

Cotton manufacturing kept pace with the woolen; and this same year, 1814, the Ironstone Mill was built, on Ironstone Brook, in the south part of the town, by William Arnold and others. There had been, somewhere on this brook in former years, a forge, and an excellent quality of iron was made from the bog iron-ore found in the vicinity. I have heard Elihu Brown, a blacksmith well qualified to judge, and who carried on the business in Uxbridge thirty years or more, say, that the best iron he ever used came from that forge. This iron-making gave the name to the brook and village. Only a small amount of ore was found here, and of course the forge was abandoned.

I have made thus far no mention of the finishing of woolen goods, except in the proposition of John Capron, already quoted. This was then, as now, a very important part of the work of manufacturing, and at that time the most of it was done by Mr. Capron. Some goods however, were finished by other persons. I have found among the old papers before mentioned, a bill of Benjamin Craggin of Douglas, against Daniel Day and Company, of September 23d, 1813:

"For Dressing 24 yds. wool cloth, N. Blue, at $\frac{25}{100}$,	$6,00	
For Fulling and Dressing 17½ yds. Satinet, at $\frac{20}{100}$,	$3,40	
		$9,40."

The above prices for finishing are as much as the entire price of manufacturing has been, except during the war, for the last twenty years.

After this time, for a few years, there were no mills erected in this town, but important improvements were made in the construction of machinery.

On the expiration of the contract with John Capron, the Rivulet company proceeded to put in finishing machinery, and among other things a shearing machine with a revolving blade, or cutter, to be driven by power, then a recent invention of William Hovey of Worcester. It would be a great curiosity to see the shears used previous to this invention of Hovey. No one of the present day would have any conception of what it was for, or how it was to be used. I never saw but one pair, and that was when I was quite young. It was not then in use, and I can give no description of it.

The bobbin winder came into use during this period, by which one person could wind as many bobbins as six or eight could do on the old quill-wheel. The bobbin winder was not long used, for it was soon found that the yarn might as well be spun and run directly upon the bobbin, as to run it upon a cop (as it was called), and then wind it upon the bobbin.

The napping machine came next, much the most important invention then made. Previous to the introduction of this machine, the nap of woolen, and other kinds of cloth, was raised by means of jacks—that is, cards similar in form but smaller and closer set than the hand-cards for carding cotton or wool, that at the present day may sometimes be found. The cloth was stretched tightly on a frame and the operator raised the nap by drawing the card lengthways upon it. This was a hard and slow process, and required much skill and care on the part of the workmen to produce a smooth and equal nap over the piece, without leaving any tender spots in the goods. I should add that teasels were also set in "hands," as I think they were called, and used in the same manner as the jacks. Some time in the summer of 1819, Luke Baker, from Putney, Vermont, came to my father's with a new machine for doing this work by means of a revolving cylinder, on which the cards or teasels were to be fixed, to be operated by power, the cloth to pass backward and forward under the cylinder, and in contact with the cards, or teasels, and thus by a continuous process raising the nap more rapidly, producing as good a face and with more certainty than could the most skillful workman. My father took a license from Mr. Baker to make and to

sell the machines, and immediately entered upon the business of their manufacture and sale. The new machines went into immediate use in most of the mills of the county, and in Rhode Island, where he was authorized to sell them. Who the inventor of this machine was, I never knew; but I think it was probably a "Yankee notion," as in a letter from Mr. Baker, written in January, 1827, I find the following:

"I have lately been acquainted with an Englishman who has worked in England for many years in the business of manufacturing woolen cloth; he informs me that he never saw a napping machine that worked both ways (backward and forward), either with cards or teasels, until he came to this country."

I think this is tolerable evidence that it was a Yankee invention. How unlikely that a Yankee would work all day scratching cloth with the small result gained by the old process! On the contrary, the English workman has always been willing to use the same machine, to do as his father and grandfather have done before him, until fairly forced from it by circumstances over which he has no control.

The next mill built was the Capron mill, thirty-three by sixty feet, and three stories high. I think it must have been built in 1821 (perhaps in 1820), and it went into operation in the winter of 1821 and '22, or the spring of 1822. It was started with one set of cards, made by Artemas Dryden, Jr.; one billy of forty spindles; two jennies of one hundred and twenty spindles each, built by the Messrs. Carpenter; two cotton spinning-frames of sixty-four spindles each, with the preparation and a warper and dresser for making satinet warps; and twelve power satinet

looms;—the first satinet power-looms ever built, it has been said. The engineer, in the construction of this mill, was Luke Jillson, of Cumberland, R. I., who was, as I have reason to believe, the planner of the looms, which were built on the premises.

I do not know who built the cotton machinery. In 1824, an addition of a set of cards, built by Dryden; a billy of fifty spindles, and a jenny of a hundred and twenty spindles, built by the Messrs. Carpenter; a jenny of one hundred and fifty spindles, built by Jerry Wheelock; eight satinet looms, two cotton cards, and two spinning frames of sixty-four spindles each, built by Armsby and Arnold of Woonsocket, R. I., were made. These looms were of an entirely different construction from those built by Jillson, and were used in mills for some twenty-five or thirty years. There was no real difference in the construction of the other machinery used, but the number of spindles in the billy and jenny was increased.

In the autumn of this year, the dams were built for the Luke Taft mill, — now Wheelock's, — and the Uxbridge Woolen, — now W. D. Davis', — also to carry the water of the West River to the mill of Mr. Day. The next year, 1825, witnessed the erection of the Luke Taft mill, thirty-four by sixty feet, three stories high; the Uxbridge Woolen mill, thirty-six by eighty feet, three stories high; and an addition to the Day mill, making it forty by forty-five feet, three stories high. Two sets of cards, built by Dryden, were put into the Taft mill, with roping and spinning machinery equivalent, and twenty power satinet looms of the Jillson style, with some slight improvement, Paine and Ray makers;

ten satinet looms by the same makers, in the Day mill,—the cards being already in that mill; and in the Uxbridge Woolen mill, two sets of cards by Dryden; two billies, forty spindles each; two warp jennies, eighty spindles each; two filling jennies of a hundred and twenty spindles each, made by Wheelock; and ten power cassimere looms, made by Paine and Ray. Taft's and Day's mills were started in the winter of 1825, and the Uxbridge Woolen mill late in the autumn of 1826.

In August, 1828, the Uxbridge Woolen mill was burned; and within a week, a woolen mill was burned in Milford and another in East Douglas. Much alarm was felt by manufacturers at so sudden a destruction of factory property, and in a way they were unprepared to account for. It was a time when the country had become much excited on the subject of duties for the protection of domestic industry. So sudden and unaccountable were these fires, that the opinion was expressed by some, that the English manufacturers had emissaries here who were to burn the woolen mills, recollecting the old threat of the British minister, that "he would not allow America to make a hob-nail." Of course, there was no occasion for these surmises, as these fires were undoubtedly cases of spontaneous combustion. The Uxbridge Woolen mill was immediately re-built, forty by eighty feet, three stories high, with an attic, and built of brick.

The new machinery placed in this mill shows the progress which had been made in the manufacture of woolen goods. After the original mill was built, and before the erection of the new one, the Goulding patent for

improvement in carding and spinning wool had been so far perfected, that it was coming into general use.

[Mr. Wheelock here gives a description of the old and the new methods of carding and spinning, which, if we were giving a history of manufacturing, would find a welcome place: but we reluctantly feel compelled to omit it. — Ed.]

The change made from the old to the new methods of carding and spinning, allowed wider carding machines to be used; and nearly all that are now made are double the width of those used under the old *régime* "How so?" you ask. Because no child, eight or ten years old, could take up more than a handful of rolls about two feet long, and hold them so as not to drag on the floor, but by raising the arm so high as to make it very fatiguing; while to let them drag on the floor would stretch the rolls so as to spoil the evenness of the yarn. So in carding; the work of two hands was done by one; besides power was saved, as there could be but half the number of bearings to make friction. Again, it would save the work of a man to run the billy, and of three children to piece rolls, who ought not to be in the mills under any circumstances. In the interest of the children then, it was a great and much needed improvement.

There was another improvement that came into use at this time; and it had been used in the Uxbridge Woolen mill about a month, when the mill was burned. I refer to the woolen warper and dresser, by which the process of making and sizing the warps to prepare them for the looms was done by machinery, instead of by hand, as formerly, thereby saving certainly one man's labor.

The carding and spinning machinery in the new woolen mill was made by Washburn and Goddard of Worcester, who, a short time previous to this, had established the business of building woolen machinery. They were men of enterprise and ingenuity, and provided themselves with the best tools and the most desirable patterns for machinery, and they soon did the most of that kind of work, which for many years had been done by Dryden. Joseph Day now doubled his machinery, putting in the Goulding patent; the carding machines were made by Washburn and Goddard, the spinning jacks by Jerry Wheelock, and the looms by the Messrs. Carpenter.

The disastrous times of 1828 and '29, together with the large investments made in the Blackstone Canal, which proved a wholly unproductive enterprise, caused the failure of the Messrs. Capron. The sons, by means of the assistance of wealthy friends, succeeded in liberating their father from the liabilities he had incurred as the head of the firm of John Capron and Sons, and resumed the business of manufacturing. They changed their machinery to the improved machinery made by Goulding, and were so successful as to warrant them, in 1836, in doubling the size of their mill.

During this decade, the Ironstone Cotton mill was burnt. It was re-built by Jonathan F. Southwick, and put into operation by Albert Fairbanks, Samuel Shove, and Charles A. Messenger, at first on satinets and afterwards on cashmerets, of which they made a superior quality for many years.

The financial storm of 1837, scarcely left a business man standing squarely on his feet in the valley of the Black-

stone; and although many went under for a time, most of them came to the surface again struggling desperately for success.

In 1834, Jerry Wheelock, who, up to this time had made jacks and other woolen machinery, found it impossible to compete with the large capital of the Worcester machinists and gave up the building of machinery. He turned his machine shop, which was in the old Day mill, into a woolen yarn factory, under the firm of J. Wheelock and Son. In 1837, they hired room and power at the Uxbridge Woolen mill, and doubled their machinery. In 1840, they bought one-half of the Luke Taft mill, taking into the business S. M. Wheelock, making the firm J. Wheelock and Sons. After the purchase of one-half of this mill, in 1840, by J. Wheelock and Son, the other half was run by Moses Taft till he sold out to C. A. and S. M. Wheelock, in 1846. The mill formerly standing on this spot, owned by Luke Taft, had been burned, in the winter of 1837 and '38, but was immediately re-built and improved machinery introduced.

The Uxbridge Woolen Manufacturing Company was an incorporated company, receiving its charter in the winter of 1826 and '27. The original members of the company, were Amariah Chapin, Royal Chapin, Dr. George Willard, John and Orsmus Taft. These men were all relatives, and owners of the land on which the mill and most of the other necessary buildings, and tenements for the *employés*, would stand, and of the most of the land through which the canal to convey the water to the mill would run. The Messrs. Chapin were merchants and active business men, father and

son. The Messrs. Taft were brothers, both of them were manufacturers, and had been more or less engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods for several years.

The first weavers employed by Daniel Day, I think were Irish by birth, and had all the virtues and all the vices of Irishmen. These habits would make it desirable that one should have more reliable persons as operatives, in order to carry on manufacturing successfully, or, in fact, any other business, and therefore Orsmus Taft, a young man, and a neighbor of Mr. Day, accepted an offer to go into the mill to work at what was considered, by some of his friends and the Irishmen, rather low wages. But he thought, "let those laugh who win;" and in about a year he had charge of the weaving, and now Yankees generally took the places of the Irish.

In the autumn of 1837, Orsmus Taft and Samuel Smith sold the shares they held in the stock of the Uxbridge Woolen company, to Edward Seagrave and Lyman Copland. Royal Chapin gave up the agency of the mill to Seagrave, and in a short time sold his shares. I do not remember how Amariah Chapin's stock was disposed of; but on the failure of Dr. Willard, his stock was sold at auction, to settle his estate, about the year 1842 or '43, and brought the vast sum of forty-five dollars for that which had cost him four thousand five hundred dollars—nine shares. We see in this an instance of the ill-fortune which attended manufacturers as the business had thus far been developed. Cassimeres were at first manufactured at this mill, afterwards satinets, and in 1844, it again changed to cassimere, and since then has continued a cassimere

mill. Mr. Copland gave up the superintendence of the Uxbridge Woolen mill in 1844, and was succeeded by J. W. Day, for some three or four years, when the manufacturing business was practically given up by the corporation, and the mill was operated for about ten years by Messrs. M. D. F. Steere and Josiah Seagrave, not however without reverses and heavy losses. The mill was enlarged about the year 1850, and the machinery increased to twelve sets of cassimere machinery, with about fifty looms, most of them the Crompton fancy loom. In February, 1852, the mill was again destroyed by fire. It was immediately re-built and filled with the most improved cassimere machinery then known. In 1854, Mr. Seagrave became pecuniarily embarrassed, and Mr. Carnoe took his place. The firm was now Steere and Carnoe for two or three years, when Mr. Seagrave resumed his place in the mill. He was, however, unable to withstand the crisis of 1857, and, although he made an earnest effort to go on again, it was in vain,—everything seemed to turn against him. Mr. Steere received an offer, in the winter of 1857, to take charge of the Salisbury mills, which he accepted, and left Uxbridge.

In February, 1859, the finishing mill and dye-house were destroyed by fire. This was another serious blow to one so harassed and perplexed, and although Mr. Seagrave succeeded in re-building, by means of the insurance, he was unable to continue the business and soon after died. The property passed into the hands of Messrs. J. C. Howe and Co., of Boston, and after standing idle a year or more, was sold to its present owner, W. D. Davis, of Providence, R.

L., who took it just in time to receive the advantages the war gave to manufacturers. About 1868, Mr. Davis sold the mill to Messrs. R. and J. Taft, who made very extensive repairs, additions and improvements; and after running the mill two or three years, they re-sold it to Mr. Davis, who still owns it and has run eight or nine sets of machinery a part of the time since he re-bought it. This mill has been a very costly one for its owners, being several times burned. Three mills, three barns, two dwelling-houses, and two dry-houses, have been destroyed by fire, besides numerous smaller losses in the same way.

The old Day mill, the first mill built in town, was burnt in 1844, and was re-built in the course of a year or two. On being re-built, J. W. Day, son of Joseph Day, having left the Uxbridge Woolen mill, ran it for four or five years. In 1844, J. Wheelock and Sons put in looms, and put one-half of their yarn machinery into the manufacture of plaid flannels. In 1846, Charles A. and Silas M. Wheelock bought of Moses Taft, the part of the mill owned by him, and Jerry Wheelock retiring from business, the firm of C. A. and S. M. Wheelock was formed. They continued to manufacture satinets and plaids till 1852, when they made alterations and additions to their mill, and put in additional machinery and fancy looms, but did not begin the manufacture of cassimeres solely, until 1855. In 1851, a steam engine was put into the mill as auxilliary to the water power, the first engine set up in this town for manufacturing purposes. In 1859, additional machinery was put into the mill. In 1872, additional buildings were put up, and soon more machinery was introduced, with self-

operating jacks and mules, in place of hand-jacks, — these self-operating machines having recently come into successful use. At this time this mill is equipped with five full sets of fancy cassimere machinery.

After selling his share of this mill to C. A. and S. M. Wheelock, Moses Taft left manufacturing till the winter of 1846 and '47, when he hired a mill in Burrillville, and with Samuel W. Scott, who had been in his employment for several years, again went into the manufacture of satinets, which he continued till the winter of 1849 and '50, when this mill was burned. The next year, in company with J. W. Day, whose name has been mentioned in connection with the Uxbridge Woolen mill, under the firm of Taft and Day, he hired the Capron mill and continued the same business for some years, when Dea. William C. Capron was admitted to the firm, making it Taft, Day and Co. This firm was shortly changed to Taft and Capron, by the withdrawal of J. W. Day, and so continued till about 1862, when Messrs. R. and J. Taft, who had long been in business as merchants, bought them out and continued the business until after the close of the war, when their lease expired. Messrs. Henry and Charles C. Capron took the mill for a few years. On the withdrawal of Charles C. Capron, William E. Hayward entered into copartnership with Henry Capron, and the mill has since been run by Capron and Hayward.

After the burning of the mill run by Moses Taft in Burrillville, he took measures to secure the water rights and land for what is now known as the Central mill, bought the canal of the old Blackstone Canal company, and laid the

foundation for the mill in the autumn of 1852. It was completed the next year and leased to Israel M. Southwick and Richard Sayles, under the name of Southwick and Sayles, who continued to run the mill till 1859, when they sold out their lease to Bradford, Taft & Co., of Providence, R. I., Mr. Sayles continuing to superintend the mill till his health failed some time in 1862 or '63. Daniel W. Taft then took the superintendency of the mill, and continued so until he took the lease in his own name, in 1869. Messrs. R. and J. Taft bought the mill property of Moses Taft about 1865, and made extensive additions to the power in 1866, by building a new dam, and in 1875, they made an addition to the mill and built a new dye-house, making the mill suitable for ten sets of machinery for making fancy cassimeres — fancy cassimeres having always been made in this mill. They had put in an eighty-horse power steam engine, some two years previous to this time, to supply power while making repairs, which had become necessary on account of the breaking of their dam. They have now ample power in the dryest season.

After the burning of the factory in Burrillville, in the winter of 1849 and '50, Samuel W. Scott returned to Uxbridge, and the next year took a lease of the Day mill and ran it by the yard, and has run it on contract, and on his own account, up to the present time. He bought the mill and farm about 1859 or '60. It was burnt in the summer of 1878, and immediately re-built in an enlarged and greatly improved manner, with first-class machinery in every respect, for making satinets, which has always been the fabric made here. The mill has three sets of cards, forty-

eight inches wide, three self-operating mules and twenty-six looms. It is run by J. R. Scott and Co., Samuel W. Scott superintending the mill.

After selling the lease of the Central mill to Bradford, Taft and Co., Israel M. Southwick continued to make the repairs at that mill, as he had previously done when in company with R. Sayles, until about 1865 or '66, when again, in company with R. Sayles, they bought the old Rivulet mill, enlarged it to more than twice its former size, put in steam-power and fitted it up to receive machinery. Mr. Southwick then sold his right to Zadok A. Taft. Messrs. Sayles and Taft then put in machinery and leased it to parties from Providence, for making knitting yarn, and it was run on this work till it was burned, in the fall of 1873. It was re-built the next year in a much improved manner. At first cotton machinery was put in, but it soon gave place to woolen machinery, with which Mr. Sayles was well acquainted. It has four complete sets of satinet machinery, with self-operating mules.

About the year 1834, Alvin Cook purchased a small building on the Emerson Brook, which was originally built for a cabinetmaker's shop. He greatly enlarged it and put in woolen cards, spinning machines and looms, but no finishing machinery. He ran the machinery by the yard, for Effingham L. Capron, who was then running the Capron mill, making satinets. He was obliged to succumb to the financial pressure of 1837, and was never again engaged in manufacturing. From 1837 to the present year, 1879, with the exception of a year or two, when the property was used for the manufacture of satinet warps, and perhaps for

some mechanical purposes, the mill has been unoccupied. It has lately been purchased by D. M. Lee, repaired and fitted up for a shoddy mill.

The Ironstone Mill, after the failure of Fairbanks and Messenger, passed through various hands. It was burnt, and after laying idle for several years has, within the last year, passed into the hands of Abijah Esten, and has been re-built for a shoddy mill.

Some five or six years ago, Zadok A. Taft bought a farm through which runs the Emerson Brook, at what was formerly known as the Leonard Taft mills. These mills had fallen into decay. Mr. Taft erected a mill into which he at first put machinery for making cotton warps. This machinery has been removed, and the mill enlarged with the design of leasing it for a satinet mill. It has never been occupied as such, and is now used in making shoddy.

This closes the account of the woolen business in Uxbridge. It remains to speak of the cotton manufacturing, of which nothing has been said, except incidentally, and in connection with the manufacture of satinets.

It has been noticed, that preparation for the manufacture of cotton in this town was begun by Ebenezer (?) Clapp. The building is now standing nearly opposite the boarding-house at the Uxbridge Cotton mills, and is used for a tenement house. I think that nothing but yarn was ever made in it. How long Mr. Clapp continued to run the mill, I do not know; but I have been told, that about 1817 or '18, a Mr. Seaver came from Boston and took charge of it for Robert Rogerson. However this may be, Mr. Rogerson soon after bought the mill and power, together with the

land for tenements, and improved the power to about double its original amount, by raising the dam and banks of the trench, thus increasing the fall, and in 1823, he built the West Stone mill, which was a model mill in every respect. The machinery was chiefly made on the premises, and under the direction of Learned Scott, of Cumberland, R. I., I believe, who also made the plans of the new mill and superintended its erection. The machinery was built in the best possible manner and regardless of cost, and the goods made at this mill were as fine and as perfect as any then made in this country.

The East mill was built in 1827, in the same style of perfection as the West, and with such improvements as four years experience had shown to be desirable.

The whole village is laid out with so much taste that it attracts the notice of any stranger who may pass through it.

Mr. Rogerson was a man of great public spirit. He built the hall in which the Baptist Society worship, and by him it was "dedicated to Christian worship without regard to sect,"—the Rev. Samuel Clarke, then pastor of the First Congregational Society in Uxbridge, preaching the dedication sermon. The hall was at first occupied by the Methodists, afterwards by the Baptists, then again by the Methodists, and for the last thirty years or more by the Baptists.

In 1835 or '36, Mr. Rogerson bore one-third of the expense of building the arched bridge in the village, over the Mumford River, also the retaining walls and grading the road made necessary by building the bridge. Of course, this was in addition to his regular taxes. Mr. Rogerson

will always be remembered, by those who knew him, as a man of great personal enterprise and public spirit.

Financial crashes, like that of 1837, have little regard for these characteristics, or any other good quality, unless it is largely combined with prudence. This was not Mr. Rogerson's character, and the storm that struck him took from him all he had; and he, who a few years before could reckon his property by hundreds of thousands, went forth penniless, never to recover from his misfortunes. I never visit this village without a feeling of sadness, to which I feel incapable of giving expression, as I think of the business fate of this worthy man.

The property now passed into the hands of mortgagees. A new corporation was formed, called the "Uxbridge Cotton Mills," and they were run under this name till 1850, when they were sold to the Messrs. Whitin, of Northbridge, who built an addition of brick, uniting the two stone mills in 1851, making the mill about three hundred and twenty feet long and three stories high, with attics and basements to the stone mills. New and improved machinery was put into the mill, and everything was done to make it a first-class mill of about ten thousand spindles. It continued to be operated by the Messrs. Whitin, Charles E. Whitin being superintendent, until the division of the Whitin estate, when it passed to the youngest brother, James F. Whitin, who now owns it. It is under the superintendence of George Whitin. This is the only cotton mill in town, or ever has been,—with the exception of the small one at Ironstone, built in 1814, and those that have been spoken of as used for making satinet warps.

In looking over what I have written, I notice the omission of the change made on the dissolution of the firm of H. and C. C. Capron. A new dye-house having been built for the better accommodation of the works, C. C. Capron took the old brick dye-house, which was also a stock-house, and thoroughly repaired it, and put in a water-wheel and machinery for the manufacture of shoddy. The mill was burned a few years afterwards, but immediately re-built, much enlarged and improved, and is now one of the best mills for the manufacture of shoddy in the country.

In concluding my account of the Manufactures of Uxbridge, I think it may be well to make a statement of the improvements made in woolen machinery since 1810.

The first improvement was the revolving shear-blade, by William Hovey; the next, the bobbin-winder, which had but a short life; then the napping machine and gigs, in place of the hand-jacks, for raising the nap on woolens; then the power satinet looms in place of the hand-looms (the power-loom for cotton weaving was first put into operation in this country in Waltham, Mass., in 1816); the Goulding improvement for carding and spinning, by which young children were generally thrown out of employment in woolen mills, and the number of other operatives in carding and spinning was reduced to nearly, or quite, one-half the number previously required. Next came the dressing of woolen warps by power, and at about the same time a power brushing machine was introduced for removing dust and smoothing down the nap, after the cloth had passed through the various finishing operations, and before it was put into the press.

This was followed by a greater perfection in the construction of woolen machinery, and improvements in the Goulding machinery, whereby an increase in the size of machinery and the speed with which it could be run were made desirable and possible. Looms for weaving fancy woolens were then introduced, particularly the loom patented by William Crompton, with improvements in finishing machinery, especially in the shearing machine, by which the amount of work was increased and better done;—this improvement consisting of an increase in the number of blades in the revolver. Then came the rotary fulling mill, the renewal of the Crompton patent, and the improvement made on the loom by his son George; the James Greenhalgh improvement on the fancy loom, by which the warp was operated with greater ease than before, and enabling the manufacturer to use a finer warp when it was desirable to do so; the continuous and self-saving list shearing machine of Parks and Woolson, and other makers; the double-acting gig; the self-operating mule, reducing the number of spinners one-half; the double cylinder, or Guessner gig, and the Knowles fancy loom. There have also been great improvements made in every kind of power-loom, enabling the manufacturer to increase the speed of the satinet loom from eighty-five to one hundred and twenty-five picks per minute, and the cotton loom, from ninety to one hundred and eighty picks per minute.

Notwithstanding all these improvements, and the decrease of the cost of manufacturing, the operatives in the woolen mills now earn more per day than they did in 1824. I have omitted to notice one improvement, which came into use

in 1846, the "burring machine," applied to the first breaker of the carding, which has done for burry and dirty wool, what the cotton gin has done for cotton: also the "burr picker," used to rid the wool of burrs and open it better, before it comes to the cards. There have been other improvements made, such as the shoddy picker, the flock cutting machines, and wool scouring machines.

The improvements in cotton machinery have been so great, that for a man to take a mill, fitted up in the best manner of twenty years ago, and attempt to run it in competition with one properly fitted up to-day, would be his certain financial ruin.

CHARLES A. WHEELOCK, 1879.

APPENDIX XIV.

As an Illustration of the quality of the young ladies of the town, and as containing important facts, many of which were new to me, I take the liberty to print a composition written by a young lady of Uxbridge, thirteen years old at the time when it was written, March 20th, 1832, and which came under my observation since the lecture was delivered.

HENRY CHAPIN.

DESCRIPTION OF UXBRIDGE. — 1832.

Uxbridge is a small and pleasant town, situated in the southern part of Worcester county, upon the Blackstone river. It is bounded on the north by Northbridge and Upton, on the east by Mendon, south by Smithfield, and west by Douglas. It is five and a half miles in length, four and a half in breadth, and twenty-two miles in circumference; containing 15,616 acres of land, of which 1,097 are appropriated to tillage, 1,924 to upland mowing, 1,178 to meadow mowing, 4,612 to pasturage, 352 to roads, 315 covered with water, about 1,000 with forest woods, 1,962 unimproved; and the remainder, which equals 136 acres, is so barren as to be unimprovable.

The rivers of Uxbridge are the Blackstone, Mumford and the West, which is very small.

The Blackstone is much the largest: it is formed of three branches, one of which rises in Worcester, the other in Holden, and the other in Paxton; it passes through the eastern part of the town and unites with the Providence river about one mile below Providence. The Mumford is next in size; it issues from Badluck pond in Douglas and Manchaug pond in Sutton, takes a south-easterly course and empties into the Blackstone river about half a mile from the centre of the town. The West river issues from a pond in Upton, runs a south-easterly course and unites with the Blackstone about one-fourth of a mile from the mouth of the Mumford.

The canal, which passes through the eastern part of the town, derives its name from the Blackstone river; it is forty-five miles in length, and connects Worcester with Providence. There are no less than forty-two locks upon the whole canal, four of which are in this town.

The other bodies of water in the town are Shokalog and Pout ponds, the former of which is in the south-western part of the town, and is about one-fourth of a mile in width and one-half in length, and one mile in circumference. The latter is about one-quarter of a mile east of the church, and is comparatively small.

The principal hills are Goat hill, Wolf hill, Watchusecic hill, Liberty hill, and one which is situated near the centre of the town, called Fair-Mount, though not generally known by any particular name. Goat hill, so-called from the number of goats which ranged upon it before the settlement of the town, is in the north-eastern part of the town. The eastern side of the hill is well adapted to grazing;

upon the summit there are a number of rocks, some of which are ten feet in height.

Wolf hill is nearly opposite Goat hill; it derives its name from the circumstance that wolves formerly inhabited it. Watchuseeic hill is in the western part of the town, and the boundary line between Douglas and Uxbridge passes directly over its summit. Liberty hill, over which there is a road, is in the centre of the town; from it you have a fine view of the manufactories owned by Robert Rogerson of Boston.

Though we find many hills in Uxbridge and its vicinity, yet they are not diversified as is generally the case with valleys, yet the eye rests with pleasure upon the fertile valley through which the Blackstone and its tributary streams wind their way. This valley is from one to three-quarters of a mile wide. The banks of the Blackstone are skirted with elms, walnuts, willows, and other kinds of trees, which are not unfrequently twined with the grape-vine, the fruit of which is very delicious.

There are a number of forests in the town, but the only dense ones are in the south-eastern part. The kinds of wood which are most abundant are chestnut and oak. There are two beautiful groves of pine in the southern part of the town, and one of birch in the eastern part.

Besides the abundance of wood, there is a field of peat, which covers two acres, and is considered preferable to wood, or coal, for fuel.

The minerals in the town are stone and iron. The principal quarry of stone is near Rogerson's village, it consists of Gneissoid, and a great deal of it is used in building. In

the south-western part of the town, there is an iron mine, from which considerable quantities were formerly taken. There is also a mineral spring impregnated with iron, near the centre of the town. The number of buildings in Uxbridge is about four hundred and eighty; one bank, two churches, one female seminary, the upper part of which is a Masonic hall, two hundred and forty-five dwelling-houses, twelve school-houses, one hundred and ninety-five barns, five stores, three grist-mills and six saw-mills. The capital of the bank is about one hundred thousand dollars.

Uxbridge is celebrated for its manufactories, of which there are seven, four of which are surrounded by villages. The largest village is owned by Robert Rogerson; it is in the north-eastern part of the town; in it are two factories in which cotton cloth of a very superior quality is made. The factories are built of a kind of stone called Gneïssoid; they are situated on opposite sides of the Mumford, and are connected by an arched bridge, which adds much to the picturesque scenery of the place. The dwelling-houses are built of brick, and are one story and a half high, with the exception of three, which are two. In these factories they run 6,680 spindles, 144 looms, employ 120 persons, and weave 11,500 yards of cloth weekly.

Capron's village is in the centre of the town. The factory is built of wood, excepting the lower part, which is of brick, and the houses are constructed of wood. In this factory satinets are made, and 384 cotton spindles are used for making satinet warps, and 600 for woolen, twenty looms are used and sixty persons are employed. The factory owned by the Woolen Manufacturing Company, is in the

eastern part of the town, and it is built of brick, and the houses which surround it are of wood. Kerseymeres and satinets were both formerly made, but at present the manufacture of the latter only is attended to.

The other factories are small and are owned by Clark Taft, Luke Taft and Joseph Day. The two latter are situated on West River in the eastern part of the town, the former upon Stony Brook in the western. These three are devoted to the manufacture of satinets. In all of the woolen factories, 2,500 spindles and 100 looms are used. In the cotton factories 10,000 spindles and 2,000 looms. In the year 1830, there were 2,500 yards of cloth made daily. Besides the factories for making cloth there are others at which organs, shuttles, hats and splints are made.

The whole population of Uxbridge is 2,036, of which about one-third are employed in manufactures. Though this employment so much engrosses the time and attention of the inhabitants, yet education is not neglected. The town is divided into twelve school districts, in each of which there is a committee of three chosen to select a teacher and attend to the affairs of the school, which is continued during the winter. There is also a committee of five chosen by the town for visiting and examining the schools.

The average number of scholars in each district is fifty, making the whole number that attend the public schools six hundred. Six hundred dollars are raised annually for the support of schools.

As another means of education, there is a library, called

the Uxbridge Social Library, which contains from two to three hundred volumes; some of which are Scott's novels, others histories, and others the periodicals of the day.

The population of Uxbridge, as is generally the case with any town, is made up of a mixed number, but most of them are intelligent, enterprising and industrious. Their principal employments are agriculture and manufactures.

APPENDIX XV.

Of some Members of the Capron Family.

Uxbridge, for many years, has in various ways felt, and always for good, the influence of the Capron family. We cannot, of course, speak in detail of all the members of it. We limit our notice to these four members: John Willard Capron, commonly called Col. Capron;—his next younger brother, William Cargill, always known as the Deacon;—and the two sons, William Banfield, and Samuel Mills: all now dead.

John Willard Capron was born in Uxbridge, February 14th, 1797. With the exception of a short time that he spent in Leicester Academy, he was educated in the public schools of this town. He married, January 4th, 1820, Abigail M. Read, who died May 22d, 1828; and October 30th, 1831, he married Catharine B. Messenger. She is now living, and several of their children.

After Col. Capron left school, he, and his brothers Effingham L. and William, were admitted to a partnership with their father, John Capron, in manufacturing;—their manufactory was the store now occupied by Hayward and Taft. For ten years he was connected with a military organization, and in 1825, he was made Colonel of Infantry. A number of years, beginning with 1827, he was postmaster of the town; and for nearly thirty years he held the office of notary

public. In 1836 and '37 he was a member of the State Legislature.

Besides these official relations, he was long and intimately connected with the affairs of the town; being chosen for many consecutive years, to fill the office of Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Colonel Capron was one in whom the people of the town placed the most implicit confidence. He was universally respected and trusted. He was not a social man, in the popular sense of that phrase, being rather silent and reserved; and yet he was by no means a repelling man. There was a quiet cheerfulness about him which rendered him a very pleasant man to meet. Much property came into his hands in his frequent administration of trusts, and no one could be more scrupulously honest than he. Colonel Capron was emphatically a good townsman; large-hearted, public-minded—and he leaves behind him an unblemished reputation. He died December 25th, 1878, and on the 28th was buried from the Evangelical Congregational Church.

The following notice of Dea. William Cargill Capron, has been furnished me by Rev. Dr. Hooker, of Boston:—

"The whole life of this excellent man was spent in Uxbridge—his native town. It was a life of no ostentation, no aspiration for office and honor among the people, no panting after popular favor in any way. Office and honor came, for there was worth to care for them, and therefore fitness for them. His intelligence, his constant acquaintance with a choice library, his vigorous support of all religious institutions, his natural good judgment and common sense, could not fail, and did not, to give him an eminent place in the esteem of all his fellow-citizens. He identified himself specially with the best interests of the

young, by a faithful service of forty-four years as teacher and superintendent in the Sunday school. In christian character, he was a tower of strength to the church. His piety was not impulsive, never developed in rash enthusiasm. It was founded on a large acquaintance with the great doctrines of the Word of God, calm, thoughtful, unswerving, largely developed into a lively interest, not only in the best welfare of his own community, but it flowed forth in the most tender and active sympathy with all his race."

Mr. Capron was born in this town, August 11th, 1799. He married Miss Chloe Day, October 29th, 1821, and died February 6th, 1875, leaving a widow and two children.

William Banfield Capron, son of Dea. William Cargill and Chloe Day Capron, was born April 10th, 1824. He joined the Evangelical Congregational Church in Uxbridge, when he was thirteen years old. He was fitted for college at Andover, and was graduated from Yale college in 1846. For six years he was principal of the Hopkins Grammar School, in Hartford, Connecticut, and while here he was very actively engaged in the Sabbath school and City mission work. Under a strong sense of duty he devoted himself to missionary work in foreign lands, in 1852; and having conditionally promised that he would enter that field of labor, he became a member of the Theological Seminary in Andover, and was graduated in 1856. He was ordained as an evangelist in Uxbridge, September 3, 1856, and was appointed to the Madura Mission. He married in November a daughter of Rev. Dr. H. B. Hooker, and sailed for Madras, and remained in India sixteen years. He visited America in 1872–74, and returned to India in January,

1875. He died of heart disease, October 6th, 1876, leaving a widow and three children.

After his death, an associate worker wrote of Mr. Capron's thorough-going habits and exactness. He also spoke of his habits of searching investigation, his minute forecasting of all details, his sound judgment, his generous ideas of missionary work, his fair-mindedness, his kindness in dealings with his brethren, his caution in forming his opinions, but not wedded to custom, nor afraid of innovation when changes were proposed. Mr. Capron was very modest in his estimate of himself, and uncomplaining. He did a solid work in his mission, which he repeatedly refused to leave, though other fields were offered him. His kindness was always practical, and to his mission he bequeathed the memory of a pure and saintly life.

Samuel Mills Capron, brother of William Banfield, was born in Uxbridge, May 15th, 1832. The religious element prominent in him through life, was the marked characteristic of his early childhood. The time of his conversion and consecration to God, he ever referred to the period when he was a member of Phillips Academy at Andover,—in the last year of his preparation for college. He made a public profession of his faith by joining the Evangelical Congregational Church in Uxbridge, in September, 1849, and the same autumn he entered Yale college. During his junior year, he was occupied several evenings in the week in Mr. Russell's school; and here he laid the foundation of his after eminent success as a teacher. He decided not to be a minister, but says of teaching: "I like that profession very well so far, and think I could do tolerably well in

it." In the autumn of 1853, he became master of the Hopkins Grammar school in Hartford, Connecticut, immediately succeeding his brother William, and here he remained ten years. In November, 1854, he married Eunice M. Chapin. In September, 1863, he went to Europe, where he spent about fourteen months. He was now inclined to give up teaching and enter upon manufacturing, and so resigned his school. His resignation was not accepted, and he was waited upon by the Hartford committee and offered the place of Principal of the High School, at nearly double his former salary; accepting it, he returned to Hartford in April, 1865. With three of his pupils, he spent the summer of 1871 in Great Britain. About the first of December, 1873, while out one evening with his class star-gazing, he took a severe cold, which proved fatal, his health at this time being somewhat delicate. When told that his disease was pneumonia, he said, with sure knowledge of himself, "I know I shall not live." He died in Hartford, January 4th, 1874, and his death was there regarded as a public calamity.

Mr. Capron was eminent as a teacher, a man and a christian. The qualities which pertain to the true idea of manhood, seem to have been united in him, and submissively we cannot but ask, when thinking of his early death, why could not one, who did bless, and would have been a blessing in the world, be longer spared to it? The public and private tributes paid to his memory were very tender and very honorable; and the town where he was born and grew up may well be proud of him. His body lies in Prospect Hill Cemetery. EDITOR. 1879.

APPENDIX XVI.

The Taft Family.

The address of Judge Taft, at the gathering of the Taft family in 1874, leaves little for the writer of the present sketch to do, except to make extracts from it relating to the Uxbridge branches of the family.

The town records bear almost unbroken witness to the intimate and various relations of the family to the town from the beginning of its history. The patriarch, Robert Taft of Mendon, settled each of his five sons, Thomas, Robert, Jr., Daniel, Joseph and Benjamin, on a farm, saw them all married and surrounded by a fast increasing family, before his death in 1725. Three of the five sons became residents of Uxbridge,—Robert, Jr., Joseph and Benjamin. Soon after the father's death, Robert, no longer "junior," removed to Uxbridge, where he resided on the east side of the Blackstone, near the Uxbridge Woolen mill, "having land on both sides of the river." "Joseph and Benjamin, the two youngest sons, undoubtedly settled on the west side of the Blackstone, not far from the meeting-house, Joseph owning and residing upon the farm now owned and occupied by his great-grandson, Zadok A. Taft, Esq.; and Benjamin settled on the farm now owned and occupied by Mrs. Bezaleel Taft." We do not find that any

of the numerous children of Thomas settled in Uxbridge, but Daniel conveyed to his son Josiah, "by deed of gift, the farm on the west side of the Blackstone, afterwards held by Esq. Bezaleel, Josiah's son, and more recently by Mrs. Joseph Thayer, and which is still owned by the family." Of the forty-five grandchildren of the old man Robert, forty-one bore scripture names, and not one of them had the modern middle name. The family historian tells us, that the descendants of Robert, Jr., are "strong in this region and numerous elsewhere," that in Uxbridge they are represented by "Orsmus, Moses, Robert and Jacob,"—and a host that he does not name. The founder of the family had a fancy for giving all his descendants a farm; but by-and-by, when that could no longer be done, succeeding generations turned their attention to other enterprises, the natural facilities for which abound in Uxbridge, and became manufacturers. There is scarcely a mill within the limits of the town, that has not, at some time, been owned or occupied by a Taft. "When we consider," says Judge Taft, "the extent to which the name has become associated with the manufactures of the vicinity, and how much more widely the blood has extended than the name, we may conclude that the great factories of this section of the Blackstone valley are almost a family concern."

If the descendants of Robert were distinguished as manufacturers, from the household of Daniel there has already come three generations of lawyers: Bezaleel Taft — senior and junior — and George Spring Taft; and no great gift of prophecy is needed to predict that ere many years the fourth generation may be admitted to the bar. So fond of

the legal profession does this branch of the family appear to be, that more than one of the daughters has become a lawyer's wife. Among the "honorable women not a few," who have joined their names and fortunes to the Taft family, mention should be made of the wife of Josiah, the son of Daniel. The days of her widowhood were times of serious trouble for the colonies. Her husband died in 1756. The French and Indian war was at hand; the Revolution not far distant. A requisition was made upon the town of Uxbridge for a certain sum of money for colonial purposes. A meeting of the legal voters was held to see if the money should be granted. The estate of Josiah Taft paid the largest tax in Uxbridge, and his son Bezaleel was a minor; but with a sturdy sense of justice that there should be "no taxation without representation," the citizens declared that the widow Josiah Taft should vote upon the question. She did so, and her vote was the one that decided in the affirmative that the money should be paid. Who wonders that her son was a man who had the unbounded confidence of his townsmen, and served them in various offices of honor and trust for forty years! Uxbridge may yet be famous as the pioneer in the cause of woman's suffrage.

The descendants of Joseph are widely scattered, but the homestead, "which he was the first to clear and improve, where he spent his whole active life, and where he died, is held by his great-grandson." "Captain" Joseph gave to each of his sons, Moses, Peter, Joseph and Aaron, farms, and some of these have never passed from the family. We find this family occupying many stations in life. There are

mentioned among them, lawyers, doctors, deacons, teachers and farmers; and they appear to have had great popularity as law-makers. "Joseph," says his descendant, the historian from whom we so often quote, "has been represented in the legislature of Massachusetts, of Vermont, of Michigan, of Ohio, and of Iowa.

Like the patriarch of old, the patriarch Robert, of Mendon, named his youngest son Benjamin. Like his father and brothers, Benjamin loved to own broad acres, and his possessions in the south-western part of Uxbridge were so extensive, that after settling all his children on farms, he left twelve hundred goodly acres to be divided among them after his death. Benjamin, of the five brothers, had the smallest family—but his descendants have settled in several of the States of the Union, and have brought honor to the name. Like the children of Robert, Jr., they have given the name of Taftville to a town which their enterprise has done much towards building up.

The family tree, with Robert as its sturdy trunk, grew, sent forth branches, twigs and leaves, quite overshadowing the town of Uxbridge, spreading itself towards the northern hills, the western prairies, and the sunny south. When the invitation was given in 1871, for the family to gather in friendly meeting, a host responded. They came, according to the printed list before the writer, from twelve different States of the Union. They came from the pulpit, the bench, the bar, and the teacher's desk; the doctor left his patients, the farmer his scythe, the tradesman his customers, the mechanic his workshop, and the manufacturer his mill, bringing with them mothers, sisters, wives and

daughters, to the number of several hundred, and they were all children of Robert.

To speak of all the Taft family has been in Uxbridge is quite impossible in the limits of this note. The sons of Robert built the first bridge over the Blackstone river; they helped to build the first meeting-house, and every succeeding one, in Uxbridge. Daniel Taft, in 1732, gave the land for the first burying-ground; Samuel Taft entertained the first President of the United States, and Orsmus was the first Yankee who learned to weave satinet. They have served their native State and Worcester county in many capacities, and Uxbridge in almost every one,—as lawyers, selectmen, town-clerks, representatives to general court, as teachers and doctors; have cared for the old and unfortunate as overseers of the poor, and for the young as school committees; have wrought as mechanics of every kind, cultivated the land, engaged largely in manufactures; have been bank presidents and treasurers, and traders of many kinds. One position they never seem to have filled in this town. We do not know that any descendant of Robert Taft of Mendon has ever served as a minister of the gospel in Uxbridge, though we find them in many other places laboring in this vocation.

Strongly marked as the character of the family has been in generations past for enterprise, industry and integrity, it is not less so in the present generation;—and may it be the goodly heritage of children's children!

S. G. B. 1879.

APPENDIX XVII.

The Public Schools.

The Act of the General Court that made Uxbridge an incorporated town, dated June 27, 1727, and published July 12th, required, not only that there should be maintained public worship, but also required to be maintained "a school-master to instruct their youth in writing and reading." The schools in Uxbridge to-day rest upon this foundation.

The first vote of the town with regard to schools is this: January 28th, 1729, voted, "that John Farnum, Robert Taft and Seth Aldrich, be a committee to treat with Mendon about our right in y^e^ school lands which have been sold and what yet remains to be sold, in y^e^ townships of Mendon and Uxbridge." January 22d, 1730, voted, "that John Farnum, Robert Taft and Seth Hastings, be a standing committee, and should make a report to the town about it — that is to say, of the school lands,—and they were empowered to treat with Mendon, and if the town of Mendon will let us enjoy the lands, sold and un-sold in Uxbridge, to agree with them about it." In 1730, November 20th, the towns chose two men, Joseph Taft and Seth Aldrich, to get advice about the right of Uxbridge to the lands set apart in Mendon, now Uxbridge, for schools and ministers. In 1731, May 11th, two more were added to this committee,

Joseph White and Ebenezer Reed; and further, chose John Farnum, Robert Taft, Seth Aldrich, Ebenezer Reed and Joseph White, as a committee to petition the General Court to set off to the town of Uxbridge, its share of the ministerial and school lands in Mendon, which were in Uxbridge before the separation of the towns. In 1732, January 25th, voted to set up and keep a school in Uxbridge — and voted to have a school dame, the first seven or eight months proportionably; and the selectmen were to appoint the place where the schools were to be kept and provide the school dame. In 1732, March 2d, the town voted, if Mendon will give Uxbridge two hundred pounds of the money the school lands sold for, for the schools of Uxbridge, with the interest of the bond now in the hands of Ebenezer Reed, which is a part of the two hundred pounds, we will accept of the same as our part of the school money. The town having reconsidered its vote, whereby a dame was to teach, now chose John Reed school-master, who was the first school-master. In 1732, April 4th, the town chose a committee to receive the money of the town of Mendon, which was voted the town of Uxbridge, and realized from the sale of the school lot some time since, and bring it in and keep it in profit for the use of the schools of Uxbridge. May 29th, voted to reconsider the vote whereby dames were chosen teachers, and voted also that the selectmen should keep up the schools the present year; and on November 29th, voted, to have a school-master for three months from the present time. In 1733, February 5th, the school money was placed in the hands of the treasurer. May 3d, voted George Woodward, school-teacher, and to

board him, and to give him twenty pounds for his year's services. August 23d, voted to give James Emerson seven shillings a week for boarding teacher. January 7th, 1734, the town voted to pay twenty-five pounds for schooling, and Edmund Rawson was the teacher this year. The same year, we find mention made of school-districts, as "squadrons," and each squadron had the liberty of choosing its teacher—a woman—and the selectmen were to approbate the teachers. In 1736, John Rawson was allowed forty-five pounds for teaching school.

In 1736, the town received of the General Court a grant of five hundred acres of land which, in 1738, was sold to John Harwood for two hundred and fifty pounds. December 25th, Robert Taft was authorized to receive the money from Mr. Harwood, and the interest of the money was to be applied to the support of the schools. This grant, from some votes that afterwards appear in the records, must have been located in what is now the State of New Hampshire: and it was not until 1741, that it was settled to whom this territory belonged, where this grant was located. In 1643, the County of Norfolk, of Massachusetts, included the towns of Salisbury, Hampton, Haverhill, Exeter, Dover and Strawberry Bank—now Portsmouth. The Patent of the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay, gave them the right to the land three miles north of the most northern part of the Merrimack River, on a line running westward from the Atlantic Ocean,—which would include much of what is now the territory of New Hampshire. This line was surveyed by Massachusetts in 1652. In 1641, the settlements of Exeter, Dover and Strawberry Bank voluntarily sought the protection of

Massachusetts, and remained under its protection until 1679, when Charles II. made New Hampshire a royal province. In 1689, New Hampshire again came under the protection of Massachusetts, and the claim of jurisdiction was not settled until 1741, when New Hampshire became a separate province.

This bit of history I insert here, that it may be seen why the grant of land for school purposes was located in what is now the State of New Hampshire; and why, also, there was so much difficulty about the title to it. March 28th, 1753, the town voted to choose a committee to act upon the affair of the five-hundred-acre grant,—and voted, also, "to see if the land could not be got where it was laid out; and provided it could not be procured, to see what will satisfy the purchasers, and make them easy in that affair." In 1756, it was voted to see if the town will apply for a new grant of land, in place of that given in 1736, "*and since taken by the Province of New Hampshire.*" In 1757, the town voted to raise eighty-five pounds nine shillings and ninepence to purchase the claim of Ebenezer Harwood, Solomon Wood and Josiah Chapin to this land; and in 1758, the town petitioned the General Court for a new grant of five hundred acres to make good the loss of the other.

For some twenty years previous to this time, the expenses of maintaining the schools seem to have been met from the income derived from this grant of land: because, I find no record of money raised for this purpose, for about this period; in 1756, the town again began to raise money for the schools.

The first mention made of a school-house is in the month

of December, 1738, when the town voted to build a school-house. Tradition says, the meeting-house was previously used for this purpose; but though it *may have been used* for this purpose in the summer, or warm months, it does not seem possible it could have been so used in the winter; as the churches of that time were not heated — we must remember also the frequent use of the meeting-house for town purposes. In all probability the schools of the other parts of the town were kept in private houses.

In 1740, October 17th, the town voted to allow forty-four pounds thirteen shillings and threepence, for what had been done, and for what was to be done, to the school-house. In August, 1741, the town voted not to raise any money for schools this year. In 1743, September 13th, widow Mary Aldrich was voted four pounds for teaching school eight weeks — teacher's wages were half a pound a week, about $1.67. The town chose a committee of three to see about the school funds, and in May, 1744, the town added four more to this committee. In 1744, September, the town chose a committee to receive the bonds of the school money, and should any one refuse to give up the bonds, to sue for them. January 20th, 1746, the school money was left in the hands of John Farnum and Joseph Taft for five years; and they were to pay twenty pounds a year interest for it. March 2d, 1753, voted to squadron out the school in places convenient, and chose a committee to do it. The town, in 1756, raised twenty-five pounds for schools and town charges. The town, in 1760, voted to divide the town into districts, and each district was to enjoy the privileges of schooling in proportion to the

money raised by them. A committee of five made their report upon this matter, and their report was adopted in 1761. The town by this report was divided into thirteen districts, and the children of specified families were to attend specified schools, and each district was to have a sum of money allotted it, in proportion to the number of scholars in that district. In 1762–'63–'64–'65–'66–'67 and '68, sixty pounds a year were raised for schools. In August, 1762, it was voted that the selectmen shall assist Solomon Wood in looking up the papers to "qualify him to pursue after the five-hundred-acre grant." The town, in 1765, voted to apply to the General Court for a new grant of five hundred acres of land for school purposes—and the same year voted a new school squadron. In 1768, the town chose a committee of three, Ezekiel Wood, Samuel Reed, and Thomas Rist, to manage the affair of the town with Esquire Harwood, relating to the five-hundred-acre grant. The town, in 1769, voted to sell the old school-house, if it could get what it was worth. It seems, that about this time the General Court had given the town a new tract of land; and this time of seven hundred and fifty acres; for in 1770, the town voted to "pursue the laying out this land," and chose as a committee for the purpose, Capt. Ezekiel Wood and Samuel Aldrich, who were empowered "to make search and lay out the grant where they think the town will derive the greatest benefit from it;" and they were also authorized to sell the land, if they considered it for the benefit of the town to do so;—and the town allowed their claim for laying out this grant. In 1770–'71, sixty pounds were raised for schools. The town, in 1773, voted to sell the

old school-house after it was pulled down;—and this year raised forty pounds;—in 1776, forty;—in 1777, sixty;—in 1778, one hundred and twenty;—in 1779, three hundred pounds;—we now see the effect of the depreciated currency. In 1779, at the October meeting, the town voted to sell its land in the *western* part of the State. This is probably the land given about 1770, by the General Court for school purposes, and laid out by the committee chosen in 1770; forty pounds were voted for schools in 1780; this was in the new emission of money. The article about schools in 1781 was dismissed from the warrant; in 1783–'84, forty pounds were raised. In 1788, we find the first mention made of a grammar school; the town voted, "that three pounds thirteen shillings and sixpence, raised at the other meeting, should be applied to a grammar school the present year." In 1789, the town voted sixty pounds for schools; in 1791–'92, it raised fifty pounds. In 1791, such changes as were found necessary were made in the location of school districts. In 1793–'94, sixty pounds were raised for schools; and it was voted, that the Quakers should have their share of the school money; but in 1795, it was reconsidered. In 1796, eighty pounds were raised, and a committee of nine was chosen to change the districts for schooling and highway purposes. By this vote, the town was divided into eleven school districts,—and substantially remained so divided up to 1825. In 1797, the town raised two thousand dollars for building school-houses in the several districts:—no district was to have more than its proportionate share of this money; and if the inhabitants of the district were not able to agree where

their school-house should be placed, this committee was to fix upon a proper site; and John Capron, Seth Aldrich, Jr., Joseph Rist, Lieut. Benjamin Greene and Capt. Samuel Read were the members of this committee.

And now, let me substantially quote the language of Charles A. Wheelock: —

The old school-houses! What queer buildings they were, when compared with the modern school-house! The writing-desk was a plank running round three sides of the room — the seat was a slab, its flat side uppermost, with holes bored in it, in which were driven cart stakes for legs. The scholar had no back to his seat, unless he should turn round and face the centre of the room, when his back might rest against the edge of the plank writing-desk. The big stone fire-place was filled with blazing logs in winter, and the child must roast and freeze by turns. The dungeon, — that dreadful place, — to which the unruly ones were consigned, sometimes to regale themselves upon the good things the prudent had brought to sustain themselves in their arduous labors, while delving among the mysteries of the three R's; — and the heavy ruler was there, and that never-to-be-forgotten birch, which was so quickening to the mental faculties, when properly administered.

Of course, the town built school-houses in accordance with the vote just referred to. There is some reason to believe that a new districting of the town took place between 1812 and 1820, but the record is defective.

Let us now come to the year 1815, when Mr. Wheelock, — so he writes me — first knew something of the schools.

There were school-masters and mistresses in those days, — not teachers — who *kept* the school, and I think they kept it pretty well." My first school-mistress was Abigail Read, daughter of Capt. Samuel Read, who was mistress of the summer schools for the four years that I belonged to the Rivulet district. Soon after, she left teaching, and was married to Col. John W. Capron. Miss Read was a good teacher and won the esteem of her scholars. My first master was Benjamin Thwing. Mr. Thwing had been a school-master for many years before I knew him, and continued to keep the winter's school in the same district for many years after I left it. He was a genial man and a good disciplinarian — and as my memory runs back to him, and recalls the village school-master of the "Deserted Village," I think he would have been a good subject for Goldsmith's graceful pen. Capt. Thomas Farnum was my next master — an energetic, active man, who kept his scholars well employed and never suffered any mischief-making to pass undiscovered. Of other masters, I mention Moses D. Southwick, who afterwards graduated at Brown University, and became a successful and much loved physician of Millville: — William Thornton, who, while he was engaged in teaching, was a student in the office of Dr. George Willard: — Charles K. Whipple, a student, and afterwards was graduated from Amherst College. I do not know that I had more regard for Mr. Whipple than for any of my other teachers: but I have always felt that he had a better system of managing a school than they, and in the short experience I had in teaching, I endeavored to follow, as I was able, his general order of exercises. These gen-

tlemen were teachers of the district winter schools, that were free schools, and were kept about ten weeks each. The summer schools were not free, the parents of the scholars paid for their tuition. These schools were all taught by women of great worth, and some of them of large experience.

In 1797, one hundred pounds were raised for schools: and this sum—$333\frac{1}{3}$—was gradually increased, until it reached six hundred dollars; but the time when is uncertain. The annual appropriation, never exceeded six hundred dollars for schools until 1835, when the "First Abstract of School Returns" was published by the State, and an opportunity was thus afforded of comparing the amount of money here raised with that of the neighboring towns, and the comparison was one not altogether flattering. If the appropriation had been doubled the town would not have raised too much. The town was now asked to raise one thousand dollars, and after some discussion and some opposition, the motion was carried. Better school advantages were immediately secured, and there has been an increase of school advantages from that time to this. The average wages of female teachers at this time, 1835, were $5.73 a month; and that of male teachers $13.93, exclusive of board. There were then eleven districts, and there were employed in them ten male teachers and eleven female;—twenty-one different teachers in the year, for the eleven schools. Teachers were then changed every term —men teaching in the winter and women in the summer. Now, teachers are employed by the year. In 1835, the public schools were opened twenty weeks in the year; now the number is nearly twice as large; and the relative number

of female to male teachers has greatly increased. The average wages paid to teachers in 1877 was, to males $56.50, and to females $34.65 a month,—the teacher providing for himself.

In 1854, it was unofficially ascertained that Uxbridge had the number of families required by law to establish a High School, according to the standard set up by the statutes of the State: and in February, 1855, the town chose as a committee to see if it was liable to maintain a High School, Charles A. Wheelock, R. D. Mowry and Merrill Greene. At the meeting of the town in April, 1855, the town voted that the school committee — it having been ascertained that the town was legally obliged to open such a school — should procure a place and open a High School; and six hundred dollars were appropriated for the support of the school until the next March meeting; and a committee of five were appointed, who should report a location for the school-house and with regard to building the same. In November of the same year, the town voted to direct the town's committee to take possession of the school-room in the brick academy, put the same in repair, and set up a school therein, in the right of the town. At the meeting in the spring of 1857, the town voted to expend a sum not exceeding seven hundred dollars, under the direction of the school committee, for the repairs of the building, — with the approbation of the owners of the same, — for the purpose of a High School.

The first term of the High School was opened in the Academy building, in the spring of 1855, and Mr. Nathan Goldthwait was the principal. He was engaged for only one term.

Mr. Holbrook was the principal for the second term, but failing health compelled him to close his work before the term was completed, and the school was discontinued until the winter term, when Mr. H. R. Pierce took the school, and was the principal for nearly two years,—to the complete satisfaction of committee, parents and scholars. He was succeeded by Mr. H. E. Rockwell, for the remainder of the school year, when Mr. J. H. Clarke took the school for one year. The school, all this time, was accomplishing comparatively little, on account of the meagre appropriations made for it. In 1865, a three years' course of study was arranged for the school, which in 1869, was changed to one of four years.

In connection with what we have said of the appropriation of two thousand dollars, in 1797, to build school-houses, we would now say a few words about the changes in the school districts, and the school-houses since built in them.

About 1828, district number eleven was set off from number four, and a house for its use was provided by Mr. Robert Rogerson. The district continued to use this house until the abolition of the districts in 1869, when the town erected a house for the primary and grammar departments.

In 1840, district number one rebuilt its house, which was burned in the winter of 1862 and '63, and did not rebuild. In 1840, district number four removed its house to where it now stands, and in 1843 remodeled it. After the abolition of the districts, this house was again repaired by the town, and modern school furniture introduced. This is perhaps

the oldest school-house in town, — Mr. Wheelock says he knows it has been occupied sixty-four years. In 1818, district number two built a new house. Districts four and five seem to have built new ones some time since 1797, — judging by the manner in which they were built. The house built in 1797, for district number three, remained in use until 1862, when it was repaired and the seats were modernized. In 1843, district number two erected a new house, having outgrown the house put up in 1818; and about 1845, number eight remodeled and new-seated its house. Number seven abandoned its house about 1830, and built a new one of brick, which was also abandoned in 1853, and a new house was built, which was remodeled by the town, when the school districts were abolished. After the Providence and Worcester Railroad was opened, district number five found itself under the necessity of building a new house: but when inquiry was made about the right of the district to build, it was found that there were no legal districts. Measures were immediately taken to have the school districts legally formed, and an excellent house, for grammar and primary departments, was erected in this district. In 1858, number two had again outgrown its accommodations, and a new district, — number thirteen, — was formed, which built a new house, far in advance of anything yet enjoyed for school purposes in this neighborhood. The last district to build was number five, in 1869: but it was never occupied as a district school: for the State, in 1869, abolished the district system of maintaining schools, and the town took possession of the house before it was finished.

Since the school districts were abolished by the Act of

1869, the town has built three fine school-houses in place of those totally unfit for use; has repaired and re-furnished with modern furniture, five others; has bought a school-house for number one, whose house had been burned in the winter of 1862–'63; the mixed intermediate and grammar schools have been furnished with wall maps and globes; the primary schools are supplied with reading charts, and the High School with a valuable philosophical, chemical and electrical apparatus.

C. A. W. AND THE EDITOR, 1869.

APPENDIX XVIII.

Select Schools and Academies.

Let me premise, that in my endeavor to give the history of the Academies, or Seminaries, of the town, it has not been without a good deal of careful inquiry, and comparison of dates, that I have been able to arrive at something like an accurate account of these schools. I shall first speak of the building of the Academy, on the north side of the common.

In 1819, February 15th, this article appeared in the town warrant :—

"To see if the town will permit the erection of a private school-house on the north end of the common, between the cart-way leading to widow Fanny Willard's back-yard, and the wall south of where the old blacksmith shop stands: provided, said building can be erected by private munificence."

On March 3d, 1819, it was voted, that liberty be given to build a school-house on the town common — of certain specified dimensions — provided it be built within three years from this date. Who petitioned for this privilege does not appear.

At the same time, the Masonic Lodge, recently formed in the town, wished for better accommodations than it was enjoying in the Spring Tavern hall: and on June 3d of this year reported, that the north end of the town common

was the most suitable place on which to build their proposed new hall. This agreement of purpose, between those who were interested in the new school-house, and the members of the Solomon's Temple Lodge of Masons, was the reason why the building was erected at their mutual expense—the Masons building the upper story, and the citizens interested in having better means of educating their children, the lower story—the town giving the land for the building.

A paper now lies before me giving in detail the facts as succinctly stated above; and to this paper is added the names of those who subscribed, and the amounts subscribed for the building. This paper is dated April 20th, 1819: and distinctly says, that members of the Masonic Lodge have expressed a wish to unite with the subscribers in putting up the building.

With regard to the question, who took the initiatory steps in the erection of the Academy building, I think it is evident from the language of the paper referred to that the Lodge of Masons *joined* the citizens who were interested in educational matters. The paper says, "members of the Lodge have suggested a wish to unite," &c: and "Should it be the desire of said Lodge so to unite, the subscribers will choose a committee to confer with a committee of the Lodge," &c.

It scarcely seems necessary to give the names of those who subscribed, as they can easily be found by any one who wishes to know them.

This building was erected in the year 1819, and was so far completed that on the twenty-fifth of December the

Masons held their first meeting in their new hall. The hall must have received Masonic dedication during this month of December; because at a meeting held December 30th, thanks were given to Bro. Rev. Benjamin Wood for his address delivered at the late dedication and installation of S. T. Lodge in Uxbridge; and thanks were returned to the Grenadier Company for the honor they conferred on this occasion.

The proposed school was opened in the autumn of 1820, —the building not being ready for occupancy any earlier— by Mr. Abiel Jaques — graduated at Harvard College 1807, died in 1852, — who was the principal for a year or more, when he left the place, and Mr. Abijah Kendall took charge of it. In 1823, Mr. Jaques returned to the school, and was the principal of it until the spring of 1829, when Mr. William H. Williams, a graduate of Brown University, became principal, which office he held for two years. After Mr. Jaques left the Academy, he took pupils in special studies, occupying the house afterward owned by Mr. Joseph Day. One who remembers Mr. Jaques, says of him: "He was a man of cultivated mind and an excellent teacher, but very eccentric;" and another says, "Mr. Jaques was, in my judgment, a most excellent teacher. He had all the elements which would enable one to communicate knowledge and incite the scholar to obtain it by his own exertions. He was kind, affable and genial at all times. Those of his pupils who can remember him, will do so with respect and love."

It may be added, that the school, up to this time, was one attended by boys and girls.

And now we give the history of the Female Seminary.

Among the letters of Mr. Chapin, I find one from Miss Susan B. Brigham — afterwards Mrs. Kittredge — and since it gives so clear a statement of the inception of this Seminary, I shall draw freely from her statements :—

"The origin of the Institution was this.—Several gentlemen who had daughters to be educated, desired a school nearer home for them, and of course began to consult how to establish such a Seminary. This was in the autumn of 1831. Of these gentlemen, Dr. Willard, Bezaleel Taft and Joseph Thayer, Esqrs., took a prominent part. They procured the lower room of the Masonic building and two small upper rooms, and then invited me to take charge of the school. Early in December, I opened the first term with thirteen pupils."

The names of eight are given; the names of the other five are forgotten.

"At the close of this half-year, in the spring of 1832, an effort was made to increase the school and to establish it on a more permanent basis. Two recitation rooms were added to the building, and two assistant-teachers engaged for the year: Miss Catharine Perry for the English branches, and Miss ——— for Music, besides several assistant-pupils. The new year opened with forty pupils: twenty of them were from Providence, R. I. Unfortunately, we had no boarding-house, where teachers and pupils could be accommodated together; but the best families were ready to take those from out of town. In the spring of 1833, a boarding-house was procured with accommodations for fifteen or sixteen persons. Miss Julia C. Fisher was assistant in the English branches, and Miss Ann C. Fisher in Music, and several assistant-pupils were still retained. The year was prosperous, and the school pleasant."

The house that Mrs. Kittredge refers to, and used as the first boarding-house, was kept by Col. Emerson and

was known as the "Dr. Smith house." It is now standing nearly opposite the house of Charles C. Capron.

"In 1834," to refer again to the letter, "a larger house was procured, accommodating forty, both teachers and pupils." This house is now known as Macomber's block,— formerly the hotel, moved to its present site in 1834, — and was kept by Mr. Elias Wheelock. And again, to return to the letter: "The same assistant teachers were continued, and another added, Miss Sarah Brigham."

In the spring of 1835, Miss Brigham's health failed and she was compelled to resign her position as principal. She was succeeded by Miss Hall, with Miss Anderson as assistant. Miss Hall was the principal but a single year, and was succeeded by Miss Laura A. Washburn, assisted by Miss Maria C. Brigham the first year, and by Miss Sophia Hazen the second year.

And now, and as part of the history of the education of young ladies in Uxbridge, we notice the establishment of another school; or, perhaps the continuation of the one just spoken of, under a new management.

On Thursday, March 2d, 1837, a meeting was held at the house of William C. Capron, of a committee that had been appointed by the Evangelical Congregational Church, to consider the subject of a Young Ladies' High School. At this meeting, several committees were chosen; and a committee of three was chosen, consisting of Rev. Mr. Grosvenor, Dr. George Willard, and Dea. W. C. Capron, to whom was entrusted the general management of the school.

This school was to be under the exclusive control of a

Board of seven Trustees. This Board was to be chosen by a committee of three of the Evangelical Congregational Church, — who were of the organizing committee — with power to add to their number; and four gentlemen, non-residents, were added. The general purpose of this school was "to prepare young ladies to become teachers and educators of youth, and to fill other useful stations in life."

In behalf of the Trustees, a circular was issued, dated March 24th, 1837, saying, the first term of the school would begin May 3d, 1837, and the school was to be wholly separate from the male seminary. It was of this school that Miss Washburn was the principal. For the summer term, there were fifty-three pupils, and during the year, seventy-seven. Miss Washburn was the principal for three years: and she was followed by Miss Emma M. Converse, in May, 1840. Miss Converse was the last teacher.

It seemed best to give the foregoing sketch uninterruptedly: and now we return to the year 1833, when Mr. E. Porter Dyer, a graduate of Brown University, opened, in September, a school for boys and girls, in the Centre school-house. After Mr. Williams left the Academy there had been no select school that boys could attend, until Mr. Dyer's was opened. There was so good an attendance the first term that for the second, the hall over the Bank was engaged and was properly fitted up. Mr. Dyer had for his assistant in teaching German and French, Mr. Henry S. Dale, also a graduate of Brown; and Miss Rebecca Gregory gave lessons in music. To distinguish this school from Miss Brigham's, kept at the same time, it was called "The Classical School." Mr. Dyer continued to teach this

school with good success for about a year and a half. In the spring of 1835, Dr. J. M. Macomber taught this school for one term, until Charles C. Jewett, who would graduate in September, 1835, could assume the charge of it. When Mr. Jewett took it, the school must have been moved to the Academy building, and Miss Hall, who succeeded Miss Brigham, must have moved her school to the hall over the Bank. It was about this time that the trees were set out by Mr. Jewett, that Mr. Chapin refers to in the Address.

Mr. Jewett was followed by Mr. Grout, and Mr. Grout by A. L. Stone,—now the Rev. A. L. Stone, D.D., of San Francisco. Mr. Stone was succeeded by Dr. Macomber, still residing in town, who retained his connection with the school until the spring of 1851, with the exception of one or two terms, when Dr. Rickard, then studying his profession with Dr. Robbins, was the principal. After Dr. Macomber resigned his office, Mr. Wedge took the school for about a year, when Nathan Goldthwait became the principal, who held that office until the opening of the High School by the town in 1855.

In the account given of the Libraries of the town, mention is made of the Circulating Library of George Southwick, and that in the same room where it was kept, there was a Classical School kept by Jezaniah Barrett. Through the researches of Jonathan F. Southwick, I am able to say of this school of Barrett's, that it preceded the establishment of any similiar school in the centre of the town by some twenty years; being established about 1800, and lasting for five years. Mr. Southwick for some reason became dissatisfied with Mr. Barrett, and the school, so far as

it was a classical school, was discontinued; but his daughter Ruth opened a school that was kept six days in the week, and the tuition,—we mention it for the young people of to-day, that an idea may be gained of the times three-quarters of a century ago,—was 12½ cents a week. George Farnum, the librarian, was Barrett's assistant, "as he wanted to learn some of the languages expecting to go to France, but never did."

EDITOR, 1879.

APPENDIX XIX.

The Libraries in Uxbridge.

In pursuing my investigations into the history of the libraries that have from time to time existed in Uxbridge, I found, in the address of Mr. Chapin, a reference to the fact that George Southwick,* at the time he was carrying on his extensive business in that part of the town once called "Quaker City," kept a circulating library; and suspecting that this collection of books must have been the first library in town that was not private, I wrote to Jonathan F. Southwick, and he has sent me the following valuable letter about a matter of much local interest and of pardonable local pride. The letter is dated,

"9th, 8th mo., 1879.

I received thy letter dated 8 mo., 25th, and I will endeavor to give thee all the information that I can obtain and what I know about the library.

It was called the 'Uxbridge Social and Instructive Library,' as thee will see by the leaf I send thee, that I took from a book I found in the neighborhood, and the number of said book. I found one book numbered 103. [The leaf referred to is the title page of a Life of Capt. James Cook, by Andrew Kippis, D. D., etc., published at Basil, 1789. Library number, 52.] The name, Uxbridge Social and Instructive Library, with the date 1775,

* George Southwick was born in 1747 and died in 1807. He carried on business for about thirty-five years.

was placed on the door of the room where the books were kept, which was in a chamber of an out-building owned by George Southwick. The books were kept in a case, which it seems to me would hold several hundred volumes. I recollect when the stockholders assembled to divide the books, that there was quite a collection of people, and some strife about the division of the books. Some of the stockholders belonged in Rhode Island. I have no doubt that this was the first library in town. I believe it was discontinued about the year 1812. In the room where the library was kept, there was also a school kept by a teacher of the languages, which was very well attended by scholars from Rhode Island and from this town; the room at times was crowded. The teacher's name was Jezaniah Barrett."*

For the following facts, with regard to the libraries in the centre of the town, I am indebted to the researches of Charles A. Wheelock:—

It is difficult to trace accurately the history of the Libraries in Uxbridge prior to the establishment of "The Uxbridge Free Public Library," by a vote of the town April 6, 1874, as they have all passed out of existence, and none of the early records, so far as I know, can be found. It is within the knowledge of the writer that there was a "Social Library" in the town in 1821, how much earlier he is unable to tell; nor is he aware that any shareholder of that library is living.

A volume now lies before me, vol. 3d, of "Goldsmith's History of England, 5th edition, Dublin, printed by W. Porter for W. Gilbert and others, 1776," which has the following inscription:

"Uxbridge Second Social Library, No. 75, Price $1.12½."

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*Mr. Barrett published an English Grammar that Mr. C. A. Wheelock remembers to have seen.

Several volumes are in my possession which were bought by my father when the library was discontinued. This being the "Second Social Library" would indicate that there was another in existence at the time this was formed, or that previously to this time there had been another.*

Another library was formed as early as 1830 or 1831, which continued to live with varying degrees of usefulness until the establishment of the "Free Public Library." As many as a thousand volumes, may, at one time have belonged to it, as we have seen volumes which were numbered over eight hundred, and during the forty years of its existence it was used by a large number of persons. Books were purchased and added by the money received from admission fees, the annual tax, and the fines.†

In the spring of 1873, the "Uxbridge Library Association" offered the books belonging to the Association to the town, as a nucleus for a public library, "provided the town will establish such a library." About the same time the "Uxbridge Agricultural Library Association" made a similar offer, with the same condition.

At the annual March meeting in 1874, there being an article in the warrant for the consideration of the subject, it was voted to appropriate the "Dog Fund," for the purpose

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* Attention is called to the letter of Mr. Southwick.

† Among Mr. Chapin's papers, collected with regard to the Libraries in Uxbridge, I find a report that Benjamin Adams made to the Library that he calls, the "First Social Library Society in Uxbridge." This report of Mr. Adams is dated January 11th, 1836, and was made on the occasion of his having settle with Jonathan Gregory, Esq., the former treasurer. This library according to this paper of Mr. Adams, was formed in January, 1828. The whole number, who had been members of this library, was 16; and the receipts had been, from all sources, $126.17½. EDITOR.

of a Public Library, amounting to two hundred and seventy-five dollars.

A committee, previously appointed, now presented rules for the management of a public library: the report of the committee, and its recommendations, were adopted by the town, and a Board of Trustees was chosen at the same time.

The Uxbridge Free Public Library, thus established, went into operation for the delivery of books, January 20, 1875, and had on its shelves six hundred and eighty-nine volumes; five hundred and fifteen of which were received from the "Uxbridge Library Association" and the "Agricultural Library Association;" ninety-seven were received as presents from individuals, and seventy-seven volumes were bought by the Trustees.

The library has now been used four years, and the number of books on the catalogue has increased to two thousand one hundred and fifty-four, with many pamphlets and bound volumes, valuable for reference, not on the printed catalogue.

The number of readers has increased annually since the opening of the Library, and the indications are that a large increase in the present year over the past may be expected. The readers come from all classes and from every part of the town.

The annual expenses, met by appropriations made by the town (which includes the "Dog Fund"), have been a little more than four hundred dollars. This includes the sum received for fines for books kept beyond the time allowed by the rules.

In 1877, a former resident of Uxbridge made a communi-

cation to the Trustees, enclosing a check for five hundred dollars, with the request that it should be spent for books for the library. This request was complied with, and the generous giver was heartily thanked for this munificent gift. By this means, an otherwise unlooked-for and most valuable addition was made to the library.

It is well to add, that the library has gained so much in favor with the people of the town, that its future increase and usefulness are rendered certain, unless some great abuses creep into its management.

EDITOR.

APPENDIX XX.

Banks in Uxbridge.

The Blackstone Bank.

The Blackstone Bank was incorporated August 27th, 1825, with a capital of $100,000, divided into one thousand shares. In 1865, the name was changed to Blackstone National Bank;—the capital remaining the same as before.

The Presidents have been as follows:

John Capron, from August 27th, 1825, to August 17th, 1829.

Bezaleel Taft, Jr., from October 4th, 1830, to October 5th, 1846.

Paul Whitin, from October 5th, 1846, to October 5th, 1865.

In October, 1865, Moses Taft was chosen President and still holds the office.

The Cashiers have been as follows:

Jonathan Gregory, from August 27th, 1825, to October 3d, 1836.

Ebenezer White Hayward, from October 3d, 1836, until his death, May 5th, 1875, a period of nearly forty years. Mr. Hayward deserves something more than this passing notice.

He was born in Braintree, May 22, 1798. In 1831, he became Cashier of the Mendon Bank, and when that Bank

was discontinued, he was in 1836, chosen Cashier of the Uxbridge Bank, with whose prosperity he ever after most thoroughly identified himself, proving a most diligent, faithful and trustworthy officer. He was a true gentleman, an humble christian and the embodiment of integrity in all the relations of life. A pleasanter face and a more cheerful voice one seldom sees or hears. His name is a legacy to all who knew him.

Mr. Hayward married Miss Susan Barbeck in Mendon, February 27th, 1827, who died in 1872. Two sons and two daughters are now living. During the latter years of Mr. Hayward's service, Mr. Charles S. Weston was appointed Assistant-Cashier, and he succeeded to the office on the death of Mr. Hayward, and now holds the office.

On the night of July 12th, 1874, masked men, having first forced their entrance into the house of Mr. Hayward, compelled the Assistant-Cashier to go with them to the Bank, and under threats of death to open the safe. The amount of money taken was about $13,000. The robbers were never discovered; but some private property, deposited in the Bank, was found in Boston at a place designated by the robbers.

The Uxbridge Savings Bank.

The Uxbridge Savings Bank was incorporated June 3d, 1870.

President, Moses Taft.

Treasurer, Charles A. Taft.

The amount deposited during the first year or two astonished even its most sanguine friends.

Editor, 1879.

APPENDIX XXI.

The Burying-Grounds.

The lot of land, where now stands the Town House, the High School, the Methodist Church, is the lot that Daniel Taft gave the town for a burying-place. The deed is dated March 20th, 1737; and according to the deed, he gave the land "for, and in consideration of the love and affection I bear to y^e^ town of Uxbridge;" and "for diverse other valuable considerations me moving hereunto." I find, that previous to the gift, the land had been used for a burying-place.

In 1761, November 13th, the town voted to fence the burying-ground with a stone wall, four and a half feet high. In 1768, the town voted to fence the burying-ground—the money to be raised by subscription.

By a deed, dated April 13th, 1795, and recorded August 26th of the same year, Jonathan Farnum conveyed to the town the land commonly known as the new burying-ground, "in consideration of the sum of 20£ lawful money paid me by the inhabitants of Uxbridge." This lot of land contained one and a half acres. Mr. Farnum reserved to himself and his heirs forever, six square rods of land, where his father, David Farnum, was buried; provided the town would make, and keep in repair, a good fence around said tract.

The first interment in this ground, was the body of

Ebenezer White, August 21st, 1793. This was some four and a half years before the division of the land into lots made by order of the town: for in 1797, September 6th, it was voted to choose a committee to divide the new burying-ground into lots, so as to accommodate families in the most convenient manner, and to take a plan of the same, and lay the same before the town for their approbation. The committee reported a plan February 12th, 1798, which was adopted. But the plan does not appear on the records.

The old burying-ground continued to be used until about 1854. Mr. Scott Seagrave says, the last adult buried in the old ground was a man named Stone, who did not belong here—he was employed as an hostler and was killed by the kick of a horse. The last, belonging to the town, buried here, were Patty Peirce and Mrs. Caleb Farnum.

In 1855, Dea. W. C. Capron opened his land, containing eight acres and fifty-one rods, adjoining the new burying-ground, for a new cemetery, calling it Prospect Hill Cemetery. The first body buried here was the wife of Josiah S. Knowlton, in the autumn of 1855. The first deeds were made out May 1st, 1856. The first deed was given to Asa Newell, of Providence, Rhode Island, and conveyed the lot now owned by Ebenezer H. Davis.

At first, Mr. Capron generously spent all the money he received from the sale of lots, in embellishing the grounds, laying out walks and drives, setting out trees, and grading. Afterwards he retained one half of the purchase money.

From the year 1865 to 1875, remains were taken from the old ground and placed in Prospect Hill Cemetery; and

a record of the bodies, as obtained from the gravestones, may be found on the town records;—the body of Rev. Nathan Webb, the first settled minister of Uxbridge, being among the number; but the order of the names on the town records is not the order in which the bodies were removed:—these bodies were interred in lots bought by the town of Deacon Capron for the purpose. Three were purchased in 1869, December 20th, and three more in 1871, September 20th. In March, 1876, in town meeting, the town considered the question "to see if the town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of improving the town's lot in Prospect Hill Cemetery,"—and chose a committee to carry the same into effect. "Voted, to refer it to the selectmen, who shall report at a future meeting." Upon Article 21st, March 12th, 1877, the town voted that Henry Capron, Moses T. Murdock and Henry G. Taft be a committee to carry into effect the suggestions of the former committee, at an expense not exceeding $250. In March, 1879, the town voted to increase its appropriation $150 for repairing and fixing up its lot in the cemetery.

In 1863, a suit was brought against the town for trespass on the old burying-ground. The position taken was, that the land being given by Daniel Taft for a burying-ground "forever," precluded the town from using it for any other purpose, as it was intending to do. It was decided by the Supreme Court, that a grant of land which is to be used for a burying-place "forever," "in consideration of love and affection," and "for diverse other valuable considerations," is not a grant upon conditions, and the town gained the suit.

I am indebted to the research of Friend Jonathan F.

Southwick, for the following facts with regard to the Friend's burying-grounds in the south part of the town.

He says, "The oldest burying-ground in Uxbridge, we think, is owned by the heirs of George Southwick. It contains about three-quarters of an acre." The southern part of the town was first settled by the Southwicks, who came from Salem about the year 1700. Daniel, called "Preacher Daniel," is the first of whom we can speak with certainty; and by him, this place for burial was probably laid out. He and his wife lie here. The first burial of which we have authentic record was in 1746, but many were buried here at an earlier date. Friends in those days did not use marked stones, but would use common flat stones to indicate where a body was placed. The oldest marked stones now visible, bear the date of 1811. The burial-ground owned, and now used, by the Uxbridge meeting of Friends, was purchased by them of Moses Farnum in 1800, containing half an acre, and is situated very near the brick meeting-house, built in 1770. The stones, marked 1749, 1759, 1776 and 1780, were removed from other grounds and placed here.

EDITOR.

APPENDIX XXII.

We give, in the following list, the names — so far as we have been able to procure them, and we have tried to be very accurate in making it up — of the soldiers in the armies in the United States engaged in putting down the rebellion, who enlisted as *residents* of Uxbridge. The list, therefore, does not include the names of those who stand to the credit of the town, nor do we give the regiments in which these men enlisted, because it scarcely seemed necessary to do so.

Those whose names are marked with a star (*), died, either in the service of the United States, or as prisoners of war.

This whole list, we now and here gratefully and tenderly place on record.

Aldrich, G.
Aldrich, Gideon
Aldrich, James G.
Aldrich, John A.
Aldrich, M. A.
Aldrich, W. D. F.
Andy, J.
Anson, Henry
Anthony, Sylvanus
Arnold, Edmond C.

Bacon, James M.
Ballou, G.
Barnam, W. H.
Barrows, Chester
Barry, J.
Bennett, James
Bent, Ferdinand A.
Blanchard, W.
Bolster, Andrew J.
Bolster, G. W.
Boyce, James
Bradford, C.
Braman, C.
* Braman, P. E.
Brashaw, J.

Brick, Orville
Brown, George
Bryant, Perry
*Burril, Abraham
Bush, Augustus L.

Cadwell, Jerome
Carpenter, A.
Carpenter, J.
Chapman, H.
Chappell, J.
Christy, W. J.
Clark, Elmore
Cleveland, Charles
Cole, George E.
Cole, Granville
*Cole, W. J.
*Collar, H. A.
Cooney, Andrew
Cosgrove, Lewis
Coyle, Patrick
Cummings, Julius

Dexter, Jos. W.
Donnell, E. Mc
Duffy, John
Dugan, Michael
Duffee, Owen

Eames, A. M.

Engley, E.
Engley, H. M.

Farris, Daniel R.
Finchon, T.
Fitch, G. O.
Fitch, H. N.
Fitsgerald, W.
Fits-Simmons, A. T.
Fuller, Clifford

*Garside, Andrew J.
Gibney, Luke P.
Gibson, H. O.
Gifford, Jos. H.
Graham, Henry H.
Guild, Oliver A.

Hall, Chandler
Hall, George
Hall, John D.
Hall, Stephen
Hamilton, Thomas
*Hayden, Frank
*Hayden, Walter
Hayward, H. C.
*Hiland, T.
Hill, Reuben
Hinchcliff, J.
Hollis, A. J.

Holroyd, G.
Horton, Andrew
Horton, H.
Horton, Jerome
Howard, C. H.
Howard, W. C.

Johnson, Albro
Johnson, Stephen C.
Johnson, J. H.

Kavanah, James
Keeting, Francis
Kemp, David
Kenny, George W.
Kenney, ——
Kenness, J.
Keinnay, Jas. H.
Kelley, J.
Kingston, Harrison
Kinney, George W.
Kernes, Peter

Lackey, Eugene
Lackey, Samuel W.
Legge, Geo. W.
*Legge, H. H.
Lynch, James

Magee, J. A.
Mahoney, J. F.
McArthur, W. S.
McArthur, Walter
*Metcalf, A. B.
Metcalf, W. H.
Minott, Franklin
Minott, W. H.
Morrisey, John
*Mowry, Arnold
Mulligan, James
Murdock, Walter
Murphy, J.

Olney, Ed.
O'Sullivan, James

Rawson, C. C.
Rawson, Orrin
Reed, James
Reed, Levi
Richardson, Dexter
Russell, James
Ryan, Ed.
Ryan, W.
Ryder, James
Rugg, Chas. H.

*Sabin, R. M.
Sawyer, Willard W.
Scarborough, Elias

Schofield, Ed.
Seagrave, Chas. S.
Seagrave, Frank
Seagrave, James
Seagrave, Geo. L.
Seagrave, Lawson A.
Seagrave, A. Mason
Seagrave, W. H.
Searles, Andrew J.
Sheehen, Napoleon B.
Sherman, A. A.
Sprague, G. W.
Smith, Charles M.
Smith, J.
Smith, J.
Smith, Sam. W.
Smith, S.

Taft, Albert
Taft, Francis M.
Taft, Henry L.
Taft, Isaac D.
Taft, James
Thompson, Charles H.
Thompson, Eli D.
Thompson, George
Thompson, Samuel C.
Toomey, Farrell

Vibberts, G. L.

Wilber, Daniel
Wilber, Jos. H.
Wilcox, Noah
Wilson, Charles
Wilson, Hiram
Wheeler, Chas. E. L.
White, Addison R.
Whitmore, Hannibal
Wood, William

C. A. W. AND EDITOR.

APPENDIX XXIII.

Mrs. Margaret L. Bennett.

In the Uxbridge *Compendium* of May 15, 1875, appeared the following notice of Margaret L. Bennett, daughter of Hon. Bezaleel Taft, Jr., and Hannah (Spring) Taft, who was born Nov. 11, 1818, and died May 9, 1875. It seems appropriate to give place here to the mention of one whose memory lives in many hearts, and who was closely associated for many years with the best interests of her native town:—

Uxbridge has sustained an irreparable loss in the death of Mrs. Margaret L. Bennett, wife of Dr. A. W. Bennett, whose earthly pilgrimage closed on Sunday, May 9th. Mrs. Bennett was prominently identified with the Sunday School work of the Unitarian Church, and was peculiarly fitted for a teacher and director of the young. She had charge of the infant class for a period of nearly sixteen years.

Mrs. Bennett was a woman of literary tastes, and possessed more than ordinary strength as a writer of Sunday School Books. Among the productions of her pen are: "Early Lessons on the Life of the Saviour," "Every Sunday," and "Many Teachers but One Lesson," which were written especially for the young. Other works of

hers, adapted for older readers, are entitled: "Day unto Day," and "The Bible Rule of Life," and have been highly spoken of, and widely circulated, both in this country and abroad.

We can add nothing which will more fittingly illustrate the importance of Mrs. Bennett's work, than the following extract from an article written by Hon. Henry Chapin, and published in the *Worcester Spy:*

"No brief tribute can do justice to Mrs. Bennett's life and character. Many have known her in her Sunday School Books, and in the little volume for every day in the year, entitled: 'Day unto Day,' but those who have known her for so many years, the devoted teacher of a large infant class in the Sunday School, and have met her in the charming intercourse of her daily life, realize more clearly the purity and nobility of her nature. Always busy, yet always at leisure for the exercise of christian hospitality, she blended in herself the qualities of mind and heart which made her a blessing in her home, and a benediction to the whole community. It needed not that she should pass on, to leave a record that all should cherish. She bore with her, day by day, the love and homage of all who knew her.

The true blessing of such a life ceases not with the life of the body. Although her angelic presence is no longer with us, the sanctifying influence of her example shall remain, to hallow and bless the world in which she so thoroughly filled up the measure of christian duty."