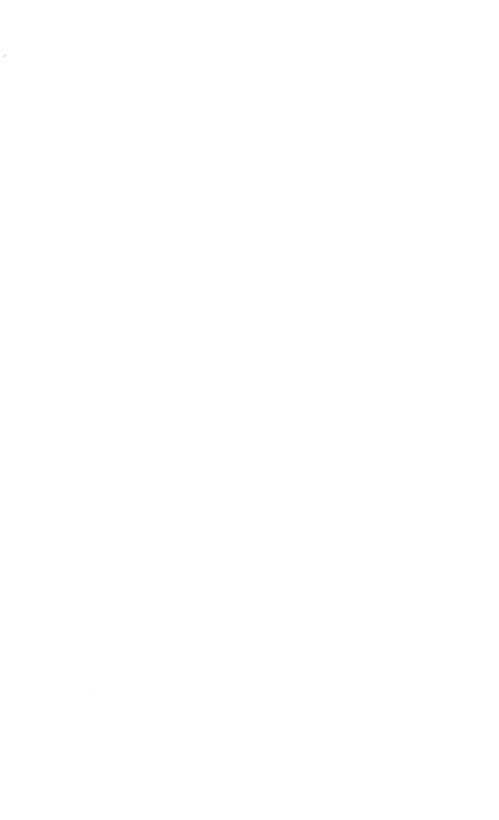
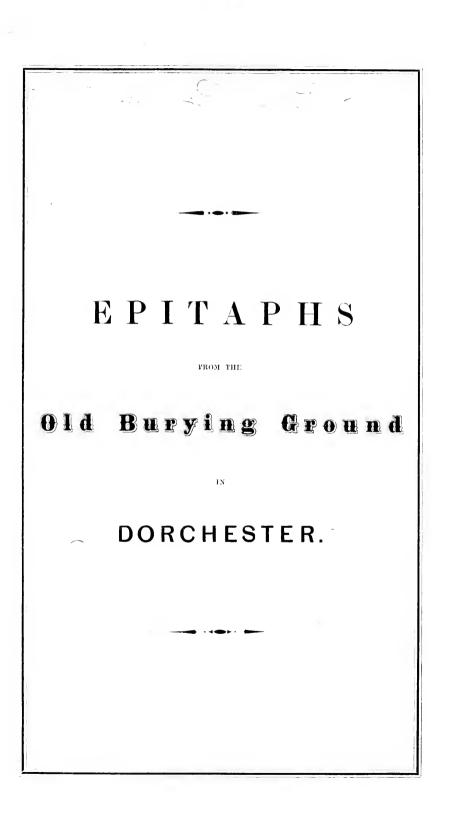


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FROM THE

OLD BURYING GROUND

IN

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DORCHESTER,

MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON HIGHLANDS: 1869.



NOTICE.

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The epitaphs in the following pages were copied by the compilers themselves. Great care has been taken to preserve the spelling and punctuation of the originals. They deem it unnecessary to mention each separate work, which they have consulted in the preparation of the biographical notices. Suffice it to say, that wherever they have found anything of interest, relating to their subject, they have freely made use of it. .

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In the old burying-ground at Upham's Corner, Dorchester, Mass., can be found the most ancient tomb-stone inscriptions in the United States, those at Jamestown, Va., alone being excepted. When the yard was laid out, in 1634, it contained but five square rods, but after several enlargements, it now embraces an area of about three acres, in which over six thousand bodies have been interred. The first burial there took place in 1638, but the original stone, which marked the spot has long since disappeared, and is now replaced by one of comparatively recent date. The oldest stone now in the yard, is over the graves of two children, and bears the two following epitaphs:—

> ABEL.HIS.OFFERING.ACCEPTED.IS. IIIS.BODY.TO.TRE.GRAVE.HIS.SOVLE.TO.BLIS. ON.OCTOBERS.TWENTYE.AND.NO.MORE. IN.TIE.YEARE.SIXTEEN.HVNDRED.44.

SVBMITE.SVBMITTED.TO.HER.HEAVENLY.KING. BEING.A.FLOWER OF.THAT..ETERNAL.SPRING. NEARE.3.YEARS.OLD.SHE.DYED.IN.HEAVEN.TO.WAITE. THE.YEARE.WAS.SINTEEN.HVNDRED.48.

HEARE.LYES.OVR.CAPTAINE.AND.MAIOR.OF.SVFFOLK.WAS.WITHALL A.GODLY.MAGISTRATE.WAS.HE.AND MAIOR.GENERALL. TWO.TROVPS.OF.HORS.WITH.HIME.HERE.CAME.SVCH.WORTH.HIS.LOVE.DID.CRAVE-TEN.COMPANYES.OF.FOOT.ALSO.MOVRNING.MARCHT.TO.HIS.GRAVE. LET.ALL.THAT.READ.BE.SVRE.TO.KEEP.THE.FAITH.AS.HE.HATH.DON. WITH.CHRIST.HE.LIVES.NOW.CROWND.HIS.NAME.WAS.HVMPRY.ATHERTON.

HE.DYED.THE.16.OF.SEPTEMER.1661.

Before he left England, Humphrey Atherton married a young woman, whose name is unknown, when their united ages amounted to less than twenty-nine years.

It is not positively known when he came to this country. Charles H. Atherton, one of his descendants, says, that he arrived at Boston, in 1631, on board the ship James, Capt. Taylor, but Mr. Drake in his work, entitled, "Result of some Researches among the British Archives for Information relative to the Founders of New England," does not mention such a vessel, as having left England, either in that year or the year before. It is supposed that he came from Preston, in Lancashire, as persons named Atherton were to be found there as late as 1780.

The first authentic fact in his history, which we possess, is that he was admitted a freeman, at Dorchester, May 2, 1638. The same year, the second of the existence of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, he became one of its members, and continued as such to the time of his death, serving at different periods as Ensign, Lieutenant, and Captain, which last office he held twice, in 1650 and in 1658. He was the earliest representative from Dorchester, to the General Court, whither he was first sent in 1638, and to which the same town afterwards elected him nine times, the last being 1651. In 1659, while representing Springfield, he became Speaker.

He was the originator of the first Trainband in Dorchester, commanded for sometime the Suffolk Regiment, and upon the death of Sedgwick, in 1656, succeeded him in his rank of Major General, the highest military office in the colony. In 1644 he went to Narragansett, with Captains Johnson and Cooke, to arrest and try Samuel Gorton, for heresy. He led several expeditions against the Narragansett Indians, and when at length they became subject to Massachusetts, he was often appointed to collect their tribute of wampum. To complete the eatalogue of honors bestowed upon him; he was Town Treasurer and several times Selectman in Dorchester.

Among his personal friends was Miles Standish, whose name has been rendered immortal by Longfellow.

Atherton, as a believer in witches, felt it to be a duty which he owed to God and to his Country to mete out to the poor creatures, against whom accusations were brought, the punishment, which, in his opinion, they so richly merited. As assistant, a position which he occupied during the last eight years of his life, he was instrumen-

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tal in bringing about the execution of Mrs. Hibbins, who was hung for witcheraft, June 19, 1656. This was probably the second murder in New England, for the same imaginary crime.

A fall from his horse was the cause of his death. Concerning him, Johnson says, "altho he be slow of speech, yet is he down right for the business-one of a cheerful spirit, and intire for his country." The Quakers thought differently. They had been subjected to much persecution at his hands, and they believed his horrible death to be God's visitation of wrath. Besse says, "Humfray Adderton, who at the trial of Wenlock Christison, did, as it were, bid defiance to Heaven, by saying to Wenlock, 'You pronounce Woes and Judgements, and those that are gone before you pronounced Woes and Judgements; but the Judgements of the Lord God are not upon us yet,' was suddenly surprised : having been, on a certain day, exercising his men with much pomp and ostentation, he was returning home in the evening, near the place where they usually loosed the Quakers from the cart, after they had whipped them, his horse, suddenly affrighted, threw him with such violence, that he instantly died; his eyes being dashed out of his head, and his brains coming out of his nose, his tongue hanging out at his mouth, and the blood running out at his ears : Being taken up and brought into the Court-house, the place where he had been active in sentencing the innocent to death, his blood ran through the floor, exhibiting to the spectators a shocking instance of the Divine vengeance against a daring and hardened persecutor; that made a fearful example of that divine judgment, which, when forewarned of, he had openly despised, and treated with disdain."

D. O. M: SACER

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RICHARDUS HIC DORMIT MATHERUS. (SED NEC TOTUS NEC NORA DIUTURNA) LÆTATUS GENUISSE PARES. INCERTUM EST UTRUM DOCTIORAN MELIOR. ANIMUM & GLORIA NON QUEUNT HUMARI. DIUINELY RICH & LEARNED RICHARD MATHER : SONS LIKE HIM PROPHETS GREAT REIOICD THIS FATHER SHORT TIME HIS SLEEPING DU'ST HERES COUERD DOWN NOT HIS ASCENDED SPIRIT OR RINOWN. U. D. M IN ANG. 16 ANS. IN DORC: N. A. 34 ANS. OET. APR. 22, 1669. ÆT:SUÆ 73.

Richard Mather, son of Thomas and Margaret Mather, was born at Lowton, Parish of Winwick, Lancashire, England, in 1596.

When only fifteen years of age, he had made such progress in his studies that he was entrusted with the care of a public school at Toxteth Park, near Liverpool. During the seven years which he devoted to school-teaching, he fitted several young men for Oxford, and finally went to the University himself, and was entered a student at Brazen Nose College, May 9, 1618. He had been there but a few months, when in response to an invitation from his old friends at Toxteth, he became their pastor. He preached his first sermon, Nov. 30, 1618.

In 1626 he married Catherine, daughter of Edmund Holt.

He was suspended from his ministry in Aug., 1633, for non conformity to the rules of the established church. Having been restored the following November, he was again suspended the next year, this time for not wearing the surplice.

In quest of that religious freedom which was denied him in the land of his birth, he came to New England, in 1635. On the 25th of October, of that year, he and his wife became members of the Church in Boston. Soon after this, he received three almost simultaneous invitations to settle as minister in as many different towns, Plymonth, Roxbury and Dorchester. By the advice of John Cotton and others of his friends, he went to Dorchester, and was made teacher of the first church there, Aug. 23, 1636.

In 1639, assisted by Thomas Welde and John Eliot, of Roxbury, he made the New England Version of the Psalms.

His wife died in 1655, and he married in less than a year after, Sarah the widow of John Cotton.

He had six sons, all by his first wife, the first four of whom were born in England; the others in Dorchester. They were as follows :

Samuel, born May 13, 1626; came to this country with his father; graduated at Harvard College, 1643; was made first fellow of the university, and such was the esteem in which he was held by the students, that when he left them they wore mourning; preached sometime at Rowley as assistant to Mr. Rogers, and afterwards had charge of the North Church, in Boston for one winter; in 1650, returned to England and became chaplain of Magdalen College; was senior fellow of Trinity College, and minister of the Church of St. Nicholas, in Dublin; soon after the restoration, was unjustly suspended on a charge of sedition, and returning to England, preached at Burton Wood, till ejected by the Bartholemew Act, 1662 : from this time until his death, preached before a church, gathered at his own house.

Timothy.

Nathaniel, born at Lancaster, Mar. 20, 1630; graduated at Harvard College, 1647. After his return to England, Oliver Cromwell, in 1656, presented him with a living at Barnstaple. After the restoration he was ejected from his ministry. He died in London, July 26, 1697, after preaching forty-seven years in England, Ireland and Holland.

Joseph.

Eleazar, born May 13, 1637; gradnated at Harvard, 1656; ordained minister of Northampton, Mass., June 23, 1661, and died July 24. 1669; married a daughter of John Warham, sometime minister of Dorchester, and afterwards of Windsor, Connecticut.

Increase, born June 21, 1639; graduated, H. C., 1656; ordained as minister of the North church in Boston, May 27, 1669; was President of Harvard University, from 1685 to 1701, when he resigned: was agent in the Mother Country for procuring a new charter, which he obtained from William and Mary, m 1691; married Maria, daughter of John Cotton; was the author of about a hundred printed books.

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YE.EPITAPH.OF, WILLIAM, POLE, WHICH, HEE, HEMSELF MADE, WHILE, HE, WAS, YET, LIUING, IN, REMEMBRANCE, OF HIS, OWN, DEATH, & LEFT, IT, TO, BE, INGRAVEN, ON, HIS TOME, Yr, SO, BEING, DEAD, HE, MIGHT, WARN, POSTERITY OR, A. RESEMBLANCE, OF, A. DEAD, MAN, BESPEAKING, YE, READER HO, PASSENGER, TIS, WORTH, THY, PAINES, TOO, STAY &, TAKE, A. DEAD, MANS, LESSON, BY, YE, WAY I, WAS, WHAT, NOW, THOU, ART, &, THOUSHALT, BE WHAT, I, AM, NOW, WHAT, ODDS, TWHX, ME, &, THEE NOW, GO, THY, WAY, BUT, STAY, TAKE, ONE, WORD, MORE THY, STAF, FOR, OUGHT, THOU, KNOWEST, STANDS, NEXT, YE, DORE DEATHLIS, YE, DORE, YEA, DORE, OF, HEAVEN, OR, MELL EE, WARND, BE, ARMED, BELLUE, REFENT, FAREWELL

A tablet on the side of his tomb has the following :---

HERE.LIETH.BURIED.YE.BODY.OF MR.WILLIAM.POOLE.AGED.81.YEARS WIIO.DIED.YE.25TH.OF.FEBRUARY.IN YE.YERE.1674. William Poole acted as Town Clerk of Dorchester, upwards of forty years. He also taught school for some time.

Ebenezer Clapp, Esq., the author of a History of Dorchester, has in his possession the original "account and memorandum book of Elder Saml. Clap, the oldest son of Capt. Roger Clap."

We have kindly been permitted by the owner to transcribe from it, the two following versions of this same epitaph, both of which were also written by Pole himself.

"Mr William Pole his epitaph made by his owne hand who died, the. 24. of the. 12. mo : 1674.

"Hoe earths Inhabitant : its worth thy ftay to take a dead mans leffon by the way I was, what now thou art ; and thou fhalt bee what I am now : thy felf, behold in mee Death will be greuious when thon com'st to dy the way to eafe it, is to learne to dy sin is the sting of death :* dy firft to fin, and death no hurt can doe now goe thy way ; but ftay : take one word more thy ftaff for ought thou know'st, ftands next the dore death is the dore, yea dore of huau'n or hell be warn'd, be arm'd, belecue, repent, farewell.

W : P:

Hoe pafsenger : tis worth thy pains to ftay and take a dead mans lefson by the way time was I was what now thou art, and thou another day fhalt bee what I am now now goe thy way : but ftay, take one word more thy Stafe for ought thou know'st ftands next the dore death is the dore, yea dore of heauen or hell be warn'd : be arm'd : beleefe : repent. fare well

W. P."

The Puritans are dead ! One venerable head Pillows below, His grave is with ns seen 'Neath Summer's georgeous green And Autumn's golden sheen And Winter's snow,

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^{*} The manuscript is here illegible.

In Memory of

DEA. NICHOLAS CLAP,

one of the early settlers of Dorchester.

He came to New England about 1633, and died Nov. 24, 1679; aged 67 years. His descendants, to whom he left the best of all patrimony, the example of a benevolent industrious and christian life; erect this stone to his memory 170 years

after his decease.

His Piety,

His constancy in virtue and in truth,
These on tradition s tongue shall live; the∞ shall
From Sire to Son be handed down
To latest time.

THE

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INGENIOUS Mathematician & printer Mr. JOHN FOSTER, AGED 33 YEARS DYED SEPTR. 9TH 1681

April, 1 6 8 1 .

I. M. Astra Colis Vivens Moriens, super Aethera Foster,

J. F. Scande, precor; Coelum, Metiri disce supremum. Metior, atque meum est: Emit mihi dives. Iesus: Nec teneor Quicquam, nisi Grates, solverc-

(Upon the foot-stone,)

MR. JOHN FOSTER

Ars ILLI SUA CENSUS ERAT-

-0r19'

Skill was his cash.

Hopestill Foster came from England in the Elizabeth, William Stagg Master. He arrived at Boston in 1635, at the age of fourteen. Among his twenty-seven fellow-passengers was Mary Bates, a young woman three years his senior, whom he afterwards married. John, their second son, was baptized Dec. 10, 1648. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1667.

Prior to 1674, there had been but one printing-press in N. E., that at Cambridge, controlled by the University, but in that year, it was granted by the General Court, that one might be set up elsewhere, and accordingly John Foster was made "Comptroller" of one established at Boston. Although he had charge of this press, he was not himself a practical printer.

Thomas, in his history of the Art of Printing, says that the earliest book emanating from his press, which he has seen, bears the date, 1676 : the latest, 1680.

A pamphlet by John Eliot, entitled "A brief Answer to a small Book written by John Norcot, against Infant Baptism," etc., with Foster's imprint as follows, "Boston, Printed by John Foster, 1679," recently brought two hundred and fifty dollars, one of which, that of 1681, at an auction in New York City.

He calculated and published several almanacs, annexed to that of 1681, was a "Dissertation on Comets," from his own pen.

He was the designer of the arms of Massachusetts. In 1679 he became a member of the Artillery Company.

The following English version of his epitaph, is given by Thomas. Thou, O Foster, who on earth did'st study the heavenly bodies, now ascend above the firmanent, and survey the highest heaven. I do survey and inhabit this divine region. To its possession I am admitted through the grace of Jesus : and to pay the debt of gratitude, I hold the most sacred obligation.

> Here lyes interred ye body Of Mr. James Humfrey, hereto-fore One of ye Ruling Elders of Dorchester : Who departed this life ye 12th. of May 1686 ; in ye 78th, year of his age.

I nclos'd within this Shrine is Precious Dust,

A nd only waits for th' Rising of the Just.

A fit only walks left in Arring of the Andre, M ost usefull while he Livid Adom'd his station, E ven to old Age serv'd his Generation: S ince his Decease tho't of with Veneration.

II ow great a Blessing this Ruling Elder he, U nto this CHURCH & TOWN & PASTONS THRE? M ATHER he first did by him Help receive, F LINT he did next his Burthen much relieue : R enowned DANFORTH, did he Assist with Skill, E steemed High by All: Bear Fruit until Y ielding to Death his Glorious Seat did Fill,

James Humphrey was admitted freeman at Dorchester, 1645. In his will be expressed a wish to be buried in the same tomb with his friend Richard Mather, but, as the tomb was not sufficiently large to receive another body, he was interred near by.

GULIELMUS STOUGHTONUS ARMIGER. Provinciae Mafsachusettensis In Nova Anglia Legatus, deinde Gubernator ; Nec-non Curiæ in eadem Provincia Superioris Justiciarius Capitalis, Hie Iacet. Vir Conjugij Nescius, Religione Sanctus, Virtute Clarus, Doctrina Celebris, Ingenio Acutus, Sangnine & Animo pariter Illustris, Æquitatis Amator, Legum Propugnator, Collegij Stoughtoniani Fundator. Literarum & Literatorum Fautor Celeberrimus, Impietatis & Vitij Hostis Acerrimus. Hune Rhetores amant Facundum, Hunc Scriptores norunt Elegantem, Hune Philosophi quærunt Sapientem, Hune Pij Venerantur Austerum, Hune Omnes Mirantur; Omnibus Ignotum, Omnibus Licet Notum. Quid Plura Viator ! Quem perdidimus Stoughtonum ! Heu ! Satis dixi Urgent Lachrymae, Sileo. Vixit Annos Septuagenta; Septimo die Julij Anno Salutis 1701 Cecidit. Heu! Heu! Qualis Luctus!

A tablet on the side of the tomb reads as follows :—

STOUGHTON MONUMENT REPAIRED BY HARVARD COLLEGE MDCCCXXVIII,

William Stoughton, son of Col. Israel Stoughton, who commanded the Massachusetts Troops in the Pequot War, graduated at Harvard in 1650, and went to England where he became a fellow of New College, Oxford. After preaching in Sussex County, he returned to New England. In 1671, he was made assistant, and held the same office several times subsequently.

He was Author of the Election Sermon of 1668, the best ever preached in Massachusetts.

In 1677 he sailed again for the Old Country, as agent of Massachusetts Colony.

In 1687 he was one of Sir Edmund Andros' Council. He was Lieut. Governor of Mass. from 1694 to 1699, and from 1700 to 1702, occupying the gubernatorial chair during a portion of toe time.

He was commander-in-chief five years, beginning 1694. He was a liberal benefactor of Harvard College, and Stoughton Hall was built at his expense in 1698. Among other bequests to the same institution, was property, the income of which was to be applied to the education of students from Dorchester.

In 1692, as judge, he tried several witches. To show in what esteem Savage held him, we quote from Mr. Drakes "Annals of Witcheraft" as follows :—

"A cotemporary says he is sure that most of the charges in those indictments 'would be better laid against the judges in the Oyer and Terminer' for that these judges served if they did not worship the Devil, and took him to be their God, whether they signed his book or not. Had that book been brought into court, as it ought to have been, or the Government called on to show, at least, what means they had used to get the precious record to the open view of the jury, the name of William Stoughton, and more than one of his associate judges, I doubt not, as clearly as that of any of the accused, would have flared in the sapphire blaze." The following which is nearly a literal translation of this epitaph, is copied from Chapp's History of Dorchester.

> Here lies WILLIAM STOUGHTON, ESQUIRE Lieutenant, afterwards Governor Of the Province of Massachusetts in New England, AlsoChief Judge of the Superior Court In the same Province. A man to Wedlock unknown, Devout in Religion, Renowned for Virtue, Famous for Erudition, Acute in Judgement, Equally illustrious by Kindred and Spirit, A lover of Equity, A defender of the Laws, Founder of Stoughton Hall, A most Distinguished Patron of Letters and Literary Men, A most Strenuous Opponent of Impiety and Vice. Rhetoricians delight in him as Eloquent, Writers are acquainted with him as Elegant, Philosophers seek him as Wise Doctors honor him as a Theologian, The Devoted revere him as Grave, All admire him ! unknown by all, Yet known to All. What need of more Traveller? Whom have we lost ! Stoughton ! Alas ! I have said sufficient ; tears press, I keep silence. He lived seventy years; On the seventh of July, in the year of Safety 1701, He Died. Alas ! Alas ! What Grief !

15

HERE LYES Ye BODY OF MIRIAM WOOD FORMERLY WIFE TO JOHN SMITH AGED 73 YEARS DIED OCTOBEY Ye 19th. 1706

A Woman well belov'd of all her neighbours; for her care of fmall Folks education; their number being great, that when fhe dy'd fhe fearcely left her mate. So Wife, Difereet, was her behaviours that fhe was Well esteem'd by neighbours. She liv'd in love with all to dye. so let her reft to Eternaty.

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This grave was dug and finished in the year 1833, by Daniel Davenport when he had been Sexton In Dorchester, twenty seven years, had attended 1135 funerals and dug 734 graves.

As Sexton, with my spade 1 learned, To delve beneath the sod, Where body to the earth returned, But spirit to its God. Years twenty-seven this toil 1 bore, And midst deaths oft was spared; Seven hundred graves and thirty-four 1 dug, then mine prepared.

.

And when, at last, 1 too must die. Some else the bell will toll ; As here my mortal relies lie, May heaven receive my sonl. He died December 24, 1860, aged 87 years 6 mos. 19 days. He buried from March 3, 1806 to May 12, 1852 One thousand eight hundred & thirty-seven Persons.

William Davenport, a son of Daniel, was also a sexton. He died in his fortieth year, after having buried twelve hundred and sixtyseven persons.

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GEORGE HOWARD CLARK, died at Falmouth, Va. Feb. 15, 1862, aged 30 years, 9 months, 9 days. Member of 11th Regt. Co. K. Mass. Vol.

Gone, but not forgotten.

PRO PATRIA

to the memory of BENJAMIN STONE, JR. captain of Dorchester co. κ. 11th. Reg't. Mass. vols. who after sixteen months of ardnous service, was wounded at the second Bull Run battle, and died at washington sept. 10, 1862, in the 45th. year of his age, this tablet is erected by his sorrowing townsmen.

As a citizen, respected and beloved through life. Lamented in his early death as a self-devoted patriot-soldier.

"I have been upheld through all this pain and suffering by that ever kind God and tender Father, whom you always taught me to love and venerate."

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WHLLIAM EDWARD BLAKE, pied at Falmouth, va. Dec. 21, 1862, aged 20 years, 1 month, 13 days. Member of the 11th. Regt. co. K. Mass. vol.

He is not dead, but sleepeth.

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Sergeant HARRISON GLOVER, of Co. G. 56th. Mass. Regi. son of Thomas O. and Elizabeth B. Glover, wounded before Petersburg, Virginia, died in Hospital on David's Island, New York Harbor, August 31, 1864, aged 20 years.

In the midst of Life we are in Death.

-0-

She bent her steps at twilights peaceful hour To worship God, and his rich grace implore; A higher boon than that she sought was given, The gate she entered proved the gate of Heaven : Scarce had her willing feet the threshold prest Ere she was summoned to ker final rest.

> Her hands left the Bible wide open, To tell us the road she had trod, With way-marks like footsteps to tell us The path she had gone up to God.

Lively I walked lifes journey through Till I arrived at Eighty-two; Then calm descended here to rest In hopes to be forever blest.

-0-

Serene I walked life's journey or'r Till I arriv'd at eighty-four Then calm descended here to rest In hopes to be forever blest.

> How very flew like me survive And reach the age of eighty-flye; Long time I trod this vale of tears, Till bending with a weight of years; I calaly smik into the grave, Trusting almighty power to save.

> > -0----

On the 21st of March God's angels made a strehe Around the dove they stood; They took a maid It is said; And cut her down like wood.

In "Gleanings from the Curious," the above epitaph is said to be from this cemetery. Although uo such inscription now exists in the yard, it is not unlikely that at one time it was to be found there.

SACRED

To the Memory of

* * * Affliction sore long time she bore, Physicians were in vain. Till God did please that death should seize, And ease her of her pain.

a

Also of MARY E. ROBINSON grand daughter of the above.

"She looked well to the ways of her household, And ate not the bread of idleness,"

Proverbs 31st, 27.

"An honest man's the noblest work of God,"

For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight; His can't be wrong whose life is in the right.

Blest are the dead that die in the Lord. According to his holey word.

My husband has left a wife to mourn his loss. Jesus wept.

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N. B.-She was formerly the wife of Mr. John Capen.

A stranger to offence and inward storm.

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"She_hath_done what_she_could."

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