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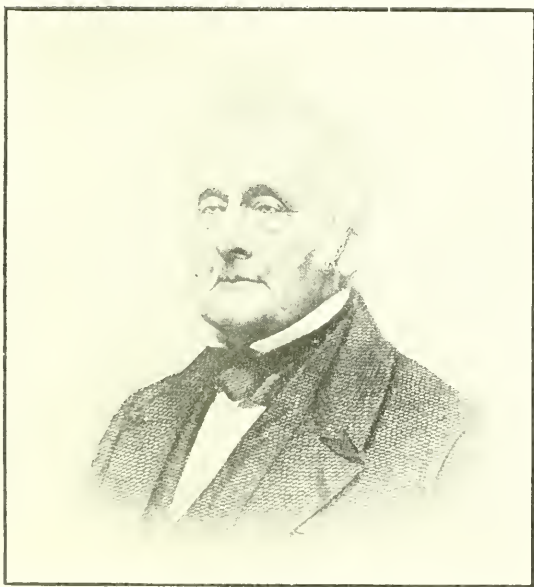


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GENERAL SALEM TOWNE

ADDRESSES

AT THE

UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT OF
General Salem Towne

PRESENTED
TO THE TOWN OF CHARLTON

—BY—

Judge Stephen P. Twiss
OF KANSAS CITY

—IN—

DEXTER MEMORIAL HALL
CHARLTON, MASS.

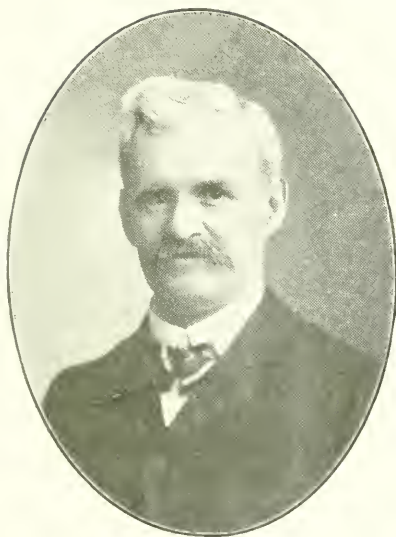
September 6, 1909

Charlton Old Home Day.

The exercises of the day began at two p. m. at Dexter Memorial hall. Geo. R. Wakefield, of Spencer, president of the Charlton reunion and old home day association presided and welcomed the large gathering. He said four years ago when this hall was given to the town by its generous donor, W. H. Dexter, it was named the Dexter Memorial hall, and at that time the idea was conceived of making it in a broader sense a memorial hall by adorning its walls with portraits of men prominent in the history of the town. The first year the picture of Mr. Dexter was placed in the building and last year we were presented with a panel cabinet of photographs of the five Towne brothers, appropriately framed, the gift of Horace A. Towne, of Minneapolis, Minn. This year another memorial is to be presented to the town and it is hoped that there may be other similar gifts to follow.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Frederick D. Thayer of Dudley.

President Wakefield then introduced as the chairman of the day Hon. Rufus B. Dodge of Worcester, who after a few preliminary remarks voicing the sentiment of all present at being able to have again with us this year the town's benefactor, W. H. Dexter, of Worcester, the donor of the beautiful building in which the exercises were being held, called upon Mr. Dexter, who spoke briefly.



GEORGE R. WAKEFIELD



WILLIAM H. DEXTER

Address of W. H. Dexter.

I am very thankful that I am able to be present at another home gathering this Labor Day. It is very pleasant as I have said before for those of us that live away to come back to our native town at least once a year, where we were born and spent our childhood days, among the happiest days of our lives. Judge Twiss presenting to the town a portrait of Gen. Salem Towne reminds me of some of the leading men of the town when I was a boy. There was Dr. Lamb, Dr. Fay, Gen. Towne, Major Spurr and others in the center. Harvey Dresser at Dresser Hill and John P. Marble at the north side who lived to be ninety-seven or ninety-eight years old, kept the hotel and store there and Captain Aaron Willard, Capt. Sim, Lamb, Franklin Farnum, the Carpenters, Dodges and many others in the City, all good reliable citizens. Some that have followed on after them have done as much if not more to make Worcester what it now is as any other town in the country. We are pleased to have Judge Twiss with us here today. He has come a good ways to see his native town once more and be with us at this gathering. I remember when he commenced practicing law in Worcester and I heard one of his first arguments before a jury. It was a strong argument.

Address of Rev. Lewis W. Hicks.

Major General Salem Towne, whose portrait, through the thoughtfulness and liberality of Judge Stephen P. Twiss, is henceforth to adorn the walls of this beautiful building, came of good old New England stock; stock which, by the way, produced three other men, natives of Charlton, whose success in the business world has added no little to the reputation of this goodly township, viz: Daniel Phillips, Moses Phillips and Alban N. Towne, all four having descended from William Towne, who, with his wife and six children, came over from Yarmouth, England, about the year 1640 and settled in Salem, Massachusetts; from which place, in 1652, he removed to Topsfield in the same state. General Towne, who was the seventh in descent from William, was of the fourth generation from John Towne, the so-called "Nestor of the new settlement in Oxford," who was chosen town clerk and selectman at the first town meeting that was held in that settlement and continued to occupy prominent positions and to have the confidence of the community during the remainder of his days. General Towne's great grandfather, Jonathan, was a deacon of the Oxford Church, and his father, after whom he was named, was a very noted man in his day. It is related of him that when the news came of the battle of Lexington he was quick to respond to the call to arms. On the morning of the twentieth of April, 1775, he was on his way at the head of his company towards the scene of the previous day's conflict. He became the quartermaster of his regiment and



REV. LEWIS W. HICKS

fulfilled the exacting duties of the office with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his companions in arms. He rose to the position of major-general of militia, was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1780, represented his town in the Massachusetts Legislature, and was otherwise useful as a leading citizen of Oxford.

The mother of our General Towne was Ruth Moore, whose grandfather was an influential citizen of Oxford and whose father was a deputy sheriff.

Of others of General Towne's ancestors much might be said, but only one fact more need be noted, that on the day of his birth his grandmother walked on snow shoes from Oxford to Charlton, presumably to welcome the expected little stranger to the town which he was destined to honor by a noble life.

Born in Charlton on the 26th day of March, 1780, of the goodly stock referred to, Salem Towne naturally inherited traits of character that were likely to serve him well in the battle of life. To this rich inheritance he added such habits of industry and profited so well by the lessons of patriotism which were instilled in his mind by his forbears, that he became one of the most useful and distinguished of all the good and great men who first saw the light in this clean hill town of old Massachusetts. Of what stuff he was made appears in the authentic account of what he did when a young man in the adjoining town of Southbridge. William L. Marcy, a wild youth of that town, who was considered by the neighbors to be the very worst boy in the community, succeeded, in conjunction with boon

companions, in ousting the teacher from the district school. Under stress of the emergency young Salem Towne, of Charlton, was hired to fill out the unexpired school term. It was predicted by the knowing ones that the young teacher would certainly have trouble with Bill Marcy. Not a day had passed, however, before this intrepid teacher had found some good in the wild boy and he told the surprised youth of his discovery. From that hour a change came over the young fellow. Some one had seen good in him. As a consequence he determined to make good; which he forthwith began to do. Such indeed was his conduct thereafter, and so great was his progress in his studies, that he was advised by his teacher to prepare for college. His parents were surprised by the suggestion, but on the earnest solicitation of Mr. Towne they finally gave their consent and the young man went on towards the goal of his new ambition, attending preparatory schools and finally entering Brown University, from which institution he was graduated in 1808. Many years after, the Honorable William L. Marcy, who, as you are aware, became Secretary of War under President Polk and Secretary of State under President Pierce, visited Boston as the guest of the governor of Massachusetts.

Salem Towne was among those who were invited to meet the distinguished guest. When the governor saw Mr. Marcy and General Towne greet one another as old friends he expressed his surprise that they knew each other so well. "Why," said Mr. Marcy, "that is the man that made me. When I was a boy, everybody was against me; none, no, not even my own father

and mother saw any good in me. He was the first one who believed in me, told me what I might become and helped me on in life at that critical period. Whatever of merit or distinction I have attained to I owe to him more than to any living person." In this story of his treatment of young Marcy there is not only revealed the kindness and tactfulness which were distinguishing characteristics of General Towne's makeup, but there are also exhibited two things which served to make his life of especial service to his fellow men. I refer to his interest in young people and to his efforts in the cause of education. We boys always felt that General Towne was interested in us. He recognized us, treated us with consideration, showed a disposition to help us in any way that he could; and thus encouraged us, as he had encouraged Bill Marcy, to do the best we could for ourselves. It was no fault of his that some of the rest of us did not go to the United States Senate or become secretaries of state under some of our late presidents. A corollary of his interest in the young was his interest in the cause of education; which not only showed itself in what he did to make the schools of Charlton what they ought to be, but also in a larger way by his co-operating with others in the founding of Amherst College, of which he was for years a trustee, and whose commencements he was in the habit of attending, going to the beautiful college town in his own conveyance during the years of his material prosperity, as became a man of his station.

It was quite natural that having had a father who had attained the rank of major-general and having been born so near the stirring times of

his young nation's history he should take a deep interest in military affairs. Connecting himself with the Massachusetts militia he rose by successive steps to the highest honor, that of major-general, which could be conferred upon one of its members. That he was prepared to face danger in behalf of his country and that he was regarded as equal to grave responsibilities appears from the fact that during the War of 1812 he was stationed as colonel of his regiment in South Boston, on the very spot where Washington planted his batteries when he drove the enemy from Boston during the Revolution, it being conjectured that the British might attack the city. We have good authority for the statement that while there he was temporarily in command of a brigade. That he would have accredited himself with honor had he been called upon to meet the enemy in battle we have no reason to doubt. That he won the admiration and love of those under his command we may well rest assured, for who "knew him but to love him," who "named him but to praise?"

Of what he was to this, his native place, it would be difficult to tell, so deeply was he interested in whatever appertained to its well being and so wide was the influence which he personally exerted upon the life of the community. Besides taking, as I have said, an active interest in the conduct of Charlton's schools, he represented the town in the State Legislature and threw the weight of his influence on the side of every movement that appealed to him as looking to the material, moral and spiritual welfare of his fellow citizens. He is said to have brought into Charlton the Holderness breed of cattle, which was a

decided improvement over the then native stock. That his Porter apples tasted about the best of any that have ever entered my mouth, even though they did come into my possession as a gift rather than as an unauthorized loan, I gratefully bear witness, as I do to the good taste of others of his fruits which brightened the home of my invalid mother. In him indeed was exhibited the very best type of American citizenship—a type that has made these hill towns of the old Bay State luminous with influence and unique in their ability to raise men competent to fill positions of trust and responsibility in city, state and nation, a type that has made the state of Massachusetts the power that it has ever been since the organization of our federal government.

But I believe that we have not yet reached that part of General Towne's life which made its chief impress upon those who, in the various walks of life, were so fortunate as to be in any way associated with him. It was not so much by what he directly accomplished either as a military man or as a man of affairs, that he exerted his widest and most lasting influence in the community that held him in honor to the day of his death and mourned for him as for a personal friend when he had passed away. That deep and abiding influence came through what he **was** as a man of the finest type, who lived a life in his family and before the community that was expressive of true dignity, of a high sense of honor, of attractive virtue and of gracious kindness. To see him in his home in the company of his estimable wife, nee Sarah, daughter of General John Spurr, whom he married in 1804, or in later years with his attrac-

tive and devoted daughter; or to share for any length of time his hospitality, which was always so generous and so winsome, was to treasure up in the memory a recollection that time could never efface. The rare blending of dignity and kindness in his personality was something to win for him both the respect and love of all who were so fortunate as to be brought close to him. And what he was in his hospitable home that he also was in a large measure as he moved out among his associates in the common walks of life. He was a man to be looked at as he passed you by; yes, a man to be felt. There was a benediction in his presence. An influence for good emanated from him. I will go as far as to say that there is scarcely a person of all the natives of Charlton who, having been born between the years 1800 and 1862, or later, and having acquired any prominence in the world, would not testify that his young life had, to some appreciable degree, been influenced for good by the life and example of General Towne. He was one to stimulate a boy to live a good life, if ever there was such a man. Indeed he was a person to incite **all** with whom he came in contact to live lives worthy of their better selves. And he was a man to win respect for the possibilities of his species. Not inappropriately might the language of the great English dramatist be applied to him:

“His life was gentle; and the elements
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up,
And say to all the world, This was a man.”

It is therefore eminently fitting that a man who did so much to bring honor to Charlton in his life time and who was so highly respected

and deeply loved by the people of his native place and beyond, should be made known to succeeding generations; that his life may continue to be influential for good, and of especial service to the young people of this goodly township.

I doubt not that it was to realize this desirable end, as well as to honor the memory of General Salem Towne and to express his own indebtedness to and affection for Charlton's grand old man, that Judge Stephen P. Twiss, himself an eminent son of Charlton, has had painted, by a distinguished artist, this striking likeness, for presentation to his native place, to be hung on the walls of this building which so eloquently speaks of the loyalty of another of the sons of Charlton for the place of his birth. It is a worthy gift. It does honor both to the subject of the painting and to the donor. In turning it over to you, who are to receive it in the town's behalf, may I not voice the wish that this splendid portrait may indeed serve to do for the coming youth of Charlton something similar to that which good and great General Towne did through his splendid personality while he was living. May it incite to earnest endeavor, to worthy living, to successful and honorable achievement. If it shall thus do, it will, I am sure, have best realized the purpose which the generous giver conceived in his heart when he determined to present this appropriate gift to the place of his nativity.

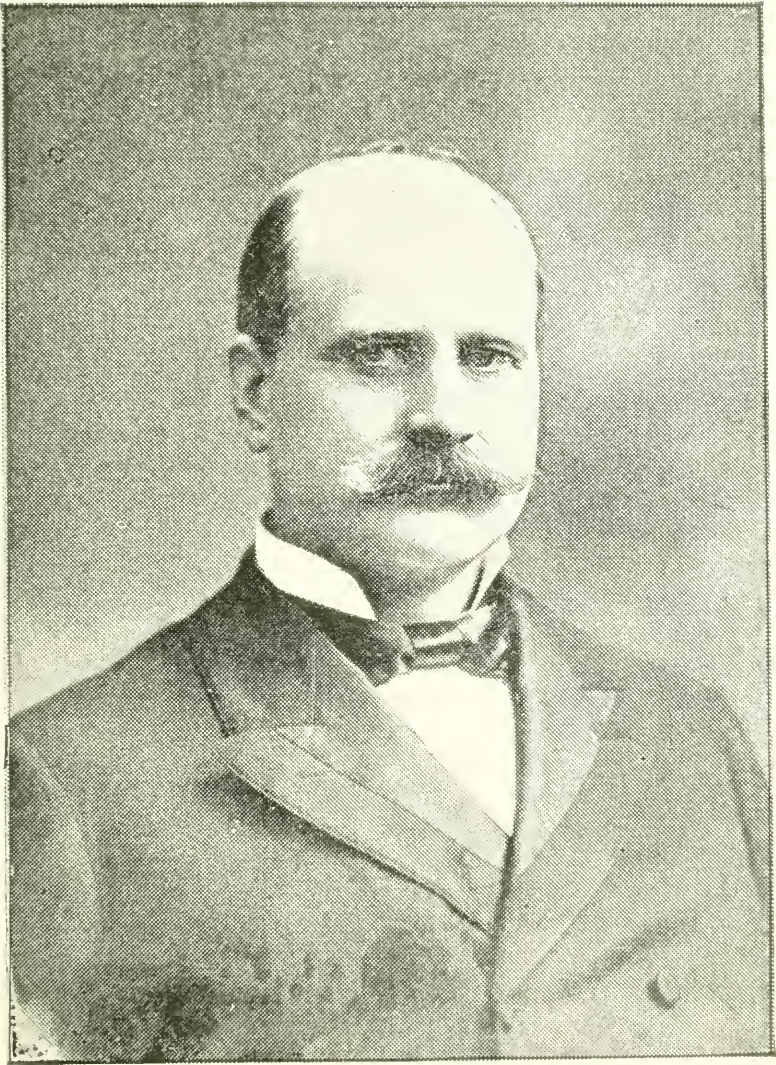
Address by Hon. R. B. Dodge.

The citizens of Charlton gratefully accept from the generous hands of Judge Twiss a portrait of Gen. Salem Towne. Of Charlton's well known sons he was one of the most highly respected, whose memory succeeding generations have not overlooked, but like the everlasting monument it is known of all and in all points the way to a useful life full of kindly acts, clothed with a charming dignity, and crowned by the integrity which from his fellows commanded imperial respect. He belonged to the old school of country gentlemen, whose natural courtesy was as much a part of himself as were the benignant features of his countenance.

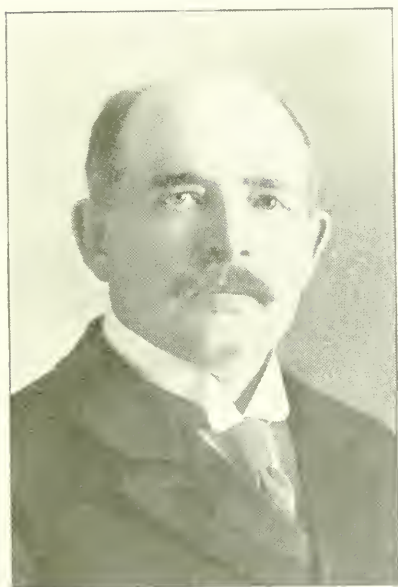
Here upon the walls of this building, dedicated to the use of all, shall this likeness of a beloved man remain, here to remind all of the sterling qualities which make a man honored in his own home.

For this gift, a work of art, we give Judge Twiss our hearty thanks. His course has been an honor to Charlton and now, in his declining years as he turns to the place of his birth with kindly thought, may the peace and happiness of a fruitful life be his to the end.

Rev. Lewis W. Hicks, of Wellesley, was called upon to make the formal presentation of the picture to the town. The portrait done in oils was the work of a Kansas City artist and beautifully framed. It occupied a conspicuous position on an easel at the left of the stage.



HON. RUFUS B. DODGE



REV. FRANK S. BREWER

The Influence of a Great Man in a Community.

ADDRESS BY REV. FRANK SHERMAN BREWER.

We do not claim for Salem Towne rank among the nation's heroes. He is not honored for conspicuous service to either the state or the nation, like Washington, Grant or Lincoln. And yet we do claim that he was a truly great man.

There is much misunderstanding as to the conditions of membership in this Hall of Fame, of which we are speaking, that is, the great men in a small community. Obviously, certain conditions act as a barrier to membership. No man is ever considered great by his immediate neighbors, for the sole reason that he has obtained riches, or that he has the faculty of making money. High political honor at the hands of the state or nation does not suffice to enroll a man in this Hall of Fame. Social prestige does not give him the right of entrance thereto. There are many false standards that obtain recognition for a while but they will not stand the test of time. Bradford Torrey has given in a recent periodical this definition of fame: "Fame is a plant that blossoms on graves, as a manual of such botany might say, 'A late flowering perennial, nowhere common, to be looked for in old cemeteries.'"

But Salem Towne has other qualities that entitled him to recognition among Charlton's heroes, than those of the simple inscription on the monument in yonder cemetery. We are con-

fining our thought today to the local community, and we are asking ourselves the question, Who is the truly great man there? The man to whom the small boy looks up, as his ideal of manhood, the beau-ideal of the young woman, the one man to whom the entire community turns to make a speech and to welcome the stranger when a distinguished visitor comes, the man par excellence, of the whole community. Who is that man and why is he so distinguished?

No man can rise to that position today and could even less seventy-five years ago, unless he be first of all a man of integrity. "Never heard a word said against his integrity." That is a great thing to say about any man and that was said of Salem Towne in this community during his entire life-time of ninety-two years. We are giving a man high praise when we say that he is a man of sterling integrity, a man whom his neighbors trusted, to whose care came large business interests and there is not a single instance, so far as we know, where even a breath of scandal rested upon his name in business relations.

This is very different from the career of the son of one of America's greatest benefactors, a gifted hymn writer. Samuel G. Smith is the son of Samuel Francis Smith, the author of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," the one hymn that has been accepted by all the people for these many years as our national hymn. Samuel G. Smith left his New England home and in early manhood went to Davenport, Iowa, where he rose steadily into places of power and influence. He became a banker, a philanthropist; he was the chief citizen; he was a church-man, trustee of es-

tates, the head of a large number of charitable organizations. The entire community trusted him, so that when his downfall came, the shock to the community was something terrific. The disclosure revealed the fact that he was guilty of larceny, large and small stealings from estates that had been entrusted to his care, even stealing from the wife of his dead coachman. All Davenport was stunned by the news. The church suffered a severe blow; he was the ex-president of the state bankers' association, and the vice-president of the Iowa Sons of the Revolution, and the downfall of no other man in the State of Iowa could have brought a greater feeling of chagrin and loss of confidence than was caused by this man's downfall. The fact that he went to prison five years ago, a man nearly seventy years of age, and came out just the other day, and that he fell dead on the streets of Toronto, has little to do with his life story. His influence was ended and his fame as a good man was buried fathoms deep by his conduct in Davenport.

The man of integrity is the man who does not make money his God, does not bow down to it nor serve it. And yet we find at the present time that there are many who do this very thing. Young men have false ideals of life as is illustrated by the fact that the schools of mining, engineering, manufacturing, are filled with those whose thoughts are centered upon the big stakes of life. A sense of the power and luxury of money has seized our people. The fact that great fortunes like \$40,000,000 are made in a single day have corrupted the imaginations of our young men. The Alton steal by Harriman, by which the road was robbed of \$26,000,000 is a case

in point. These great prizes of money dazzle the eyes of our youth and they forget that such giant prizes are won only at the expense of integrity, of soul-life. No wonder that Harriman is a broken-down old man at the age of 59, begging the reporters to keep away from his home. This greed for money keeps young men out of the callings where high ideals and small remunerations are expected. Young men today do not take to the practice of law or medicine or the ministry as they did a few years ago, and this is due to a poverty of ideals and the sad thing about it is, that to them there is no shame in their poverty. Those were halcyon days in our country's life when a young man like Agassiz, the scientist, had no time to make money, as he said, when he refused \$500 for a single night's lecture. Charles Sumner declined to lecture at any price as his time belonged to Massachusetts as its senator. Spurgeon, one of England's greatest preachers, refused to come to America, preferring to stay in London, that he might save a few souls. Emerson showed a fine idealism that is much needed today when he spurned an opportunity to receive a salary of more than \$1200 a year for it would take away his time for thinking.

A second requisite for our village hero is that the man should be a man of kind heart and take an interest in others. The published brief biographies of General Towne say that he "was not extraordinary in either intellectual or cultivated ability," "that he was a man of fair culture, and general understanding, but somewhat remarkable in his kindness of heart and genial temperament," and that "for these qualities he was conspicuous."

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General Towne is known as a discoverer of young men, as instanced in the case of William P. Marcy (the account of which Mr. Hicks has already given us). The man who gives the portrait today is another illustration of the fact that General Towne is entitled to this honor that is, a discoverer of young men, and Judge Twiss is making what he terms to be a feeble attempt to pay the debt that he owes to General Salem Towne. We do not know what others owe to him, whose names are not familiar to us, but a man who was the discoverer of young men in those days or at the present, is no ordinary kind of a man. Please notice the qualities by which he was distinguished, and which led him to take a special interest in young men, such as kindness of heart, doing good, a useful man, always gaining friends but never losing them. And when you can say these things of the most prominent man in town, you are paying high tribute of praise. Take, for instance, General Towne's interest in education, and see him as he is one of the petitioners who is suing the General Court for the charter of Amherst College. He becomes a trustee, and holds that position for 21 years. He is a generous giver to her funds, making a contribution at one time of \$500, which was a large sum of money ninety years ago. He is made chairman of the charity fund of Amherst college, which fund was then regarded as the true foundation of the college. He visits the college annually, riding with his own horse and chaise. His love for young men led him to take this interest in education, long after he stopped being a school teacher. General Towne had that loving interest in boys that enabled him to place

his hand upon the shoulder of the young man and bid him make something of himself. We little realize how much boys are looking to older men for counsel, direction, encouragement, and even rebuke. Do you realize what it means to have a respected man, whom all the community honors, look you up in your boarding place, take notice of you before you leave home, and give you wise counsel? That is what Gen. Salem Towne did, and that is why we are here today, celebrating his memory.

Again, General Towne took a keen interest in social and political questions. He was a strong temperance advocate. At the time of the Washingtonian movement in our country, a strong temperance tidal wave swept over Charlton. It was at a time then as now, when men were obliged to take sides and the man who dared to defy public sentiment and stand for total abstinence, subjected himself to much ridicule. General Towne was misunderstood, belied, and his motives impugned, but he stuck to his belief that total abstinence as a practice was best for individuals, and best for the community, and he lived long enough to see his views fully vindicated.

In politics, he became a staunch Whig, and stuck to the principles of the Whig party because they meant progress by state and nation in the matter of internal improvements. His interests were nation wide and were not limited simply to the local affairs of the town of Charlton or of the State of Massachusetts.

General Towne had more to do, probably, than any other one man in giving Charlton a railroad, which shows his progressiveness. Such

men are worth more to the town, state and nation, than the discoverer of the North Pole, or the inventor of a flying machine, for the influence of a great and good man goes on long after he is dead and he will be remembered for what he was as well as what he did.

“How'er it be, it seems to me
 'Tis only noble to be good;
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
 And simple faith than Norman blood.”

Lastly, Gen. Towne was a religious man of intelligent and deep convictions. To be sure, he did not join the church until he was past four score. His long life and habits of devotion are evidences of his religious character. I am told that he was the first superintendent of the first Sunday School in Charlton; he was always a regular and generous financial supporter of the church and for twenty-five years its foremost worker; he was always present in his pew on Sunday, if he was in town, and I cannot but think, judging by what he said as he stood up on the day that he joined the church, that he would have joined it much earlier if he had realized how great his influence was.

True religion is the crown of a man's life. Without it he is undeveloped, at least on one side of his nature and that the most important. He is dwarfed in his moral and spiritual life. Without religion to support and comfort, no man can find his way around in this universe. Without it, he cannot reach the highest joys, cannot have the deepest pleasure, nor see the best things.

This is an age of toleration and that is good. But it is also an indifferent age, a neglectful age.

We ought to have toleration for the sincere opinions of others, however much they may differ from ours, but neglect of religious acts and duties is a different thing. Men think today that they can be just as good at home, as they would be if they went to church. They consider themselves "pretty good already," and blandly question, "What more can you ask?" But this is unlike the spirit of Gen. Towne, who never thought of himself as pretty good already, or good as the average, or as one who didn't need to go to church.

Gen. Towne was a participant in the church services, so far as he was able. He was not a singer and made no claim to any musical ability, but when old Coronation was given out,

All hail the power of Jesus' name
he joined in with such vigor and evident sympathy with the thought of the hymn, that all in the house knew he was there, and no one who heard him at such times ever forgot his zeal and enlivened manner.

A great man must inspire by his character, which is a man's solid worth. Nothing but character can make any lasting impression upon others. Wealth, education, political favor, social prominence—all these things are insignificant when compared to character as a molding force in the life of the community. The principal business of a town is to raise men. Charlton's glory is not her hills, beautiful though they are, nor her lovely valleys, but rather her chief glory is **men**, the kind of men raised here. It is not her manufacturing nor her farms, it is not her past, nor her present, nor her future; it is not her monuments that have been erected here, but

rather it is her men, the men of integrity, of light and leading that she has reared, that we most gratefully remember.

Yet we use the following poem written by the Bishop of Exeter, England, but slightly changed for our need today:

Give us men!

Men—from every rank,
Fresh and free and frank;
Men of thought and reading,
Men of light and leading,
Men of loyal breeding,
Freedom's welfare speeding;
Men of faith and not of faction,
Men of lofty aim and action:

Give us men—I say again,
Give us men!

Give us men!

Strong and stalwart ones;
Men whom highest hope inspires,
Men whom purest honor fires,
Men who trample Self beneath them,
Men who make their country wreath them
As her noble sons,
Worthy of their sires!
Men who never shame their mothers,
Men who never fail their brothers,
True, however false are others:

Give us men—I say again
Give us men!

Give us men!

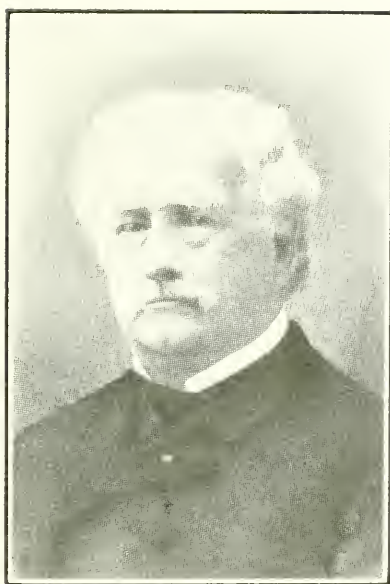
Men who, when the tempest gathers,
Grasp the standard of their fathers,
In the thickest fight:

Men who strike for home and altar,
(Let the coward cringe and falter),
 God defend the right!
True as truth, though lorn and lonely,
Tender—as the brave are only;
Men who tread where saints have trod,
Men for country—home—and God:
 Give us men! I say again—again—
 Give us such men!

We cannot have too much sweetness of life, too much gentleness, too much toleration, but, we need men today who stand for something positive. Of all things that destroy character and unfit for usefulness, the greatest is a religious indifference and a proud spirit that is unwilling to bow before the great white throne!

The picture I have tried to draw is that of a life-long citizen of Charlton, a man of integrity, a man who took a **keen** interest in others, a religious man. These things entitle General Salem Towne to a place in the foremost ranks of those whose memory is cherished here.

NOTE.—During Mr. Brewer's address he took occasion to remark that George H. Brewer, his father, and Abbie D. Twiss, a native of Charlton and a sister of Judge S. P. Twiss, were married fifty years ago today in the Congregational Church by Rev. John Haven. They are both here today.



JUDGE STEPHEN P. TWISS

Address of Judge Stephen P. Twiss.

I assure you that nothing can give me greater pleasure than to be here on this home day of good cheer and good wishes, of each one of us to all others; again to meet the sons and daughters of Charlton.

It is with special pleasure that we, all of us, see and greet our venerable friend, the benefactor of Charlton, the town of his birth and childhood. This Dexter Hall is his munificent gift to us and to the inhabitants of Charlton forever. Long may he live and be the recipient of the sincere and oft repeated expressions of gratitude for his generous beneficence.

This is Labor Day. Old Charlton Home Day. It is General Salem Towne Day. A felicitous Trio, which we, her sons and daughters, vigorously assert, studiously appreciate and loyally commemorate.

Yes, we are all glad once more to be at home, around the family altar, the old family fire-place and hearth-stone, under the roof-tree of our childhood in the lap of our dear old Mother Charlton. Once more at home in the enjoyment of the social life and friendly greetings of the day. We all realize better than ever before, "there's no place like home," and no home like Charlton.

We, children of Charlton, born on these snow clad wintry hills, or in these beautiful sunny valleys of alluvial meadows and meandering brooklets, which are interspersed with Charlton homes of intelligence, purity, and the soul of

honor; are at our ancestral home, in the house of our fathers, the home of our deceased parents, who were born, lived, died, and buried in Charlton. Their dust is our inheritance, an ever-abiding sacred trust and charge which we loyally accept and execute with profound reverence and filial affection.

We, children of our good old Mother Charlton, brothers and sisters all, are here to celebrate the day, to commemorate and honor the place of our birth, the home of our childhood, with the strength of our earnest hearts and souls, to cherish the many tender memories that cluster around it, to re-establish and reproduce in our mental vision, the scenes and associations of our happy, innocent childhood, under the defending wing and watchful eye of our protecting fathers and loving mothers.

The first settlers and pioneers of Charlton were not idlers nor drones. They were intelligent men and women of laborious and strenuous lives, who cheerfully accepted the hardships of the pioneer. They subdued the rebellious, unbroken soil, that had never known the plow or spade, and reduced it to their will and dominion; and made the wild wilderness to yield in abundance the various fruits of the earth, essentially necessary to their support and comfort.

They were watchful, and wisely attentive to the trials, hardships and vicissitudes incident to an isolated frontier life. They were confronted by the questions and difficulties of organizing and establishing a town with adequate power and jurisdiction of local self-government reserving to the individual all personal rights consistent with his greater good; and at the same time

best promoting the growth, development and welfare of the municipality—the greatest good of all. They proved themselves equal to the occasion, to the necessities of their day and generation, and the demands of the near future.

With an intelligent, high-toned public spirit, and a true conception of the wants and welfare of the town, they constructed thoroughfares leading to the adjoining towns in all directions and bridges and cross roads, necessary to the convenience of themselves and the journeying stranger, and Charlton was soon at the forefront and rightfully held a high standing among the sixty-five towns of the county.

They divided the town into three, then into six, and afterwards into thirteen school districts. They erected in each district a commodious schoolhouse, for the education of all children of school age, and maintained free public schools in each district from four to six months in every year, and successfully established in Charlton the free public school system which now obtains in all parts of our country.

From the beginning the town stoutly resisted and opposed the tyranny of Great Britain, and duly appreciated the supreme worth of free self-government, founded upon the will of the people, justice and equality. From the time of the battle of Bunker Hill, Charlton was enlisted with all her soul and energies in resistance to British tyranny and oppression, and “during the war, out of a population of about thirteen hundred, she furnished upwards of three hundred men for the Continental army, who, in the true spirit of the patriot soldier, well performed their part in the hardships of the long and weary

march and privations of the camp, and in several well fought battles ending with the capture of Burgoyne."

During the terrible conflict for the maintenance of our Government and the Union Charlton did not falter in doing her whole duty in the defense of the Union and Government established by our fathers, so close and dear to the heart of General Towne. She furnished two hundred and eighteen men for the army, which was thirteen more than her quota.

The intelligent, well directed Christian home is a sacred enclosure against many besetting temptations and the corrupting influences of the day. It is a haven, where all, the youngest and the weakest, as well as the older and the strongest, are protected from the storms and passions fiercely raging on the outside; a harbor where all are safe; where the distant roaring winds and waves that drive ships and crews whither they will, do not enter; where there are no winds to smite or storms to destroy, but gentle breezes are as "rippled whispers at the bow," and confidence and safety rest upon the undisturbed waters.

Such, briefly, is a symbolical description of the well conducted home of purity and righteousness. It is the home of the pure and faithful mother, whose influence in forming the character and giving direction to the life of those God has given her for this purpose, is not in our power to estimate adequately. The home is the domain of the wife and mother. She is the Queen of the Household. Her jurisdiction is complete. Love is the paramount law of her realm. Her love for her children is pure, disinterested, self-sacrificing, self-consuming, **it is heavenly.** It is

born in heaven but lives on earth, and has no earthly equal.

“There are teachings on earth and sky and air,
The heavens the glory of God declare;
But louder than voice beneath, above,
He is heard to speak through a mother’s love.”

We are sometimes told that Charlton is boomless, conservative and old foggy, not up to date in modern business life and methods. Yes, my friends, our dear old town is slow and conservative, when compared with some other places; she still prefers to stand out doors in the “wet” rather than come into a clean, pure house and be “dry.”

But she makes no claim to many of the so-called business financial activities, conspicuous and well understood in some of our cities. Charlton is an agricultural community, her people eat their bread in the sweat of their brows. Charlton has no grinding, abject poverty and destitution, no “sweat shops” where the poor and almost helpless women and children are compelled to work for less than half pay. Our men of means and business ability are not men of overpowering greed and passion to get rich quick, in a heartless disregard of the comforts, health and life of their neighbors. Their wealth is not witness against them; neither does the cry of their employees in want and distress rise up against them.

Charlton stands upon her time honored hill tops, in the light of the brightest sun at high noon; not spotless, perhaps, but unimpeached and unassailed; she evades nothing; her brow is undisturbed. Her record is before the world and she is content.

There is probably no one in this hall, who knew General Towne so long and so well as I did. I have known him from my earliest recollections, seventy-six or seventy-eight years. In my childhood recollections of him I believed him to be the greatest man in the country and perhaps in the world. But as I grew up and went out into the world I soon learned that there were greater men than General Towne, but I never lost my faith in him as a great and good man. I have special reasons for looking back to him with thankfulness and gratitude. In my young manhood he proved himself to be my very good and true friend. He occasionally came into my office and sat for hours at a time, often giving invaluable advice and encouragement to a young man just starting in life. His talks to me were always instructive and interesting. There was never another man in this world who did so much to fashion and help me on in the right direction as General Towne did. And I should now be an ingrate if I did not remember him with gratitude. In some respects he made a confidant of me to a greater extent than to any other young man in Charlton or elsewhere I believe.

He was an all-around wise and safe man in public affairs. I remember well, that he was always present at our town meetings and took an active interest in them. He was always right, in public, social and moral affairs. And in national affairs the results of the last fifty or sixty years have proven that he was generally right there. He was among the very first enlisted in the cause of temperance. He was sincerely opposed to the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating liquors

as a beverage and to the traffic in the same, and consistently continued so until his death.

In the early days of the anti-slavery agitation, or, as it was then called, the abolition movement, he was stoutly and unchangeably opposed to the institution of slavery and was in favor of confining it within the limits of the states in which it was permitted by the Constitution of the United States. He believed slavery to be a curse and a scourge to the country, to the people of the north as well as to the people of the south, white and black, bond or free, and that sometime and in some way which he did not profess to know God in his providence would wipe it out of existence. But at all events, slavery or no slavery he was in favor of maintaining the Constitution of the United States in its integrity as the paramount law of the land.

Salem Towne was born during the hardships and privations of the American Revolution. The Constitution of the United States was adopted during his childhood, but not so long before his early manhood that he did not have some understanding of the great and unspeakable cost in life and treasure of the achievement of independence. He undoubtedly carried with him to his death recollections of many events of those inciting, stirring and formative days—the beginning of the Great Republic. He must have been an interested listener to much of the folklore of the days of his childhood and youth. As he ripened into maturity, the theories and principles of Washington, Hamilton, Adams, Jefferson, Marshall and Madison of and about the Constitution, then new and untried, were undoubtedly read by him, with what avidity we cannot

assert, but we have good reason to believe that he early in life had a good understanding of the working machinery and powers of the Constitution and of many of the most important questions, policies and measures both of the people and of Congress, and of the support or opposition of the early administrations, among which notably the Louisiana Purchase, the troubles with France, the antagonistic positions of Hamilton and Jefferson over the same; the vexatious and unparalleled offensive conduct of Edward Charles Genet, representative of the French republic. The election of Jefferson to the presidency over Burr, the killing of Hamilton by Burr with murderous intent in a duel, the trial and acquittal of Burr on charge of treason against the United States, were very much alive and burning questions of the day.

The Civil war was commenced and carried on against the Government by the united and desperate energy of eleven states of the Union, with the design and purpose of extending the territorial domain of slavery and of fixing and strengthening its powers with express and absolute certainty; by erecting a confederacy upon the ruins of the Union, with slavery one of its chief corner stones. He was alive to the transcendent importance of the issue, and would have the Government with all of its powers crush slavery forever out of our national life and being.

Never under any circumstances whatever would he tolerate the thought of the possibility of the dissolution of the Union. With him it was a union, not only of the fathers, it was in part his union with his brothers and friends, the companions of his childhood and youth, cemented

by the people, to which was added imperceptibly the one small mite; the youthful voice and zeal of young Salem Towne.

From what we know of his record and career, we must believe that he without doubt or hesitation was in full accord and sympathy with the teachings, principles and measures of Washington, Hamilton, Marshall and Madison. He accepted the Constitution as his polar star and compass, and afterwards with Webster the Union was to him "one and inseparable now and forever." And still later with almost inexpressible joy he heard the declaration of the Supreme Court that it is "An indestructible Union composed of indestructible states."

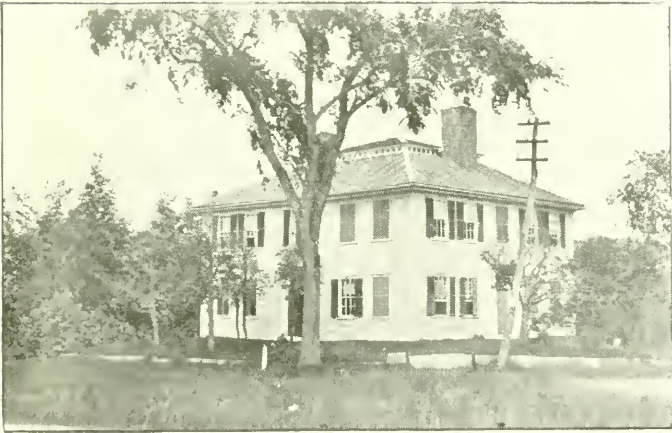
He never shrank from the opinion that the eleven states, notwithstanding their ordinances of secession and their hundreds of thousands of soldiers on the field in their support were never out of the Union. That our good old Constitution still lives and supplemented by the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments is the crowning glory of all human legislation. His hope of the future of this country rested on the loyalty of the people to the Constitution and the Union. He believed the Constitution would be preserved and **slavery destroyed within the Union** and he lived to see the realization of his belief and hope. The results of the war showed that he was right. Slavery is destroyed and the Union is preserved and lives and will live forever until time shall be no more.

In these few words and thoughts which I have presented to you I have endeavored to portray the character, private life and public career of General Salem Towne. And if he were alive

and standing by me dictating what I should say, I believe I have said nothing which he would not approve. Much of what I have said in substance he expressed to me in personal conversations. For several years I have had in my mind the thought of presenting a portrait of General Towne to the town of Charlton. When I look back upon his various acts of kindness to me, I feel that I am in a small way paying the debt which I owe to his memory, and I sincerely thank you for your manifest approval of the act.

Note.—The Spencer Leader of Sept. 10 contained the following comments of the events of the celebration of Charlton Old Home Day which preceded the addresses given in these pages:

“For the thirteenth time old Charlton welcomed back her sons and daughters on the occasion of the annual reunion and old home day, Labor day. The affair was a grand success, being attended by about 3,000 people. It was conceded by all that this year surpassed all previous celebrations. The spirit of old home day was in the very air and every one seemed impressed with the desire to grasp by the hand as many old acquaintances as possible and the pleasure on the faces of the oldest present at seeing old friends whom they had not seen for perhaps half a century was apparent to even a casual observer. Chafin’s orchestra furnished music for the day and gave an open air concert at 10:00 a. m. The illustrated lecture given by Lawyer Chas. S. Dodge of Worcester attracted many. Dinners were served at eleven, twelve and one o’clock and banquet hall was filled each time and the tables set again at two p. m.”



HOME OF GENERAL SALEM TOWNE







WERT
BOOKBINDING
Cranville, Pa.
MAY JUNE 1988
MADE IN U.S.A.

