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# HISTORY

OF THE

## TOWN OF MASON, N. H.

FROM

### THE FIRST GRANT

IN 1749, TO THE YEAR 1858.

BY

JOHN B. HILL.

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## P R E F A C E .

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It has been my object in the preparation of this work, to exhibit all the steps in progress, by which a New England town and church are built up and constituted, from the earliest beginnings to their full establishment in independent existence and power. These institutions are, both in church and state, the purest and most absolute democracies the world has ever seen. They are the genuine out-growth, the ripened fruit of the puritan development in England. Their basis is a perfect equality of rights, without a shadow or trace of aristocracy. Free use has been made for this purpose of whatever has been found in the annals of the proprietary, the town and the churches, worthy of note, as illustrating the incidents, manners, and character of the age and people. The mode adopted has been as far as practicable, to exhibit the actors in full life, and let them tell their own story, in their own words.

The proprietary, the municipal, and the ecclesiastical history of the first half century of their existence, occupy a large share of the work, both on account of the greater interest of the incidents, and because the facts of that period are fast passing away from all living memory, into the region of dim and shadowy tradition, illuminated only by a few imperfect records, which, in themselves, are liable by daily impending accidents, totally to perish. For this part of the work, the authorities principally relied on, have been the proprietary, the town and the church records, all of which, are in good preservation, and more perfect than will in most cases be found; and all these records have been carefully searched and examined, with a view to this work. The

records of deaths, marriages, family registers, and statistical tables, &c., are sufficiently explained in the chapters in which they are found. Most of the biographical sketches of persons recently deceased, have been furnished by other hands. The sketches of the village churches, and of the Christian church, are by the pastors of those churches.

Important aid has been derived from the History of New Ipswich, Butler's Groton, Shattuck's Concord, and the New England Genealogical and Historical Register. Dr. Thomas H. Marshall, and Mr. Charles P. Richardson, of Mason, and Mr. Frederic Kidder, and Mr. Lucius A. Elliot, of Boston, have rendered very important aid and encouragement, in the preparation of this work. My brother, the Rev. Joseph B. Hill, has contributed much to the value of the work, in the preparation of statistical tables, and of the list of early settlers.

J. B. HILL.

BANGOR, May 1, 1858.



# HISTORY OF MASON.

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## CHAPTER I.

Captain John Mason ; Grants to him of Lands in New Hampshire ; Settlements commenced by him ; Controversies with Massachusetts respecting the title and jurisdiction ; how settled ; Title vested in the Masonian proprietors.

THE town of Mason is situated in the county of Hillsborough, in the State of New Hampshire. It lies upon the southern border of the State, about midway between the eastern and western extremities of its southern boundary. On the south it bounds upon Townsend and Ashby, on the west upon New Ipswich, on the north upon Temple and Wilton and on the east upon Milford and Brookline. It is in that portion of the State of New Hampshire which was granted by the council of Plymouth in 1621 to Capt. John Mason. As the town derives its name from that gentleman, and the title to the soil therein is in fact derived and claimed under this grant to him, and sundry subsequent grants in confirmation thereof, and as the State is also indebted to him for its name, it being derived from that of the county of Hampshire, in England, of whose principal town, Portsmouth, Mason was at one time governor, a brief sketch of his life and of the titles granted to him, and of the various and long-continued controversies to which the uncertain and indefinite descriptions of the boundaries of the original and subsequent grants gave rise, and of the manner in which they were finally set-

ted, will not be deemed an inappropriate introduction to these memorials of the place and its people. For the facts stated, the authority mainly relied on, is Belknap's history of New Hampshire.

CAPT. JOHN MASON was born in Lynn Regis in the county of Norfolk in England. Of his parentage and early life little is known. The year of his birth is not stated by the historians. It must have been not far from the year 1570, in the midst of the stirring times of Queen Elizabeth. His first engagement in active life, was as a merchant in London. Afterwards he entered the naval service, and served as an officer in the fleet in the war between Spain and the Dutch republics. After the peace of 1609, by which the independence of Holland was secured, he was appointed Governor of Newfoundland. This island was discovered by Sebastian Cabot in 1497. It was taken possession of, in the name of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, August 5th, 1583. The fisheries upon the banks became, at an early period, an important business, the tendency of which was to foster and promote voyages of discovery to the continent. At the time Mason was appointed its governor, this island was one of the most valuable English possessions in North America. In this post he remained long enough to become acquainted with the country; and he formed so high an opinion of its future destiny, as to induce in him a willingness to adventure his fortune in advancing its settlement. This led him on his return to England, into a close intimacy with those who were engaged in discoveries in the new world. He was, after his return, appointed Governor of the town of Plymouth, in the county of Hampshire; and upon a vacancy happening in the council of Plymouth, he was elected a member of that body, and was chosen their secretary. He was thus placed in the front rank of those who were actively engaged in promoting discoveries and encouraging settlements in North America. He gave to these enterprises, not only his countenance and advice, but he was willing to embark his fortunes in the bus-

iness, and to devote to it his time and means. With that intent he procured from the council of Plymouth, in March, 1621, a grant of "all the lands from the river Naumkeag," now Salem, "round Cape Ann to the river Merrimack, and up each of those rivers to the farthest heads thereof, then to cross over from the head of one to the head of the other, with all the islands lying within three miles of the coast." This district was called Marianna. This was the first territorial grant made by the Plymouth council. It bears date March 9, 1621. Those to Plymouth colony are dated in 1621 and 1623; that to Massachusetts, March 19, 1627, all subsequent to Mason's. Of these last, each was granted to a company or association, or to an individual in trust for a company. Mason undertook his enterprise alone and single handed. No individual can be found, who exhibited more courage and perseverance in the cause, or more confidence in its ultimate success, or who expended his means with a more liberal hand, or in larger amount, in promoting the settlement of the country.

In 1622, another grant was made to Gorges and Mason jointly, "of all the lands between the rivers Merrimack and Sagadahock, extending back to the great lakes and river of Canada," and this was called Laconia. The points of commencement of the first of these grants were wholly within what is now Massachusetts. The territory included is partly in New Hampshire and partly in Massachusetts. The second grant included a large part of New Hampshire, a portion of Maine and of Canada. The knowledge then possessed of the country, and of the courses of the rivers, was imperfect and uncertain, and consequently, these boundaries were found to be uncertain and indefinite. Settlements were by Mason attempted to be made, at a place called Little Harbor, in Portsmouth, where salt works were erected; and a house called Mason Hall, was built at Dover. In 1629, he procured a patent under the common seal of the council of Plymouth, for the land "from the middle of Piscataqua river, and up the

same, to the farthest head thereof, and from thence northward, until sixty miles from the mouth of the harbor were finished; also, through Merrimack river, to the farthest head thereof, and so forward up into the land westward, until sixty miles were finished, and from thence to cross over land to the end of sixty miles, accounted from Piscataqua river, together with all the islands within five miles of the coast." This tract was called New Hampshire, a name derived from that of the county of Hampshire, in England, of whose principal town, Portsmouth, Mason was governor. Under this charter the towns of Portsmouth, and Northam, afterwards called Dover, Hampton, and Exeter were laid out.

The attempts at settlement were not prosperous. The views of those engaged in the enterprise, were chiefly turned to the discovery of lakes and mines, the cultivation of grapes and the advantages of trade and fishery. Little regard was had to agriculture. They often complained of their expenses, and might with reason, for they had not only to pay wages to their colonists, but to supply them with provisions, clothing, utensils, medicines, articles of trade, implements for building, husbandry and fishery, and to stock their plantations with cattle, swine and goats. Bread corn was either brought from England in meal, or from Virginia in grain, and then sent to the windmill at Boston to be ground. Very little improvement was made on the lands, the lakes were not explored, the vines planted came to nothing, no mines were found but those of iron, and those were not wrought; three or four houses only, were built in the first seven years; the peltry trade with the Indians was of some value, and the fishery served towards the support of the inhabitants, but yielded no profit to the adventurers, who received but inadequate returns in lumber and fish. They, seeing their interests sinking and withering away, grew dispirited, and the greater part of them either abandoned the enterprise, or sold their shares to Gorges and Mason, who were more sanguine than the rest, and who thus became either by purchase or by tacit consent of the others, the

principal, if not the sole proprietors. They prosecuted the settlement with zeal, but met with many hindrances, among which were claims made by the Virginia company to have their charter revoked. Mason finally succeeded in procuring a new charter in 1635, extending from Naumkeag to Piscataqua, and sixty miles northward within land. He did not long survive the issuing of this patent. He died Nov. 16th, 1635. In his will, he disposed of his immense estate, as follows: To the corporation of Lynn Regis in Norfolk, the place of his nativity, he gave two thousand acres of land in New Hampshire, subject to the yearly rent of one penny per acre to his heirs, and two-fifths of all mines royal, on condition that five families should within five years be settled thereupon. To his brother-in-law, John Wollaston, three thousand acres, subject to a yearly rent of one shilling. To his grandchild, Ann Tufton, ten thousand acres at Sagadahock. To Robert Tufton, his grandson, he gave his manor of Mason Hall, on condition that he should take the surname of Mason. He also gave his brother Wollaston in trust one thousand acres for the maintenance of "an honest, godly and religious preacher of God's word," and one thousand acres more for the support of a grammar school; each of these estates to be conveyed to feoffees in trust, and their successors, paying annually one penny per acre to his heirs. The residue of his estate in New Hampshire, he gave to his grandson John Tufton, he taking the surname of Mason, and to his lawful issue; or, in want thereof, to Dr. Robert Mason, Chancellor of the Diocese of Winchester, and his lawful issue, and to his own and other right heirs, forever; provided that it should not go out of the name of Mason. The residuary legatee was required to pay five hundred pounds out of the estate to his sister Mary, and all the grandchildren were to relinquish their right to one thousand pounds due from the estate to their father, Joseph Tufton. The estate in America was valued in the inventory, at ten thousand pounds sterling. It is under this will, that the title to the soil of the town of Mason is

derived; and it is not a little remarkable, that so far as is now known, this town is the only representative of the name of Capt. John Mason in the State.

The little legacy of five hundred pounds given by the will to the sister of John Tufton, would, if put and kept at interest and compounded, from the year 1635, when the testator died, up to the present time, 1858, amount to a greater sum than the total inventory and valuation of the real and personal property of the whole State of New Hampshire at the last valuation. Let those who doubt it try the figures, and let all who are paying interest for money borrowed or sums due, learn that unless the business or investment in which it is employed, is yielding more than six per cent. per annum, they must be sadly going behind hand.

It will be seen that Capt. Mason was particularly solicitous to perpetuate his name by attaching it to the ownership of his land in New Hampshire. He bestows it finally upon his "right heirs forever, provided it shall not go out of the name of Mason"; but of all his vast estate, it is not probable that a single acre is now owned by any of his descendants, or that his name is now connected with any portion of the territory, except that of this town.

In 1638, after the death of Capt. Mason, his widow and executrix, Mrs. Anne Mason, sent over Francis Norton as her "general attorney," to whom she committed the whole management of the estate. But the expense so far exceeded the income, and the servants grew so impatient for their arrears, that she was obliged to relinquish the care of the plantation, and tell the servants they must shift for themselves; upon which they shared the goods and cattle. Norton drove above one hundred oxen to Boston, and there sold them for twenty-five pounds sterling per head, which it is said was the current price of the best cattle in New England at that time. These were of a large breed imported from Denmark, from whence Mason had also procured a number of men skilled in sawing plank and making potashes. These Danes were the pioneers

of the great lumber business, which has engrossed so much of the capital and enterprise of New Hampshire and Maine. Having shared the stock and other materials, some of the people quitted the plantation; others of them tarried, keeping possession of the buildings and improvements, which they claimed as their own. The houses at Newichwannock were destroyed by fire, and thus Mason's estate was ruined. These events happened between 1638 and 1644.

Lumber and the fisheries seem to have been the great objects in view in Mason's enterprise. These branches of business, though important in connection with other pursuits, form too narrow a basis for the foundation of a commonwealth. Persons who engaged in these employments, in those early times, did not possess that persevering industry and frugality required for the successful building up of a state. The character and manners of the fishermen of that day, are most vividly and happily painted in the following extract from Josselyn's two voyages, in Thornton's Ancient Pemaquid. The lumbermen would present a companion picture. Mr. Thornton says:—"Josselyn, who left Black Point for England in the summer of 1671, describes the people of Maine after several years' residence among them. He classifies them as "Magistrates, Husbandmen or Planters, and Fishermen; of the Magistrates some be Royalists, the rest perverse Spirits, the like are the planters and fishers, of which some be planters and fishers both, others mere fishers; there are but few handcraftsmen, and no shopkeepers; English goods being kept by the Massachusetts merchants, here and there, on the coast, at a profit of cent. per cent., in exchange for fish." "They have a custom of taking Tobacco, sleeping at noon, sitting long at meals, sometimes four times in a day, and now and then drinking a dram of the bottle extraordinarily; the smoaking of Tobacco, if moderately used refresheth the weary very much, and so doth sleep"! The fisherman of that day he paints to the life. He says, "to every Shallop belong four fishermen, a Master or steersman, a midshipman, and a Foremastman, and a shoreman

who washes it out of the salt, and dries it upon hurdles pitch upon stakes breast high and tends their Cookery; these often get in one voyage Eight or Nine pound a man for their shares, but it doth some of them but little good," for there comes in "a walking Tavern, a Bark laden with the Legitimate blood of the rich grape"; "the conclusion of which is the costly sin of drunkenness." *Thornton's Ancient Pemaquid. See Col. Maine Hist. Society, Vol. 5. pp. 234, 235.*

If such was the character of Mason's planters and servants, no one can be surprised that his enterprise, though prosecuted with all his energy and perseverance, should prove to be a failure.

The character and objects and results of Mason's efforts, are with much truth and pertinency thus summed up in Barstow's History of New Hampshire:—"In the midst of his fond anticipations of better fortune, Captain Mason was removed by death. This happened near the close of the year. (1635.) He had accomplished none of the great purposes for which he came to this wilderness world. He embarked with vast expectations of boundless wealth and grandeur. \* \* Golden visions hovered round him to the last, in spite of the light of experience. He had no religious views in the purchase and settlement of New Hampshire. His whole energies were absorbed in the discovery of wealth, and the aggrandizement of himself and his family. His darling scheme was the introduction of the feudal system into New Hampshire; by which his family were to be the lords, and the people tenants of the soil. For this he labored; for this he sacrificed his all; still dreaming of the profits of discovery, and the glory of founding a state. But though a dreamer, he was at the same time a man of action. \* \* Nothing daunted him. Nothing deterred him. Though adversity might cloud his prospects, it never depressed his spirits. The frustration of his efforts and the frequent wreck of his hopes only seemed to display the indestructible vigor of his mind. Amidst disappointment and discouragement he



continued to attempt the foundation of a feudal empire, until death interrupted his toils and left him only a reputation for attempting impossible things. \* \* \*

Well was it for posterity that the unnatural eyes of Adventure, alone, could discern mineral wealth in the hills of New Hampshire. Fortunate was it that the soil was, for the most part, reserved for men who should settle upon it with no chimerical and vain hopes of treasure; but men viewing human life and society in a true light—not building the castles of avarice; but living by their industry—expecting only the rain and dew upon the seed they had sown—hoping for health and competence—and laying the only sure foundation for a great and flourishing country in intelligence and public virtue—good schools, good morals, government, and sober industry. These are the strength of a state.”

[*Barstow's New Hampshire*, pp. 33,—37.]

The inhabitants of these towns finding it difficult to maintain any stable government, were with their consent, received into the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, about the years 1641, '42. The union continued about forty years. This extension of the colony's jurisdiction could not fail of being noticed by the heirs of Mason; but the distractions caused by the civil wars in England, were invincible bars to any legal inquiry. The first heir named in Mason's will dying in infancy, the estate descended after the death of the executrix, to Robert Tufton, who was not of age till 1650. In two years after this, Joseph Mason came over as agent for the executrix, to look after the interests of her deceased husband. He found the land at Newichwannock occupied by Richard Leader, against whom he brought actions in the county of Norfolk, a county which then included the northeasterly part of Massachusetts and the New Hampshire towns. A dispute arose whether the lands in question were within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts, and the court of Norfolk judging the action not to be within their cognizance, recourse was had to the general court at Boston, which on this occasion ordered an

accurate survey of the northern bounds of their patent to be made. A committee of the general court, attended by John Sherman and Jonathan Ince, surveyors, and several Indian guides, went up the river Merrimack, to find the most northerly part thereof, which the Indians told them was at Acquedochtan, the outlet of the lake Winnipiseogee. The latitude of that place was found to be  $43^{\circ} 40' 12''$ , to which three miles being added, made the line of the patent, according to their construction, fall within the lake, in latitude  $43^{\circ} 43' 12''$ . The same latitude was marked on an island in Casco bay, and an imaginary line drawn through these points from the Atlantic ocean to the South-sea, as the Pacific ocean was then called, was supposed to be the northern boundary of Massachusetts. This line included the whole of Mason's claim by his last patent. The committee of the general court to establish the line, were Capt. Edward Johnson, author of the History of New England, and Capt. Simon Willard, afterwards an assistant and a commander of a portion of the Massachusetts forces, in the Indian war of 1675. The expedition took up nineteen days in the months of July and August, and the whole expense was not less than eighty-four pounds. The following is a copy of the report of the surveyors:

“The answer of John Sherman, Sergeant at Watertown, and Jonathan Ince, Student at Harvard College in Cambridge, to Capt. Simon Willard and Capt. Edward Johnson, Commissioners of the General Court, held at Boston, May 17, 1652, concerning the latitude of the northernmost part of Merrimack river.

Whereas we, John Sherman and Jonathan Ince, were procured by the aforesaid Commissioners to take the latitude of the place above named, our answer is, that at Aquedahcan, the name of the head of Merrimack, where it issues out of the lake Winnapusseahit, upon the first of August, one thousand six hundred and fifty-two, we observed and by observation found, that the latitude of the place was forty-three

degrees forty minutes and twelve seconds, besides those minutes that are to be allowed for three miles more north w<sup>ch</sup> run into the Lake.

In witness whereof, wee have subscribed our names, this nineteenth of October, one thousand six hundred and fifty-two.

JOHN SHERMAN,

JONATHAN INCE,

Jur. coram me,            *JOH. ENDECOTT, Gubr.*"

Having settled this matter, the Court were of the opinion that some lands by agreement of Gorges, and by purchase of the Indians, and by possession and improvements, were properly claimed by Mason, and they ordered a quantity proportionable to his disbursements, with a privilege of the river, to be laid out to his heirs.

The agent, finding it hopeless to prosecute the claim any farther, left the country. During the Commonwealth and the Protectorate of Cromwell, there could be no hope of relief; as the family of Mason had always been attached to the royal cause. On the restoration of Charles II. Tufton, who had taken the surname of Mason, petitioned to the king for restoration of his rights. The petition was referred to Sir Geoffrey Palmer, the attorney general, who reported, that "Robert Mason the grandson and heir of Capt. John Mason had a good and legal title to the province of New Hampshire." Nothing effective was done to restore to him his rights. Edward Randolph who was a kinsman of Mason, was sent over with the king's letter to the government of Massachusetts, requiring them to send over agents within six months, to answer to the complaints which Mason and the heirs of Gorges had made, of their usurpation of jurisdiction over the territory claimed by them: all the answer he could get from Govenor Leverett and the council, was that "they would see about it." The matter was pursued in England. Lieut. Gov. Stoughton and Peter Bulkley, the speaker of the house of deputies, were sent to England in behalf of Massachusetts. The subject was referred to the judges. They reported that

they could give no opinion as to the right of the soil, the proper parties not being before them; that Mason had no right of government, none having been granted to him with the soil; and finally, that the four towns Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter and Hampton, were out of the bounds of Massachusetts. It was also admitted that the title could only be tried in the place, there being no court in England that had cognizance of it. It became necessary, therefore, to set up a new jurisdiction before Mason's title could be tried. It was done. Thus, in consequence of this controversy and claim, New Hampshire was separated from Massachusetts, and was again organized under a distinct and independent jurisdiction. Randolph was appointed governor. He was greatly and deservedly unpopular. The whole number of voters in his province was 209, all in the four towns of Portsmouth, Dover, Hampton and Exeter. In the first assembly, the whole number of Representatives was eleven: from Portsmouth, Dover and Hampton, three each, and Exeter two. Mason came over from England in the latter part of the year 1681. He had been appointed one of the council, and took his seat as such. He attempted to enforce his claims in a haughty and arbitrary manner. He met with a sturdy resistance on the part of the tenants, and by his hasty and injudicious proceedings, lost the countenance and support of the council. The controversy with the council prevailed to such length, that a warrant was issued for apprehending him, which he avoided by making his escape to England. Finding the government, which he had procured to be erected, was not likely to be administered in a manner favorable to his views, he made it his business to bring about a change, and procured Edward Cranfield to be appointed Lieut. Governor. To provide for his support, he surrendered one fifth part of his quit rents, to the king. These, and the fines and forfeitures, were appropriated for the governor's support. Not satisfied to rely on these alone, he took from Mason a mortgage on the whole province for twenty one years, to secure the payment of one

hundred and fifty pounds per annum, for seven years. On this encouragement, Cranfield relinquished a profitable office at home, with a view of bettering his fortunes by this arrangement.

His commission gave him almost absolute power. He commenced his rule in 1682. Mason was named in his commission as one of the council, and seems to have had a great share in the management of affairs. Suits were brought to enforce his claims. They were resisted. Nothing effectual was done to establish his title. When he succeeded in obtaining judgment, he was forcibly resisted in his attempts to get possession. Many of the tenants claimed under Indian deeds, which were then much regarded; others shew possession for from forty to sixty years, uninterrupted by any successful enforcement of his rights. In 1686 a purchase was made of the Indians, of a tract on both sides of the Merrimaek river, six miles in breadth, extending from Souhegan river to Winnipisseogee lake. The purchasers were Jonathan Tyng, Joseph Dudley, Charles Lidgat, John Usher, Edward Randolph, John Hubbard, Robert Thompson, Samuel Scrimpton, William Stoughton, Richard Warton, Thomas Hinchman, Thaddeus Maccarty, Edward Thompson, John Blackwell, Peter Bulkley, William Blathwayt, Daniel Cox and "three other persons, to be thereafter named and agreed upon." Mason, by deed, confirmed this purchase, reserving to himself and his heirs a yearly rent of ten shillings. This was called the million acre purchase. About the same time he farmed out to Hezekiah Usher and his heirs, the mines, minerals and ores within the limits of New Hampshire, for the term of one thousand years, reserving to himself one quarter part of the royal ores and one seventeenth of the baser sorts; and having put his affairs in the best order the times would admit, he sailed for England, to attend to the hearing of a case appealed against him to the king.

The appeal to the king was decided in his favor, and he returned in the spring of 1687, full of hope of realizing some-

thing out of his claims; but unexpected obstructions were in his way. The government, under Andros, was in the hands of a set of harpies, who could not look on without determining to come in for a share of his success. He succeeded in getting his case brought before the Supreme Court in Boston, but before he could get a decision he died at Esopus, N. Y., on a journey to Albany, where he had accompanied the governor, Sir Edmund Andros, leaving his sons, John and Robert, heirs of his claims and controversies. They sold their claim to Samuel Allen, of London, for seven hundred and fifty pounds. John Usher married Allen's daughter. He was a native of Boston, and by profession a stationer; was rich, was one of the partners in the million acre purchase, and had sanguine expectations of gain from that quarter; as also, probably, from the mines he had purchased of Mason. He was appointed lieutenant governor, and administered the affairs of the province. He resolved to enforce Allen's claims. He found that Pickering, the defendant's lawyer, had with a company of armed men, taken out of the hands of Chamberlain, the secretary and clerk, the records and papers relating to the Mason suits. After having recovered the papers, he seems to have made no effectual progress with the suits. In 1700, Allen took the matter in hand himself, but found, when the records were examined, that twenty-five leaves were missing, in which it is supposed the judgments recovered by Mason were recorded. No evidence appeared of his having obtained possession, and the whole work was to be gone over again. Suits were commenced anew. The jury found for the defendant. Allen claimed an appeal to the king, which the court would not allow, and he was compelled to apply to the king by petition, on which his appeal was granted. Allen appointed Usher to act for him in prosecuting his appeal, having previously mortgaged one half the province to him for £1,500. When the appeal came on for hearing, it appeared that no proof was produced to show that Mason was ever in possession, and therefore judgment was rendered against him, but

with the right to commence again in the courts in the province. New suits were commenced, ending as before, in judgment for the defendant and appeal by the plaintiff. Allen was now old and poor, and proposed a settlement by compromise, but before it was effected he died. His son, Thomas Allen, renewed the suits with the same result, judgment for the defendants and an appeal to the queen in council. Before the appeal was ready to be heard, Allen died in 1715. This put an end to the suit, which his heirs, being minors, did not renew.

When the sale was made by John and Robert Mason to Samuel Allen, in 1691, it took place in England, and by a fiction of law, the land was supposed to be in England and the conveyance was by fine and recovery in the king's bench. In this process the land was described as being in "New Hampshire, Maine, Masonia, Laconia, Mason Hall and Mariana in New England in America, in the parish of Greenwich;" a fiction of law by which a parish in England includes within its limits the principal part of two states of this Union. John Tufton Mason, the son of Robert Tufton Mason, after the death of his uncle and father, who were Allen's grantors, being advised that their conveyance to Allen could give him only an estate for their own lives, and that the recovery in the king's bench in England was void for want of jurisdiction, prepared to assert his claims, but died in Havana in 1718, where he had gone to procure means to carry on his suit. His son, John Tufton Mason, came of age about the year 1738. The controversy between the provinces about the southern boundary of New Hampshire, was at this time renewed and brought to a crisis. Massachusetts claimed that the line should run three miles east from the river to a point three miles north of the junction of the Pemigewasset and the Winnipisseogee river; thence due west till it should meet the boundaries of the other governments. The commissioners doubted whether this should be the line, or a line commencing three miles north of the mouth of Merrimack river and run-

ning due west till it should meet the other governments, and they referred the question to the king in council. While this controversy was pending, negotiations were entered into both on the part of Massachusetts and New Hampshire for the purchase of Mason's title. The agent of New Hampshire, Thomlinson, made an agreement with him for the purchase, on behalf of that province, of his whole interest, for one thousand pounds New England currency, but no legal assent to the purchase was made by the authorities of the province.

The question of boundary was settled not in accordance with either statement of the commissioners. The reason for departing from the letter of the grant was, that when it was made it was supposed, the country not having been explored, that the course of the Merrimack river was from west to east, and therefore that the dividing line would run nearly west, and that so far then, as the course of the river corresponded with that supposed state of facts, a line three miles north of it should be the dividing line, and then the line crossing the river should take a course due west; and such a line was finally adopted and established. Thomlinson was the agent for New Hampshire, and Thomas Hutchinson for Massachusetts. The line was run by George Mitchell, from the ocean to the station north of Pawtucket falls, at which point the due west line was to commence; and by Richard Hazen from that point to Connecticut river. They were directed to allow ten degrees for the westerly variation of the needle. The work was done in February and March, 1741. "This determination," says Belknap, vol. 1, p. 257, "exceeded the utmost expectation of New Hampshire, as it gave them a country fourteen miles in breadth and above fifty in length, more than they had ever claimed. It cut off from Massachusetts twenty-eight new townships, between Merrimack and Connecticut rivers, besides large tracts of vacant land, which lay intermixed, and districts from six of their old towns on the north side of the Merrimack, and if as was then supposed, the due west line were to extend to twenty miles east of Hudson's river,



the reputed boundary of New York, a vast tract of fertile country on the western side of Connecticut river was annexed to New Hampshire, by which an ample scope was given for landed speculation, and afterwards for cultivation and wealth."

The establishment of this line was undoubtedly a public benefit. It put to rest doubts and controversies about jurisdiction and ownership, which had seriously retarded the settlement of the country. But it occasioned in many places great heartburnings and trouble. It severed the ancient town of Dunstable into two parts, leaving them in different jurisdictions. The line passed through the town nearly in the centre, leaving the meeting-house a short distance on the New Hampshire side. This town had been granted by Massachusetts nearly eighty years, and had been more or less settled more than one hundred years before this time. It had always claimed and been considered to be within the limits of Massachusetts. This decision placed their meeting-house, their minister, their grave-yard, and a large portion of themselves in another jurisdiction, and threw an air of doubt and distrust upon the validity of the titles to the lands upon the New Hampshire side of the line. The effects were most disastrous upon their interests and institutions, both of town and church. The church was broken up. The minister withdrew and left the place. The meeting-house was abandoned, and for more than half a century the results of this disturbance of the municipal and church affairs in that place, were apparent. Hollis was then a part of Dunstable, a precinct or parish, and shared in the troubles of the mother town. Most of Brookline was then included in Hollis, and Pepperell was a part of Groton, which lost a portion of its territory by the new line. In Townsend, the complaints of the wrong done, were long and loud. At a legal town meeting held Oct. 6, 1740, in that town, John Stevens was chosen moderator. The proceedings of the meeting on this subject are recorded as follows: "Being informed that by the determination of his Majesty and Council respecting the controverted bounds

between the Province of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, now part of this township, is excluded from the Province of Massachusetts Bay, to which they supposed they always belonged; therefore voted, that a petition be preferred to the King's most excellent majesty, setting forth our most distressed circumstances, and praying that we may be annexed to the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and voted nemine contradicente, that Thomas Hutchinson, Esquire, of Boston, be and is hereby fully empowered to prefer a petition to his majesty, and to appear and fully to act for the proprietors and inhabitants in said town, respecting the subject: Also, voted that the aforesaid agent *shall have no demand on the town of Townsend for charges* in petitioning as aforesaid, separate from any other town in the Province; Also, voted, in case the said Thomas Hutchinson be not chosen by the major part of the towns, or if chosen, cannot engage in said affair, then Capt. John Stevens be fully empowered to join with other the towns of the Province in the choice of another agent to act in said affair, and that the aforesaid John Stevens have full power in behalf of said town to prepare and sign any petition to his majesty concerning said lines, as shall be necessary, and that he shall have forty shillings reward for his services in this affair." Town Records Vol. 1, p. 31. It does not appear that any remedy or recompense for the wrong done, resulted from these proceedings. But the good people of Townsend looked for and obtained a remedy nearer home. The general court granted to the town a tract of land as a compensation for lands cut off by the New Hampshire line, and at a town meeting in 1786, the selectmen were directed to make sale of the lands so granted.

The agreement made by Thomlinson with Mason for the sale of his title, to the Province of New Hampshire before mentioned, was lodged in the hands of the governor, and was by him laid before the house. It lay on their table a long time without any formal notice. In the meantime Mason had suffered a fine and recovery in the courts of New Hampshire,

by which he could convey his interest in fee. He sent in a memorial, stating that he would wait no longer, but consider inaction on their part a refusal, and intimations were given that if the agreement should not be ratified, a sale would be made to other persons, who stood ready to purchase. At length a resolution passed the house, that they would comply with the agreement and pay the price, and that the land should be granted by the general assembly, to the inhabitants, as they should think proper. A committee was appointed to complete the business with Mason, but he had on the same day, by a deed of sale for the sum of fifteen hundred pounds, conveyed his whole interest to twelve persons in fifteen shares. The purchasers were Theodore Atkinson three fifteenths, Mark H. Wentworth two fifteenths, Richard Wibird, John Wentworth, (son of the governor,) George Jaffrey, Nathaniel Meserve, Thomas Packer, Thomas Wallingford, Jotham Odiorne, Joshua Pierce, Samuel Moore and John Mofiatt one fifteenth each.

When it was found that the conveyance had been made, there was much dissatisfaction. Some attempts were made to negotiate with these purchasers for a conveyance to the Province, but without success. One obstacle in the way was, that the house would not make the purchase, unless with the stipulation that the land should be granted by the legislature; but the governor and council and the purchasers seem to have insisted, that it should be granted by the governor and council, and for that reason principally the negotiation failed.

In 1749 the purchasers took a second deed, comprehending all the Masonian grant from Naumkeag to Piscataqua; whereas their former deed, was confined to the lately established boundaries of New Hampshire. This deed was not recorded till 1753.

After they had taken the first deed, they began to grant townships, and continued granting them to petitioners, often without fees, and always without quit-rents. They quieted the titles in the towns on the western side of the Merrimack,

which had been granted by Massachusetts, before the establishment of the line, so that they could go on peaceably with their settlements. The terms of these grants were, that the grantees should within a limited time, erect mills and meeting-houses, clear out roads and settle ministers. In every township they reserved one right for the first settled minister, another for the ministry, and a third for schools. They also reserved fifteen rights for themselves, and two for their attorney; all of which were to be free from taxes, until sold or occupied. By virtue of these grants, many townships were settled, and the interest of the people became so united with that of the proprietors, that the prejudices against them gradually abated. The heirs of Allen menaced them by advertisements, and warned the people against accepting these grants. To this fact and claim undoubtedly, reference is had in that clause in the grant of the township, by which the grantors engage "to defend through the law to the King in Council, if need be, one action that may be brought against them or any number of them," &c. By these proceedings, a way was prepared for giving to settlers a valid title to the lands, which had so long been a subject of doubt and controversy; and a grant was made to the proprietors, under which the settlement of the town was commenced and proceeded with as will be detailed in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER II.

### PROPRIETARY HISTORY.

Groton Grant in 1734, the earliest grant in this part of New-Hampshire. Order of time of grants in the vicinity. No. 1 granted by the Masonian Proprietors. First inhabitants. Division among the grantees. Plan of the township. Proceedings in proprietors' meetings. Roads. Report of settlements and improvements, in 1752. Meeting House. Mills. Ministers and preaching. Call of E. Champney. Two hundred acres added on the north side. Call of James Parker. Vote for incorporation. Vote giving the Meeting House to the town. Final meeting.

THE earliest historical trace of the claim of ownership in the territory and soil of the town of Mason, is found in connection with the town of Groton. The original grant of the township of Groton, on the petition of Dean Winthrop and others, under date of 23d, 5th m., 1655, was of a tract "equal to eight miles square." In 1715, a portion of this territory was annexed to Nashobah and incorporated by the name of Littleton. There were also included within the bounds of Groton, as originally surveyed and located, two farms previously granted to individuals, containing about thirteen hundred acres, for which no allowance was made in the survey. In 1734, the inhabitants of Groton petitioned the General Court "for some of the unappropriated land of the Province, as an equivalent for the said farms, and the land so taken off by the line established, dividing between Groton and Littleton." On this petition a grant was made of "ten thousand eight hundred acres, in a gore between Townsend and Dunstable." This tract is undoubtedly the same repre-

sented on Douglas' map made in 1748, as "Groton Grant." According to that map, it embraced a territory extending to Souhegan river, which would include a large part of Mason, and a part of Wilton. See extract from Douglas' map Hist. of New Ipswich, page 28. Under this grant, the inhabitants of Groton took possession of, and occupied the territory. It was their custom to cut the hay upon the meadows, and stack it, and early in the spring to send up their young cattle to be fed upon the hay, under the care of Boad, the negro slave. They would cause the woods to be fired, as it was called, that is, burnt over in the spring; after which fresh and succulent herbage springing up, furnished good store of the finest feed, upon which the cattle would thrive and fatten through the season. Boad's camp was upon the east side of the meadow, near the residence of the late Joel Ames. When the Province line was run in 1741, it "passed through Groton Gore, leaving a large portion thereof, and a triangular piece of what was originally Groton, in the state of New Hampshire." For the land so lost by the establishing of the Province line, on the petition of the inhabitants of Groton, the General Court in June 1771, granted them "seven thousand and eight hundred acres of unappropriated lands lying on the western part of the Province." See Butler's Groton, pp. 58—62. To have a distinct understanding of the state of territorial titles in 1734, the date of the grant of Groton Gore, it may be necessary to review the territorial grants previous and subsequent to that date, of the adjacent and neighboring towns.

Chelmsford and Groton were granted in 1655. Dunstable in 1673. This town originally comprised the territory now embraced in Dunstable and Tyngsborough in Massachusetts, Hudson, Nashua, Hollis, most of Brookline, all of Milford and Merrimack south of Souhegan river, and most of Litchfield, in New Hampshire. Dunstable was "bounded south by Chelmsford to Groton line, on the west by Groton and by countrey land, the line running due north from the bound-

ary" [that is the north east angle of Groton] "ten miles till you come to Souhegan river, at a place called Dram Cup Hill at a great pine tree nigh ye said river, at a [bound or corner] of Charlestown scoole farm; bounded by the Souhegan river on the north," &c. As "a triangular piece of what was originally Groton" was by the running of the Province line in 1741, left within the State of New Hampshire, the north east angle of Groton must be found in Brookline ten miles south of Souhegan river, not far from Potanapus pond. The tradition is that the west line of Dunstable, which must have commenced at the north east angle of Groton, passed through this pond. A tract about one mile wide lying on the east side of Mason, was added to a portion of Hollis, formerly Dunstable, and incorporated by the name of Raby, afterwards changed to Brookline. Thus it appears that the western line of Old Dunstable passed about one mile east of the eastern line of Mason.

Townsend was incorporated in 1732. A part of this town also was left by the Province line, in New Hampshire, and is included within the limits of Mason. New Ipswich was granted by Massachusetts in 1735. This grant was vacated by the establishment of the line; but it was regranted by the Masonian proprietors, with a change of boundaries, April 17, 1750. Hollis, the west part of Old Dunstable, was organized as a parish or precinct, December 28, 1739, and incorporated as a town, April 20, 1746. The name originally was Holles, from the family name of the Duke of Newcastle, prime minister of Great Britain in the reign of George II. at the time Louisburg was taken, in 1745, under Sir William Pepperell. Pepperell, another name commemorating the same event, was incorporated in 1753, being formerly a precinct or parish of Groton. Brookline, originally named Raby, was incorporated March 30, 1769. The original charter embraced a part of the west part of Hollis, two miles wide and the mile slip, so called, a piece of land a part of the old Groton Gore, about one mile wide, "lying on the easterly side of Mason."

The east line of this mile slip must have been the west line of Old Dunstable, which bordered on "countrey land," from Groton to Souhegan river. In 1786, another portion of Hollis, three fourths of a mile wide, was added to Brookline. Wilton was granted by the Masonian proprietors, October 1, 1749. Temple was incorporated about the year 1770. Ashby in 1767. Thus it appears that the original grant of this tract to Groton, by Massachusetts, was prior, in point of time, to that of any adjoining territory, except Townsend.

The title to the township of Mason, except two gores, one on the north and one on the south side, was granted November 1, 1749, by an instrument of that date executed by Col. Joseph Blanchard, on behalf of the Masonian proprietors, of which the following is a copy:

[Copy of the Grant.]

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Pursuant to the power and authority, granted and vested in me by the Proprietors of lands purchased of John Tufton Mason, Esq. in the Province of New Hampshire, by their vote passed at the meeting, held at Portsmouth, in said Province, the 16th day of June, 1749,

I do by these presents, give and grant, all the title and interest, property and possession of the proprietors aforesaid, unto William Lawrence, Esq., Peter Powers, Eleazer Blanchard, John Goff, Esq., David Adams, Paul March, Philip Olerick, Eleazer Farwell, John Stevens, Nathaniel Meserve, Jr., Peter Powers, Jr., Joseph Blodgett, John Butterfield, Jonathan Powers, Jr., Zaccheus Lovewell, Jonathan Hubbard, John Varnum, Josiah Brown, John Jennison, Joseph Blanchard, Jr., Elnathan Blood, Mr. Thomas Packer, Jonathan Hubbard, Jr., Clement March, Robert Fletcher, Jr., Israel Hubbard, Amasa Parker, Jacob Gould, Benjamin Parker, David Stearns, Thomas Tarbell, Samuel Tarbell, Shadrack Whitney, Edward Jewett, all their [heirs] of in and to all that part of a township or tract of land in the Province of New Hampshire aforesaid, containing about the contents of seventy-seven square miles, bounded as follows, beginning at a stake and stones the southeast corner of the premises, and runs from thence, north eighty degrees west, five miles and twenty rods by the Province line to New Ipswich corner, from thence north by the needle, five miles to a white pine tree marked, from thence east by the needle, five miles to a hemlock tree marked, from thence south by the needle, to the first bounds mentioned, which said township is laid out, drawn for, and lots ascertained for each grantee respectively, with two lots for encouragement of building of mills, &c. and three shares for public uses, viz: one for the first settled minister,



one for the ministry, and one for the schools there forever, which said shares and lots, to be the same as already drawn and entered in the schedule and plan hereunto annexed, unto them respectively and their heirs and assigns. To have and hold on the following terms, conditions and limitations, and on them only, that is to say, that a meeting house be built as near the centre of said town, as by the grantees shall be judged most convenient, and that when such place shall be agreed on, six acres shall be reserved for public uses; that the remaining lands not entered in the schedule and plan aforesaid, specified within the bounds of the township aforesaid, be and hereby are reserved to and for the use of the Grantors of the premises, their heirs and assigns forever, free and clear from all charges, tax or incumbrance of settlement, until their, or any of their parts are improved by them, or some holding under them.

That the aforementioned grantees, exclusive of the three public lots, shall carry on, perform and make settlement at their own expense, in the following manner, viz: that there be all necessary highways laid out in said town where they will be most convenient, without any pay or allowance, to those grantors or grantees, through whose land the same shall go, that the grantees build a convenient house for the public worship of God, there at or before the last day of May, 1753, for the use of those who shall then, or afterwards inhabit there. That there be on some one lot of each of the forty shares belonging to the grantees, three acres cleared, inclosed and fitted for mowing or tillage, so far as is profitable, at or before the last day of November, 1751, and each of the said lots to be cleared as aforesaid, to be settled with having a house of sixteen feet square, at the least, and seven feet stud or more, with a chimney and cellar, finished and fitted for a dwelling house, thereon at or before the last day of May, 1752, and some person or family inhabiting and resident in said house, and they or some others in each of their steads, continue residing there until the last day of May, 1755. That the owners of each of the forty settling shares, have on each of their rights respectively, three acres more, in like manner fitted, at or before the last day of November, 1752, and the like quantity annually, for two years then next coming. That the remaining six shares, to wit, the shares of Jonathan Hubbard, Benjamin Parker, Nathaniel Meserve, Jr., Josiah Brown, John Jennison, Eleazer Blanchard, be excused from the duty of building, improving or settling, until the last day of November, 1755, and then to have the whole duty performed as the others at that time. That each of the grantees at the executing of this instrument pay, thirty pounds each old tenor, to defray the necessary charges, risen or arising in bringing forward the settlement, to be deposited in the hands of such person as they shall appoint, being a freeholder and resident in the Province. That the aforesaid grantees or their assigns assess such further sum, or sums of money equally in [pro] portion to the right, or the share of each grantee, exclusive of the three public lots, as may be thought necessary, for carrying on and completing any of the public matters, in making the settlement

and charges, always provided there be no Indian war, within any of the times aforesaid, for doing the duty conditioned in this grant, and in case that should happen, the same time to be allowed for the respective matters aforesaid, after such impediment shall be removed. That all white pine trees fit for masting his Majesties royal navy, growing on said land, be and here[by] are granted to his Majesty, his heirs and successors forever.

Lastly, said grantors do hereby promise to the said grantees, their heirs and assigns, to defend through the law, to the King and Council if need be, one action that shall and may be brought against them, or any number of them, by any person or persons whatsoever, claiming the said land, or any part thereof, by any other title than of the grantors, or that by which they hold and derive theirs from, Provided the said grantors are avouched in to defend the same, and that in case the same shall be recovered against the grantors, the grantees shall recover nothing over against the grantors for the said lands and improvements, or expenses of bringing forward the settlement, and further, that the said grantors will pay the necessary expenses of time and money, that any other person or persons shall be put to, by any other suit or suits, that shall be brought against them, or any of them, the said grantees for tryal of the title, before one action shall be fully determined in the law. In witness whereof, I the said Joseph Blanchard of Dunstable, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this first day of November, 1749.

JOSEPH BLANCHARD. [seal.]

This copy is a transcript from the proprietors' records. The original has not been found. There is undoubtedly a mistake in the number of square miles in the contents of the town. It should be twenty seven, not seventy seven.

There is no record or tradition existing which shows when the first inhabitants began to reside within the limits of the town. Joseph Herrick was chosen "second deer officer" in Townsend, at the annual town meeting in March, 1742. In 1745, that town "voted to abate Joseph Herrick's rates, provided the money was raised after he went out of town." Joseph Herrick lived in the south-easterly part of the town of Mason, near where Elisha Boynton lived. In what part of Townsend he resided before he "went out of town," is not known. He was undoubtedly the pioneer in the settlement of that part of Mason. There, probably, his oldest son, Joseph Herrick was born, Sept. 30, 1751. He may claim to be the first person of European parentage, born

within the present limits of the town. His only competitor for this honor, is John Lawrence, son of Enosh Lawrence. No record of his birth is found. He was the youngest of the children of Enosh Lawrence and Sarah Stevens, his wife. The birth of nine of their children is recorded in the town records of Pepperell, the last of which was April 12, 1748. There is a tradition that he was born in 1751, and that he was the first child born in the town; that is, within the limits of the original grant. It would seem that Lawrence was residing in Pepperell in 1748, and that Herrick removed out of Townsend in 1745; so that the last was probably the earliest permanent resident within the present limits of the township. He was a "deer officer," which indicates that he was a hunter, fond of sylvan pursuits.

A meeting of the "grantees and proprietors" was held at the house of Capt. Joseph French, in Dunstable, Oct. 16, 1749; at which, the township having been divided into lots, and a list made of the lots, they were drawn for, and entered to each proprietor his lots, which list is inserted on page 34. On pages 32 and 33 will be found a plan of the town with the names of the grantees, &c., of the several lots according to the said list.

## PLAN OF TOWNSHIP

R. 20	10 Robert Fletcher.	9 J. Peirce.	8 Jona. Powers, Jr.	7 J. T. Mason.	6 Scollay & March.
19	10 S. Moore.	9 J. Peirce.	8 Jona. Molfatt.	7 Saml Tarbell.	6 Saml. Tarbell.
18	10 S. Moore.	9 D. Stearns.	8 Thos. Tarbell.	7 Jos. Blanchard.	6 N. Messerve, Jr. <i>D. Williams.</i>
17	10 J. Odiorne.	9 Maj. J. Hubbard.	8 Wm. Lawrence.	7 Wm. Lawrence.	6 Benj. Parker. <i>O. Nutting.</i>
16	10 J. Odiorne.	9 Maj. J. Hubbard.	8 Jona. Hubbard.	7 J. Blanchard.	6 Jona. Hubbard. <i>J. Hall.</i> <i>E. &amp; T. Blood.</i>
15	10 N. Messerve.	9 N. Messerve.	8 David Stearns.	7 Benj. Parker. <i>H. Jefts.</i>	6 Joshua Peirce. <i>E. Fish.</i>
14	10 J. Stevens.	9 J. Stevens.	8 George Marsh.	7 J. Hubbard, Jr.	6 M.H. Wentworth. <i>N. Hull.</i>
13	10 J. Stevens. <i>J. Barrett.</i>	9 J. Stevens. <i>Z. Davis.</i>	8 Th: Parker, Esq. <i>Saml. Lawrence.</i>	7 T. J. Mason. <i>Saml. Lawrence.</i>	6 Thos. Parker. <i>H. Jefts.</i> <i>J. Bachelier.</i>
12	10 J. Odiorne.	9 N. Messerve. <i>A. Allen.</i> <i>Jos. Merriam.</i>	8 Jos. Jennison. <i>Josiah Wheeler.</i> <i>H. Warren.</i>	7 J. Hubbard, Jr. <i>Samuel Hill.</i> <i>John Blodgett.</i>	6 Maj. J. Hubbard. <i>Amos Holden.</i>
11	10 J. Jennison.	9 J. Stevens.	8 J. Stevens. <i>N. Whipple.</i>	7 Maj. Lawrence. <i>B. Mann.</i> <i>S. Ames.</i>	6 Joseph Blodgett. <i>Ab. Merriam.</i>
10	10 Josiah Brown.	9 J. Stevens.	8 J. Varnum. <i>Jos. Merriam.</i>	7 Maj. Lawrence. <i>J. Jefts. E. Ball.</i> <i>N. Boynton.</i>	6 School. <i>Meet'g House Lot.</i> <i>Dr. Wm. Barber.</i>
9	10 Maj. J. Hubbard <i>A. Wheeler.</i>	9 J. Stevens. <i>E. Lawrence.</i>	8 W. Parker, Esq. <i>Jona. Searle.</i>	7 J. Stevens. <i>N. Barrett.</i> <i>J. Whitaker.</i>	6 J. Jennison. <i>S. Abbott.</i> <i>Rev. E. Hill.</i>
8	10 Maj. J. Hubbard. <i>Lt. O. Parker.</i>	9 G. Jaffrey. <i>T. Robbins.</i>	8 J. Wentworth, Jr. <i>T. Wheeler.</i>	7 E. Blanchard. <i>D. Fay. J. Wait,</i> <i>Jr. J. Flagg.</i>	6 E. Blanchard. <i>Joshua Wyeth.</i> <i>E. Winson.</i>
7	10 M. Livermore. <i>E. Davis.</i>	9 M. Livermore. <i>James Wood.</i>	8 Josiah Brown. <i>Ministry.</i> <i>Ster. Lawrence.</i>	7 J. Wentworth, Jr.	6 Jos. Blanchard. <i>D. Blodgett.</i> <i>John Winship.</i>
6	10 Z. Lovewell.	9 M.H. Wentworth	8 J. Powers, Jr.	7 John Butterfield. <i>J. Weber, Jr.</i>	6 Ph. Olericke. <i>W. Cummings.</i> <i>John Swallow.</i>
5	10 Z. Lovewell. <i>T. Wheelock.</i>	9 N. Messerve, Jr. <i>Samuel Woods.</i>	8 Jos. Farrar. <i>Mill Lot.</i> <i>E. Shattuck.</i>	7 John Butterfield. <i>Seth Robbins.</i>	6 School. <i>Zac. Barrett.</i>
4	10 S. Wallingford. <i>O. Hosmer.</i>	9 N. Messerve, Jr.	8 Geo. Jaffrey. <i>T. Hodgman.</i>	7 Rich'd Wibird.	6 Wm. Lawrence. <i>Capt. I. Brown.</i>
3	10 T. Wallingford.	9 Phil. Olericke. <i>Wm. Cummings.</i> <i>R. Weston.</i>	8 Josiah Brown.	7 Joseph Blodgett.	6 Wm. Lawrence <i>Enos Lawrence.</i>
2	10 P. March. <i>E. Hodgman.</i>	9 D. Adams. <i>John Barrett.</i>	8 W. Parker, Esq.	7 Rich'd Wibird.	6 Wm. Lawrence. <i>Josiah Robbins.</i> <i>Dea. J. Webber.</i>
1	10 G. Jaffrey. <i>J. Hodgman.</i>	9 P. Powers.	8 E. Blanchard.	7 School.	6 Mark H. Went- <i>worth. N. Win-</i> <i>ship. W. Barrett.</i>

The plan of which the above is a copy was found among the papers in the town clerk's office. It is in the hand writing of John Blodgett, Esq., who was for many years town clerk. On the south side is represented a gore 210 poles wide at the east end, the south line of which runs to the southwest corner of the town. It is not laid out into lots. The only note or memorandum on the plan is in these words: "A plan of Mason without any north slip," and on the south

NO 1, OR MASON.

Theo. Atkinson <sup>5</sup>	Jona. Lawrence. <sup>1</sup> <i>J. Hubbard.</i>	Jona. Hubbard. <sup>3</sup>	Benj. Parker. <sup>2</sup>	L.R. Amasa Parker. <sup>20</sup> <i>J. Jeffs.</i>
Wm. Lawrence. <sup>5</sup>	Thos. Tarbell. <sup>4</sup>	Elnathan Blood. <sup>3</sup>	David Stearns. <sup>2</sup>	Thomas Parker. <sup>1</sup> 19
Theo. Atkinson. <sup>5</sup>	Jacob Gould. <sup>4</sup>	Mr. Th: Packer. <sup>3</sup>	J. Hubbard, Jr. <sup>2</sup>	E. Jewett. <sup>1</sup> 18
Wm. Lawrence. <sup>5</sup>	Wm. Lawrence. <sup>4</sup>	J. Hubbard, Jr. <sup>3</sup>	George March. <sup>2</sup>	Ministry. <sup>1</sup> 17
Jona. Hubbard. <sup>5</sup>	Amasa Parker. <sup>4</sup> <i>J. Jeffs.</i>	J. Hubbard, Jr. <sup>3</sup>	J. Blanchard, Jr. <sup>2</sup>	J. Blanchard, Jr. <sup>1</sup> 16
John Moffat. <sup>5</sup>	Saml. Tarbell. <sup>4</sup>	Robert Fletcher. <sup>3</sup>	Joseph Farrar. <sup>2</sup> <i>Mill Lot.</i>	Eleazer Farwell. <sup>1</sup> 15
M.H. Wentworth <sup>5</sup>	Jacob Gould. <sup>4</sup>	Robt. Fletcher. <sup>3</sup>	Jos. Blanchard. <sup>2</sup>	Scollay & March. <sup>1</sup> 14
Scollay & March. <sup>5</sup>	samuel Moore. <sup>4</sup>	J. Hubbard, Jr. <sup>3</sup>	J. T. Mason. <sup>2</sup>	Peter Powers. <sup>1</sup> 13
Amasa Parker. <sup>5</sup> <i>J. Jeffs.</i>	Peter Powers. <sup>4</sup>	Elnathan Blood. <sup>3</sup>	Jacob Gould. <sup>2</sup>	Peter Powers. <sup>1</sup> <i>Wm. Spaulding.</i> 12
Minister. <sup>5</sup>	Thos. Tarbell. <sup>4</sup>	Elnathan Blood. <sup>3</sup>	John Stevens. <sup>2</sup>	Peter Powers. <sup>1</sup> <i>Wm. Spaulding.</i> 11
Minister. <sup>5</sup> <i>J. Searle.</i>	Peter Powers. <sup>4</sup> <i>John Tarbell.</i> <i>Joshua Davis.</i>	E. Jewett. <sup>3</sup> <i>T. Tarbell.</i>	T. Parker, Esq. <sup>2</sup> <i>Edm. Tarbell.</i>	Th: Parker, Esq. <sup>1</sup> <i>Wm. Spaulding.</i> 10
J. Stevens. <sup>5</sup> <i>N. Warren.</i>	Jona. Blanchard. <sup>4</sup> <i>Jason Russell.</i>	John Moffat. <sup>3</sup>	J. Wentworth, Jr. <sup>2</sup>	M.H. Wentworth <sup>1</sup> 9
John Goff. <sup>5</sup> <i>— Greeley.</i> <i>H. Russell.</i>	Thos. Taylor. <sup>4</sup> <i>H. Russell.</i>	Theo. Atkinson. <sup>3</sup>	Jona. Livermore. <sup>2</sup> <i>— Hubbard.</i>	J. Powers, Jr. <sup>1</sup> 8
Ministry. <sup>5</sup> <i>Joseph Winship.</i>	Paul March. <sup>4</sup> <i>S. Smith.</i>	George March. <sup>3</sup>	M.H. Wentworth <sup>2</sup>	Peter Powers. <sup>1</sup> 7
Peter Powers, Jr. <sup>5</sup>	Jos. Blodgett. <sup>4</sup> <i>B. Barrett.</i> <i>H. Richardson.</i>	David Adams. <sup>3</sup>	Peter Powers. <sup>2</sup>	Peter Powers, Jr. <sup>1</sup> 6
Peter Powers, Jr. <sup>5</sup>	David Adams. <sup>4</sup> <i>Amos Blood.</i>	Ministry. <sup>3</sup> <i>J. Brown.</i>	Phil. Olericke. <sup>2</sup> <i>— Cummings.</i>	Peter Powers. <sup>1</sup> 5
John Varnum. <sup>5</sup> <i>John Dutton.</i> <i>John Blood.</i>	John Goff. <sup>4</sup> <i>S. Greeley.</i> <i>Joseph Blood.</i>	Maj. J. Hubbard. <sup>3</sup>	W. Parker, Esq. <sup>2</sup>	Rich'd Wibird. <sup>1</sup> 4
E. Farwell. <sup>5</sup>	John Stevens. <sup>4</sup>	John Stevens. <sup>3</sup>	Wm. Lawrence. <sup>2</sup>	Minister. <sup>1</sup> 3
T. Wallingford. <sup>5</sup>	John Stevens. <sup>4</sup>	John Stevens. <sup>3</sup>	John Goff. <sup>2</sup> <i>— Powers.</i>	M. Livermore. <sup>1</sup> 2
Paul March. <sup>5</sup>	John Butterfield. <sup>4</sup>	Shadr. Whitney. <sup>3</sup>	Eleazer Farwell. <sup>2</sup>	John Varnum. <sup>1</sup> 1

side, "Five miles East"; on the east, "Five miles North"; on the north, "Five miles West"; on the west, "Five miles South". In some instances the name of the original grantee is not on this plan, and is restored in this copy. The names of the grantees are in Roman letters. The names in Italic in all cases are those of subsequent residents on, or owners of the lots, and in most cases of original settlers on the lots.

RECORD OF THE DRAFT OF LOTS IN TOWNSHIP NO. 1.

NAMES.	Draught.	Number.	Range.	Number.	Range.	Number.	Range.	NAMES.	Draught.	Number.	Range.	Number.	Range.	Number.	Range.
Ministry,	1	5	7	3	5	1	17	John Stevens, Esq.,	35	8	11	9	9	3	3
School,	2	6	5	6	19	7	1	Samuel Moore and *	36	10	18	10	19	4	13
George Jaffrey,	3	10	1	9	8	8	4	Joseph Farrar †	37	2	15	8	5		
Peter Powers, *	4	9	1	2	6	1	5	Minister,	38	5	10	5	11	1	3
Eleazer Blanchard,	5	8	1	7	8	6	8	Joseph Blanchard, Jr.,	39	4	9	2	16	1	16
John Goff, Esq.,	6	5	8	1	4	2	2	Peter Powers, ‡	40	4	10	1	12	1	13
David Adams, †	7	9	2	1	5	3	6	J. P. §	41	4	12	1	11	1	7
Paul March,	8	10	2	1	7	5	1	Elnathan Blood,	42	3	12	3	11	3	19
Phillip Olerike,	9	9	3	6	6	2	5	Thomas Parker, Esq.,	43	8	13	1	10	2	10
Eleazer Farwell,	10	5	3	2	1	1	15	Mr. Thomas Parker,	44	6	13	1	19	3	18
John Stevens, Esq.,	11	4	3	5	4	4	2	J. P.	45	3	13	2	18	7	12
Thomas Wallingford,	12	10	4	10	3	5	2	John Tufton Mason, Esq.,	46	7	20	7	13	2	13
Nathaniel Meserve, Jr.,	13	9	5	9	4	6	18	George March,	47	8	14	3	7	2	17
Peter Powers, Jr.,	14	5	5	5	6	1	6	Mark H. Wentworth,	48	6	14	5	14	2	7
Joseph Blodgett,	15	7	3	4	6	6	11	Capt. Robert Fletcher,	49	3	14	3	15	10	20
John Butterfield, †	16	7	6	4	1	0	0	Saml. Scollay and March,	50	5	13	6	20	1	14
Jonathan Powers, Jr.,	17	8	20	1	8	8	6	John Moifat, Esq.,	51	5	15	8	19	3	9
Mark Hunking Wentworth,	18	6	1	9	6	1	9	Jonathan Lawrence, [bard,	52	6	15	4	20	2	8
Thomas Taylor, §	19	16	6	10	5	4	8	Mr. Trowbridge, now Hub-	53	5	16	3	20	8	16
Matthew Livermore,	20	10	7	9	7	1	2	Amasa Parker.	54	4	16	1	20	5	12
John Stevens, Esq.,	21	10	14	7	9	5	9	Jona. Hubbard, Jr.,	55	3	16	3	17	7	14
William Lawrence, Esq.,	22	5	19	6	2	2	3	Jacob Gould,	56	4	14	4	18	2	12
William Parker, Esq.,	23	8	9	8	2	2	4	Wm. Lawrence, Esq.,	57	5	17	8	17	7	17
John Wentworth, Jr.,	24	8	8	7	7	2	9	Benja. Parker,	58	6	17	2	20	7	15
Maj. Jona. Hubbard,	25	10	9	10	8	3	4	Maj. Jona. Hubbard, J.P., ¶	59	9	17	9	16	6	12
Maj. Wm. Lawrence,	26	7	10	7	11			Mr. David Stearns,	60	9	18	2	19	8	15
John Varnum, ¶	27	8	10	1	1	5	4	Capt Thomas Tarbell,	61	8	18	4	19	4	11
John Stevens, Esq.,	28	9	10	9	11	2	11	Joseph Blanchard, Esq.,	62	7	18	6	7	2	14
Josiah Brown,	29	10	10	8	3	8	7	Theodore Atkinson, Esq.,	63	5	18	5	20	3	8
Richard Wibird, Esq.,	30	7	4	7	2	1	4	Wm. Lawrence, Esq.,	64	6	3	6	4	4	17
Jotham Odioro,	31	10	17	10	12	10	16	Capt. Saml. Tarbell,	65	7	19	6	19	4	15
Nathl. Meserve, Esq.,	32	10	15	9	12	9	15	Joshua Pierce,	66	9	19	9	20	6	15
John Gennison,	33	10	11	8	12	6	9	Shadrack Whitney,	67	3	1				
John Stevens, Esq.,	34	9	13	9	14	3	2								

The foregoing is a True Copy of the Draught and numbers of the lots in the Township No. One, so called, lying in the Province of New Hampshire, as they was Drawn by the Proprietors of said Township. A true copy. Examined and Recorded,

Pr JOHN STEVENS, Prop's Clerk.

NOTE. In the original copy, in the margin against the names and figures, are sundry additions indicated by the references below :

- \* 7.5.
- † 8 [in the 6th column should be 3.]
- ‡ 7.5.
- § Z. Lovewell.
- || Two lots to this right.
- ¶ J. P.

- \* Daniel Pierce.
- † Mill Lot.
- ‡ J. P.
- § Capt. Peter Powers.
- || Jona. Hubbard, Jr.
- ¶ J. P. [above the name.]

At the same meeting, William Lawrence and John Stevens, Esq., were "directed, at the charge of the grantees and settlers of this township, to mark out a highway in said township, from where the road enters into said township, that leads from Amos Sartell's house in Townshend, to the meeting-house place, as marked on the plan of the division of said township, and from said meeting-house place, to near the middle of the north line in said township, in the most convenient place for a road, and fit for a feasible cart road, the

said highway, as soon as may be, and that Messrs. Benjamin Parker and Peter Powers, be desired and empowered as aforesaid, to lay out, and clear, and fit for a feasible cart road, in the most convenient place, from said meeting-house place to the town of Hollis." In this extract from the proprietors' records, a distinction is made between "grantees and settlers," which is kept up through the whole period of the proprietorship, which continued long after the incorporation of the town. Many of the proprietors never resided in the town; some of the original proprietors resided in the town, and several persons, whose names do not appear among the original proprietors, resided in the town, and attended proprietors' meetings, and voted and took an active part therein; while other persons who resided and owned land in town, do not appear to have attended the meetings, or to have been recognized as having any of the rights or powers of proprietors. What constituted the line of distinction between the owners of land who had a right, and those who had not a right to meet and vote in proprietary meetings, does not appear. The road first above described, is substantially the same now travelled from Townsend west village, leading by the meeting-house northerly, to and beyond Jonathan Bacheliers. The other was the road leading from the meeting-house to Brookline, then a part of Hollis. At an adjournment of the same meeting, held Nov. 7, 1749, at the same place, Joseph Blanchard, Jr. was chosen Clerk, Joseph Blanchard, Esq. Treasurer, Major Jonathan Hubbard, John Stevens, Esq. and Capt. Samuel Tarbell were chosen a committee "for managing the prudentials of the society." The mode of calling future meetings was also provided for; notices for which were to be posted fifteen days beforehand, in some public place in Dunstable, in Townsend, and in Groton. It was also "voted to accept of the two mill lots marked on the plan for that use, and chose a committee to bargain and indent with some person or persons, to build and finish a saw mill by the last day of February, 1750, and a corn mill in

nine months from that time; that they contract for said mills to be kept in repair; also that every of the inhabitants on bringing suitable timber, have it sawed for half the stuff at least; also to dispose of the two mill lots, or so much of them for that use as they shall agree for; that Messrs Benjamin Parker, Major Jonathan Hubbard, Capt. John Stevens be the committee for this purpose."

The plan referred to has not been found; nor any plan upon which the mill lots are marked, among the records of the proprietors, but in the schedule of the lots drawn to the different rights against right or "draught," No. 37, are two lots 2 R. 15, and 8 R. 5, marked in the margin "mill lots," and in a plan in the hand-writing of John Blodgett, Esq., who was in 1799, and many years after, town clerk, on file with the papers in the town clerk's office, these two lots are each marked "mill lot."

Some question seems to have arisen at this early period as to the nature and the validity of the title claimed under the grant, for at this same adjourned meeting, Mr. John Varnum, Major William Lawrence, and Capt. John Stevens were chosen a committee "to enquire into, and view the tenor of the grant, and report their opinion of the safety therein; and that Capt. Thomas Tarbell be joined to this committee." Probably the committee were satisfied "of the safety therein," for no report has been entered on the records, nor does any question as to the validity of the title seem ever after to have been seriously made. This movement, probably, had reference to Allen's advertisements before mentioned to, cautioning persons not to take titles under the Masonian proprietors.

At this same adjourned meeting, it was also voted, that the committee chosen at the first of this meeting, for marking out and clearing highways, be directed to mark out, and open a road so that horses or cattle may pass from the meeting-house place, westward, near to the west line of the town." This was, probably, the road from the meeting-house to New



Ipswich, by Obadiah Parker's house. At this early period, the roads leading from the south to the north, and from the east to the west borders of the town through the center, seem to have been provided for.

At an adjournment of the same meeting, holden on the last Tuesday in Dec. 1749, Capt. Thomas Tarbell was added to the committee for laying out and clearing the road from the meeting-house place to Hollis; also "voted, that John Stevens, Esq. amend the range line between the sixth and seventh range, so as equally to divide the quantity of land between the two ranges, and he to be paid six pounds old tenor for that service, which he agreed to;" also "voted, that Capt. Samuel Tarbell be joined to the committee chosen to contract with some suitable person to build the mills in this township, in the room of John Stevens, Esq.; voted, that Joseph Blanchard, Esq. take security of the person who builds the mills; that John Stevens, Esq. go and look out the mill places and see on whose lots they fall, and make return to Joseph Blanchard, Esq. where they are, by the first day of next March, and if any mistakes should be in his first account of said lots, that Col. Joseph Blanchard procure the said lots where the mills are to stand, in behalf of the grantees, they paying the sum or sums of money which they shall cost." No report on this subject is entered on the records. If any was made in writing, it has not been found. The two lots marked on the plan, were, one in the north east part of the town, near where Elias Elliot built a mill, and the other in the south west part, near where the mill of Frederic Jones stands. It seems that under this vote and instruction, some change was made, for the mills contracted for by the proprietors were built on the site of Dakin's mills, in the village.

At this adjourned meeting, it was also "voted, that Mr. Benjamin Parker run out the two lines that are not already run, and that he have twelve pounds old tenor for doing said work, which he agreed to, [and] that he go and lay out two hundred acres of land lying between the north line of No. 1,

and the south line of No. 2, in the best manner he can, for the use of the grantees of No. 1. Voted that the Treasurer pay him for doing said work, at his returning the plan of said land, [and] that if anything should happen that he should not do the work by the middle of January next, that Capt. Peter Powers be directed to do said work forthwith, on the same conditions as aforesaid."

By what claim or right the grantees of No. 1 were entitled "to go and lay out two hundred acres of land" between No. 1 and No. 2, does not appear. A tract or gore of land between the original lines or boundaries of these townships, was at some time annexed to No. 1. In the original location of townships in that part of the state, there was not the precision which has prevailed in the surveys of the public lands of the United States, or in the more recently settled parts of New England. No base lines or meridian lines were run. Each township or tract was run out by itself, and it might readily happen that different surveyors going into the wilderness to run out tracts of land, not knowing what other surveyors may have done, should not make their lines parallel, or corners coincident; so that it is not a matter of surprise, that gores should be found to exist between tracts, which were intended and supposed to be bounded by the same line. Such seems to have been the case in this instance. The original grant of No. 2, now Wilton, was as follows: In June, 1735, the General Court granted to Samuel King and others, in consideration of their sufferings in the expedition to Canada, in the year 1690, the township of Lyndeborough, and about one third of Wilton, on the north side, under the name of "Salem Canada." The word "Canada" added to names of grants, was common at that time. Thus, Ipswich Canada, New Ipswich, Dorchester Canada, Ashburnham, &c. are instances. The tracts, with this addition to the names, were granted to the citizens of the several towns indicated, for their services in the expedition to Canada in 1690. In 1749, the Masonian proprietors made a grant of a tract of land

adjoining "Salem Canada" on the south, under certain conditions, to forty six persons. The grantees had it laid out and annexed to a part of Salem Canada, and called No. 2; which was afterwards, Jan. 2, 1765, incorporated under the name of Wilton.

A trouble which is apt to be incident to the undertaking of all new enterprizes requiring the expenditure of money, that is, the want of promptness on the part of those who are chargable with the payments, seems to have met the grantees at an early stage of their proceedings; and very frequent and repeated references to the same difficulty, even to the very last stage of their proprietary existence, show that it was a constant and permanent source of annoyance. The final proceedings of this first meeting, continued so long by adjournments, referred to this matter, as follows: "Voted, that all persons refusing or neglecting to pay the respective sums of money raised on their rights, after the third Tuesday of January next, [their rights] are hereby forfeited to the rest of the grantees, they paying the aforesaid sums of money, to defray the necessary charges in bringing forward the settlement of the town."

The next meeting of the proprietors, was holden at the house of William Lawrence, Esq., in said township, on the 3d day of Dec. 1751. Wm. Lawrence, Esq. was chosen moderator. The proceedings were as follows: "Voted to build a meeting-house in said township, for the public worship of God, of the following dimensions; viz: thirty feet in length, and twenty four or twenty six feet in width, as the committee chosen for that service shall think fit, and sixteen feet between joints. Voted and chose for said committee, William Lawrence, Jonathan Hubbard, Esq., and Capt. Thomas Tarbell. Also voted, that the said committee be directed to inclose said house, lay the under floor, and to build a convenient place for the minister to stand to preach in."

"Voted, to choose a committee to let out the mills in said township. Chose for said committee, Wm. Lawrence

and John Stevens, Esq.; the saw mill to be built and completed, fit for service, by the 25th day of May next, and the corn mill to be completed, fit to grind by the 25th day of May, 1753. Also voted, that the committee chosen to build the meeting-house, be directed to employ the proprietors or inhabitants both at the meeting-house, and *at the highways*, provided they will work *as cheap* and *as well* as others."

At a meeting held at the house of Mr. Enos Lawrence, on the 4th Tuesday of Oct. 1752, a vote was passed to change the dimensions of the meeting-house to be built, to 40 feet by 30, and to add Benjamin Parker and John Stevens to the committee; that the frame should be set up by the first of January next, and the house finished as directed by the former vote, by the first day of November next, which must be intended November, 1753. At this meeting John Stevens was chosen proprietors' clerk, the road from the Province line to the meeting-house place, was accepted as laid out, and "the meeting was adjourned to Mr. James Lawrence's in Groton west parish, that day three weeks." At the adjourned meeting, "Voted, that if every proprietor, by the twentieth day of May next, obliged by the charter to settle a lot in said township, have not built a dwelling-house and fenced six acres fit for plowing or mowing, [he] shall forfeit his land, according to the charter; except such proprietors at said time, shall ease or consider the same; provided that those persons that have done nothing on their rights, pay each man two shillings and eight pence lawful money for the use of said proprietary, for their past neglects, or else to have no benefit by the former vote."

And on said adjournment, the committee chosen to view the lots report, as follows:

#### THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

"This contains an account of what each man has done in No. one.

Enos Lawrence has a house, and about eight acres cleared, and dwells there.

Nathan Hall, a house and seven acres of land, six of it broke up, and dwells there.

Nathan Fish, a small house, about five acres cleared.

Henry Jeffs, seven acres cleared, and about three of it broke up, and a house.

Obadiah Parker, a good house, and about two acres cleared.

Ebenezer Butterfield, a good house, eight acres well cleared and broke up.

Josiah Robbins, about three acres cleared, and a poor fence.

John Swallow cleared about one acre, and got some timber for a house.

William Lawrence, a house and barn, and about ten acres cleared.

Samuel Right, [Wright,] a cellar dug, two acres cleared.

James Withee, a cellar dug, and three acres cleared and broke up.

Simon Green, about two acres cleared and broke up, and a cellar dug, and a frame.

Ensign Shattuck, one acre cleared on each lot.

Capt. Thomas Tarbell, about three acres cleared.

Capt. Samuel Tarbell, about three acres cleared.

James Lasley, [Leslie,] house up, about three acres cleared.

George Lasley, [Leslie,] a camp, about one acre cleared.

Reuben Barrett, about three acres cleared, and two of it broke up.

William Spaulding, a pretty good house, and some land cleared, and something done to a second lot.

William Elliot, two acres cleared, and a cellar dug, [and] timber drawn for a house.

Capt. Stevens, about nine acres cleared and fenced, also, about five acres more.

Samuel Right, [Wright,] two lotts about one acre and a half cleared, and a camp.

Shadrack Whitney, a house and barn, and about twenty acres cleared and fenced, and a young orchard.

Signed, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, per order."

At a meeting at the house of Enos Lawrence in said township, on the 27th of November, 1753, "Col. Lawrence chosen moderator of said meeting; voted to choose a committee of three men for the service hereafter mentioned, &c. The committee to send Mr. Bellows a letter, to have the corn mill done by the first of June next, or else the Treasurer to put the bonds into execution.

"Voted to allow sixty pounds to pay for preaching between this and next May, and the inhabitants of said town to appoint the time and place. Col. Lawrence chosen to get a minister, and Col. Lawrence chosen Treasurer. Voted that the papers belonging to the proprietors, be put on public record, in the Province of New Hampshire so far as the committee shall think fit. The committee for said service to be the same that takes the bonds."

The delinquent proprietors continued to be a source of difficulty. On page 49 of the proprietors' records is entered at large the vote first, above referred to. It is as follows: "Whereas, it appears to this proprietary that some rights in the said township No. One, that were obliged to settle the lots according to charter, have neglected to comply with the same, and in order for as speedy compliance with their duty as possible, it is necessary that such others should be admitted in their room that will comply with the same. Therefore,

"Voted, That Col. Lawrence, Samuel Tarbell and John Stevens be a committee fully impowered to make a strict enquiry who are now wholly delinquent, or that was delinquent on the 4th Tuesday of October, 1752, and to take good security to the value of one hundred pounds new tenor, that they will enter upon and perform their duty agreeable to the charter, viz: that is to say, to have three acres of land well cleared and fenced at the least, a house built and inhabit the same by the first day of May next, and upon the failure of entering into bond with the aforesaid committee within one month from this date, to enter upon such delinquent proprietors' right and take possession of the same, and dispose of it

to some suitable person, that will immediately enter upon such right and comply with the duty as abovesaid, and pay such sum of money for the use of said proprietors as the said committee and the new grantee shall agree for, or such old grantee to pay such a sum of money for the use of said proprietors, to the abovesaid committee for the past neglect, as the said proprietors shall order at this meeting; and the abovesaid committee are further directed to take a bond of each grantee or settler, that hath not complied with their duty, for the faithful performance of the condition of their grants, &c., and to save the proprietors harmless, &c., for want of the duty being done and taxes paid in season; the obligation and condition of said bond to be as the abovesaid committee shall think most just and reasonable and better to bring forward the settlement of said plantation, &c. Also, Voted, That each delinquent proprietor that hath done nothing on his right shall pay three pounds, old tenor, to said committee for the use of said proprietors."

A meeting was called at the house of Enos Lawrence, on the 16th of July, 1754. A recital in the record of that meeting sets forth that William Lawrence, Esq., and others, at a meeting on the 17th of November, 1753, were appointed a committee and authorized to enter into and dispose of delinquent rights, and to take bonds for performance according to the tenor of said vote, &c., so that it is probable that the &c. after the word "vote," is one of the pregnant &c's of Lord Coke, and embraces and includes the whole vote so entered as above, and that the whole record commencing with the word "Whereas," should have been inserted in place of the &c., but not having been drawn up in proper form till the rest of the record had been made and entered, it was entered by itself, without preface or explanation. At the meeting July 16th, 1754, the time for taking bonds by the committee was extended thirty days from that date, and the time to comply with the requirements of the charter as to "inhabiting, fencing and clearing," was extended to November next, and

Joseph Blanchard, Esq., was desired to apply to the grantors for an enlargement of the time for compliance with the settling duties.

At the same meeting, one hundred pounds of the money already raised was appropriated for preaching, and Thomas Tarbell, Enos Lawrence and Reuben Barrett, were chosen a committee "to provide preaching so far as one hundred pounds old tenor goes."

At a meeting held at the house of Enos Lawrence, November 18, 1754, fifty pounds, old tenor, was allowed out of money already raised to pay for preaching, and a committee of nine was appointed "to view for a burying place and make return to the next meeting." The committee were Enos Lawrence, Thomas Tarbell, Nehemiah Gould, Obadiah Parker, Reuben Barrett, Nathan Hall, Henry Jeffs, Eleazer Butterfield and William Eliot, all of whom were probably then inhabitants, and most of whom remained inhabitants till the time of their death.

There is no record of any meeting between November 18, 1754, and May 11, 1757, at which last date a meeting was held at the house of Enos Lawrence. William Lawrence, Esq., was moderator. A vote was passed to have "ten days' preaching in said township, as soon as conveniently may be. Also, to raise ten pounds old tenor New Hampshire bills on each right liable to settle in said township, or two Spanish milled dollars to answer the same tax"; by which it would seem that one pound old tenor New Hampshire bills was equal to twenty cents. One hundred and fifty pounds was also appropriated to be worked on the highways, at thirty shillings per day. Enos Lawrence, Thomas Tarbell and Nathan Hall, were appointed "to have the oversight of working out the money on the highways." One half was to be worked out from the meeting house on the east to Pole Hill, one quarter from Townsend line to the meeting house, and the other quarter "by Mr. Hall north of the meeting house, and from said house to Obadiah Parker's house."



“Voted, To choose a committee to put Mr. Bellows’ bond in execution for not building the mills, unless he immediately prevent the same by accommodation.” Col. Blanchard, Col. Lawrence and John Stevens were chosen for this purpose, and directed if they could not agree with Mr. Bellows “then to agree with some other person or persons to build one or both of said mill or mills.” “Voted, To add Nathan Hall and Thomas Tarbell to the committee for finishing the meeting house according to the former vote.”

At a meeting held October 24, 1758, “Voted, That Reuben Barrett be joined to the committee for laying out highways in the room of Mr. Gould deceased.”

This is the first record of death in the town. It appears by the journal of Joseph Holt, who resided many years in Wilton, which has just been published in the tenth volume of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, see page 307, that Corporal Gould of No. 1, was killed in battle, near lake George, on the 20th of July, 1758. This was undoubtedly Nehemiah Gould, referred to in this entry in the proprietors’ records. Who of the present inhabitants ever heard his name, or knows where he resided? How completely one hundred years had swept him to oblivion, but for this casual entry in this comparatively unknown and almost forgotten book. Jacob Gould was one of the grantees of the town. His lots were No’s 4 R. 18, 4 R. 14, and 2 R. 12. Whether he was a relative of Nehemiah Gould, is not known. Nehemiah Gould was married to Molly Kemp, at Groton, March 9, 1773. He may have been a son of Corporal Gould. An extract from Holt’s journal may be found in the Appendix.

A tax of £90 was “assessed on the rights liable to pay charges; to be laid out only for preaching.” “Voted that Enos Lawrence provide a preacher.”

A meeting was held January 2, 1759. “Chose Col. Lawrence, moderator. Voted, That Jonathan Blanchard be a committee man to supply the place or places of the late Col. Joseph Blanchard in anything wherein he was concerned for

said proprietary. Obadiah Parker was chosen collector. "Voted the sum of forty six dollars, or equal thereto, accounting them equal to £276 New Hampshire old tenor, be raised on this proprietary. Voted, That half a dollar on each right, or equal thereto, in New Hampshire bills, be assessed on this proprietary, to be applied for preaching."

In the warrant for the meeting, November 26, 1759, the 5th article was "To see if the proprietors will make up the depreciation of the New Hampshire bills to Mr. Francis Worcester." This was undoubtedly Mr. Francis Worcester, of Hollis, the ancestor of the Rev. Dr. Noah Worcester, of Brighton, Mass., the Rev. Leonard Worcester, of Peacham, Vt., the Rev. Thomas Worcester, of Salisbury, N. H., and the Rev. Dr. Samuel Worcester, of Salem, Mass. The service for which he had been paid in depreciated bills, was probably preaching, for that was his vocation. The record of the meeting does not show specifically what was done with this claim. No doubt it was allowed among "sundry accounts, the particulars of which are on file." There is a tradition, probably well founded, that Mr. Worcester, on one occasion going to No. 1 to preach, being overtaken by night and darkness in the forest, in the valley east of the old meeting house near where the railroad crosses the highway, was pursued by wolves and driven to take refuge upon the top of one of the immense bowlders so abundant in that locality, on which he spent the night, and in the morning went on his way rejoicing. Another version of the story concludes with stating that by his shouts he alarmed the neighbors, who, under the lead of Capt. Thomas Tarbell, went to his assistance and delivered him from his perilous condition. At this meeting, one dollar was raised on each right, to be applied for preaching next April, and Obadiah Parker was chosen a committee to provide a preacher.

In the warrant for a meeting to be held November 25, 1760, the second article is, "To see if the proprietors will choose an agent or trustee to succeed Joseph Blanchard, Esq., de-

ceased, for the recovery of a certain bond given to him in that capacity by Benjamin Bellows, Esq., for building mills in the township aforesaid," &c. At the meeting, Jonathan Blanchard was chosen trustee in place of Joseph Blanchard, Esq. One dollar on each right was raised for defraying the expenses of prosecuting the suit on Bellows' bond, and one dollar also for further finishing the meeting house, and one dollar more for highways.

This last record is in Jonathan Blanchard's hand writing, but is not signed. It is the last entry in his hand writing. A notice issued by him for a meeting, dated August 16, 1762, is recorded by Thomas Tarbell, Clerk. All the subsequent entries are made by Thomas Tarbell, as clerk.

His oath of office as clerk is recorded by him as follows:

"October the 20, 1762. Then Thomas Tarbell parsonely appeard & maid orth that in the offies of Propts Clerk for No. one, to which he was chosen, he would act acording to the beast of his judgment.

Sworn before

JOHN HALE, Jostes pees."

At the meeting September 14th, 1762, it was "voted that the remainder of the money not already laid out, that was raised for the prosicution of Mr. Bellosses Bond, be appropriated towards paying for preaching. Voted to rais for dolers for to pay for Preaching; voted, Capt. Thomas Tarbell, Mr. Nathan Hall and Enosh Lawrence, be a new meeting house comeecte; voted Mr. Nathan Hall and Elias Eliot, be a committee to examin, and see if a good road can be had from the falls in Souhegon river at William Mansur's, through part of this Township, to come in by Mr. Hall's, and to make return at Next meeting." This was undoubtedly the road leading from the village, by Silas Bullard's and Jonathan Bachelder's, to the meeting-house. "Voted that Mr. Barrat and Mr. Robins, Capt. Thomas Tarbell, be comeectt to provid preaching. Voted that ten dollars be paid to Jonathan Blanchard by the Treashuer as soon as the saim coms into

the Trespure, and Treshr be dischargd of that sum accordingly when paid, for his sarvis as clark, with the ten dolers reed for the prosecution of Belloses Bond in full for his sarvis."

In the warrant for the meeting of the proprietors to be held on the 6th of April, 1763, the second article was, "to see if the proprietors will give a call to any of the gentlemen who have preached with them, and choose a committee to present said call and Incouragement, if any they will give, to said gentlemen, as shall be agreed on by said propraits." At the meeting, Obadiah Parker was chosen moderator. "Voted to give the first seteled minister, seven hundred pounds silver Old tenor as setelment, and four hundred pounds salary yearly, and a right of land in said township. Voted to give Mr. Ebenezer Champney a call to setel in the Gospel; chose for a comeett to present said call, Thomas Tarbell, Enosh Lawrence and Whitecomb Powers." There is a tradition, that Champney's reply to the committee who presented the *call*, was that it would take more than two such *cauls* to make a candle. His tastes inclined him to secular rather than clerical pursuits. He left preaching and became a lawyer, and was for many years Judge of Probate, which office he held till he resigned it a short time before his death, September 10th, 1810. "Voted to give six months to have the mills completed." At the meeting, March 29th, 1764, Oliver Eliot, moderator, "chose Col. James Prescott, Capt. Thomas Tarbell and Obadiah Parker, a committee to examine the papers, and accompts belonging to said propts, and put them in a proper form, and prepare a list of the names of the *pairers* as well [as] the original grantees, with the sum of money that they may be *Essesed* for. Voted to reserve one dolar for preaching. Voted to except Left. William Prescott and others, to come in as proprietors of No. one, upon their obliging themselves to pay taxes as other propts, and that they should have a strip of land Ginning No. two." This Left. William Prescott was the famous Col. William Prescott of Bunker Hill memory. At a meeting, January 29th, 1765,

“Voted to turn the road through Obadiah Parker’s land from where it was laid out, to where it goes now.”

“Voted, that each man have half a dollar a day, [for work on the highways] said work to be done by the last day of August next.”

“At a meeting of the proprietors of No. one, March 20th, 1765, at the house of Capt. Thomas Tarbell. Voted and chose Lieutenant William Prescott moderator.

Voted not to choose a new property clerk.

Voted not to choose a new Treshurer at present.

Voted to raise two dollars a week to pay for preaching.

Voted for comeet to hear preaching, Capt. Thomas Tarbell, En. Enosh Lawrence and En. Whitcomb Powers.

Voted to have the proprietors’ meetings at the meeting-house in No. one, and their only for the future.

Voted that the surveys of highways be authorized to setle with the Treshurer about highway rights,” &c.

At the meeting April 23rd, 1766, “chose for surveys, John Swallow, Jonathan Crosby, Ensign Whikomb Powers and Reuben Barrett.

Voted to Obadiah Parker four dollars for costs that he paid for being sued on the property account. [interlined, June 16th, 1767, then the above account paid to Obadiah Parker.]

Voted that Jonathan Crosby and Eben Blood be comeetee to lay out a road from Richard Lawrence’s, to the road that comes from Blood’s to the meeting-house.” This is a part of the same road which Hall and Elliot were to examine.

In the warrant dated November 5, 1766, for a meeting to be held December 16, 1766, the 7th article was, “To see if the proprietors will give the Rev’d James Parker a call to setle with them in the gospel, and to see what encouragement they will give him as to settlement and salary, and chose a comeetee to present said call.”

At the meeting “chose Left. William Prescott moderator. Voted, To give Mr. James Parker a call to setle with them in the Gospel. Also, Voted, To give him, if he setles, as

settlement, ninety three pounds six shillings & eight pence, Lafel money. Also, Voted, To give as salery Four hundred pounds silver, old tener, yearly, until there is eighty familys, and then four hundred and fifty yearly until there is one hundred families, and then five hundred pounds yearly. Also, chose a comeett to presant said call, Capt. Thomas Tarbell, Mr. Jona. Crosby, En. Whitcomb Powers."

In the warrant for the meeting March 10, 1767, the 4th article was "To see if the proportors will chues a comeettee to lay out the pew and seat ground in said No. 1 meeting house.

"5thly. To see if the propts will order in what maner the pues shall be disposed of.

"6thly. To see if the propiortors will pass a vote that every man's vot in said meeting shall be according to the taxes he shall pay in said township."

At the meeting, it was "Voted, Chose Obadiah Parker, Nathan Hall and Whitcomb Powers comeett to Lay out the pue ground & seat ground in said meeting houes.

"Voted, That the first setelers & highest payers have the pew ground, provided they seal the meeting house to the girts by October next.

"Voted, That every man should not vot according to what he pays in said township.

"Voted, To except of Mr. Elias Eliot's mills."

At a meeting November 4, 1767:

"Voted, That the comeect Brais the meeting house forthwith.

"Voted & chose a comeett to view the roads to accomodat Slipton, said comeett, Mr. Joseph Bullard, Mr. Josiah Robins, Left. Obadiah Parker, Mr. John Swallow, Mr. Nathan Hall, and if the comeect think the road by Mr. Baret's mills will aecomodat Slipon, then said comeett to lay out said road."

This was the road leading from Mason Village to Temple. Slipton was a slip or tract of land north of No. 1, and now included in Temple and Sharon.

"Voted, To rais one doler on each right for highways, and to make a bridge over the river at the mils, said mony to be

divided as was usual, said comectt, Cornelius Cook, Ruben Bar-  
 rat, Ins. Whitecomb Powers, Left. Obadiah Parker.”

In the warrant for the meeting January 5, 1768, the 6th  
 article was “To see if the propertors and Inhabitanee will  
 pas a vote to be Incorporated, and if so to chues a man or  
 more to Goo to Portsmouth & get the same accomplished.”

At the meeting it was,

“Voted, for a comatt to make Inquryes how the Township  
 may be incorporated. Ens. Whitcomb Powers & Capt.  
 Thomas Tarbell & Leftenant Obadiah Parker. Then ajornd  
 the meeting four weeks.

“The propts meet at Time & place and voted as followeth,  
 viz: Voted, To be incorporated. Allso, Voted, That Left.  
 Obadiah Parker disburst the money, & that he shall have a  
 hansom reward for the same, & that he get the same Incorpo-  
 rated as soon as may be.”

In the warrant for the meeting Mareh 8, 1768, the 3d arti-  
 cle was,

“To see if the propts will dispose of any of the public lots  
 in No. 1. Namely: Lot No. 5 in 7 Raing, & No. 6 in the 5  
 raing. No. 1 in 3 raing, & No. 9 in 1 raing.”

At the meeting it was,

“Voted, To dispose of two of the school lots, namely: No.  
 6 in the 5 raing, and 7 in the 1 raing, by a comectt chosen for  
 that sarvis, sd comectt, En. Whitecomb Powers, Capt. Thomas  
 Tarbell, Ruben Barrett and Josiah Robens. Voted and chose  
 for comect to Rectifie the mistakes in the school [lots], Jo-  
 siah Wheeler, Enosh Lawrence and Thomas Tarbell.”

The following is a copy, verbatim and literatim, of the  
 warrant and record of the meeting, June 22, 1768:

“Where as application hath ben maid to me the subscriber  
 for calling a propts meeting of the propts of No 1. North of  
 Townshend in the province of Newhampshier These are  
 there fore to notifie & warn said propts to asembl & meet  
 at the meeting house on the 22 Day of this Instant June at  
 Nine O clock in the fore noon to act on the foleing articals:

1ly. To chues a modrater to govern said meeting.

2dly To see what the propts will chues to have the Town called.

3dly. To chues a comeett to setel with such parsons as have ben consarned with the propts money sins the setalment with Col Lawrence ares.

4ly To see what the propts will do consarning Road to Mr Thos Barts mills

5ly To alow accompts to any persons that has don sarvis [for] said propts If they Think proper.

6ly To see if the propts will dispose of the grond of the two hind seatts to such parsons as they shall think proper, that shall make aplication

7ly To see if the propts will turn the road a few rods Through Thos. Robens Land that comes from Left Parker to the meeting house.

Test THOS TARBELL, propts Clerk.

June the 7th, 1768.

At a Legual meeting of the propts of No. one held at the meeting house on the 22 day of June 1768.

Voted & chose Josiah Robens modrator

Voted to have the Town called Sharon.

Voted for comeett to recon with the comeette [and] Treshureyr Joseph Bulard Ruben Baret & Olever Eliot.

Voted, for comeett to view & Lay out the road to Mr Thomas Baretts mills Obadiah Parker Nathan Whipel & John Swallow.

Voted Capt Thomas Tarbell four Dolers for his sarvis as propts Clerk To be Drawn out of the Treshery to be in full for this sarvis to this Day.

Voted not to dispose of the Ground of the two hind seats.

Voted to turn the road a fue rods throe Thos Roben Land.

Then the meeting dismissed.

A True Intry. THOMAS TARBELL, propt Clerk."



At the meeting held March 22, 1769, it was,

“Voted, To give the meeting house to the town, except the privilege of the pnes.”

At the meeting held October 18, 1769, it was,

“Voted, To raise two dolers on each right liabel to pay taxes in Mason, and the comectt to have their pay out of said money for their being sued for said propty for hiring preaching.”

At the meeting held January 6, 1772, it was,

“Voted, To Josiah Robens one doler.” [Interlined.  
“Robens got the doler March the 30, 1773.”]

The following is the record of the last doings of the proprietors:

“PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE—*Hillsborough, ss.*

“Pursuent to the request of more than five of the propts of Mason, in the county aforesaid, for calling a propts meeting, These are, therefore, To Notifie & warn the propts of sd Mason to meet at the public meeting house in Mason, aforesaid, on the second Tuesday of January next, at one of the clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the fowling articals, to wit:

1ly. To chues a moderator for the regular carying on said meeting.

2dly. To hear and examine the accompts and demands of all persons that have any demands on the proprorts, for past services as Individuals, and they are desired to bring in the same, or Else Expect to befor Ever after debarred, &c.; and to alow such as shall apear Reasonabel, and give order for payment as the propriorts shall think proper.

3dly. To chuese a commettee to examine into the conduct of those who have heretofore recevd any of the propts money, as Tresherer, comats or Trustees, and to enabel them to give such discharges as they shall think proper, and to report as soon as may be.

THOMAS TARBELL, propt's Clerk,

MASON, Dec. 16th, 1772.

At a legal meeting of the propts of Mason, hild on the 12th of January, 1773,

Voted and chose Mr. Nathan Hall modrator, and voted to agorn the meeting to Mr. Samuel Abbots.

Voted for comeetee to Look into the Estait of the Treshery, and to Recon with the Tresherer, or comeetes, or Trustes Last chosen, to sell the Delinquants propts lands, said comeet Mr. David Bloget, Mr. Reuben Baret, Mr. Oliver Eliot. Then voted to agorn the meeting to the Last Tuesday of March next, to the meeting-house in Mason, at one o'clock afternoon.

March 30 the propts met acording to the agornment, and by reason of the comeet making a mistake in reconing with the Tresherer, agorned to the thirteenth day of Aprial, at three o'clock afternoon, at this place. April the 13 the propts met at the time and place, and voted to agorn the meeting to the third Wednesday in May, One o'clock afternoon, at this place. May the 19, then the propts met at the time and place and agorned to the first tuesday of June Next, att one oclock afternoon to this place. Test Thomas Tarbell propt Clerk."

Sic exit in fumo,—thus vanish into shadows, the original proprietors of Mason. This is their last appearance. Whether the mistake made by the "comeet in reconing with the Tresherer" was ever rectified, does not appear, and will never be known by those who at this late day, endeavor to peer into their doings. They were a worthy body of men, and deserved well of the town and of their country, for their indefatigable efforts under circumstances of great embarrassment, in "carrying on the settlement" of the place.

Undoubtedly, before this apparently last and inconclusive meeting, all the land, except perhaps the lots reserved for schools and for the minister and ministry, had become the property of individuals; so that there was little if anything left for the proprietary to concern itself with. The town was incorporated, and was thus made capable of taking and

holding the fee in the said lands, for the uses set forth in the original grant of the territory. It seems that the "delinquent propts" lands had been sold, and this last meeting had been called for the purpose of a general settlement of all out-standing claims, against the proprietary; which it is hoped and trusted was satisfactorily made, although it does not appear of record.

## CHAPTER III.

### MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Proceedings and incidents in the Municipal affairs of the town from the year  
1768, to 1858.

[Copy of the Charter.]

PROVINCE OF }  
NEW HAMPSHIRE. } George the Third, by the Grace of God, of  
Great Britain, France and Ireland, King,  
Defender of the Faith, &c.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, *Greeting :*

Whereas, our Loyal Subjects, Inhabitants of a Tract of Land within our Province of New Hampshire, known by the name of No. One, and containing about five miles Square, and bounded as hereafter mentioned, have Humbly petitioned and requested us, that they may be erected and incorporated into a Township, and enfranchised with the same privileges which other towns within our said Province, have and Enjoy by Law, and it appearing unto us to be conducive to the General Good of Our said Province, as well as of the said Inhabitants, in particular, by maintaining good order, and Encouraging the culture of the Land, that the same should be done; Know ye, therefore, that We, of Our Especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and for the Encouraging and promoting the good purposes and Ends aforesaid, and with the Advice of our Trusty and Well Beloved John Wentworth, Esq., Our Governor and Commander in Chief, and of Our Council for said Province, Have erected and Ordained, and by these presents, for us, our Heirs and Successors, Do will and Ordain, that the Inhabitants of the Tract of Land aforesaid, and others who shall inhabit and improve therein hereafter, the same being butted and bounded as follows, viz: Beginning at a stake and stones on the Province line, thence running on the same line, five miles and twenty rods, to the S $\frac{1}{4}$ E corner of New Ipswich, then running north on New Ipswich line, five miles to a white pine tree, to Wilton corner, then running east, on the south line of Wilton, five miles to a hemlock tree, then running south, five miles, by the Needle, to the bounds first mentioned, be and hereby are declared to be a Town Corporate, and are hereby erected and incorporated into a Body Politic and Corporate, to have continuance forever, by the name of Mason, with all

the powers & authorities, Privileges, Immunities & Franchises, which any other towns in said Province by Law have and Enjoy, to the said inhabitants, or who shall hereafter inhabit there, and their successors forever, always reserving to us, our heirs and successors, all white pine trees, which are or shall be found growing and being on the said Tract of land, fit for the use of our Royal Navy; Reserving also to us, our heirs and successors, the power and right of dividing the said town when it shall appear necessary and convenient, for the Inhabitants thereof: Provided, nevertheless, and it is hereby declared, that this charter and grant is not intended, nor shall in any way or manner, be construed to extend to, or affect the private property of the soil within the limits aforesaid; and as the several Towns within our said Province are by the Laws thereof enabled and authorized, to assemble and by a majority of votes present, to choose all such officers, and transact such affairs, as in the said Laws are declared, We do by these presents, nominate and appoint, Obadiah Parker, Gent., to call the first meeting of said Inhabitants to be held within said town, at any time within forty days from the date hereof, giving legal notice of the time and design of holding such meeting, after which the annual meeting of said town shall be had for the choice of said officers & the purposes aforesaid, on the second Monday of March, annually.

In testimony whereof, we have caused the public seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. Witness John Wentworth, Esquire, the aforesaid Governor, the twenty-sixth day of August, in the eighth year of our reign, Anno Domini, 1768. J. WENTWORTH.

By his Excellencie's command, with advice of Council.

T. ATKINSON, JR., Sec'y.

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.—*Secretary's Office.* Recorded in the Book for recording Charters of Incorporation, Pa. 303, 304.

T. ATKINSON, JR., Secretary.

At the proprietors' meeting, held January 5th, 1768, Obadiah Parker was chosen "to Goo to Portsmouth" to get the incorporation, and was authorized to "disburst the money" therefor. This duty he attended to, and procured the charter, a copy of which is found on the preceding pages. The original charter shows the name of the town, first inserted, to have been Sharon, according to the vote of the proprietors; but it was erased, and the name Mason substituted. This was, undoubtedly, done in compliment to John Mason the original proprietor, or to John Tufton Mason, who was one of the grantees of the original township. The above copy was transcribed from the town records; it is not certain that

it is a true copy of the original Charter. Acts of incorporation in those days, were granted by virtue of the executive or prerogative power of the Governor and not by legislative enactment. At that time it was a long and tedious journey from Mason to Portsmouth. Parker must have performed it on horse-back, or not unlikely, on foot. His "disbursements and charges for this service," appear by the record of the town meeting, November 7th, to have been £12 6s. 6d. 3q. Under date of March 21st, 1769, is recorded an order to pay him £9 4s. 11d. 0q., and interest for the charges of the incorporation. The items of the bill would at this day, be a matter of great curiosity; but they cannot be recovered.

Parker was by the charter, authorized to call the first meeting of the inhabitants, in their corporate capacity, and he issued his warrant therefor, a copy of which, being the warrant for the first town meeting of the town, is here inserted.

"PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. By order of his Excellency, JOHN WENTWORTH, Esquire, and the Honorable Council, for calling a meeting of the Inhabitants and Freeholders of Mason, in order for the choice of Town officers, &c. I therefore notify and warn the Inhabitants and all Freeholders and voters by law of the Town of Mason, to meet at the meeting-house in Mason, on Monday, the nineteenth of September instant at ten of the clock in the forenoon, and when assembled and duly mett, then and there to act on the following articles; viz:

1st. To chuse a moderator.

2ly. To chuse a town clerk, Selectmen, and all other town officers, as the law directs.

3dly. To see whether the town will except the road lately laid out by Mr. Thomas Barrett's and Amos Deakin's mills and build a bridge over the river, *now the water is low*, and to act upon any other article, that they shall then think proper for to bring forward the town.

MASON, Sept. ye 5, 1768.

OBADIAH PARKER."

At the meeting, Parker was chosen moderator; Josiah Wheeler, clerk; Josiah Wheeler, Obadiah Parker and Joseph Bullard, selectmen; Reuben Barrett and John Swallow, constables; Nathan Hall, treasurer; John Asten and Jonathan Winship, tythingmen; Thomas Barrett, Enosh Lawrence Jr., Lemuel Spaulding and Josiah Robbins, surveyors of highways; Capt. Thomas Tarbell, sealer of weights and measures; John Asten, sealer of leather; Richard Lawrence and Joseph Blood fence viewers; Sammel Lawrence and Joseph Lowell, hog constable; Aaron Wheeler and Oliver Elliot, deer officers.

“Voted to except the road as it was lately laid out to Mr. Thomas Barrett’s and Amos Deakin’s mills. Voted that all the roads formerly laid out by the proprietors, and now upon file, shall stand as town roads. Voted to build a bridge over the river by said Barrett’s and Deakin’s mills; therefore, voted that Amos Deakin, Thomas Barrett and Aaron Wheeler be a comtee to effect the same.”

Thus the town was fairly set up and provided with officers, its roads recognized and made valid. How the committee succeeded in building a bridge without means will in due time appear. It was also voted that the selectmen should serve without pay; a scheme which, although it had a look of economy, did not, in the end, as will appear, work well. Although everything looked fair, there was trouble ahead. Some of the officers chosen at the town meeting, refused to take the oath of office, and “therefore the selectmen appointed a town meeting in order for a new choice of such officers,” &c. The meeting was called to be held on the 7th of November. In the warrant for the meeting, among other articles, was

“3dly. To see if the town will raise a sum of money to pay the charges of incorporation, to hire preaching, to purchase the Province laws and town books, and to defray other necessary town charges.

“4thly. To see if the town will come into any measure for further finishing the meeting house; also, to choose comtee to effect the same.”

At this meeting most of the recusant officers were rechosen. The only change was in the highway surveyors. The new board were Elias Eliot, Ens. Enoch Lawrence, Jonathan Jeffs and Joseph Blood, and in the deer officers, Aaron Wheeler taking the office alone. The sum of £33 6s. 8d. 0q. lawful was raised to pay charges of incorporation, to hire preaching and to defray other charges. At this meeting it was,

“Voted, To except a road laid out two rods wide, from New Ipswich line, through Amos Deakin’s land, beginning at *a heap of stones on a stump* and running to a hemlock tree on the bank of the river, then running as the marks direct to the bridge,” &c.

“A heap of stones on a stump,” would not be regarded, in these days, as a suitable boundary to mark the limits of a road. Much exactness was not then required in the description of the boundaries, angles, courses and distances, in laying out roads. A most remarkable sample of such work, is found in the records of Townsend. It is as follows, under date of 1737: “Voted, a highway from the Pearl Hill brook to the place where the timber is cut to build a bridge, and from the said bridge to the Little Goose pond, near where Horsely and Wallis and Brown and Wyman and Woodbury, goeth along for their hay, from thence we come down the path to the hither Goose pond and over the dam thereof, from thence as marks direct across the plain, and so down the little footpath till we pass the little brook and into the cartpath by the knoll, this side of James Stevens’ house, from thence down by said last path till we come to the hollow beyond Horseley’s field, so along Horseley’s west line to Deacon Spaulding’s meadow lot, from thence over Rackkoon brook and across the corner of Manning’s land, and from thence across the plain to the corner of the lot Daniel Sartell lives on, and turning said corner on John Stevens’ land, and come along near the line between the lot Sartell lives on, and Stevens’ land, to Hartshorn’s brook, where the cartway goeth over, from thence on said Stevens’ land between the lot afore-



said and Hartshorn's farm to John Scales' old house place, from thence to Scales' nor east corner, which we found to be three miles and one hundred and sixty pole."

At this meeting the town,

"Voted, To allow Obadiah Parker's accompt for geting the town Incorporated, which sum is £12 6s. 6d. 3q."

Then follows in the record, a copy of the warrant to "Mr. John Swallow, one of the constables, &c., commanding him in his majesty's name, to collect £17 15s. 6d. 2q." For the assessment and collection of taxes the town was, from the first, divided into two districts—the east and the west; two constables or collectors were chosen, one in each district, to whom separate warrants were issued for the collection of the "rates." John Swallow was the constable or collector for the west side, and Reuben Barrett for the east side. A copy of the assessments committed to them is here inserted, by which it will appear who resided and were taxed on each part of the town, and what was their relative apparent ability to pay taxes; each warrant bearing date, January 28th, 1769.

FIRST TAX LIST. WEST SIDE.

	£	s	d	q		0	7	5	1
Josiah Robbins,	1	3	4	0	David Lowell, Jr.,	0	7	5	1
Ens. Enosh Lawrence,	1	1	6	1	Nathan Whipple,	0	9	0	0
Samuel Lawrence,	0	8	8	1	John Jefts,	0	6	1	1
John Swallow,	0	11	4	2	John Asten,	0	7	8	0
Isaac Holdin,	0	8	7	0	Joseph Barrett,	0	9	2	2
William Badoock,	0	9	6	0	Nathan Procter,	0	7	0	0
William Barrett,	0	7	5	1	Lieut. Obadiah Parker,	0	19	0	2
Nathaniel Barrett,	0	19	9	1	Joseph Bullard,	0	12	0	1
Jonathan Foster,	0	6	0	0	Josiah Wheeler,	0	7	6	1
Stevens Lawrence,	0	7	0	0	Zachariah Davis,	0	1	5	1
Thomas Robins,	0	6	0	0	Reuben Tucker,	0	2	10	0
Enosh Lawrence, Jr.,	0	10	7	1	Joseph Tucker,	0	0	8	2
Aaron Wheeler,	0	11	0	2	Capt. Amos Lawrence,	0	0	8	2
Nathaniel Hosmer,	0	6	1	1	Mr. Will. Lawrence,	0	4	11	1
John Dutton,	0	6	2	2	Amos Deaken, Barrett,	0	0	8	2
Widow Burge,	0	4	2	2	Edmund Town,	0	1	5	1
John Eliot,	0	18	10	0	Joseph Lowell,	0	6	0	0
Moses Lowell,	0	12	0	1	Cornelius Cook,	0	6	0	0
Richard Lawrence,	0	9	6	0	Benjamin King,	0	6	1	1
Joseph Merriam,	0	9	5	1	Dennis McLain,	0	6	0	0
David Lowell,	0	13	8	0	Sum Total,	17	15	6	2

A similar warrant was issued to "Mr. Reuben Barrett, Constable for the East side," to collect £17 10s. 7d. 1q., as follows:

## FIRST TAX LIST. EAST SIDE.

	£	s.	d.	q.		0	11	5	2
Capt. Thomas Tarbell,	1	10	10	0	Oliver Eliot,	0	11	5	2
Elias Eliot,	0	14	11	1	Daniel Fisk,	0	3	6	0
Jason Russell,	0	9	2	0	Mary Jeffs, Widow,	0	1	6	0
Nathaniel Smith,	0	9	3	1	Thomas Jeffs,	0	6	2	1
Joseph Ross,	0	11	3	1	Jonathan Jeffs,	0	14	1	1
Nathaniel Tarbell,	0	0	0	0	Nathan Hall,	0	15	7	1
Edmund Tarbell,	0	0	0	0	James Hall,	0	6	3	1
Jonathan Williams,	0	9	11	1	Patience Fish, Widow,	0	18	0	0
Reuben Barrett,	0	19	10	1	Eleazer Fish,	0	6	2	0
Hannah Eliot, Widow,	0	1	6	1	Ebenezer Blood,	0	14	2	0
Samuel Scripture,	1	0	9	1	Jason Dunster,	0	5	6	0
James Weather,	0	10	5	0	Joseph Herrick,	0	0	11	0
Lemuel Spaulding,	0	8	4	0	Jonathan Winship,	0	19	0	0
Elizabeth Powers, Widow,	0	6	4	2	Samuel Tarbell,	0	6	8	2
Joseph Blood,	0	6	6	0	Nathaniel Barrett, Jr.,	0	6	0	0
Abel Shedd,	0	6	0	0	John Leonard,	0	6	11	2
George Woodard,	0	6	2	0	Jonathan Fish,	0	6	8	2
Jabez Kendall,	0	9	8	0	Sum Total,	17	10	7	1

An important duty of the selectmen in those days was, to take due care that the town should not be made chargeable for the support of paupers, whose residence was in other places. Among the earliest official acts of the first board of selectmen, was the issuing of warrants to warn such persons to remove from the town, by which process they were prevented from gaining any lawful settlement by residence in the town, so as to make the town liable to support them, in case they should become unable to support themselves. As a sample of the mode in which this provision of a by-gone age was carried out, a copy of the first such warrant issued by the selectmen, and of the return of the officer thereon, is inserted:

## WARRANT.

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. To Mr. John Swallow, constable in Mason, in said Province: Whereas, a person named Dorothy Stevens hath, for some time, resided in the town of Mason, in said Province, and [is] likely to become a lawful inhabitant in said town, unless lawfully prevented, these are, therefore, in his majestie's name, to will and require you, the said constable, forthwith to warn the said person to depart out of said town, within fourteen days, and to remain in said town no longer. Hereof fail not, as you will answer your default in the penalty of the law, and make due return of this warrant and of your doings therein, within fourteen days.

Given under our hands and seals, at Mason, the 17th day of January, A. D. 1769, and in the ninth year of his majestie's reign.

OBADIAH PARKER, }  
 JOSEPH BULLARD, } Selectmen.  
 JOSIAH WHEELER, }

## RETURN.

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. Mason, January 20, 1769. By virtue of this warrant, I have warned the within named Dorothy Stevens, to depart out of said town, within fourteen days, and to remain in said town no longer.

JOHN SWALLOW. Constable in Mason.

Similar warrants and returns are recorded for warning out Mary Jefts and her b. child, January 26, 1769; Elizabeth Parker, February 25, 1769; Samuel Bennett and Sarah Wor- rer, July 24, 1769; Jonathan Cafford, July 27, 1769; Jonas Perry, February 27, 1770. After which, nothing is recorded but the names of the parties and dates of the warrants.

At the meeting, March 13, 1769, "Voted, To allow Amos Dakin and Aaron Wheeler's accompt for building a bridge over the river by said Dakin's mills, which sum is £8 0s. 9d. 3q. starling money of Great Britain."

March 21, 1769. Treasurer is ordered to pay Josiah Wheeler £0 11s. 9d. 0q. for town books; Obadiah Parker £9 4s. 11d. 0q. and interest, for the charges of incorpora- tion; John Swallow £0 3s. 3d. for warning several persons out of town; Obadiah Parker £0 14s. 4d. for boarding Mr. Coggin; Obadiah Parker £3 12s. 0d. 0q. "for to pay Mr. Jacob Coggin for four days pritching."

The proprietors having voted to give the meeting house to the town, at their meeting held March 22, 1769, there was an article in the warrant for the town meeting to be held May 9, 1769, "To see if the town will except the meeting house, provided those men that own pews take them for their seats; also, to determine whether the town will do anything towards finishing said house, and how far they will go in finishing it." At the meeting held May 9, "Voted, That the town excepted

the meeting house if the men that own pews take them for their sets. Voted, To bild the seats and to nail the Bords on the outside of sd house. \* \* Voted and chouse Enosh Lawrence, John Asten, Aaron Wheelcar, comete to hier priching. Voted and chouse John Asten, John Swallow, Nathan Whipel, comete to Bild the seats and nail the Bordes on sd house. Voted, To chuse a comete to see into the steat of the selectmen, assessors, and into the state of the Trespure. Aron Wheelcar, Ruben Barret, Oliver Alet were chouse cemete men. \* \* Voted, The road throu William Badcock's land where it now goes to Josiah Wheeler's and to New Ipsshed. The sixt articakel not acted on. \* \* Voted and chouse a comete to pich upon a place or places for a grave yard. Enosh Lawrance, Samauel Scriptor, Nathan Hall."

At the meeting Sept. 11th, 1769, "Voted to except the money that two of the 'cool lots was sold for by the proprietors last Febneary in lew of the lots that was sold."

January 11th, 1770, the treasurer was ordered to pay Josiah Wheeler One pound four shillings Lawful money, to pay Mr. Josiah Willard for one day preaching in the year 1768. Also to pay Stephen Lawrence six shillings for boarding Mr. Nathan Bond while preaching in 1769. Also to pay John Swallow two shillings and eight pence for keeping Mr. Nathan Bond's horse while preaching in 1769.

The town seems at an early period, to have been troubled with "idle persons." In the warrant for the annual meeting, in 1770, the 9th article is, "To see if the town will provide a work house in order to set Idle persons to work, also, to appoint an overseer for said house." At the meeting, it was "Voted that there be a work house provided and that Reuben Barrett be the overseer and master of said house," a vote that may have operated in terrorem, and frightened away the idle persons; for although no house was provided, yet it is some years before any new complaints appear, of the prevalence of idle persons. At the same meeting, "Voted to have

but one graveyard. Voted to except of that piece of ground for a graveyard which the committee, that was appointed to lay out graveyards have laid out at the west end of lot No. 6, in the ninth range on the west side of the road that goes to Townshend, running on said road twenty poles from the south line of said lot, containing two acres."

Aug. [10] 1770. Ordered one pound twelve shillings paid to Samuel Scripture "for boarding Mr. Bigglow and Mr. Ward while preaching in Mason." Also, to Obadiah Parker "twelve shillings seven pence for going after a minister," and same date to James Withee 4s. 10d. "for paying John Asten for nine dinners for the ministers Mr. Bigglow and Mr. Ward." Mr. Asten probably lived at the nearest house to the meeting-house, the cellar of which now remains in the north west corner of the Rev. Mr. Hill's old orchard.

A meeting was called August 27th, 1770. among other matters, "to see if the town will give Mr. Jonathan Searle an invitation to settle among them in the Gospel ministry and what they will offer him as settlement and salary."

"5thly. To see if the town will raise money to release Samuel Scripture the difficulty about Mr. Brown's preaching." At this meeting it was "voted unanimously to give Mr. Searle a call; to give him one hundred pounds Lawful settlement, half in six and half in twelve months after ordination, sixty pounds lawful as salary, the first ten years. and at the end of ten years £66 13s. 4d. as yearly stated salary."

"Voted not to act on the 5th article," so Mr. Scripture was not "relieved of his difficulty."

1770, December 18th, the treasurer was ordered to pay James Withee 18s. "for paying Mr. Jona. Searle so much."

"Dec. 24. The Treasurer was ordered "to pay Aaron Wheeler £8 8s. to pay Mr. Ward for seven days preaching."

1771, Feb. 18. The Treasurer was ordered to pay Thomas Tarbell £4 4s. "for boarding Mr. Searle 14 weeks."

At the annual meeting 1771, a rate was made for improving the school lot, to be paid in labor. A man was allowed 2s.

3d., and a yoke of oxen, 1s. 4d. a day. "Voted to allow the town Treasurer 2d. 2q. on the pounds for taking [in] and paying out the towns money." The school lot here referred to, is the lot on which the meeting-house was built.

1771, March 7th, the treasurer was ordered to pay Ens. Enosh Lawrence £1 6s. 8d. "for boarding Mr. Searle 4 weeks."

Mr. Scripture still being "in trouble about Mr. Brown's preaching," applied to the town for relief. In the warrant for the meeting June 3d, 1771, the second article was, "To see if the town will make Mr. Samuel Scripture any allowance with respect to the charge and trouble he has been put to relative to Mr. Brown a late preacher in said town; he the said Scripture being the person that employed him for that business, and he has been sued and put to cost and charge upon this account, and to say what he shall have allowed him for the same." The town voted not "to allow him for the same," for what reason does not appear.

November 18, 1771, "Voted, To hire Mr. Newcum [Newcomb] one month upon probation, in case he will supply us."

Same date, Treasurer ordered to pay Insign Enosh Lawrence £2 7s. 3d. 1q. "in part for boarding ministers the summer past."

January 3, 1772. To the same, 12s. "in part for boarding ministers the summer past."

April 29, 1772. An order "To pay Thomas Tarbell eight shillings for providing for a fast we had on account of giving Mr. Searle a call."

At a meeting August 10, 1772, the call to Mr. Searle was renewed, with the same settlement and salary. This call was accepted. Of his answer, a copy is inserted on pages 67 and 68, in this chapter.

September 7, 1772. At a meeting called to appoint a day for the ordination, &c., "Voted, To accept Mr. Searle's answer, and that the 14 of October be the day of ordination, and to send to the following nine churches under the pastoral

care of their ministers to assist, viz: Hollis, Rev. Daniel Emerson; Byfield, Rev. Moses Parsons; Pepperell, Rev. Joseph Emerson; New Rowley, Rev. James Chandler; Townshend, Rev. Samuel Dix; Linebrook, Rev. George Leslie; New Ipswich, Rev. Stephen Farrar; Old Rowley, Rev. Jedediah Jewett; Temple, Rev. Samuel Webster."

"Voted, To give Lieut. Obadiah Parker, eight pounds fourteen shillings and four pence, L. money, to entertain the council, together with all the other gentlemen of the clergy, and Mr. Searle's relations and friends, that may attend the ordination."

"Voted, That Mr. Searle may be absent two Sabbaths in a year yearly, in order to visit his relations, in case it may not be in his power to provide a supply."

Josiah Wheeler, Amos Dakin and Obadiah Parker were chosen "A committee to send out letters missive for the ordination. Voted, To choose a committee to prop up the galleries in the meeting house, as they shall think proper, before the ordination." David Blodgett, Jacob Blodgett, Lieut. John Swallow, Samuel Scripture and Enosh Lawrence Jr., were chosen a committee for that purpose. "Voted, To chuse a committee to tend the meeting house doors, and keep the body seats the men's side for the church, and the women's side for the council, on ordination day." Edmund Tarbell Jason Russell, Renben Hosmer and Nathaniel Hosmer, were chosen for this purpose.

The call or invitation to Mr. Searle is not recorded, nor has any copy of it been found. His answer is entered at length in the records. It is characteristic of the man, and as it is one of the few memorials of him left, it is here inserted:

"To the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of Mason: Beloved Friends; As God, who has the Hearts of all Men in his hands, has called me, tho' most unworthy, to preach in several Places, and of late in this Place; so I Humbly hope, through Grace, that it has been and is still my real Desire to hearken to his Voice in Providence, and readily to comply

with the same. And as you have proceeded according to the Copy of your Votes, which the Committee lodged in my hands, to renew your Call for my Settlement in the work of the Ministry among you, and that, as I understand, with much Harmony and good Agreement, I look upon myself bounden in Duty to encourage the same; since I trust God has, by his Spirit, made such an application of his word and Providence to my mind as leads me to see that I'm called not only of Man but of God: Accordingly, I do cheerfully give up myself to God, to serve him by his Grace in the Gospel of his Son: and it is my Purpose to give myself to you by the will of God.

"I take it for granted in your vote respecting my settlement, you mean to give me One Hundred Pounds, in addition to and over and above those Lands given by your Charter to the first minister, and upon that condition give an affirmative Answer to your request.

"I beg a constant and fervent Remembrance in all your Addresses at the Throne of Grace, that God would abundantly furnish me for the Work of the Ministry, with the Gifts and Graces of his holy Spirit.

"And now Sirs, may God graciously smile upon and bless you in all your concerns, particularly respecting your settlement in Gospel Order. I do fervently commend you "to God and to the Word of his Grace which is Able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among them which are sanctified," And Subscribe myself your Servant in our Common Lord.

JONATHAN SEARLE.

"P. S. Whereas my Relations live at some considerable Distance whom 'tis likely I shall incline to visit once a year, when it may not be in my Power to provide a Supply, I should take it very kindly if in your next meeting, you would take this Matter into Consideration, and give Liberty that I may be absent two or three Sabbaths in a year, as you may think proper."

This is all that appears upon the town records, in reference



to the call and ordination of Mr. Searle. In the History of the New Hampshire Churches, page 23, it is stated, that Mr. Searle received a call to settle at Candia, N. H., between 1768 and 1771, which he seems to have declined in favor of Mason. This connection commenced with favorable auspices, was not a happy one. Difficulties soon arose, of which the details will appear in their proper place. The call, it may be remarked is not in accordance with the principles upon which congregational churches now claim to be established. This call proceeded from the town alone. There was at the date of these proceedings no church. That was not organized or formed until the 13th of October, the day before the ordination. The "letters missive" were issued by the town. It is now the prescribed and universal rule, for the letters to be issued by the church, and for the town or society by their committee to join with the church in sending out the letters. The call also should proceed from the church, in the first instance, as it is from the church alone that it has any ecclesiastical or binding force, as a religious institution or ordinance. The action of the town is merely subsidiary, and has reference only to temporalities, such as the salary, settlement, use of lands, parsonage, &c. Such rights, towns in their corporate capacity, continued to exercise, a concurrence on their part with the church, being requisite for the lawful settlement of a minister, until the act of the Legislature, passed July 1st, 1819, took away from towns all such power; and parishes, or societies came in place of towns, in the contracts for settling ministers. The clergyman, in those days, was the minister, that is, the servant of the town and people; but the pastor, that is the keeper, the shepherd of the church. Then permanence gave dignity and authority to the office; gravity, learning, and a paternal interest and care for the whole people, made the minister the first and principal man in the town, whose character, especially if for good, impressed itself thoroughly and permanently, upon the whole town, and all its interests and institutions. That he should be right-

mindful, able and faithful, was as important for the prosperity of the town and people, as such characteristics are in the husband and father of a family, for the peace, happiness and prosperity of the domestic circle. What a change a half century with its new notions, has brought about. The reverence paid, and authority yielded to the clergy, is gone, and with them are gone much of the peace, order, sobriety and prosperity of our communities, especially in the agricultural regions. The old-fashioned charity, hospitality and brotherly kindness have vanished away, and their place has not been supplied by any gifts or graces, that should cause their loss not to be noticed and lamented. Possibly, in worldly prosperity, some show of advance has been made, but in domestic felicity and neighborly good feelings, the by-gone days may fearlessly challenge a comparison with the present times.

November 17th, 1772. The treasurer is ordered "To pay Mr. Jacob Burnap fourteen pounds eight shillings L. money for preaching and supplying Twelve Sabbaths in Mason."

January 6, 1773. The Treasurer is ordered "To pay Insign Enosh Lawrence £3 10s. 0d. 3q. L., which sum, with what he has already rec'd, amounts to the sum total of his account for boarding Mr. Steward, Mr. Burnap and Mr. Wioth, while preaching in Mason.

February 27, 1773. Order "To pay Lieut. Obadiah Parker £10 16s. L. which sum he paid Mr. Jonathan Searle, in part for preaching in the town of Mason, in the year 1770," and same date, order to pay Nathan Coburn, three shillings "for carrying Mr. Jacob Burnap's money to him, which was due to him for preaching in Mason in the year 1771." Same date, Mr. Nathan Hall, as treasurer, is charged as "Dr. to the selectmen £1 1s. 4d., the Rev. Jacob Burnap having abated so much out of the sum the selectmen ordered the treasurer to pay him."

March 5, 1773. Order "To pay Abijah Allen £4 6s. 8d for boarding Mr. Ames seven weeks, when preaching in Mason, and for boarding the Rev. Mr. Searle seven weeks, while

preaching in Mason, before his ordination, and for expenses to Concord in going after Mr. Ames."

March 24, 1773. Order "To pay Elisha Withington three pounds for keeping school in Mason two months last winter."

This is the first entry that appears, of money paid for schools. Mr. Withington continued for many years to be employed as a school master. There were then no school districts, or school houses. The whole management of the schools was under the superintendence of the selectmen. They employed the teacher and directed when and where the schools should be kept. The only memorials left, of the schools and teachers, are to be found in the records of the orders for the payment of their wages and expenses of wood and rent of rooms.

May 31, 1773. Order "To pay Lt. Obadiah Parker 8s. 9d. 3q. for his cost in sending for a law book, paying for a juror box, and paying Esq. Goss, for swearing the selectmen to the Inventory taken in April last."

May 31, 1773. Order "To pay Lt. Obadiah Parker £2 1s. 5d., which he paid to the Rev. Jonathan Searle in full for his preaching in the town of Mason, in the year 1770, and likewise £2 17s. 1d., in part for what he preached in the year 1772, before his ordination."

In the warrant for the town meeting, July 12, 1773, one article was, "To see if the town will provide a work house, or determine what method they will come into for the support of the poor." Another was, "To see if the town will give liberty to Mr. Stevens Lawrence to build a house and horse stable on the school lot, for his own use on Sabbath days." Another, "To see if the town will accept of a piece of ground of Capt. Thomas Tarbell, for a graveyard." The town voted, "That there be a work house provided," that "Stevens Lawrence, or any other man, may have liberty to build a house or horse stable on the school lot, for their own use on Sabbath days." The work house was not built. The threat to build it probably induced the "idle persons" to

withdraw or go to work. The piece of ground for a graveyard, was that now occupied for that purpose, in the east part of the town, near where Capt. Thomas Tarbell then lived, about one mile east of the old meeting house. Under the liberty to build on the school lot, horse stables and houses for Sabbath days, two such houses were built, both of two small rooms, with a fire place in each room—one of them, by Stevens Lawrence, Jonathan Searle, Aaron Wheeler and John Swallow, the other by Col. James Wood, Joseph Woods, Oliver Hosmer and Timothy Wheeler. A long line of horse sheds or stables was built, on the west side of the road opposite to the meeting house, and another line of stables on the north side of the meeting house. The earliest built were stables, in form and fact, being wholly enclosed and shut by a sliding door. These were fitted only for the accommodation of horses without carriages. The primitive mode of conveyance to the public meetings, for worship, was on horse back. The father of the family with his wife behind him on the pillion, each with an infant child in their arms and with their Sunday dinner of brown bread, nut cakes or dough nuts, and cheese and apples in their pockets, left the humble cottage dwelling in the cleared patch, surrounded by the original forest, accompanied by the other members of the family, children and hired men, or relatives, inmates of the same, on foot, the procession wending its way, over the road but partially cleared of rocks and stumps, proceeded to the rough boarded, unpretending meeting house. The horse was well provided for in the close stable, sheltered from wind and storm. The people resorted to the Sabbath-day house, or as it was more generally called "noon house," at the season of intermission, where, by a good, comfortable fire, they enjoyed their homely but healthy fare of a dinner, with a social drink of cider, and such friendly and cheerful chat as served to keep up an intimacy and neighborly intercourse which tended to preserve personal friendship and good feeling in society.

September 22, 1773. Order "To pay Josiah Wheeler £9

12s., for paying Mr. Sylvanus Ames for preaching eight Sabbaths in Mason."

March 14, 1774. Order "To pay Ens. Enosh Lawrence £5 14s. 8d. 2q., for paying Mr. Wyeth for four days' preaching, and 16 months interest for the same."

July 15, 1774. At a meeting called expressly for that purpose, Amos Dakin "was chosen to send to meet the several towns in the Province at Exeter, on the 21st of July, in order to choose a committee to join the Congress at Philadelphia, on the first of September next, in order to consult what measures may be best to be taken to secure our rights and privileges." This is the first distinct notice, that appears on the records of any action of the town in reference to the great struggle that was then impending, the successful result of which is destined to work a greater revolution, for the better, in human affairs, than any other event, that has occurred since the introduction of the Christian religion. The subsequent records show, that this little community, amidst poverty and privations, were not, in proportion to their means, second to any in the land, in their efforts to secure to themselves and their posterity, the great boon of political freedom and self-government.

August 22, 1774. Josiah Wheeler was, at his request, excused from further services as town clerk and selectman. He was a leading and active man in the affairs of the town and church, from the first organization of each, till this date. He served in the office of town clerk, to which he was chosen on the first organization of the town, every year but one, and as one of the selectmen every year, till he resigned both offices, as above, probably on account of ill health. By the record of deaths, it appears that he died October 17, 1774. His records are very well made, in a plain and distinct hand, and are now perfectly legible, in that respect comparing favorably with any of his successors, and very much superior to most of them. In what year he came into town has not been ascertained. His native place was Concord. He was one of

the original members of the church, and took an active part in its proceedings. The birth of his eldest daughter, Lucy, is recorded January 16, 1765. This was anterior to the commencement of the town records. The entry is made by himself, as town clerk. He probably then lived in town. He lived upon the farm afterwards owned by Hinckman Warren. His widow continued to live upon the farm till October 25, 1775, when she was married to David Blodgett, who lived on the farm several years after the marriage, and probably till it was sold to Warren. In the first assessment of taxes in the town, he was rated at 7s. 6d. 1q. The list contains seventy six names. Two or more were non-residents. The highest rate in the list of residents, that of Josiah Robbins, was £1 3s. 4d. 0q., the lowest, that of Joseph Tucker, 8d. 2q. Thirty seven were higher and thirty eight lower than Mr. Wheeler, showing him to have been placed in that happy state of mediocrity, in which, alone, the true enjoyment of life is to be found. Probably none of his descendants reside in the town. No monument shows where he rests from his labors.

The storm of revolutionary troubles now began to wear a dark and threatening aspect. October 23, 1774, a warrant was issued, calling a meeting on Monday, the 24th of October, "To choose a committee to send to Amherst, to meet the sessions, and also to act on some other articles, that may be then thought proper." At the meeting, Lieut. Obadiah Parker and Mr. Joseph Barrett were chosen a committee to meet the sessions, and Amos Dakin, Samuel Brown, Abijah Allen, David Blodgett and Lieut. Obadiah Parker, were chosen a committee of correspondence for the county. The notice for this meeting was issued on Sunday, to meet the next day, thus verifying Mr. Webster's remark in his Baltimore speech, that "revolutionary times know no Sundays."

Immediately after the record of this meeting, but without any preface, introduction or explanation, is entered in the

records, in the hand writing of Benjamin Mann, town clerk, the following paper, copied verbatim and literatim :

**"THE COVENANT OF NON-IMPORTATION AND AGREEMENT, 1774.**

"We, the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the Town of Mason in N. H. Having Taken into our Serious Consideration the Precarious State of the Liberties of N. America, and More Especially the Present Distressed Condition of our Sister Colony of Massachusetts Bay, Embarrassed as it is By Several Acts of the British Parliament tending to the Entire Subversion of their Natural and Charter Rights, among which is the Acts for Blocking up the Harbor of Boston; and Being Fully Sensible of our Indispensible Duty to Lay Hold on Every Lawful Means in our Power to Preserve and Recover the Much Injured Constitution of our Country, and Conscious at the same [time] of no Alternative between the Horrors of Slavery, or Carnage and Desolation of Civil War, But a Suspension of all Commercial Intercourse with the Island of Grate Britain, Do, in the Presence of God, Solemly and in Good Faith covenant and Engage with each other :

"1st. That from Henceforth we will suspend all Commercial Intercourse with the said Island of Grate Brittain, until the Parlaiment shall Ceas to Enact Laws Imposing Taxes upon the Colonies without their consent, or until the Pretended Rights of Taxing is Dropped, and Boston Port be opened, and their and our Constitutional Rights and Privileges are Restored to ye Colonies.

"2dly. That there may be less Temptation to others to Continue in the said Now Dangerous Commerce, and in order to Promote Industry, Economy, Arts and Manufactures among ourselves, which are of the Last Importance to the Welfare and Well-being of a Community, We do in like manner Solemly Covenant that we will not knowingly Buy, Purchase or Consume, or suffer any Person by, for or under us, to Purchase, nor will we use in our Families In any manner whatsoever, any Goods, Wares and Merchandize which shall Arrive in America, from Grate Britain aforesaid from and after the last of August Ensuing; Except only such articles as shall be Judged absolutely necessary By the majority of the Signers hereof; and as much as in us Lies to Prevent our Being interrupted and Defeated, in this only Peaceble Measure entered into for the Recovery and Preservation of our Rights and the rights of our Brethren in our Sister Colonies; We agree to Brake off all Trade and Commerce with all Persons, who

Preferring their Private Interest to the Salvation of their now almost Perishing Country, who shall still Continue to import Goods from Grate Britain, or shall Purchase of those who import after the said Last Day of August; until the aforesaid Pretended Right of Taxing the Colonies shall be Given up or Dropped, Except so much as Christian Duty Requires Toward them.

3dly. As a refusal to come into this or a similar agreement, which promises deliverance of our Country from the Calamities it now feels, and which, like a torrent, are rushing upon it, with increasing violence, must, in our opinion, evidence a disposition enimical to, or criminally negligent of the common safety, it is agreed that all such ought to be considered, and shall by us be esteemed, as encouragers of contumacious importers.

4thly. We hereby further engage that we will use every reasonable meathord to encourage and promote the production of manufactures among ourselves, that this covenant and engagement may be as little detrimental to ourselves and fellow countrymen as possible.

Lastly, we allow ourselves liberty to comply with the result of the General Congress. Also we agree to make such alterations as shall be thought suitable by the majority of the Signers, after [being] notified in a public manner by a committee chosen for that purpose, eight days before said meeting."

No names are recorded as being signed to this document. It is without date, except of the year. The original has not been found, nor any list of the names. Immediately following the above record, is a notice of a meeting to be held November 7th, 1774. "To make such alterations in the said covenant, &c., as shall be thought proper." In the record of the meeting, it is set forth that "the signers, &c., met and agreed on the following articles to be exempted that the above signers may have liberty to purchase, Viz: Arms and ammunition, also steel sewing needles, pins and awls, and Doctors drugs that cannot be purchased in this country of equal value. Voted, That those persons that have not signed the Covenant of Non-Importation are to do it within a fortnight, or else have their names returned to the other towns.

BENJAMIN MANN, Town Clerk."

At a meeting, November 21, 1774, it was "Voted, to sell to Stephen Lawrence, the ministry lot of land that he now



lives on, being lot No. 7, Range 8, for £53 6s. 8d.," and the Rev. Jonathan Searle was to be paid sixteen shillings yearly for it, which he agreed to take during his ministry, and a committee was chosen to make the conveyance and take the acquittance of Mr. Searle. This subject had been before the town at former times. It seems that it was not settled by this vote of the town, for a meeting was called January 2nd, 1775, "To see if the town will make further enquiry relative to the ministerial lands" &c., and to see whether the privilege of improving said lands belongs to the Rev. Jonathan Searle, or to the town. Also to see what enquiry should be made, and whether at the expense of the town." At the meeting, it was, voted "to make the enquiry, at the expense of the town, and that David Blodgett, Benjamin Mann and Samuel Smith, be a committee to draw up articles to send to Sqr Varnum, in order for advice relative to said ministry lands." What advice was obtained of "Sqr Varnum" is not on record.

A meeting of the signers of the covenant, &c., was called January 12th, 1775, at which it was "Voted, To adopt the resolves of the Continental Congress." Also, Voted, To send one committee man to meet at Exeter, January 25, in order to choose a committee to "joyn the Congress at Philadelphia," &c. Joseph Barrett was chosen. The committee chosen October 24th, was continued, and two more added to the number, to wit: Reuben Barrett and Samuel Smith. "Voted, That the aforesaid committee, viz: Messrs Amos Dakin, Samuel Brown, Abijah Allen, David Blodgett, Lieut. Obadiah Parker, Reuben Barrett and Samuel Smith," be a committee of inspection to see that "the Resolves of the Continental Congress is Duely observed."

March 9th, 1775. Order "To pay Amos Dakin 19s. 6d. for finding hors and expenses to go to Exeter in ye year 1774."

At the annual meeting March 17th, 1775, it was, "Voted To pass over the 5th article of the warrant, of discontinuing the Rode that leads from the widow Powerses up by James

Scriptures and his fathers, which was a request of Ebenezer Muzzy and others in the warrant. For which James Scripture declared in the meeting that he would [give] said Ebenezer Muzzy Free Liberty to Pass and Repass thro' His Land to said Muzzy Land, with said Muzzy's Being Injenias and keeping up the bars." It was also, "voted to draw out of the Treasury" [that is for the town to pay] the town's proportion of "the charge of the Continental Congress ye present year, which sum is £2 8s. 0d. 0q." Amos Dakin was chosen a "Deputy to send to Exeter."

At this period of time, the habits of the people were such as to render them independent, in a great measure, for the comfortable supply of the wants of life, of articles not produced in the town. Tea was prohibited by the non-impotation agreement. For sugar and molasses, the rock maple was a reliable resource. Every common article of food and clothing was produced in the town, or at least in the neighborhood. The clothing was made of wool and flax of domestic growth, spun and woven by the kitchen fire, by the busy and industrious hands of the mother and daughters. Native woods and plants furnished coloring matters suitable and satisfactory to their simple tastes and unostentatious habits. Economy, thrift, and a happy contentment with their lot were characteristics of the times and people. In point of real independence, the comparison of their condition with that of their successors would be much in their favor. But there was one important article of which there seems to have been very vivid apprehensions that the supply, by reason of the war, might fail. That article was salt. This, they had no means of producing, nor had they any substitute to take its place. The subject was of so much consequence that it was taken up as a town matter. At a town meeting, held May 12, 1775, It was, "Voted, To purchase 30 hogshheads of salt as a town stock upon the town credit. Voted, That Dea. Amos Dakin, Lieut. Obadiah Parker, Lt. Ephraim Sattwell, be a committee to agree with any person or persons who shall appear to

bring up the salt, and upon what terms. Voted, That Mr. David Blodgett should go to Salem to procure said salt, and to allow him six shillings for his trouble. Voted, To give two shillings per bushel for bringing up said salt.

“Voted, That there be two companies in said town, and that the alarm company be separate from the military company. Voted, To choose officers for each company.”

This is the first notice of the military affairs of the town. Who were chosen officers is not stated. The alarm company, or “alarm list,” or “elerum list,” as it is sometimes called, was an important institution. It was a body of able men, practiced in the use of arms, ready to assemble at any time, on the “alarm” at the beat of the drum, or other signal, at the shortest possible notice, in battle array, prepared with arms and equipments, to march to meet the enemy and repel invasion. This institution of the alarm list was kept up long after the occasion—the war of the Revolution—that gave rise to it, was passed. Even within the recollection of the writer, it was usual, at the annual May training, for the veterans, the alarm list, to turn out and assemble with the arms and equipments that had seen service at Bunker Hill, at Saratoga, at Ticonderoga, at White Plains, at Rhode Island, and various other battle fields of the Revolution, and parade in due form under their old officers, to show the “boys” how the thing was done. After marching and counter marching, displaying various intricate evolutions, winding up with that most wonderful performance, whipping the snake, it was customary, on retiring from the active duties of the day, to indulge, often times too freely, with an article then known and used in the form of toddy and flip, which had much better be let entirely alone. In happy contrast with those times, it may now be said that no decent body meddles with the poison.

In May, 1775, a convention of delegates met at Exeter, for the purpose, in fact, of taking from the hands of the Provincial authorities, the government of the State, and devising

a new mode of carrying it on. It continued in session, with little interruption, till late in November. One hundred and two towns were represented by one hundred and thirty three members. Governor Wentworth, after a fruitless effort to repress the spirit of liberty in the body of the people and in their representatives, had adjourned the assembly to the 28th of September. But this body met no more. Alarmed by some demonstrations of popular feeling, he retired to the Isles of Shoals, and there issued a proclamation, ordering a further adjournment to the next April. This was the closing act of his administration. He soon after withdrew to the British territories, leaving the government of the State in the hands of the patriots.

The convention appointed a committee of safety, which exercised the authority of a supreme executive. Theodore Atkinson, the former secretary, by order of the convention, delivered up the Province records to a committee, which was sent to receive them. Ebenezer Thompson was appointed in his place. George Jaffrey, the former treasurer, delivered up the public money in his hands, and Nicholas Gilman was appointed in his place. The convention was chosen for six months only. They made provision to call a representation of the people, who should be empowered by their constituents to assume the government, and continue it one year. Every elector was required to have an estate of twenty pounds value, and every representative an estate of three hundred pounds value. Each town of one hundred families was to have one representative, and one more for each additional hundred families. Towns with a less number were to be classed. An enumeration of the people in each county had been ordered, and it was determined that the number of the representatives should correspond with that of the people, as follows :

## CENSUS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Counties.	Population.	Representatives.
Rockingham,	37,850	38
Strafford,	12,713	13
Hillsborough,	16,487	17
Cheshire,	11,089	15
Grafton,	4,101	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	82,200	89

This ratio would give one representative for about nine hundred and twenty three inhabitants. Under this arrangement, Mason and Raby, now Brookline, were classed for the choice of a representative, and these towns continued to be so classed until 1793, in which year Joseph Merriam was chosen to represent Mason alone, under a new classification. Brookline was afterwards classed with Milford. Benjamin Farley was chosen to represent Raby and Milford in 1796. The number of inhabitants in Mason, according to an enumeration made by the assessors October 30, 1775, was 501. Males under 16, 148; males from 16 to 50 not gone to the army, 86; all males above 50, 12; persons gone in the army, 27; all females, 227; negroes and slaves for life, 1. Total, 501. The number of guns, 48; pounds of powder, 14½. "The number of those that have not guns is 49." This is the earliest census of the inhabitants of Mason. The enumeration was taken, by the assessors, in obedience to the Provincial Congress. At this time, Portsmouth had 4590 inhabitants; Londonderry, 2590; Exeter, 1741; Dover 1666.

A meeting was called by warrant, dated November 1, 1775, article third was, "To see what the town will do in regard to the town stock of salt, wheather it shall remain preserved as a town stock any longer, or wheather it shall be *Disbusted* to every one according [as] he shall need the same, and also in what manner it shall be distributed to every one.

"4thly. To see what the town will do in regard to that cow that the town purchased for the benefit of Mr. Nathaniel Barrett's family this year, wheather the town will sell said cow or have her kept this winter."

At the meeting, November 6, Samuel Brown was moderator.

“Voted, To pass over the third article.” So it seems that the salt did not get “Disbusted” at this meeting. On the fourth article, the town directed the cow to be sold at public vendue. Also, on the fifth, “Voted, that Joseph Barrett be one of the committee of Inspection for the town in Mr. D. B——’s room.”

The first warrant for choice of a representative, was issued by the selectmen, November 23, 1775. It was for a meeting of the freeholders, &c., of Mason to meet at the meeting house, on the 11th of December, “To choose a suitable person having real estate to the value of two hundred pounds, Lawful, to represent them in General Congress, to be held at Exeter the 21st of December next.” A like warrant is recorded, issued by the selectmen of Mason, for a *meeting of the freeholders, &c., of Raby*, at the same time and place, and for the same purpose.

The record of the meeting is as follows :

“At a legal meeting, held in Mason, at the public meeting house in said town, December ye 11, 1775, the electors of Mason and Raby, then present,

“Voted, To act upon the precept sent from the Provincial Congress to the selectmen of Mason, to notify the legal inhabitants of the above said towns of Mason and Raby, to meet and choose a man to represent them at the Provincial Congress, to be held at Exeter, the warrant that was put up for the above said purpose, being blown away by the wind.

“Chose Mr. Samuel Brown moderator.

“Voted, To send one man to represent them, at the Provincial Congress, the year ensuing.

“Voted, That those men that sent their votes, by Joseph Merriam, to the moderator of said meeting, have the privilege of putting in their votes, for the choice of the above said representative, namely: Obadiah Parker, Joseph Ball, Jonas Fay, Abel Shed, Thomas Robbins, Nathan Wheeler, Seth Robbins, John Lawrence.

“Voted, That James Scripture and William and Elias Eliot have the liberty of putting in a vote for their fathers. according to their fathers’ desire, their fathers being absent, whose votes were wrote after the meeting began.

“Voted, That the aforesaid Obadiah Parker, Joseph Ball, Jonas Fay, Abel Shed, Thomas Robbins, Nathan Wheeler, Seth Robbins and John Lawrence have their votes thrown out.

“The above said electors of Mason and Raby personally present, chose Amos Dakin, of Mason, to represent them the year ensuing.

Attest: JOSEPH BARRETT, Town Clerk, P. T.

The style of the heading of warrants for town meetings had been, up to February 26, 1776. “Province of New Hampshire, Hillsborough, ss.”: but on August 19, 1776, it was changed to “Colony of New Hampshire, Hillsborough, ss.” Probably the Patriots thought that to use the style of Province, &c., was, in some sort, to acknowledge the authority of the kingly government, under which the Province had been established, and so to avoid even the appearance of longer submission, they repudiated the name of Province. In the warrant for the next meeting, the Colony disappears, and the State assumes its place, the State government having been established.

It seems that dissatisfaction was felt and manifested with the doings at the meeting of the electors of Mason and Raby, at which Amos Dakin was elected representative. Whether it was that the votes sent by Joseph Merriam were received, or because they were thrown out, or because certain worthy citizens, in dutiful obedience to the wishes of their absent fathers, were permitted to write and put in votes for them, does not appear and cannot now be known. If it arose from any dislike to the man of their choice, it seems not to have been of a deep or lasting nature; or, at least, not to have been wide spread nor permanent. for the same gentleman continued, by repeated elections, to represent the same constituency most of the time till his death, April 28th, 1789.

The difficulty assumed so serious an attitude, that a town meeting was called, to be held March 7, 1776. In the warrant, the second article was, "To see if the town will approve of the proceedings of the electors of this town, that were present at the last town meeting, that was called for the choice of a representative for this town and the town of Raby; and also to see if the town, after due deliberation on this matter, will approve of the representative then chosen to be chosen according to Liberty and Justice, or to be the free choice of the electors of the town. 3dly. If the town shall not approve of the above said representative as being legally chosen, to see what measures the town will take in regard to the matter."

At the meeting, it was, "Voted That the town look upon it that the meeting, &c., was not conducted according to Liberty and Justice, and that they do not approve of the same. Voted, to send a man to the General Court to present to the Hon'ble Court the proceedings of the town meeting held at Mason, ye 11 of December, 1775, which was called for the choice of a Representative, &c., and also the proceedings of the town meeting held at Mason, March 7, 1776, Samuel Lowell's vote being put by his saying that he never paid taxes in any place. Voted, To send Joseph Barrett to present the proceedings of both the above said town meetings to the General Court. Voted, That if the General Court do not approve of the proceedings of the town meeting held, &c., in the choice of a representative, that the above said Joseph Barrett pray the General Court to set them in some way agreeable to their pleasure for to the have privilege of representation." As nothing more appears upon the records, on this subject, it is probable that the general court did not consider these matters of grievance, if they were ever presented, as showing any valid objection to the right of the member elect to his seat.

And now the town's salt appears again. January 9, 1776. Order, "To pay twenty shillings to Joseph Merriam for



money borrowed for the benefit of the teamsters in bringing up the town stock of salt," and same date, an order for the same sum, for the same purpose, to Joseph Barrett. February 22. In several distinct orders, the treasurer was directed to pay

	£	s.	d.	q.		£	s.	d.	q.
Samuel Smith,	2	14	9	2	Samuel Brown,	2	3	6	0
James Scripture,	2	0	6	0	Nathan Hall, Jr.,	2	2	7	0
Silas Bullard,	0	17	8	0	Obadiah Parker,	1	13	0	0

each, "for his bringing up a part of the town's stock of salt." Also, to John Larned 10s. 8d. and Jonathan Williams 10s. 8d. each, "for his oxen in bringing up the town stock of salt."

April 3, 1776. Like order to pay to,

	£	s.	d.	q.		£	s.	d.	q.
Enosh Lawrence, Jr.	1	13	6	0	Joseph Merriam,	1	18	0	0
Aaron Wheeler,	0	12	0	0	Stephen Lawrence,	2	8	0	0

each, "for bringing up a part of the town's stock of salt," and John Swallow, for his oxen, twelve shillings.

The salt had arrived, and the salt troubles soon began. It must be paid for. How shall the money be come at? Some of the inhabitants will not pay; shall they have their share? Some of the tax payers are non-residents; shall they be compelled to pay for what they do not have, and do not want? All these questions came up to trouble the fathers of the town. Such difficulties will always arise, when municipal bodies leave their legitimate duties, and undertake business for which they are not fitted.

March 11th, 1776. At a town meeting it was "Voted, that a proportion of the money for the salt be made directly, and the money be collected within four weeks from our annual meeting; and at the end of four weeks, the salt be awarded to every man according to his rate, and every one that shall neglect, or refuse to pay his proportion of rates by the said time, "Shall forfeit his Part of thee Salt."

In the warrant for a meeting May 6th, 1776, the second

article is, "To see if the town will sell a part of the town's stock of salt at Public Vendue, or any other way to make up the Non-Residence part, or proportion which they were rated for, which sum is £2 11s. 0d. 0q." At the meeting it was "Voted, to sell the Non-Residence part of salt, which they were rated for, and neglected to pay the money, and take the salt, which sum was £2 11s. 0d. 0q. and sold ten bushels of salt for £2 12s. 6d. 0q." This would be nearly eighty seven cents per bushel.

"Voted to have the remainder of the salt divided by the rate.

"Voted, To choose a committee of Inspection for the Insuing year, Messrs. Joshua Davis, Amos Dakin, Abel Shead, Nathaniel Tarbell and Joseph Barrett was chosen for the purpose aforesaid."

August 19th, 1776, a town meeting was called. The second article was, "To see what instructions the town will give their Representative, previous to the choice of field officers, for the regiment we belong to. 3dly. To see if the town will have a town stock of powder, lead, flints and fire-arms provided for said town, or Ither of these necessary articles for our defence. 4thly. To see if the town will recommend any suitable person to the Great and General Court, for a Justice of the Peace." At the meeting it was "voted to refer the choice of field officers to the General Court, to raise £15 0s. 0d. 0q. to be added to £12 0s. 0d. 0q. already raised, to purchase a town stock of powder, lead and flints for said town. Voted to pass over the 4th article." Probably so many thought themselves fit for the office, that it was difficult to find a majority for any one.

May 6th, 1776. An order "to pay Capt. Miles Ward £20 1s. 0d. 0q., it being to pay Capt. Jonathan Peele for our town's stock of salt."

At the meeting September 2d, 1776, it was "Voted, That the bridge by Dea. Dakin's and that by Elias Eliot's [mills],

and that between Nathaniel Hosmer's and Jonas Fay's, be maintained by the town."

At the meeting of the town of Mason and Raby, November 18th, 1776, for the choice of Representatives, Dea. Amos Dakin was chosen representative. It was "Voted, To send Mr. Samuel Brown to join with the committee of the State of Massachusetts, in order to Repel the exhorbitance of our trade, &c. What effect this effort had on the "exhorbitance of our trade" does not appear.

May 31st, 1776. Order "to pay Amos Dakin £1 1s. 4d. 1q., it being for his going to Exeter at the first Congress on service of the town."

In the warrant for the annual meeting in 1777, was an article "to see if the town will raise any sum of money to purchase any number of tickets in the Continental Lottery"; which the town declined to do. At the meeting, Obadiah Parker, Reuben Barrett, Samuel Brown, Abijah Allen and Benjamin Mann were chosen a committee of inspection. At an adjournment of this meeting it is recorded that "a petition was laid before the town of a number of paragrafts. Voted, That the first paragraft be a matter of grievance Also, voted that the paragraft be a matter of grievance. Voted, To accept the prayer of said petition, all but the clause where it respects the forming and regulation of the militia in this State; and where it respects the Courts sending writs to every town, to send a man to the convention therein mentioned. Voted Benjamin Mann, Capt. Tarbell and Lt. Obadiah Parker be the committee aforesaid."

What this petition so full of grievances was, the records do not show; nor will posterity probably ever know, what "paragraft" of the petition was, by the town, voted to be "the second matter of grievance," inasmuch as the clerk has inadvertently omitted the number of that unfortunate "paragraft." At the same meeting it was "voted, to choose a committee to procure a graveyard, for the use of the town. Dea. Hall,

Benjamin Mann and Lt. Blodgett were chosen for the aforesaid purpose."

"Voted, That Lt. Swallow and Mr. John Whitaker dig the graves that are *reasonably* needed in said town." What provision should be or could be made for graves unreasonably needed?

"Voted, To choose a committee to seat the meeting house. Mr. Samuel Brown, Capt. B. Barrett, Benjamin Mann, Lieut. Obadiah Parker and Mr. Abel Shead, were chosen the committee aforesaid. Voted, That the inhabitants are seated according to their age and pay. Voted, To sell the ministry lots of land. Voted, That the selectmen seat said meeting house."

The "piece de resistance," the standing, unconquerable difficulty of seating the meeting house, like Mons. Tonson, is always "coming again," to plague the patriots, even in the midst of the alarms of war, of troubles of false brethren, to be looked after by the committee of "Inspection," as well as of sisters slyly taking a clandestine cup of tea, in violation of the articles of non-importation, of salt troubles, now happily at rest by the sale of ten bushels of salt, to raise the money which the wicked "non-residence" would not pay, and of the election of a representative made "not according to Liberty and Justice." How this seating difficulty will be settled, or, perhaps more properly said, be left unsettled by the grave committee of five, chosen for that purpose, but from whom, before they had time to act, by a vote "not according to Liberty and Justice," the subject, and their authority to act, was taken away, being referred to the selectmen, remains to be seen, and will be faithfully reported, as soon as it shall appear.

April 1, 1777. A meeting was called. The second article was, "To assist in some way and manner, as the town shall see fit, in raising fourteen "affective, able-Bodied" men, for the term of three years, or during the war with Great Britain, as that is our proportion from orders received from Colonel

Moses Nicoles, [Nichols] pursuant to orders from the council and general assembly of the State." At the meeting, it was, "Voted, To raise our proportion of men as a town. Voted, To raise \$1400 as Incoriageement for soldiers to enlist into the Continental service. Voted, To choose a committee to estimate the turns. Voted, Lt. Blodgett, Lt. Parker, Capt. Barrett, Mr. Abijah Allen and David Brown, be the committee aforesaid. Voted, Not to accept the report the committee made. Voted, To reconsider the vote concerning the raising the \$1400. Voted, To choose a committee to join the commissioned officers to make an estimation. Voted, William Eliot, Dea. A. Dakin, David Blodgett, Joseph Merriam and Lt. Obadiah Parker, for the committee to estimate each man's proportion. Then adjourned to the next Friday." At the adjourned meeting, "Voted, To take in all above sixteen years old into the estimation. Voted, To approve of what the town had done as to the estimation of the turns done in the services and calculation of the three years forward." The proceedings of this meeting did not seem to accomplish the business. A meeting was called the 28th of April, 1777, "To see if the town will come into any other method different from what hath been already acted, with regard to raising of a sum of money, for the purpose of hiring soldiers, that is now called for into the service of the United States of America." At this meeting it was, "Voted, To raise \$1400, for the purpose," &c. Also, "To accept the estimation the committee made with regard to the prices of every campaign." "Voted, To exempt those who have done their turns from any cost of procuring said soldiers, until it properly comes to their turns. Also, chose a committee to hire men, and appointed a collector to collect the money and pay it to the committee." May 8, 1777. At an adjournment of the meeting, "Voted, That all those men that neglect paying their proportion for hiring soldiers for the three years' service, as was levied by a committee chosen for that purpose, are to be the persons looked upon subject to the first draft when made.

Voted, That Benjamin Mann receive the aforesaid proportion. Voted, That those persons that were procured by the committee are to go for the squadrons whom they expected to go for when they engaged. Voted, To reconsider the first vote above mentioned. Adjourned to May 12." At the adjournment, "Voted, To divide the town stock of ammunition to individuals, as they need. Voted, That each person that received ammunition belonging to said town, and don't give a satisfactory account of said ammunition when properly requested by said town, each person so neglecting or refusing, is to pay a fine of twenty shillings, L. money. Voted, That Samuel Brown procure the aforesaid ammunition. Voted, To purchase one hundred weight of powder, two hundred weight of lead, and four hundred flints. Adjourned to May 15." At the adjournment, "Voted, That if said arms are procured and are needed by individuals, they are to have them at the cost that said town is at for them. Voted, That if Mr. Samuel Brown, who is pitched upon to purchase said arms, does procure them, he is to hire a carriage to transport them to Merrimac river. Voted, That the selectmen borrow the money to pay for the powder that is already procured, that is not paid for. Voted, To sell the meeting house lot for the sake of accommodating a blacksmith, all save about fifteen acres, around said meeting house. Voted, To allow Mr. Abijah [Allen] \$12, as a town, for his time and expenses in going to Ticonderoga, in behalf of said town, in 1777. Adjourned to May 27." At the adjournment, "Voted, To reconsider the vote to allow Abijah Allen \$12 for going to Ticonderoga. Voted, That the town stock of powder be brought to Benjamin Mann's, to be divided the next training day, which is in three weeks from this day." June 17. It was, "Voted, To reconsider the vote to divide the ammunition. Voted, To allow the three soldiers that enlisted to go to Portsmouth for one month, twenty shillings for each man, as a town charge. Voted, Not to make any return in the valuation to court, of buildings and wild land, and the

moderator dissolved the meeting." The reader will think it was time somebody "dissolved the meeting." The record is given as a sample of the mode in which such matters were then managed.

May 5, 1777. An order to pay David Blodgett "for making a coffin for Mr. Nathaniel Barrett." May 8, 1777. An order "To pay Capt. Miles Ward for 4 molasses Hds. and 1 Dry cask £0 18s. 0d." June 26, 1777. An order, "To pay Wid. Abigail Barrett twelve shillings, for her taking care of the meeting house one year, from August, 1775."

Town meeting, August 19, 1777. The second article sets forth, that the vote formerly passed, "That the soldiers procured by the committee should go for the squadrons they expected to go for when they engaged, *seems to appear to a number of the inhabitants very detrimental to the cause.*" It was proposed, "To see if the town would supercede that vote." At the meeting, it was "Voted, To go on as a town, and tax said town for all the money and cost of raising the three years' soldiers. Also, voted, that if the money that the town doth raise for the aforesaid purpose, doth not effect the purpose, that those men that are now delinquent in paying, or procuring the men, shall be the men that shall be subject to the first draft, and shall go, or procure said delinquent soldiers for three years, now called for. Voted, To choose a committee to procure the delinquent three years' soldiers now called for. Chose Joseph Barrett, Samuel Brown and Stephen Lawrence."

September 12, 1777. "Voted, That the committee that was chosen for that purpose at a former meeting, agree with Mr. Samuel Abbott for a piece of land for a graveyard." This is the same land referred to on page 68. The land finally taken and occupied for the graveyard, was a part of lot No. 6, Range 8, lying next to and adjoining this tract on the south.

December 15th, 1777, a meeting was called. The second article in the warrant was as follows: "Whereas, the general

Court of said State, of late passed an act, that all said State's money is to be called in, and State notes on interest to be given for the same, which appears to many to be a grievance; this, therefore, is to see if the said town will consult on some measures, that may be thought more agreeable, and petition said Court for redress." It was "voted to send a petition to the Court, that the said act may be repealed, and the square money so called, to pass as specified on the face of said bills, or until the above said bills may be called in by a tax."

This vote, is the first indication of the difficulties arising from a deficient, disturbed, inadequate and unsound currency. The troubles arising from this source, were severely felt, from this time, through the whole period of the war. There was, at the commencement of the war, no national mint, or power to regulate the currency, except under the authority of each province.

The people having discarded and refused to obey the provincial authorities of New Hampshire, were under the necessity of assuming the government of themselves; and they at once proceeded to provide, as well as their want of experience in such matters would allow, for the continuance of civil government. For this purpose, a convention was called, which met at Exeter, in May, 1775, and continued, with little interruption, till November, as has been stated on page 80.

During the year, under the authority of the convention, three emissions of paper bills were made—the first of ten thousand and fifty pounds, the second of ten thousand pounds, and the third of twenty thousand pounds. For the amount of those sums, the treasurer gave his obligation in small notes, which passed for a time as current money, equal in value to silver and gold. But as emissions were multiplied, as the redemption of the bills was put off to distant periods, and the bills themselves were counterfeited, it was impossible for them long to hold their value. In 1776, more paper bills were issued, to pay the expenses of the war, and



provision was made for redeeming some of the bills by taxes. But the depreciation, after it began, proceeded rapidly. After the year 1777, the State issued no more bills. Those that had been issued were called in, and exchanged for treasury notes on interest, in sums not less than five pounds. It was against this act that the vote of the town, just recited, was directed. Probably it was feared, that if the "square money," as the paper money was in common parlance called, should be withdrawn, there would be nothing left to serve as money and maintain a currency for exchanges. The continental bills still continued to pass, but were daily and rapidly depreciating, until, in the spring of 1781, they suddenly, and by general consent, went out of circulation, and solid coin succeeded in their place. To show the rapid depreciation of this paper money, for which the faith of the government was pledged, but for the redemption of which, no reliable means or funds were provided, it is sufficient to refer to the scale of depreciation, which was established and recognized, and according to which the people endeavored to regulate their business and payments. The scale commences in January, 1777, at which time £100 of silver was represented by £104 of paper. The same amount of coin was worth in paper, in December of 1777, by £310; 1778, £620; 1779, £2393; 1780, £7300, and in June, 1781, by £12,000, at which rate no wonder the currency ceased.

January 5, 1778. The selectmen abated the poll taxes of Joseph Lowell, Timothy Lowell and Joseph Hodgman, Jr., for the year 1776, "they being excepted by the act of the General Court, from paying any poll tax, by reason of their engaging in the continental service for the year 1776." At the town meeting, February 4, the town voted to abate Joshua Smith's rates for 1776, and Christopher Mann's rates for 1775, probably for a like reason, and February 26, by order of the selectmen, the poll taxes of Joseph Lowell and of Jacob Blodgett, for 1775, were abated, "being excused by vote of Congress." Also, an order was issued, "to pay

Joseph Hurlbut one pound, being voted to him for going to Portsmouth one month last May." Also, one pound to Joseph Hodgman, "for his son Nathan going to Portsmouth, &c., one month."

At the annual meeting, March 9, 1778, "Chose Samuel Brown, Lemuel Spalding, David Blodgett, William Eliot and Zachariah Davis, Committee of Safety."

March 27, 1778. An order issued to pay Samuel Brown £8 10s. 8d. 0q., "it being for his going to Exeter, for ammunition, and time spent in getting the continental men, and service as treasurer."

April 20, 1778. "Chose David Blodgett, a representative in the convention for forming a constitution to meet at Concord, June 10th."

April 20, 1778. An order "to pay Lt. Obadiah Parker £1 17s. 8d. 0q., for sugar and rice he sent to our militia that went on the Elerum at the evacuation of Ticonderoga."

December 8, 1778. Chose Dea. Amos Dakin representative, and the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday next. "The meeting at the adjournment not attended by reason of the badness of the weather, was Naterly dissolved."

Town meeting, March 30, 1779. The selectmen were appointed "a committee to make a proportion of the several campaigns, and to call all former committees that were chosen to procure continental soldiers, to account, and take the money that may be found in said committees' hands. Voted, That each person that shall neglect or refuse to bring in his receipts for men hired and turns done, in service and term of time in actual service, since last estimation, their money and term of actual service shall be forfeited to the town. Voted, That the inhabitants shall bring in their invoice in the month of April, or be doomed."

April 22, 1779. Town meeting. The third article of the warrant was, "To see what measures the town will pursue to procure our quoto of men during the present war, now called for. 5th. To put out Asa Fish, by vendue, to the lowest

bidder, till he is one and twenty years of age." The meeting "Voted, To raise 2000 dollars as a State and Continental bounty, to procure four men to enlist during the war." What was done with Asa Fish is not stated, but May 7th, an order passed "to pay James Mann £3 19s. 11d., for keeping Asa Fish 3 weeks," being 22s. 6d. per week, equal to \$3,75 a week for keeping a child about six years old.

July 6th, 1779, at the town meeting, "Voted, to raise our quoto of continental and Rhode Island men as a town;" and further details are recorded of the arrangements made about "estimating campaigns, hiring men, &c." A meeting was called August 17th, 1779. Article 2nd, "to see if the town will approve or disapprove of the bill of rights and plan of government, formed by a convention chosen for that purpose, or alter the whole, or any part of said bill of rights, or plan of government as they may think fit. Voted to approve of the proceedings of the town of Portsmouth, and appointed David Blodgett to meet said Portsmouth with other towns at Concord, to take into consideration our sinking currency." At an adjournment of this meeting held October 25th, "Voted and Improved [approved] of the proceedings of the convention at Concord, for stipolating prices, for sundry articles of the necessaries of life. Voted that Mr. Elias Eliot, Benjamin Mann, Benjamin Hodgman, Joseph Merriam, Joseph Ball, David Blodgett, Jacob Blodgett, William Chambers and John Wood be a committee to "Stipolate" prices among us, seven of whom are a "corum."

What was the action of the town on the bill of rights and plan of government, the record does not show. At the meeting, this subject was postponed. The meeting was adjourned sundry times, through the months of August, September and October; the great and absorbing subject before the town, being the controversy with the Rev. Jonathan Searle. If any vote was passed upon the subject of the bill of rights, and plan of government, it was not recorded. A convention was held in 1779, to propose a plan of government, by which a

system of government was drawn up, and submitted to the people, which was undoubtedly that referred to in this article. It was so deficient in its principles, and inadequate in its provisions, that it was by the people, in their town meetings, rejected. Another convention was appointed. It continued more than two years, from June 1781, to October 1783. A system was by this convention submitted to the people, providing for a senate of twelve, and a house of fifty members; apportioned twenty to Rockingham, eight to Strafford, ten to Hillsborough, eight to Cheshire and four to Grafton, to be chosen in county conventions, consisting of one delegate for every fifty rateable polls. The plan was printed, and sent to every town. The inhabitants were requested to state their objections distinctly, to any particular part, and return them at a fixed time. The objections were so many and various, that it was found necessary to alter the form, and send it out a second time. In the amended form, the representatives were to be chosen by the towns; each town of one hundred and fifty polls, choosing one, and of four hundred and fifty, two. This plan was generally approved, but it was not laid before the people in season to be adopted, before the close of the war. The old form of government having expired with the war, was, by the order of the people, continued a year longer; in the mean time, the new form was perfected, and adopted, and went into operation in 1784.

It will be recollected, that the town approved of the proceedings of the town of Portsmouth, &c. This was a proposal for a convention, to take into consideration "our sinking currency," or in other words, the financial difficulties of the times. David Blodgett was chosen a delegate to this convention. He attended, and shared in the labors of the convention, and, what is very remarkable, and perhaps without a parallel in history, he returned after the close of the convention, and brought the report of their proceedings, and submitted it to the same town meeting by which he was chosen, it having continued by adjournments till the 25th of October.

The report of the committee, appointed in pursuance of the recommendation of this convention "to Stipolate prices," is not recorded. It was a very common notion in those days, that the evils of a depreciated currency, could be alleviated, and perhaps wholly cured, by regulations establishing prices, which would compel persons in buying and selling, to conform to the prices established by law, and that thus, the nominal rates of the currency would be maintained. But the remedy was never resorted to, until the disease had assumed a desperate type. Its tendency when applied, was rather to hasten, than to retard the catastrophe. It is vain by legislation, to attempt to bolster up a paper currency. Its only value is its credit. When that has no basis, the paper becomes mere rags. Neither laws, nor regulations can give it value. As well may the laws require a man to breathe a corrupted atmosphere, and derive from it health and vigor, as require a community to use for a currency, an irredeemable and worthless paper, at its par value, and derive from it the benefits and efficiency of a sound currency, founded on intrinsic value. The complaints of a depreciated currency were general, and the remedy by "Stipulating prices," was generally resorted to. The town records of Townsend, under date of February 20th, 1777, show, that after a meeting of the committees of Groton, Lunenburg, Fitchburg and Shirley, on this subject, "the Selectmen and town of Townsend agreed that the following articles shall not exceed the following prices.

	s. d.		s. d.
Wheat per bushel,	6 8	Dinner at tavern of boiled	
Rye per bushel,	4 4	and roast victuals,	1 0
Corn per bushel,	3 4	Dinner at tavern, for either	
Sheep's wool, per pound,	2 0	boiled or roast only,	10
Fresh pork,	4	A mug of West India Phlip,	11
Salt pork,	8	" " New. Eng. do.,	9
Salt per bushel,	14 0		

But these prices, although "Stipolated" and agreed to, did not remain firm and unchanged. They rapidly increased, so that in 1779, August 17, a committee of that town, chosen

“to state the price of the several articles necessary for the support of life and trade in the town,” made a report, which was accepted, in which they established the price of the following articles, as below :

	£	s.		£	s.	d.
West India rum, per gallon,	6	11	Beef, per lb.		4	6
New England rum,	4	18	Mutton,		3	6
Molasses,	4	15	Butter,		11	0
Coffee, per lb.,		18	Salt pork,		11	0
Tea,	6	0	Cheese,		5	6
Brown sugar, from 12s. to		15	Oats, per bushel,	1	16	0
Cotton wool,	1	18	Eng. hay, per cwt,	1	15	0
Salt, per bushel,	12	00	Cyder, per bbl.,	5	2	0
German steel, per lb.,	1	17	Sheep's wool,	1	4	0
Refined iron,		10	Flax,		12	0
Wheat, per bushel,	7	13	Men's shoes,	6	0	0
Rye,	5	2	Women's do.,	4	0	0
Corn,	3	14	Shoeing a horse,	4	16	0
Beans,	5	2	Common boards,	18	0	0
Potatoes,	1	0	W. I. Phlip,		15	0
Turnips,	1	0	N. E. Phlip,		12	0

This table shows a pretty rapid appreciation of prices. In the same town, at this town meeting, the town “Voted, To give to each soldier, of our quota, of the nine months continental service, 1000 dollars, or 90 bushels of rye,” by which it appears that rye was worth more than ten dollars a bushel. No record was made of prices in Mason “stipulated” by the committee appointed for that purpose.

October 1, 1779, the town of Townsend voted to “raise 1000 pounds for the support of the Rev. Samuel Dix and his family, the present year, including his salary.” His salary, by the contract, was £66 13s. 4d. At the town meeting, March 6, 1780, the town voted that “labor on the highways be £6 a day till the first of September, after that, £4 10s., and July 4, “Voted, £6000 to make up Mr. Dix's salary to 4th of September next.” At the town meeting, March 5, 1781, “Voted, That labor on the highway be 40 dollars a day till the first of September, oxen 30, and carts 10 dollars a day. These facts show how little success attended the

stipulating of prices, in that town; some of the same character appear in the records of Mason. For example, April 20, 1780, an assessment was made of "the Continental and State tax for the present year," the amount being £13,948 10s. 9d. 1q. Of this tax, the assessment to Deacon Amos Dakin was £110 6s. 1d. 2q. August 4, 1780, a tax was assessed "to purchase beef for the continental army" of £15,000. September 12, 1780, "Voted, To raise £14,000 to pay the soldiers that were hired in July last, making in all £42,948 10s. 9d. 1q. assessed in one year, for State and Continental purposes. A committee was appointed to purchase the beef. At a meeting December 6, 1780, Capt. Joseph Barrett, for that Committee, made a report, that "the prime cost of the beef which the committee purchased for the town, was £11,750." February 6, 1781, an order "to pay Nathan Wood £25 10s. for a pair of overhals delivered to Deacon Amos Dakin, for one of the soldiers." March 26, 1781, an order "to pay Oliver Scripture £90 for two sheep delivered to one of the three months' men, for the year 1780. May 25, 1781, an order to pay "Richard Lawrence £470 for a cow which he delivered to the selectmen, for the purpose of paying Abraham Merriam part of his hire for three years' service." June 8, 1781. In a warrant committing a "rate of £528 3s. 5d. 1q., it being our State tax for the present year," are set forth the various currencies then afloat, and the rate of allowance in each, as follows: "The whole to be paid in bills of the new Emission, or in notes of ten pounds, or of five pounds issued by the authority of the State, commonly called soldiers' bounty notes, which were dated before the last day of April, 1777, estimating one pound of said notes equal to one pound of said bills, or in such of the notes issued by the authority of said [State], commonly called depreciation notes, as were due on the 31st day of December, 1780, with compound interest on said bounty and depreciation notes, estimating one pound of said depreciation notes equal to one pound sixteen shillings and sixpence of said new bills, pro-

vided that the same are paid into the treasury by the last day of June instant; or in the old bills emitted by the State or by Congress, estimating £40 of said bills equal to one pound of the bills last emitted."

The faster prices were raised, the faster the currency went down. Here are four kinds of paper money, differing in value as compared with each other, at rates ranging from par, up to forty for one. In short, so worthless was the currency, that it would take a sack full of paper notes, to pay for a pipe full of tobacco. The evil became intolerable, and a resort was had to silver money. September 13th, 1781, "Voted, To raise £40 silver in lue of £3000, raised at the last annual meeting, to defray town charges." For State and Continental taxes, the State treasurer was bound to receive the paper money at the rates above specified; but to defray the town charges with £3000 of that currency, was found impracticable, and so its place was supplied with the very modest tax of £40 silver. The bubble burst, and prices resumed their former moderate and reasonable rates.

December 6th, 1779. At town meeting of Mason and Raby, Dea. Amos Dakin was chosen representative.

April 10th, 1780. The main purpose of the meeting was, to procure and forward to the state government, the evidence of the services, and payments by the town, for services of soldiers. David Blodgett, Joseph Barrett, and Obadiah Parker, were chosen a committee "for the matter about the services of the soldiers, &c.; and to petition the general court, for liberty to tax wild land." "Put to vote, to see who would carry the receipts the continental soldiers gave, to Exeter, the cheapest, with the accounts of the same; Mr. Joshua Davis bid it off, for two hundred dollars." The object in asking for liberty to tax wild land, probably was, to enable the town to tax the unimproved lands, of the original grantees of the town, which, by the terms of the grant, were exempted from taxation, until improved. For many years, the assessments and tax bills after this period, had a list of rates



headed "Lord's Proprietors," in which these lands were included.

June 27th, 1780. At the town meeting "Voted, To raise four men towards completing the battalions of this State, in the continental army, and that the selectmen hire the men on the town's cost. Appointed Abijah Allen, Capt. Joseph Barrett and James Scripture a committee to procure our proportion of beef, for the army."

"The selectmen of Mason, being called upon to raise and send forward soldiers immediately, into the public service, without loss of time, immediately notified the town's people, to meet at the meeting house on July 3d. 1780."

This is the record in the book, instead of the ordinary record of the warrant for a town meeting. The record goes on to say, "Met, and chose a committee to hire six men for the term of six months, into the public service, and two, to go to Coos, for six months."

July 11th, 1780. "Voted, to reserve six acres for the meeting house and common, the form to be square, and the house near the centre; and to sell all of the lot east of the road, and appointed a committee to make the sale, and give the deed."

October 31st, 1780. "Voted, To allow creditors 90 for one in the war rate. Voted, To fence the burying ground, and chose Ens. John Wood, Lt. Swallow and Capt. Benj. Mann a committee for that purpose." This was the burying ground on the road from the meeting house, to Townsend. See p. 65.

February 6th, 1781. "Voted to raise four men towards *completing* the continental army."

May 7th, 1781. Chose Benjamin Mann to represent the town in the convention at Concord, to form a constitution.

June 9, 1781. It appears from orders given, that Jonathan Foster, Joseph Wilson, son of Edward Wilson, and Abijah Eaton, were soldiers.

August 14, 1781. "Voted, To hire preaching, and to raise

twenty pounds silver for that purpose, and adjourned to the 21st. Then Voted, To reconsider the vote to hire preaching, and adjourned to the 28th. Then Voted, To hire preaching and to raise £20, hard money. Voted, To leave it to Mr. Abijah Allen to pay or not, as he pleases, and chose Deacon Hall, Joseph Merriam and Ens. John Wood, committee to hire preaching."

September 13th, 1781. "Voted to raise £40 silver, for the purpose of clearing and fencing the school lot, that the meeting house stands on," and a committee was chosen to lay out the money. It was to be paid in labor, if the payer chose. "Voted that man's labor be 3s. 4d., and ox labor 2s. a day."

November 1st, 1781. "The selectmen made a rate of £18 1s. 2d. 0q. L. mo. silver, for the purpose of purchasing sixty-three and a half gallons of West India Rum for the use of the *Continental* army."

November 15, 1781. Benjamin Mann was chosen to represent Mason and Raby, at Exeter.

January 2, 1782. "Voted, To direct the committee to hire preaching, to apply to Mr. Kimball to supply the pulpit for some further time. Voted, to engage him for three months. Voted, Not to allow seats for the singers to sit together. Voted, To choose another *querister* to assist in setting the Psalm, and chose Amos Dakin, Jr."

February 12, 1782. Voted, That the selectmen "strain on the Treasurer amediately."

By orders, given in February and March, 1782, it appears that Joshua Richardson and Simon Fish were soldiers for the town in 1779 and 1780; Zebulon Dodge, in 1779, and Jacob Weatherbee, in 1780.

March 11, 1782. Annual meeting. "Voted, To hear Mr. Kimball six Sabbaths after the time he is now engaged for. Voted, to seat the meeting house, and that the committee have reference to age, and the last year's invoice, in seating the meeting house."

By orders, given in March and April, it appears that Joseph Herrick, Benjamin Mann, Ephraim Nutting, Ebenezer Blood, Jr., Asa Blood and Reuben Hosmer, were soldiers in the service for the town.

April 30, 1782. A meeting was called, "To see whether the town will concur with the church in giving Mr. True Kimball an invite to settle in this town as a gospel minister." At the meeting, "It was put to the town by the moderator, whether any person had any objection to the town proceeding in concurrence with the church, to give Mr. True Kimball an invite to settle in this town for their gospel minister.— Voted, To give Mr. Kimball an invite as above. Accordingly, the moderator called for the votes to be brought in, yeas or nays; the votes being called, not one negative vote appeared." It was also "Voted, To exempt Mr. William Dodge for his poll paying any tax to the minister rate. Voted, To give Mr. True Kimball one hundred and eighty pounds L. mo. as settlement, and to be two years in paying said settlement. Voted £66 13s. 4d. to be paid yearly, as salary. William Eliot and Abijah Allen dissented in the face of the meeting, against the two above votes of settlement and salary, as a town. Reason, because to go on by way of a town, and to use coercive measures, obliges persons to help support a man, that the major part of the people, in any town, shall see fit to hold as their minister; whereas, the said Eliot and Allen think the gospel is free, and every person has a right to hear, where he can be best edified; if so, then to choose his own teacher, and to support him and no other." A committee, Ens. John Wood, Capt. Benjamin Mann and Capt. Joseph Barrett, were appointed to wait upon Mr. Kimball, with a copy of the above vote; and the meeting was dissolved.

The vote under date of June 9th, 1781, to leave Abijah Allen to pay or not as he pleases, and this dissent of William Eliot and Abijah Allen, are the first indications, upon the records of the town, of the prevalence of baptist senti-

ments in the town. Mr. Eliot was the first minister or elder of the Baptist church, soon after formed in the town.

“On August ye 18th, 1782, Mr. True Kimball gave his answer to ye town of Mason (to their calling him to settle with them in the ministry) in the negative.

“Attest: WM. ELIOT, Town Clerk.”

August 28, 1782. Town meeting. Sixth article. “To see if the town will allow those men that served in the continental army three years, the sum of money that was taken out of their wages, and the town is now credited for, or do what the town think proper in the affair.” The town “Voted, To allow Mr. David Fuller the sum of money that was taken out of his son Ezra’s wages, by the court, and the town is now credited for in the State tax.”

December 3, 1782. “Proceeded to take under consideration the bill of rights and plan of government. Chose a committee to revise the abovesaid constitution, and make what remarks they think proper, and make report to the town at some future day. Chose Deacon Amos Dakin, David Blodgett, William Eliot, Ens. John Wood, Joseph Merriam, Samuel Smith, Joseph Barrett, Abijah Allen and Timothy Wheeler, for said committee. Voted, to ratify the north west corner of Mason, according to the agreement of the selectmen with the selectmen of the other towns. Voted, To take that part of the State tax, which is over paying the State treasurer (by reason of a certificate that came from the State treasurer, on account of the town’s paying soldiers’ bounty and wages), to defray town charges. Adj’d to the 16th. Then Voted, To dismiss William Eliot as clerk, and chose David Blodgett, town clerk, P. T.”

“Voted, Not to accept of the constitution as it now stands. Voted, To accept of the bill of rights, with the amendment of the 28th article. Voted, To accept the constitution with the following amendment, and then the meeting was dissolved.” No paper or record has been found which shows what these several proposed amendments were.

The perambulation of the west line of the town is recorded as follows :

“On October the 28th, A. D. 1782, the selectmen and committee of the town of New Ipswich and the selectmen of the town of Mason, met at the north west corner of said Mason, and after establishing said corner, proceeded to perambulate the line between said towns, and agreed that the stake and stones south of Mr. Edmund Town’s, about 25 rods, to be a bound between said towns. Also, that a maple tree is a bound; said tree stands south of the road, that leads from Dea. Dakin’s to New Ipswich, from thence to a heap of stones in Lt. Stratton’s pasture, and so on to a heap of stones south of the road that leads from said Stratton’s to said Mason, then to a stake and stones on the north side of the great road below Mr. Pierce’s, from thence to the road that leads from Col. Hale’s to Prospect, a heap of stones on the south side of said road, and from thence to the corner of said towns, viz: the south west corner of Mason and the south east corner of New Ipswich. Said corner is a heap of stones on the Province line, with a large hemlock tree marked, fell down on said stones.

JOSEPH PARKER, } Committee  
 BENJAMIN HOAR, } for  
 PAUL PRITCHARD, } New Ipswich.

WILLIAM ELIOT, } Selectmen  
 SAMUEL SMITH, } of  
 JOSEPH MERRIAM, } Mason.

A true entry, per me,

WM. ELIOT, Town Clerk.”

To this perambulation reference is had in the vote “to ratify the north west corner of Mason,” passed December 3, 1782.

March 10, 1783. Annual meeting. “Chose Mr. David Blodgett and Benj. Mann, Esq., to take care of what was blown off the meeting house, namely: boards, shingles, nails, &c. Voted, To mend the meeting house, and chose Jacob Blodgett,

James Wood and Thomas Robbins, a committee to mend the meeting house. Voted, To double board the part that the wind blew the roof of from."

May 26, 1783. Order "To pay Capt. Wm. Chambers 4s. L. mo., it being for two mugs of Philp, that the arbitrators had. that set on the dispute that the town had with Ensign Joseph Ball, and for two mugs that the Selectmen had when they vendued the shingles and nails that blew from the meeting house."

December 9, 1783. Chose Benjamin Mann, Esq., to represent Mason and Raby.

November 3. [No year.] Town meeting. "Voted, To raise £32 11s. 4d. to pay the cost of building the bridge by Mr. John Stevens' saw mill." This is probably the mill near Frederic Jones'.

March, 1784. Annual meeting. "Voted, That £40 be added to what was raised to hire preaching the ensuing year, in order to pay the ministers that the town oweth, and that the selectmen be directed to assess the same as soon as possible, and it shall be called the ministers' rate, and that the constables be ordered not to take any order for said rates, but what shall be given by the ministers; and shall be ordered to pay the same to the treasurer."

Benjamin Mann was chosen to represent Mason and Raby.

July 19, 1784. Town meeting. The second article was, "To see what measures the town will pursue to find a candidate to supply the pulpit, inasmuch as the committee have not been so happy as to find any. This article was inserted by request of Enosh Lawrence and others. The town voted to pass it over, probably thinking the committee competent to their duty.

At this meeting, it was "Voted, To make up to Mr. Samuel Abbott, for his son Ebenezer's bounty, as good as the State would [have] paid him if the town had not been credited for the same; in State notes, on interest, or other pay, as we may agree."

August 19th, 1784. An order "to pay Capt. W. Chambers for keeping Mr. Bailey and Mr. Emerson, three Sabbaths."

October 5, 1784. "Voted, To build a meeting house for the use of said town. Voted, To set the house on Captain Chambers' hill, above his orchard, if the town and he, the said Chambers, can agree to exchange lands for that purpose. Voted, To choose a committee of three men to agree on the aforesaid exchange. David Blodgett, Benjamin Mann, Esq., and Dea. Amos Dakin, were chosen for the aforesaid committee. Then the meeting was adjourned to Monday, the 18th instant. At the adjournment, Voted, That the meeting house shall be raised sometime in the month of June, 1786. Voted, That the said house shall be fifty five feet long and forty five broad, the height to be in proportion to the bigness. Voted, To provide boards, shingles, nails and glass, window frames, and all materials for finishing the outside of said house, by the time affixed for the raising. Voted, To accept the report of the committee that was chosen to exchange lands with Captain Chambers, which was to exchange six or seven acres off the south west corner of the school lot, for the same quantity of acres on the top of said Chambers' hill. Voted, To choose a committee to compute the quantity of stuff it will take to finish the outside of the house, and the cost of the same. Chose William Hosmer, Jacob Blodgett, David Blodgett, Joseph Woods and Benjamin Mann, for said committee." Adjourned to November 10, at which time neither the moderator nor the warrant could be found, and nothing more was done.

The site selected for the house, at this meeting, was one commanding a view hardly to be surpassed in New England, embracing a great portion of the counties of Middlesex and Worcester, and including the whole valley of the Nashua river and its branches. On the north west the Grand Monadnock, on the south west Watatook and Wachuset, and on the north the Jo English hill in New Boston, and on the east a long sweep of the valley of the Merrimack river, formed portions

of a landscape worthy of admiration. But it seems difficulties arose, and objections were made to the site, and it was eventually abandoned. At a subsequent meeting, December 16, 1784, it was "Voted, To build a meeting house, and to set it about twenty feet north of the old one." This was not satisfactory, for the record proceeds to reconsider that vote with a proviso, "That there be an article inserted in the next warrant for the annual meeting, for the town to determine where it shall stand. Chose a committee to provide stuff for the window frames and sashes; Benjamin Mann, David Blodgett, and Samuel Smith."

November 1, 1784. An order to pay Capt. Chambers for entertaining ministers, namely: Messrs. Langdon, Whitman, Bruce and Dix.

In the History of New Hampshire Churches, it is stated that Mr. Bruce, who was settled at Mont Vernon, received a call to settle at Mason. No evidence of that fact appears upon the records of the town or church. This order shows that he was employed by the town as a preacher.

March 15, 1785. An order "to pay Capt. Thomas Tarbell £1 2s., it being for boarding Mr. Bruce and his horse three weeks in October, 1784. Also, March 21, for monies paid to Phineas Wright."

Warrant for the annual meeting, March, 1785. Article 4. "To see if the town will supersede a vote of a late town meeting, for setting a meeting house upon Capt. Chambers' hill, and determine where said meeting house shall stand.

At the meeting, it was "Voted to supersede a vote of a late town meeting, which was to set a meeting house upon Capt. Chambers' hill. Voted, To set the meeting house 16 or 20 feet north of the old one. Voted, To waive the building of a meeting house till we can agree better." The record states, that at this meeting, "37 votes for Mr. George Atkinson, for a president of the State," were given. The meeting adjourned to March 21, at which time it was "Voted, To withdraw the vote for senators and proceed to a new



choice. There were 61 votes for John Preston, Esq., 60 for Benjamin Mann, Esq., and one for Matthew Thornton. Voted, To withdraw the vote for a President and begin again. There were 44 votes for George Atkinson, Esq., for President." Also, "Voted to take the above vote respecting a meeting house under consideration for debating. Voted, The above vote for setting the meeting house 16 or 20 feet north of the old one, shall not stand. Voted, The proposed meeting house stand about four or five rods south or west of south [of the present place.] Then, Voted, To raise £300 to build a meeting house with. Voted, To build a bridge over the brook near Mr. John Stephens' saw mill. Chose Jonas Fay, Stephen Lawrence and William Hosmer a committee to build it;" and thereupon, this somewhat extraordinary meeting was adjourned. It would be considered, in these days, a great stretch of power, for a town to vote to supersede ballotings, which had taken place at a former meeting, for governor and senators, and try it over again, which seems to have been done in this instance, without objection. The result was, to increase the vote for governor, (then styled president.) How the original vote stood for senators, is not recorded; nor is any clue left for even a conjecture, as to the reasons of this anomalous proceeding.

June 10th, 1785. An order "to pay Abijah Allen £1 for boarding Mr. David Daniels, while preaching in town."

October 1st, 1785. An order "to pay Jonathan Chandler 10s. in full, for going to Concord after Mr. Whipple, to supply the pulpit."

September 3d, 1785. At a town meeting, the town "Voted, that the town will take good merchantable rye, in Leu of the town and minister tax, to be delivered at Dea. Amos Dakin's, at any time from the first of November, to the last of December. Dea. Dakin to take it, at 4s. per bushel, and give receipts."

March, 1786. Annual meeting. Benjamin Mann chosen to represent Mason and Raby.

November 2, 1786. Town meeting. Article 2. "To see if the town will accept the plan proposed to make paper money, or point out any other method for the same, as they shall think proper." On this article, the town "Voted, Not to make any paper money." The vote so laconically recorded, would seem to be conclusive of the wishes of the town, but it was not so, for,

December 4, 1786, another town meeting was called about paper money. The action of the town is recorded as follows :

"Voted, Not to have paper money on the plan proposed by the court, No. 17; none appearing for said plan. No. 11; not for paper money on any plan. No. 3; for said money on some plan."

The meeting house controversy comes back again. At a town meeting May 28th, 1787, it was "Voted, to build a meeting house. Voted to set it just back of the old meeting house. Then voted to reconsider the last vote, and to choose a committee to say where it shall stand, chose Maj. Abiel Abbott, Timothy Farrar and Daniel Emerson, Esqs., and chose a committee of five to wait on the committee, and chose for that purpose, the selectmen, Benjamin Mann, Esq. and Samuel Smith."

September 4th, 1787. At a town meeting "Voted, to accept the report of the committee, on the place for the meeting house. Voted, that the selectmen assess the money raised for that purpose."

"Voted, that the selectmen assess one hundred and fifty of the three hundred pounds raised heretofore, for the purpose of building the meeting house, and chose Benjamin Mann, Esq., Lt. James Scripture, Mr. H. Russell, Elias Eliot and Joseph Woods a committee to affect the purpose of building a meeting house in the town." The selectmen were ordered "to furnish the committee a copy of the assessment, and that the receipt of a majority of the committee, or of the chairman, shall be sufficient to discount with the constables for each ones tax."

March 30th, 1788. Chose Obadiah Parker to represent Mason and Raby. It appears by the record of the warrant for this meeting, that it was issued by the selectmen of Mason, alone. The record shows their warrant, directed to "the freeholders, and other inhabitants paying taxes in the town of Raby, to meet at the meeting house in Mason, for the choice of a representative."

June 16th, 1788. "Voted to build the meeting house on the plan proposed by the committee.

Voted to let out the west part of the school lot, to Dea. Amos Dakin for fifteen years, [for] his clearing and fencing the same with stone wall, 4 ft. 4 inches high." This contract was not carried out. Dea. Dakin died April 28, 1789.

May 4th, 1789. "Voted, that the Selectmen stake out the spot for the meeting house. Voted to set the front according to the three north stakes, set up by the Selectmen.

"Voted to postpone the building of the meeting house, till the first day of August, providing Mr. Kendall's business will submit to it."

Mr. Kendall was of Ashby, was a celebrated master builder, a faithful and a good workman. It seems his business would not submit to the postponement, for it appears by the following letter, which is inserted as illustrating the times and characteristics of the people, that early in September of that year, the meeting house was raised. The letter is directed to Sr. — Hill, Preacher in Ashby. The title, Sir, was once commonly given to graduates of universities. It seems to have been the English equivalent of the Latin Dominus, or Magister; but was, perhaps, exclusively bestowed on the clergy; [See the Odoorherty Papers.] To return to the letter. The original is in the hand writing of Jonathan Searle, Esq., and is as follows:

"Much respected Sr. Hill,

We in the Capacity of a Town's Committee for building a meeting House in Mason, take this method to wait upon you with our sincere Regards for your Person

and Welfare, and with our earnest Desire (as we expect with the Leave of Providence, next Week on Wednesday to begin raising the meeting House in this Town) that you would give us the Pleasure of waiting on you in town next week on Tuesday at farthest, since it is agreed upon, you should lead in Prayer early the next Morning. Pray Sr. don't disappoint us of this our desire, as you will much oblige your humb. Servts.

BENJAMIN MANN, } Chairman  
of Said  
Com'tee.

Mason, August ye 29th, 1789.

The above letter is copied verbatim from the original, preserving the orthography, punctuation, abbreviations, and use of capital letters. It was once a custom with English writers and printers, to commence every noun with a capital letter, which rule has, except in a few instances, been observed in this letter, and the common error of the illiterate, of commencing with capital letters other words than nouns, is sedulously avoided. The service requested, it is reported, was performed, in an appropriate manner and with due solemnity. This letter further brings to mind a distinguishing characteristic of our fathers, a feeling, and a ready public acknowledgment of, their dependence on the divine blessing in all their ways. The letter is one of the earliest documentary evidences that has been found of the connection of Mr. Hill with the affairs and interests of the people and town. It was not, however, his first appearance on public service in the town, where he preached four or more Sabbaths, commencing in April, 1789, but was, at the date of this letter, preaching in Ashby.

The raising of a meeting house in a country town was a matter of no small moment. As the records of Mason have preserved no details of the preparations for and of the proceedings on this occasion, resort will be had, as in former instances, with much profit, for interesting details of various matters and proceedings, to the records of Townsend.

At a town meeting in that town, on May 28, 1770, it was "Voted, That the commite chosen to take cair for the raising of the new meeting house, be directed to provid jins and roaps necessary for the same, and also to choose such hands to raise the same as they think proper, and make suitable provision for their entertainment as they think proper at their discretion; and also to provide some person that can splise roaps if they break, all at the town's cost, except their services in town."

The next proceeding of the town of Mason on record, has an intimate connection with the subject of the preceding page.

At a meeting, called October 15, 1789, and adjourned to October 19, the record states as follows: Then the town did concur with the church, in giving Mr. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Hill a call into the work of the ministry. No negative. Voted, To reserve "the ministry rite of land in the town, for the use of the town."

Voted, one hundred and fifty pounds settlement to Mr. Hill, provided he should accept the call of the church and town; one half of the above to be paid in money, the other half in neat stock and farm produce, one half in one year after his settlement, and the other half in the next year following.

Voted sixty six pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence yearly, as salary during his ministry with us. Chose Jonathan Searle, Esq., Lt. Obadiah Parker and Capt. Isaac Brown, a committee "to wait on Mr. Hill, with the above proceedings."

In the meantime, without waiting for the result of this action, the business of building the meeting house went on. At a town meeting, December 14, 1789, "Voted, To accept a plan of the body pews, drawn by Lt. Kendall, and of the wall pews, by Lt. James Wood, and to sell the pews by vendue; that the purchaser of a pew below, should pay twelve shillings, and of a pew in the gallery, six shillings, as a for-

feiture for not paying for the pew. Chose a committee to give and take security, Jonathan Searle, Benjamin Mann and Joseph Merriam, and at an adjournment, [apparently after the sale,] then proceeded to business, to wit, for each man that purchased a pew, to give in to the town's committee to build the meeting house, what articles he would procure against next April, necessary to finish said house."

The following is a copy of the proceedings of the church in Mason, in making choice of Mr. Hill to become their pastor, and in presenting their call to him, to the work of the ministry with them.

"Oct. 13th. 1789. At a church meeting, Rev. Samuel Dix of Townshend, was chosen moderator for the said meeting. After prayer, the church chose Mr. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Hill for their pastor and teacher, and determined to invite him to take the oversight of them, and the people of this place, as their minister.

"Voted to choose a committee, to wait on Mr. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Hill, and inform him of the above determination of the church; chose for that purpose, Deacon Nathan Hall, Mr. Jason Dunster and Mr. Samuel Smith.

"Voted that Deacon Hall, the standing moderator of the church, communicate to the inhabitants of the town, at their meeting on thursday next, a copy of our proceedings at this time, with respect to the choosing, and calling, of Mr. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Hill to settle with us in the ministry of the gospel.

Attest, SAMUEL DIX, moderator."

On the margin is the state of the vote of the church, as follows:

"Deacon Nathan Hall, yea.	John Russell, yea.
Jason Dunster, yea.	Edmund Tarbell, yea.
Samuel Smith, yea.	Hubbard Russell, yea."

Also, is added on the margin: "Capt. William Chambers, John Winship, Hinksman Warren, Jonathan Bachelder, Abel Adams, Joseph Woods, Timothy Dakin, members of other churches, expressed their desire that Mr. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Hill should

settle here." These brethren were then resident in the town, and afterwards united with the church.

February 16, 1790. The town "Voted. To provide thirty cords of wood yearly, for Mr. Hill, so long as the town can procure the same without a tax, and if that measure should ever fail of providing said thirty cords of wood as above, then the town will add to his salary so much as to make it seventy five pounds, lawful money, yearly, during his ministry in said town.

"Voted, To pay Mr. Ebenezer Hill one half of the settlement the said town voted him October ye 15th, 1789, in six months after his ordination in said town, the other half in eighteen months after said ordination, provided he should be in necessity for the same.

"Voted, That Mr. Joseph Merriam and Joseph Barrett wait upon Mr. Hill with the above proceedings of the town."

Mr. Hill had preached several months in Marlborough, N. H., and been called by the church in that town to become their pastor, and the town, at a meeting held November 30, 1789, by their vote, concurred in the action of the church. This call he had under consideration at the same time as that of Mason; after due deliberation, he declined the call of the church in Marlborough, and accepted the invitation of the church and people of Mason, to become their pastor and minister.

The following is a copy of his answer:

*"To the church of Christ and people in Mason:*

"My Christian brethren and Friends,

"It hath pleased Almighty God so to order in his Providence that I have been called to preach the Gospel of Christ among you,—I have been so long time with you as to give all an opportunity, who are so minded, to have personal acquaintanee with me, and to be acquainted with my sentiments, and public performances; as it is now about 15 months since I first came among you, and it has pleased you, unworthy as I am, to invite me to settle

with you in the work of the Gospel Ministry. It is [a] long time since I have had your call under consideration, and the longer perhaps, as I have been so unhappy, as to have another call, at the same time from another church and people, but I hope and trust I have made it a matter of serious and prayerful enquiry, seeking direction from the Father of Lights—and considered it, as it is, a most solemn and important undertaking, and who is sufficient for these things? O, to have the charge of Souls is a most awful charge! Since if any perish, thro' the carelessness or unfaithfulness of the Watchman, his blood shall be required at the Watchman's hands;—and to be guilty of the blood of souls is dreadful! I hope I am, in some measure, sensible of my insufficiency of myself, for such an undertaking—that all my own strength is weakness, and that my sufficiency must be of God, who chooseth the weak things of the world to confound the wise. I trust he hath called me to this work, therefore relying on his mercy and grace, and requesting and depending upon your prayers for me, that I may have grace to be found faithful, and be more and more furnished for the work, and depending upon your assistance as fellow helpers to the truth, I accept of your invitation, provided there shall arise no matter of difficulty before any further relation may take place. Again I request, brethren, pray for me, that I may be willing to spend and be spent in the service of Christ; that I may be a faithful Minister of the New Testament—and a helper of your joy. And may the pure religion of Jesus Christ prevail everywhere, in this town in particular, that God may be glorified among us is the prayer of

Your Humbl. Servt. in the Lord,

EBENEZER HILL."

This document is without date, but was communicated to the town, probably, in July or August, 1790.

While these proceedings were in progress, the affairs of the meeting house were in hand. At a meeting, March 8, 1790, it was "Voted, To dismiss the committee to build the meeting



house, and chose in their stead, Joseph Merriam, Hubbert Russell and Lt. James Wood.”

September 23, 1790. In the warrant for the meeting, the second article was, “To see what time the town will prefix for the ordination of Mr. Ebenezer Hill into the work of the Gospel Ministry. 3d. To see what provision the town will make for said ordination.”

At the meeting, “Voted, That Mr. Ebenezer Hill be absent two Sabbaths in a year, yearly, if it may not be in his power to procure a supply. Voted, To accept of Mr. Ebenezer Hill’s answer upon the Invitation of the Church and Town to settle with them in the work of the Gospel Ministry.

“Voted, That Wednesday, the third day of November next, be the day prefixed for the ordination of Mr. E. Hill into the work of the Gospel Ministry in this town.

“Voted, To send to seven churches to assist in the solemnity of the ordination, viz :

To the Church of Christ in

Rindge under the Pastoral care of the Rev. Seth Payson,				
Hollis,	“	“	“	Daniel Emerson,
New Ipswich,	“	“	“	Stephen Farrar,
Pepperell,	“	“	“	John Bullard,
Wilton,	“	“	“	Theophilus Fiske,
Temple,	“	“	“	Noah Miles,
Townsend,	“	“	“	Samuel Dix.

“Voted, To pay five dollars down, and the other part of the one half of the cost for entertaining the council, in money, in three months; the other half to be paid in rye, at 4s. per bushel, and corn at 3s. per bushel, the whole to be paid in three months from the ordination. Voted, To give Benjamin Mann, Esq., five pounds for entertaining the council, with all other gentlemen of the clergy, and Mr. Hill’s relatives and friends, that may attend the ordination. Chose Lt. Obadiah Parker, Jonathan Searle, Esq., and Dea. Nathan Hall, to send letters missive to the several churches above mentioned.”

The sum thus to be paid for entertaining the Council, &c., amounted to \$16,66.

These preparations having been made, the ordination was conducted in due form. The council met on the 2d day of November, 1790. The following is a copy of their proceedings. As such documents are rarely to be found in print, this will be looked upon by such as feel an interest in the minutia of the ecclesiastical proceedings of the New England churches, with a deeper sentiment than that of mere curiosity.

“An Ecclesiastical Council, by virtue of letters missive from the church of Christ and cogn. in Mason, desiring their advice and assistance in the ordination of Mr. Ebenezer Hill, to the work of the Gospel Ministry among them, on Wednesday, the 3d day of November, 1790; consisting of the following churches of Christ, Viz.: ye chh. of Christ in Hollis, ye chh. of Christ in New Ipswich, ye chh. of Christ in Townsend, ye chh. of Christ in Wilton, ye chh. of Christ in Pepperell, ye chh. of Christ in Rindge, and ye chh. of Christ in Temple, met as requested, at the house of Benjamin Mann, Esq., in said Town, on the evening preceeding said day.

“After some deliberation upon the subject of their meeting, Voted, To embody, and made choice of Rev'd. Daniel Emerson as moderator, who led the council in prayer to God for light and direction upon the important occasion. Then the council made choice of the Rev'd John Bullard as scribe, and proceeded to consider the call of the church and people to Mr. Hill, to the pastoral office among them, and his answer to said call, and being satisfied as to the regularity of both, they examined the candidate for ordination as to his qualifications for the work of the ministry, and his views in undertaking it, carefully attending to his confession of faith. Then voted to adjourn till next morning at nine o'clock.

“Wednesday, A. M. Met according to adjournment. After prayer, the council being satisfied as to the character, sentiments, qualification and views of Mr. Hill, upon the church receiving him into their holy fellowship and repeated requests to have the pastor elect separated to the work to which he

was called, Voted, Nem. con., to proceed to his ordination, (and he was ordained accordingly.)

“Mar., Nov. 3d, 1790.

JOHN BULLARD, Scribe.

“N. B. The solemnity was introduced with prayer, by Rev. Mr. Fiske; Rev'd Mr. Payson preached upon 2 Cor. 5; 20. Rev'd Mr. Emerson made the ordaining prayer. Rev'd Mr. Farrar gave the charge, Rev'd Mr. Dix gave the right hand of fellowship, Rev'd Mr. Bullard made the closing prayer.”

Here it may be proper to remark, that these proceedings were in full accordance with the principles of congregationalism; that is the absolute independency\* of each church. The candidate was not ordained, until he became a member of the church; and being such, was by the church chosen as their pastor and teacher, and at their request, being one of their brethren, was by the council, set apart and ordained as their pastor. This land mark of the order, is not now so carefully preserved, as it should be. It is apprehended that it will be found, in many instances, that the pastors of congregational churches, are not members of their churches. If the notion prevails, that by being ordained over the churches, they by that act become members of the churches, it is one that has no foundation in congregationalism, and is at total variance with its fundamental principles and doctrines.

This connection between the pastor and church thus formed, proved to be a happy one. It continued with the town till December 19th, 1835; when the civil contract with the town, was, at his request, dissolved. Of the church he remained pastor, till his decease, May 20th, 1854.

December 2d, 1790. At a town meeting “Voted, To sell the old meeting house at vendue, exclusive of the sash and glass. Voted, That the men that built pews in the old meeting house, hold them as their property.” John Brown became the purchaser. He was a merchant. He removed it to the south side of the common, at the foot of the hill on which it formerly stood; and placed it at the corner, on the west side

of the road leading to Townsend; where Freeman Elliot's house now stands. It was occupied as a dwelling house and store by Mr. Brown, and afterward by Thomas Whiting and Jabez Prescott, for the same purpose.

It was afterwards occupied by Henry Jefts, and perhaps some others, as a dwelling house, till it was purchased by Hollis Amsden of Mr. Parkman, who resided in Charlestown. Mr. Amsden occupied it for many years as a dwelling house and turner's shop. He sold it to Abraham Robbins, by whom it was taken down, removed, and set up again where it now stands, on the farm formerly occupied by Seth Robbins, a little way off from the road leading to Townsend.

Up to this period, the town had been but poorly furnished with school houses. Being provided with a meeting house and a minister, attention was now directed to the schools, one of the most important institutions in New England.

At a meeting March 14, 1791, it was "Voted, To raise 180 pounds to build school houses, viz: 20 pounds for each school district," and a committee was chosen, consisting of Jonathan Searle, Benjamin Mann, Obadiah Parker, Reuben Barrett, Samuel Smith, Jotham Webber, Stephen Lawrence, Oliver Scripture, John Lawrence, James Scripture, Joseph Saunders, David Hall and Joseph Barrett, to divide the town into school districts, and fix the place in each for the school house. Their report was made and accepted, and recorded. The town was divided into nine districts, the description and numbers of which will appear in a subsequent chapter.

The next interest which the fathers looked after was, to put in order the grounds around the new meeting house. At the meeting March 14, 1791, it was "Voted, That a single head pay one shilling, and other estates accordingly, towards wharfing around the meeting house, and making a parade." It was further "Voted, That it be assessed and put into separate columns, in the surveyors' lists, and committed to the surveyors; the price of work per day and utentials, as for highway work." Benjamin Mann, Isaac Brown and James

Wood, were chosen a committee, to direct the surveyors what work should be done; and it was further ordered, "that it be done by the 10th of June next." "The making the parade," was preparing the ground for a training field.

Now appear the first symptoms of a division in town affairs, which afterwards was the occasion of much trouble and heart-burning; that is the taxing the Baptists for building the meeting house. If the house had been built solely for public worship, there would seem to be no good reason to require those who did not use it for that purpose to pay the expenses of the erection; but that rule would apply to some who did not pretend to be Baptists, but from indifference to all religious teaching, or for other reasons, absented themselves from public worship. All these persons were ready enough to use the house for secular purposes, and in those days, when town meetings were seldom less than a dozen a year, the use of the house for that purpose, was almost as important in itself, and was quite as wearing and destructive to the building, as its use for religious purposes.

August 22, 1791. In the warrant for the meeting, the second article was, "To see if the town will direct the selectmen to order the constables who have demands on the Baptists in this town, or other towns not belonging to this State, to make distress immediately on such delinquent persons, of that denomination, as have not paid their several taxes to the minister or the meeting house, in the town, or to see if the town will strike upon measures of an amicable nature with the Baptists, respecting their said taxes, as they appear fond of the latter, but entirely averse to paying either of said taxes, except being obliged by law, unless happily agreed to by the parties." This article exhibits an amusing jumble of ideas. The doings of the meeting partook somewhat of the same character. It was "Voted, That the Baptists have the liberty to pay their proportion of the first assessment of £150, or not to pay anything at all. Voted, That the non-resident Baptists pay their proportion of the

above tax of £150, or be liable to be called upon for the whole of the tax now assessed against them to said meeting house. Voted, That the Baptists in town and out of the State, be exempted from paying any minister's tax made against them since the first invoice after they can procure a certificate that they have joined a sect or denomination of Baptists." On the 27th of September, at another meeting, the vote respecting the Baptists out of the State, was reconsidered, and a vote passed to exempt the Baptists out of the State from paying anything to the tax for building the meeting house. The result was, as appears by the records, that those who had not paid were excused, and those who had paid received back their money out of the treasury, by orders drawn in their favor.

The titles to the lands in the town were granted upon the express condition that the town should, within a specified time, build a meeting house, and, as is undoubtedly implied in those terms, should maintain it and rebuild it as often as necessary, and as the grantors had given valuable lands, for the ministry and the support of the ministry in the town, the undoubted intention of which was, that the town should support a minister, and as the town had enjoyed the full benefit of that grant, and had sold the ministry land and received the money for it, the town was morally, if not legally bound to maintain a minister, and continued to be so liable, until the laws of the State abridged the powers of the towns in this particular. There can be no doubt, that the conditions of the grants and the acceptance of the charter by the original grantees, made their lands chargeable with the burdens of building and maintaining a public meeting house for the town, and that all who held lands under this grant, or derived their title from the original grantees, under this charter, held them subject to those charges. No change had then been made in the law, with regard to the house; and it is doubtful if any had been made concerning the support of the minister which would

exonerate the owner of lands in town from the payment of assessments on their lands for this purpose. Such being the fact, one knows hardly which most to admire, the confidence with which the claim, on the part of the Baptists, to be exempted from the expenses of building the house, were urged, or the readiness with which the other inhabitants took upon themselves the whole burden of building and keeping in repair the meeting house.

March 12, 1792. Annual meeting. Obadiah Parker was chosen to represent Mason and Raby.

May 20, 1792. "Voted, To sell Dr. Wm. Barber a part of the parade ground at the rate of 52s. per acre."

At a meeting, this year, an article of the warrant was, "To see if the town will give leave to introduce the small pox by inoculation, and to set up a hospital." "Voted, Not to have the small pox brought into town, by any person or persons being inoculated. Voted, not to have a hospital set up in said town."

March meeting, 1793. Chose Joseph Merriam "To represent the town of Mason." The population of the town had now become large enough to be entitled to choose a representative, and to Mr. Merriam belongs the honor of being the first representative, under this apportionment. No citizen of Mason was ever more worthy of this mark of the confidence of his townsmen. Mason, as has already been stated, was for many years classed with Raby, for the choice of a representative. In those years in which no mention is made in Mason records of the choice of a representative, there is no doubt that the representative chosen was an inhabitant of Raby and that the choice is recorded in Raby records.

At this meeting, John Brown was chosen collector for the whole town. He refused or declined to serve, and a meeting was called July 8, 1793, to choose a collector in his room. At the meeting, "Voted, Not to excuse Mr. Brown. Voted, That he pay a fine of 20s. Voted, To accept an order of 20s. upon the town treasurer, from the Rev. Mr. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Hill,

for said 20s." Such was the law of the land; persons chosen into town offices who refused or declined accepting the office, were liable to be fined, unless excused by the town.

At a meeting in September, the town "Voted, To have two companies of militia in the town of Mason. Voted, To have the town divided for that purpose, according to the tax bills."

At the annual meeting, March 10, 1794, Obadiah Parker was chosen to represent the town. The ninth article in the warrant was, "To see if the town will let Benjamin Mann, Esq., have that old road formerly trod by Mr. Brintnall Witherell's shop near to the bridge, by Mr. John Brown's Pirlash, or pay said Mann for the road as now trod on said Mann's land." The town voted to give him the old road for the new one. Mr. Brown's pearlshery stood on the south side of the road on the east side of the stream, below the bridge, near the present residence of Mr. Ephraim Russell.

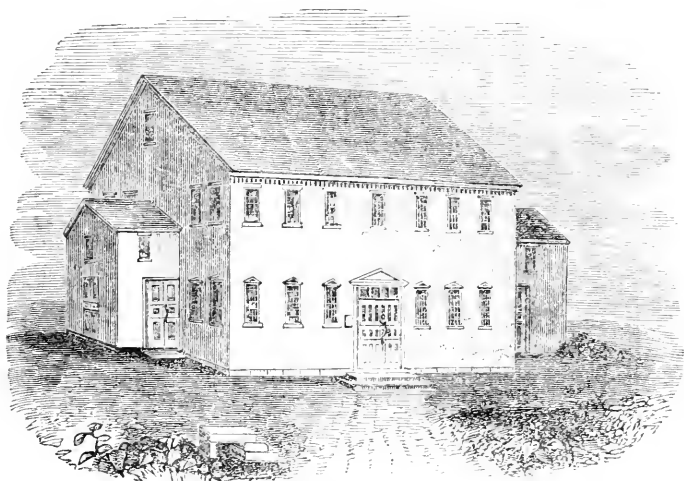
March meeting, 1795. Joseph Barrett was chosen representative.

May 18, 1795. "Voted, To each man who shall turn out as a volunteer in the service of the United States, for the term of one year, 12s. bounty, and to make up the wages to \$10 per month." This bounty was paid by the town, to the following persons: Samuel Merriam, Elisha Buss, Ezra Newell, Aaron Wheeler, Jr., Thomas Robbins, Jr., Joseph Merriam, Jr., Capt. James Wood.

October 22, 1795. "Voted, To have the meeting house dedicated on Thursday, the 26th day of November next, if agreeable to the Rev. Mr. Hill, and that the selectmen assist Mr. Hill in making entertainment for the ministers." On the 26th day of November, 1795, in pursuance of this vote, the meeting house was dedicated. No record has been preserved of the proceedings on that occasion. In the memoir of the Rev. Mr. Hill, will be inserted a fac simile of the first page of his sermon preached at the dedication.



The view of the house, here presented, was drawn from recollection, many years after the building was taken down; but it exhibits the appearance and proportions of the edifice so truly, that none familiar with its sacred form will fail at once to recognize it.

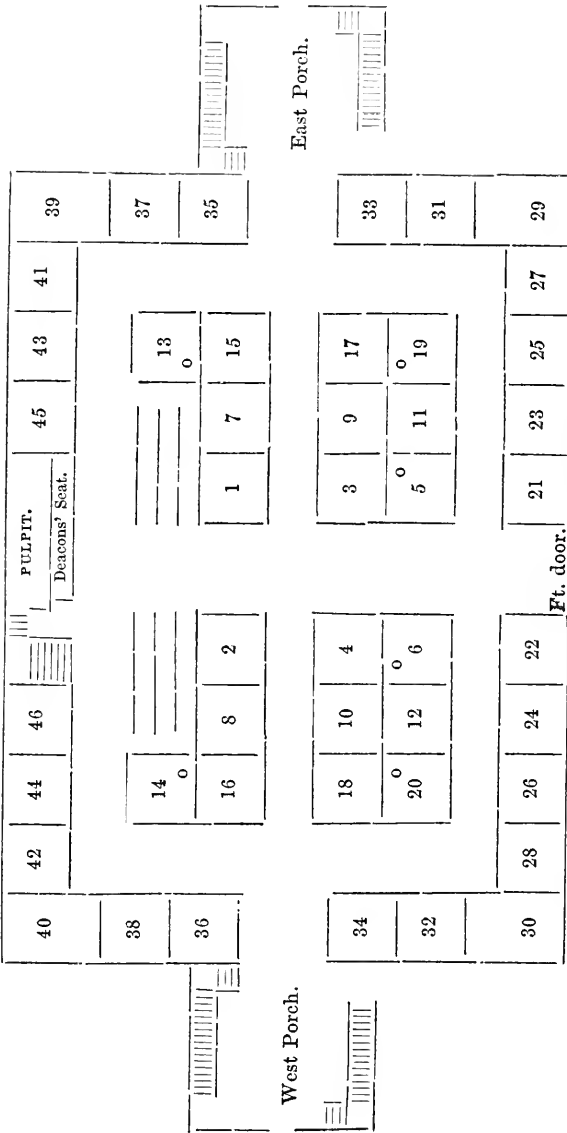


FRONT VIEW OF THE OLD MEETING HOUSE.

“Our meeting-house—our meeting-house,  
 It stood upon a hill,  
 Where autumn gales and wintry blasts  
 Piped round it loud and shrill.  
 No maple tree with leafy shade,  
 Nor tall, protecting oak,  
 Stood near to guard the ancient house  
 When tempests round it broke.

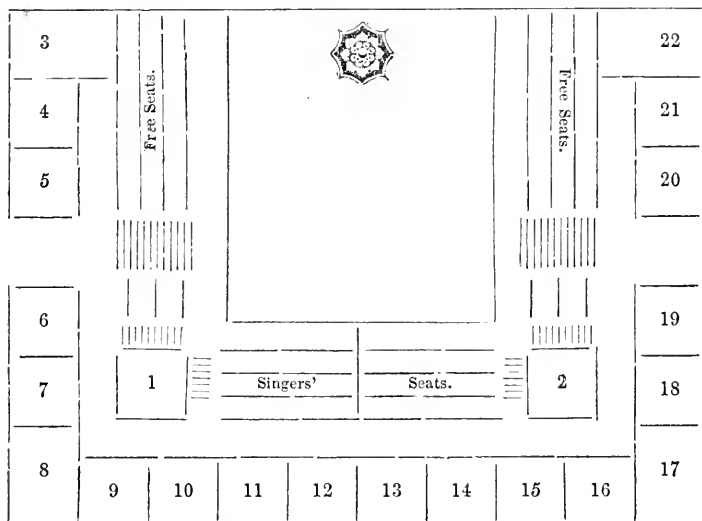
No steeple graced its homely roof,  
 With upward-pointing spire;  
 Our villagers were much too meek  
 A steeple to desire.  
 And never did the welcome tones  
 Of Sabbath morning bell,  
 Our humble village worshippers  
 The hour of worship tell.”

These lines, taken from the History of New Ipswich, describe so happily and perfectly, the Mason meeting house, that it is impossible to resist the impulse to use them, a liberty which it is hoped the author of the lines and the editor of the book, will pardon.



GROUND PLAN OF THE OLD MEETING HOUSE.

## GROUND PLAN OF THE GALLERY.



## NAMES OF PEWHOLDERS.

## GROUND PEWS.

No.	No.
1 Benjamin Mann, Esq.	21 Joseph Woods.
2 Joseph Merriam.	25 Deacon Noah Winship.
3 James Wood, Esq.	26 Captain John Barrett.
4 John Whitaker.	27 Samuel Townsend.
5 Oliver Hosmer.	28 Jason Russell and Hollis Amsden.
6 Dea. Rogers Weston.	29 David Brown and James Brown.
7 Captain James Scripture.	30 John Winship.
8 Stephen Lawrence, Esq.	31 Samuel Merriam, Esq.
9 Abel Adams.	32 Edward Wilson and Captain Thomas Wil- son.
10 Timothy Wheelock.	33 Ebenezer Shattuck.
11 Jonas Fay.	34 Jonathan Bachelder.
12 Dea. Nathan Hall and Jeremiah Boynton.	35 Captain Amos Flagg.
13 Samuel Smith.	36 Jonathan Williams.
14 Timothy Wheeler.	37 John Swallow, Jr.
15 Captain Jesse Barrett.	38 Hinksman Warren and Samuel Hill.
16 Captain Joseph Barrett.	39 Lieutenant Obadiah Parker.
17 Thomas Tarbell, Jr.	40 Joseph Tufts and Jason Dunster, Senior.
18 Jonathan Searle, Esq.	41 Deacon Timothy Dakin.
19 Capt. Benjamin Barrett and Dea. Hezekiah Richardson.	42 Doctor William Barber.
20 Silas Bullard.	43 Hubbard Russell.
21 Jason Dunster, Jr.	44 Elias Elliot.
22 Thomas Hodgman.	45 Joel Ames.
23 Lieutenant John Swallow.	46 Reverend Ebenezer Hill.

## GALLERY PEWS.

1 Captain Samuel Smith.	12 William Barrett.
2 Amos Holden.	13 Captain Ebenezer Hodgman.
3 Captain Sam Stevens Parker.	14 Lieutenant Joses Bucknam.
4 Joseph Saunders and John Blodgett, Esq.	15 Josiah Flagg.
5 Seth Robbins.	16 Joseph Blood.
6 Major Abijah Elliot.	17 James Withee and Micah Russell.
7 Nathaniel Boynton.	18 Ezra Merriam and Ephraim Russell.
8 Deacon Timothy Dakin.	19 Captain Samuel Withington.
9 Amos Russell.	20 Stephen Lawrence, Esq.
10 Ezra Brown and Capt. Artemas Manning.	21 Lieutenant Ebenezer Gilman.
11 James Wood, Esq.	22 Amos Blood.

The meeting house, a view of which appears on page 125, was by the vote of the town, to be fifty five feet long, and forty five feet wide. It was constructed with galleries on three sides. At each end was a porch, with two doors, one on the west, and one on the south side in one, and one on the east, and one on the south side in the other. From each porch, a door led into the main body of the house below, and two flights of winding stairs, one from each outer door conducted to the second story of the porch, from which a broad flight of steps in each porch, without a door, led into the gallery of the house. The accompanying ground plan, will give a better idea of the division of the house within, than any length of description. The outside was finished with very prime clapboards, and painted, the color having a slight tinge of yellow, making a straw color. The windows were large, the panes, eight by ten glass. The doors all panelled, the front double, the porch doors single. The finishing inside was ceiling, up to the bottom of the windows. The walls above, and ceiling overhead, of plaster; the fronts of the galleries were finished with panelled work, and a heavy cornice; the whole supported by Ionic columns, on which rested the heavy oaken beams, which furnished the groundwork of the galleries. These beams were planed and painted, and not enclosed by the plaster. The posts were very large, extending the whole height of the house, and projecting into the house; towards the top, where they were to receive the beams, they were enlarged, somewhat like the capital of a column. They were of the finest white oak timber, and finished and painted like the gallery beams. The pews were square, of panel work, with a balustrade of miniature Ionic columns. The pulpit was finished with panel work, outside and in, with angles and curves, which would tax the skill of an artist to describe in words; surmounted by a sounding board, octagonal in form, also of panel work, in the highest style of art of that day. All the work was in the best style, and of the best material. The following description, taken,

with a few changes, from the description of the old meeting house in New Ipswich, in the History of New Ipswich, will present a vivid picture of the inside of the house, and of the worshippers. The pulpit was lofty; the ascent to it was by a flight of stairs outside, with a balustrade of Ionic columns, of a larger size, but similar in form, to those used in the construction of the pews. It had a recess or rostrum, in which the speaker stood; behind him, was a curtainless arched window; above him, the sounding board hung near his head, suspended from the ceiling by an iron rod, so slender as to have excited in many a youthful mind, apprehensions of its falling, and speculations of the consequences of such a disaster; beneath him, in front of the pulpit, were the deacon's seats, in a sort of pen, where they sat facing the congregation, with the communion table hanging by hinges, in front of them. The pews were about six feet square; a row of hard, un-cushioned seats, surrounded the interior, and generally, there was one or more high-backed, flag-bottomed chairs in the centre, most usually occupied by the grand-mothers of the family, a shake of whose head, had a wonderful effect in reducing to instant sobriety, any youngster, attempting any trespasses upon the solemn decorum of the place. The seats were hung by hinges, so that they might be turned up as the congregation rose, at prayer, as was the goodly custom of our fathers; and the slam-bang, as they were turned carelessly down, at the close of the prayers, not unlike a volley of musketry, was no inconsiderable episode in the ceremonies.

Behold now the congregation, as it assembles on the Sabbath. Some of them are mounted on horses; the father, with his wife or daughter on a pillion behind him, and perhaps also his little boy astride before him. They ride up to the stone horse-block and dismount. The young men and maidens, when not provided with horses, approach on foot. They carry in hand a rose or a lilac, a pink, a peony or a pond-lily, (and this was the whole catalogue of flowers then known) or what was still more exquisite, a nice bunch of fennel or cara-

way seeds. Instead of this, in winter, they bear a tin foot-stove, containing a little dish of coals which they have carefully brought from home or filled at some neighboring house or noon-house; and this was all the warmth they were to enjoy during the two long hours of the service. They have come a long distance on ox-sleds, or perhaps have skimmed over the deep, untrodden snow on rackets. They enter the house, stamping the snow from their feet and tramping along the uncarpeted aisles with their cow-hide boots. Let us enter with them. The wintry blast howls and shrieks around the exposed building; the ill-fastened windows clatter; and the walls re-echo to the thumping of thick boots, as their wearers endeavor to keep up the circulation in their half-frozen feet, while clouds of vapor issue from their mouths; and the man of God, as he raises his hands in prayer, must needs protect them with shaggy mittens. So comfortless and cold, it makes one shudder to think of it. In summer, on the contrary, the sun blazes in, unscreened by blind or curtain; the sturdy farmer, accustomed to labor all day in his shirt sleeves, takes the liberty to lay aside his coat in like manner for the more serious employments of the sanctuary; especially is this the case with the singers, who have real work to perform.

Every man is in his appropriate place; for it was little less than sacrilege, in the days when the Sabbath was kept with all puritan gravity and severity, to stay away from meeting, let the weather be what it might.

The prayers are offered; the sermon begins, and advances by regular approach up to 8thly, and even to 16thly; the elderly men, unaccustomed to long sittings, occasionally standing erect or leaning against the partitions of the pews, to relieve the fatigue of their position; Tate and Brady is lined off, two lines at a time, by a person selected for the purpose, and sung with good nasal twang and hearty good will to some good old tune, Wells or St. Martins; and, finally, the benediction is pronounced. The congregation still remains

in its place to go out in prescribed order: first the minister—and as he passes the deacons, they follow—then those in the front seat below, and at the same time those in the front gallery seat and those in the pews—then those in the second seat, and so on in successive order. Would that a like decorum in this respect could be substituted for the impatient and irreverent rush of modern days. They separate for a short intermission and to dispatch their lunch of dough-nuts or apples; in summer they stroll in the graveyard, to hold silent converse with those who sleep there, and impress the lesson of their own mortality; and in winter those from a distance take refuge before the blazing hearth of some friend in the village, and are perhaps regaled by a hospitable mug of cider; and soon all are reassembled for the afternoon service.

After this, they wend their way home, to partake of a hearty warm dinner, the best of the week, in most instances too, prefaced by an exhilarating draught of hot toddy; and finally “to say the Catechism.” That Westminster Assembly’s Catechism; who that was trained in the early part of the century will forget it! Its pictorial alphabet of aphorisms,

In Adam’s fall we sinned all;

My Book and heart shall never part,—

the story of John Rogers, with the picture of the martyr at the stake, surrounded by the grim officials, and, standing near, his wife and nine children, certain; (whether the one at the breast was one of the nine, or one to be added to that number, was a problem too deep for youthful minds to solve,) Agur’s Prayer; and Dialogue between Youth, Christ and the Devil;—it was the only book beside the Bible and Psalm Book allowed in the hands of youth on the Sabbath. The Catechism concluded the religious observance of the day. Then the children were let loose, and in summer, all the family walked over the farm to observe the crops and salt the cattle.

As those who were actors in these almost forgotten scenes recall them, with a thousand associations which it is impossi-

ble to recount, it must seem almost a dream; and those who are now in the morning of life would doubtless smile could these old times and customs be but once presented in reality. But they were good old times; and the Sabbath and the sanctuary were then regarded with a strictness and reverence which we should be glad to see observed in our day.

The meeting house was so far finished that it was used at the ordination of Mr. Hill, November 3, 1790, and from that time to the time of the dedication, it continued to be used for public worship. The date of the year of the erection of the house appeared in large, gilded figures, 1790, on the capital of the two columns supporting the gallery, one on each side of the aisle in front of the pulpit, the position of which, in pews five and six, is indicated by the mark ° in the plan, on page 126. It was probably nearly completed at that time. Why the dedication was deferred till 1795, is not stated in any record or memorial of the times. This house continued to be occupied by the church and congregation over which Mr. Hill was settled as minister, till November, 1837, when a new society having been formed under the laws of the State, in connection with the church, and a new house built for their use in a more convenient and eligible locality, they removed to it, abandoning the old house. It continued to be used by the town, as a town house, for town meetings, and occasionally, by other societies and denominations, as a place of worship, until the town house was built in 1848, soon after which, it was sold and removed. It stood upon the top of the hill where the road leading to Brookline leaves the Wilton road. The locality, although at first it appeared pleasant and suitable for a village, proved wholly unfit for such purpose, it being impossible to dig cellars or wells, by reason of the ledges cropping out too near the surface. The first plot occupied in the town for a graveyard, was in the rear of this house; and after a few years it was abandoned, for the same reason. Some of the dead, originally deposited there, were removed to the burying ground south of the centre of the



town; others still rest in their lonely graves. A few monuments, the oldest in town, remain to mark their places of repose.

March meeting, 1796. Joseph Barrett was chosen representative.

March meeting, 1797. Joseph Barrett was chosen representative.

“Voted, To make a present to the Rev. Mr. Ebenezer Hill, of the obligation he gave the selectmen, dated March 13, 1793, for \$105. Voted, To leave the fixing of the burying grounds to the selectmen, provided they can have a sufficient title from Thomas Tarbell, of that burying ground near said Tarbell’s house.”

June 23d, 1787, sundry orders “To Capt. Wm. Chambers, £5 15s. 11d. 2q., it being for sundries he let the Rev. Mr. Dix have, and also for dining the Rev. Mr. Whitman, and keeping his horse; also for answering Mr. Whitman’s order upon the town or selectmen, and for Lt. Farley’s rats, that was abated, and for boarding Mr. Dix.”

September 4th, 1787. Capt. Wm. Chambers £2 19s. 1d. it being for boarding several ministers, and finding the committee that was chose to place the meeting house, a dinner, and for paying the Rev. Mr. Dix for preaching on fast day.”

December 11th, 1787. “Joseph Merriam, for boarding Mr. Jesse Remington, 5s. 0d. 1q.”

April 26th, 1788. “Hubbert Russell 7s. paid Mr. Warren, and for boarding Mr. Warren 3 weeks and three days, £1 7s.”

June 16th, 1788. “Jonathan Searle for keeping school, £1 12s. 0d. 0q.”

June 21st, 1788. Eleazer Fish, “for a pair of steers he turned in to the town, to pay a debt due to Mr. Whitman for preaching, £9 5s.”

October 9th, 1788. To Wm. Chambers, “for paying a note to Mr. Jesse Remington, and for paying a debt to Mr. Nahum Sargent, and for keeping Mr. Aiken’s horse and Mr. Remington’s horse, £5 6s. 6d.”

December 5th, 1788. Lt. James Wood, in all, £2 8s., "for boarding Mr. Nathan Church;" another order, "for boarding Mr. Church, 6s., and for paying him 7s."

February 2d, 1789. Isaac Brown, two orders, in all £2 6s., "for a saddle he let the town have, to pay a debt due Mr. Benjamin Green, for preaching."

February 16th, 1789. William Chambers, 13s., "for drink for the committee, when they vendued the timber for the meeting house."

March 17th, 1790. Order, To pay Jonas Fay 3s. 4d., "for a pound of tea, he let Mrs. Betty Locke have, towards her keeping school in 1788."

March 12th, 1791. Aaron Wheeler, "for his meeting house tax in 1789, 12s. 10d. 3q."

April 28th, 1791. Order to pay Dr. William Barber £2 8s. 9d., "for keeping school in the South District in 1789."

January 31st, 1792. William Eliot, "for his meeting house tax in 1789, 12s. 2d."

Messrs. Eliot and Wheeler were Baptists, and their taxes were abated, pursuant to the order of the town. See page 122.

1793. John Brown, "for two palls, or funeral cloths, £2 8s."

1795. The following persons were paid 12s. each, for bounty, for enlisting as volunteers; Samuel Merriam, Elisha Buss, Ezra Newell, Aaron Wheeler, Jr., Thomas Robbins, Jr., Joseph Merriam, Jr., Capt. James Wood, James Withee, according to the vote of the town. See page 124.

1796. Order "to pay Capt. Joseph Barrett \$4,19, it being so much he paid at Hopkinton court in December, 1796, with his own money, for a lawyer to speak respecting the north road, to our petition, for entering said petition, and for being recognized twice at said courts, and for expenses of myself and horse." It must be admitted, that, for all these items, it was a very moderate bill. This is the first time the federal currency appears in the town's accounts.

November 17th, 1797. "The Selectmen, ordered the

Treasurer. to pay S. M. 25 cents *in full*, for killing a crow, the town, by a vote, allowing the same."

A bill for articles furnished for building a school house, by Timothy Dakin, a merchant in the town, the following prices appear, of this date. Board nails, 8s. per m; shingle nails, 2s. 4d. per m; double tens, 6s. for 500; a pair of door hinges, 4s. 6d.; a bushel of lime, 2s. 6d.

In December, 1798, eleven persons petitioned the selectmen to call a town meeting, "To take some measures to petition Congress in regard to the land tax," the petitioners "viewing it to be unequal and injurious to the rights of the people." A meeting was held December 13th, 1798, pursuant to this petition, and the subject considered, and Dea. Jotham Webber, John Blodgett, Joseph Tuffts, Dr. Joseph Gray, and Dea. Rogers Weston, were appointed a committee to petition to the Court, &c., for redress of grievances, &c., and the meeting was adjourned four weeks. At the adjournment, "Proceeded to read the report of the committee," &c., and then "Voted, Not to be so much dissatisfied with the land tax, so called, as to petition Congress upon the subject."

Most of the persons appointed on this committee, were leading men in the democratic party in the town. The land tax, one of the measures of John Adams' administration, was, with that party, very unpopular. No doubt the design of this movement was, to encourage and incite opposition to his administration. The report of the committee, which was read, is not found in the records, or on file. The manner in which it was disposed of by the town, at the adjournment of the meeting, shows that the object of the petitioners was not favored by the citizens.

April 5, 1798. Orders. Maj. James Wood, \$4,17 in full, for his "procuring and conveying articles for Mr. John Goddard, such as rum, sugar, raisins, and other necessary articles when he was sick, and for making and carrying a coffin to his house for said Goddard."

March 9, 1799. "Benjamin Mann, eight dollars in full, for

making a piece of road [near] Mrs. Chambers', and for liquor at the vendue of Mary Jefts, and doing writing when the selectmen received a deed of John Smith and for toddy at the time, and for liquors at the vendue of the town land and pound, and the wall round the graveyard, and assisting at said vendue, and for one cord of wood, delivered at the school house in the centre district, for 1798." One would think that for all this, eight dollars was cheap enough.

March 20, 1799. James Withee's taxes abated. "The town favored him on account of his losing his barn and rye and hay by fire."

The municipal history is now brought down to the close of the eighteenth century, also to the close of the first half century of the proprietary and corporate existence of the town; within which time, the forest has been subdued, the roads have been made, the mills, meeting house, school houses, and farm houses and barns, have been built, and the town and church, with all their institutions, put into successful operation. In the extracts from the records and comments upon them thus far given, the object has been, to let our fathers, as far as might be, become their own historians; therefore, whatever it was judged would exhibit the characteristics of the people and of the age, and would illustrate their manners, habits, customs, and modes of thought, and way of managing their affairs in church and state, has been freely used for that purpose. The municipal history of the next fifty years will occupy much less space. It is, in itself, less note worthy, less important, and less illustrative of the manners of the people. To pursue it in as full detail as has been given to the preceding period, would occupy space required for other matters, and would swell the book to a size beyond what was contemplated. Besides, it is but fair to leave something for the historian of the next one hundred years. It is a remark worthy of consideration, that those communities are by no means the happiest which furnish the greatest amount of materials for the historian's page.

At a town meeting, November 5, 1804, "Chose Thomas Wilson and Joseph Winship saxtons."

March 12, 1805. Annual meeting. After the choice of moderator, "Then chose Col. James Wood and Mr. Joseph Merriam, a committee to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Hill, in order to open the meeting with prayer. Then Voted, That all the voters should take the east side of the meeting house before they voted, and pass to the other side when they voted, so as to *change sides* when they carried in a vote." This extraordinary measure indicates that a fierce struggle for party ascendancy was impending. This year, for the first time, a democratic majority was found in the town. The votes for governor were, for Gilman, federalist, 64; for Langdon, republican, 64—a tie. For Senator, J. K. Smith, republican, 64; for Frederic French, federalist, 63. For counsellor, Benjamin Pierce, republican, 71; for Phillip Greeley, federalist, 54. "Voted, To add one hundred dollars to the Rev. Mr. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Hill's salary, for this year only." A similar addition of one hundred dollars to his salary was voted in 1807 and in 1808. This custom of inviting the minister to attend and open the annual meetings with prayer was observed many years. It may be justified by the same reasons as the employment of chaplains by legislative bodies."

1809. The law of the state required the towns to make provision for the feeding of the militia on the field, at the regimental musters. It was the custom for the selectmen to make a schedule of the provisions required, and let the furnishing by auction, to the lowest bidder. Several of these schedules are recorded. That of 1809, is copied as a sample. "Provisions for the soldiers, at the muster at Temple, On Oct. the 6, 1809, Viz: One hundred weight of good beef, to be well cooked, that is, either roasted or baked; one bushel of good wheat, made into good bread, and one bushel of good rye, made into good bread; twenty five weight of good cheese; five gallons of good West India Rum; five pounds of good lofe sugar; one barrel of good new cider; all to be at

the mustering field, at Temple, by the time that the battalions meet on Friday, the 6th day of Oct., 1809," bid off by Josiah Russell, at \$24.50. Well does the writer, though then but a lad, remember, on the gathering of the companies around the cart, upon the parade ground, getting a generous slice of the beef and bread, and a drink of the cider, and probably of the rum, for then it was thought to be good for every body, old or young. A boy's appetite, sharpened by a walk of some seven or eight miles, on a raw October morning, would have made an indifferent piece of beef and bread an acceptable oblation to the god of hunger, if such god there be; but he is ready to testify, even after the lapse of so many years, that in this instance, the beef and the bread fully came up to and answered the requirements of the schedule.

September 26, 1815. The town "Voted, To make up to the soldiers who volunteered [for the defence of Portsmouth] their wages to \$15 a month."

1816. The small pox appeared in the family of Silas Lawrence. The town was at once in commotion. Several town meetings were held, in reference to that subject. The first was January 29th, at which "Chose a committee of five men, all to consist of such men as have had the small pox, to advise with the selectmen on means to be taken to prevent the further spreading of the small pox. Chose Jedediah Felton, Lt. Joses Bucknam, Ezra Merriam, Joseph Tufts and Dea. Jotham Webber. Voted, That the selectmen give leave that two or more persons, not exceeding five, who have had the kine pox and have been exposed to taking the small pox, may be enoculated with the small pox, provided that Mr. Willard Lawrence is willing to have the enoculated persons go and remain in his new house until they have gone through [the] operation, at their own expense." A second meeting was called, February 5, at which it was "Voted, To send for Dr. Spaulding, of Amherst, forthwith, to examine Ira Lawrence and give his opinion whether he had the kine pox or small pox. Then Voted, The small pox committee cleanse the

Wid. Abigail Richardson's house, and keep it for the purpose of putting in any persons who, in the judgment of said committee, hath simptoms of the small pox, until it be known whether they be likely to have the small pox or not. Then Voted, To have two more added to the small pox committee, and chose Abel Adams and Henry Isaacs." It was the custom then, on the appearance of any contagious disease in a town, for the selectmen to cause the highways leading by the house in which the disease was found, to be closed against all passing, by fences across the same, and to cause to be exhibited at the fences a signal, usually a red flag, as a warning to avoid the place. Such precautions were taken in the present instance, that the disease did not spread beyond the family in which it appeared. Silas Lawrence died of the disease; also his mother, an aged lady. His son, in whom the disease first appeared, recovered. The deceased were buried upon Mr. Lawrence's farm, as interments of persons who died of contagious diseases, were not then permitted in the public burying grounds. The funeral services were attended by the Rev. Mr. Miles of Temple, the only clergyman in the vicinity who was qualified, by having had the small pox, to officiate on such occasions.

January 19th, 1819. In the warrant was an article, "To see if the town will vote that each religious society in said town of Mason, shall have the use of the public meeting house their proportion of Sabbath days, and also at other times." The result of the vote on this article is, "Voted, Not to give the Baptist Society their right in Mason meeting house." At the annual March meeting, the next year, was an article "To see if the town will rectify a mistake or erroneous vote, by said town, January 18th, 1819," reciting the vote as thus recorded. The town "Voted, To rectify the mistake or erroneous vote, and "instead thereof, that we are willing that they should have their right in said house."

How they could claim any right, in a house which they had refused to aid in building, and also, to aid in repairing, is a

problem not easily solved upon any principles that should govern the conduct of men. The more sedate and substantial men of that society were not in favor of this movement. But there are, in every community, some unprofitable persons, whose moving principle of action is, to make mischief and disturbance. It is only in scenes of confusion and tumult, that they can shine. A state of peace and quiet, is for them, a state of insignificance. Although the town had voted that, "they were willing the Baptists should have their right," still, nothing further was done. They never appeared to claim it. There is no evidence that Elder Eliot or the leading men in his society took any interest or share in these movements, or that he had any desire to disturb his old neighbors and friends in the enjoyment of their rights. They never made any claim to the use of the house, or to interfere with its occupation. The effect intended was produced. The mischief was done. The society, which, under the laws of the state, had rightfully occupied the house, at the time it was built, and which no subsequent laws had in any manner deprived of that right, finding, from this and subsequent movements in the same direction, that their peace and quiet were subject to constant interruption, withdrew from the house, and built one for their own accommodation, after a fruitless effort, in accordance with a vote of the town, to secure to themselves the peaceful and undisturbed occupation of the house, in pursuance of which vote they expended a large sum of money in repairing it; and thus the connection between the Congregational denomination and the town, which had existed from the earliest period of its history, was severed, and each religious denomination was left to manage its own affairs in its own way.

March 16, 1820. "Sarah Smith's clothing was allowed to be equal to what it was when Mr. Abraham Robbins took her to keep on March 19, 1819." The articles are thus minutely described: "Gowns, 1 good silk one, 5 of calico, 1 cambric, 2 gingham, and 1 woolen; Petticoats, 2 of wool, 1 cotton, 1



linen, 1 muslin, 1 tow; one good loos coat, 1 green ditto, middling good; six good shawls,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  yds. of woolen cloath for another, and 1 linen sheet, two good cotton sheets, two calico aprons and two pairs of shoes that are not very good." One would think this was a pretty *good* supply of clothing for a town pauper. This individual had been maintained by the town for many years, and continued to be a town charge until she died, April 19, 1754, at the age of ninety six years.

March, 1820. An order "to pay Benjamin Weatherbee, Samuel Wardsworth, Ira Hall, Joseph Saunders, Jr., Josiah Elliot, Jr., Joseph Woods, Jr., and Elijah Knapp, their bounty for enlisting," &c., in 1814. Also, a subsequent order in favor of Asa Merriam, John Boynton, Hubbard Amsden, and Elias Elliot, Jr., drafted to go to Portsmouth in 1814.

March meeting, 1821. This was in politics the "era of good feelings," indicated by the votes for governor, which were, for Samuel Bell 16, Josiah Butler 1, David L. Morrill 9, Horace Sawtell 3, Joel Tarbell 1, John Kimball 1; D. Stewart, county treasurer, 71; Isaac Brooks, register, 72; for revising the constitution, yeas 0, nays 71. The people did not care a fig for the governor, but the keeping of the money and of records of deeds, were matters of consequence, and these officers got a full vote. Nor would they have the constitution meddled with. At this meeting, a vote was passed to prohibit all horses, neat cattle, sheep and swine from going at large in the highways, and from that time the public highways have ceased to be used as pastures.

This year, John Blodgett, Esq., declined a re-election to the office of town clerk. He was first elected to this office in 1799, and continued in office, with few exceptions, till the present year, having served nineteen years in all. He also served as chairman of the board of selectmen during most of the same period, and as such, was charged with the duties of town treasurer, and had the oversight of the town's expenditures. He was a very careful, prudent and economical manager of the affairs of the town, and deserved well of the

community, for his labors and cares in office. A vote of thanks, for his long and faithful services as an officer of the town, was offered by the Rev. Mr. Hill, and unanimously passed. His reply is recorded as follows: "My friends, accept my grateful acknowledgments for the repeated respects you have shown me for many years. May it please the Supreme Ruler to cause his blessing to rest upon this town, that the olive branch of peace may be planted and nourished in every breast; may it become like Aaron's rod, ever budding, ever blossoming, ever bringing forth the fruits of brotherly love and Christian charity, to the latest generations." He soon after removed from the town and resided in Dunstable or Tyngsborough, in Massachusetts, to the close of his life. He died in extreme old age, having arrived to nearly if not quite one hundred years of age.

The selectmen of this year seem to have entertained and acted upon the notion, that when a town takes a pauper to maintain, they take him *cum onere*, with all his liabilities, and become liable therefor, in the same manner as a husband is liable for the debts of his wife contracted before marriage. April 11, 1826, is recorded an "Order to pay Aaron Warren, Esq., \$3,71, in full, for a note and account he had against Elijah Morse, the town's Poor." Also, May 11, an "Order to pay Amos Herrick \$5,93, in full, for a note and account he had against Elijah Morse in favor of Arrington Gibson, *given to said Gibson previous to said Morse throwing himself upon the town.*"

July 10, 1826. A meeting was called "To see if the town will let the Baptists have the use of the meeting house a proportion of the time, according to their polls and estates, or to see what other measures the town will take to satisfy the Baptists with regard to their claims on said house." The town "Voted, To pass over the article."

At the annual meeting, March, 1832, the town voted to purchase a farm, on which to support the poor, and chose a committee for that purpose, consisting of Timothy Wheeler,

Jonathan Bachelder, Jr., Elisha Barrett, James Taft and John Stevens. This committee was authorized to purchase stock, farming utensils, &c., and to employ a person to take the charge thereof. The committee purchased the farm formerly owned by Zaccheus Barrett, and then owned by his son, Capt. James Barrett, being lot No. 6, range 5, on the plan. See page 32. By the report of the committee appointed to settle with the selectmen and treasurer, dated March 10, 1832, it appears that the cost of the poor farm, including, probably, repairs of and additions to the buildings, was \$2500, and that of the stock, utensils, furniture, and improvements, was \$863. This farm has been used for the purposes intended to the present time, and has furnished a comfortable home for many of the aged and destitute, who had outlived their friends and means of support, as well as for many others, dependent, from various causes, on public charity.

April 18, 1830. A meeting was called, "To see if the town will vote that each religious denomination in said town, may occupy the public meeting house in said town, their due proportion of Sabbaths and other times, in proportion to their polls and estates." The vote was in the negative.

May 31, 1830. A meeting was called, "To see if the town will raise a sum of money to repair the meeting house." At this meeting, the town voted to give the use of the house to the Congregational church and society, for twenty years, provided they would keep it in good repair, and let the town have the use of it for a town house, and let those who have private property in said house, have it to worship in when the Congregational church and society are not using it. The selectmen were a committee to carry the vote into effect, and to take a sufficient bond, &c. That church and society repaired the house, and occupied it for some time, but it is believed that, owing to some disagreement about the terms of the bond, none was given.

At the annual meeting, March, 1832, the town voted to pass over the article to raise the salary of the Rev. Mr. Hill;

but at a meeting called for that purpose, March 31, the salary was voted. A meeting was called, April 21, "To see if the town would dismiss the Rev. Eben<sup>r</sup>. Hill from being minister of said town. The vote was in the negative."

December 19th, 1835. "Voted, To comply with the request of the Rev. Ebenezer Hill, to dissolve the civil contract between him and the town of Mason, as minister of said town, and it is on our part dissolved, after paying his salary, to the month of March next. Voted, The thanks of the town be given to the Rev. Ebenezer Hill, for his ministerial labors, for the space of forty five years." Upon the record is entered the consent of Mr. Hill to this arrangement, as follows: "Whereas, the town of Mason, agreeably to my request, have by their vote in legal town meeting, consented on their part, that the civil contract existing between the town and me as their minister, should be dissolved, as in said vote is expressed, which contract was formed in the year 1790, I hereby express my consent on my part, that said contract be dissolved in accordance with the vote just passed; and I do accordingly relinquish all claim for salary, from the town, after the first of March next. Mason, December 19th, 1835."

November, 1840. Nathaniel Shattuck, Esq., was chosen a committee to "examine, and report whether any society or individuals were responsible to keep the town house in repair; and if none, to proceed to repair the house, and chose Nathaniel Shattuck, Josiah Russell and Samuel Smith a committee for that purpose." This was the old meeting house.

April, 1843. "Voted, to instruct the Selectmen to repair the town house, in a proper manner, and also to look after those who have in any way injured the house, and prosecute if they think proper and necessary."

Annual meeting, 1848. Article 14th. "To see if the town will sell or repair the meeting house, or do anything in relation to the same. Voted, to choose a committee of five, to dispose of the old meeting house. Chose Jonathan Russell, Jona. Bachelder, Oliver H. Pratt, Willis Johnson, Charles

Scripture and Orlando W. Badger. Voted, To instruct the committee to proceed legally in disposing of the house. Voted, That the selectmen call a town meeting to hear a report of said committee, when said committee is ready to make their report."

The old meeting house, being no longer occupied for public worship by any society, was fast falling into decay. It was exposed to depredations, the windows were broken, the doors were often found open, exposing the building to the effects of storms. The location was unsuitable and inconvenient for town meetings to be held there, and therefore it was concluded to dispose of the old house, and build a town house.

May 23d, 1848. A meeting was called, to hear the report of the committee, to see if the town would build a town house, to fix its location, and to raise money to build, or purchase a town house. At the meeting, Voted, "To accept the report of the committee. Voted, To build a town house. Voted, To locate it at the centre of Mason. Voted, To raise \$1000 to build the house. Voted, To appropriate the balance of the sale of the old meeting house, for the building of the town house. Voted, That the expense is not to exceed \$1200. Chose Jonathan Bachelder, Charles Scripture, Willis Johnson, Asher Peabody and Samuel Smith, Jr., a committee for building the town house." The town house was so far completed, that a town meeting was held in it, November 7th, 1848.

The frame of the old meeting house, was used and worked up into the frame of the saw and grist mill, built by Mason mill company, near the centre of the town.

Thus the town is left without a minister, or a meeting house; and such is the change in the habits, views and feelings, that, as a town, they will probably dispense with these once useful institutions, for all time. There is to be no more a servant of religion, in whom all feel a common interest; no more a place where all can assemble on days of public worship, and meet as townsmen, on common ground; but the

meeting houses are matters of private interest, and although they are in numbers much multiplied, it may well be doubted, whether there is in the town, more genuine piety and veneration for religion, than in those days, when all assembled in one place, and listened to the teachings of the town's minister.

1856. This year will be remembered in the annals of the town, for the very liberal donation to the town, of the sum of ten thousand dollars, made by the Hon. John Boynton of Templeton, Mass., to be invested in stock or other good securities, and the interest to be applied, forever, for the benefit of the common schools in the town. This gentleman is a native of Mason. His father, the late Jeremiah Boynton, became a resident of the town as early as 1789, and continued to be an inhabitant till his decease, October 27, 1839. He was a farmer, a worthy, industrious man, a good citizen, and much respected and esteemed. The liberal donor of this fund, was his eldest son. Having retired from active business with an ample fortune, acquired by industry, economy, and a successful management of his affairs, he has not forgotten the place of his nativity; nor has he left it for the hand of an executor to carry into effect his generous design; but while in full health, and vigor of body and mind, has himself seen to the execution of his purpose, and to securing, in a proper form, the efficiency and permanency of the aid thereby given to the great cause of the education, for all coming time, of the children of this, his native town.

The object of his bounty is the common schools, to which he was indebted for all the means of education by himself enjoyed in early life; and to which our common country is more deeply indebted for its intelligence and for the preservation of its liberties and free government, than to all other means of education, or institutions of learning. His purpose to make this endowment, he made known to some of his friends, inhabitants of the town, in the summer of 1856. Desirous, on the one hand, to make the provisions of the

endowment such, that its benefits should be sacredly secured to its object, the education of every child in town, and at the same time to place it under such provisions and safeguards, that it should never become a source of contention or party strife, after consultation with a committee of the citizens, he submitted, for the consideration of the town, a proposition to make the endowment under certain restrictions and limitations, which, with the action of the town, appears in the following extract from the records of the doings of a town meeting, called for that purpose:

At a legal town meeting, holden September 17th, 1856, "Article 2d, it was Voted, To receive of John Boynton, Esq., of Templeton, Mass., the sum of ten thousand dollars in money, or in securities for the payment of money, upon the following conditions, viz: That the same shall forever be kept upon interest, and shall forever be known as 'The Boynton Common School Fund,' and that the interest or income thereof shall annually forever be applied by said town of Mason, to the support of district or public schools in said town, in proportion to the number of scholars in such districts or schools, between the ages of five and fifteen years. And whenever the said town shall fail so to apply the interest or income of said money annually, in addition to the sum that shall be required to be raised by law by said town, for the support of district or public schools, the said town shall repay the same sum of ten thousand dollars to the said John Boynton, his executors, administrators, or assigns.

"Voted, To choose a committee of three to receive the said sum of ten thousand dollars in money or securities for the payment of money, of said John Boynton, Esq., and also to authorize said committee, for and in behalf of said town, to execute an agreement, that the said town of Mason shall repay the said sum of ten thousand dollars, to the said Boynton, his executors, administrators, or assigns, whenever the town of Mason shall fail to apply the interest or income

of said sum of ten thousand dollars, in addition to the sum that shall be required by law to be raised by said town, for the support of district or public schools in said town of Mason, and to divide the said income or interest annually between the several districts or public schools in said town, in proportion to the number of scholars belonging to said districts or public schools, between the ages of five and fifteen years.

“Voted, That the aforesaid committee consist of Doctor Thomas H. Marshall, Jonathan Russell, 2d, and Charles Scripture.

“Voted, To choose a committee to petition the legislature, for an act to authorize the town of Mason, to choose five trustees, who shall, under the direction of the town, have the care of the Boynton Common School Fund, and to see that the same is safely invested, and upon interest.

“Chose Dr. Thomas H. Marshall, Jonathan Russell, 2d, and Charles Scripture for that committee.”

On application to the legislature, an act was passed, of which the following is a copy :

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

**AN ACT** authorizing the town of Mason to elect trustees of the Boynton Common School Fund.

*Whereas*, John Boynton, Esquire, of Templeton, in the State of Massachusetts, has given to the town of Mason, the sum of ten thousand dollars, in trust, the income of which is to be appropriated for the maintenance of common schools in said town of Mason; and, whereas, by the provisions of the grant, the said grant is to be under the control of five trustees, to be elected by said town of Mason; therefore,

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened :*

*Section 1.* That said town of Mason shall, on the second Tuesday of March, A. D. 1858, choose, by ballot and by a major vote, five trustees, to be called Trustees of the Boynton Common School Fund, one of whom shall hold the office for one year, another for two years, another for three years, another for four years, and the other for five years, and till some other person is chosen and qualified instead of each; the term of office of each to be determined by lot at their first meeting, and a record thereof made in the office of the town clerk



of said town. One such trustee shall be chosen annually, at the annual meeting of said town, after said second Tuesday of March, A. D. 1858, by ballot, and by a major vote, to fill the vacancy which will annually occur by the expiration of the term of office of one of the incumbents.

*Section 2.* The said trustees shall have the entire control and management of the Boynton Common School Fund, and shall invest the same in a safe and prudent manner, and shall annually pay to the treasurer of said town of Mason, in the month of January, the income of said fund, to be divided among the several districts or common schools in said town, in proportion to the number of scholars, between the ages of five and fifteen years, in said districts or schools.

*Section 3.* The trustees shall, at each annual meeting of said town, make a report of the state of the fund, and the income of the same; and the town may require of them bonds for the faithful discharge of the duties of the office.

*Section 4.* In case of the death or resignation of either of the trustees, or in case either of them, by sickness or otherwise, be disqualified for the duties of the office, they may, at the annual or at a special meeting called for that purpose, elect another person for the unexpired term.

Approved, June 26, 1857.

## CHAPTER IV.

### CONTROVERSIES WITH THE REV. JONATHAN SEARLE.

No document, record, or entry, has been found, which shows at what time the troubles and misunderstandings between the Rev. Jonathan Searle and his church and people, were first manifested; nor are the grounds of the controversy and difficulties anywhere clearly set forth. They are to be gathered rather by inference, than from any satisfactory or positive statement. The records of the church, during the time of the controversy, are exceedingly meagre, and contain very little information upon the subject. The town records, however, contain entries which give some insight into the matter. Probably there is no document or living memory remaining, which can throw any light upon such parts of the transactions as are not, by the entries in the town records, sufficiently set forth to be understood. It will be recollected that the salary voted to him on his settlement, was £60 lawful, a year, to be increased at the end of ten years to £66 13s. 4d. He was ordained, October 14, 1772. A town meeting was called, January 5, 1779. Among other articles was one for inquiring "into the conduct of the Rev. Jonathan Searle, in his not giving receipts in full for the money he hath received for his yearly salary, &c., and for increase of his salary." The record proceeds as follows: "Mr. Searle being present, Voted, That the moderator ask him whether he would discharge the town of his salary, if said town would pay him up the nominal sum from the first settlement, &c., and trust the town's generosity for an addition to said salary;

the question being asked by the moderator, his answer was in the affirmative. The moderator called on the constables to make a settlement with Mr. Searle; the said constables readily complied with the terms; the moderator at the same time wrote a receipt and read it to Mr. Searle, and asked him whether he would sign such a one. His answer was that he would, or any one that the town should require. The town then proceeded to get the money that was his due as salary from the first of his settlement in said town, until the 14th day of October, 1778, and pay it to him. Said money being offered to Mr. Searle by the selectmen, requiring him to sign said receipt, he utterly refused to sign said receipt, or a similar one. For which reason, the town voted to assess the last year's salary, and order it into the treasurer's hands, there to remain until it should be ordered otherwise. By said town, Voted, That Lt. Samuel Brown take the money and make a lawful tender to Mr. Searle, of the whole of his salary that yet remains unpaid from the first of his settlement in said town, until the 14th day of October, 1778, and require him to sign such a receipt as was approved by said town." Then adjourned to the 8th instant. At the adjournment, "Voted, To choose a committee to desire the Rev. Jonathan Searle to attend the meeting by adjournment, in order for him to make some proposals to the town, on what terms he would settle with the town, and if he refused to come, for him to send in writing, by said committee, on what terms he would settle." Dea. Amos Dakin and Lts. Samuel and Isaac Brown, were the committee. The town, after transacting some other business, adjourned to the 12th of January. At the adjournment, "After hearing the Rev. Jonathan Searle's letter directed to the moderator read, Voted, That it was not an acceptable answer, according to the town's request. Voted, To choose a committee to reason with Searle and make a report to the town." The committee were Joseph Barrett, Joseph Merriam, Dea. N. Hall, William Eliot and David Blodgett. Adjourned to the 20th instant. At the

adjournment, "Voted, Not to make any addition to the Rev. Jonathan Searle's salary, for the time being." The authority of the committee was continued, and they were directed to report at the next meeting. Adjourned to February 9. It was at the adjournment, "Voted, That the Rev. Jonathan Searle's conduct hath been dissatisfactory to the town, with regard to what hath been acted on his part, relative to his falling from his first agreement, as well as at other meetings held after adjournment." "Voted, That the town call upon the Church of Christ in this place to desire the Rev. Jonathan Searle to join in a mutual council, and have all matters of aggrievance subsisting between Mr. Searle and this people brought before said council for their wise determination. Voted, That the town and church are connected together in paying the cost of said council. Capt. Joseph Barrett, Dea. Nathan Hall, and Mr. Edmund Tarbell, each entered their dissent against the proceedings of this meeting, so far as what is comprehended in the second vote of said meeting."

At the annual meeting, March 8th, 1779. The seventh article was, "To see if the town will pay the Rev. Jonathan Searle his salary, for the year 1778." On this article, the town "Voted, To pay the salary of the Rev. Jonathan Searle, provided he give a receipt in full, &c."

At a meeting called March 30th, 1779. "Voted, To pass over the article about the Rev. Jonathan Searle."

At a meeting called April 22d, 1779. "Article 2d. To see what method the town will pursue, for a settlement with the Rev. Jonathan Searle, and if a settlement cannot be effected, to see if the town will vote him a dismissal, or discontinue him as our minister." At the meeting, a committee was appointed to request the attendance of the Rev. Jonathan Searle. An addition of £30 was voted to the nominal sum of his salary for 1778, "provided, he give such a receipt, as he proffered to the town in January last." "Voted, Not satisfied with his conduct, in not securing the town for the money

paid by the constables for his salary, with other things." William Chambers, Joseph Merriam and Abijah Allen were appointed a committee, "to offer him the nominal sum, and interest, and the addition above voted, and to make a legal tender, and demand a receipt in full from his first settlement." Adjourned to Friday. At the adjournment, "Voted, That the committee have a record made of the tender to the Rev. Jonathan Searle, according to law," and adjourned.

July 6th, 1779. A meeting was called, "To see if the town will join with the church in a council," &c. "The motion being moved by the Rev. Daniel Emerson, whether the town would leave it to a reference, previous to other matters being left to a council, respecting negligence of pay, or fall of money being made up, or any part thereof, to the Rev. Jonathan Searle; it passed in the negative," and then the meeting was adjourned to July 7th; and at that meeting "Voted, To concur with the vote of the church of Christ in this town, on the 6th of July, instant, for dismissing the Rev. Jonathan Searle from his pastoral relation in this town. Voted, The meeting house doors be kept shut up, during the town's pleasure. Voted, The selectmen have power to open and shut the meeting house doors. Chose a committee to make a tender to the Rev. Jonathan Searle, &c."

A meeting was called, August 17th, 1779. Among other matters, was this article, "To see if the town will join with the church to make the following proposal to the Rev. Jonathan Searle; to leave it to a mutual council, to determine, whether Mr. Searle is *constitutionally* dismissed from his pastoral relations in this place, and if the council result that he is not dismissed, then, would have the council take under consideration, the difficulties subsisting between the parties; the advice of the council to be accepted by the parties." At the meeting, "Voted, To concur with the proposals of the church, to the Rev. Jonathan Searle, and on Mr. Searle's compliance therewith, to leave all matters now subsisting between said parties, to a mutual ecclesiastical council; the town

being at the cost of said council." Adjourned to the 31st. "Chose Benjamin Mann, Joseph Merriam and Abijah Allen a committee to provide for the ecclesiastical council to sit in October, 1779. Chose David Blodgett, Wm. Chambers, Thomas Tarbell, Timothy Wheeler and Reuben Barrett, a committee to receive complaints from the Rev. Mr. Searle, against the town, and also to prepare complaints against the said Rev. Mr. Searle, and also, bring them before the council." The meeting was adjourned to the fifth and to the sixth of October; at which time, Abijah Allen and Joseph Merriam were added "to the committee, for carrying on the complaints against the Rev. Jonathan Searle, before the council." Adjourned to the seventh and to the eighth. "Voted, That the committee call on the Rev. Mr. Searle, to make out the negligence of pay, and that the committee be ready to settle with him. Voted, That the present committee of the town be empowered, in behalf of said town, to leave the substance matter of Mr. Searle's complaint against the town, to reference, and that Esq. Abbott's method be adhered to;" and adjourned to one o'clock. Then "Voted and agreed to the form of an agreement, between Mr. Searle and the town of Mason, drawn by the Rev. Mr. Farrar." Adjourned to the 9th. Then "Voted, Not to allow any sum of money, for the negligence of pay to Mr. Searle, from his first settlement, to October 14th, 1777. Voted, To make a grant of money to Mr. Searle. Voted, To open the meeting house doors," and adjourned to Monday, October 25th; then adjourned to the 26th; then "Voted, To accept of Mr. Searle's acknowledgment of his fault, to the town as satisfactory," and then after accepting some roads the meeting was dissolved.

The following entries in the record are in the hand writing of Mr. Searle, and were signed by him :

"Mason, Oct'r 9th, 1779. This day received of the town of Mason, by the hand of the selectmen, one hundred and twenty pounds, L. money, in full of all my dues and demands of every name and nature whatsoever, from the first day of

my settlement with said town up to this day. Received per  
me,

JONATHAN SEARLE.

“Attest: DAVID BLODGETT.

SAM'L BROWN.”

“Mason, Oct'r 26, 1779. That whereas, there was a civil contract effected between the town of Mason and myself, on the 14th of Oct'r, 1772, as to my ministerial support, so long as I should remain their Gospel minister, this is a full and final cancel, on my part, of said contract; and in testimony of this my free act, I herunto set my hand.

JONATHAN SEARLE.

“Attest: DAVID BLODGETT.

SAMUEL BROWN.”

Thus this town meeting, commenced August 17, and continued by adjournment, to nine different subsequent days, was concluded. The long battle was fought, and the town won. Undoubtedly, on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th days of October, there was a council in session; but as the church records, then in the hands of Mr. Searle, are silent on the subject, no means remain of determining who composed the council, or what were the articles of complaint on the part of the church or of the town against him, or on his part against them. One would suppose, judging from the entries in the book above recited, that all connection between the town and Mr. Searle was ended, and that there would be no more controversy between them. But it was not so, as will presently appear. It is not unfrequently the case, that the expenses of a controversy very much exceed the amount of the sum in dispute. So it was in this case. The sum paid by the town to Mr. Searle was £120, being two years' salary. The expenses paid by the town for *entertaining* the council were £327 19s., paid as follows: to William Chambers, £199 10s.; Abijah Allen, £66 18s.; Samuel Abbott, £1 16s.; Ephraim Sartell, £14 12s.; Licut. Isaac Brown, £16; Jacob Blodgett, £8 8s.; Jonathan Searle, £23 13., in all, \$1092,07, a pretty round bill for entertaining some half a dozen of the clergy and their

attendant lay delegates, one week. Probably the depreciation of the currency was an element which had something to do with the magnitude of this bill, as it was undoubtedly the foundation, and if not the only origin, one of the sources of the difficulty. But as no distinction is made as to the currency in which the £120 was paid to Mr. Searle, and that in which the £327 19s. was paid for entertaining the council, the matter is left somewhat in the dark. Probably he was paid in a currency equal to gold and silver, and the bills for the expenses, were paid in the depreciated currency.

April 10, 1780. At a town meeting, Mr. Searle again appears. The fourth article was, "To see if the town will concur with the church and receive the Rev. Jonathan Searle as their minister, according to an agreement between him and the church." The town "Voted, To accept the first article of the agreement that was formed between the church and the Rev. Jonathan Searle, October 26, 1779, which is as follows: We agree that there shall be no compulsion about the ministerial support; every one in church and town shall be left at liberty to contribute what sum he pleases, or none at all. This article proposed by Mr. Searle. Voted, To receive Mr. Searle upon the above mentioned agreement." How, then, stood the case? He had, by his agreement of October 26, discharged the town from the contract, and by the vote of April 10, to which he was a party, had agreed that he should have no claim for support on church or town, except the voluntary contributions of his friends. Yet it seems he continued to make claims of the town, for at the meeting, October 31, on an article on this subject, the town "Voted, That it is the mind of the town that the Rev. Jonathan Searle discharge the town from October 14, 1779, to October 14, 1780, of any demands he hath or may have against the town."

December 6, 1780. "Voted, To accept of a discharge that the Rev. Jonathan Searle wrote and sent to the town, which is as follows: Mason, Dec. 6, 1780. Know all men by these presents, that I, Jonathan Searle, for and in consideration of



what my friends, in and out of town, have done for me in the course of the year past, do fully discharge the town of Mason from all legal demands in future, respecting my ministerial support the last year, beginning Oct. the 14, 1779, and ending Oct. 14, 1780, excepting what is due to me from said town on special obligation, either of note or bond, which is not and cannot be supposed to be included in this discharge. As witness my hand,

JONATHAN SEARLE.

“Voted, Not to pay the Rev. Jonathan Searle the note he has against the town, at present. Voted, To reconsider the vote not to pay the Rev. Jonathan Searle his note, &c., and Voted, To pay it, and to make the money as good as when the note was given, and appointed a committee to go to him and pay him.”

January 18, 1781. The second article was, “To hear the report of the committee, &c., to wait on Mr. Searle to see whether he would take the money due him upon his note given in October, 1779, and if, on hearing the report, they find he hath not complied with the request, then, 3dly. To see if they will choose a committee to make a lawful tender. 4thly. To see if the town will make any enquiry into Mr. Searle’s conduct in breaking over the result of council respecting that part of the advice of the venerable council, which was for him to give up all his demands upon the town for his ministerial support, up to the 14th day of October, 1778, except the nominal sum, and likewise, in breaking over the agreement he voluntarily made with the town, in compliance with the result of council, and likewise said he would give up all but the nominal sum, to October 14, 1778,” &c. At the meeting, “Voted, Not to make the tender. Voted, Not to make the Inquiry. Voted, To reconsider the vote not to make the tender. Voted, To make a tender, and chose a committee for that purpose, and dissolved.”

March 12, 1781. “Voted, To order the selectmen to take the invoice of the Rev. Jonathan Searle’s real and personal

estate, and tax him to the Continental, State and War tax accordingly."

April 11, 1781. At a town meeting, on an article to that purport, the town "Voted, To own the Rev. Jonathan Searle to be their minister. The persons whose names are under-written entered their dissent against the Rev. Jonathan Searle being any longer their minister: Wm. Eliot, Jonas Fay, Jonathan Foster, Jr., Andrew Eliot, Silas Bullard, Abijah Allen, Nathan Whipple, Enosh Lawrence, Joseph Lowell, Jonathan Chandler, John Adams, John Lawrence, Joseph Ball, Thomas Blood, Amos Dakin, David Blodgett, Zaccheus Davis, Simon Ames, Thomas Robbins, Oliver Scripture, Edmund Adams, Stevens Lawrence."

June 21, 1781. "Voted, Not to concur with the church in their vote passed 4th of May last, to dismiss the Rev. Jonathan Searle from his pastoral relation to said church."

August 14, 1781. The second article was, "To see if the town would concur with the church in their vote to dismiss Mr. Searle, 4th of May last." It was "Voted, To concur. Voted, To hire preaching, and to raise £20, silver, for this purpose." Adjourned to the 21st of August. Then "Voted, To reconsider the vote to hire preaching, and adjourned to the 28th. Then Voted, To hire preaching, and to raise £20, hard money. Voted, To leave it to Mr. Abijah Allen to pay or not, if he pleases, and chose Deacon Hall, Joseph Merriam and Ens. John Wood, committee to hire preaching."

March 11, 1782. "Voted, To direct the selectmen to apply to Mr. Jonathan Searle, for a settlement of a note that he has against the town, said note to be liquidated by the scale to balance his taxes."

August 28, 1782. The seventh article was, "To see what the town will do with regard to making out a settlement with Mr. Searle, as he is advised to leave the matter to the generosity of the town." "Voted, To make out legal settlement with Mr. Searle as soon as may be, and chose as a committee, Benj. Mann, Wm. Eliot and Joseph Merriam, for the purpose."

February 20th, 1783. At a meeting called for that purpose, "Voted, That if Mr. Searle will settle a note he has against the town, and take the money according to the scale of depreciation of this state, that for the sake of peace, the town will abate his rates for the year 1781. Chose a committee to make the settlement, James Withee, Benjamin Mann, Esq. and Wm. Eliot. It was further Voted, That if he would not accept the proposition, the town would leave it to men," &c.

Annual March meeting, 1785. "Article 5th. To see if the town will desire the church to call upon Mr. Jonathan Searle, in an ecclesiastical manner, to make satisfaction for words he has spoken, which is thought to be a scandal upon said town and church; and be at the cost of it, should it end in advice of council." The vote was in the negative.

September 4th, 1787. "Voted, To leave the complaint which Jonathan Searle, Esq., exhibited against the church and people, &c., for neglecting to pay him for his support in 1779, together with a bond and order he had against the town, to arbitration; that the Rev. Mr. Payson, of Rindge, be one of the arbitrators, and act as chairman; and chose Joseph Merriam, Dea. Amos Dakin, Benjamin Mann, Esq., Hubbert Russell and Joseph Barrett, a committee to agree with Jonathan Searle, Esq., in choosing the other two arbitrators, and to conduct the defence before the arbitration."

January 1st, 1788. "Voted, To raise sixty pounds, to pay Jonathan Searle, Esq., his due, by the award of arbitrators. Voted, To make the rate to pay Jonathan Searle, Esq., in two columns."

Thus, a controversy which lasted as long as the Trojan war, and which exhibited about as many vicissitudes, as did that memorable contest, was brought to a close. All that can now be known of the merits and different aspects of the controversy, has been above exhibited; and it is left for the candid minds of readers, to draw their own conclusions.

Soon after these difficulties arose, Mr. Searle ceased to

preach. He owned a valuable real estate in the town, on which he continued to reside, till the close of his life. He was commissioned as a justice of the peace, and acted in that capacity many years. He took an active part in the building of the meeting house, and in the settlement of his successor, as has already appeared. He was frequently employed in matters of town business, but from some time near the close of the last century, he, in a great measure, withdrew from all active concerns in business affairs, and devoted himself, almost entirely, to agricultural pursuits. He died, December 7th, 1812, aged sixty eight years.

## CHAPTER V.

### RECORDS OF MARRIAGES, AND OF DEATHS, AND FAMILY REGISTERS.

Record of marriages of early residents in Mason and of some of their ancestors, taken from the town records of Groton, Pepperell and Townsend :

#### GROTON.

1666.	
June 30. Thomas Tarbell,	Hannah ——.
1686.	
Dec. 1. Thomas Tarbell,	Elizabeth Blood.
1716-17.	
Jan. 1. Thomas Tarbell,	Abigail Parker.
1725.	
Dec. 19. Samuel Tarbell,	Lydia Farnsworth.
1729.	
Dec. 18. Elias Elliot,	Ruth Lawrence.
1730.	
May 7. Nathan Whipple,	Hannah Boynton.
1733-4.	
Jan. 29. Enosh Lawrence,	Sarah Stevens.
1737.	
Nov. 1. Nehemiah Gould,	Esther Bowers.
1741-2.	
Jan. 19. Thomas Tarbell, Jr.,	Esther Smith.
1746.	
Oct. 9. Samuel Scripture, Jr.,	Mary Green.
1755.	
April 16. John Stevens of Townsend,	Susannah Tarbell.
1758.	
March 30. Jonathan Foster,	Betty Hazen.
1762.	
Dec. 21. Enosh Lawrence of No. 1,	Esther Woods.
1766.	
March 18. Nathan Whipple,	Abigail Bowers.
Dec. 23. John Whitaker, Jr.,	Thankful Pierce.

#### PEPPERELL. BY REV. JOSEPH EMERSON.

1748.	
July 21. Zachariah Withee,	Esther Kemp.
1752.	
March 19. William Elliot,	Elizabeth Williams.

1755.		
Nov. 19.	John Swallow, No. 1,	Sarah Lawrence, No. 1.
1758.		
Jan. 19.	Oliver Elliot, No. 1,	Mary Fisk.
" 24.	Josiah Wright, No. 1,	Dolly Shattuck.
Dec. 27.	Jonathan Jefts, No. 1,	Lydia Lawrence.
1759.		
Oct. 18.	Whitcomb Powers, Hollis,	Elizabeth Lawrence.
1767.		
Feb. 3.	James Hall, No. 1.,	Sarah Roe.
1775.		
June 26.	Elias Elliot, Mason,	Sarah Pierce.

## TOWNSEND. BY REV. PHINEHAS HEMENWAY.

1745.		
Sept. 3.	Benjamin King,	Sarah Taylor.
1757.		
May 30.	Samuel Lawrence, No. 1,	Mary Avery, Townsend.
1758.		
April 21.	Josiah Robbins, Townsend,	Sarah Ames, Hollis.

## BY REV. SAMUEL DIX.

1764.		
Feb. 21.	Josiah Robbins, No. 1,	Mary Campbell, Townsend.
1765.		
Dec. 29.	William Barrett, No. 1,	Sarah Robbins, No. 1.
1767.		
Dec. 1.	Benjamin Jefts, No. 1,	Martha Sloan, Townsend.
1771.		
May 3.	Edmund Tarbell, Mason,	Mary Hildreth.
1779.		
Jan. 28.	Jacob Blodgett, Mason,	Sarah Taylor, Townsend.
June 17.	Joseph Woods, Townsend,	Mary Waugh, Townsend.
1781.		
Feb. 1.	Hincksman Warren, Townsend,	Esther Taylor, Townsend.
1782.		
May 30.	David Hall, Mason,	Margarett Graham, Townsend.
Dec. 10.	Jonathan Jefts, Townsend,	Lydia Horsley, Pepperell.
1785.		
May 12.	Amos Blood, Pepperell,	Sarah Blood, Pepperell.
1786.		
Dec. 14.	Edmund Tarbell, Mason,	Buelah Hildreth, Townsend,
1787.		
Feb. 1.	Henry Jefts,	Elizabeth Waugh.
March 30.	William Eliot, Mason,	Rebecca Hildreth, Townsend.

## MASON. BY REV. JONATHAN SEARLE.

1772.		
Dec. 9.	Isaac Flagg,	Keziah Russell.
1773.		
June 24.	Zachariah Davis,	Susannah Brown.
July 29.	Zaccheus Barrett,	Sarah Hodgman.
Dec. 9.	Randall McDaniels,	Martha Russell.
1774.		
Feb. 1.	John Tarbell,	Sarah Eliot.
March 15.	James Wilson,	Hannah Parker.
March 52.	Joseph Clough,	Mary Scott.
1775.		
Feb. 14.	Asa Hastings,	Mary Lowell.

1775.		
June 15.	James Scripture,	Sibel Shepley.
Oct. 25.	David Blodgett,	Lucy Wheeler.
Dec. 21.	Daniel Fay,	Jemima Scripture.
1776.		
Aug. 21.	Amos Child,	Sarah Dakin.
1777.		
Jan. 1.	Thomas Jefts,	Abigail Barrett.
Feb. 5.	Joseph Hodgman,	Sarah Lawrence.
Oct. 21.	Josiah Davis, Jr.,	Susannah McDaniels.
1778.		
July 8.	Thomas Tarbell, Jr.,	Sarah Barrett.
April 24.	Silas Spaulding,	Hannah Brown.
May 27.	Joseph Pike,	Nabby Sartwell.
June 25.	Zachariah Emery,	Mary Lemon.
Sept. 9.	Isaac Lawrence,	Anne Hodgman.
Oct. 20.	Amos Holden, Jr.,	Lydia Sloan.
Oct. 20.	Eleazer Fish,	Rachel Goad.
1779.		
April 28.	Thomas Lawrence,	Mehitable Hall.
Sept. 28.	Benjamin Jefts,	Juda DeGrett.
Nov. 24.	Joseph Osgood,	Abigail Barrett.
Nov. 30.	Jonathan Foster,	Mercy Towns.
Dec. 8.	Phineas Parker,	Elizabeth Swan.
1780.		
Jan. 25.	Zebedee Kendall,	Molly Dakin.
Feb. 10.	Whitcomb Tarbell,	Ruth Dodge.
1781.		
July 26.	Nathan Wood,	Susannah Dutton.

## BY JONATHAN SEARLE, J. P.

1785.		
March 15.	Abijah Eaton,	Elizabeth Eliot.
March 25.	Peter Rumrey,	Ruth Parker.
March 27.	Noah Winship,	Deborah Swallow.
April 12.	Rogers Weston,	Deborah Lawrence.
Nov. 1.	Ezra Merriam,	Susannah Eliot.
Nov. 29.	Samuel Eliot,	Sarah Merriam.
1786.		
Feb. 2.	Solomon Gilson,	Dorothy Wood.
March 9.	Joseph Robens,	Molly Sloan.
June 22.	John Searle,	Susannah Lawrence.
Oct. 22.	Samuel Green,	Molly Swallow.
1788.		
May 27.	Joseph Sanders,	Betty Hall.
1789.		
May 19.	Edward Wilson,	Lydia Dakin.
1790.		
Sept. 23.	William Scott,	Esther Eliot.
1802.		
Nov. 16.	Peter Thomas, Concord, Mass.,	Mary Reed, Concord, Mass.

## BY REV. STEPHEN FARRAR.

1783.		
Dec. 11.	Amos Dakin,	Mary Kingsley.
1787.		
Dec. 6.	Jonathan Chandler,	Rachel Wilson.
1809.		
Jan. 29.	Mark Safford, Washington,	Mercy Barrett.

BY REV. MR. JUDSON.

1782.  
July 1. Silas Bullard, Avis Keyes.

BY REV. WILLIAM ELIOT.

1789.  
July 1. John Sloan, Sarah Blood.  
1790.  
March 16. John Squire, Sibbel Procter.  
1791.  
March 29. Willard Lawrence, Betsey Austin.  
1793.  
Feb. 2. Richard Hall, Hannah Kendall.  
June 6. Moses Johnson, Molly Eliot,  
Nov. 4. David Brown, Hollis, Rhoda Alexander, Dunstable.  
1794.  
Jan. 14. Ezra Mansfield, Abiah Wood.  
May 17. Asa Hobart, Hollis, Deborah Phelps, Hollis.  
1796.  
Nov. 20. Ephraim Woods, Hollis, Dorcas Jewell, Dunstable.  
1797.  
Dec. 24. William Butterfield, Jr., Ruth Hubbard.  
1800.  
April 8. Quiney Adams, Dolly Eliot.  
June 29. John Whipple, Hannah Dady.  
Nov. 16. William Butterfield, Esther Hale.  
1801.  
Feb. 7. Nathan Perry, Rebecca Brown.  
May 19. Joshua Davis, Hollis, Sarah Tarbell, Mason.  
1802.  
April 8. David Fuller, Temple, Polly Horsley, Temple.  
Aug. 22. Jona. Rider, [Rideout?] Hollis, Rebecca Powers, Dunstable.  
1803.  
March 8. Oliver Eliot, Betsey Hutchinson, Milford.  
April 5. Amos Brown, New Ipswich, Sarah Tarbell, New Ipswich.  
Oct. 16. Thomas Hutchinson, Carlisle, Sarah Eliot, Mason.  
Dec. 22. Joseph Haskell, Mason, Rebecca Barrett, Mason.  
1804.  
Jan. 12. Abraham Robbins, Concord, Hannah Eliot, Mason.  
Sept. 1. Joseph Brabrook, Acton, Sally Adams, Mason.  
Sept. 10. Josiah Warren, Norridgewoock, Betsey Searles, Mason.  
1805.  
Feb. 27. John Adams, New Ipswich, Hannah Leavitt, Milford.  
Oct. 21. Daniel Jewett, Hollis, Rebecca Jaquith, Hollis.  
Nov. 24. Capt. Thomas Roby, Dunstable, Wid. Phebe Dresser, Dunstable.  
Aug. 19. Henry Butterfield, Dunstable, Priscilla Wheeler, Dunstable.  
1806.  
Jan. 30. Abiathar Winn, Nottinghamwest, Lucy Gouldsmith, Wilton.  
March 27. David Wallace, Milford, Polly Farmer, Dunstable.  
March 27. Thomas Jaquith, Hollis, Lydia Woods, Hollis.  
June 3. Nathan Brown, New Ipswich, Betsey Gouldsmith, Wilton.  
Sept. 16. George Farrar Wallis, Lydia Lawrence, Townsend.  
1807.  
Nov. 6. Moses Lovejoy, Wilton, Nancy Tarbell, Mason.  
Nov. 16. Aaron Marshall, Dunstable, Mrs. Lydia Billings.  
Dec. 1. Benj. Wyman, Nottinghamwest, Betsey Campbell, Nottingham W  
1809.  
July 9. John Ulot, [Eliot?] Milford, Abigail Rollins, Milford.  
Oct. 3. Othni Crosby, Dublin, Anna Davis, Mason.  
Nov. 3. John Spaulding, Whitingham, Vt. Rebecca Conant, New Ipswich.



1810.		
Feb. 25.	Joel Blanchard, Belgrade, Me.,	Abigail Simons, Wilton.
Nov. 15.	Isaac Longley, Wilton,	Hannah Peabody, Wilton.
Nov. 22.	Romanus Emerson, Boston,	Jemima Burnam, Wilton.
1811.		
April 21.	George Mt. Kendall, Mason,	Polly Eliot, Mason.
Dec. 10.	Ebenezer Adams, Mason,	Jemima Mansur, Wilton.
1812.		
Feb. 27.	John Felt, Temple,	Sally Bullard, Mason.
Aug. 25.	John Sargent, Milford,	Martha Simons, Wilton.
Oct. 11.	Joseph Smith, Wilton,	Lucy Adams, Mason.
1813.		
April 8.	Jonathan Jefts, Jr., Mason,	Nabby Robb, Mason.
April 11.	Benjamin Wetherbee, Mason,	Hannah Wadsworth, Mason.
Sept. 7.	David Goodwin, Milford,	Sarah Putnam, Milford.
Sept. 12.	Taylor Fay, Mason, [Ipswich,	Betsey Sanders, Mason.
Dec. 24.	William Bulless, [Bellows :] New	Abigail Wadsworth, N. Ipswich.
1814.		
Jan. 25.	Isaac Lovejoy, Wilton,	Rebecca Eliot, Mason.
July 2.	Levi Wheeler, Berlin,	Olive Colburn, Berlin.
July 10.	Samuel Woodbury, Shirley,	Mary Weethee, Mason.
Aug. 7.	John Dickerman, Francestown,	Sally Dakin, Mason.
Dec. 25.	Moses Barrett, Lancaster,	Sarah Hill, Mason.
1815.		
Jan. 7.	Jacob Rideout, Wilton,	Sally Simons, Wilton.
Nov. 27.	John Parkhurst, New Ipswich,	Lydia Burrows, New Ipswich.
Dec. 12.	David Whitney, Ashby,	Charlotte Blanchard, N. Ipswich.
1816.		
May 23.	Willard Lawrence, Mason,	Lydia Dakin, Mason.
June 2.	Amos Dakin, Mason,	Mrs. Elizabeth Lawrence.
1817.		
Nov. 13.	Rev. Benj. J. Lane, Wilton,	Susan Eliot, Mason.
1820.		
Feb. 22.	Rev. John Parkhurst, N. Ipswich,	Celia Burrows, New Ipswich.
Nov. 20.	Moody Lancy, Brookline,	Charlotte Kemp, Mason.
1821.		
Jan. 4.	Paul Davis, Mason,	Mary Kimball.
April 19.	George Elliot, Mason,	Sally Farnsworth, Sharon.
1822.		
Feb. 28.	Thomas Robins, Mason,	Hannah Blood, Mason.
Nov. 5.	John Robins, Mason,	Dolly Adams, Mason.
1823.		
Oct. 29.	Edward Wilson, Troy, N. Y.,	Betsey Elliot, Mason.
1824.		
Jan. 20.	Francis Shepherd,	Betsey Hutchinson.
May 9.	Eli Nutting, Mason,	Lydia B. Nutting, Mason.
Oct. 10.	Martin Rand,	Lucy Cummings.
Oct. 21.	John Rollins, Mont Vernon,	Mary Smith, Milford.
1825.		
Jan. 24.	Ezra Bennett,	Harriet Hunt.

BY JOHN BLODGETT, J. P.

1816.		
Feb. 14.	John H. Sartell, Mason,	Patty Jefts, Mason.
1819.		
Sept. 10.	Levi Barrett, Mason,	Sally Baldwin, Mason.
1821.		
Feb. 1.	William Nutting, Mason,	Cynthia Blood, Mason.

BY REV. THOMAS BEDEE.

1819.  
 May 27. Samuel Merriam, Mason, Huldah Burton, Wilton.

BY TIMOTHY DAKIN, J. P.

1821.  
 May 17. Moses Dakin, Hope, Me., Sarah W. Whiting, Mason.  
 Aug. 9. John Hubbard, Mason., Mary Kennedy, Mason.  
 Sept. 4. Noah Hale, Dunstable, Hannah Dakin, Mason.

BY REV. EBENEZER HILL.

1790.  
 Nov. 4. John Seaver, Raby, Esther Russell, Raby.  
 Dec. 21. John Russell, Raby, Leafee Lawrence.

1791.  
 March 17. Jonas Baldwin, Jr., Townsend, Prudence Haven.  
 May 1. Elisha Buss, Polly Mann.  
 June 30. Jonathan Williams, Mrs. Anna Stevens.  
 Oct. 13. John Whitaker, Jr., Dolly Fay.  
 Nov. 17. Josiah Eliot, Polly Weatherbee, Raby.  
 Dec. 19. William Shed, Patty Jeffs.  
 Dec. 29. Samuel Farnsworth, Raby, Azubah Badger, Mile Slip.

1792.  
 Jan. 12. Samuel Dunster, Hannah Townsend.  
 " 23. Samuel Russell, Raby, Susannah Campbell.  
 " 23. Jonas Campbell, Elizabeth Russell, Raby.  
 " 26. Samuel Douglass, Jr., Raby, Sarah Seaver, Raby.  
 Feb. 16. Jonas Tarbell, Groton, Abigail Hodgman.  
 March 29. Benjamin Hodgman, Mrs. Mary Shed, Ashby.  
 April 19. Abner Chickering, Eunice Dakin.  
 Dec. 29. Samuel Smith, Jr., Phebe Wheelock.

1793.  
 Jan. 1. Oliver Hosmer, Patty Lawrence.  
 " 15. Amos Hodgkins, Priscilla Smith.  
 " 15. William Parkhurst, Temple, Sally Swallow, Temple.  
 April 18. Jason Dunster, Jr., Polly Merriam.  
 " 25. Daniel Hill, Cambridge, Elizabeth Russell.  
 May 1. Oliver Eliot, Jr., Rebecca Ross.  
 " 2. Stephen Hall, Raby, Submit Shattuck, Raby.  
 " 22. Amos Crouch, Boxborough, Lydia Brown, Raby.  
 Oct. 21. Oliver Nutting, Naomi Blood.  
 " 22. Joel Barrett, Mercy Townsend.

1794.  
 Jan. 7. Brintnal Witherell, Hannah Searle.  
 " 8. Josiah Russell, Eunice Saunderson.  
 Feb. 18. John Winship, Jr., Polly Barrett.  
 April 14. Solomon Bacon, Bedford, Mass., Lucy Barrett.  
 July 3. William Barrett, Jr., Hannah Barrett.  
 " 8. John Russell, Jr., Lydia Blood.  
 Oct. 23. Artemas Manning, Rhoda Wyeth.  
 Dec. 11. John Baldwin, Townsend, Sibbell Barrett.

1795.  
 Feb. 11. Samuel Gilbert Sumner, Keene, Susannah Towns.  
 April 16. Ebenezer Emery, Jr., Raby, Abigail Shattuck, Raby.  
 " 21. Jonathan Russell, Hannah Flagg, Ashby.  
 Aug. 27. Frederick Smith, Lucy Kendall.  
 Oct. 17. Moody Shattuck, Raby, Eunice Tarbell, Pepperell.  
 Dec. 24. Abijah Eliot, Rachel Williams.

1796.		
June	24.	Edward Taylor, Townsend, Sally Brooks.
Aug.	24.	Jacob Austin, Raby, Isabell McIntosh, Raby.
Oct.	5.	John Wait, Lucy Farmer.
"	27.	Stephen Withington, Polly Austin, Townsend.
Nov.	23.	Phillip Farnsworth, Raby, Rhoda Badger, Milford.
"	24.	Clark Brown, Raby, Mrs Sarah Withee.
"	24.	Amos Herrick, Wid. Sarah Miles.
1797.		
Jan.	3.	Samuel Wilson, Troy, N. Y., Betsey Mann.
June	8.	John Austin, Concord, Sally Lawrence, Concord.
July	30.	Timothy Pratt, Malden, Ruhamah Russell.
Oct.	3.	Jonathan Smith, Susannah Barrett.
Dec.	17.	James Mann, Mercy Town.
1798.		
Jan.	9.	William Bride, Polly Scripture.
Feb.	8.	Reuben Hosmer, Jr., Susanna Whitaker.
"	8.	Isaac Allen, Andover, Rebecca Dakin.
"	17.	Pearley Saunders, Townsend, Sarah Todd, Townsend.
"	20.	Asa Heywood, Concord, Mass., Polly Lawrence, Concord, Mass.
March	28.	William Miles, Lydia Townsend.
April	19.	Stephen Prichard, N. Ipswich, Polly Start, New Ipswich.
Oct.	25.	John Barrett, Ashby, Lucy Lawrence.
Nov.	28.	Silas Shed, Polly Williams.
Dec.	27.	Ezra Newell, Eunice Swallow.
1799.		
Jan.	14.	Josiah Winship, Sybbel Swallow.
Feb.	12.	Jonathan Blood, Townsend, Rachel Squire, Townsend.
March	5.	Daniel Hodgman, Anna Walker.
April	25.	Reuben Hodgman, Jr., Hannah Walker.
June	27.	Eliphalet Bailey, New Ipswich, Sally Richardson, New Ipswich.
Sept.	8.	Jason Russell, Mrs. Lydia Chambers.
Dec.	18.	Aaron Peabody, Jr., Milford, Polly Miles, Milford.
"	26.	Zaccheus Lancy, Milford, Sally Tarbell.
1800.		
Feb.	27.	Joseph Stickney, Jr., N. Ipswich, Anna Hosmer.
March	6.	John Stevens, Alstead, Lydia Brown.
"	11.	William Cutter Blood, Sally Townsend.
"	16.	Abraham Boynton, Charlestown, Hannah Jefts.
July	1.	Aaron Warren, Townsend, Sally Wheeler.
Oct.	20.	Darius Hudson, Sibbel Scripture.
"	21.	Eli Towne, Temple, Betsey Scripture.
Nov.	11.	Joshua Blood, Jr., Pepperell, Mary Russell.
"	13.	Rufus Russell, Esther Tarbell.
"	13.	Amos Robbins, Polly Dudley.
"	23.	Hollis Amsden, Polly Chambers.
Dec.	3.	Ezra Brown, Eunice Flag.
1801.		
Feb.	5.	Thomas Boylston Chambers, Dolly Merriam.
"	22.	James Scripture, Jr., Lucy Dakin.
"	24.	Nehemiah Russell, Weston, Vt., Sally Barrett.
March	1.	John Longley, Norridgewalk, Judith Searle, Norridgewalk.
June	30.	Ephraim Russell, Sally Eliot.
Nov.	10.	John Withington, Sally Spaulding, Townsend.
1802.		
Feb.	4.	John Hodgman, Ashby, Abigail Davis.
Dec.	9.	Elijah Towne, New Ipswich, Mrs. Elizabeth Flag.
"	30.	Dea. Timothy Dakin, Mary Bowers.
"	30.	David Boynton, Townsend, Polly Wheeler.

1803.			
Feb.	27.	Isaac Crane, Alstead,	Patty Brown.
March	1.	William Whitaker,	Polly Russe ll.
"	1.	Dr. Samuel Lovejoy, Wilton,	Betsy Lawrence, Wilton.
April	10.	David Jeffs,	Edee Barrett.
May	1.	Benjamin Locke, Jr., Lexington,	Betsy Lawrence.
Nov.	3.	Abel Fletcher,	Betsy Gilman.
"	17.	Benj. Hutchinson, Jr., Milford,	Azubah Tarbell, Milford.
"	27.	Elisha Barrett,	Nabby Russell.
1804.			
Jan.	19.	Abraham Merriam,	Mary Lawrence.
"	24.	Thomas Wilson,	Rebecca Merriam.
Feb.	21.	Elias Eliot, Jr.,	Rebecca Tufts.
April	5.	David Jeffs, 2d,	Abigail Barrett.
May	13.	Ebenezer Gilman,	Hannah Pratt.
"	20.	Benjamin Russell,	Sally Brooks.
June	6.	Joseph Woods, Jr.,	Nancy Ditson.
Aug.	26.	Joel Richardson, Boston,	Mrs. Hannah Barrett.
Sept.	9.	William Farwell,	Rebecca Smith.
Nov.	27.	David Pierce, New Ipswich,	Kepezibah Davis.
1805.			
Jan.	8.	Asa Wilder, Ashby,	Rebecca Emerson.
"	15.	Joel Richards,	Tryphena Kemp.
Feb.	6.	Shebuel Conant, Pepperell,	Anna Farley, Hollis.
March	5.	Benjamin Cummings, Brookline,	Lucy Whitaker.
Aug.	26.	John Brown,	Lucy Gray.
Nov.	19.	Joshua Boutell, Hancock,	Hannah Lawrence.
Dec.	15.	William Russell,	Polly Dakin.
1806.			
May	4.	Samuel Nutting, Pepperell,	Sarah Weatherbee.
June	1.	Leonard Badger, Milford,	Sally Barrett.
Aug.	15.	Luther Robbins, Marlboro', Ms.,	Nabby Champney.
Oct.	1.	Daniel Brooks, New Ipswich,	Beulah Billings, New Ipswich.
"	19.	Luther W. Wright, Pepperell,	Betsey Tarbell.
"	23.	Eleazer Fish,	Sally Williams.
Nov.	13.	Sampson Klarter, Westford,	Sally Gilman.
"	29.	Joseph Tufts, Jr., Danvers, Ms.,	Lucy Eliot.
1807.			
Jan.	1.	Moses Perry, Dublin,	Persis Townsend.
"	1.	Samuel Townsend,	Betsey Nutting.
Feb.	15.	Samuel Wesson,	Nancy Wheeler.
May	29.	Joshua Blood,	Anna Russell.
"	31.	William Upham, Jr., Malden, Ms.,	Dorothy Blanchard, Wilton.
June	3.	Benjamin Lawrence, Ashby,	Polly Townsend.
"	3.	Cyrus Colman, Ashby,	Lydia Miles.
"	3.	Geo. Martin, Westminster, Ms.,	Zilpha Townsend.
"	7.	Joseph Bullard,	Sally Woods.
Sept.	8.	Benjamin Kendall,	Betsey Weatherbee.
Dec.	27.	Timothy Weatherbee, Jr.,	Betsey Kendall.
1808.			
May	5.	James Snow,	Esther Heald, Shirley.
July	13.	Reuben Darling,	Hannah Scripture.
1809.			
March	9.	Samuel Gates, Ashburnham,	Ruth Lawrence.
"	23.	Hubbert Russell, Jr.,	Polly Woods.
May	25.	Oliver Wright, Tyngsborough,	Hannah Wheeler.
July	2.	Francis Butterick, Jr., Pepperell,	Millicent Hodgman.
Sept.	3.	Elijah Knapp,	Rhoda Swallow.
		Samuel Hill,	Mary Adams.
Oct.	1.	Joseph Winship,	Achsah Richardson.

- 1809.
- Oct. 3. Jos Barrett, Esq. Bakersfield, Vt., Mary Appleton, New Ipswich.  
 " 17. Josiah Bachelder, Jr., N. Ips'ich, Rebecca Brooks, New Ipswich.
- Nov. 2. Capt. Isaac Spaulding, Wilton, Mrs. Mary Coburn, Wilton.  
 " 15. William Fay, Esther Tufts.
- Dec. 7. Thomas Stevens, Enosboro', Vt., Susanna Adams, New Ipswich.  
 " 21. Samuel Stone, Jr., Townsend, Lucy Wheeler.
- 1810.
- Jan. 11. Asa Farnsworth, New Ipswich, Nabby Brown, New Ipswich.  
 Feb. 19. Jacob Putnam, Peterborough, Lucy Brooks, New Ipswich.
- April 12. Jona. Stow Adams, Leominster, Betsey Wood.  
 May 29. Timothy Wheeler, Gardner, Polly Wheeler, New Ipswich.
- June 20. Capt. Solomon Davis, N. Ipswich, Esther Allen, New Ipswich.
- July 15. Cyrus Davis, Phebe Hay Bucknam.  
 Aug. 30. Noah Winship, Jr., Abigail Parker Blood.
- Dec. 13. Jesse Seaver, Townsend, Betsey Warren.  
 " 23. Samuel Withington, Azubah Swallow.
- 1811.
- Jan. 3. John Swallow, 3d, Sally Woods.  
 " 31. Benjamin Farwell, Sarah Winship.
- Feb. 14. Levi Whitaker, Eunice Tarbell.  
 " 21. William Webber, Hannah Flagg.
- March 10. John Hartshorn, Lyndeboro', Susanna Curtis, Lyndeborough.  
 " 24. True Robbins, Rebecca Hodgman.
- May 23. Simeon Cragin, Temple, Betsey Dakin.  
 April 11. Jesse Barrett, Jr., Lucy Scripture.  
 Nov. 7. George Dakin, Ama Wood.
- 1812.
- Feb. 2. Aaron Wood, Rebecca Wright.  
 March 19. Sewall Woods, Anna Whitaker.
- Oct. 26. James Wood, Jr., Betsey Jones. [Ipswich.  
 Nov. 27. James Kennedy, New Ipswich, Mrs. Elizabeth Chamberlain, N.  
 Dec. 7. Thomas Felt, Temple, Sibbel Jefts.  
 " 17. William Darling, Polly Wood.  
 " 17. William Tarbell, Milford, Lydia Spaulding, Milford.
- 1813.
- Jan. 17. Timothy Wheeler, Jr., Polly Hill.  
 Feb. 6. Thomas Gary, 2d, Leominster, Nancy Weethce.  
 May 4. Joshua Davis, Sarah Richardson, Wilton.  
 " 24. James Barrett, Lucinda Knapp.
- Oct. 10. Josiah Merriam, Sally Hill.  
 " 14. David Saunders, Ama Wheeler.
- Nov. 25. Caleb Campbell, New Ipswich, Lucy Taylor, New Ipswich.
- 1814.
- March 8. Hubbard Amsden, Anna Saunders.  
 " 15. Aaron Holden, Wilton, Rebecca Merriam.  
 " 28. Samuel Heald, Jr., Carlisle, Sibbel March, Carlisle.
- April 18. Amos Howard, Westminster, Rebecca Flagg.  
 Oct. 23. Charles Johnson, Southborough, Prudence Stuart.
- Nov. 1. Samuel Fish, Sally Eliot.  
 Dec. 1. Samuel Tarbell, Mrs. Rhoda Atherton, Shirley.  
 " 5. Samuel Dakin, Mary Gilchrist.  
 " 22. Woodis Lee, Azubah Holt.
- 1815.
- March 9. Phineas Allen, Sally Campbell.  
 April 11. Abel Farewell, Sally Huston.  
 " 16. Ephraim Russell, Milly Eliott.  
 " 17. Joseph Putnam, Lucy Runrill.
- June 8. Ebenezer Hodgman, Jr., Ann H. Mitchell.  
 " 25. Thomas Kenworthy, Mrs. Mary Merriam.

1815.			
Dec.	28.	Benoni C. Kimball,	Mary Dunster.
"	28.	Amos Wheeler,	Prudence Parker.
1816.			
Feb.	27.	Joel Cutter, Jaffrey,	Mary S. Jones.
April	18.	Asa Merriam,	Polly Saunders.
"	22.	Francis Humphries,	Doreas Swallow.
June	23.	Ephraim Hildreth,	Matilda Hodgman.
Sept.	29.	Cotton Tufts, Jaffrey,	Abigail Tarbell.
Oct.	13.	David Shattuck, Ashby,	Hezibah Shattuck.
"	24.	Jonathan Davis, New Ipswich,	Elizabeth Jones.
Dec.	3.	Eleazer Davis, Shirley,	Rebecca Robbins.
"	22.	Abel Wilder, Keene,	Lydia Jefts.
1817.			
March	5.	Samuel Hartshorn, Jr., Wilton,	Polly Tarbell.
April	16.	Lyman Newton, Southborough,	Polly Stewart.
June	2.	John Bachelder,	Mary Hartshorn, Wilton.
"	4.	John Spaulding, Wilton,	Eunice S. Russell.
"	5.	Robert Taylor, Jr., Ashby,	Polly Hodgman.
July	16.	John Webber,	Mary Knapp.
"	17.	Elijah King,	Mrs. Deidama Parker.
Sept.	25.	Luther Nutting,	Ruthy Adams.
"	28.	Zenas Gibbs,	Martha Kimball.
Nov.	20.	Charles Scripture,	Nabby Bucknam.
"	18.	Artemas Rowell,	Betsey Swallow.
"	19.	Amos Holden,	Hannah Barrett.
"	25.	Amos Russel,	Polly Brown, Ashby.
"	25.	Amos Davis, Groton,	Hannah Barrett.
"	28.	David Hobart, Brookline,	Eunice Wright, Brookline.
1818.			
Feb.	5.	William Wright,	Nancy Flinn.
April	19.	Pearly Saunders, Townsend,	Hannah Robbins.
May	7.	Micah Russel,	Sally Stratton, New Ipswich.
Aug.	29.	Jonas Kendall,	Sarah Seaver, Brookline.
Oct.	15.	Ezra Merriam, Jr.,	Sally Scripture.
Dec.	17.	Caleb Bucknam,	Deborah Barrett.
"	30.	Isaac Brown, Cambridge,	Sally Flagg.
1819.			
Feb.	23.	Zadock Merriam, Washington,	Patty Elliott.
May	27.	Moses Russell,	Betsey Dunster.
Aug.	5.	Asher Elliott,	Charlotte Flagg.
Oct.	26.	Spaulding Elliott, Pepperell,	Mary Elliott.
1820.			
March	15.	William L. Steele, Wilton, [Vt.,	Dolly Tarbell.
"	15.	Jairus Robinson, Weathersfield,	Roxana Holt.
April	19.	Benjamin Edwards,	Lucy Jefts.
May	1.	John Russell, Jr.,	Elizabeth Williams.
June	18.	Abner Holden,	Eunice Barrett.
Sept.	5.	Artemas Wood, Mont Vernon,	Susan Barber.
Dec.	26.	Caleb Bucknam, Townsend,	Loisa Brooks Snow.
1821.			
Feb.	15.	Charles Granger,	Clarissa P. Bullard.
"	20.	Samuel Smith, Jr.,	Clarissa Atherton.
"	22.	Capt. Ira Hall,	Polly Boynton.
"	22.	Amos Elliott,	Betsey Felton.
March	12.	Charles Scripture,	Prudence Webber.
April	10.	Francis Wright,	Mrs. Lucy Barrett.
"	17.	Solomon B. Baldwin,	Agnes C. Smith.
May	8.	Loami Chamberlain,	Eliza Tucker, Brookline.
June	5.	Joseph B. Robbins,	Hannah Blood.

1821.			
June	7.	Horace Sawtell, Thomas Loring,	Sally Saunders. Rebecca Danforth.
Nov.	18.	Jonas Brown, Townsend,	Phoebe Winship.
"	29.	Benj. Williams, 2d, N. Ipswich,	Abigail Jents.
Dec.	20.	Leonard Reed,	Hannah Ford Foster.
"	27.	Thomas Hodgman, Jr.,	Esther Flagg.
1822.			
Jan.	17.	Charles Barrett, Temple,	Susanna Seaver, New Ipswich.
May	6.	Curtis Lawrence, Groton,	Lucy Merriam.
"	12.	[Oliver Stearns, Milford, By Rev. Richard Hall of New Ipswich.]	Dolly Wright, Milford.
"	28.	Benjamin Fletcher,	Deidama Austin.
Aug.	25.	Jonathan Richardson,	Rebecca Hill.
Sept.	8.	John Boynton, Templeton,	Nabby Merriam.
Oct.	1.	Alexander Lynch,	Anna Barrett.
"	24.	Edmund Bancroft, Pepperell,	Eliza Ames, Brookline.
Nov.	28.	John Jenkins, Townsend,	Loisa Brown.
Dec.	19.	Ariel Godding, New Ipswich,	Eliza Chickering, New Ipswich.
"	24.	Abel Kemp, Brookline,	Mary Dean, Townsend.
1823.			
Jan.	30.	Calvin Blood, Joel Elliott,	Indiana Blood. Annah Shed.
April	6.	William Carson, Wilton,	Doreas Russell.
"	28.	Abel Davis, Jr., Concord, Ms.,	Rebecca Lewis, New Ipswich.
May	22.	Stephen Brooks, Ashby,	Narcissa Pratt, New Ipswich.
"	22.	Nathan B. Shattuck, Ashby,	Esther Smith, New Ipswich.
Aug.	21.	William Kesson, New Ipswich,	Mary Harding, New Ipswich.
Sept.	7.	Abijah Eaton,	Judith Jents.
Oct.	5.	Asahel Green, Milford,	Pamela Scripture.
"	9.	Amos Hodgman, Pepperell,	Polly Flagg.
Nov.	16.	Timothy Farrar,	Sally Richardson.
"	20.	Ammi Shattuck,	Phoebe Hutchinson.
Dec.	21.	Joseph Merriam, 2d,	Nancy Davis, Townsend.
"	31.	Benj. Lane, Jr., Ashburnham,	Abigail Walker, New Ipswich.
1824.			
Feb.	5.	Andrew Elliott, William Johnson, Boston,	Sally Warren. Deidama Pritchard, New Ipswich.
April	30.	Samson McIntosh, Brookline,	Eliza Amsden.
May	18.	Orris Knapp, Ashburnham,	Milley Flagg.
"	26.	James Frost, Jr., Windham,	Martha F. Russell, Windham.
June	3.	Samuel Dix Blood,	Nancy Richardson.
Aug.	12.	David Jewett Stickney, [ple,	Lydia Amsden.
Dec.	9.	Timothy Wheelock Smith, Tem-	Eliza Austin.
"	25.	Asher Tarbell,	Mary Ann Barber.
1825.			
Jan.	13.	Jesse Saunders, Townsend,	Mary Ann Kemp.
Feb.	17.	Cyrus Putnam, Wilton,	Lucinda Tarbell.
June	2.	John Kimball, Fitzwilliam, Abraham Wright,	Nabby J. Hill. Lucinda Flagg.
Dec.	29.	Orlando Cragin,	Melinda G. Cristy.
1826.			
Jan.	26.	James Parker, Brookline,	Deverd Corey, Brookline.
March	30.	George Betterly, Brookline,	Hannah Lee, Brookline.
April	20.	Jonathan Russell, Jr.,	Rebecca Blood, Sharon.
May	23.	John R. Jordan, Temple,	Susan Darling.
July	4.	William Bailey, Milford,	Ruthy Austin, Milford.
Sept.	19.	William Ward, Newport,	Rebecca Boynton.
"	25.	Luke George, Brookline,	Harriet J. H. Howet, Brookline.
Oct.	26.	John M. Maynard, Jaffrey,	Harriet K. Bullard.

1826.		
Nov.	Hubbert Russell, Jr.,	Climena Brown.
Nov. 20.	John Boynton, Petersham,	Chloe Brown.
Dec. 24.	George Hall,	Abigail Boynton.
" 31.	John Flagg,	Mary Elliott.
1827.		
Jan. 2.	Calvin Brooks, Lowell,	Eliza S. Flagg.
May 22.	Jacob Blodgett, New Ipswich,	Mary Jeffs, New Ipswich.
June 19.	Nathan Saunders,	Betsey Shed.
July 3.	Samuel Whiting,	Hannah Russell.
" 5.	Daniel Bills, Townsend,	Lucretia Tucker, Townsend.
Aug. 16.	Nathaniel H. May, New Ipswich,	Maria Nicholas, New Ipswich.
Sept. 18.	Jesse Matthews, Hancock,	Almira Preston, Hancock.
1828.		
March 25.	James Weethoe,	Mrs. Tryphena Richards.
April 27.	John Richards,	Nancy Farwell.
May 9.	Jonas Hobart,	Louisa Scripture.
" 9.	Josiah Sawtell, Townsend,	Rebecca Barber.
June 18.	Gulliver Wright, Pepperell,	Mary Kemp.
Oct. 15.	Ebenezer Flagg, Jr.,	Betsey Elliott.
Nov. 11.	John Peabody,	Fidelia Saunders.
Dec. 25.	Charles Barrett,	Mary Shattuck.
1829.		
March 26.	Elias D. Elliott,	Sally Elliott.
April 9.	Samuel P. Nutting,	Lucy S. Barrett.
" 14.	Thomas Hodgman, Jr.,	Betsey Burnham, New Ipswich.
May 7.	Abiel Nutting, New Ipswich,	Lucinda Warren.
May 31.	James Spaulding,	Betsey Smith.
June 4.	Oliver H. Pratt,	Maria Hill.
Oct. 29.	Ebenezer Hodgman, Townsend,	Mary Ann Blood.
Dec. 29.	Abijah Elliott, Jr.,	Sally Russell.
1830.		
May 27.	Charles Nicholas, New Ipswich,	Mary Blood, New Ipswich.
June 13.	Calvin Boynton,	Hannah D. Martin.
" 13.	James Wood, Jr.,	Mrs. Mary Webber.
July 1.	Eli R. Torrey, New Ipswich,	Mary Bailey, New Ipswich.
Oct. 26.	Jonathan Bachelder,	Elizabeth Russell.
1831.		
Sept. 6.	William Warren Whitaker,	Adalucia Wetherbee, Rindge.
Nov. 6.	Davis Greene, Brewer, Me.,	Sophia Daniels, Brookline.
" 15.	Calvin Blanchard, New York,	Martha Barrett.
Dec. 1.	Calvin Elliott,	Mary P. Johnson.
" 6.	Nathaniel G. Bailey,	Lucy Elliott.
" 20.	William Sawtell,	Maria Whitaker.
1832.		
Jan. 26.	Eleazer Kinson,	Eliza Lawrence.
March 11.	Hutchinson Rogers, Billerica,	Keziah Coburn, Brookline.
" 20.	Luke H. Cutter, Peterborough,	Abigail Ames.
" 22.	Nelson March, Ashby,	Thirza McIntosh, Brookline.
April 10.	Stow A. Verder, Townsend,	Eliza D. Douglass.
" 26.	Luther Austin,	Lucy Scripture.
May 10.	William Farley,	Eliza B. Flagg, New Ipswich.
" 23.	Stephen Walker, Grafton, Vt.,	Loiza Barrett.
Sept.	Silas Keyes, Jr., Temple,	Rebecca Pratt, Temple.
June 8.	Franklin Merriam,	Mary Ann Lane.
Nov. 1.	Benjamin Merriam,	Irene Knapp.
" 1.	Frederick Mansfield,	Hannah Bailey.
" 8.	Amos B. Russel,	Mary Elliott.
Dec. 26.	Edward Richardson,	Fidelia Barrett.
" 31.	Azariah Arlin, New Ipswich,	Betsey Richards, New Ipswich.



1833.		
March 12.	Amos Herrick,	Mrs. Mary Barrett, Townsend.
" 14.	Jonas Richards,	Sarah D. Washburn, N. Ipswich.
May 2.	Capt. Thomas Wilson,	Mrs. Lucy Lane.
" 7.	Dea. Hezekiah Richardson,	Mrs. Betsy Farwell, Ashby.
" 12.	John G. Merriam, Westminster,	Sarah F. Warren.
" 14.	Jonas Farmer, Townsend,	Gratia Grant.
Sept. 17.	Samuel B. Tibbetts, N. Ipswich,	Mary Lee, New Ipswich.
" 17.	Aaron Blood,	Sally Elliott.
Oct. 8.	Elon B. Butterfield, Concord, Ms.,	Elizabeth B. Kemp.
Dec. 19.	Eliab Going, Jr., Townsend,	Hannah Warren.
1834.		
Jan. 6.	Emory Bolles, Springfield, Vt.,	Lucretia Priest.
March 5.	—— McIntosh, Brookline,	Betsey Wright, Brookline.
Aug. 13.	Calvin Davis,	Susan Jones.
Oct. 13.	Ephraim Gibson, Jr., Fitchburg,	Mary Brown.
Nov. 13.	Nathaniel Brown, Acton,	Eliza Robens.
Dec. 11.	Winslow Ames,	Lucy R. Barrett.
1835.		
Jan. 13.	Joseph Proctor,	Mrs. Sibbel Baldwin.
Feb. 17.	Joseph H. Fletcher, Ashby,	Clarissa I. Kennedy.
March 3.	Levi Wyman, Winchendon,	Helen M. Elliott.
April 14.	Oliver Tenney, Boston,	Betsey Cragin.
May 9.	Waterman Wheeler,	Rebecca E. Newhall.
June 25.	Loring Hazelton,	Margaret Richards.
Sept. 3.	Luther L. Barrett, [don,	Emily Russell.
Oct. 8.	Nahum J. Raymond, Winchen-	Bathsheba Elliott.
" 22.	Philemon Russell, Ashburnham,	Clarissa Smith.
" 29.	Dr. Otis Hoyt,	Mary F. King, New Ipswich.
Dec. 10.	Capt. Eliab Going, Townsend,	Mrs. Dorcas Humphries.
" 29.	Jonathan D. Gibbs, Jaffrey,	Sarah H. Wilson.
" 29.	Alvah Dodge, Dunstable,	Lydia Elliott.
" 31.	Rufus Coffin, Royalston,	Rebecca A. Richardson.
1836		
April 16.	William Pike, New Ipswich,	Rebecca Holden.
May 1.	Elnathan Boynton,	Rachel Elliott.
1837.		
Oct.	David Wallace, Brookline,	Sarah Ann Smith, Brookline.
"	Josiah Winship,	Sarah Hunt.
1839.		
April 11.	Capt. Ira Hall,	Mrs. Jerusha Parker, Dunstable.
1840.		
April 28.	Ira B. Foster, Charlestown, Ms.,	Thirza F. Newhall.
" 30.	Benjamin A. Elliott,	Mary Knapp.
" 30.	George Taft.	Abby H. Flagg.
1841.		
April 8.	George W. Rolfe,	Mary S. Barnard.
1842.		
March 31.	Jas. P. Hartshorn, Bedford, Ms.,	Elizabeth C. Kennedy, N. Ips'ich,
	Sylvester Putnam,	Elizabeth Hill.
1843.		
Dec. 28.	Aaron K. Putnam, Wilton,	Nancy Wright.
1844.		
Oct. 27.	John S. Proctor,	Mary Turrell, Nashua.
1846.		
Sept. 17.	Edwin Ruthven Hodgman, Cam- [den, Me.,	Martha Hill.
1848.		
Nov. 23.	George Elliott, 2d,	Mary Flagg.
Dec. 18.	William Wheeler,	Sarah C. Merriam.
1849.		
March 15.	Simon T. Smith,	Rowena A. Woods,

BY REV JOSEPH B. HILL.

1840.		
Dec. 17.	S. B. Butler,	Lorinda Ames.
Dec. 24.	Timothy Amsden.	Martha C. Hill.

MARLBOROUGH. BY REV. JILES LYMAN.

1841.		
April 20.	Joseph B. Wilson, Mason,	Melinda Blodgett, Marlborough.

MASON. BY REV. ALBERT G. COMINGS.

1849.		
Jan. 23.	Abel S. Farwell,	Maria L. Hodgman.
" 23.	Otis Hodgman,	Maria White.
May 1.	Isaac P. Woods, Dunstable,	Henrietta E. Willey.
Nov. 4.	Hiram D. Richardson,	Mary Ann Scripture.
1850.		
Jan. 3.	Warren E. Shattuck,	Alvira Davis.

In the following list the name of the officiating minister or magistrate is not recorded :

1851.		
Feb. 11.	Leonard Jefts, Asa B. Hodgman, William Tarbell, Albert O. Dimmick, William Sawtell,	Mary Webber. Betsey Winship. Sophronia Elliott. Adaliza Wright. Alice L. Heywood.
April 7.	Albert Taylor,	Sarah J. Barnes.
June 5.	William A. Short,	Mary Jane Whitney.
Sept. 18.	George Barrett,	Zoa Blood.
Nov. 25.	Charles A. Foster,	Clarinda Felch.
Dec. 8.	William R. Putnam,	Martha Jane A. Hartshorn.
" 30.	Leavitt L. Livingston,	Martha Jane McIntosh.
1852.		
Jan. 7.	F. R. Marcy,	Sarah M. Felt.
Feb. 17.	James O. Fitch,	Betsey J. Burbank.
March 11.	Isaac Russell,	Mrs. Jane Russell.
1853.		
Nov. 17.	Charles P. Richardson,	H. Amanda Mansfield.
1854.		
Jan. 12.	James R. Kidder,	Caroline M. Barrett.
Feb. 21.	Ezra F. Baker,	Sarah H. Cristie.
Dec. 14.	Philander Eddy,	Maria Lynch.
" 27.	Francis C. Pope,	Emeline R. Searles.
1855.		
March 5.	Myal Tarbell,	Harriet M. Morse.
" 31.	Benjamin Wallace,	Elizabeth J. Eastman.
April 1.	John S. Proctor,	Julia E. Weston.
May 14.	Thomas D. Bennett,	Adaline F. Putnam.
July 3.	Grovenor McClure,	Lucy Towne.
1856.		
Jan. 7.	George Hehuc,	Matilda L. Hodgman.
April 27.	Joel Elliott, 2d,	Emily Holden.
May 28.	Willard D. Hero,	Elizabeth Peabody.
1857.		
April 25.	Joseph P. Elliott,	Mary E. Dunn.
May 31.	George W. Scripture,	Maria Wheeler.

1857.

June	14.	Edwin R. Farnsworth,	Abby J. Webber.
Sept.	9.	Abel Adams,	Mary Gillman.
"	26.	Edwin L. Nutting,	Mary A. Annis.
Oct.	22.	Francis B. Cragin,	Ruvina Richardson.
"	22.	Henry A. Cragin,	Susan M. Elliott.
"	31.	Lucius A. White,	Margaret Lyle.

The list of marriages in Groton and Pepperell is copied from Butler's History of Groton; that in Townsend, from the town records of that town. The parties probably resided in the several towns in which the marriages are recorded, except in those cases where it is otherwise stated. The other lists, except that of Mr. Hill, are taken from the town records of Mason. In those of Mr. Searle, the residence of the parties is stated in only one instance. Most of the persons in these lists resided in Mason. In the list of Mr. Eliot, the residence given in the record is stated in every instance. The date of the first marriage in this list, that of John Sloan and Sarah Blood, on the record, is "January 1, 1782." This cannot be correct, as Mr. Eliot was not ordained till 1786, and had no authority to officiate, in marrying persons, before he was ordained. The date 1789 is inserted as the probable date. On page 165, in a few copies, the following marriage was accidentally omitted, and should be supplied: "1821. October 11. Joseph Smith, Wilton, Lucy Adams, Mason." The list of marriages by Mr. Hill is copied from his original record. In this record, the residence of the parties is stated, in all cases; but in the list above published, the residence of parties in Mason is omitted; that of others is stated. In Mr. Hill's records, in a few instances, the day of the month is not inserted. Two marriages by the Rev. Joseph B. Hill, are copied from his original record. The remainder of the list, from January 23, 1849, to October 31, 1857, is copied from the town records; the name of the officiating minister or magistrate, and the residence of the parties, is given wherever it is found in these records. It must be apparent that the record of marriages in the above list, for several of the last years, is very imperfect.

## RECORD OF DEATHS.

A record of deaths of the inhabitants and residents of the town of Mason, commencing July 20, 1758, and ending January 1, 1858, gathered from the town records, monuments, and documentary evidence, for the period from 1758 to November 2, 1790; from that time to the close of the year 1837, taken from the record of deaths kept by the Rev. Ebenezer Hill, with a few corrections and additions derived from monuments and reliable evidence; for the years 1838 and 1839, no record having been found, resort was had to monuments, minutes of burials kept by the sextons, and reliable tradition; from the close of that period, use has been made of the record kept by Dr. Willis Johnson.

“Time is a river, deep and wide,  
And while along its banks we stray,  
We see our loved ones, o'er its tide,  
Borne from our sight away, away.”

A record of deaths previous to November 3, 1790, gathered from town records, monuments, and other sources:

1758.	July 20.	Corporal Nehemiah Gould, killed in battle near Lake George.	1766.	July 1.	Joseph, s. of Benjamin and Martha Mann, 1 y. 5 ms.
1761.	Sept. 5.	Grace, d. of Obadiah and Ruth Parker, 16 days.	1767.	Jan. 13.	Joseph, s. of Simon and Sarah Ames, 6 ms.
1762.	Jan. 27.	Obadiah, s. of the same, 4 years 1 month.	1769.	Aug. 10.	John, s. of Aaron and Lucy Wheeler, 8 ds.
1763.	Feb. 7.	Anne, d. of Richard and Anna Lawrence, 4 ms. 15 days.	1771.	Nov. 4.	Ruth, d. of Jonathan and Ruth Williams, 2 ys. 21 days.
1764.	Dec. 28.	Sarah, w. of John Swallow.	1771.	Dec. 23.	Dorcas, d. of Amos and Sarah Dakin, 6 ms.
1764.	Oct. 2.	Rebecca, d. of John and Susannah Dutton, 11 ms.	1772.	Aug. 1.	Jonathan, s. of Jonathan and Ruth Williams, 1 y.
1765.	July 8.	Simon, s. of Simon and Sarah Ames, 1 y. 10 ms.	1772.	Feb. 11.	Hepsibath, d. of Lemuel and Sarah Spaulding, 1 y. 1 m.
1766.	Feb. 13.	Jonathan, s. of Jonathan and Lydia Jefts, 1 m.	1772.	Mar. 22.	Elizabeth, d. of Josiah and Lucy Wheeler, 2 ys. 7 ms.
1766.	Mar. 24.	Lemuel and Thomas, twin sons of Lemuel and Sarah Spaulding, 12 ds.	1772.	May 6.	John, s. of James and Sarah Withee, 4 ys. 4 ms.
			1772.	Nov. 8.	Anna, w. of David Blodgett.

1773.  
Sept. 2. Amos, s. of Josiah and Sarah Robens, 23 y.
1774.  
Oct. 17. Mr. Josiah Wheeler.  
Dec. 3. Eunice, d. of John and Mary Swallow, 5 m.  
Mr. Joseph Herrick.
1775.  
June 17. Joseph Blood, killed in Bunker Hill battle.  
Oct. 2. William, s. of John and Thankful Whitaker, 1 y. 6 m.  
Mr. Nathaniel Barrett.
1776.  
April 7. Dorothy, d. of Joshua and Dorothy Davis, 3 y. 7 m.  
July 24. Benjamin, s. of Benjamin and Martha Mann, 13 y. 3 m.  
Aug. 25. Elizabeth, d. of Lemuel and Sarah Spaulding, 9 d.  
Sept. 29. Susannah, d. of John and Thankful Whitaker, 1 m.  
Nov. 18. Silas, s. of Richard and Anna Lawrence, 3 y. 1 m.
1777.  
June 30. Ephraim, s. of John and Leefe Lawrence, 3 m. 20 days.  
Sept. 10. Lucy, d. of Benjamin and Martha Mann, 2 y. 3 m.  
" 10. John, s. of John and Susannah Dutton, 11 y. 8 m.  
" 14. Mason, s. of same, 5 y.  
Oct. 8. Deborah, d. of Daniel and Jemima Fay, 11 m.  
" 29. Mary, w. of Henry Jefts, 67 y.  
Nov. 2. Polly, d. of Benjamin and Martha Mann, 2 d.  
Mr. Benjamin King.
1778.  
Sept. 16. Sarah, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Wood, 7 m.  
" 28. Ens. Enosh Lawrence, 68 y.  
Oct. 10. Amos, s. of Abijah and Mary Allen, 8 y.
1779.  
Jan. 6. Daniel, s. of James and Sarah Withee, 9 y. 3 m.  
Oct. 2. Ebenezer, s. of Samuel and Sarah Wood, 1 m. 12 d.  
Mrs. Foster, w. of Jonathan Foster.
1781.  
Feb. 9. Josiah, son of Samuel and Sarah Wood, 6 m.  
June 24. John Eliot, 65 y.
1782.  
Aug. 7. Isaac, s. of William and Dorothy Eliot, 4 m.  
Oct. 5. Abel, son of Joseph and Sarah Barrett, 4 m.
1783.  
Mar. 13. John, s. of John, Jr., and Rebecca Swallow, 12 d.  
June 2. Mr. Daniel Fay.  
" 18. Alice, d. of Aaron and Lucy Wheeler, 2 m.  
" 25. Oliver, s. of William and Sarah Miles, 3 y. 6 m.  
July 1. Andrew, s. of Andrew and Hannah Eliot, 5 m.  
" 16. Samuel, s. of Elisha and Mary Withington, 9 m. 10 d.  
" 20. Sibbel, d. of James and Sibbel Scripture, 4 y. 6 m.  
" 24. Hannah, d. of Benjamin and Hannah Barrett, 1m.  
Aug. 3. Isaac, s. of Hubbard and Sarah Russell, 23 d.
1784.  
May 4. David Sloan, s. of Amos and Lydia Holden, 3 y. 8 m. 15 d.  
Oct. 15. Lydia, d. of Abraham, Jr., and Hannah Merriam.
1785.  
Jan. Thomas, s. of Thomas and Sarah Tarbell, 3 y. 5 m.  
Feb. 8. Thomas, s. of Jason Russell, 7 y. 8 m. 26 d.  
" 9. Mary, w. of Edmund Tarbell, 36 y.  
" 23. Elias Eliot, 78 y.  
Dec. 19. Ensign John Wood, 69 y.
1786.  
April 30. John, s. of Jotham and Elizabeth Webber, 1 y. 3 m.  
June 14. Dorothy, w. of Wm. Eliot.  
Nov. 1. George, s. of Aaron and Lucy Wheeler, 2 y. 5 m.
1787.  
June 3. Hannah, w. of Jonathan Chandler.  
July 22. Jonas, s. of Joseph and Sarah Barrett, 3 y. 1 m.
1789.  
April 7. Polly, d. of Andrew and Hannah Eliot, 11 m.  
" 16. Alice, d. of Aaron and Lucy Wheeler, 1 day.  
" 28. Deacon Amos Dakin, 57 y.  
July 11. Rebecca, d. of Thomas and Rebecca Hodgman, 3 y. 4 m. 15 d.

1789.		1790.	
Aug. 23.	Polly, d. of Jos. and Mary Woods, 2 y. 2 m. 27 d.	April 16.	John, s. of Nathaniel and Hannah Williams.
Sept. 25.	Sally, d. of Jonas and Dolly Fay, 1 m.	May 1.	Jonas, s. of Deacon Amos Dakin, 18 y.
Dec. 1.	Elizabeth, wid. of Ensign John Wood, 75 y.	June 24.	Rachel, w. of Jonathan Williams, 58 y.
1790.		Aug. 1.	Anne, d. of Jonas and Dolly Fay, 7 y. 4 m.
Mar. 14.	Isaac Brown, Jr., 18 y.		

Record of deaths, from November 2, 1796, to December 31, 1837, from the record kept by the Rev. Ebenezer Hill:

1790.		1794.	
Nov. 2.	In. d. of Joseph Russell, 5 y.	Aug. 4.	Prudence Crane.
" 7.	Betsey, d. of Reuben Kendall, 18 y.	Sept. 6.	In. c. of Thos. Blood, 4 y.
1791.		" 6.	In. c. of Thomas Blood.
Jan. -	In. c. of Reuben Barrett.	Nov. 13.	Elizabeth, wid. of Ensign John Wood, 71 y.
Feb. 26.	Nancy, d. of Wm. Miles.	" 28.	Leafee, d. of Clark Haven, 17 y.
" 27.	Wife of Benj. Hodgman.	Dec. 3.	Ruth, wid. of Elias Eliot, 85 y.
Mar. 26.	Elizabeth, d. of Joseph Merriam, 19 y.	" 17.	Josiah, s. of J. Elliott, 2 y.
April 26.	Mr. Eleazer Fish.	" 19.	Allen Haven, 11 y.
June 2.	Elizabeth, w. of Wm. Shed.	" 23.	In. c. living with Mrs. Warr- rer.
Aug. 22.	Mary, w. of Joseph Merriam, 48 y.	1795.	
Sept. 4.	Capt. William Chambers.	Feb. 11.	In. twin children of John Wait, Jr.
Nov. 15.	Wid. Sarah Elliot.	" 22.	David Weatherbee, 77 y.
" 24.	Lydia, w. of David Whitaker.	" 24.	Betsey Scripture, 13 y.
1792.		April 25.	Rebecca, d. of Abel Adams.
Jan. 27.	In. c. of Reuben Barrett.	" 26.	Patty, d. of Abel Adams.
Feb. 2.	Timothy, s. of Dea. T. Dakin, 4 m. 22 d.	June 29.	In. c. of Abel Swallow.
Mar. 3.	Joseph Bullard, 73 y.	" 29.	Wid. Mary Marrett, 83 y.
" 8.	Billy, s. of Asa Stone.	July 10.	Wife of Benjamin Darling.
June 10.	In. c. of Dr. Joseph Gray.	" 19.	In. c. of Jonas Amsden.
Oct. 10.	In. c. of Peter Zuire.	1796.	
Nov. 2.	Polly, w. of Dr. William Barber, 24 y.	Jan. 26.	Esther, w. of Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
Dec. 5.	Elisha Withington.	Feb. 9.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell, 77.
Dec. 9.	In. c. of Amos Blood.	Mar. 15.	In. c. of Jonathan Russell.
1793.		April 4.	James Weethce.
Jan. 12.	In. c. of Jeremy Steward.	May 4.	Nabby, d. of Joses Bucknam.
Feb. 7.	Daniel Warrer, (negro.)	" 27.	Wife of John Wait.
April 14.	Doreas, d. of Samuel Hill, 4 m.	June 2.	Lucy and Nancy, d. of Jos. Tufts.
" 14.	Wife of Reuben Hosmer.	" 27.	Charles, s. of Dea. T. Dakin, 2 m. 16 d.
June 6.	Sally, w. of Artemas Manning.	July 4.	In. s. of Daniel Hill.
" 10.	Sally, d. of John Winship.	Sept. 13.	Artemas, s. of Artemas Manning.
Nov. 29.	Ruth, d. of John Winship.	Dec. 14.	Betsey, d. of Zaccheus Barrett.
1794.		1797.	
Feb.	James, s. of Samuel Woods, 3 m. 9 d.	Jan. 2.	Abijah Ames, 18 y.
Mar. 2.	Polly, w. of Rev. Ebenezer Hill, 29 y.	Feb. 16.	John, s. of Maj. Jas. Wood, 12 y.
" 25.	Sarah, w. of Capt. Joseph Barrett, 43 y.		

1797.		1800.	
April 3.	In. c. of John Swallow, Jr.	Dec. 7.	In. c. of Eben Stacey.
July 4.	Jesse, s. of Silas Bullard, 8 m.	" 20.	In. c. of Thomas Blood.
" 12.	Rebecca, w. of Rev. Ebenezer Hill, 26 y.	1801.	
Aug. 20.	John Tarbell.	Jan. 5.	Wife of Thomas Blood.
" 25.	In. c. of Stephen Withington.	" 31.	Wid. Chapman, 97.
" 25.	In. c. of John Baldwin.	"	In. c. of Daniel Williams.
Sep. 1.	Wid. Sarah Lawrence.	Sep. 6.	In. c. of Josiah Sawtell.
" 9.	Susan, d. of Ezra Merriam.	Oct. 8.	John, s. of Captain S. S. Parker.
" 17.	In. c. of Dea. R. Wesson.	" 12.	James, s. of same.
Nov. 22.	Timothy, s. of Dea. T. Dakin, 2 y. 10 m.	Dec. 2.	Benjamin, son of Aaron Wheeler, 24 y.
" 26.	Mr. Abraham Merriam.	1802.	
" 28.	In. c. of John Elliott.	Jan. 25.	Mr. Benjamin Hodgman.
Dec. 10.	Mr. John Goddard.	Mar. 20.	Jonas Amsden, 53 y.
1798.		" 26.	William Hosmer, 74 y.
Jan. 24.	Mr. Abraham Haskell.	" 26.	Wife of William Blood. <sup>3</sup>
May 17.	In. c. of Joel Parker.	April 22.	Mr. Eben Stacey.
" 20.	In. c. of Silas Bullard.	" 28.	Elizabeth, w. of Dea. Timothy Dakin, 37.
June 21.	Samuel Hill, 66 y.	June 13.	Mary, w. of Oliver Eliot.
July 8.	In. c. of Oliver Nutting.	July 9.	In. c. of Widow Stacey.
"	In. c. of Jedediah Felton.	" 31.	Nancy, d. of William B. Flagg, 19 m.
Sept. 28.	Dr. Enosh Lawrence, 25 y. 10 m. 12 d.	Sep. 16.	Polly, d. of Th. Hodgman.
Oct. 15.	In. c. of Stephen Balcom.	" 17.	In. c. of John Lawrence, Jr.
" 20.	Elizabeth, w. of Dea. R. Wesson, 34 y. 11 m. 2 d.	" 19.	In. d. of Abel Adams.
" 20.	Two in. c. of same.	Oct. 4.	Mr. David Sloan.
Nov. 14.	In. c. of Jonas Mann.	" 14.	Amos, s. of Deacon Timothy Dakin, 1 y. 4 m. 25 d.
"	In. c. of Timothy Wheeler.	" 15.	Widow Zuire.
1799.		Nov. 13.	In. c. of Nabby Barrett.
Mar. 12.	Wid. Elizabeth Heald, 85 y.	Dec. 4.	In. c. of Azubah Swallow, 1 y.
April 7.	Rebecca, d. of A. Wheeler, 19 y. 10 m.	" 18.	Nathaniel Smith, 81 y.
May 24.	Elizabeth, w. of Jason Russell, 54 y.	" 31.	In. c. of Andrew Elliott.
"	In. c. of R. Hodgman, Jr.	1803.	
Oct. 18.	In. c. of Thomas Blood.	Jan. 9.	Wife of Joel Ames.
1800.		" 29.	William Saunders, 90 y.
Jan. 9.	Mr. Joseph Russell.	Feb. 19.	Betsey Townsend, 14 y.
May 11.	Mrs. Dorothy Fish.	Mar. 18.	In. c. of Amos Dakin.
June 18.	Sally, d. of Ezra Merriam.	April 2.	William Blood, 83 y.
" 23.	Jonas Fay, Jr., 25 y.	" 9.	Persis Lawrence, 23 y.
July 20.	Molly Jeffs.	" 30.	Aaron Wheeler, Jr., 34 y.
Aug. 8.	Artemas, s. of A. Manning.	Aug. 14.	In. c. of Daniel Hodgman.
Sep. 19.	Reuben Barrett, 71 y.	" 15.	Artemas, s. of Captain John Barrett, 3 y.
" 29.	In. c. of Richard Hall.	" 23.	Daniel Hodgman, 27 y.
"	In. c. of same.	Sept. 5.	Thomas, s. of Abel Adams, 5 y.
Oct. 19.	In. c. of Oliver Elliott.	" 10.	James, s. of the same.
"	In. c. of John Russell, Jr.	" 12.	John Stevens, 16 y.
Nov. 3.	Capt. Isaac Brown, 55 y.	" 17.	Wife of Joel Richardson.
" 17.	In. c. of Jer. Stewart.	" 22.	Noah W., s. of Sam'l Hill, 4 y. 6 m.
" 18.	In. c. of Peter Sanderson.	" 28.	Lydia, d. of the same, 3 y.
"	Two in. c. of same.	Oct. 12.	In. c. of Edward Tarbell.
" 26.	Lydia, d. of Samuel Hill, 3 y.	"	Widow Haskell.
" 29.	Mr. Ebenezer Blood.	Nov. 20.	Widow Saunders.
		" 26.	Haley, w. of Zac. Shattuck.

- 1804.
- Feb. 2. Mr. Samuel Green.  
 " 6. Lucy Kemp.  
 " 14. In. c. of William Barrett.  
 " 25. Wife of Joel Richards.  
 Mar. 1. Wife of Jonathan Lee.  
 " 5. In. c. of Ruel Richardson.  
 " B. Franklin, s. of Elijah Davis.  
 " In. c. of John Lawrence, Jr.  
 " 24. In. c. of Ambrose Gould.  
 May 7. Eunice, w. of Abner Chickering, 29 y.  
 " 26. Deborah Winship, 17 y.  
 " 26. In. c. of John Russell, Jr.  
 June 6. In. c. of John Withington.  
 Oct. 15. Susan Amsden, 16 y.  
 Dec. 19. Mr. Thomas Austin.  
 " 21. Rebecca Lawrence, 28 y.  
 " 27. In. c. of Jonathan Blood.
- 1805.
- Jan. 3. In. c. of John Robbins.  
 Feb. 19. Jason Dunster, 79 y.  
 " 22. Wid. Shattuck, 91 y.  
 " 28. Mr. Billings.  
 Mar. 19. Hannah Lawrence, 26 y.  
 April 14. Wid. Hildreth.  
 May 1. Benjamin Jeffs, 2d, 25 y.  
 June 16. John Waugh, 99 y.  
 " 26. In. c. of William Newell.  
 July 3. Sally, d. of R. Wesson, 18 y.  
 " 16. Luther Lawrence, 20 y.  
 Aug. 1. David Elliott, 15 y.  
 " 10. Ammi A., s. of Andrew Tufts, 4 y.  
 Sept. 8. Benjamin Woods, 25 y.  
 " 27. In. c. of William Barrett, 1 y. 6 m.  
 Nov. 6. In. c. of William Bride, 21 d.  
 " 8. Hannah, w. of Ebenezer Gilman, 24 y.  
 " 30. Asa, s. of John Whitaker, 22 y.  
 Dec. 22. In. c. of John Brown, 2 d.  
 " 24. William Hill, of Bedford, 21 y.
- 1806.
- Jan. 18. Abraham Merriam, 48 y.  
 Feb. 16. Rebecca, widow of Jason Dunster, 74 y.  
 Mar. 23. Lucinda Hodgman, 11 y.  
 " 27. In. c. of Joshua Blood, 6 h.  
 April 7. Joshua, s. of Joshua Blood, 5 y.  
 " 16. Amos Holden, 54 y.  
 " 17. John, s. of John Russell, Jr., 1 y.
- 1806.
- April 19. Mary, w. of Joshua Blood, 28 y.  
 " In. c. of David Withee.  
 June 1. Benjamin Kendall, 56 y.  
 Oct. 31. d. of Josiah Elliott, 7 y.  
 Nov. 20. Alvah, s. of Capt. Jesse Barrett, 3 y.  
 Dec. 3. Aaron Wheeler, 66 y.
- 1807.
- Jan. 2. Mr. Knapp, 86 y.  
 " 3. Prescott, s. of A. Wheeler, 12 y.  
 " 9. John Adams, 65 y.  
 " 19. Lydia, w. of Samuel Hill, 37 y.  
 Feb. 27. In. c. of John Robbins, 6 m.  
 April 5. In. c. of Levi Morse.  
 " 7. Benjamin Jeffs, 60 y.  
 May 5. In. c. of Silas Bullard, 6 m.  
 " 7. Deacon Nathan Hall, 91 y. Zaccheus Barrett, Jr., 30 y.  
 Aug. 13. Widow Rebecca Jones, of Bedford, 53 y.  
 Sept. 5. Rachel, d. of Jere. Boynton, 5 y.  
 " 9. Stephen Robbins, 22 y.  
 " 12. Widow of Abraham Merriam, 69 y.  
 " 20. In. s. of Capt. Manning, 1 y.  
 Dec. 2. In. c. of Joseph Bullard.  
 " 12. Sally, w. of Joseph Bullard, 21 y.
- 1808.
- Jan. 16. Betsy, d. of Jotham Webber, 20 y.  
 " 18. Susan, w. of James Snow, 28 y.  
 Mar. 3. Lydia Miles, 7 y.  
 April 23. Susannah, w. of Zachariah Davis, 57 y.  
 " 30. Amos, s. of Amos Blood, 12 y.  
 May 19. John Shed, 24 y.  
 " 20. Sampson Clator, 24.  
 June Mr. Thomas Jeffs.  
 July 26. Juliana, d. of Jason Dunster, 5 m.  
 Aug. 22. Lydia Whipple, 28 y.  
 " 28. In. c. of Cyrus Colman 2 d.  
 Sept. 3. Martha, d. of Capt. Jesse Barrett, 7 y.  
 " 7. In. c. of John Sawtell, 4 y.  
 Dec. 13. Sukey Tarbell, (negro,) 34 years.  
 " 30. Sarah, wid. of Samuel Hill, 75 y.



1809.		1811.	
Feb. 13.	Widow Weatherbee, 88 y.		In. c. of John Blodgett, Esq., 14 d.
" 27.	Hannah, widow of Jonas Amsden, 55 y.	Dec. 30.	John Smith, 46 y.
Apr. 24.	Esther Holden, 22 y. In. c. of Jeremiah Boynton.	1812.	
Sep. 14.	Sally Austin, 12 y.	Jan.	Wife of J. Kenworthy, 29 y.
" 24.	In. c. of Elijah Knapp.	Feb.	Widow Farley, 88 y.
Nov. 23.	In. c. of — Groves, 7 m.	Mar. 2.	Sarah, w. of Joshua Davis, 58 y.
Dec. 10.	John Jeffs, 70 y.	" 19.	Asa Reed, 36 y.
" 11.	Lt. Enosh Lawrence, 72 y.	" 22.	In. c. of G. Kimball, 21 d.
1810.		April 1.	Molly, w. of Jonas Fay, 62 y.
Jan. 3.	In. c. of Capt. John Barrett.	" 8.	Mrs. Ditson, 68 y.
" 17.	Milley Holden, 20 y. Mr. S. Walker. In. c. of John Baldwin, 2 y.	" 21.	Elijah Davis, 67 y.
Mar. 12.	Lucy Russell, 21 y.	" 21.	In. c. of James Snow.
" 20.	In. c. of Samuel Townsend.	" 30.	Mrs. Bachelder, 78 y.
" 21.	In. c. of Eleazer Fish.	May 2.	In. c. of Simon Heald, 10 m.
" 22.	In. c. of same.	Aug.	Mrs. Wymman.
Apr. 22.	Burley C. Amsden, 2 y. 6 months. Hannah Barrett, 20 y.	Sept. 11.	Miss Wealthy Hayward, 50 y. Wife of Jonathan Jeffs, Jr.
May	In. c. of William Elliott, 1 y. 3 m.	Nov. 20.	Brintnall Witherell, 46 y.
"	In. c. of Noah Winship, Jr.	Dec. 7.	Jonathan Searle, Esq., 68 y.
June 1.	Wheeler, s. of Sam'l West- ton, 4 y.	" 17.	In. c. of M. Whittier, 2 y.
" 15.	William Warren Whitaker, 5 y.	1813.	
" 19.	Capt. Jas. Scripture, 62 y.	Feb. 4.	Polly Boynton, 18 y.
" 25.	Rebecca, d. of Jason Dun- ster, 5 y.	" 8.	Eli, s. of Jona. Jeffs, 22 y.
July 8.	Timothy J., s. of Rev. Ebenezer Hill, 2 y. 9 m.	" 22.	Mary, w. of Capt. Samuel S. Parker, 50 y.
" 10.	Horatio, s. of A. Manning, 10 y.	May 23.	Samuel Hill, 49 y.
Aug.	Maria, d. of Joseph Mer- riam, Jr., 4 y.	June	George Kimball, 38 y.
Oct. 12.	Isaac, s. of A. Manning, 1 month.	July 25.	— Pritchard, 21 y.
" 27.	Mary, wid. of Dea. Nathan Hall, 88 y.	Aug. 1.	Lucy Russell Barrett, 3 y.
1811.		" 7.	Lucy Sylvia Russell, 3 y.
	Mary, w. of Thomas Ken- worthy.	"	Stephen, s. of John Rob- bins, 2 y.
April 15.	Joseph Merriam, Jr., 41 y.	"	Wife of Samuel Tarbell.
June 23.	Sarah, wid. of Deacon A. Dakin, 74 y.	1814.	
Aug. 3.	Rebecca, w. of John Swal- low, Jr., 56 y.	Jan. 4.	Widow of Nathaniel Smith, 83 y.
" 13.	Edey, w. of Aaron Wood, 33 y.	" 12.	Patty Holden, 35 y.
" 14.	William B. Flagg, Jr., 9 y.	Feb. 2.	Reuel Richardson, 45 y. In. c. of Jona. Jeffs, Jr.
"	In. c. of Samuel Nutting, 21 d.		Martin Hayward, 20 y.
	Jotham, s. of A. Wheeler, 25 y.	April 25.	George, s. of Wm. Whita- ker, 5 m. d. of Willard Lawrence, 13 years.
Sep. 30.	Dea. Andrew Elliott, 56 y.	May 9.	Sylvester Snow, 10 y.
Nov. 7.	Wife of Mitchell Whittier, 25 y.	" 11.	Sally, w. of Ephraim Rus- sell, 38 y.
		June	In. c. of — Putnam.
		Aug. 6.	Mary, d. of Hubbert Rus- sell, Jr., 1y. 4 m.
		" 8.	Susan, d. of A. Wood, 8 y.
		" 11.	Widow Agnes Waugh, 84 y.
		" 31.	Phebe, d. of Josiah Russell, 18 y.
		Sep. 10.	Mary, d. of Reuel Richard- son, 3 y. 6 m.

1814.  
 Sept. 12. Daniel Prentice, 70 y.  
           In. c. of Woodis Lee, 5 y.  
 Oct. 27. In. c. of Abial Green, 6 m.  
 Dec. 1. s. of Samuel Wadsworth,  
           14 y.  
       " 12. In. c. of Dan'l White, 4 m.  
           Ephraim Flagg, 84.  
           In. c. of Paul Davis, 2 y.
1815.  
 Jan. 29. Elizabeth, d. of Jeremiah  
           Boynton, 23 y.  
 Feb. 9. In. c. of W. B. Flagg, 4 y.  
       " 17. In. c. of Hubbard Amsden,  
           6 m.  
       " 19. In. c. of Othni Crosby.  
 Mar. 1. John Boynton Wright, 18 y.  
       " 13. Mrs. Sawtell, 33 y.  
       " 18. In. c. of Thad's Morse, 2 d.  
       " 27. Rebecca Tarbell, 26 y.  
       " 30. Nathan Adams, 26 y.  
 April 28. Jonas Wheeler of New Ips-  
           wich, 96 y.  
       " 29. Mr. Farwell, 68 y.  
 May 3. Loammi, s. of Deacon H.  
           Richardson, 2 y. 6 m.  
       " 12. Mr. John Baldwin.  
 June 1. In. c. of Josiah Elliott, 14 d.  
       " 29. Patty Elliott, 22 y.  
 July 11. Hannah, d. of Joseph Mer-  
           riam, Jr., 17 y.  
       " 12. Esther, wid. of Lt. Enosh  
           Lawrence, 80 y.  
       " In. c. of Eben Hodgman, Jr.  
 Aug. 13. Polly Bachelder, 29 y.  
       " 30. Israel Elliott, 27 y.  
           In. c. of Taylor Fay.  
 Oct. 23. Eliab Knapp, 67 y.  
 Nov. 1. Richard Lawrence, 80 y.  
       " 23. Lt. John Swallow, 86 y.  
 Dec. 5. Mary, w. of Amos Dakin,  
           52 y.  
       " 6. Samuel Smith, 74 y.
1816.  
 Jan. 2. Widow Flagg, 82 y.  
       " 5. Fanny Huston, 12 y.  
       " 25. In. c. of Paul Davis, 1 m.  
           7 d.  
       " 26. William Barrett, 90 y.  
       " 29. Betsy Boynton, 23 y.  
       " 30. Willard Lawrence, 56 y.  
 Feb. 1. Anna, wid. of Richard  
           Lawrence.  
       " 16. Rebecca, wid. of Jason  
           Dunster, 72 y.  
 Mar. 18. Mehitabel, w. of Thomas  
           Robbins, 68 y.  
 April 14. In. c. of Taylor Fay, 1 y.  
       " 15. In. c. of Oliver Nutting, 3 y.  
       " 19. In. c. of Hollis Amsden, 3  
           y. 8 m.
1816.  
 Apr. 19. Benjamin Cragin, Esq.  
 Aug. 11. Jesse Barrett, Jr., 27 y.  
       " 31. Twin children of E. Dex-  
           ter, 1 m.  
 Oct. 5. Lt. Obadiah Parker, 86 y.  
       " 26. In. c. of Jas. Kennedy, 4 y.  
 Dec. 9. Hannah, w. of Samuel  
           Townsend, 68 y.
1817.  
 Jan. 18. In. c. of James Gardner, 1 y.  
       " 22. In c. of Thomas Russell, 1  
           m. 21 d.  
 Feb. In. c. of Ebenezer Hodg-  
           man, 3 m.  
       " 19. In. c. of Jeremiah Preston.  
 Mar. 5. Wife of Paul Davis, 34 y.  
       " 14. Mary, w. of John Blodgett,  
           Esq., 46 y.  
       " 15. Lydia, d. of Colonel James  
           Wood, 16 y.  
 May In. c. of Willard Lawrence.  
 July Lydia, wid. of Amos Hol-  
           den.  
 Aug. 30. Lucy, w. of Samuel Mer-  
           riam, 42 y.  
 Sept. Hubbard Amsden, 27 y.  
 Oct. 9. Lowis, wid. of John Jefts,  
           71 y.  
       " 15. Ruth, wid. of Joseph Mer-  
           riam, Jr., 45 y.  
       " 20. Lorena, d. of Andrew and  
           Lydia Elliott, 11 m. 20 d.  
       " 20. In. c. of Mr. Read.
1818.  
 Jan. In. twin children of Levi  
           Morse.  
       " Rebecca, w. of Abel Adams,  
           58 y.  
 Feb. 5. Ruth, wid. of Obadiah Par-  
           ker, 86 y.  
 Mar. 18. Sampson Parker, 50 y.  
           In. c. of Noah Winship, Jr.,  
           10 m.  
 April 14. George, s. of Isaac and Dei-  
           dama Parker, 8 y.  
       " 25. In. c. of Willard Lawrence.  
 May Jonathan Jefts, 86 y.  
 June 15. Hannah, w. of William Bar-  
           rett, 58 y.  
           Widow Russell.  
 July 7. Anna, wid. of William Hos-  
           mer, 85 y.  
 Aug. 27. In. c. of Lemuel Tarbell.  
 Sept. Joel Richards, 28 y.  
       " 7. Simeon Kemp, Jr., 21 y.  
       " 14. In. c. of Darius Hudson, 5 y.  
       " 18. c. of same, 11 y.  
       " 22. In. c. of same, 3 y.  
 Oct. 23. In. c. of Jona. Richardson,  
           7 m.

1818.		1819.	
Oct. 23.	Wife of Jason Dunster, Jr., 24 y.	July 4.	Addison, s. of Samuel Merriam, 5 y.
Nov. 30.	s. of William B. Flagg, 9 y.	" 5.	Elisha Withington, 73 y.
" 7.	Widow Sarah Osgood, 96 y.	" 5.	Lydia, w. of John Russell, Jr., 51 y.
" 11.	Artemas, s. of Capt. Elijah Knapp, 5 y. 8 m.	Aug. 1.	John Winship, 77 y.
" 15.	In. c. of Samuel Withington, 8 d.	" 8.	Wife of John Withington, 42 y.
" 18.	In. d. of Daniel Foster, 5 y.	" 25.	Edward Farwell, 88 y.
" 20.	Betsey, d. of Capt. Elijah Knapp, 3 y. 5 m.	Nov. 27.	In. c. of James Kennedy.
Dec.	Rebecca, d. of Josiah Elliott, 14 y.	Dec. 23.	Lucy, d. of Edward Wilson, 59 y.
" 8.	In. c. at J. Davis', 3 y.	" 29.	In. c. of Sam'l Weston, 4 y.
" 11.	In. c. of Asa Merriam, 2 y.	1820.	
" 13.	d. of Eben'r Gilman, 8 y.	Jan. 5.	Deborah, w. of Caleb Bucknam, 20 y.
" 14.	Albert, s. of Captain Amos Flagg, 5 y. 4 m.	" 11.	Abigail, w. of Chas. Scripture, 21 y.
" 21.	In. c. of Mrs. Lucy Merriam.	" 31.	Betsey Russell, 22 y.
" 21.	Emaline, d. of Capt. Amos Flagg, 2 y. 4 m.	Feb. 9.	Azubah, d. of Robert and Azubah Searle, 27 y.
1819.		" 28.	Mary, d. of John and Mary Webber, 8 d.
Jan. 2.	Polly, w. of Amos Russell, 28 y.	Mar. 12.	In. c. of David Jefts, 2d, 1 y. 8 m.
" 8.	Joseph Warren, s. of Jos. Sanders, Jr., 2 y. 6 m.	" 20.	In. c. of Abel Adams, Jr., 6 m.
" 18.	William, s. of David and Ama Sanders, 4 y. 9 m.		Polly, w. of William Bride.
" 19.	Eveline, d. of Jonas and Sally Adams, 4 m.	April	Widow Cragin, 76 y.
" 20.	George E., son of same, 6 months.	Oct.	Mr. Stratton, 50 y.
" 22.	Emily, d. of Seth and Phebe Elliott, 1 y. 3 d.	" 11.	Mrs. Rachel Isaacs, 57 y.
" 27.	John Powers, 25 y.	"	Wife of Paul Davis.
Feb. 7.	Lydia, d. of Daniel Hill, 7 years.	Nov. 2.	Sally, d. of Jeremiah Boynton, 23 y.
"	Alva Parker, 11 y.	" 3.	Widow of Joseph Bullard, 96 y.
"	In. c. of Eben'r Adams.	"	In. c. of Jonathan Jefts.
Mar. 24.	Dea. Noah Winship, 55 y.	" 12.	c. of ——— Cutler, 8 y.
April 1.	Charles, s. of Chas. Scripture, 5 m.	" 13.	Philena, d. of Benjamin Kendall, 11 years.
" 2.	d. of Oliver Nutting, 11 y.	" 15.	Simon Ames, 80 y.
" 5.	In. c. of Eben'r Williams, 18 m.	Dec. 13.	Timothy Wheeler, 68 y.
" 6.	In. e. of Oliver Nutting, 3 years.	"	d. of Benjamin Farwell, 9 y.
" 12.	Sally Saunderson, 18 y.	" 23.	Wife of Leonard Read, 36 y.
" 15.	Dorcas, d. of Oliver Nutting, 13 y.	" 26.	In. d. of Abel Farwell, 5 y.
" 19.	In. s. of Eben'r Williams, 3 years.	1821.	
" 21.	Thirza, d. of Peter Saunderson, 15 y.	Jan. 1.	Susanna Davis, 47 y.
May 19.	Mary Ann, d. of William and Polly Darling, 4 y.	Mar. 18.	Jonathan Williams, 85 y.
"	In. d. of Jonathan Richardson, 4 y.	" 23.	In. e. of John Sawtell, 1 y.
		" 31.	Jonathan Foster, (died in Ashby,) 100 y.
		June	Peter Kemp, 16 y.
		April 9.	Wife of John Robbins.
		" 28.	Silvia, (a negro girl), 14 y.
		May 17.	In. c. of Taylor Fay, 6 m.
			Widow Goddard, 81 y.
			In. c. of Leonard Reed, 8 m.
			Polly Loring, 30 y.
		Oct. 7.	Isaac Kimball, Jr., 6 y. 3 m.

1821.		1823.	
Oct.	Daniel Withee, 21 y.	May	Widow of David Brown, 79 years.
"	In. c. of J. Jeffs.		Wife of Abijah Eaton.
Nov. 28.	Sarah, w. of John Austin, 53 y.	June 3.	William, s. of Dea. Andrew and Hannah Elliott, 20 y.
Dec.	In. c. of Isaac Russell, 1 m. 14 d.	Aug. 13.	Sarah, wid. of Timothy Wheeler, 69.
"	David Brown, 83 y.		In. c. of Capt. N. C. Searle.
" 15.	Polly Boynton, d. of Jos. Merriam, 5 y.	Sept.	Widow Hannah Huse, 50 y.
" 26.	Wife of Enosh Barrett, 22 years.	Oct. 24.	George Alvin, s. of George Elliott, 3 m. 17 d.
1822.		Nov. 10.	Rhoda, w. of James Gilman, 68 y.
Jan. 10.	Widow Barrett, 91 y.		In. c. of Luther Nutting.
" 23.	Charles Withee, 14 y.	1824.	
" 29.	In. c. of Thomas Loring.	Jan.	Mr. Amos Cutler.
Feb. 26.	In. c. of Ezekiel Merriam, 21 d.	Feb. 14.	Widow Edwards, 81 y.
Mar. 29.	Samuel Townsend, 88 y.	" 16.	Jonas Campbell, 18 y.
April 1.	In. c. of Captain Elijah Knapp.	Mar. 2.	John Webber, 34 y.
May 21.	In. c. of — Richardson.	" 25.	Samuel Tarbell, 65 y.
" 23.	In. c. of Joel Tarbell.	April 18.	William Kendall, 72.
July	Wife of Jonathan Richardson, 36 y.	" 29.	Job Hodgman, 37 y.
" 16.	Richard Hall, 54 y.	May 2.	Dea. Jotham Webber, 72.
"	In. c. of Henry Isaacs.	" 6.	Alva Green, 24 y.
	In. c. of Wm. Nutting, 9 m.	" 25.	Widow Lois Gould, 84 y.
Aug. 14	Mary, wid. of Lieut. John Swallow, 76 y.	May 30.	Josiah Flagg, 74 y.
	Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell, (of Brookline,) 50 y.	July	In. c. of David Amsden, 1 y. 9 m.
Sept. 22.	Judith, wid. of John Winship, 82 y.	Aug.	In. c. of Phineas Webster.
" 26.	d. of Jotham Webber, Jr., 12 y.	" 15.	Timothy, s. of Timothy Wheeler, 2 y. 3 m.
Oct. 5.	William, s. of Timothy Wheeler, 4 y. 10 m.		Widow Fletcher.
" 6.	William Barrett, Jr., 22 y.	" 21.	In. c. of Jonas Kendall, 1 y. 6 m.
" 7.	Mary, d. of Tim. Wheeler, 2 y. 6 m.	" 25.	David Hall, 71 y.
" 23.	In. c. of Paul Davis, 1 y.	" 26.	Mr. Samuel Smith.
" 17.	Laura, d. of Elijah Knapp, 4 y. 6 m.	Sept. 2.	In. d. of Jonas Kendall, 3 y. 6 m.
Nov. 3.	Artemas, s. of same, 3 y.	" 2.	Lydia, d. of Samuel and Mary Dakin, 2 y. 5 m.
" 3.	Lydia, w. of Andrew Elliott, 33 y.	" 4.	Stephen Lawrence, Esq., 80 y.
Nov. 10.	David Green, (of Groton,) 82 y.	" 14.	Samuel Dakin, Jr., 9 y. 6 m.
Dec. 11.	Adrian, s. of Noah Winship.	" 30.	Mary Ann, d. of B. C. Kimball, 4 y. 8 m. 18 d.
" 27.	Amos Holden, 31 y.	Oct. 18.	Widow of William Barrett, 91 y.
1823.		" 26.	Ebenezer Williams, 79 y.
Mar. 5.	Addison, s. of B. C. Kimball, 26 d.	Nov.	In. c. of Samuel Dakin, 4 y.
" 22.	In. c. of B. Farwell, 14 d.	"	In. c. of Martin Rand.
April 2.	Woodis Lee, 48 y.	" 28.	Rhoda, d. of Elijah Knapp.
" 20.	Joshua Loring, 30.	1825.	
	Samuel Merriam, Esq., 50 years.	Jan. 2.	In. d. of Benjamin Farwell, 5 y.
		" 13.	George Jeffs, 14 y.
		May 16.	James Weston, 34 y.
		" 27.	Huldah, wid. of Samuel Merriam, 46 y.
			Elizabeth Winship, 58 y.

1825.		1827.	
May 29.	Capt. Horace Sawtell, 26 y.	" 18.	Esther, w. of Capt. Jesso Barrett, 59 y.
July	Nichols, s. of Dea. B. Robinson, 3 y.	" 26.	Zaccheus Barrett, 79 y.
"	Jeremy, s. of Samuel Weston, 4 y.	Mar. 14.	Lucinda, d. of Thomas and Esther Hodgman, 2 y.
Aug.	In. c. of William Newell, 1 y. 6 m.	April 4.	Diantha Jeffs, 9 y.
	In. c. of Jonathan Jeffs.	Mar. 4.	Hinksman Warren, 75 y.
Aug. 17.	Ebenezer, s. of Josiah Merriam, 5 y.	June 21.	Ezra Merriam, 67 y.
" 28.	William, s. of same, 2 y. 6 months.	" 23.	Wife of Daniel Williams.
"	Widow Shepherd, 20 y.	July 4.	Daniel Williams, 73 y.
Sept. 2.	Polly, w. of Hubbert Russell, Jr., 32 y.	" 12.	Elizabeth, w. of Daniel Hill, 58 years.
"	In. c. of Sampson McIntosh.	" 13.	In. s. of Wm. Russell, 5 y.
Sept. 20.	Adam, s. of John Blodgett, Esq., 22 y.	Aug. 15.	Wid. Elizabeth Williams, 82 years.
" 20.	Amos Boynton, 23 y.	" 16.	Sally, w. of George Elliot, 30 y.
" 20.	Jason Russell, 83 y.	" 17.	In. c. of John Bachelder, 3 y.
	Mr. Priest, 62 y.	" 20.	e. of John Bachelder, 11 y.
	Mary Snow, 18 y.	"	In. c. of Benjamin Farwell.
Nov. 11.	Henry, s. of Daniel and Ruth Felch, 14 y.	" 21.	Lucy Ann, d. of Thomas Wilson, 14 y.
	In. c. of Joseph Merriam, 2d, 2 d.	Sept. 7.	Capt. Isaac Brown, 47 y.
Dec. 26.	Widow Blood, 95 y.	Oct. 2.	Oliver H. s. of Capt. John Barrett, 17 y.
1826.		" 9.	Betsey, w. of James Wood, Jr., 37 y.
Mar. 5.	Aaron Haskell 34 y.	Nov. 20.	Abigail, d. of Sam'l Smith, 44 y.
" 11.	Molly, w. of Joseph Robbins, 64 y.	Dec.	In. c. of Amos Holden, 4 y.
" 11.	In. c. of Ira Hall,	" 20.	Capt. Sam. S. Parker, 64 y.
" 13.	Lucinda, d. of Thomas Hodgman, Jr., 2 y.	"	Amaziah Blood, 41 y.
" 15.	John, s. of Maverick Wyman, 8 y. 7 m.		Thomas Robbins, 83 y.
April	In. c. of James Saunderson.	1828.	
" 25.	Abel Adams, 69 y.	Jan. 18.	Wife of Jas. Withee, 66 y.
" 26.	Diantha Russell, 16 y.	Feb. 5.	In. s. of Jona. W. Elliot, 2 y.
May 16.	Jonas Fay, 77.	" 7.	In. c. of Capt. Ira Hall.
	In. c. of Taylor Fay, 10 m.	" 10.	Samuel Leander, s. of Wid. Martha Sloan, 4 y.
Aug. 11.	Numa Sawtell, 24 y.	Mar. 12.	Sarah, w. of Amos Herrick, 82 y. 6 m.
" 13.	Lucy d. of John Warren, 10 months.	" 21.	Jason Dunster, 65 y.
" 18.	Jonathan Barrett, 40 y.	April 6.	Widow Bennett, 81 y.
" 27.	Joseph Addison, s. of Joseph B. Robbins, 4 y.	June 8.	Lucretia, d. of Joseph Jeffs, 17 y.
Sept. 20.	Caroline, d. of Dea. Joseph Saunders, 19 y.	" 12.	Mary Taft, 22 y.
"	Harriet Farley, 22 y.	" 21.	Polly, w. of Jona. Bachelder, 70 y.
Oct. 28.	In. c. of Isaac Kimball, 10 months.	July	Jotham Webber, 54 y.
" 29.	Artemas Winship, 18 y.	" 14.	Esther, w. of Thos. Hodgman, Jr., 33 y.
" 30.	d. of—Henderson, 10 y.	Aug.	John Farrington Walker, 30 y.
Nov. 6.	Joseph Merriam, 82 y.	Sept. 2.	Mr. Ditson, 87 y.
Dec. 6.	Capt. Hiram Smith, 25.	" 8.	Wid. Beatrix Parker, 67 y.
1827.		" 17.	Mary Jane, d. of Thomas Pierce, 2 y. 1 m. 3 d.
Jan. 10.	Thomas Tarbell, 73 y.	"	In. c. of Andrew Elliot, 2 y.
Feb. 1.	Abigail, w. of George Hall, 27 years.		

1828.		1830.	
Oct. 18.	Rebecca w. of Eld. William Eliot, 65 y.	Aug. 15.	Rebecca, w. of Roger Weston, Esq., 76 y.
" 24.	Jonathan Russell, 77 y. Wife of Ira Hadley, 33 y.	Sept.	Wife of ——— Loring.
Nov. 12.	In. c. of Jona. F. Russell, 3 m.	Oct.	Benjamin Farwell, 45 y.
Dec. 25.	Elijah Towne, 62 y.	Nov. 8.	Polly, w. of T. Dakin, Esq., 51 y.
1829.		1831.	
Jan. 25.	Sarah, w. of Hubbert Russell, 76 y.	Jan. 16.	Wid. Parker, 89 y.
" 27.	John Powers, 25 y.	" 20.	Anna, w. of Dea. H. Richardson, 53 y. 8. m. 18 d.
Feb. 3.	In. c. of Mr. Barnard.	" 20.	In. c. of David F. Hunt, 4 m. 10 d.
" 4.	Patty, w. of Oliver Hosmer, 60 y.	Feb.	Wid. Sarah Elliot, 94 y.
" 5.	In. c. of Benjamin Farwell, 1 y. 4 m.	March	Miss Keyes, 70 y. Elliot Russell, 22 y.
" 15.	Elizabeth, w. of Jas. Wood, Esq., 71 y. Sarah, wid. of Simon Ames, 86 y. Rhoda, d. of John Sawtell. Parker Blood, 15 y.	April	—— Farley, 70 y.
Aug.	Joshua Hobart, 26 y.	" 8.	Rebecca, wife of Thomas Wilson, 50 y.
" 12.	Sally Russell, 20 y.	May	Wid. of Benjamin Jefts, 72 years.
" 16.	In. c. of Caleb E. Bullard, 3 y. 6 m.	June	Wife of John Robbins, 52 y.
" 18.	In. c. of Amos Elliott, 3 y.	Aug.	Joseph Winship, 57 y.
Sept. 22.	Eleazer Fish, 50 y.	Sept. 6.	Thankful, widow of John Whitaker, 87 y.
" 23.	Abel Kemp, 87 y.	" 6.	Nancy Adelaide, d. of Henry Clements, 1 m. 21 days.
"	In. c. of Ebenezer Adams.	Nov. 18.	Widow Sally Allen. Josiah Elliott, 68 y.
"	In. c. of Dea. B. Robinsen, 3 y.	" 25.	In. c. of Abel Farwell, 2 y. Zaccheus Davis, 87 y. 10 m.
" 24.	Samuel Whiting Esq., 33 y.	Dec. 20.	Capt. Joseph Barrett, 86 y.
" 31.	Anna, w. of Roger Weston, Esq., 71 y.	" 28.	Sally Brown, 35 y.
Oct. 1.	John Whitaker, 85 y.	1832.	
" 26.	In. d. of ——— Henderson, 3 years. Wid. Richardson, 87 y. Wife of Joel Tarbell. Wid. White, alias Green, 85 y.	Jan. 11.	Hollis Amsden, 54 y.
Nov.	In. d. of Daniel Hill, Jr., 2 years. Beulah Austin, 58 y.	" 20.	Timothy Weatherbee, 84 y.
"	In. c. of Asher Peabody.	" 27.	John Pratt, 77 y.
Dec.	Hannah, wid. of Jonathan Scarle, Esq., 80 y.	" 30.	Nancy, w. of Jos. Woods, Jr., 45 y.
Dec. 12.	Dea. Joseph Saunders, 65 y. In. c. of Thomas Loring.	Feb. 2.	In. c. of Jona. Jefts, 2 d.
1830.		"	In. c. of John Smith, 10 m.
Jan.	Mr. ——— Lawrence, 45 y. In. c. of Joseph Merriam. John Swallow, 73 y.	Mar. 2.	Widow Hannah Holden, 37 y.
May 11.	Joseph Woods, 76 y.	" 11.	Wife of Daniel Lawrence, 72 y.
June 4.	Rev. William Eliot, 81 y.	April 8.	David Hill, 24 y.
" 12.	Simeon Heald, 56 y.	"	In. s. of George Elliott, 1 y. 6 m.
" 13.	Sarah, widow of Stephen Lawrence, 84 y.	" 25.	In. d. of same, 3 y.
		May 9.	In. c. of ——— Farnsworth, 2 y.
		"	In. c. of ——— Mellen, 2 y. In. c. of C. Granger.
		Oct.	In. c. of ——— Nutting. Leonard Read, 50 y.
		"	Widow Flagg, 90 y.
		Nov.	Rebecca Kendall, 40 y.
		Dec.	In. c. of Joel Tarbell.
		" 15.	John Russell, 86 y.

1833.		1835.	
Jan.	Anna, wid. of Jona. Williams, 83 y. In. c. of Charles Scripture, 2 m.	May 15.	Silas Bullard, 83 y.
Feb.	In. c. of Orlando Cragin.	June 20.	Widow of Thomas Robbins, 80 y.
" 24.	Joseph B., s. of Timothy Wheeler, 1 y. 6 m.	" 21.	Sarah, w. of Seth Robbins, 82 years.
Mar. 11.	Ebenezer H., s. of Oliver H. Pratt, 2 y. 3 m.	" 24.	Thomas Blood, 77 y.
June 9.	Mary C., d. of Dr. William and Mary Barber, 40 y.	Aug.	Wife of John Spaulding, 41 years.
" 14.	Sarah, wid. of Joseph Merriam, 81 y.	Sept. 10.	Maria, w. of Oliver H. Pratt, 29 y.
July 14.	James Ford, s. of David F. Hunt, 9 m. 12 d.	" 11.	Wife of Mr. Mores, 70 y.
" 16.	Abraham B. Wright, 72 y.	" 19.	In. c. of Mr. Tibbets.
Oct. 18.	Patty Flagg, 38 y.	" 19.	Anna, d. of Jer. Boynton, 23 years.
Dec.	Widow Hodgman, 86 y.	Oct. 11.	Mrs. Crossman, 91 y.
1834.		Dec. 8.	Lucy, wid. of Edw'd Wilson, 97 y.
Jan.	In. twin children of Mr. Howard, 4 d.	" 11.	Mrs. Fry, 30 y.
" 12.	Emily Stevens, (of Boston) 16 y.	1836.	
Feb.	Asher Austin, 21 y.	Jan.	Catharine Barrett, 14 y.
"	In. c. of Samuel Dakin, 5 years.	" 23.	Sibbel, w. of Josiah Winship, 67 y.
Mar. 3.	Sibbel, wid. of Capt. James Scripture, 78 y.	Feb. 8.	Simeon Kemp, 76 y.
" 9.	Mary, d. of Jas. and Lucy Scripture, 17 y.	Mar. 15.	Elizabeth, wid. of Dea. Jos. Saunders, 71 y.
April	In. c. of George Elliott, 10 months. In. c. of E. Wellington, 3 d. Sarah, wid. of John Pratt, 86 y.	" 17.	Ruth, d. of Stephen Spaulding, 16 y.
May	In. c. of James Campbell, 4 days.	" 18.	In. s. of Abijah Eaton, Jr., 5 years. Avis, wid. of Silas Bullard, 72 years.
June 7.	Matilda, w. of Ephraim Hildreth.	April	Miss Holt, 19 y. Eunice, w. of Josiah Russell, Esq.,
" 11.	Warren Tarbell, 20 y. William Newhall, 65 y. Wife of Aaron Blood.	May 1.	William Bruce Flagg, 66 y.
July	Elizabeth, wid. of Samuel Smith, 88 y.	Aug. 11.	Francis Ann, w. of Samuel E. Howard, 28 y.
Sept. 29.	In. c. of — Chandler.	" 15.	Thomas Hodgman, 82 y. 6 months.
Oct.	Mary, w. of Samuel Dakin.	Oct.	Wife of Capt. Ira Hall, 42 years.
"	In. s. of Widow Farrar, 2 y. 6 m.	Nov. 6.	Hubbard Russell, 88 y.
Dec.	In. c. of Francis Wright. Mrs. Felt, 34 y.	1837.	
1835.		Jan.	In. c. of Mary Ann Baldwin. Ruhamah, widow of John Russell, 88 y. In. c. of — Bailey.
Feb. 21.	Mr. Tarbox, 22 y.	Feb. 2.	Anna, w. of Nathl. Cummings, Esq., 51 y.
Mar. 1.	Harriet, w. of James Baldwin, 19 y.	" 22.	James Wood, Jr., 51 y.
" 30.	In. c. of Jonathan Russell.	Mar. 18.	Lydia, w. of Roger Weston, Esq., 81 y. Widow Chapman. Oliver Eliot, 102 y. 7 m.
" 31.	Mr. Gerry, (stranger,) 23 y.	July 18.	Martha, d. of Asher Peabody, 1 y. 1 m.
April 11.	Lt. Joses Bucknam, 75 y.	Aug.	Wife of Pollard Felt. In. c. of John Smith.
May	In. c. of Thaddeus Morse, 3 months.		

1837.

Seth Robbins, 92 y.  
Mrs. Withee.  
Phebe, w. of Jonas Brown,  
[60 y.]  
Mrs. Kemp, 84 y.

1837.

Miss Tarbox, [75 y.]  
Mr. Christie, [35 y.]  
Mrs. Knapp, [48 y.]  
Widow of Gershom Flagg,  
[75 y.]

## Record of deaths for the years 1838 and 1839 :

1838.

Feb. 7. Aaron Wyeth, 23 y.  
Mar. 6. Elizabeth, widow of Dea.  
Jotham Webber, 82 y.  
“ 30. Aldice, w. of Oliver Bar-  
rett, 45 y.  
Jason Russell, 23 y.  
April In. c. of Pollard Felt, 8  
months.  
“ 9. Jonathan Bachelder, 85 y.  
May In. c. of Willis Hall, 1 y.  
6 months.  
July 11. Widow Searle, 77 y.  
“ 31. Col. James Wood, 83 y.  
Sept. Leonard Ames, 19 y.  
In. c. of Mr. Mellen.

1838.

Oct. 25. Son of Capt. Flynn, 20 y.  
Dec. 8. Mary, w. of John Bachel-  
der, 45 y.

1839.

May 7. Abel Hunt, 44 y.  
June 5. Ira Hodgman, 35 y.  
“ 17. Dea. Hez. Richardson, 67  
years.  
Aug. 19. Elizabeth Davis, 63 y.  
Sept. 20. Jonathan Loring, 81 y.  
In. d. of John Flagg, 3 y.  
In. d. of Asher Elliot, 3 y.  
Oct. “ 27. Jeremiah Boynton, 74 y.  
Dec. 25. In. s. of Rev. A. G. Com-  
ins.

## Record of deaths from January 1, 1840, to December 31, 1858, kept by Dr. Willis Johnson :

1840.

Jan. 29. John Blood, 80 y.  
Feb. 5. In. c. of Pollard Felt.  
“ 14. Wilson Swallow, 38 y.  
Mar. 29. Maria, d. of S. Smith, Jr.,  
17 y.  
May 31. Wid. of Elias Elliott, 88 y.  
July 17. Charles Otis, 21 y.  
Widow Polly Davis.  
“ 27. Charlotte Beckwith, 17 y.  
“ 28. Lt. James Gilman, 88 y.  
Aug. 23. Betsey, wife of Artemas  
Rowell, 54 y.  
“ 27. Mary Sylvania, d. of Isaac  
and Mary Russell, 25 y.  
Sept. 11. Wife of Aaron Holden, 48  
years.  
“ 24. In. c. of J. B. Robbins.  
Oct. 3. J. Horace, s. of John and  
Fidelia Peabody, 9 y.  
“ 16. Joshua Davis, 96 y.  
“ 25. Ephraim Flagg, [50 y.]  
Nov. 6. Mrs. Walker, 80 y.  
Dec. 19. Amos Blood, 83.

1841.

Jan. 8. Mary, wid. of Jos. Woods,  
81 y.  
Feb. 5. Mary Ann Tarbell, 22 y.  
Mar. 26. In. c. of J. Brown, 5 y.

1841.

April 5. In. c. of Freeman Elliott, 1  
y. 9 d.  
July 24. Mrs. Putnam, 69 y.  
Aug. 3. In. c. of Sampson McIn-  
tosh, 3 d.  
Sept. 10. In. c. of Timothy Amsden,  
3 m. 14 d.  
Oct. 4. Widow of Joshua Davis,  
80 y.  
“ 13. In. c. of William Creigh-  
ton, 15 d.  
“ 20. Martha, d. of David and  
Betsey Amsden, 22 y.  
Nov. 7. Wife of Pollard Felt, 21 y.  
“ 10. Daniel Hill, 78 y.  
Dec. 16. In. c. of Elisha Withington,  
3 m. 3 d.  
“ 25. Deborah, widow of Noah  
Winship, 79 y.

1842.

Jan. 30. Ellen, d. of John Swallow,  
13 y.  
April 1. Dana Morse, 2 y.  
“ 16. Mary Sylvania, w. of Isaac  
Sylvester Russell, 21 y.  
“ 26. In. c. of Abraham Moore, 2  
days.  
“ 9. In. c. of Mr. Taft, 1 y. 4 m.



1842.		1843.	
April	Georgianna, d. of Abraham Wright, 1 y. 6 m.	Nov. 10.	In. twin children of Sampson McIntosh, 1 d.
May 2.	In. c. of Moses Taylor, 1 y. 4 m.	Dec. 21.	Esther, wid. of Hinksman Warren, 88 y.
" 2.	Samuel E. Howard, 37 y.	1844.	
" 5.	In. c. of Caleb E. Bullard, 5 y.	Jan. 2.	Hepzibath Lawrence, 56 y.
" 9.	Willis, s. of Abner Holden, 8 y.	" 8.	Oliver Nutting, 76 y.
" 9.	Amanda, d. of same, 3 y.	Mar. 40.	Ephraim Russell, Jr., 40 y.
" 15.	In. c. of Mr. Clark.	" 27.	Josiah Russell, Esq., 77 y.
" 28.	Ira, s. of William W. Whitaker, 11 m.	April 6.	In. c. of Daniel Felch, 10 months.
June 17.	John Jefts, 69 y.	Mar. 29.	Hannah Reed, 21 y.
July 2.	In. c. of James Barrett, 2 y.	July 20.	Dorothy, wife of Calvin Amsden, 29 y.
" 10.	Marshall W., s. of W. W. Whitaker, 3 y. 6 m.	Aug. 10.	William Barrett, 84 y.
" 16.	Hannah, wid. of Jonathan Russell, 92 y.	" 10.	In. c. of — Taft.
" In. c. of Chas. Prescott, 3 d.		Oct. 7.	Rev. Alfred L. Mason, 32 y.
" 8.	In. c. of George Hall.	" 8.	John Russell, 76 y.
Oct. 14.	Sarah, wid. of Thos. Tarbell, 86 y.	Nov. 1.	In. c. of — Bennett, 1 y. 3 m.
" 17.	Mary, wid. of A. B. Wright, 75 y.	" 9.	Alice Swallow, 52 y.
" 22.	Mr. Keyes, 54 y.	" 11.	Capt. Jesse Barrett, 82 y.
" 29.	Amos Dakin, 82 y.	" 23.	Rodney H. Amsden, 28 y.
Nov. 27.	In. c. of William Robbins, 2 y. 6 m.	" 19.	Susannah, w. of Jonathan Smith, 76 y.
1843.		Dec. 7.	Jane, d. of Abram and Julia M. Moore, 7 y. 8 m. 14 d.
Jan. 9.	Dorothy, w. of Dr. Willis Johnson, 58 y.	1845.	
Feb. 10.	Mr. Danielson, [50.]	Jan. 4.	Wife of Jedediah Felton, 69 y.
" 22.	Samuel D. Blood, 44 y. 8 m.	" 9.	Jedediah Felton, 76 y.
Mar. 1.	Wife of John Robbins, 61 years.	" 27.	Wealthy M., d. of Edwin and Lavinia Hodgman, 3 years.
" 9.	Dea. R. Weston, 85 y.	Feb. 15.	In. c. of — Haseltine, 6 y.
" 11.	Abigail, w. of John Boynton, 41 y.	" 16.	c. of — Walker, 9 y.
" 15.	Henry Scripture, 11 y.	" 19.	In. c. of Henry Sawin, 14 days.
April 10.	Widow of John Russell, 98 y.	" 26.	Daniel Felch, 64 y.
" 10.	Widow Shed, 90 y.		George Walker, 15 y.
" 11.	Mary Ann, wife of Asher Tarbell, 42 y.	Mar. 24.	William, s. of Dr. William and Rachel C. Barber, 42 years.
" 17.	Wife of Amos Robbins, 65 years.	" 31.	Miss Blanchard, 17 y.
" 24.	In. c. of — Keyes.	April 15.	In. c. of James Davis.
May 2.	Rachel, d. of Oliver Barrett, 17 y.	June 21.	Mary, wid. of John Adams, 87 y.
" 28.	Susan, d. of same, 19 y.	July 23.	Luther Robbins, 52 y.
June 19.	Rebecca, wid. of Thomas Hodgman, 82 y. 5m.	Aug. 14.	In. c. of Luther L. Barrett, 7 d.
July 31.	Widow of Thomas Blood, 85 y.	Sept. 5.	Thomas Hodgman, 45 y.
Sept. 13.	In. c. of Lucas Adams, 3 y.	" 5.	J. Newton Kimball, 20 y.
" 21.	James Snow, Esq., 70 y.	" 7.	Miss Marsh, 22 y.
Oct. 20.	In. c. of — Butler, 7 months.	" 9.	Phebe, w. of Capt. Samuel Smith, 78 y.
		" 9.	Nancy, w. of Capt. Samuel Weston, 58 y.
		Oct. 6.	George Robbins, 21 y.

1845.		1848.	
Oct.	Dea. Timothy Dakin, 82 y.	May 21.	Mary, d. of J.W. Eliot, 16 y.
Dec. 25.	Mrs. Farley, [78.]	June 16.	Samuel Tarbell, 63 y.
1846.		Aug. 14.	Emily, d. of William and Nancy Wright, 17 y.
Jan. 6.	Daniel Chapman.	" 14.	Emily, w. of J. Lang, 16 y.
Mar. 16.	Chloe, w. of James Brown, 83 y.	" 28.	Sally Ames, 75 y.
April 11.	Lois, wid. of Eliab Knapp, 88 y.	" 28.	Harriet M., d. of Timothy Wheeler, 1 y. 9 m. 23 d.
" 16.	John Frederick, s. of David F. Hunt, 8 m. 14 d.	Sep. 10.	In. c. of — Essex, 2 y.
" 26.	In. c. of Samuel M. Merriam.	" 18.	In. d. of Justus Peabody.
" 29.	Ruth, d. of Jona. Williams, 73 y.	" 30.	In. s. of same, 2 y.
July 25.	Sylvester Putnam, 47 y.	Oct. 7.	Mary Stevens, 18 y.
Aug. 30.	In. c. of Warren Russell, 3 y. 10 m.	" 24.	Adalucia, wife of William W. Whitaker, 37 y.
Sept. 6.	Wife of Geo. Amsden, 25 y.	Nov. 8.	Amos Herrick, 85 y.
Oct. 2.	Artemas L., s. of Leonard and Deborah Farwell, 1 m. 21 d.	" 9.	In. c. of Daniel Felch.
" 20.	Lucinda, w. of Jos. Hodgman, 55 y.	" 22.	Mrs. Otis, 58 y.
Nov. 5.	Hildreth Dutton, 25 y.	" 23.	Mr. Timothy Moore.
" 16.	Samuel H. L., s. of Sam'l B. and Mary Tebbetts, 1 y. 8 m. 12 d.	Dec. 1.	Ebenezer Flagg, 53 y.
" 18.	Samuel Hartshorn, 36 y.	" 21.	Esther, w. of Hinksman Warren, 88 y.
1847.		1849.	
Jan. 20.	Sarah Octavia, d. of David F. Hunt, 3 y. 7 m.	Jan. 11.	Mr. Ira Hadley.
Feb. 21.	Elizabeth Robbins, 17 y.	" 22.	In. c. of Timothy P. Elliott, 2 d.
Mar. 18.	Sarah M. Robbins, 23 y.	Feb. 9.	Capt. Samuel Smith, 84 y.
April 10.	Mary, wid. of Elisha Withington, 99 y. 6 m.	" 7.	— Keyes, 68 y.
" 20.	In. c. of Amos Scripture, 3 y. 7 m. 5 d.	Apr. 26.	Mrs. White, 42.
July 31.	John Cutter, 2 y. 8 m. 27 d.	" 26.	Elizabeth, w. of Jeremiah Boynton, 81 y.
Aug. 7.	Caleb Kemp, 25 y.	May 21.	Margaret Barrett, 21 y.
" 15.	In. c. of Luther A. Tarbell, 2 y. 1 m.	" 24.	In. c. of John Conway, 2 m. 7 d.
Sept. 13.	In. c. of Asa E. Woods, 1 y. 6 m. 13 d.	June 13.	In. c. of Daniel Dugald, 1 y. 5 m.
" 19.	In. c. of Elnathan E. Boynton, 6 y.	" 15.	Mr. Josiah G. Heald.
Nov. 29.	Mr. Butler, 65 y.	" 24.	John Robbins, 74 y.
Dec. 20.	Ebenezer Flagg, 85 y.	July 7.	George Morse, 26 y.
1848.		Aug. 18.	Lydia, w. of Luther Robbins, 55 y.
Jan. 22.	Sophronia, wife of Amos Scripture, 39 y.	" 21.	In. c. of George Elliott, 2 m. 14 d.
" 27.	Mary Cragin, 33 y.	" 30.	Mrs. Hodgman, 50 y.
Feb. 20.	Martha, d. of Lucius Adams, 21 y.	Sept. 2.	Edward Melvin, s. of Oliver H. and Catharine W. Pratt, 2 y.
Mar. 1.	Mary Merriam, 60 y.	" 6.	William Bailey, 43 y.
" 22.	In. c. of Henry Sawin, 2 y.	" 13.	In. c. of Cain Hungarn, 9 d.
" 26.	John Stevens, Esq., 64 y.	" 13.	Julia A. d. of William and Eliza Farley, 4 y. 9 m.
" 30.	Wife of Otis Childs, 26 y.	" 14.	Frederic T., s. of same, 1 y. 4 m.
April 13.	Ira Taylor, 19 y.	In. c. of C. Raffin.	
May 8.	Susan Merriam, 45 y.	Nov. 1.	Mary Ann Herd, 17 y.
		" 17.	David Hunt, 83 y.
		" 24.	Elias Elliott, 70 y.
		Dec. 1.	In. c. of Benjamin Livingston, 5 y.
		" 13.	William Russell, 70.

1850.		1851.	
Jan.	19. James Conner, 23 y.	Oct.	9. Henry Campbell, 58 y.
Feb.	6. In. s. of Rev. E. R. Hodgman, 7 d.	"	11. In. c. of John S. Spaulding, 5 mo. 10 d.
Mar.	14. In. c. of — Adams.	"	13. Albert Whitney, 4 m.
May	17. Sarah, wid. of William Barrett, 82 y.	"	31. Jane Heald, 26 y.
"	19. Harriet C., w. of Charles Belcher, 33 y.	Dec.	27. Wife of Luther Livingston, 52 y.
"	27. — Gassett, 68 y.	1852.	
June	1. d. of Albert Taft, 15 y.	Jan.	12. Luke Newell, Jr., 22 y.
"	7. Elizabeth, wid. of Amos Dakin, 85 y.	"	17. Ransom Fiske, 53 y.
July	5. Joseph Blood, 96 y.	Feb.	8. Edward P. Tarbell, 22 y.
"	9. Wife of Aaron Blood, 54 y.	"	20. Joseph Proctor, 88 y.
"	25. Asa E. Woods, 33 y.	April	1. In. c. of Martin L. Blood, 12 d.
Aug.	13. c. of Freeman Elliott, 8 y.	June	11. Orrin W., s. of Walter Robbins, 1 y. 8 m.
"	19. In. c. of John P. Linson, 4 days.	"	15. Esther, wid. of Jas. Snow, Esq., 82 y.
"	28. Charles Farwell, s. of Chas. Belcher, 3 m. 9 d.	July	11. Dr. William Barber, 85 y.
"	26. — O'Neil.	"	31. Noah Winship, Jr., 23 y.
Sep.	10. Mrs. Warner, 71 y.	Aug.	12. In. c. of Augustus Flagg, 2 y.
"	12. Seth Robbins, 65 y.		In. c. of — House.
"	28. In. c. of Seneca Lynch, 1 m. 21 d.		In. c. of — Moor.
Nov.	12. George Elliott, 53 y.	"	19. Levi Wyman.
"	14. Hannah M., d. of Ebenezer and Betsey Webber, 27 y. 9 m. 13 d.	"	26. Widow of William Newell, 73 y.
"	19. Mrs. Sparrow.	"	91. Hervey E., s. of Samuel Wheeler Weston, 2 y. 11 m.
1851.		Sept.	5. Joseph Hodgman, 67 y.
Jan.	2. Mrs. Sally Barrett, 57 y.	"	22. In. c. of James Hartshorn, 10 m.
"	9. Mary H., w. of Isaac Russell, 61 y.	Oct.	7. Wife of John Swallow, 64 years.
"	21. True Robbins, 63 y.	"	9. Abigail, w. of Elisha Barrett, 64 y.
"	10. Mary A. Hildreth, 27 y.	Oct.	10. William Wheeler, 25 y.
"	19. Miss Hutchinson, 9 y.	"	11. Samuel E., s. of Captain S. Smith, 19 y.
"	20. Wife of Isaac Woodbury, 33 y.	"	15. Oliver Hosmer, 88 y.
"	30. Mrs. Fisher, 47 y.	Nov.	William Putnam, 23 to 27 y.
Feb.	3. Nancy, d. of John Richards, 5 m.	Dec.	10. Lydia, wid. of Jos. Blood, 83 y.
Mar.	30. Theodora, s. of Asher Peabody, 19 y. 2 m.	"	14. Wife of Abel Adams, 60 y.
May	3. Maj. Abijah Elliott, 78 y.	1853.	
June	4. Wife of Abel Farwell, 55 y.	Feb.	6. Wife of Levi Morse, 73 y.
"	9. Mary Foster, 37 y.	"	6. Betsey, wid. of David Amsden, 65 y.
"	29. — Center, 52 y.	Mar.	6. Charlotte McIntosh, 32 y.
July	22. Lemuel Tarbell, 65 y.	"	30. In. c. of Gilman Heath, 8 m.
Aug.	4. Wife of Noah Winship, Jr., 21 y.	April	6. Charles Weston, 31 y. Joseph A. Tarbell.
"	13. Susannah, widow of Ezra Merriam, 86 y.	May	11. Ezra Walker, 31 y.
"	22. Nathan Heald, 19 y.	June	6. Nancy, w. of Wm. Wright, 61 y.
Sept.	23. Lucinda, wife of Milo Robbins, 23 y.	July	1. Widow of Wm. B. Flagg, 78 y.
"	23. Oscar, s. of same, 2 m.	"	12. Samuel Heald, 14 y.
"	24. Hannah, w. of Jos. B. Robbins, 57 y.		

1853.  
 July 20. Mary Moor, 17 y.  
 Aug. 9. William Russ, 38 y.  
 Sept. 14. Joel Ames, 82 y. 8 m. 3 d.  
 Nov. 9. Abby B., d. of Ephraim  
 and Martha Russell, 19 y.  
 " 22. Wife of Walter Weston,  
 30 y.  
 " 24. Loamm Chamberlain, 63 y.  
 Dec. 5. Jeremiah W. Marsh, 58 y.
1854.  
 Jan. 2. Azubah, wid. of Woodis  
 Lee, 84 y.  
 " 17. Rhoda, wid. of Samuel  
 Tarbell, 86 y.  
 " 21. Timothy Wheeler, 71 y.  
 Feb. 11. Abigail, wid. of Luke H.  
 Cutter, 45 y.  
 " 19. Josiah Winship, 83 y.  
 Mar. 11. James Brown, 84 y.  
 April 19. Sally Smith, 96 y.  
 " 25. Mrs. C. Amsden, 35 y.  
 " 26. Charles Robbins, 32 y.  
 May 2. Martha H. w. of Rev. E.  
 R. Hodgman. (at Lun-  
 enburg,) 37 y.  
 " 8. Stephen Withington, 82 y.  
 " 9. Edward B. Wheeler, 25 y.  
 " 12. In. c. of M. Hurlburt, 23 d.  
 " 20. Rev. Ebenezer Hill, 88 y 3  
 m. 20 d.  
 " 26. Martha, d. of Rev. E. R.  
 Hodgman, 1 m.  
 June 5. William Withington, 83 y.  
 July 25. In. c. of Leonard Jeffs, 2 y.  
 Aug. 13. In. c. of Wilder Reed, 1 y.  
 8 m.  
 In. c. of Leonard Farwell.  
 Sept. 14. John Tarbell, 80 y.  
 Oct. 21. Sarah Francis, d. of Dr. T.  
 H. Marshall, 10 y.
1855.  
 Jan. 22. Stephen Corburn, 73 y.  
 Feb. 6. Betsey Wheeler, 76 y.  
 " 17. James Withee, 93 years.  
 Mar. 3. George Newell, 21 years.  
 " 19. Mrs. Mary Hadley, 47 y.  
 April 5. Silas Shed, 80 y.  
 " 29. Mrs. George Hall, 44 y.  
 May 3. John H. Jones, 40 y.  
 " 24. David Blood, 67 y.  
 June 8. Mrs. Betsey Shed, 78.  
 July 18. Wid. of John Blood, 96 y.  
 " 18. Ezra Wood, 42 y.  
 " 20. John Austin, 89 years.  
 " 29. In. c. of Amos Russell, 4 y.  
 Aug. 6. In. c. of — Hartwell.  
 " 8. Anna, w. of Sewall Woods,  
 68 y.
1855.  
 Aug. 9. Eliza, wid. of George Elliot,  
 56 y.  
 " 17. William, s. of Wm. Clag-  
 gett, 2 y.  
 Oct. 22. Henry Campbell, 62 y.  
 Nov. 3. Mrs. Betsey Russell, 78 y.  
 " 3. d. of — McClure, 12 y.  
 " 23. Capt. John Barrett, 79 y.  
 Dec. 3. Mrs. Bailey, 75 y.  
 Dec. 24. Mr. Winn, 87 y.  
 " 27. Mr. McClure, 49 y.
1856.  
 Jan. 19. In. c. of Milton Merriam, 7  
 months.  
 Feb. 23. Wife of E. Brooks Barrett,  
 35 y.  
 " 24. In. c. of E. A. Larkin, 1 y.  
 6 months.  
 Mar. 3. James Taft, Esq., 75 y.  
 " 15. In. twin children of John  
 Allinson, 5 m.  
 " 25. Mrs. Tinkham, 48 y.  
 April 3. Louisa Russell, 19 y.  
 " 12. Polly, w. of William Whit-  
 aker, 71 y. 10 m.  
 June 1. Ammi M. Shattuck, 29 y.  
 " John Warren, 62 y.  
 " 13. Rebecca, wid. of Elias El-  
 liot, 71 y.  
 " 28. Warren Flagg, 29 y.  
 July 3. Matilda, wife of Ephraim  
 Hildreth, 69 y.  
 " 20. In. c. of Joel Sawyer, 2 y.  
 Aug. 9. In. c. of John Scripture, 2  
 months.  
 " 19. Charles Gardner, 34 y.  
 " 21. In. c. of Willard Jeffs, 1 y.  
 " 21. Joel Sawyer, 46 y.  
 " 23. George Mansfield, 19 y.  
 " 26. In. c. of Hubbard Amsden,  
 4 m.  
 Sept. 2. In. c. of Anthony Halleran,  
 4 y.  
 " 4. In. c. of Dr. Thomas H.  
 Marshall, 5 y.  
 " 7. In. c. of Willard Jeffs, 3 m.  
 " 9. Mrs. Sawyer, 70 y.  
 Oct. 1. Wife of John Campbell.  
 " 10. James Richardson, 25 y.  
 " 12. In. c. of Anthony Halleran,  
 14 m.
1757.  
 In. c. of — Wilson, 2 y.  
 Mar. 16. Jonathan Bachelder, 72 y.  
 June 15. In. c. of Benjamin Dix, 2 y.  
 " 21. John Scripture, 28 y.  
 July 19. Mrs. Woodis Lee, 51 y.  
 " 21. Elisha Barrett, 80 y.  
 " 31. Thaddeus Morse, 70 y.

1857.		1857.	
Aug. 24.	Herman Putnam, 51 y.	Sept. 27.	In. c. of Stillman Farwell, 6 y.
" 27.	In. c. of Eben'r Elliot, 3 y. 6 m.	Oct. 5.	In. c. of Walter Robbins, 4 years.
" 28.	Edward Keyes, 37 y.	" 6.	In. c. Stillman Farwell, 3 y.
" 29.	In. c. of Francis Nutting, 3 y.	" 31.	Charles Henry Elliot, 19 y.
Sept. 14.	Sybil, wid. of Joseph Proc- tor, 90 y.	Nov. 16.	Elisha Boynton, 57 y.
		" 21.	James Scripture, 80 y.

The obituary list for 1836, '37, '38 and '39, is by no means so reliable and satisfactory as that of the preceding and succeeding years. Mr. Hill, in those years, not being in the active pastoral charge of the church, and being employed much of the time in other places, did not keep, in 1836 and 1837, so perfect a record as had been his custom in former years. His record is all that can be found of those years, and it is given in form as he left it, except that some names and dates, made certain by examination, have been added. For the purposes of this work, a careful personal examination has been made of every monumental headstone in each of the two ancient graveyards, and many corrections have been made in dates and in errors, and omissions of names; and some names, not found in the original entries, have been added from memoranda thus made.

For the years 1838 and 1839, no record has been found, but the want of it has been supplied, as well as can be done, by reference to the minutes, &c., kept by the several sextons, and by personal inquiries of individuals. The list is undoubtedly deficient, and probably may be incorrect as to dates, but it is given as the best that can now be procured.

It is not improbable, that with all the care that has been bestowed upon this list, errors and omissions may be found. It should be borne in mind that, during the whole period embraced in the obituary record in this volume, there was no law requiring any returns to be made to any officer, or providing for any record to be kept, of deaths occurring. It is believed that few towns in New England can show so complete an obituary list for the period of one hundred years as that presented in this volume. In this list, will be found the

names of some persons not inhabitants of the town, but temporarily residing therein, at the time of their decease. Also, of some, inhabitants of the town who died in other places, but were buried in Mason; and of some, who died in Mason, but were buried in other places. In Mr. Hill's record, the death of Mr. Eliab Knapp is entered under date of October 26, 1816. The date on his monument is October 23, 1815. The date on the monument, although probably erroneous, is adopted in the list. To this list should also be added the following: Taylor Fay, died at New Ipswich, in March, 1840, aged 48 years; Mrs. Larkin, died at Manchester, in January, 1841; and John Sawtell, Jr., aged 32 years, killed by the bursting of a grindstone at Millbury, Mass., February 14, 1841; all natives of Mason and buried there. It is not improbable that, with all the care that has been bestowed in preparing this obituary list, there will be found in it errors in names, dates, and ages. Any such, if discovered, should be excused, in consideration of the great number of the names, dates, &c., and the fact that the work was prepared and printed at the distance of two hundred and fifty miles from the locality to which it refers.

In the record kept by Mr. Hill, the disease or cause of death is, in most instances, stated; but as the principal use that could be made of such entries is secured in the table of ages, diseases, &c., to be found in this book, it was thought that the space required would not be compensated for by the insertion of these items. In the record of deaths, a few abbreviations are used, to be explained as follows: In. infant, c. child, s. son, d. daughter, w. wife, y. m. d., years, months, days.

## FAMILY REGISTERS.

Many of the first settlers in Mason were descendants of John Lawrence of Watertown, and, therefore, it is thought expedient to insert so much of the family register of his family as will show the pedigree of the Mason families, which compose a portion of his very numerous descendants. The earliest ancestor of this name, of whom any record has been preserved, is Sir Robert Lawrence, of Ashton Hall, Lancashire, England. He was a companion in arms of Richard I., the Lion-hearted King of England; and accompanied him in his expedition to Palestine, at the time of the crusades. In 1191, Richard conferred upon him the honor of knighthood, for his bravery in scaling the walls of Acre. Sir Robert's son James married Matilda, daughter and heir of John de Washington, and thus the family of Lawrence became connected with that of Washington, and from that family connection Lawrence Washington, the grandfather of General Washington, derives his name. Their son John married Margaret Chesford; their son John married Elizabeth Holt; their son Sir Robert married Margaret Holden; their son Sir Robert married Amphibus Longford. From their son Nicholas Lawrence of Agercroft, descended John Lawrence of Suffolk, who died in 1461. His son Thomas Lawrence of Rumburgh, in Suffolk, made his will July 17, 1471. His son John died in 1504, leaving a son Robert. His son John's will is dated June 27, 1556. His son John was buried at Rumburgh, May 21, 1590. From him descended John Lawrence of Wisset, who was buried January 16, 1607. His son Henry Lawrence probably came to New England, in 1630, and settled at Charlestown. His son John, baptized at Wisset, October 8, 1609, came to New England about 1630, probably with his father, and settled at Watertown, whence he removed to Groton, 1662, where he died, July 11, 1667, aged 58 years. His first wife Elizabeth died at Groton, Aug. 29, 1663. His second wife Susan Bachelder died July 8, 1668. His second son Nathaniel, born at Watertown, in 1639, was the ancestor of Hon. Abbott

Lawrence, and of Amos Lawrence, the eminent Boston merchants. His seventh child, Enosh or Enoch, was born at Watertown, January 1, 1649. His wife was Ruth Shattuck. Their son Nathaniel was born February 21, 1678. His son Enosh, born November 15, 1710, removed to Mason about the year 1749 or 1750, and died there September 28, 1778, aged 68 years. Zachariah, the third son of Enosh Lawrence and Ruth Shattuck, was born 16th day of the 5th month, 1683. His wife's name was Abigail. Ruth, their second child, was born September 3, 1710. She was the wife of Elias Eliot, married December 18, 1729. They removed to Mason, where she died, December 3, 1794, aged 84 years. Three of their sons, William and Oliver, born in Groton, and Elias, born in Pepperell, settled in Mason, and died there, leaving numerous descendants.

So much of the family register of John Lawrence's family, as connects the Mason families with him, taken from Butler's History of Groton, is here inserted; and taken from the same work are inserted the family registers of the families of Obadiah Parker, of Samuel Scripture, of John Swallow, and of Thomas Tarbell, all of whom were among the early settlers in Mason, and left numerous descendants in that town.

JOHN LAWRENCE, SEN.* and ELIZABETH,† SUSANNA BACHELDER ‡	ENOSH LAWRENCE* and RUTH SHATTUCK.
(Married Susanna, Nov. 2, 1664, at Charlestown.)	(Married, March 6, 1676-7.)
John, born 14d. 1m. 1635, at Watertown.	Nathaniel, born Feb. 21, 1678.
Nathaniel, " 15d. 8m. 1639, do.	Daniel, " March 7, 1681.
Joseph, " 30d. 3m. 1643, do.	Zachariah, " 16d. 5m. 1683.
Jonathan, " [died young, do.	Jeremiah, " May 1, 1686.
Mary, " 16d. 5m. 1645, do.	*Died, Sept. 28, 1744.
Peleg, " 10d. 11m. 1647, do.	NATHANIEL LAWRENCE and ANNA or HANNAH.
Enosh, or } " 5d. 1m. 1648-9, do	Nathaniel, born May 13, 1702.
Enoch, } " do.	James, " Aug. 26, 1705.
Samuel, " do.	Anna, " July 8, 1708.
Isaac, " do.	Enosh, " Nov. 15, 1710.
Elizabeth, " May 9, 1655, at Boston.	Sarah, " Mar. 15, 1713.
Jonathan, " at Watertown.	Martha, " Dec. 7, 1715.
Zachariah, " 9d. 1m. 1658, do.	Joseph, " April 10, 1717-18.
Abigail, " Jan. 11, 1666, of Susanna, at Groton.	Benjamin, " Nov. 6, 1720.
Susanna, " July 3, 1667, do.	Rebecca, " April 17, 1724.
	Lois, " Sept. 6, 1726.
	Eunice, " July 25, 1728.
	[died Nov. 15, 1747.

\*Died at Groton, July 11, 1667.

†Died at Groton, Aug. 29, 1663.

‡Died at Charlestown, July 8, 1663.



## ZACHARIAH LAWRENCE and ABIGAIL.

Zachariah, born May 8, 1708.  
 Ruth, " Sept. 3, 1710.  
 Jeremiah, " Dec. 7, 1713.  
 Josiah, " July 4, 1715.  
 [died Nov. 13, 1717.]  
 Abigail, " May 16, 1718.  
 Elizabeth, " July 31, 1720.  
 Josiah, " Oct. 11, 1723.  
 Rachael, (no date.)

## ENOSH LAWRENCE and SARAH STEVENS.

(Married January 29, 1733-4.)

Samuel, born Sept. 12, 1734.  
 Richard, " July 15, 1736.  
 Enosh, " July 24, 1738.  
 Sarah, " Aug. 6, 1740.  
 Lydia, " July 16, 1742.  
 Stephen, " Mar. 23, 1744.  
 Daniel, }  
 Lois, } " Mar. 28, 1746.

[Daniel died Oct. 30, 1747.]

Hannah, born April 12, 1748.

## ELIAS ELLIOT and RUTH LAWRENCE.

(Married, Dec. 13, 1729.)

[Children born in Groton.]

William, born July 22, 1730.  
 Rachel, " Aug. 10, 1732.  
 Oliver, " Aug. 24, 1734.  
 Jeremiah, " May 22, 1737.  
 Abigail, " March 16, 1740.  
 Elizabeth, " July 4, 1743.

[Born in Pepperell.]

Ruth, " June 18, 1745.  
 Mary, " July 13, 1747.  
 Elias, " June 25, 1750.

## OBADIAH PARKER and HANNAH.

Abijah, born March 11, 1727.  
 Hannah, " Oct. 31, 1729.  
 Obadiah, " April 19, 1730.  
 Abigail, " Jan. 19, 1731-2.  
 Oliver, " Oct. 15, 1733.  
 Jacob, " Oct. 10, 1735.  
 [died Sept. 18, 1736.]  
 Rebekah, " April 4, 1741.  
 Simeon, " Feb. 19, 1742-3.  
 [died Sept. 1, 1758.]  
 Elizabeth, " Jan. 9, 1745.

## SAMUEL SCRIPTURE and ELIZABETH.

Samuel, born 4d. 8m. 1675.  
 Mary, " Feb. 7, 1680.  
 Abigail, " Jan. 28, 1686-7.  
 Ruth, " Feb. 2, 1696.  
 Lydia, " June 28, 1700.

SAMUEL SCRIPTURE, JR., and MARY,\*  
ELIZABETH.

Sarah, born Dec. 16, 1700.  
 Jemima, " April 19, 1702.  
 [died Sept. 30, 1723.]  
 Samuel, " April 25, 1705.  
 [died Sept. 28, 1723.]  
 James, —; died Sept. 28, 1723.  
 Samuel, " April 27, 1727, of  
 Elizabeth.

\*(Died Sept. 25, 1723.)

SAMUEL SCRIPTURE, JR., and MARY  
GREEN.

Mary, born May 5, 1747.  
 James, " Jan. 11, 1749.  
 Oliver, " Dec. 19, 1750.

## JOHN SWALLOW and DEBORAH, SARAH.

John, born Feb. 22, 1729-30.  
 Amaziah, " Nov. 22, 1731-2.  
 Benjamin, " Oct. 21, 1736, of  
 Sarah.

Sarah, " Nov. 25, 1741.  
 Peter, " Oct. 9, 1743.  
 Mary, " Feb. 28, 1746.  
 Deborah, " Feb. 9, 1748.  
 Elizabeth, " Dec. 17, 1750.  
 Hannah, " Jan. 17, 1754, at  
 Dunstable.  
 Jonathan, " June 22, 1757, at do.

THOMAS TARBELL and HANNAH\* or  
ANNA.

(Married June 30, 1666.)

Thomas, born July 6, 1667.  
 Anna, " June 10, 1670.  
 William, " Oct. 1, 1672.  
 Mary, " 2d. 2m. 1675.

\*(Died Dec. 29, 1680.)

THOMAS TARBELL\* and ELIZABETH  
BLOOD.

(Married Dec. 1, 1686.)

Thomas, born Sept. 15, 1687.  
 William, " June 10, 1689.  
 Elizabeth, " Aug. 19, 1691.  
 Sarah, " Sept. 29, 1693.  
 John, " July 6, 1695.  
 Samuel, " Oct. 14, 1697.  
 Zachariah, " Jan. 25, 1699-1700.  
 Anna, " May 28, 1702.  
 James, " Feb. 13, 1704-5.  
 Eleazer, " April 28, 1707.

\*(Died Jan. 24, 1717.)

THOMAS TARBELL and HANNAH, ABIGAIL PARKER. (Married Abigail, Jan. 1, 1716-17.)	David, born Aug. 21, 1732.
Hannah, born July 1, 1702.	Emma, " June 16, 1734, [died Nov. 3, 1651.]
Rachael, " Dec. 8, 1701.	Solomon, " Mar. 11, 1736-7.
Sara, " Nov. 20, 1707.	Esther, " May 4, 1739.
Thomas, " Feb. 2, 1719, of Abigail.	THOMAS TARBELL, JR., and ESTHER.
Abigail, " June 6, 1722.	Sarah, born Jan. 19, 1742.
Sarah, " Apr. 14, 1726.	Nathaniel, " Dec. 4, 1744.
Jonathan, " Feb. 27, 1727.	Edmund, " April 4, 1747.
Eunice, " Mar. 7, 1730-1. [died Nov. 10, 1751.]	John, " June 4, 1749.
	Thomas, " Oct. 8, 1751.
	Jerusha, " Sept. 25, 1753.

From the records of the towns of Groton, Pepperell and Shirley, the following items, relating, as is supposed, to early settlers in Mason, are taken:

## GROTON.

Joseph Blood, Jr., and Hannah Blood, married September 9, 1743. Joseph, their first child, born July 29, 1743; killed at Bunker Hill. See page 177.

Ebenezer Blood and Abigail. Ebenezer, their fifth child, born June 30, 1727, was probably Ebenezer Blood, who died at Mason, November 29, 1800.

James Blood and Elizabeth Longley, married September 7, 1669. His second wife Abigail. John, their second child, born March 16, 1689.

John Blood and Joanna Nutting, married July 13, 1712. John, their first child, born February 18, 1713-14.

John Blood, Jr., and Abigail Parker, married December 8, 1741. John, their seventh child, born April 15, 1761, is supposed to be John Blood who died at Mason, January 29, 1840.

John Holden and Sarah Davis, married November 22, 1715. Amos, their fifth child, born June 16, 1726.

Amos Holden and Prudence Holden, married February 6, 1750-1. Amos, their first child, born at Groton, September 21, 1752, is supposed to be Amos Holden who died at Mason, April 16, 1806, aged 54 years. Four other children of this

wife were born at Shirley, and eleven children of Sarah, his second wife, at the latter place.

Samuel Kemp and Sarah. Ebenezer, their seventh child, born in April, 1729.

Ebenezer Kemp and Mary. Simeon, their sixth child, born September 28, 1758, is supposed to be Simeon Kemp who died at Mason, February 8, 1836, aged 76 years, (originally entered 77 years.)

PEPPERELL.

In the records of Pepperell, is the family register, as follows, of

WILLIAM BLOOD and LUCY.

William,	born	September 14, 1748.	Amos,	born	October 16, 1757.
Lucy,		July 13, 1750.	Hannah,		March 31, 1762.
Jonas,		September 26, 1754.	Lydia,		April 8, 1768.

There is no doubt that the name Jonas is an error in the record or copy. It should be Joseph. He died in Mason, July 5, 1850, aged 96 years; Amos died December 19, 1840, aged 83 years; Lydia, wife of John Russell, Jr., died July 5, 1819, aged 51 years; Lucy was the wife of Ebenezer Shattuck, all of Mason.

Family Registers of the Families of some of the early Settlers in Mason, copied from the town records:

SAMUEL ABBOTT and BATHSHEBA.

Samuel, born June 20, 1774.

Joseph, March 22, 1777.  
Lucy, February 27, 1779.

\* Died October 10, 1778.

JOHN ADAMS and MARY.

John, born August 24, 1778.  
Polly, August 11, 1780.  
Sally, June 11, 1782.  
Jonas, August 31, 1784.  
Ebenezer, November 15, 1786.  
Nathan, February 15, 1789.  
Seth, January 21, 1791.  
Lucy, July 9, 1793.  
Hannah, May 8, 1795.  
Ruth, July 14, 1797.

SIMON AMES and SARAH (MANN).

[Children born at Waltham.]

Simon,\* born September 3, 1763.  
Joseph,† July 8, 1766.  
Thaddeus, May 18, 1768.  
Joel, January 11, 1771.

[Children born at Mason.]

Sally, born May 9, 1773.  
Daniel, April 12, 1777.  
Abijah,‡ June 19, 1779.  
Hannah, September 19, 1782.  
Elijah, February 14, 1785.  
Simon, July 21, 1788.

\*Died July 8, 1765. † Died January 13, 1767.

‡ Died January 7, 1797.

ABEIJAH ALLEN and MARY.

Amos,\* born February 8, 1770.  
Isaac, September 6, 1771.  
Abijah, July 16, 1773.  
Polly, }  
Sally, } June 19, 1775.

## JOHN ASTEN and SARAH.

Sarah,	born	April	3, 1767.
John,		July	29, 1760.
Mary,		June	12, 1761.
Martha,		March	1, 1763.
Benjamin,		January	19, 1765.
Aaron,		July	29, 1766.
Eldad,		April	29, 1768.

JOSEPH BALL, born at Waltham, Jan. 5, 1747;  
LYDIA, his wife, at Weston, Nov. 14, 1750.

Peter,	born	September	22, 1771.
Polly,		January	10, 1774.
Lydia,		August	1, 1776.
Samuel,		October	17, 1778.
Nabby,		November	19, 1780.
Rebecca,		December	14, 1782.

## JOSEPH BARRETT and SARAH, LEAH.

Joseph,	born	January	25, 1774.
John,		August	21, 1775.
Elisha,		December	7, 1776.
Sarah,		October	12, 1778.
Mercy,		August	5, 1780.
Abel,*		June	3, 1782.
Hannah,		September	13, 1783.
Jonas,†		December	31, 1784.
Polly,		January	8, 1787.
Rebecca,		May	26, 1789.

Sarah, wife of Joseph Barrett, died March 25,  
1794. Of Leah,

Asa,	born	April	5, 1800.
Loisa, "		September	26, 1803.

\* Died October 5, 1782. † Died January 22,  
1787.

## REUBEN BARRETT, 3d, and MARY.

Polly,	born	May	25, 1775.
Samuel,		May	21, 1778.
Sarah,		April	6, 1780.
Reuben,		June	6, 1782.

## BENJAMIN BARRETT and HANNAH.

Hannah,*	born	June	13, 1783.
Hannah,		May	21, 1784.
Polly,		April	18, 1786.
Sally,		February	19, 1788.
Lydia,		March	7, 1790.
Benjamin,		September	7, 1792.

\* Died July 24, 1783.

## JOHN BARRETT and SUSANNAH.

Harathusa,	born	February	3, 1783.
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## JONATHAN BACHELDER and POLLY.

Jonathan,	born	December	13, 1784.
Polly,		October	22, 1786.
John,		December	4, 1789.
Phebe,		August	2, 1795.

## DAVID BLODGETT and ANNA, LUCY.

Anna,	born	February	8, 1772.
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Anna, his wife, died Nov. 7, 1772. Of Lucy,  
Luther, born August 7, 1776.

## EBENEZER BLOOD and SARAH.

Ebenezer,	born	May	14, 1757.
Thomas,		March	6, 1759.
Asa,		September	28, 1763.
Sarah,		December	1, 1766.
Naomi,		May	13, 1773.

## JOSEPH BLOOD and RUTH [DUNSTER].

Joseph,	born	June	17, 1769.
Silvanus,		May	8, 1771.
William Cutter,		March	22, 1773.
Ruth,		January	8, 1775.

Mr. Joseph Blood died June 17, 1775.

## THOMAS BLOOD and MOLLY.

Polly,	born	September	14, 1784.
Ebenezer,		June	18, 1786.
Thomas,		June	9, 1788.
Josiah,		August	17, 1790.
Phebe,		August	20, 1797.

## ASA BLOOD and PATTY.

Patty,		September	24, 1781.
Lucy,		April	8, 1793.

## AMOS BLOOD and SARAH [BLOOD.]

Married by Rev. S. Dix, May 12, 1785.

David,	born,	December	19, 1787.
Abigail,		April	4, 1789.
Sarah,		February	6, 1791.
Hannah,		December	31, 1793.
Amos,		May	6, 1796.
Samuel Dix,		June	22, 1798.
Inde,		December	12, 1801.

## SAMUEL BROWN and MARY.

Josiah,	born	April	15, 1775.
Daniel Emerson,		July	4, 1777.

SILAS BULLARD and AVIS [KEYES]. Mar-  
ried by Rev. Mr. Judson, July 1, 1782.

Joseph,	born	April	2, 1783.
Sampson,		October	24, 1784.
Silas,		September	5, 1786.
Amasa,		July	22, 1788.
Isaac,		November	1, 1790.
Sally,		February	21, 1793.
Elcazer,		November	9, 1794.
Jesse,*		November	3, 1796.
Caleb Emerson,		August	29, 1799.
Clarissa Page,		May	26, 1802.
Abigail Brooks,		December	20, 1804.
George,		October	26, 1806.
Charles Keyes,		February	22, 1807.
Hannah Keyes,		December	22, 1808.

\* Died July 14, 1793.

## ELISHA BUSS and POLLY [MANN].

Polly, born July 30, 1791.  
Lucy, March 21, 1794.  
John, November 14, 1796.

WILLIAM CHAMBERS and LYDIA [LOR-  
ING].

Mary, born March 3, 1782.

JONATHAN CHANDLER and HANNAH,  
RACHEL.

[Children born at Grafton.]

Hannah, born August 6, 1776.  
John, January 12, 1778.

[Children born at Mason.]

Jonathan, born July 21, 1780.  
Daniel, November 13, 1782.  
Betsey Whitmore, January 26, 1785.  
Mary, May 26, 1787.

Hannah, wife of Jonathan Chandler, died June 3, 1787. Jonathan Chandler and Rachel Wil-  
son, married by Rev. S. Farrar, December 6,  
1787. Of Rachel,

Joseph, born October 14, 1788.

## AMOS DAKIN\* and SARAH [MINOT].

Sarah, born June 9, 1756.  
Molly, April 27, 1758.  
Amos, May 13, 1760.  
Hannah, January 20, 1762.  
Timothy, March 27, 1764.  
Lydia, April 11, 1766.  
Dorcas, † June 6, 1768.  
Samuel, November 17, 1770.  
Jonas, March 17, 1773.  
Eunice, March 26, 1775.  
Rebecca, April 15, 1777.  
Lucy, May 20, 1779.

\*Dea. Amos Dakin died April 23, 1789. †Died  
December 23, 1769.

## AMOS DAKIN and MARY [KINGSLEY].

Married by Rev. S. Farrar, December 11, 1783.

Amos, born September 18, 1784.  
Dorcas, January 31, 1786.  
Polly, September 4, 1787.  
Sally, September 4, 1789.  
Samuel, May 27, 1791.  
Jonas, November 10, 1792.  
Moses, May 20, 1794.  
Leonard, May 8, 1796.  
Lydia, March 20, 1798.  
Hannah, May 18, 1800.  
Sophronia, February 7, 1803.  
Cynthia, January 19, 1805.

## JOSHUA DAVIS and DOROTHY.

Reuben, born June 26, 1768.  
Joshua, January 12, 1771.

Dorothy,\* September 12, 1773.  
Timothy, November 18, 1775.  
Dorothy, April 2, 1778.  
James, March 26, 1780.  
Paul, February 23, 1782.

\*Died April 7, 1776.

ZACHARIAH DAVIS and SUSANNA  
[BROWN].

Susanna, born April 10, 1774.  
Elizabeth, May 24, 1776.  
Cyrus,\* February 25, 1778.  
Anna, February 9, 1785.  
Cyrus, March 13, 1789.

\*Died March 24, 1788.

## JOHN DUTTON and SUSANNA.

Susanna, born January 5, 1761.  
Mary, January 14, 1762.  
Rebecca,\* November 4, 1763.  
John, † January 27, 1765.  
Elijah, June 22, 1766.  
Rebecca, January 8, 1768.  
Royal, January 30, 1769.  
Josiah, November 11, 1770.  
Mason, September 9, 1772.  
Joanna, August 1, 1774.  
John Mason, August 27, 1777.  
Benjamin, June 4, 1780.

\*Died October 2, 1764. †Died Sept. 10, 1777.

## OLIVER ELIOT and MARY.

Samuel, born July 30, 1758.  
Mary, August 15, 1760.  
Elizabeth, January 2, 1762.  
Susanna, February 20, 1765.  
Esther, April 2, 1767.  
Oliver, July 7, 1769.  
Abijah, October 21, 1771.  
Sarah, August 23, 1774.

## WILLIAM ELIOT and DOROTHY.

Molly, born August 2, 1773.  
Betty, March 3, 1775.  
William, February 3, 1777.  
Dolly, March 3, 1779.  
Israel,\* April 10, 1781.  
Sarah, May 29, 1783.

Dorothy, wife of William Eliot, died June 14  
1786. William Eliot and Rebecca Hildreth,  
married by Rev. S. Dix, March 20, 1787. Of  
Rebecca,

Israel, born January 1, 1788.  
Joseph, April 12, 1789.  
David, † September 24, 1790.  
Seth, May 8, 1792.  
Rebecca, July 9, 1794.  
Samuel, March 22, 1796.  
Susan, March 4, 1798.  
Jesse, December 24, 1799.

Elsey, born October 20, 1803.  
 Abel, May 5, 1805.  
 Addison David, May 18, 1809.  
 Juliann, January 12, 1811.

Mr. John Eliot died June 24, 1781, aged 65 years.

\* Died August 7, 1782. † Died Aug. 1, 1805.

ELIAS ELIOT and SALLY.

Sally, born December 7, 1777.  
 Elias, February 2, 1779.  
 Lucy, April 15, 1781.  
 Joel, July 18, 1783.  
 Nabby, April 15, 1786.  
 Pamela, July 24, 1788.  
 Polly, July 25, 1791.  
 Patty, April 11, 1793.  
 Dorcas, January 23, 1797.

ANDREW ELIOT and HANNAH.

Andrew,\* born January 25, 1783.  
 John, June 18, 1784.  
 Hannah, March 3, 1786.  
 Polly, † May 24, 1788.  
 Andrew, February 10, 1790.  
 Polly, June 27, 1792.  
 Sally, December 17, 1794.  
 George, April 24, 1797.  
 Amos, March 8, 1799.  
 William, February 1, 1804.  
 Betsey, May 18, 1805.

\* Died July 1, 1783. † Died April 7, 1789.

ABIJAH EATON and ELIZABETH [ELLIOT].

Abigail, born June 4, 1785.  
 Hallet, June 18, 1789.  
 Abel, December 24, 1791.  
 Esther, January 11, 1794.  
 Betsey, October 30, 1796.  
 Vearou, December 17, 1798.  
 Isaac Green, May 14, 1801.  
 William, July 15, 1803.

SAMUEL ELIOTT and SARAH.

Sally, born February 2, 1787.  
 Nabby, June 23, 1789.  
 Merriam, April 30, 1791.  
 Polly, November 11, 1793.

JONAS FAY and MOLLY.

Jonas, born July 6, 1775.  
 John, February 26, 1777.  
 Polly, October 7, 1779.  
 William, May 19, 1781.  
 Anna, March 29, 1783.  
 Betsey, March 19, 1785.  
 Artemas, March 11, 1787.  
 Sally,\* August 17, 1789.  
 Sally, May 23, 1791.

\* Died September 25, 1789.

Taylor, born October 25, 1792.  
 Nancy, May 26, 1795.

DANIEL FAY and JEMIMA SCRIPTURE.

Deborah,\* born November 21, 1776.  
 Deborah, February 2, 1778.  
 Jemima, January 9, 1780.  
 Lydia, May 29, 1782.

Mr. Daniel Fay died June 2, 1783.

\* Died October 8, 1777.

JONATHAN FISH and DOROTHY.

Jonathan, born September 8, 1762.  
 Ebenezer, March 11, 1765.  
 Hannah, April 11, 1767.  
 Levi, March 4, 1769.  
 Asa, September 14, 1772.

JONATHAN FOSTER and THANKFUL [HARRINGTON.]

Jonathan, born November 15, 1759.  
 Nathan, July 15, 1762.  
 Richard, November 28, 1764.  
 Andrew, July 5, 1768.  
 Betty, March 12, 1771.  
 Daniel, December 4, 1773.  
 Samuel, March 18, 1776.

Thankful, wife of Jonathan Foster, died about January, 1779. Jonathan Foster and Mercy Towns, married by Rev. Jonathan Searle, November 30, 1779. Of Mercy,

Joseph, May 28, 1780.  
 Stephen, April 27, 1782.

SAMUEL GREEN and MOLLY [SWALLOW.]

Samuel, born August 14, 1788.  
 Abiel, April 6, 1791.  
 Polly, July 26, 1793.  
 Russell, January 14, 1796.  
 George, June 30, 1798.

NATHAN HALL, born at Bradford, December 25, 1715; Mary, his wife, born at Boxford, March 29, 1723.

James, born July 25, 1743.  
 Mary, March 9, 1746.  
 Nathan, August 23, 1748.  
 Melitabel, December 24, 1750.  
 David, January 24, 1754.  
 Daniel, May 5, 1756.  
 Henry, October 26, 1758.  
 Elizabeth, March 5, 1765.  
 Richard, September 12, 1768.

JAMES HALL and SARAH.

James, born January 28, 1768.  
 Asa, March 10, 1770.  
 Sarah, March 29, 1772.  
 John, April 30, 1774.  
 Melitabel, May 28, 1776.

## NATHAN HALL, Jr., and ELEANOR.

Mary, born March 31, 1771.  
 Nathan, }  
 Eleanor, } March 28, 1773.  
 Jonathan, May 2, 1775.  
 Betty, September 12, 1777.

## JOSEPH HERRICK and LOIS.

Joseph, born September 3, 1751.  
 Lois, December 12, 1753.  
 Shadrach, January 26, 1756.  
 Amos, February 21, 1763.

## HEZEKIAH HODGKINS and LYDIA.

Pelatiah, born October 12, 1784.

## THOMAS HODGMAN and REBECCA.

Hannah, April 7, 1784.  
 Rebecca,\* February 26, 1786.  
 Milley, March 16, 1788.  
 Polly, February 16, 1790.  
 Rebecca, March 6, 1792.

\* Died July 11, 1789.

## DAVID HODGMAN and HANNAH.

David, born January 26, 1774.

## AMOS HODGMAN and LOIS.

Amos, born November 15, 1775.

## AMOS HOLDEN and LYDIA [SLOAN].

Patty, born June 8, 1779.  
 David Sloan,\* August 19, 1780.  
 Lydia, July 9, 1782.  
 Prudence, November 12, 1784.  
 Esther, October 1, 1787.  
 Molly, September 7, 1789.  
 Amos, August 12, 1791.  
 Aaron, June 28, 1793.  
 Abner, April 19, 1795.

\* Died May 4, 1784.

## ELIJAH HORTON and HANNAH.

Betsey, born December 16, 1779.  
 Samuel, May 15, 1782.

## NATHANIEL HOSMER and ELIZABETH.

Tabitha, born May 24, 1757.  
 Anna, November 13, 1759.  
 Eunice, August 22, 1762.  
 Nathaniel, August 9, 1765.  
 Asa, August 10, 1769.

## JOHN HULL and MARTHA.

Lucy, born January 6, 1774.  
 Sophia, August 19, 1779.  
 Joseph, July 31, 1781.  
 John, September 11, 1783.  
 James, October 6, 1785.  
 Asa, September 21, 1787.

Patty, born September 17, 1789.  
 Frank, October 16, 1791.  
 William, March 16, 1793.

## JONATHAN JEFTS and LYDIA.

Jonathan,\* born January 16, 1766.  
 Henry, April 29, 1768.

\* Died February 13, 1766.

## JOHN JEFTS and LOIS.

Jonathan, born June 1, 1767.  
 Hannah, September 15, 1769.  
 Lawrence, September 13, 1771.  
 John, April 27, 1773.  
 David, June 4, 1776.  
 Daniel, December 17, 1778.  
 Louis, September 27, 1780.  
 Lydia, November 2, 1782.  
 Joseph, July 2, 1785.  
 Willard, May 8, 1787.  
 Francis, July 3, 1789.

## THOMAS JEFTS and ABIGAIL [BARRETT].

Benjamin, born April 10, 1777.  
 Polly, June 19, 1782.  
 Thomas, June 13, 1784.  
 Sibbel, June 13, 1787.  
 Lucy, April 1, 1789.  
 Lydia, April 1, 1792.  
 Zebulon, May 22, 1796.  
 David, August 13, 1799.  
 Abigail, July 26, 1801.

BENJAMIN JEFTS and JUDITH [DE-  
GRETTE].

David, born August 7, 1780.  
 Judith, August 5, 1783.  
 Henry, August 29, 1788.  
 William, July 6, 1790.

## MOLLY JEFTS.

Henry Sloan, ill., born May 20, 1768.  
 Nathan Fish, ill., Nov. 9, 1770.

BENJAMIN KENDALL and ELIZABETH  
[DEANE].

[Children born at Woburn.]

Betsey, born February 8, 1781.  
 Benjamin, May 16, 1783.

[Children born at Mason.]

Joshua, December 9, 1785.  
 Susannah, March 26, 1788.  
 Rebecca, October 11, 1790.  
 Jonas, }  
 Daniel, } July 8, 1793.  
 Samuel, }  
 George, } July 31, 1795.  
 Polly, } April 9, 1798.  
 John Butterfield, } May 13, 1800.  
 } May 30, 1803.

## ELIJAH KEYES and GRACE.

Lydia, born November 6, 1779.  
Elisha, April 19, 1781.  
Bathsheba, July 2, 1783.

## BENJAMIN KING and SARAH.

Ebenezer, born February 22, 1768.

## CHARLES KIRK and ———.

John, born October 19, 1789.  
Thomas, July 28, 1792.  
Daniel, May 5, 1795.

## BENJAMIN KNOWLTON and ABIGAIL.

Abigail, born June 22, 1777.  
Charlotte, October 13, 1778.  
Benjamin, August 10, 1780.  
Amos Prichard, January 16, 1783.  
Lucy, January 13, 1786.

## HENRY KNOWLTON and SIBBEL.

Henry, born September 20, 1779.  
Sibbel, April 18, 1781.  
Ruth, January 25, 1783.  
Charles, November 13, 1784.  
Timothy, July 2, 1788.  
John, May 10, 1790.

## RICHARD LAWRENCE and ANNA.

Anna,\* born September 19, 1762.  
Silas,\* November 30, 1763.  
Willard, May 24, 1766.  
Sampson, June 3, 1768.  
Anna, June 8, 1770.  
Richard, September 11, 1772.  
Hannah, October 19, 1775.  
Zachariah, August 31, 1777.  
Mary, March 25, 1779.  
Ruth, February 18, 1781.  
Silas, October 14, 1783.

\* Died February 7, 1763. † Died November 18, 1776.

ENOSH LAWRENCE and ESTHER  
[WOODS].

Deborah, born November 18, 1763.  
Susannah, December 3, 1765.  
Esther, October 28, 1767.  
Martha, August 25, 1769.  
Enosh, November 16, 1772.  
Lucy, March 1, 1775.

## STEVENS LAWRENCE and SARAH.

Sarah, born March 18, 1769.  
Polly, April 7, 1771.  
Stevens, March 20, 1773.  
Betsey, January 16, 1775.  
Rebecca, February 8, 1777.  
Hannah, December 28, 1778.  
Persis, October 20, 1780.

Deidama, born December 22, 1782.  
Luther, May 31, 1785.

JOHN LAWRENCE and LEEFE, [RE-  
LIEF?]

Leefe, born December 21, 1772.  
John, August 21, 1775.  
Ephraim,\* March 10, 1777.  
Lucy, March 29, 1778.

Enosh Lawrence, son of Nathaniel Lawrence and Anna, his wife, was born at Groton, November 15, 1710. Died September 28, 1778.

\* Died June 30, 1777.

## JOHN LEARNED and MARY.

Daniel, born March 14, 1767.  
Abigail, November 13, 1768.  
Mary, February 23, 1772.  
Sarah, February 11, 1774.

## MOSES LOWELL and SARAH.

Rholand, born February 19, 1767.  
Sarah, May 27, 1770.  
Abraham, February 21, 1773.

## DAVID LOWELL and PHEBE.

Phebe, born January 13, 1770.  
Molly, November 7, 1771.

## BENJAMIN MANN and MARTHA [DEANE].

Benjamin,\* born April 10, 1763.  
Joseph, † January 21, 1765.  
James, February 15, 1767.  
Polly, January 26, 1769.

## [Children born at Mason.]

Jonas, born April 17, 1771.  
Betty, April 23, 1773.  
Lucy, ‡ June 12, 1775.  
Patty, § October 31, 1777.  
Lucy, November 7, 1778.  
[Benjamin, No date.]

\* Died July 24, 1776. † Died July 1, 1766.  
‡ Died Sept. 10, 1777. § Died Nov. 2, 1777.

## CHRISTOPHER MANN and ALICE.

Selinda, born May 8, 1782 or '83.  
Thomas, February 15, 1784.

## JOSEPH MERRIAM and MARY.

Joseph, born July 7, 1770.  
Elizabeth, June 7, 1772.  
Samuel, October 14, 1773.  
Dorothy, October 11, 1778.  
Rebecca, July 26, 1781.

Mary, wife of Joseph Merriam, died August 22, 1791.

ABRAHAM MERRIAM, Jr., and HANNAH,  
MARY.

Isaac, } born December 1, 1784.  
Jacob, }



Hannah, born May 31, 1788.  
 Enoch, October 19, 1790.  
 Ephraim, February 2, 1793.  
 Jesse, February 17, 1796.

Abraham Merriam, Jr., and Mary Lawrence,  
 married January 19, 1804. Of Mary,

John, born September 25, 1804.

Lydia, daughter of Abraham Merriam, Jr.,  
 and Hannah, died October 15, 1784.

SILAS MERRIAM and MARY.

Silas, born February 14, 1785.  
 Polly, March 8, 1787.  
 Cheney, April 13, 1789.  
 Rebecca, October 16, 1791.  
 Asa, July 28, 1794.

EZRA MERRIAM and SUSANNA [ELLIOT].

Susanna,\* born August 16, 1786.  
 Ezra, May 17, 1788.  
 Josiah, April 19, 1790.  
 Zadock, April 16, 1792.  
 Samuel, March 31, 1794.  
 Sally,† November 5, 1796.  
 Nabby, December 28, 1798.  
 Benjamin, May 13, 1801.  
 Susanna, April 3, 1803.  
 Patty, May 5, 1805.

\* Died Sept. 9, 1798. † Died June 6, 1799.

WILLIAM MILES and SARAH.

William, born March 2, 1770.  
 Sarah, May 21, 1771.  
 Nancy, March 24, 1773.  
 Polly, August 23, 1775.  
 Betsey, August 27, 1777.  
 Oliver,\* December 1, 1779.  
 Patty, April 12, 1782.

\* Died June 25, 1783.

LIEUT. OBADIAH PARKER was born in  
 [Groton], April 11, 1731; Ruth, his wife,  
 was born in —, January 5, 1732.

Hannah, born July 18, 1754.  
 Phinehas, May 11, 1756.  
 Obadiah,\* December 17, 1758.  
 Grace,† August 19, 1761.  
 Sam Stevens, October 17, 1763.  
 Ruth, September 8, 1765.  
 Sampson, October 11, 1767.  
 Grace, June 2, 1770.  
 Obadiah, February 18, 1772.  
 Joel, July 11, 1775.

\* Died Jan. 27, 1763. † Died Sept. 5, 1761.

THOMAS ROBENS and HITTE.

Thomas, born November 29, 1774.  
 John, February 20, 1777.  
 James, April 22, 1779.  
 Stephen, June 2, 1785.  
 Joseph Brown, June 4, 1795.

JASON RUSSELL and ELIZABETH.

Jason, born June 2, 1763.  
 Jonathan, February 8, 1765.  
 Josiah, January 13, 1767.  
 Elizabeth, July 2, 1769.  
 Samuel, April 4, 1772.  
 Benjamin, August 2, 1775.  
 Thomas,\* October 2, 1777.  
 William, October 6, 1779.  
 David, March 6, 1782.

[Thomas.]

[\* Died February 8, 1785.]

HUBBERT RUSSELL and SARAH [WARREN].

Nehemiah, born September 24, 1775.  
 Sarah, June 13, 1777.  
 Abigail, July 30, 1779.  
 Hubbert, August 1, 1781.  
 Isaac,\* July 11, 1783.  
 Polly, June 19, 1784.  
 Isaac, February 17, 1787.  
 Lucy, February 28, 1789.  
 Micah, April 26, 1791.  
 Moses, December 2, 1793.  
 Hannah, April 14, 1796.  
 Betsy Warren, June 16, 1798.

\* Died August 3, 1783.

EPIHRAIM SARTELL and ABIGAIL.

Ede, born May 18, 1778.

SAMUEL SCRIPTURE and MARY [GREEN].

[Sarah,] born  
 Samuel, December 9, 1760.  
 Hannah, June 3, 1763.  
 John, September 18, 1765.

[See page 197.]

JAMES SCRIPTURE and SIBBEL [SHEP-  
 LEY].

Polly, born February 28, 1776.  
 James, November 10, 1777.  
 Sibbel,\* January 12, 1779.  
 Betsey, February 10, 1782.  
 Sibbel, February 20, 1784.  
 Sally, May 18, 1788.  
 Ward, July 20, 1790.  
 Lucy, May 20, 1792.  
 Charles, May 26, 1794.  
 Oliver, October 10, 1796.

\* Died July 20, 1783.

OLIVER SCRIPTURE and JANE.

Betty, born August 7, 1777.  
 Sarah, October 5, 1779.  
 Jane, June 23, 1781.  
 Oliver, June 16, 1783.  
 Lucinda, July 24, 1785.

SAMUEL SCRIPTURE, Jr., and BETSY.				Abel, born May 31, 1768.
Samuel, born February 8, 1784.				Joel, May 14, 1770.
Betsy, March 27, 1786.				Sibbel, April 6, 1772.
JONATHAN SEARLE and HANNAH.				Eunice,* July 3, 1774.
Judith, born January 31, 1773.				Eunice, December 1, 1775.
Hannah, May 16, 1774.				Daniel, July 3, 1778.
Jonathan, [well, November 4, 1775.				Azubah, August 17, 1780.
Nathaniel Coggs- July 4, 1778.				Rhoda, June 17, 1783.
Betsey, October 19, 1782.				Betsey, February 18, 1786.
Samuel, April 17, 1784.				Dorcas, July 2, 1788.
Deborah, September 27, 1788.				* Died December 3, 1774.
Polly, August 27, 1793.				JOHN SWALLOW, Jr., and REBECCA [DUNSTER].
ABEL SHED and RUTH.				John,* born March 1, 1783.
Abel, born August 25, 1769.				John, February 3, 1785.
John H., March 1, 1771.				Isaiah, March 29, 1787.
Samuel, August 5, 1773.				Abel, November 3, 1789.
Ebenezer, November 6, 1776.				Nehemiah, May 22, 1792.
Henry, June 16, 1779.				Ezra, December 22, 1794.
WILLIAM SHED and ELIZABETH.				Rebecca, May 3, 1799.
Silas, born June 18, 1773.				* Died March 13, 1783.
Hannah, March 23, 1777.				EDWARD TARBELL and RACHEL [HILDRETH].
Simcon, March 2, 1779.				Betsey, born May 8, 1787.
Abel, March 8, 1780.				Dolly, October 25, 1790.
Elizabeth, October 24, 1781.				James, February 12, 1792.
John, October 16, 1783.				Joseph, May 31, 1793.
William Parker, April 25, 1787.				Rachel, February 10, 1795.
SAMUEL SMITH and ELIZABETH.				Eda, November 25, 1796.
Frederick, born April 12, 1770.				NATHANIEL TARBELL and RUTH.
Abigail Harrington, May 19, 1784.				Ruth, born February 14, 1772.
LEMUEL SPAULDING and SARAH.				Elizabeth, January 7, 1775.
Lemuel,* } born March 12, 1766.				Nathaniel, December 19, 1776.
Thomas,* } March 9, 1767.				JOHN TARBELL and SARAH.
Esther, March 3, 1768.				John, born January 1, 1775.
Sarah, April 4, 1771.				Abigail, January 29, 1778.
Hepzibath,† January 19, 1772.				Azubah, October 9, 1780.
Jerusha, December 19, 1772.				Sarah, December 2, 1782.
Lemuel, January 28, 1774.				William, February 7, 1786.
Elizabeth,‡ May 16, 1776.				THOMAS TARBELL and SARAH [BARRETT].
* Died March 24, 1766. † Died February 11, 1772. ‡ Died August 25, 1776.				Sally, born November 6, 1778.
SILAS SPAULDING and HANNAH.				Esther, August 11, 1780.
(At Ashburham.)				Thomas,* August 17, 1782.
Mary, born February 22, 1779.				Reuben, July 19, 1784.
JOHN SWALLOW and SARAH [LAWRENCE], MARY [HALL].				Lemuel, February 14, 1786.
John, born January 3, 1757.				Thomas, October 19, 1788.
Sarah, October 2, 1758.				Eunice, April 24, 1791.
Lydia, October 31, 1760.				Joel, July 9, 1793.
Deborah, November 15, 1762.				Lydia, March 21, 1797.
Sarah, wife of John Swallow, died December 23, 1763. Of Mary,				* Died January, 1785.
Molly, born December 14, 1766.				SAMUEL TARBELL and ANNA.
				Samuel, born October 10, 1784.
				Nancy, June 4, 1786.
				Rebecca, July 23, 1788.

Nabby, born March 26, 1791.  
 Polly, February 9, 1793.  
 Dolly, May 3, 1795.  
 Asher, January 23, 1797.  
 Lucinda, December 12, 1798.

EDMUND TARBELL and MARY [HILDRETH].

Polly, born February 19, 1772.  
 Dolly, December 29, 1773.  
 Sibbel, March 6, 1775.  
 Edmund, }  
 Sarah, } March 25, 1777.  
 Lucy, } November 21, 1780.  
 Hannah, } March 19, 1782.  
 Oliver, } February 2, 1785.

Mary, wife of Edmund Tarbell, died February 9, 1785.

SAMUEL TOWNSEND and HANNAH [LAWRENCE].

[Children born at Northborough.]

Hannah, born August 8, 1770.  
 Polly, September 4, 1771.  
 Joshua, November 7, 1773.  
 Mercy, September 1, 1775.  
 Sarah, September 1, 1777.  
 Lydia, June 30, 1780.

[Children born in Mason]

Persis, August 28, 1782.  
 Samuel, February 9, 1784.  
 Zilpah, October 28, 1785.  
 Madamoisella, May 8, 1787.  
 Betsey, February 27, 1789.  
 Madamoisella, March 19, 1794.

HINKSMAN WARREN and ESTHER [TAYLOR].

[Jonathan, born in Townsend.]

Sarah, }  
 Elizabeth, } May 27, 1786.  
 John, June 12, 1794.

JOTHAM WEBBER and ELIZABETH [RUSSELL].

Jotham, born December 24, 1778.  
 Jason, September 24, 1780.  
 William, July 18, 1782.  
 John,\* January 13, 1785.

\* Died April 20, 1786.

ROGERS WESTON and DEBORAH [LAWRENCE].

Samuel, born October 4, 1785.  
 Sally, April 3, 1787.  
 Rogers, April 11, 1789.  
 Jeremiah, November 19, 1791.  
 James, February 24, 1793.  
 Lawrence, November 19, 1795.

JOSIAH WHEELER and LUCY.

Lucy, born January 16, 1765.

Josiah, } born January 6, 1768.  
 Mary, }  
 Elizabeth,\* August 29, 1779.  
 Eleanor, April 22, 1761.  
 Elizabeth, July 19, 1773.

Mr. Josiah Wheeler died October 17, 1774.

\* Died March 22, 1772.

AARON WHEELER and LUCY.

John\* born August 2, 1767.  
 Aaron, July 9, 1768.  
 John Brooks, March 11, 1770.  
 Nathan, December 4, 1771.  
 Daniel, April 3, 1774.  
 Lucy, February 16, 1776.  
 Benjamin, January 14, 1778.  
 Rebecca, October 25, 1779.  
 Patty, August 4, 1781.  
 Alice,† April 20, 1783.  
 George,‡ June 11, 1784.  
 Jotham, April 19, 1786.  
 Alice,§ April 15, 1789.  
 Prescott, June 3, 1794.

\* Died August 10, 1767. † Died June 18, 1783.

‡ Died Nov. 1, 1786. § Died April 16, 1789.

TIMOTHY WHEELER and SARAH [HUBBARD].

Sally, born March 27, 1777.  
 Betsey, January 5, 1779.  
 Polly, March 14, 1781.  
 Timothy, January 16, 1783.  
 Lucy, December —, 1784.  
 Nancy, April 14, 1787.  
 Hannah, May 7, 1789.  
 Ebenezer, July 19, 1791.  
 Amy, September 18, 1793.  
 Rebecca, December 6, 1796.

NATHAN WHIPPLE and ABIGAIL.

Dorcas, born May 19, 1767.  
 Sally, May 28, 1770.  
 Hannah, March 1, 1772.  
 Nathan, September 16, 1774.

JOHN WHITAKER and THANKFUL [PIERCE].

William,\* born April 12, 1774.  
 Susannah,† August 16, 1776.

\* Died October 2, 1775. † Died Sept. 29, 1777.

— WHITE and —.

Hannah, born March 28, 1769.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS and RUTH.

Ruth,\* born October 14, 1767.  
 Elizabeth, September 25, 1768.  
 Jonathan† August 11, 1770.  
 Ruth, June 5, 1772.

\* Died Nov. 4, 1767 or 9. † Died Aug. 1, 1771.

Rachel, born January 13, 1775.  
Polly, May 11, 1777.

## NATHANIEL WILLIAMS and HANNAH.

Molly, born September 4, 1787.  
Samuel, September 6, 1789.  
Joel, August 26, 1791.  
John, died April 16, 1790.

## JONATHAN WINSHIP and ELIZABETH.

Edmund, born October 2, 1765.  
Isabel, September 2, 1769.

## NOAH WINSHIP and DEBORAH [SWALLOW].

Noah, born June 22, 1785.  
Deborah, February 9, 1787.  
Sarah, February 7, 1793.  
[John].

## JAMES WITHEE and SARAH.

Daniel,\* born September 30, 1760.  
James, January 18, 1763.  
Nathaniel, October 5, 1765.  
John,† February 2, 1768.  
William Parker, July 2, 1770.  
Sarah, September 24, 1772.  
John, September 4, 1774.  
Daniel, August 13, 1779.

\* Died Jan. 6, 1779. † Died May 6, 1762.

[ELISHA WITHINGTON, son of William Withington and Sarah Locke, his wife, was born in Stow, April 1, 1746, married MARY PRENTICE, daughter of Stephen Prentice and Esther, his wife, born in Grafton, September 15, 1748]. Their children were,

Elisha, born May, 11, 1769.  
William, March 8, 1771.  
Stephen, February 1, 1773.  
Mather, October 28, 1775.  
John, March 9, 1779.  
Samuel,\* October 6, 1782.  
[Samuel, December 8, 1785.  
Ebenezer, March 1, 1789.]

† Died July 16, 1783.

## SAMUEL WOODS and SARAH.

Rebecca, born December 6, 1774.  
Rhoda, July 19, 1776.  
Sarah\* February 22, 1778.  
Ebenezer,† August 21, 1779.  
Josiah,‡ August 4, 1780.  
Ebenezer, July 3, 1782.  
Isaac, September 9, 1784.  
Dinah, September 25, 1786.  
Jonas Brooks, July 31, 1788.  
James.§ October 23, 1793.

\* Died Sept. 16, 1778. † Died October 2, 1779.  
‡ Died Feb. 9, 178-. § Died Feb. 1, 1794.

## JOSEPH WOODS and MARY [WAUGH].

Joseph, born October 27, 1782.  
Sewall, October 6, 1784.  
Polly,\* May 27, 1787.  
Sally, April 19, 1790.  
Polly, March 7, 1792.  
Betsey, April 19, 1798.

\* Died August 23, 1789.

## JAMES WOOD and ELIZABETH [BUSS].

James, born September 29, 1783.  
John,\* October 14, 1785.  
Betsey, September 19, 1787.  
Polly, October 21, 1789.  
Artemas, August 9, 1791.  
Amy, July 1, 1793.  
Nathan, April [1795].  
John, April 1, 1797.  
[Lydia.† 1801.]

Ensign John Wood died Dec. 19, 1785, aged 69 years; Elizabeth, his wife,† died Dec. 1, 1789, aged 75 years.

\* Died Feb. 16, 1797. † Died March 15, 1819.

† The word wife, in this entry, should be sister, and the age 79 years. Elizabeth, his widow, died November 13, 1794, aged 71 years, as appears by the tombstones. These errors appear on page 178, and should be corrected.

In the foregoing tables of Family Registers are included all such found in the records before the year 1790. They are copied from the record with no change but the correction of manifest errors in orthography. Apparent errors in figures, are left as found. All additions made to the original record are included in brackets. None are made except upon evidence deemed reliable. The family of Samuel Squire, entered in Mason records, from a copy certified by the town clerk of Westford, is not inserted—none of the children having been born in Mason, or permanently resident there.

Family register of the family of Edward Wilson, taken from his family bible, in possession of his son, Capt. Thomas Wilson, of Mason :

Edward Wilson, born at West Cambridge, July 6, 1734; Lucy Francis, born at Medford, March 21, 1739, married November, 1757; removed to Mason with his family, in 1780, and to Troy, New York, in 1804. Edward Wilson died, at Troy, June 17, 1816, aged 82 years; Lucy, his widow, died at Mason, December 8, 1835, aged 97 years. Their children, born at West Cambridge, were :

Joseph,	born	October	9,	1759.
Lucy,		January	12,	1761, died December 23, 1819.
Edward,		April	4,	1762, died March 7, 1843, at Milton, N. Y.
Ebenezer,		August	18,	1763, died July, 1825.
Rachel,		February	13,	1765, m. Jona. Chandler, died Oct. 16, 1846.
Samuel,		September	16,	1766, died July 31, 1854.
Nathaniel,		February	10,	1768, died August 19, 1854.
William,		October	25,	1769.
Aaron,		March	10,	1771.
Andrew,		January	1,	1777, died April 23, 1841.
Thomas,		October	23,	1778.

Edward, Jr., and Samuel, removed to Troy, N. Y., about the year 1800, and were, for many years, actively engaged in business there. The following notice of the death of the latter, is taken from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 8, p. 277 :

“Samuel Wilson died at Troy, N. Y., July 31, 1844, aged 88 years. It was from him that the United States derived the name of Uncle Sam. It was in this way. He was a contractor for supplying the army in the war of 1812, with a large amount of beef and pork. He had been long familiarly known by the name of Uncle Sam, so called to distinguish him from his brother Edward, who was, by every body, called Uncle Ned. The brand upon his barrels for the army was of course U. S. The transition from the United States to Uncle Sam was so easy, that it was at once made, and the name of the packer of the United States provisions was immediately transferred to the government, and became familiar, not only throughout the army but the whole country.”

Genealogy of the families of Nathaniel and William Hosmer, furnished for this work, by the Rev. Edwin R. Hodgman, of Lynnfield, Mass.; and family register of the family of William Hosmer, from the record in the family bible of his son, Oliver Hosmer:

<sup>1</sup>James Hosmer, emigrated from Hockhurst, county of Kent, England, took the freeman's oath in 1637, settled at Concord, and died there, February 7, 1685.

<sup>2</sup>Stephen, his son, born in 1642, married Abigail Wood, May 24, 1667.

<sup>3</sup>John, their son, born August 1671, married Mary Billings, May 12, 1699.

<sup>4</sup>Nathaniel, their son, (marriage not recorded at Concord.)

<sup>5</sup>Nathaniel, his son, born November 29, 1731, married Elizabeth Heald, July 1, 1756. Removed to Mason. For register of his family, see page 203. Nathaniel died at Camden, Me., August 6, 1814, aged 83 years; Elizabeth, his wife, died August 23, 1810, aged 77 years.

Tabitha married John Sartell, died March 4, 1841, at Rockland, Me., aged 84 years.

Anna married Job Hodgman, January 1, 1789, died August 3, 1839, at Camden, Me., aged 79 years.

Eunice married Samuel Russell, March 15, 1787, died December, 1833, aged 71 years.

Nathaniel married (1) Mary Wheeler, January 1, 1789, (2) Nancy Fay, February 3, 1803, died June 3, 1846, aged 81 years.

Asa married Nancy Eaton, October 2, 1795, (?) died September 9, 1854, aged 85 years.

William, son of Nathaniel,<sup>4</sup> born October 19, 1729, married Anna Heald, (born 1733,) June 19, 1753, at Concord, by Rev. Daniel Bliss, removed to Mason, died March 26, 1802, aged 74 years; Anna, his wife, died July 7, 1818, aged 85 years. Their children were:

Elizabeth, born 1755, married John Stimpson, died at Camden, Me., December 18, 1848, aged 93 years.

William, born 1758, died at Chester, Vt., March 20, 1813.

Amos, born 1760, died January 18, 1831.

Oliver, born 1764, married (1) Martha Lawrence, January 1, 1793; Martha died February 4, 1829, aged 60 years; married (2) Mrs. Eunice Brown, died at Mason, October 15, 1852, s. p., aged 88 years.

Polly, born 1766, married (1) Ebenezer Boutwell, (2) William Hemenway, died 1845, aged 79 years.

Reuben.

Lucy, m. Benannel Pratt, died at Chester, Vt., March, 1819.

Anna, married — Stickney, died at Andover, Vt.

Josiah Flagg, born in Worcester, December 24, 1750, married (1) Eunice Barber, born in Worcester, 1758, (2) Esther Weatherbee, born in Lunenburg, December 3, 1763. Josiah Flagg died May 30, 1824, aged 73 years, 5 months, 6 days; Eunice, his wife, died December 13, 1785; Esther, his widow, died August 6, 1832. Children of Josiah and Eunice, were: Elizabeth, born January 29, 1780; Eunice, born October 14, 1781; Mary Ann, born January 14, 1784; Josiah, born December, 1785, all in Worcester.

The above from the record in the family bible of Mrs. Eunice Hosmer, daughter of Josiah Flagg.

Of Josiah and Esther: Hannah; Sally, married Isaac Brown, December 30, 1818; Esther, born 1795; Polly, born June, 1799.

Jason Dunster, of Mason, was a lineal descendant of Henry Dunster, first president of Harvard College. The line of descent is as follows: <sup>1</sup>Henry, the president, <sup>2</sup>Jonathan, <sup>3</sup>Henry, <sup>4</sup>Jason, <sup>5</sup>Jason, of Mason. His children were: Ruth, married Joseph Blood, killed in Bunker Hill battle; Henry; Rebecca, married John Swallow, Jr.; Martha, married Oliver Wright, of Nelson; Isaiah, married — Davis, of Roxbury; Jason, married Polly Merriam, of Mason; Samuel, married (1) Hannah Townsend, removed to Ashburnham and married (2) — Townsend.

List of marriages at Mason, from the records of the Rev. Joseph B. Hill, not received in season for insertion in their proper place. The parties were resident in Mason, unless otherwise stated:

1840.		
Dec. 17.	Samuel E. Butler,	Lorinda Ames.
" 24.	Timothy Amsden.	Martha C. Hill.
1841.		
May	Oliver H. Pratt.	Catharine Warner, at Groton, Ms.
1842.		
Feb. 9.	Sampson Fletcher, N. Ipswich.	Mrs. Lavinia Blood.
April 10.	William Davis,	Betsy Green.
Sept. 22.	Henry H. Sawin,	Julia Ann Russell.
Nov.	Ephraim Forbes, Westboro', Ms.,	Harriet Childs.
1843.		
April 26.	Abel F. Adams, Townsend, Ms.,	Lydia M. Newhall.
June	James Davis,	Azubah F. Withington.
July	Jonas Morse,	[Mass., Mary Ann Sawtell.
Oct.	George G. Amsden, Springfield,	Eliza Ann Kimball.
1844.		
May 21.	Anson Barrett, Townsend, Mass.,	Nancy Morse.
Aug. 14.	Merrill A. Elliott,	Martha E. Sawtell.
Sept. 19.	Walter Atherton, Towns'd, Mass.,	Dian K. Felt.
" 19.	Otis Childs,	Mary Joan Bachelder.
Nov. 14.	Leonard Farwell,	Deborah B. Barrett.
1845.		
Jan. 9.	Samuel H. Wheeler,	Mary Ames.
Feb. 13.	Lowell Howe, Nashua,	Emily M. Felt,
Aug. 26.	Seneca Lynch,	Elizabeth Swallow.
Nov. 6.	Samuel Weston,	[Mass., Hephzibah Fletcher.
" 13.	Harrison O. Lampson, Brookfield,	Harriet E. Warren.
" 27.	Timothy Wheeler Jr.,	Ann Maria Harding.
Dec. 25.	Calvin Fitch, Pepperell, Mass.	Harriet Warner, Pepperell, Mass.
1846.		
Jan. 7.	Isaac Windship, Henniker,	Mary March.
Mar. 1.	Charles Robbins,	Eunice Windship.
July 12.	Sumner J. Weston,	Sarah A. Morse.
Aug.	Otis F. Larkin, Berlin, Mass.	Charlott Pierce.
" 30.	Earle S. Smith, New Ipswich,	Mary P. Farwell.
Oct	Geo. E. Sparrow, Colchester, Ct.,	Martha A. Cragin.
1847.		
Feb. 11.	John .P French,	Mary Weston.
Mar. 7.	Albert Hodgman,	Rosantha L. Rockwood. [trim.
May 20.	John R. Gregg, Peterborough,	Sarah E. Fletcher, Antrim, at An-
" 23.	Frank E. Greisinger,	Mary E. Hadley,
Sept. 14.	Charles Belcher, Worcester,	Sarah C. Farwell.
" 16.	Samuel E. Wright,	Harriet E. Amsden.
ANTRIM. BY REV. JOHN M. WHITON.		
1845.		
Aug. 26.	Rev. Joseph B. Hill, Mason,	Harriet Brown, Antrim.



For a like reason, the following lists, copied from the town records, are here inserted:

## MASON. BY REV. ANDREW H. REED.

1836.

Nov. 10.	Samuel Hodge, Francestown,	Mrs. Elizabeth Town.
Dec. 1.	Charles Day,	Martha H. Barrett.
" 9.	Charles W. French,	Roxana W. Barrett.

1837.

May 28.	John H. Jones, Ashby,	Martha Hildreth.
Sept. 12.	Amos H. Hosmer,	Abigail Barrett.
Oct. 31.	Ebenezer Nutting,	Martha Sanders.

1838.

April 24.	Joseph P. Felt,	Sarah Swallow.
May 30.	Calvin Amsden,	Dorothy D. Horton.
Sept. 20.	Thomas Wetherbee, Rindge,	Almira Whitaker.

1839.

Feb. 13.	Elisha Withington,	Betsy Newell.
Sept. 11.	Winslow Ames,	Harriet Wood.

1840.

Feb. 12.	Josiah Cook, Whitefield,	Rozetta Sanders.
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## BY REV. ALFRED L. MASON.

Elijah F. Davis,	Hannah Spaulding.
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1839.

Feb. 28.	William Mansur,	Mrs. Hannah Elliott.
Mar. 31.	Edmund F. Jeffs,	Elizabeth Pierce.
May 16.	Elisha F. Davis,	Roxana Jeffs, New Ipswich.
July 9.	John Felt,	Silvia Warren, Stoddard.
Sept. 26.	Samuel A. Hartshorn,	Louisa Felt.
Oct.	Lot Nicols, Sharon,	Mary Ann Fitch, Temple.
	George Weston,	Rebecca Baily.
Dec. 5.	Lorenzo Woods,	Mary Dakin.

1840.

Feb. 16.	Edwin J. Hodgman,	Levinia Foster.
Mar. 22.	Charles Smith, Lowell,	Emeline Hodgman.
Oct. 8.	Arnold Kendall,	Mary Felt.
Nov. 22.	Nehemiah H. Swain, N. Reading,	Elmena L. Hodgman.

1841.

April 20.	John Tewksbury, Warner,	Isabella Nutting, New Ipswich.
Dec. 7.	Nathaniel Smith,	Lucy A. Baldwin.
Oct. 17.	Hezekiah Burnham,	Mrs. Jane A. Kimball.

1842.

April 7.	Thomas Hays,	Lucy A. Robbins.
May 18.	Solon P. Bingham, Keene,	Harriet E. Adams.
June 2.	Mr. — Tinkham, Lunenburg,	Mrs. Emma W. Blood.
Oct. 16.	Joseph Tucker,	Mary Campbell.

1843.

Feb. 23.	Edmund C. Stanley.	Hannah Mason, Wilton.
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1844.

Sylvester Fitch, Providence R. I., Susan A. Hadley.

## BY REV. JOHN WOODBURY.

1848.

June 27.	Cyrus Blanchard, Fitchburg,	Emily Robbins.
May 21.	Israel Putnam,	Lucy E. Andrews.
Sept. 7.	George L. Adams.	Hannah H. Hartshorn,
Oct. 1.	Frederick M. Greisinger,	Elmira B. Darling.

BY REV. WILLIAM OLMSTEAD.

1847.		
April 12.	Horace W. Wilson,	Amanda M. Rideout.
Nov. 16.	Samuel Kimball,	Adelia A. Livingston,
“ 29.	Franklin Meed, Boxborough,	Nancy S. Morse.

BY REV. JOHN F. WHITNEY.

1856.		
April 27.	Joel Elliott, 2d,	Emily Holden.
May 28.	Willard D. Hero,	Elizabeth Peabody.

BY REV. GEORGE W. CUTTING.

1855.		
Nov. 11.	Charles Howard, Fitchburg,	Mary A. Sawtell.
1857.		
Sept. 5.	Edwin L. Nutting,	Mary A. Annis.
Nov. 22.	George R. Elliott,	Eliza E Stevens.
Dec. 17.	Henry Kirk,	Sarah Gardner.
Dec. 31.	Kendall N. Davis, Sharon,	Lucinda Chamberlin.
1858.		
Jan. 4.	Edmund Holden,	Elizabeth Flagg.

BY REV. SAMUEL J. AUSTIN.

1857.		
June 14.	Edwin R. Farnsworth,	Abby J. Webber.
Oct. 22.	Francis B. Cragin,	Ruvinia M. Richardson.
“ “	Henry A. Cragin,	Susan M. Elliott.
“ 31.	Lucius A. White,	Margaret Lyle.

BY REV. JOSIAH L. ARMES.

1854.		
Dec. 14.	Philander Eddy, Foxborough,	Maria Lynch.
1855.		
June 24.	Jerome Davis,	Mary L. Boynton.

Several marriages inserted on pages 174 and 175 have, in the above list, been re-inserted, with the name of the officiating minister added.

Marriage is the key of domestic life. The far sighted policy of the Roman church, at an early period, discerned the importance of possessing this key. Hence, marriage in that church, is made a sacrament. In all countries where the Roman church is in the ascendant, no marriage is valid, unless it be contracted within the rules, and celebrated according to the forms of that church. All persons living in the state of matrimony, without the blessing of the priest, are in a state of mortal sin. Hence, the power of the priest to determine what is lawful matrimony, and to regulate the

conjugal and maternal duties of the wife, open to him the most sacred recesses of the household, and places in his hands an engine of power, the effects of which, are felt in every condition of life, from the palace to the cabin.

By the reformation in the church of England, the assumption that marriage is a sacrament, being without a shadow of scriptural foundation, was not recognized; but still, by the laws of England, marriage could be celebrated lawfully, only by a priest of the English church, according to the formularies prescribed, and in a church building, or licensed chapel of that church, except by special license. For many years, dissenters could be married in England, only according to the form of that church. Such were the laws, when our ancestors came to New England. They fled to the wilderness, to escape from the power and tyranny of the English priesthood. Of course, the English laws and formularies, would not answer their needs. Not content with rejecting the power of the English clergy, they went farther, and would not allow their own clergy to celebrate marriages. Only the governor, deputy governor and assistants, had authority for many years, to celebrate marriages. These magistrates having exclusive power to celebrate marriages, construed that power to extend to all cases, and even presumed to marry themselves. Lt. Gov. Bellingham, was fined for marrying himself, so also, was Mr. Joseph Hills of Malden.

Having regulated the celebration of marriages, the court next undertook to regulate courtships by law. The act for this purpose was passed by the general court of Massachusetts, November 11, 1647. The preamble is as follows: "Whereas, God hath committed ye care and power into ye hands of parents, for ye disposing of their children in marriage, so yt it is against ye rule to seek to draw away ye affections of yong maydens, under pretence of purpose of marriage, before their parents have given way or allowance in yt respect, and whereas, it is a comon practice, in divers places, for yong men irregularly and disorderly to watch all advan-

tages, for their evil purposes to insinuate into y<sup>e</sup> affections of yong maydes, by coming to them in places and seasons, unknown to their parents, for such ends, whereby much evil hath grown amongst us to y<sup>e</sup> dishonor of God and damage of y<sup>e</sup> parties, for y<sup>e</sup> prevention whereof, for time to come, it is ordered." &c., and making it a penal offence, "to endeavor directly or indirectly to draw y<sup>e</sup> affections of any mayden in this jurisdiction, under pretence of marriage," before liberty and allowance therefor by the parents, &c., or in the absence of such, by the court. The punishment was a fine for the first and for the second offence, for the third to be put under bonds, failing to procure which the offender was liable to be imprisoned at the pleasure of the court. Fancy the trial of an action in court! The Commonwealth vs. Richard Roe, for seeking to draw the affections of Dolly Doe, without the consent of her parents, &c., first being had.

In 1692, authority was given, by statute, to ordained ministers, and also to justices of the peace, to celebrate marriages. The clergy soon received the monopoly of the marrying business. None were married by justices except for some peculiar reasons. Fifty years ago, the marriage ceremony took place at the residence of the bride, or at the minister's house, seldom at the meeting house, although not unfrequently, the Sabbath was the day, the parties coming sometimes with but more frequently without attendants, to the minister's house, in the morning before service or in the evening after the close of the meetings, left the house with the indestructible knot tied, and sometimes on foot, sometimes on horseback, the cavalcade consisting of one or two horses, according to the means or the taste of the parties, proceeded to their new home, to be made cheerful and happy by the busy cares and pains taking of the wife, assuming a station and character, the influence of which, for the well being of society, is second to none other. From the venerable pastor of the Mason church, all the married couples got a good solid talking to.

## CHAPTER VI.

### A LIST OF EARLY SETTLERS, AFFAIRS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, AND LISTS OF TOWN OFFICERS, AND STATISTICAL TABLES.

An alphabetical list of the names of all persons who appear, by the proprietary or town records or tax lists, to have been inhabitants of the town of Mason, from the earliest settlement, to the year 1790, showing, as far as is known, the date of commencement of residence, their place of residence, their service in the revolutionary war, and time of decease, or of removal from town.

- |       |                      |   |
|-------|----------------------|---|
| 1769. | Asten John,          | Jason Russell's. R. about 1773.   |
| 1770. | Allen Abijah,        | Dea. Franklin Merriam's. R. after the war.  |
| 1771. | Adams John,          | S. Jonas Adams'. Died January 9, 1807, 65 y.  |
|       | Ames Simon,          | S. Joel Ames'. Died November 15, 1820, 80 y.  |
| 1772. | Abbot Samuel,        | S. Rev. E. Hill's orchard, R.   |
|       | Abbot Ebenezer,      | S. Son of Samuel Abbot.   |
| 1774. | Adams Edward,        | East of John Adams. Brother of John Adams—R. to Lincoln.  |
| 1778. | Amsden Jonas,        | Ebenezer Shattuck's, afterwards east of Dea. Wood's. Died March 20, 1802, 53 y.   |
|       | Aldridge John,       | R.  |
| 1782. | Adams Abel,          | S. Jedediah Felton's. Died Oct. 25, 1826, 69 y.   |
| 1785. | Asten Timothy,       | R.  |
| 1788. | Ames Thaddeus,       | Son of Simon; went to Maine.  |
| 1790. | Austin Thomas,       | In the 3d School District.  |
| 1752. | Butterfield Eleazer, | R.  |
|       | Barrett Reuben,      | Capt. Jesse Barrett's. Died Sept. 19, 1800, 71y.  |
| 1759. | Blood Ebenezer,      | S. Eli Nutting's. Died November 29, 1800.   |
| 1767. | Bullard Joseph,      | Silasa Bullard's. Born in Weston; R. to New Ipswich about 1743, with his brother Ebenezer Bullard, and resided with him till his marriage in 1775. Soon after 1760 he removed to Mason. Died March 2, 1792, 73 y. |
| 1769. | Badcock William,     | Rev. Jona. Searle's. R. next year.  |
|       | Barrett William,     | Jonathan Smith's, near Townsend line. Died January 26, 1816, 90 y.  |
|       | Barrett Nathaniel,   | John Whitaker's. The father of Zaccheus Barrett, Nathaniel Barrett, Jr., and Mrs. John Baldwin. Died about 1775.  |
|       | Burge, Widow,        | R. next year.   |
|       | Barrett Joseph,      | S. Elisha Barrett's. Was an inhabitant before the incorporation. Died Dec. 30, 1831, 86 y.  |
| 1769. | Blood Joseph,        | S. Thaddeus Morse's. Killed June 17, 1775, at Bunker's Hill.  |

NOTE. In this table, S. following a name, indicates service in the land or naval forces; R. removal from town.

1769. Barrett Nathaniel Jr., S. Luther Robbins'. R. 1772.  
Brown David, Saml. D. Blood's and James Brown's. Died  
Dec. 1811, 83 y.
1770. Ball Joseph, S. Dea. Robinson's. R.  
1771. Barrett Zacheus, Poor farm. Died Feb. 26, 1827, 79 y.  
Barrett Reuben Jr., Capt. Jesse Barrett's. Son of Reuben Barrett.  
1772. Blodgett David, S. Wittington's, formerly John Winship's.—  
R. soon after the war.
- Blodgett Jacob, S. H. Warren's. R. soon after the war.  
Blanchard Abel, S. Hired to Jason Russel. R.  
1774. Brown Samuel, S. Geo. Martin's, formerly Sam. Townsend. Came  
from Hollis; R. soon after the war.
1775. Blood Ruth, widow, Widow of Joseph Blood who was killed at  
Bunker Hill; daughter of Jason Dunster.  
R.  
Barrett Joseph, Jr., S. Son of Nathaniel Barrett. R.  
Barrett Isaac, West of John Richard's. R. about 1784.  
Barrett Reuben, 3d. Ephraim Russel's. R.  
Brooks Job, S. With his father. Son of Joseph Bullard.  
1776. Bullard Silas, Died May 15, 1835, 83 y.
1778. Brown Lt. Isaac, S. Knapp's, now Prescott's. In Battle of Bun-  
ker Hill. Died November 3, 1800, 55 y.  
Eben. Nutting's. R. and joined Shakers.  
1779. Burt Oliver, Same. Same.  
1780. Burt Capt. James, Capt. Jesse Barrett's. Son of Reuben Bar-  
rett. Died November 11, 1844, 82 y.  
1782. Barrett Jesse, Frank Wright's and E. Richardson's. R. to  
Lunenburg.  
Barrett Benjamin, jr. S. E. Nutting's. Son of Ebenezer. Died June  
24, 1835, 77 y.  
Blood Thomas, S. E. Nutting's. Son of Ebenezer. R.  
Blood Asa, S. Taken prisoner in the Battle of Bunker Hill,  
and never returned.  
Blood Ebenezer, jr. S. Son of Joseph Bullard.
- Bullard Eleazer, S. Son of Joseph Bullard.  
1782. Barrett John, Son of Captain Joseph Barrett. R. to Ver-  
mont.  
Barrett William, jr. Charles Barrett. Died Aug. 10, 1844, 84 y.  
1785. Blodgett John, John Bachelder's. Town clerk, selectman,  
and representative for many years. His  
name first appears as a school master in 1777.  
R. from town in 1821 or 1822, to Dunstable,  
and died a few years since, aged nearly 100 y.  
Amos Robbins'. R.
1786. Ball Eleazer, S. Saml. D. Blood's. Died Dec. 19, 1840, 83 y.  
1789. Blood Amos, R.  
Blood Josiah, R.  
Barrett Joel, R.  
Blackington William, Elnathan Boynton's. Oct. 27, 1839, 74 y.  
Boynton Jeremiah, R.  
Ball Jonathan, R.  
1790. Buss Elisha, Cabinet maker; built and resided in the  
Joshua Blood house. R. about 1804.  
Barber Dr. William, Dr. Barber's, near the old meeting house.  
Died July 11, 1852, 85 y.
- Bachelder Jonathan, Jona. Bachelders'. Died April 9, 1728, 85 y.  
1766. Crosby Jonathan, R.  
1767. Cook Connelius, B. C. Kimball's. R.  
Coburn Josiah, Ed. Tarbell's. R. to Chelmsford.  
1769. Coburn Nathan, School master. R.  
1770. Cafford Jonathan, R.  
1772. Child Amos, S. Hired man to Dea. Amos Dakin. R.

1775. Chambers Capt. Wm. S. Rev. E. Hill's. Born in Scotland. Lieut. of a privateer under Com. Manly. Died September 4, 1791.
1779. Chandler Jonathan, Jedediah Felton's. R.  
 1780. Crane Benjamin, South of Frank Wright's. R.  
 1785. Cummings John, R.  
 1787. Chatman Oliver, R.  
 1778. Chickering Abner, Abel Adams' in the village. R. to N. Ipswich.  
 1789. Campbell John, R.  
       Campbell Jonas, R.  
       Crossman James, Died about 1836, not far from 99 y.  
 1768. Dakin Dea. Amos, S. Eben. Richardson's. Died Apr. 28, 1789, 57 y.  
 1769. Dutton John, Calvin Blood's. R.  
       Davis Zachariah, S. Micah Russell's. Died Nov. 27, 1831, 88 y.  
       Dunster Jason, Benjamin Prescott's. R. to Ashburnham and returned, and died Feb. 10, 1805, 80 y.  
       Davis Joshua, S. David Jeffs and Charles Scripture's. Died October 16, 1840, 96 y.  
       R.
1770. Davis Elisha, Chapman's. R.  
 1772. Darby Samuel, S. Son of Jason. R.  
 1774. Dunster Henry, Luther Nutting's. R.  
 1776. Dodge William, R.  
       Davis Ebenezer, S. A privateersman. R.  
 1782. Dodge John, S. South of Dea. Cragin's. Son of Dea. Amos Dakin. Died Oct. 29, 1842, 83 y.  
       Dakin Amos Jr., S. B. C. Kimball's. Son of J. Dunster. Died March 21, 1828, 67 y.  
       Dunster Jason, Jr., S. Son of Jason Dunster. R.  
       Dunster Isaiah, S. R.  
       Dodge Zebulon, Dea. S. Cragin's. Son of Deacon Amos Dakin. Died October, 1845, 84 y.
1785. Dakin Timothy, R.
1790. Davis Reuben, Daniel Hill's. Son of Elias. Died about 1768.  
 1752. Eliot William, Elias Eliot's. Died Feb. 23, 1785, 78 y.  
 1762. Eliot Elias, S. Southeast of Capt. S. Shed's. Son of Elias. Died September, 1836, 102½ y.  
 1764. Eliot Oliver, Andrew Eliot's. Died June 24, 1781, 65 y.  
 1766. Eliot John, Son of John, and lived with his father. Died June 4, 1830, 81 y.  
 1767. Eliot Rev. William, Last on tax list, October 14, 1771.  
       S. R.
1769. Eliot Wid. Hannah, Son of John. R.  
 1770. Emerson Asa, Son of Elias. Died Nov. 17, 1838, 89 y.  
 1771. Eliot John, Jr., S. Son of John. R.  
 1774. Eliot Elias, Jr., S. Son of John. Died September 30, 1811, 56 y.  
 1777. Eliot David, Taxed "for her son Josiah." Supposed to be the widow of William.  
 1778. Eliot Dea. Andrew, R.  
 1783. Eliot Widow, S. Taken prisoner by the Algerines. R. to Winhall, Vt., with his family, about 1804.  
       North of Dea. N. Hall's.
1784. Eliot Samuel, S. East of Wm. Barrett's, near Townsend line.  
 1786. Eaton Abijah, His wife, Thankful, died in 1779, and was buried at the expense of the town. He was, in part or wholly, supported by the town from that time till his death, (at Ashby,) March 31, 1821, at the age, it is said, of 102 years. He was an able-bodied man, always enjoying vigorous health, but he had an invincible repugnance to work in any form.
1752. Fish Nathan,  
 1769. Foster Jonathan,

1769. Fish Wid. Patience,  
Fisk Daniel,  
Fish Jonathan,  
Fish Eleazer,  
Fish Nathan,  
Fish Simon,  
1771. Flagg Isaac,  
Fessenden Aaron,  
Farnsworth Daniel,  
1773. Fuller Silas,  
1774. Fay Jonas,  
Fay Daniel,  
1780. French John,  
Foster Jonathan, Jr.,  
Foster Nathan,  
Fuller Ezra,  
1781. French William,  
1783. Fay Jemima, Wid.  
Farley Samuel,  
1790. Farwell Edward,  
Farnsworth Sampson,  
1752. Green Simon,  
1754. Gould Nehemiah,  
1771. Green Nehemiah,  
1774. Gibson John,  
1780. Green Samuel,  
1781. Grace Manuel,  
1782. Gordon James,  
1786. Giles Joseph,  
1787. Goddard John,  
1790. Gray Dr. Joseph,  
Grimes John,  
1752. Hall Dea. Nathan,  
1757. Herrick Joseph,  
1768. Hall James,  
1769. Hall Nathan, Jr.,  
Holden Isaac,  
Hosmer Nathaniel,  
Hosmer Reuben,  
1770. Hodgman Timothy,  
1771. Hodgman David,  
1772. Hodgman Joseph,  
Hodgman Reuben,  
Herrick Joseph, Jr.,  
1773. Hodgman John,  
1774. Hodgman Benjamin,  
1775. Hodgman Joseph, Jr.,  
Herrick Lois, Wid.  
1776. Herrick Shadrack,  
1777. Hurlbert John,  
1778. Hodgman Zacheus,  
Holden Amos,  
1779. Hosmer William,  
Hart Joseph,  
1780. Hodgman Job,  
Hall Henry,  
Horton Elijah,
- John Russell's. R.  
Eleazer Fish's. Last on tax list Dec. 13,  
1769. Died after 1772.  
Capt. Ira Hall's. Died April 26, 1791.  
R.  
S. East of Luther Nutting's. R.  
S. Elijah Davis'. In Bunker Hill battle.  
R.  
R.  
Jonas Fay's. R.  
S. Moses Russell's. Died May 16, 1826, 77 y.  
Josiah Flagg's. Died June 2, 1783.  
R.  
S. Son of Jonathan. R.  
S. Son of Jonathan. R.  
S. R.  
R.  
Widow of Daniel Fay.  
R.  
Capt. S. Weston. Died Aug. 28, 1819, 88 y.  
R.  
R.  
Killed in battle near lake George, July 20,  
1758.  
R.  
R.  
East of Ens. Enosh Lawrence's place. R.  
R.  
S. Said to be a Hessian. R.  
In the 2d school district. R.  
In the 4th school district. Died Dec. 10, 1797.  
Vearon Eaton's. R.  
In the 4th school district. R.  
Capt. Jos. Sanders'. Died May 7, 1807, 91 y.  
Benjamin Prescott's. Died. Last on tax list  
November 30, 1773.  
Abijah Eaton's. Son of Dea. N. Hall. R.  
Son of Dea. Nathan Hall. R.  
Bachelor's. R. in 1774 or 1775.  
Otis'. R. to Camden, Me.  
S. East of Walton's. R.  
S. R.  
S. Oliver Hosmer's. R.  
S. Calvin Blood's. R.  
Moore's. R.  
S. Benjamin Prescott's. R. to Brattleboro', Vt.  
West of Oliver Hosmer's. R.  
Moore's. R.  
S. Sewall Wood's.  
Widow of Joseph. R. to Brattleborough, Vt.  
R. to do.  
S. R.  
S. Noah Winship's. R.  
S. Abner Holden's. Died April 16, 1806, 54 y.  
S. Oliver Hosmer's. Died March 26, 1802, 74 y.  
R.  
S. R.  
S. Tarbell's. R.  
Timothy Kemp's. R.



1780. Hull John, S. Below Dr. Barber's. R.  
 1782. Hall David, S. Son of Dea. N. Hall. Died August 25, 1824,  
 71 years.  
 Hodgman Nathan, S. Son of Joseph Hodgman. R.  
 Hurlburt Josiah, S. R.  
 Hodgman Thomas, T. Hodgman's. Died August 16, 1836, 82½ y.  
 1783. Herrick Amos, S. Benj. Prescott's. Son of Joseph. Died Nov.  
 8, 1848, 85 y.  
 1785. Hodgkins Hezekiah, R.  
 Hosmer Oliver, Oliver Hosmer's. Died Oct. 15, 1852, 88 y.  
 1786. Hodgman David, R.  
 1788. Haven Clarke, R.  
 Hall Richard, Son of Dea. Hall. Died July 16, 1822, 54 y.  
 1790. Haven Nathaniel, R.  
 1752. Jefts Henry, Jona. Batchelder's. R. before incorporation.  
 1765. Jefts Jonathan, Hartshorn's. Died May, 1818, 86 y.  
 1769. Jefts Mary, Widow, Amos Robbins, Jr. Died Dec. 10, 1809, 70 y.  
 Jefts John, Thomas Jefts'. Died June, 1808.  
 Jefts Thomas, Benj. Jefts'. Died April 7, 1807, 60 y.  
 Jefts Benjamin, North part. Last on tax list January 27, 1777.  
 Kendall Jabez, R.  
 1774. Kendall Nathan, R.  
 1775. Knowlton Benjamin, Jr., B. C. Kimball's. Son of Benj. Knowlton, of  
 New Ipswich, born 1753. R. with his father  
 to New York, about 1807.  
 1778. Kendall Jabez, Jr., R.  
 1780. Knowlton Henry, Brother of Benjamin Knowlton, Jr., born in  
 1756. R.  
 Keyes Elijah, Simeon Kemp's. R.  
 1782. Kemp Abel, A. Kemp's. Died Sept. 23, 1829, 87 y.  
 1785. Kendall Benjamin, Near John Blodgett's. Killed by lightning at  
 his brother's house in Dublin, June 1, 1806,  
 56 years.  
 Kendall Reuben, R.  
 1751. Lawrence Ens. Enosh, Eph. Hildreth's. Died Sept. 28, 1778, 68 y.  
 1752. Leslie James, R.  
 Leslie George, R.  
 Lawrence William, Esq., A meeting was held at his house in No. 1, in  
 1752, but he was not, probably, ever more  
 than temporarily resident in the town.  
 1762. Lowell Moses, R. Last on the tax list November 30, 1773.  
 1769. Lowell David, Capt. Joseph Barrett's. R. Same.  
 Lowell Joseph, On the road from R. Lawrence's to Dakin's  
 mill, near the old brick yard. R.  
 Lowell David, Jr., R. Last on tax list Nov. 30, 1773.  
 Lowell Simeon, R.  
 Lawrence Enosh, Jr., John Jefts. Died Dec. 11, 1809, 71 y.  
 Lawrence Samuel, Son of Ens. Enosh. R. to Townsend.  
 Lawrence Stevens, Edward Merriam's. Died Sept. 4, 1824, 80 y.  
 Lawrence Richard, A. Dakin's. Died November 1, 1815, 80 y.  
 Lawrence John, Eph. Hildreth's. R. to Swanton, Vt., about  
 1806, and died there.  
 Leonard John, Between Oliver Eliot's and Reuben Barrett's.  
 Last on tax list January 30, 1778.  
 1775. Lowell Joseph, Jr., S. R.  
 1778. Lowell Timothy, S. R.  
 Lakin Ambrose, R.  
 1780. Locke Abraham, R.  
 1781. Lawrence Isaac, R.

1788. Lawrence Sampson, R.  
Lee Jonathan.
1789. Lawrence Willard.  
Lawrence Daniel.
1769. Merriam Joseph, S. Moses Merriam's. Died Nov. 6, 1826, 82 y.  
R. Last on tax list October 14, 1771.
1771. Mann James, J. Ames' farm near John Bachelder's. He was  
father of Benjamin Mann, came into town  
with him, and died about 1780-1.
- Mann Benjamin, S. J. Ames, and Asher Peabody's. R. to Keene  
and to Troy, N. Y. Died, 1831, 91 y.
1773. Mansfield Elijah, R.
1774. Mann Christopher, J. Ames' orchard. "A free negro man, for-  
merly slave to James Mann." R. to New  
Ipswich and died there.
1775. Miles William, Died between 1782 and 1796. Amos Herrick  
married his widow.
1778. Munroe Dr. Ephraim, R. next year.  
Muzzy Benjamin, East of James Scripture's. R.
1780. Merriam Abraham, S. At the corner where the road turns to Wilton.  
Died November 26, 1797.
1781. Merriam Ezra, S. Near Pratt's pond, afterwards at his father's.  
Son of Abraham Merriam. Died June 21,  
1827, 67 y.
1782. Mossman Aaron, S. R.
1784. Merriam Silas, S. At Pratt's pond, with Ezra, son of Abraham.  
R. to Maine.
1785. Merriam Abraham, Jr. S. Abraham Merriam house. Died January 18,  
1806, 48 y.
1782. Nutting Ephraim, S. R.
1790. Nutting Peter, R.
1779. Osgood Joseph, Old orchard, south from Tufts'. Married the  
widow of Wm. Barrett. Died before 1790.
1752. Parker Lt. Obadiah, Lieut. Parker's. Died Oct. 5, 1816, 86 y.
1762. Powers Whitcomb, S. R.
1769. Powers Elizabeth, Wid., Last on tax list February 28, 1783.
- Proctor Nathan, R.
1770. Perry Joseph, R.
1771. Parker Samuel, R.
- Parker Oliver, Ens. R.
1777. Patten Nathaniel, R.
1778. Parker Phineas, Son of Lt. O. Parker, born May 11, 1756. R.
1783. Parkhurst Jesse, R.
- Pike William, R.
1785. Parker Sam Stevens, Son of Lt. Obadiah Parker, born October 17,  
1763, and died December 20, 1827, 64 y.
- Parker Junea, R.
1788. Parkhurst Andrew, R.
1789. Parker Sampson, Son of Lt. Obadiah Parker, born October 11,  
1767, and died March 18, 1818, 50 y.
- Patch Asa, R.
- Pratt John, Pratt's pond. Died January 27, 1832, 77 y.
1752. Robbins Josiah, Dea. Webber place. Came from Townsend  
with his family, began the farm on the Dea.  
Webber place, R. soon after 1774, and died  
at Stoddard in 1787. There is a tradition  
that his wife died, that he married again,  
and died, and that he and his first wife were  
buried in the old grave yard, by the side of  
his son Amos. Last on tax list, Oct. 1774.

1768. Robbins Thomas, T. Robbins' place, near Dea. Wood's. Son of Josiah Robbins. Died Dec., 1827, 83 y.
1769. Robbins Seth, Luther Robbins'. Son of Josiah Robbins. Died July 31, 1837, 93 y.
- Ross Joseph, S. East of Dr. Barber's. R.
- Russell Jason, S. Jason Russell's place. Died September 26, 1825, 84 y.
1771. Ross Andrew, Joseph Tuffits' place. R. to Rindge.
1772. Robbins Amos, Son of Josiah Robbins. Died Sept. 2, 1773, and was buried in the old graveyard, in rear of the old meeting house.
- Russell Hobart, H. Russell place. Died Nov. 6, 1836, 83 y.
1774. Russell John, Ephraim Russell's. Died Dec. 15, 1832, 86 y.
1780. Richardson Joshua, S. Lived with Capt. Isaac Brown. R.
1787. Russell Samuel, R.
1789. Reed Thomas, R.
- Russell Jonathan, West of O. Hosmer's. Died Oct. 24, 1828, 77 y.
1752. Spaulding William, R.
- Shattuck Ensign, R.
- Swallow Lt. John, Josiah Winship. Died Nov. 23, 1815, 86 y.
1761. Shattuck Oliver, R.
1765. Spaulding Thomas, R.
1769. Spaulding Lemuel, S. Lt. E. Gilman's. R.
- Shed Abel, E. D. Richardson's. R. to Rindge in 1775.
- Smith Samuel, S. Capt. Smith's. Died Dec. 6, 1815, 74 y.
- Smith Nathaniel, H. Russell place, and Thad. Morse's. Died Dec. 18, 1862, 81 y.
- Scripture Samuel, S. James Scripture's place. R. to Nelson and died there, about 90 years.
1770. Scripture James, S. Ward Scripture's. Son of Samuel Scripture. Died June 19, 1810, 62 y.
1771. Sloan David, Jonathan Batchelder's.
1772. Searle Rev. Jonathan, S. Ebenezer Blood's. Died Dec. 7, 1812, 68 y.
- Sloan John, Son of David Sloan.
1773. Squire Samuel, S. S. Dix Blood's. Burnt to death in the army.
1774. Stone Jonathan, William Whitaker's. R.
1775. Scripture Oliver, Elnathan Boynton's. Son of Samuel Scripture. R. to New Ipswich.
- Sawtell Lt. Ephraim, Widow Amsden's. R.
1776. Smith Joshua, R.
1779. Swallow John, Jr., S. Calvin Blood's. Son of Lieut. John Swallow. Died January, 1830, 73 y.
1780. Start George, R. to New Ipswich.
1781. Smith Nathaniel, Jr., S. East of Amos Robbin's. R.
1782. Spaulding Thaddeus, R.
- Stacy William, R.
- Scripture Samuel, Jr. S. R. to Nelson.
1783. Shed William, R.
1784. Sloan David, Jr., R.
- Stevens John, R.
1786. Searle John, Son of Rev. Jonathan Searle. R.
1786. Sanders Joseph, Dea. Hall's. Died Dec. 12, 1829, 65 y.
- Smith Samuel, Jr., Son of Saml. Smith. Died Feb. 2, 1849, 84 y.
- Stuart Jeremiah, R.
1787. Saunderson William, R.
- Saunderson Isaac, R.
- Saunderson Solomon, R.
- Sartell Micah, R.
- Shattuck Nehemiah, R.
- Smith John, Son of Nathaniel Smith. R.

- Smith Jonathan, Son of Nathaniel. Married Susannah, daughter of Wm. Barrett, and lived near Towns-  
end line.
- 1787 Shipley, Jonathan, R.  
1788. Simonds Thomas, R.  
Scott William, R.  
Scripture John, Son of Samuel Scripture. Went to Canada  
and died there.
- Swere or Zuire Peter, Died.  
1789. Shattuck Ebenezer, E. Shattuck's place. R. to New York.  
1790. Swallow Abel, Son of Lieut. John Swallow. R.  
Spaulding Abel, R.  
Shed William, R.
1749. Tarbell Capt. Thomas, T. Tarbell's place. Died February 9, 1796,  
77 years.  
Tarbell Capt. Samuel, Eli Nutting's. Tory. His estate was confis-  
cated. He left town, and died in poverty  
and wretchedness, at Groton, his native  
place.
1769. Tarbell Nathaniel, John Sawtell's. Son of Capt. Thomas. R.  
Tarbell Edward, Dutton place. Same. R.  
Towne Edward, Hartshorn's. R.
1771. Tarbell John, S. Charles Scripture's. Son of Captain Thomas.  
He fell dead at the door of the meeting  
house on Sunday, August 20, 1797.  
Tarbell Thomas Jr., S. T. Tarbell's. Son of Capt. Thomas. Died  
July 10, 1827, 73 y.
1778. Tarbell Whitcomb, R.  
1782. Townsend Samuel, Geo. Martin's. Died March 29, 1822, 88 y.  
1783. Tarbell Samuel, North of T. Tarbell's. Son of Capt. Thomas.  
Died March 24, 1824, 65 y.
- Tarbell Edward, Near Saml. Tarbell's. Son of Capt. Thos. R.  
1785. Tarbox Daniel, R.  
Trask John, R.  
Tarbell Benjamin, R.  
Temple John, R.
1786. Turncliff William, R.  
1752. Whitney Shadrack, He had a farm in town, but it is uncertain  
whether he ever resided there.
- Wright Samuel, R.  
Withee James, James Withee's. Died April 4, 1796.
1767. Wheeler Aaron, West of John Jeffs'. Died Dec. 3, 1806, 66 y.  
Wheeler Josiah, John Warren's. Died Oct. 17, 1774.
1768. Whipple Ens. Nathan, Isaac Russell's. R.  
1769. Woodward George, Last on tax list, Oct. 22, 1770.  
Williams Jonathan, Jonathan William's place. Died March 18,  
1821. 85 y.
- Winship Jonathan, Jesse Barrett, 2d's. His house was burned.  
R. Last on tax list January 8, 1777.
1771. Wheeler Nathan, John Warren's. Brother of Josiah Wheeler.  
R. to Temple.
- Withington Elisha, S. E. Withington's place. Died July 5, 1819,  
73 years.
1773. Wheeler Timothy, T. Wheeler's. Dec. 13, 1820, 68 y.  
Whitaker John, W. W. Whitaker's. Died Oct 1, 1829, 85 y.
1774. Woods Samuel, S. A. Farewell's. R.  
1776. Wheeler Abijah, Brother of Josiah. Removed to Temple.  
1778. Wood Ens. John, Oliver Allen's. Died Dec. 9, 1785, 69 y.  
1779. Wait John, R.  
1780. Wood Col. James, S. O. Allen's. Died July 31, 1838, 83 y.

1780. Wood Nathan, Brother of James. Married and R.  
Wilson Edward, Capt. Thomas Wilson's. R. to Troy, N. Y.  
Died June 17, 1816, 82 y.
- Winship John, S. Withington's. Died Aug. 1, 1819, 77 y.
- Webber Dea. Jotham, S. Dea. Webber place, formerly Josiah Robbins.  
Died May 2, 1824, 72 y.
- Weatherbee David, S. Dix Blood's.
- Weston Dea. Roger, S. Roger Weston's. Died March 9, 1843, 85½ y.
1781. Wyeth Joshua, Wilsons's Orchard, opposite the burying  
ground. R.
- Wait John, Jr., Josiah Flagg's. R.
1782. Woods Joseph, Sewall Wood's. Died May 11, 1830, 76 y.
- Wheeler David, R.
- Wetherbee Jacob, S. R.
- Wetherbee Timothy, S. Centres. Died January 20, 1832, 84 y.
1783. Wilson Edward, Jr., S. Son of Edward. R. to Troy, N. Y.
- Wilson Joseph, S. Son of Edward. R. to New York.
1784. Withee James, Jr., James Withee's. Died Feb. 17, 1855, 93 y.
1785. White Benjamin,
1786. Wilson Ebenezer, Son of Edward. R. to Troy, N. Y.
- Warren Hinksman, Came from Townsend. Died May 4, 1827, 75  
years.
- Walker Capt. Silas, R.
- Winship Dea. Noah, John Winship's. Son of John Winship.  
Died March 24, 1819, 55 y.
- Williams Nathaniel,
1786. Williams Nathaniel, Jr.,
1787. Wright Josiah,
1789. Wheelock Timothy, Otis place. R.
- Wellington Benjamin, R.
1790. Winship John, Jr., R. to Vermont.
- Withington Elisha, Jr., Son of Elisha Withington. R.

## AFFAIRS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

The foregoing list contains the names of all inhabitants of the town, appearing by the tax lists to be such, who served in the war of the revolution. Most of them served for the town; a few served for other towns, and became inhabitants afterwards. Some, who did not reside in town, served on behalf of the town or some of its inhabitants. Their names appear in the following list, which, added to those marked S, in the foregoing list, completes the roll of soldiers and marines in the war, residing in town previous to 1790. The length of time of service of each man cannot, in many instances, be ascertained. Many served more than one term or campaign. It appears that the town was, by some arrangement among the inhabitants, divided into "squadrons," probably according to the amount of the inventory, rather than the number of inhabitants, and the number of soldiers to be fur-

nished was equally divided among the squadrons, but no record of the division has been found. Much trouble was experienced in settling the "averages" and "turns," as they were called, as appears in the municipal history.

The following persons, whose names do not appear in the foregoing list, served in the war for the town of Mason:

Fish Nathan or Nathaniel,		Mitchell Isaac,
Hodgman Abel,		Worthington Matthew Harrup.
Lampson Joseph,		Moore James,
Harrup Mather,		

Of these, Nathaniel Fish and Abel Hodgman, there is no doubt resided in the town, but their names were not found upon the tax lists. Lampson, Mitchell and Moore, were not resident in the town. Mather Harrup and Matthew Harrup Worthington, are undoubtedly the same person, although the names appear on the records, in several places, as those of different persons.

The following lists are copied from documents and records in the office of the secretary of state, at Concord:

CAPT. MANN'S COMPANY AT BUNKER HILL.

William Parker,	Sam. Scripture,	Eben'r Carlton,
Sam. Campbell,	Elijah Avery,	George Woolson,
John Buxton,	Jere. Holt,	John Robbins,
John Adams,	Saml. Wright,	Isaac Barrett,
John Thomas,	Isaac Flagg,	Zaccheus Hodgman,
Robert Worsley,	Saml. Abbott,	Jos. Blood,
John Sloan,	John Fish,	Lt. Brewer,
Amos Colburn,	Simeon Hildreth,	Capt. Mann,
Thomas Tarbell,	Joseph Hodgman,	John Gilson.

RETURN OF SOLDIERS IN COL. NICHOLS' REGIMENT, ENLISTED 1777.

Reuben Hosmer,	April 23,	Scammel's regiment,	Frye's company.
Ebenezer Abbott,	April 23,	"	" " " "
Thomas Blood,	April 28,	"	" " " "
David Hall,	April 29,	"	" " " "
Jona. Foster,	April 30,	"	" " " "
Nathaniel Fish,	April 30,	"	" " " "
Nath'l Smith,	May 8,	"	" " " "
Mather Harrup,	Aug. 7,	"	" " " "
Jos. Ross,	May 8,	"	" " " "
James Mitchell,	April 10,	Cilley's	" Scott's "
James Moore,	March 10,	"	" " " "

All these enlisted for three years, except Reuben Hosmer, who enlisted "for the war."

## GEN. WHIPPLE'S BRIGADE OF VOLUNTEERS TO RHODE ISLAND, 1778 — COL. MOSES NICHOL'S REGIMENT.

Ninth Co., Capt. Benjamin Mann, Mason.	Ben- } Mason. }	Wages.	Horse hire.	Travel.	Subsistence.	Charges.
		£219 7s. 6d.	£500.	£366 13s. 4d.	£10.	£7 16.

The state records show that forty five men were in the service at Winter Hill, in 1775. An enumeration of the inhabitants, made in October of that year, by the selectmen, under oath, shows the number absent in the army, to be twenty seven. The whole number of inhabitants by that enumeration, was 501. The whole number of males, from sixteen to fifty, not gone in the army, was eighty six, showing that in the summer nearly one half, and in the autumn nearly one quarter of all the able-bodied men and boys were in the army. In 1776, the number reported as in the army, was forty four, and in 1777, fifty five, but probably not all in the service at the same time, in those years. These facts show a patriotism on the part of these poor people, who were wholly dependent upon their daily labor for the support of themselves and their families, which has scarcely a parallel in the annals of history, and which is certainly highly creditable to their spirit of independence and zeal for the cause of liberty.

The following documents, copied from the town records, furnish information as to the services of individuals and expenditures of the town, and of individuals, in procuring soldiers to serve in the war:

This may certify that I, James Moor, not an inhabitant of any town, have enlisted myself with Capt. Will. Scott, into the three years' service on behalf of and for Messrs. Stephen Lawrence, Joseph Ball, Jonas Fay and Daniel Fay, for the space of three years, in consideration of having Rec'd one hundred Dollars over the Bounty given for sd service, as witness my hand.

his  
JAMES X MOOR.  
mark.

*Mason*, March 14, 1777.

Attest: ISAAC MITCHELL,  
OBADIAH PARKER.

This may certify that I, Isaac Mitchell, not an inhabitant of any Town, is enlisted into the three years' service, with Capt. Will. Scott, in the room and for to Do a Turn for the space of three years in sd service, for the Rev. Mr. Jonathan Searle, and Mr. Nathan Wheeler and Obadiah Parker, In consideration for having had payed me one hundred Dollars over and above the Bounty Given for sd service, as witness my hand.

his  
ISAAC X MITCHELL.  
mark.

*Mason*, March ye 14th, 1777.

Attest: MARGRETT SPEAR,  
JAMES MOORE.

*Mason*, April 22, 1777. Rec'd of Messrs. John Swallow, David Blodgett, Daniel Fay, Timothy Wheeler, Reuben Barrett ye 3d, John Whitaker, John Jefts, Their proportion allowed to them by a committee chosen for that purpose, to hire a man for the term of three years. Also three pounds for their making fence for me. I say, Rec'd by me.

SAMUEL ABBOTT.

*Mason*, April 22, 1777. Rec'd of Messrs. Benjamin Hodgman, Jonathan Winship, John Hodgman, Reuben Hodgman, Nathaniel Hosmer, Joseph Ball and Thomas Robens, their proportion allowed to them by a certain committee, chosen for that purpose, to hire a man during the war with Britton. I say, Rec'd by me.

REUBEN HOSMER.

*Mason*, April ye 30th, 1777. These lines may certify all persons it may concern, that I have received of Will. Eliot, Four pounds, two shillings, L. mo., it Being his Proportion Towards hiring one to serve for the squadron he belonged to, to procure a man for ye three years' service. Received by me.

THOMAS BLOOD.

Same date, a similar receipt of John Eliot, of £7 1s. 4d., signed Thomas Blood.

Same date, a similar receipt of Ebenezer Blood, of £5 15s., signed by Thomas Blood.



May ye 8th, 1777, a similar receipt of Zachariah Davis, for £4 11s. 7d., signed by Thomas Blood.

May ye 8th, 1777. This day Rec'd of Abijah Allen, Forty six Dollres  $\frac{1}{6}$  of a Doller, as the town bounty. I say Rec'd by me. DAVID HALL.

May ye 3, 1777. This day Rec'd of Abijah Allen, Twenty six Dollers  $\frac{1}{2}$  Doller, as the Town bounty. I say Rec'd by me. DAVID HALL.

*Mason*, April ye 29th, 1777. I this day Rec'd of Joseph Merriam, Eight Pounds, Four Shillings and six pence, the Town bounty, it being his proportion, as hath been already Levied by a com'tte chosen for that purpose. Rec'd by me. DAVID HALL.

*Mason*, May ye 12, 1777. This Day Rec'd of Oliver Eliot, the sum of Eleven Pounds, eighteen [shillings], L. mo., it being his part of his money for the Town Bounty. I say Rec'd by me, for the three years' men.

his  
NATHAN × FISH.  
mark.

May ye 14, 1777. This day Rec'd of Abijah Allen, Eighteen pounds, two shillings and six pence, as Town's Bounty. I say Rec'd by me.

his  
NATHAN × FISH.  
mark.

May ye 8th, 1777. This day received of Abijah Allen, Thirty Pounds L. mo., as the Town's Bounty. I say Rec'd by me. JOSEPH ROSS.

*Mason*, November ye 26, 1777. This day Rec'd of Samuel Brown, one hundred Dollers, as hire for my ingaging in the Continental service, for three years, for the town of Mason. I say Rec'd by me.

his  
MATTHEW HARRUP × WORTINGTON.  
mark.

*Dunstable*, 4th August, 1779. Rec'd of the Selectmen of Mason, by the hand of Daniel Warner, one hundred and

twenty pounds, L. mo., it being for one half a Town's bounty for a year service in the Continental army, sd service To be Don for the Towns of Dunstable and Mason. Pr.

JOSEPH LAMSON, JR.

*Memorandum.* Paid by the selectmen of Mason, July 13, 1779: Zebulon Dodge, £300; Abijah Eaton, £300. July 19: Simeon Fish, £60. July 24: Samuel Squire, £210. Rec'd an obligation of the town against sd Squire, which was turned in at as many pounds, £90. August 4: Joseph Lamson, Jr., £30. The above for one year. July 21: To Abel Hodgman, as bounty' and travel, £40. July 26: To Edmund Farnsworth, £190. For Rhode Island.

This may certify all whom it may concern, that I, Ezra Fuller, have inlisted in the Continental service, during the three years' campaign, in the room and stead of Amos Dakin, of Mason.

EZRA FULLER.

The foregoing receipts Truly entered my me.

DAVID BLODGETT, Town Clerk.

The names of John Elliot and Jonathan Fish, should be added to the list of soldiers. John Elliot, Jr., removed to Hudson, and died there. Samuel Squire died April 3, 1780.

The list of residents, commencing this chapter, was compiled in 1842-3, by Rev. Joseph B. Hill, then resident in Mason. The place of residence was indicated by the name of the owner at that date. His list closed with the year 1783. It has since been brought down to the year 1790, and a few of the earlier names, and time of decease, age, &c., added, and, in a few instances, places are described by the name of the owner residing thereon in 1858.

The evidence of the service in the revolutionary war, is, in most instances, found in the town records and in the office of the secretary of state at Concord. No name has been inserted among the soldiers, without evidence from one or the

other of these records, except in the instance of some whose services were rendered for other towns before they became inhabitants of Mason.

The following account, copied from papers in the secretary of state's office, shows the amount allowed by the state to the town of Mason, for bounties paid and other expenditures, of the town, during the war. It will also show the number of men in the service, in different years :

## MASON, FOR BOUNTIES, &amp;c.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	Winter Hill, 45 men in 1775,				252	16	0
	Militia, 15 men for the year 1776,				182	8	0
	Wyman's reg't, 15 men.						
	Paid by the town,	150					
	" " individuals,	22	6	8	—	172	6 8
	Baldwin & Gilman's reg't. 14 men in 1776,					37	16 0
May.	Continental, 10 men in 1777,	30	0	0	}	300	6 3
Nov.	do. 1 man in 1777,					23	2 9
June.	Sea Coast, Portsmouth, 3 men in 1777,					5	14 0
	Alarm at Tyconda., 17 men in 1777,	15	2	0			
	Provisions and transporting, 7	2	0	0	—	22	4 0
July.	Stark's brigade, 16 men in 1777,					68	8 0
	Saratoga volunteers, 8 men in 1777,					15	4 0
March.	Peabody's reg't, 1 man in 1778,					15	0 0
	Volunteers to Rhode Island, 25 men in 1778,					47	10 0
July.	Continental, 5 men in 1779,	1200	0	0	}	78	7 2
	Deducted below,	120	0	0		7	17 2
Sept.	Sea Coast, Portsmouth, in 1779,					3	12 0
	Nichols' reg't, 6 men in 1780,					54	0 0
June.	New levies in 1780, in silver,	56	13	4			
	4 men, in paper,	300	0	0	—	61	18 2
	Continental, 5 men in 1781,					370	0 0
	Cotninal, 2 " in 1782,					150	0 0
						<hr/>	
						1860	13 0
Aug.	Continental, Jo. Lampson, in 1779, <i>vid.</i> above, 120	0	0			7	9 0
Sept.	Reynolds' reg't, 3 men in 1781,					36	0 0
						<hr/>	
	DR.					1904	2 0
	To £120 for state bounty, 2 men in 1779, deducted, repaid £120,					7	17 2
						<hr/>	
						1896	4 10

## PROPRIETARY AND TOWN OFFICERS, AND JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

List of moderators of the proprietary meetings and of clerks of the proprietary :

DATE.	MODERATORS.	CLERKS.
October 16, 1749.	Joseph Blanchard, Esq.	Joseph Blanchard, Jr.
December 3, 1751.	William Lawrence, Esq.	Joseph Blanchard, Jr.
October —, 1752.	Maj. Jonathan Hubbard.	John Stevens.
November 27, 1753.	Colonel Lawrence.	John Stevens.
July 16, 1754.	Maj. Jonathan Hubbard.	John Stevens.
November 18, 1754.	Colonel Lawrence.	John Stevens.
May 11, 1757.	William Lawrence, Esq.	John Stevens.
October 24, 1758.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.	Jonathan Blanchard.
January 2, 1759.	Colonel Lawrence.	Jonathan Blanchard.
November 26, 1759.	Capt. Samuel Tarbell.	Jonathan Blanchard.
November 25, 1760.	Col. William Lawrence.	Jonathan Blanchard.
September 14, 1762.	Capt. Samuel Tarbell.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
December 14, 1762.	Nathan Hall.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
April 5, 1763.	Obadiah Parker.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
March 29, 1764.	Oliver Eliot,	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
January 29, 1765.	Ens. Whitecomb Powers.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
March 20, 1765.	Lieut. William Prescott.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
April 23, 1766.	Whitecomb Powers.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
December 11, 1766.	Lieut. William Prescott.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
March 10, 1767.	Ens. Whitecomb Powers.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
June 2, 1767.	Nathan Hall.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
November 4, 1767.	Lieut. Obadiah Parker.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
January 5, 1768.	Lieut. Obadiah Parker.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
March 8, 1768.	Ens. Whitecomb Powers.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
June 22, 1768.	Josiah Robbins.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
March 22, 1769.	Lieut. Obadiah Parker.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
August 21, 1769.	Josiah Robbins.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
October 18, 1769.	Nathan Hall.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
March 6, 1770.	Nathan Hall.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
January 6, 1772.	Josiah Robbins.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.
January 12, 1773.	Nathan Hall.	Capt. Thomas Tarbell.

The following list contains the names of the moderators at the annual town meetings, the town clerks, the selectmen, and town treasurers, from the year 1768 to the year 1858, inclusive, and of representatives from the year 1775 to 1858, inclusive :

## LIST OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Year.	MODERATORS.	TOWN CLERKS.	SELECTMEN.	TREASURERS.	REPRESENTY'S.
1768.	Obadiah Parker,	Josiah Wheeler,	Josiah Wheeler, Obadiah Parker, Joseph Bullard,	Nathan Hall,	
1769.	Thomas Tarbell,	John Asten,	Thomas Tarbell, Josiah Wheeler, Obadiah Parker,	Nathan Hall,	
1770.	Josiah Wheeler,	Josiah Wheeler,	Josiah Wheeler, James Dakin, Amos Dakin,	Nathan Hall,	
1771.	Obadiah Parker,	Josiah Wheeler,	Josiah Wheeler, Obadiah Parker, Jonathan Winship,	Nathan Hall,	
1772.	Josiah Robens,	Josiah Wheeler,	Josiah Wheeler, Obadiah Parker, Jonathan Winship,	Nathan Hall,	
1773.	Samuel Smith,	Josiah Wheeler,	Josiah Wheeler, James Withee, Amos Dakin,	Nathan Hall,	
1774.	Joseph Barrett,	Josiah Wheeler,	Josiah Wheeler, in place of J. Wheeler, dismissed at his		
1774.	August 22.	Benjamin Mann,	Benjamin Mann,		
1775.	David Blodgett,	Benjamin Mann,	Benjamin Mann, Joseph Merriam, James Withee,	Nathan Hall,	Amos Dakin.
1775.	May 29.	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, as constituent in B. Mann's stead while in sd Mann's absence [in the army].		
1776.	Samuel Brown,	David Blodgett,	David Blodgett, Ephraim Sawtell, Abel Shed,	Samuel Brown,	Amos Dakin.
1777.	Samuel Brown,	Benjamin Mann,	Benjamin Mann, Abel Shedd, Obadiah Parker,	Samuel Brown,	[No record.]
1778.	Samuel Brown,	Benjamin Mann,	Benjamin Mann, Joseph Merriam, Reuben Barrett,	Samuel Brown,	Amos Dakin.
1779.	John Wood,	David Blodgett,	David Blodgett, Thomas Tarbell, William Chambers,	Samuel Brown,	Amos Dakin.
1780.	John Wood,	William Eliot,	William Eliot, Hubbert Russell, Joseph Merriam,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett.
1781.	Benjamin Mann,	Jacob Blodgett,	Jacob Blodgett, Samuel Smith, Timothy Wheeler,	Joseph Barrett,	Benjamin Mann.
1782.	David Blodgett,	William Eliot,	William Eliot, Samuel Smith, Joseph Merriam,	Selectmen,	[No record.]
1783.	Benjamin Mann,	Elijah Keyes,	Elijah Keyes, Joseph Merriam, Amos Dakin,	William Eliot,	Benjamin Mann.
1784.	Benjamin Mann,	David Blodgett,	David Blodgett, Joseph Barrett, Joseph Merriam,	William Eliot,	Benjamin Mann.
1785.	William Eliot,	William Eliot,	William Eliot, Jotham Webber, Jacob Blodgett,	Jacob Blodgett,	[No record.]
1786.	Benjamin Mann,	William Eliot,	William Eliot, Jotham Webber, Benjamin Mann,	Joseph Barrett,	Benjamin Mann.
1787.	Benjamin Mann,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Hobart Russell, Joseph Merriam,	Joseph Barrett,	[No record.]
1788.	Benjamin Mann,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Hobart Russell, Obadiah Parker,	Joseph Barrett,	Obadiah Parker.
1789.	Benjamin Mann,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Benjamin Mann, Joseph Merriam,	Joseph Barrett,	[No record.]
1790.	Obadiah Parker,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Elias Eliot, Joseph Merriam,	Joseph Barrett,	Obadiah Parker.
1791.	Obadiah Parker,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Hubbert Russell, James Wood,	Joseph Barrett,	[No record.]
1792.	Obadiah Parker,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Hubbert Russell, James Wood,	Joseph Barrett,	Obadiah Parker.
1793.	Obadiah Parker,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Joseph Merriam, James Wood,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Merriam.

## LIST OF TOWN OFFICERS.—CONTINUED.

Year.	MODERATORS.	TOWN CLERKS.	SELECTMEN.	TREASURERS.	REPRESENTS.
1794	Obadiah Parker,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Joseph Merriam, Benjamin Mann,	Joseph Barrett,	Obadiah Parker.
1795	Obadiah Parker,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Timothy Wheeler, Timothy Dakin,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett.
1796	Benjamin Mann,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Benjamin Mann, Timothy Dakin,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett.
1797	Benjamin Mann,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Maj. James Wood, Capt. Benj. Barrett,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett.
1798	Benjamin Mann,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, Maj. James Wood, Joseph Merriam,	Selectmen,	Joseph Barrett.
1799	Benjamin Mann,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Joseph Merriam,	"	Joseph Merriam.
1800	Benjamin Mann,	Joseph Barrett,	Joseph Barrett, John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam,	"	Col. Jas. Wood.
1801	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Artemas Manning,	"	Col. Jas. Wood.
1802	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Artemas Manning,	"	Col. Jas. Wood.
1803	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Sam S. Parker,	"	Col. Jas. Wood.
1804	Josce Bucknam,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Samuel Smith, Jr.,	"	Col. Jas. Wood.
1805	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Samuel Smith, Jr.,	"	Dea. R. Weston.
1806	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Samuel Smith, Jr.,	"	Dea. R. Weston.
1807	Timothy Dakin,	Josce Bucknam,	Josce Bucknam, Samuel Smith, Jr., Samuel Merriam,	"	Dea. R. Weston.
1808	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Joseph Merriam, Joseph Saunders,	"	Dea. R. Weston.
1809	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Samuel Smith, Jr.,	"	Dea. R. Weston.
1810	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Samuel Smith, Jr.,	"	Jas. Wood, Esq.
1811	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Samuel Smith, Jr.,	"	Dea. R. Weston.
1812	Josiah Russell,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Samuel Smith, Jr.,	"	Josce Bucknam.
1813	Timothy Dakin,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Josee Bucknam, Samuel Smith, Jr.,	"	John Blodgett.
1814	Hez. Richardson,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Hezekiah Richardson, Jason Dunster,	"	Josce Bucknam.
1815	Josce Bucknam,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Hezekiah Richardson, Jason Dunster,	"	John Blodgett.
1816	Josiah Russell,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Hezekiah Richardson, Jason Dunster,	"	H. Richardson.
1817	Josiah Russell,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Samuel Merriam, Hezekiah Richardson,	"	H. Richardson.
1818	Samuel Merriam,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Samuel Merriam, George Dakin,	"	John Blodgett.
1819	Samuel Merriam,	John Blodgett,	Samuel Merriam, George Dakin, Josiah Winship,	"	Josiah Winship.
1820	Josiah Russell,	John Blodgett,	John Blodgett, Samuel Merriam, Josiah Winship,	"	Josiah Winship.
1821	Hez. Richardson,	Samuel Merriam,	Samuel Merriam, Hezekiah Richardson, Sam S. Parker,	"	H. Richardson.
1822	Josiah Russell,	Samuel Merriam,	Samuel Merriam, Josiah Winship, Joel Ames,	"	Josiah Russell.
1823	Hez. Richardson,	Samuel Merriam,	Samuel Merriam, Josiah Winship, Joel Ames,	"	Voted to pass the
1823	From May 5.	Willis Johnson,	Samuel Smith, in place of Samuel Merriam, deceased.	"	article.
1824	Josce Bucknam,	Willis Johnson,	Willis Johnson, Samuel Smith, James Taft,	"	Josiah Russell.

TOWN OFFICERS.

Year.	MODERATORS.	TOWN CLERKS.	SELECTMEN.	TREASURERS.	REPRESENTATIVES.
1825	Josiah Russell,	Willis Johnson,	Willis Johnson, James Taft, Timothy Wheeler,	Seleclmen,	Josiah Russell.
1826	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	Willis Johnson, Joel Ames, Jonathan Bachelder, Jr.,	"	John Stevens.
1827	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	Willis Johnson, Timothy Wheeler, James Taft,	"	John Stevens.
1828	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	Willis Johnson, Timothy Wheeler, James Taft,	"	John Stevens.
1829	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	James Taft, Elisha Barrett, Jonathan Bachelder, Jr.,	"	John Stevens.
1830	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	James Taft, Elisha Barrett, Jonathan Bachelder, Jr.,	"	John Stevens.
1831	John Stevens,	N. F. Cummings,	Jona. Bachelder, Jr., James Spaulding, N. F. Cummings,	"	John Stevens.
1832	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	James Taft, Timothy Wheeler, Samuel Smith,	"	John Stevens.
1833	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	Samuel Smith, Jr., Jona. Blanchard, Jr., George Elliott,	"	John Stevens.
1834	John Stevens,	N. F. Cummings,	Samuel Smith, Jr., Timothy Wheeler, George Elliott,	"	William Wright.
1835	John Stevens,	N. F. Cummings,	Samuel Smith, Jr., Tim. Wheeler, Loanni Chamberlain,	"	William Wright.
1836	John Stevens,	N. F. Cummings,	John Stevens, Timothy Wheeler, Charles Scripture,	"	John Stevens.
1837	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	John Stevens, Timothy Wheeler, Charles Scripture,	"	Rev. Eben. Hill.
1838	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	Samuel Smith, Jr., William Wright, Artemas Rowell,	"	Rev. Eben. Hill.
1839	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	John Stevens, Charles Scripture, Artemas Rowell,	"	John Stevens.
1840	John Stevens,	George Elliott,	Charles Scripture, Asler Pebody, Franklin Merriam,	"	John Stevens.
1841	John Stevens,	George Elliott,	Charles Scripture, William Wright, Jona. Bachelder,	"	Saml. Smith, Jr.
1842	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	William Wright, Ira Hall, Jonathan Russell 2d,	"	Saml. Smith, Jr.
1843	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	Oliver H. Pratt, Charles Prescott, Samuel Smith, Jr.,	"	Oliver H. Pratt.
1844	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	Oliver H. Pratt, Charles Prescott, Artemas Rowell,	"	Oliver H. Pratt.
1845	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	John Stevens, Jonathan Bachelder, Charles Scripture,	"	Oliver H. Pratt.
1846	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	John Stevens, Jonathan Bachelder, Charles Scripture,	"	Saml. Smith, Esq.
1847	John Stevens,	Willis Johnson,	Oliver H. Pratt, Jonathan Bachelder, Luther L. Barrett,	"	Oliver H. Pratt.
1848	Oliver H. Pratt,	Willis Johnson,	Samuel Smith, Luther L. Barrett, George Hartshorn,	"	Vote not to send.
1849	Oliver H. Pratt,	Willis Johnson,	George Hartshorn, Joseph Saunders, Joseph B. Wilson,	"	Vote not to send.
1850	A. T. Wilmarth,	Willis Johnson,	Charles Scripture, Loanni Chamberlain, Benj. Barrett,	"	Oliver H. Pratt.
1851	Oliver H. Pratt,	A. G. Comings,	Charles Scripture, Frederick Mansfield, S. Wheeler Weston,	"	Stephen Smith.
1852	Oliver H. Pratt,	Edwin A. Larkin,	Charles Prescott, S. Wheeler Weston, Jas. L. Chamberlain,	"	Oliver H. Pratt.
1853	Oliver H. Pratt,	Edwin A. Larkin,	Chas. Prescott, S. Wheeler Weston, Jonathan Russell,	"	Lucius A. Elliott.
1854	Charles Scripture,	Willis Johnson,	S. Wheeler Weston, Freeman Elliott, Amos Scripture,	"	Lucius A. Elliott.
1855	Charles Scripture,	Edwin A. Larkin,	S. Wheeler Weston, Charles Prescott, Amos Scripture,	Chas. Scripture,	Charles Prescott.
1856	Edwin A. Larkin,	Joseph B. Wilson,	S. Wheeler Weston, Charles Prescott, Amos Scripture,	Chas. Scripture,	Charles Prescott.
1857	Edwin A. Larkin,	Joseph B. Wilson,	Charles Prescott, Amos Scripture, Jacob Rideout,	Seleclmen,	Fred. Mansfield.
1858	Edwin A. Larkin,	Joseph B. Wilson,	Amos Scripture, Jacob Rideout, Amos H. Hosmer,		

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND OF THE QUORUM.

1783. Benjamin Mann.	1831. Israel Herrick, Quorum, 1836.
1785. Jonathan Scarle.	1833. Nathaniel F. Cummings.
1804. James Wood.	1835. Nathaniel Shattuck.
1808. Rogers Weston.	1836. William Wright.
1809. John Blodgett.	1838. Jonathan Russell.
1818. Timothy Dakin.	1838. Samuel Smith.
1821. Samuel Merriam.	1844. George Taft.
1823. Samuel Whiting.	1848. Thomas H. Marshall.
1823. Willis Johnson.	1855. Charles Scripture.
1825. John Stevens, Quorum, 1831.	1855. Joseph B. Wilson.

## CORONERS.

Stephen Lawrence. | James Snow. | Samuel Merriam.

## TRUSTEES OF THE BOYNTON COMMON SCHOOL FUND.

1858. Thomas H. Marshall, Jonathan Russell, 2d, Charles Scripture, George Taft, Charles Prescott.

From 1775 to 1793, Mason and Raby were classed for the choice of a representative. Dea. Amos Dakin was the representative in the years 1775-'76-'78-'79; Joseph Barrett, in 1780-'95-'96-'97-'98; Benjamin Mann, in 1781-'83-'84-'86; Lieut. Obadiah Parker, in 1788-'90-'92-'94; Joseph Merriam, 1793, 1799. There is no record of the choice in 1777-'82-1785-'87-'89-'91. It may be that in those years the representative was from Raby. The records of Raby show that Dea. Amos Dakin was elected representative March, 1787, and Capt. Campbell March, 1789, for Mason and Raby. Campbell was a citizen of Raby.

In the following tables, prepared by the Rev. Jos. B. Hill, is inserted the number of deaths in the town of Mason, in each year for 60 years, from January 1, 1791, to Jan. 1, 1851, taken from the record kept by the Rev. Ebenezer Hill, from 1791 to 1838, and from that kept by Dr. Willis Johnson, from 1840 to 1851; the years 1838 and 1839 being supplied from other sources; in which appears the number over 70 years of age, and the principal diseases in each year:



TABLE OF DEATHS IN MASON, FROM JANUARY 1, 1791 TO JANUARY 1, 1851.

Years.	Deaths.	Over 70.	Years.	Deaths.	Over 70.	Years.	Deaths.	Over 70.	Years.	Deaths.	Over 70.	Years.	Deaths.	Over 70.	Years.	Deaths.	Over 70.
1791	10	2	1801	6	1	1811	11	1	1821	18	4	1831	19	8	1841	14	4
1792	8	0	1802	19	1	1812	18	2	1822	29	5	1832	20	4	1842	24	4
1793	7	2	1803	19	2	1813	10	0	1823	13	2	1833	11	3	1843	20	7
1794	12	2	1804	17	0	1814	22	4	1824	27	9	1834	21	3	1844	14	6
1795	7	0	1805	20	3	1815	22	5	1825	21	3	1835	16	8	1845	21	5
1796	10	1	1806	13	1	1816	18	3	1826	20	1	1836	12	4	1846	13	3
1797	15	1	1807	15	2	1817	13	1	1827	26	7	1837	19	8	1847	12	2
1798	10	0	1808	15	1	1818	34	4	1828	22	5	1838	14	4	1848	23	2
1799	6	1	1809	9	3	1819	31	3	1829	29	9	1839	9	3	1849	27	7
1800	19	1	1810	20	1	1820	22	4	1830	11	5	1840	21	7	1850	10	3
	104	10		154	15		201	27		216	50		162	52		184	43

PROPORTION OF DISEASES, &c., TO DEATHS IN EACH PERIOD.

DECADES.	Deaths.	Over 70 years.	Inf. comp.	Canker rash, &c.	Fevers.	Consumption.	Old age.
First decade,	104	$\frac{1}{10}$	0	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{50}$
Second decade,	154	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{50}$	$\frac{1}{11}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{12}$
Third decade,	201	$\frac{1}{20}$	$\frac{1}{12}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{13}$
Fourth decade,	216	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{2}{4}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{10}$
Fifth decade,	162	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$
Sixth decade,	184	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{15}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$
For sixty years.	1021	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{14}$	$\frac{1}{12}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{9}$

TABLE OF TOTALS.

From	Deaths.	Over 70 years.	Infantile comp.	Canker rash &c.	Fevers.	Consumptions.	Old Age.
1791 to 1801	104	10	0	10	14	20	2
1801 " 1811	154	15	3	14	19	33	13
1811 " 1821	201	27	17	31	32	25	16
1821 " 1831	216	50	23	9	23	22	21
1831 " 1841	162	52	16	6	9	30	34
1841 " 1851	184	43	24	12	29	32	29
	1021	197	73	82	126	162	115

AGES OF THOSE DYING ABOVE 70 YEARS.

At the age of	70	9	At age of	87	6
	71	5		88	13
	72	8		89	1
	73	2		90	6
	74	8		91	5
	75	9		92	1
	76	11		94	1
	77	8		95	1
	78	3		96	5
	79	5		97	1
	80	11		98	1
	81	9		99	1
	82	11		99 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
	83	12		100	1
	84	11		102	1
	85	12		102 $\frac{1}{2}$	1
	86	11			

TABLE OF DISEASES, OR BILL OF MORTALITY, FROM JANUARY 1, 1791 TO JANUARY 1, 1851, — SIXTY YEARS.

DISEASES.	1791	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1791
	to 1801	to 1811	to 1821	to 1831	to 1841	to 1851	Total.
Consumption,	20	23	25	22	30	32	162
Fever,	14	19	32	23	10	29	127
Old age,	2	13	16	21	35	29	116
Infantile complaints,	0	3	17	23	16	24	83
Canker rash or throat distemper,	10	14	31	9	6	12	82
Dysentery or cholera morbus,	10	15	7	22	7	12	73
Unknown and sudden,	2	7	5	15	9	3	41
Dropsy,	6	4	3	7	6	6	32
Fits,	11	6	2	1	1	2	23
Stillborn,	9	4	6	2	1	0	22
Quinsy,	5	6	5	5	0	0	21
Chronic,	2	2	3	6	0	0	13
Cancer,	2	0	2	2	4	4	14
Childbirth,	3	2	4	1	0	1	11
Intemperance or delirium tremens,	1	0	0	4	5	4	14
Mortification,	2	3	2	1	2	1	10
Whooping cough,	1	2	3	2	2	0	10
Hydro cephalus,	0	1	2	0	5	2	10
Palsy,	1	2	5	4	4	0	16
Scrofula,	0	0	2	2	2	3	9
Measles,	0	0	4	3	0	1	8
Disease of the liver,	0	0	2	9	0	1	12
Apoplexy,	0	1	0	3	0	1	5
Croup,	0	0	1	1	1	2	5
Atrophy,	0	0	1	0	3	0	4
Burns and sores,	0	0	4	3	1	0	8
Diabetes,	0	0	1	0	2	1	3
Debility,	0	1	0	2	1	0	4
Affection of the heart,	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Premature birth,	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Drowned,	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Lightning,	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Dyspepsia,	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
Inflammation of the bowels,	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Inflammation of the brain,	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Inflammation of the bladder,	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Erysipelas,	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Killed by falling,	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
Ulcer on the leg,	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Canker,	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Asthma,	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Small pox,	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Lethargy,	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Cholic,	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Diseases not classed,	5	13	8	9	6	4	45

In each decade, some deaths are recorded by diseases, &c., not falling into any of the classes of diseases in the tables, as follows: In the first decade, obstructed stomach, ulcer on the lungs, cholera dysentery, vomiting, schirrous tumors, one

each; total 5. In the second decade, rickets, falling from the bed, eating cherries, shot by accident, overlaid, suffocated by a bean, salt rheum, complication of diseases, gravel, fracture, lockjaw, tussis, killed by a falling tree, one each; total 13. In the third decade, inflammation from a fall, sore mouth, ulcers, bilious cholic, thrown from a wagon, indigestion, chicken pox, strangury, one each; total 8. In the fourth decade, cholera infantum, spina bifida, suicide, fistula, bleeding from a slight wound, epilepsy, hydro thorax, hernia, diseased kidney, one each; total 9. In the fifth decade, influenza, fluor albus, abortion, gangrene of the foot, pleurisy, universal disease, one each; total 6. In the 6th decade, malformation, diarrhea, killed in blasting rocks, casualty, one each; total 4. The sum total of these is added at the foot of the table, as diseases not classed. Infantile complaints include all diseases of infants not otherwise specified.

In the table of deaths, 197 are recorded as above the age of 70 years. Of these, 68 were between 70 and 80; 97 between 80 and 90; 23 between 90 and 100; and 3 above 100. Of these last, Jonathan Foster, entered in Mr. Hill's record at 100 years, is entered in the table at 102 years, that being, probably, his true age. These tables show a degree of longevity, which indicates a healthy region. On comparing the past with the present, it will be perceived, that the average length of human life is increasing, and that consumption is not, as many suppose, more prevalent and fatal now than formerly. It also appears, by the table of persons residing in the town on the first day of January, 1857, of the age of 70 years and over, that the ratio of longevity is now fully equal to that of any former period.

TABLE OF THOSE LIVING 70 YEARS OF AGE AND UPWARDS, JANUARY, 1857.

At the age of	70	7	At the age of	77	4	At the age of	84	3
	71	7		78	4		85	1
	72	4		79	5		87	2
	73	8		80	3		88	1
	74	2		81	1		91	1
	75	6		82	1		93	1
	76	4		83	1	Age not specified,		6

## BIRTHS.

Of births, no accurate record has been kept. Mr. Hill kept a record of births from November 3, 1796, until the year 1820, but in several of the years it is manifestly imperfect. There was no law requiring a record of births to be made. The duties of his office gave the minister much better means to keep an accurate register of deaths than of births. As no other record of births was kept, it is thought best to give the number of births each year, according to Mr. Hill's record:

TABLE OF BIRTHS IN MASON, FROM 1796 TO 1820, INCLUSIVE.

From Nov. 3, 1796 to Nov. 3, 1797, 41	From Dec. 31, 1807 to Dec. 31, 1808, 23
“ Nov. 3, 1797 to Dec. 31, 1798, 44	“ “ 31, 1808 “ 31, 1809, 16
“ Dec. 31, 1798 to Dec. 31, 1799, 33	“ “ 31, 1809 “ 31, 1810, 33
“ “ 31, 1799 “ 31, 1800, 27	“ “ 31, 1810 “ 31, 1811, 30
“ “ 31, 1800 “ 31, 1801, 32	“ “ 31, 1811 “ 31, 1814, 85
“ “ 31, 1801 “ 31, 1802, 29	“ “ 31, 1814 “ 31, 1817, 56
“ “ 31, 1802 “ 31, 1803, 32	“ “ 31, 1817 “ 31, 1818, 32
“ “ 31, 1803 “ 31, 1804, 33	“ “ 31, 1818 “ 31, 1820, 62
“ “ 31, 1804 “ 31, 1805, 29	“ 1750 to 1858, twin births, 40
“ “ 31, 1805 “ 31, 1806, 36	“ 1750 to 1858, illeg., about 15
“ “ 31, 1806 “ 31, 1807, 25	

## POPULATION.

Census.

1767. By Provincial authority:

Unmarried males from 16 to 60 years of age,	20
Married males from 16 to 60 years of age,	47
Males under 16 years of age,	80
Males 60 years of age and above,	1
Male slaves,	0
Unmarried females,	79
Married females,	47
Widows,	4
Female slaves,	0
Total,	— 278

1775. By order of the Provincial Congress:

Males under 16 years of age,	148
Males from 16 to 60 years of age, not gone in the army,	86
Males over 50 years of age,	12
Males gone in the army,	27
All Females,	227
Negroes and slaves for life,	1
Total,	— 501

By the United States census:

1790	922	1820	1313	1840	1275
1800	1179	1830	1403	1850	1626
1810	1077				

The decrease in numbers from the former census reported in the census of 1810, was so unexpected and so great, as to give rise to strong doubts of the correctness of the return. The subject was taken up at the town meeting, and a committee appointed in each school district, to take a new census. This was done, and the result confirmed the accuracy of the return. The decrease was owing to the active emigration, then tending to the new lands in Vermont and Western New York. The decrease from 1830 to 1840 was, probably, owing to a similar emigration to the west and to the manufacturing towns in the vicinity.

In the Hillsborough County Record, published in 1853, the statistics of the town are stated as follows:

## STATISTICS OF THE TOWN OF MASON, IN 1850.

Population,	1626	Value of lands,	\$262,606
Number of families,	346	Value of stock in trade,	17,700
Number of houses,	313	Total value of the inventory,	483,256
Number of farms,	168		

## POPULATION OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

1767	52,700	1800	183,762	1830	269,328
1775	82,200	1810	214,360	1840	284,574
1790	141,899	1820	244,161	1850	317,976

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

At the annual town meeting, March 14, 1791, a committee, consisting of Jonathan Searle, Benjamin Mann, Obadiah Parker, Reuben Barrett, Samuel Smith, Jotham Webber, Stephen Lawrence, Oliver Scripture, John Lawrence, David Hall, James Scripture, Joseph Saunders and Joseph Barrett, was appointed to divide the town into school districts, and fix the place in each for the school houses. Their report made, was adopted, and is recorded in volume 3, page 153. The town was divided into nine districts, "bounded by the persons hereafter named." This document will show who were the occupants of all the principal farms in the town, at that date.

## MIDDLE, OR FIRST DISTRICT.

Dr. Joseph Gray, Abraham Merriam, Jr., Edward Wilson, Benjamin Mann, Esq., Andrew Ross, Benjamin Kendall, Capt. William Chambers, John Tarbell, Ezra Merriam, Nathaniel

Boynton, Edward Wilson, Jr., Simon Ames, Abraham Merriam, Josiah Merriam, Jr., John Whitaker.

SOUTH, OR SECOND DISTRICT.

John Winship, Capt. Isaac Brown, Seth Robins, Nathaniel Smith, Lt. John Swallow, John Lawrence, Noah Winship, Nathaniel Smith, Jr., Zacheus Barrett, John Swallow, Jr., Joseph Giles, William Barrett, John Wait, Jr., Jotham Webber, John Campbell, Reuben Barrett.

SOUTHEAST, OR THIRD DISTRICT.

Daniel Lawrence, Amos and Lois Herrick, Benjamin Barrett, Jacob Weatherbee, Samuel Dunster, Elisha Withington, Amos Blood, Abel Kemp, Daniel Tarbox, William Sanders, Peter Zwere, Thomas Asten, Thomas Reed, Wid. Miles, Saml. Green, Jabez Kendall, David Weatherbee, Abel Brown, Benjamin Grace.

EAST, OR FOURTH DISTRICT.

Clark Haven, James Weethee, Jesse Barrett, Hubbert Russell, John Wait, James Weethee, Jr., Thomas Tarbell, Jr., Lt. James Gilman, John Goddard, John Grimes, Edward Tarbell, Samuel Smith, Lt. James Scripture, Reuben Barrett, Jason Russell, John Elliott.

NORTHEAST, OR FIFTH DISTRICT.

David Brown, Oliver Elliott, Joseph Sanders, John Russell, Elias Elliott, Jonathan Williams, Joseph Abbott, Abijah Eaton, Samuel Tarbell, Jeremiah Boynton, John Cummings, William Barrett, Jr., Samuel Elliott, Abel Shedd, Simeon Fish, William Scott.

NORTHWEST, OR SIXTH DISTRICT.

Henry Knowlton, Samuel Townsend, Oliver Scripture, Ens. John Hull, Benjamin Knowlton, Silas Bullard, John Jefts, Eleazer Fish, William Parkhurst, William Elliott, Ebenezer Blood, Dea. Nathan Hall, Timothy Dakin, Andrew Eliot, Thomas Blood, David Hall, Richard Lawrence, John Adams, Asa Stone, Jonathan Bachelder.

## WEST, OR SEVENTH DISTRICT.

Jonathan Searle, Esq., Hinksman Warren, Abel Adams, Abijah Allen, Joseph Merriam, Joseph Barrett, Ens. Nathan Whipple, Zachariah Davis, Reuben Kendall, John Blodgett, Amos Dakin.

## SECOND WEST, OR EIGHTH DISTRICT.

Obadiah Parker, Stephen Lawrence, Roger Wesson, Sam Stevens Parker, Thomas Robins, Timothy Wheeler, Aaron Wheeler, Lt. James Wood, Lt. Enosh Lawrence, Jonas Fay, Joseph Woods.

## SOUTHWEST, OR NINTH DISTRICT.

Ebenezer Shattuck, Benjamin Hodgman, Timothy Wheelock, Thomas Hodgman, Reuben Hodgman, Samuel Wood, Edward Farwell, Reuben Hosmer, Isaac Flagg, Samuel Russell, Wm. Hosmer, Jonathan Russell.

The school districts thus arranged, remained, with very little change, for the next fifty years. The principal change has been, the arrangement of a district in the village, which is now much the largest in the town, composed of territory included in this division in the sixth and seventh districts.

## CHAPTER VII.

### MASON VILLAGE, AND THE RAILROAD.

THE water power on the Souhegan river, at Mason village, was occupied by mills at an early day. The lots upon which it is found were not among those selected for mills by the proprietors, when they divided the township and assigned the lots to the several owners, owing to some error or mistake, which was discovered, and measures were taken to procure the lots for the purpose of the mills, see Proprietary History, page 35, and the lots were, undoubtedly, acquired by the grantees of the township for that purpose, by some negotiation or arrangement; for, in 1751, it appears, a committee was appointed at a proprietors' meeting, to make a contract for building mills on this privilege, the saw mill to be completed by the 25th of May, 1752, and the corn mill in a year from that date. The committee made a contract with Col. Bellows, to build the mills, and took his bond to secure the performance of the contract. This he failed to do, and a suit was brought upon the bond, which was pending many years; for it seems not to have been settled in 1760, as will be seen by reference to the Proprietary History, page 47. In the History of New Ipswich, it is stated that Charles Barrett, in connection with his brother Thomas Barrett, built the mills, and that he sold his interest to Amos Dakin and removed to New Ipswich in 1764. At a proprietors' meeting, November 4, 1767, a committee was appointed "to lay out a road by Mr. Thomas Barrett's mill," and in the warrant for the first town meeting, dated September 8, 1768, was an article for accepting the road by Mr. Thomas Barrett's and Amos Dakin's





VIEW OF WYSON VILLAGE 1855



mills. Mr. Dakin soon after became the sole proprietor, and so remained till his death, in 1789. The property passed to his son, Dea. Timothy Dakin, who rebuilt the mills in a very substantial manner, and remained the owner till 1814, when he sold the mills and privilege to Maj. Seth King and John Stevens, Esq. The first dam above the bridge was built by Dea. Amos Dakin, about 1788. Below this dam, on the north side of the stream, a carding and fulling mill was built by John Everett, about the year 1800. It was occupied by him and afterwards by Othni Crosby, and subsequently by others, for that purpose, till about the year 1829, when it was removed and upon its site was erected the present factory building, under the direction of Charles Barrett, Esq., agent of the Columbian Manufacturing Company. It was put into operation in 1830, and has continued in successful operation, with few interruptions, till the present time. This building was 100 feet long by 43 wide, and contained, when first put in operation, 64 looms for weaving sheetings and shirtings, with other machinery and apparatus sufficient to run that number of looms. It now contains 2946 spindles, and 77 looms, employed in the manufacture of denims, of which the daily manufacture now is 3100 yards. After Mr. Barrett relinquished the agency, the mills were run by Messrs. Dakin and Daniels, under a contract to manufacture for the company by the yard. The mills were run by the company under Leonard Dakin, their agent, from 1837 to 1839; under John E. Bacon, agent, from 1839 to 1841. From that time, Mr. Willard Daniels was agent till his death, in 1843. He was succeeded by the late Hon. Stephen Smith, who remained agent till his death, in 1857. He was succeeded by Charles P. Richardson, the present agent. In 1845, the company purchased the Souhegan water privilege near the high bridge in New Ipswich, and, under the direction of Mr. Smith, their agent, the present factory was there erected, in length 120 feet, breadth 44 feet, containing 3328 spindles and 100 looms, employed in the manufacture of denims, the daily production being about

4200 yards. In 1854, the company purchased the old grist and saw mills, on the site originally occupied by Dakin's mills, and erected a building thereon for a dye and finishing and packing house, in length 166 feet, breadth 44 feet, one story high. In the same year, the company purchased the Mountain mill, formerly called the Waterloom mill, in New Ipswich, and erected a new factory, 114 by 40 feet, containing 2190 spindles, and 54 looms, in which the daily manufacture is about 2370 yards of denims. In the year 1856, the same company erected, on the site of the old Dakin mills, a factory 100 by 44 feet, four stories high, and a picking room 20 by 44 feet, two stories high. This building adjoins the dye and finishing house. In it are 3456 spindles, and 96 looms, employed in the manufacture of denims, of which the daily production is about 3950 yards. The mills at Mason and New Ipswich, above described, are all upon the Souhegan river, and belong to and are managed by the same company, under the same agent. All these last were substantial brick buildings, erected under the direction of Dea. Stephen Smith, the company's agent.

At the Mason mills the weekly consumption of cotton is 15,384 pounds; annual do., 800,000 pounds. Yards of denims manufactured weekly, 42,120; annual do., 2,190,240. At the New Ipswich mills, the weekly consumption of cotton is about 13,505 pounds; annual do., 691,860 pounds; number of yards annually manufactured, 1,909,440. Total yards manufactured, 3,099,680. The yarn for all the mills is dyed at Mason. Indigo used per week, 461 pounds. The cloth from all the mills is finished and packed at the finishing rooms in Mason village.

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED AND AMOUNT OF MONTHLY PAY ROLL AT THE  
MASON AND NEW IPSWICH MILLS.

Males employed at Mason,	121	Males employed at New Ipswich,	86
Females " " "	120	Females " " "	96
Pay roll monthly " "	\$4300,00	Pay roll monthly " "	\$3000,00

The stock of this company is principally owned in Boston. Messrs. Wright & Whitman, of Boston, are the selling agents, to whom the goods are consigned.

About 1500 cords of wood are consumed, annually, in all the mills, drying works, &c. The mills at Mason are driven by two water wheels, 22½ feet in diameter and 20 feet long, and estimated at 75 horse power each.

The water power on the south side of the stream, above the bridge, was first occupied for a blacksmith's shop, in which was a trip hammer. It was carried on by Ezra Newell, for the manufacture of scythes and axes, with other blacksmith work. In this shop, near the commencement of the present century, was put in operation, a machine for the manufacture of cut nails. The business did not succeed, and was soon abandoned. About the year 1813, a wooden building was erected on the site of the old blacksmith shop, for the spinning and weaving of woolen goods, under the direction of Maj. Seth King. This business not succeeding, it was, after a few years, abandoned.

About the year 1812, a building of wood was erected on the site next below the old Dakin mills, and occupied as a cotton factory, by Roger Chandler and others associated with him. This company manufactured large quantities of cotton yarn, which was purchased by the farmers' wives in the vicinity, and by them woven into cloth for family use. The company also manufactured cotton cloths for the market. At that time, all the cotton used in the mills was picked and cleaned of its seeds by hand, having been sent to the market by the cotton planters, without having been ginned. This cotton picking furnished a great amount of employment for the women and children in the farmers' families. It was delivered out by weight at the mill, and, when returned, the cleaned cotton and the seeds and dirt were again weighed as a check against dishonest practices. Many a Mason boy earned his first money by picking cotton for the factory.

The manufacture of potash was carried on by Dea. Timothy Dakin, for many years. His potash works stood upon the bank of the river in rear of Mr. Richardson's house. The country was then full of hard wood, the farmers kept up

lusty fires, and large quantities of strong ashes were every year hauled to the potash works.

The first merchant, who kept an extensive stock of goods for sale at the village, if not the first in point of time, was Isaiah Kidder, son of Col. Reuben Kidder, of New Ipswich. He commenced trade at that place, then and for many years after, called Mason Harbor, in 1799. By his enterprise and fair dealing, he soon won the confidence of the community, and as his was then the principal store in Mason, Temple and Wilton, his trade was extensive and lucrative. On closing his business at the expiration of six years, he declared that thirty dollars would cover all his losses by bad debts, a fact which speaks well, both for the people and the merchant. He returned to New Ipswich and engaged extensively in the manufacturing business, but was cut off by fever at the early age of forty one years. His loss was deeply felt by his fellow citizens of his native town, as well as by his numerous friends and acquaintances in the neighboring towns. His funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Hill, of Mason, an extract from which, shows the estimation in which he was held by one who knew him well, and who never dealt in indiscriminate eulogy :

“The general grief is his best eulogy. It shows that you are not insensible to the worth of the man, and to the loss society sustains in his death. Possessed of a strong mind, cultivated by a good education, and enriched by reading and observation, his judgment was sound, active, and enterprising. He was capable of much business, and very extensive usefulness. Warmly interested in the prosperity of his country, and vigilant to promote the common welfare, he justly merited the confidence of his fellow citizens.”

Dea. Isaac Kimball, for many years carried on the business of blacksmithing, and the manufacture of axes and other edged tools. This was without the aid of water power. He removed to Temple about 1836, and has become one of the most enterprising and successful farmers in the region.

The pottery business, or manufacture of earthen ware, was carried on many years by Ruel Richardson, but since his death in 1814, but little, if anything, has been done in that line.

In 1857, Mr. James H. Chamberlain erected, below the site of the Dakin mills, one of the most extensive and complete flouring mills, in the state. The building is of brick, commodious, and every way well fitted for the intended use, that is, the manufacture of flour from western wheat, brought to the mill by railroad.

The importance of the railroad to the business interests of the village, renders this a suitable place to introduce the following account of the

#### PETERBOROUGH AND SHIRLEY RAILROAD.

This railroad, as its name implies, was originally intended to connect the Fitchburg railroad at Shirley, Mass., with Peterborough, N. H., passing through the towns of Townsend, Mass., and Mason, New Ipswich and Temple. The New Hampshire charter was granted in 1846. Soon after this, the road was built as far as Townsend and went into operation, from Groton junction to Townsend.

In 1850, the road was completed to a station near the river, almost a mile below the village, and the cars commenced running on the 11th of November, of that year. In 1852, it was completed to Mason village, its present terminus. The whole length of the road in New Hampshire, is nine and one third miles. More than \$35,000 of the cost of constructing this part of the road was paid by citizens of Mason, in addition to several thousands of dollars for building the Massachusetts portion. Owing to the hard times and other causes, the road became involved in debt, and was finally sold to the Fitchburg company, for about \$50,000, (the sum required to pay its liabilities,) though the legal transfer has not yet been made. The stock was a total loss to the subscribers, and thereby the business prosperity of the town was, for a time, severely crippled. The road has generally been under the control of and run by the Fitchburg company.

That portion of the town through which the road passes, has been incidentally much benefitted, by the market it has opened for its lumber and stone. Exhaustless quarries of granite exist on or near the line of the road, which only wait a favorable railroad tariff to cause it to be worked and extensively exported.

The railroad runs through the most wild and rugged portions of the town, yet presents to the traveler, prospects of rare and peculiar beauty. This is especially true of the four miles before reaching the village. Far beneath are seen the Souhegan river, sparkling and sporting itself over its rocky bed, further on, the high, precipitous banks, the beautifully rounded hills, crowned with their thrifty farm houses, and the vision is finally bounded by the lofty circling range of hills which rise, amphitheatre like, in the north and west.

The railroad bridge, half a mile from its terminus, is "one of the greatest works of art in New Hampshire, spanning the long distance from bluff to bluff, high above the swift waters of the Souhegan." The bridge is about 600 feet in length, and, where it crosses the stream, about 100 feet in height. The ends rest on abutments of stone, while at equal distances between rise two piers of solid stone masonry, to a giddy height, supporting the latticed framework on which the rails are laid. The height of the highest pier is about 80 feet. It rests on piles driven into the sand and gravel in the bed of the river. The western abutment has a similar foundation. The other abutment and pier rest on the ledge. The whole cost of this bridge was about \$20,000.

Although the expense of building this road was a burden that fell heavily upon most of the stockholders, it proving, so far as any returns or dividends were concerned, a total loss, yet it is undoubtedly of great benefit to the community, in the certainty, ease and rapidity of communication which it affords, and diminution of expense, in which the saving of time is no inconsiderable item. Forty years ago, a traveler, leaving Boston for Mason, must take a seat in the mail stage



coach at one of the clock in the morning, and after a weary ride would arrive at Wheeler's tavern on "the turnpike," at the line of Mason, near S. Wheeler Weston's, at from five to six of the clock in the afternoon, then to find his way on foot, or by some private conveyance, to his place of destination. Now, he can leave Boston at seven of the clock and arrive at Mason at ten of the clock in the forenoon, or leave at three and arrive at seven in the afternoon, at less than half the expense for fare, and no necessary expenditure on the way. For more than fifty years after the settlement of the town was commenced, the only market for farm produce was to be sought at Boston, or at Concord and Charlestown, on the way to Boston. The farmer would, at the close of his day's work, put dobbin into the stable and give him an extra feed, and be ready to start, long before day, for the market, with two boxes of butter, hung in panniers, one on each side, on the back of his steed, and, perhaps, quarters of veal, chickens, eggs, or other products of the farm or dairy. So, also, on the near approach of the great New England anniversary, thanksgiving day, many a farmer would load his ox cart with farm produce, and trudge on foot, by the side of his patient team, to the metropolis, to procure his annual supply of necessaries and luxuries, for the great feast, and for the approaching season of winter. Now, by reason of the increased facilities of transportation afforded by the railroad, and to the building up of manufacturing towns and villages, in the vicinity, the farmer need not leave his own premises to find a ready market at remunerating prices, for all the surplus produce of his farm.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

THE records of this church commence October 13, 1772. The first entry in the book, is as follows:

#### A CHURCH COVENANT,

Consented and subscribed to by the brethren, on <sup>ve</sup> 13th of October, 1772, when they were, by advice of council, embodied into a distinct Chh. Society.

We, whose names are hereto subscribed, apprehending ourselves called of God, (for the advancing of his Son's kingdom, and edifying ourselves and posterity,) to combine and embody ourselves into a distinct Chh. Society: and being for that end orderly dismissed from the Churches to which we heretofore belonged, do (as we hope), with some measure of seriousness and sincerity, take upon us the following profession and covenant, viz:

As to matters of faith, we cordially adhere to the principles of Religion (at least the substance of them) contained in the shorter catechism of the Assembly of Divines, wherewith also the New England Confession harmonizeth: not as supposing, that there is any authority, much less any infallibility in these human creeds or forms, but yet verily believing that these principles are drawn from and agreeable to the scriptures, which is the fountain and standard of truth.

And we moreover adhere to these principles in the Calvinistical, which we take to be the genuine, or natural sense, hereby declaring our utter dislike of the Arminian Principles, vulgarly so called.

In firm belief of the above-mentioned doctrines, from an earnest desire that we and ours may receive the love of them and be saved, and with the hope that what we are now doing, may be the means of so great an happiness, we do now, (under a sense of our utter unworthiness of the honor and privileges of God's covenant people,) in the most solemn and yet free and cheerful manner, give up ourselves and offspring to God the Father, to the Son the Mediator, and the Holy

Ghost the Instructor, the Sanctifier and Comforter, to be henceforth the people and servants of this God, to believe in all his revelations, to accept of his method of redemption, to obey all his commands and to keep all his ordinances, to look to and depend upon him to do all for and work all in us, especially relating to our eternal salvation, being sensible that of ourselves we can do nothing. And it is our purpose and resolution (by divine assistance,) to discharge the duties of christian love and brotherly watchfulness towards each other; to train up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to join together in setting up and maintaining the public worship of God among us; carefully and joyfully to attend upon Christ's sacraments and institutions; to yield all proper obedience and submission to him or them that shall, from time to time, in an orderly manner, be made overseers of the flock; to submit to all the regular administrations and censures of the church, and contribute all in our power to the regularity and peaceableness of these administrations.

And respecting church discipline, it is our purpose to adhere to the methods contained in our excellent platform, so called, for the substance of it, as thinking it a rule, the nearest the scriptures and most probable to promote and maintain purity, order and peace of any. And we earnestly pray, that God would be pleased to smile upon this undertaking for his glory, that whilst we thus subscribe with our hand to the Lord, and surname ourselves by the name of Israel, we may, through grace given us, live as become Israelites indeed, in whom there is no guile; that our hearts may be right with God and we steadfast in his covenant; that we who are now combining in a new church of Jesus Christ, may, by the purity of our faith and morals, become one of those golden candlesticks, among whom the Son of God, in way of favor and protection will condescend to walk, and that every member of it, through imputed righteousness and inherent grace, may be hereafter found among that happy multitude whom the glorious head of the church, the heavenly bridegroom, shall present to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing.

N. B. By the expression in the above covenant, "for the substance of it," we intend and promise this, to govern ourselves by the platform so far as that agrees with the only perfect rule, the word of God.

Signed,	JONATHAN SEARLE,	OBADIAH PARKER,
	ENOSH LAWRENCE,	NATHAN COBURN,
	NATHAN HALL,	JOSIAH WHEELER,
	JOHN ELIOT,	SAMUEL SMITH,
	JASON DUNSTER,	JOSHUA DAVIS,
	AMOS DAKIN,	WILLIAM ELIOT.

The above-mentioned brethren, after having signed the covenant, and the council expressed their sentiments, that they are now a visible, distinct church, regularly and scripturally embodied; the church then unanimously Voted, To receive

the hereafter-mentioned sisters as standing in full church membership with them, viz :

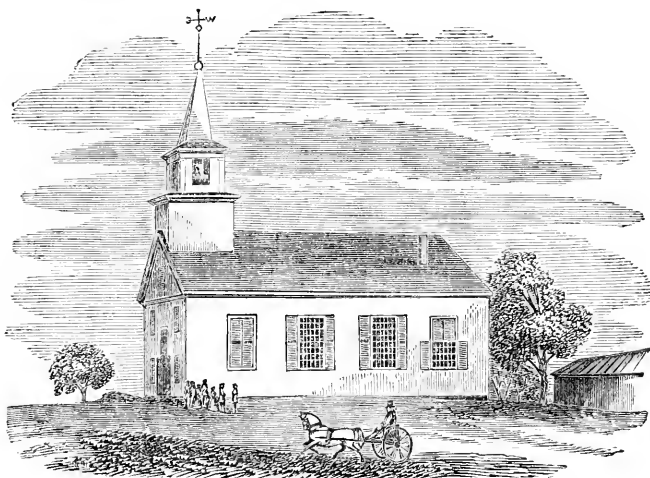
SARAH,	wife of ENOSH LAWRENCE.	LUCY,	wife of JOSIAH WHEELER.
MARY,	" NATHAN HALL.	ELIZABETH,	" SAMUEL SMITH.
SARAH,	" JOHN ELIOT.	DOROTHY,	" JOSHUA DAVIS.
REBECCA,	" JASON DUNSTER.	ELIZABETH,	" JONA. WINSHIP.
SARAH,	" AMOS DAKIN.		

The proceedings of the town and church, in the call and ordination of Mr. Jonathan Scarle, the first minister of the Congregational Church in Mason, and his answer to and acceptance of the call, being found in the town records, are inserted in the Municipal History. See pages 66 to 68. He was ordained October 13, 1772. He was dismissed by the church May 4, 1781, and the town concurred in the action of the church, at the meeting August 14, 1781. The details respecting his ordination, his salary, &c., have already appeared in the Municipal History of the town.

The Rev. Ebenezer Hill, the second minister of this church, was ordained, November 3, 1790. His pastoral relation to the church continued until his decease, which took place May 20, 1854. He was, at his own request, released from his contract as minister of the town, December 19, 1835. For the proceedings of the church and town and of the council, in the call and ordination of Mr. Hill, see Municipal History, pages 114 to 119.

In June, 1830, a religious society was, under the statute of July 3, 1827, organized, in connection with the church, and occupied the old meeting house, until November, 1837, when, having built a new house of worship for themselves, they removed to it and have occupied it to the present time.

The Rev. Andrew Reed was installed November 23, 1836, as colleague pastor. He remained in office till December 11, 1839, when he was, at his own request, dismissed, and Mr. Hill resumed the sole charge of the church and society, in which he continued until October 20, 1841, when his son, the Rev. Joseph B. Hill, was settled with him as colleague pastor.



NEW MEETING HOUSE. FIRST OCCUPIED NOVEMBER, 1837.

He commenced preaching for the church and society, August 1, 1840, and continued till the date of his installation, to preach as a candidate. During this time, a season of revival was enjoyed by the church, the result of which was the addition of 83 members by profession to the church in the year 1841. He remained in office until April 22, 1847, when he was, at his own request, dismissed. After this time, the church was supplied, about two years, by the Rev. Mr. Harrington, of Lunenburg, Mass. He did not come to reside at Mason, but made his home in Lunenburg.

On the 30th of October, 1850, the Rev. Josiah L. Armes, was installed colleague pastor. He was, at his own request, dismissed, May 13, 1857, and immediately after, the Rev. D. Goodwin was employed by the church, as their preacher.

NAMES OF MEMBERS ADMITTED, FROM OCTOBER 13, 1772 TO JANUARY 1, 1800, AND THE NUMBER OF THOSE ADMITTED, EACH YEAR, FROM 1800 TO 1848.

NOTE. In this table, the letter w. signifies wife, and l. by letter.

1772. Clark Brown, of Raby.

1773. Elias Eliot, Hannah, w. of Rev. Jonathan Searle, Sarah, w. of Lemuel Spaulding, l. from Pepperell, Elizabeth, w. of Nathaniel Hosmer, l. from Concord, Ruth, w. of Abel Shed, l. from Lancaster, Mary, w. of Oliver Eliot, Edmund Tarbell and Mary his w., Oliver Eliot.

1774. Sarah, w. of Simon Ames, l. from Woburn, Samuel Brown, l. from Holles, Hubbert Russell, and John Russell and Ruhamah his w., l. from West Cambridge, Sarah, w. of Hubbert Russell, l. from Weston.
1776. Thankful, w. of John Whitaker, Sarah, w. of John Tarbell, Dorothy, w. of William Eliot, Ebenezer Blood and Sarah his w., Eleanor, w. of Nathan Hall, Jr.
1777. Jonathan Winship.
1783. Jonathan Chandler, l. from Grafton.

During Mr. Searle's ministry, the following persons were admitted "to own the covenant":

Joseph Barrett and Sarah his w., Christopher, a negro man, (and baptized,) David Hodgman and w., Ebenezer Muzzy and w. (of Raby), Timothy Wheeler and w., Jonas Fay and w., and Daniel Fay and w.

According to the doctrines of the Congregational churches, the children of "believers" only, were admitted to baptism, and, by a strict construction, the privilege of bringing their children to baptism belonged only to members of the church in full communion. Many serious minded persons were not prepared to unite with the church, in its communion, but still were desirous to have their children baptized. Hence, a custom grew up, and was for many years extensively practiced, to admit such persons "to own the covenant," that is, to acknowledge, in their own persons, the duties and obligations of the covenant, although they did not fully assume and promise to observe its requirements. Having so done, they were considered as a sort of quasi or half-way members of the church, and were permitted to receive baptism for themselves and to bring their children to baptism. This custom probably owes its origin, in part, to the old colonial regulations of Massachusetts, which restricted the right of voting in all elections to the members of the churches. On the commencement of Mr. Hill's ministry the practice was discontinued.

Under Mr. Hill's pastorship, the following admissions are recorded:

1790. Jonathan Bachelder and wife, l. from Reading, Hinksman Warren and w. and Joseph Woods and w., l. from Townsend, Benjamin Knowlton, Abel Adams and w., Timothy Dakin and w. and Lydia, w. of Edward Wilson, Jr., l. from New Ipswich, John Winship and w. and Elizabeth, w. of Jotham Webber, l. from West Cambridge, William Chambers and wife, l. from Lexington, Ebenezer Hill, l. from Rindge.
1791. Mary, w. of Amos Dakin, Jr., l. from New Ipswich, Ebenezer Shattuck and w., and Anna, w. of William Hosmer.

1792. John Russell, Jr., —, w. of Reuben Kendall, Roger Weston.  
 1793. Anna, w. of Jonathan Williams, l. from Wilton.  
 1794. Samuel Hill, l. from Williamsburgh, Elizabeth, w. of Reuben Hosmer,  
 l. from Acton.  
 1795. Elijah Davis, l. from New Ipswich.  
 1796. Noah Winship and his w., Sarah Brown, of Raby.

Year.	By Profession.	By Letter.	Year.	By Profession.	By Letter.	Year.	By Profession.	By Letter.
1800	4		1814	3		1834	12	2
1801	7	1	1815		1	1835	20	3
1802	41	3	1816	4		1836	5	1
1803	1		1817	2		1837	6	4
1804		3	1819		1	1838	14	2
1805		1	1820	8		1839		1
1806		1	1822	1		1840		1
1807	2		1826	62	3	1841	83	9
1808		1	1827	17		1842	7	3
1809	1		1828	3	1	1843	4	2
1810	1		1831	21		1844		3
1812	25		1832	2	1	1846		2
1813	4		1833	4	1	1848		2

## DEACONS.

Nathan Hall, chosen Dec. 29, 1774.	Nathan Wood, chosen Jan. 7, 1828.
Amos Dakin, " Dec. 29, 1774.	Franklin Merriam, " 1837.
Timothy Dakin, " March 7, 1791.	Simeon Cragin, " 1837.
Rogers Weston, " Aug. 18, 1794.	Oliver H. Pratt, " Aug. 27, 1847.
Noah Winship, " Nov. 1, 1805.	Saml. Withington, " Aug. 27, 1847.
H. Richardson, Jr., " April 29, 1814.	Amos H. Hosmer, " 1855.
Isaac Kimball, " July —, 1827.	

Mr. Searle and Mr. Hill carefully recorded all baptisms, but it is not thought expedient to publish the list.

## THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The first religious institutions of the town were of the Congregational form and order, and there seems to have been no disagreement among the proprietors or among the inhabitants, on this point, until after the dismissal of Mr. Searle. The first intimation of the dissenting views, was on the occasion of the call to Mr. True Kimball, in 1782. At the meeting called for that purpose, the vote of the town was unanimous to give Mr. Kimball a call. The town also voted to give him a settlement of £180, and a yearly salary of £66 13s. 4d. Against these votes "William Eliot and Abijah Allen dissented in the face of the meeting," for reasons which are stated in the Municipal History, page 103. In this protest, and in the vote to excuse William Dodge and Abijah Allen from paying taxes, found on the same page, are, un-

doubtedly, to be discerned the first germs of the Baptist Church in Mason.

The records of the church commence as follows :

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MASON.

On the 28th day of September, 1786, sd chh was Imbodied. Assistance from the chh of Christ at Chelmsford, by their pastor, Abiather Crossman, and two brethren, viz : Dea. Oliver Prescott and Brother Thomas Hutchins. Likewise from the church at Temple, by two brethren, viz : Dea<sup>n</sup> John Averett [Everett] and Nathaniel Ball. Those that Imbodied were, (males,) Ezra Mansfield, William Eliot and Jonathan Chandler, (females,) Sarah Blood, Anna Lawrence, Hannah Chandler, Sarah Blood <sup>ye</sup> 2d, and Molly Ball.

There were added, October 26, by dismissal from the church in Chelmsford, Brs. Joseph Bullard and Aaron Wheeler, and four sisters likewise were added, viz : the widow Sarah Eliot, Sarah Tarbell, Rebecca Mansfield and Rebecca Hildreth.

1787. March 8. The confession of the chh at Chelmsford, with some amendments, was adopted. Br. Bullard was chosen to serve the table.

June 24. Added by baptism, William Mansur and Willard Lawrence, Sarah Davis, Sarah Bullard, Elizabeth Perry and Elizabeth Austin.

Several of these persons were among the original members of Mr. Searle's church.

1788. Aug. At a meeting, voted unanimously, that Br. Wm. Eliot be set apart as an Evangelist, and that we call for assistance from our sister chhs in the ordination of said Br. Voted to send for council and help to the Baptist chhs at Salem, Chelmsford, Temple and Cambridge. The third Wednesday in Oct. was appointed the time. At a subsequent meeting, the chh at Newton was added. At a subsequent meeting, [no date] Voted to give Br. Eliot a call to settle with us in the gospel ministry, and to continue with us so long as it shall appear it is for the glory of God and our mutual advantage. To which he gave his consent, and was ordained on <sup>ye</sup> third Wednesday of October, 1788, by the following council :

In consequence of letters missive from the Baptist chh in Mason, to the Baptist church in Cambridge, the Baptist church in Newton, the Baptist church in Chelmsford, the Baptist church in New Salem, the Baptist church in Temple, for the purpose of setting apart Mr. Wm. Eliot to the office of pastor in said chh in Mason.

1. First. Elder Thomas Green opened the business by prayer. 2. Chose Elder Thomas Green Moderator of the council. 3. Chose Elder Joseph Grafton Clerk of council.

Present :

From the chh in Cambridge — Elder Thomas Green, Dea. Thaddeus Davis, Dea. Daniel Brooks.



From the chh in Chelmsford — Elder Abisha Crossman, Thomas Hutchins, Samuel Taylor.

From the chh in New Salem — Elder Samuel Fletcher.

From the chh in Temple — Elder John Peckens, Dea. John Everett, Ebenezer Drury.

From the chh in Newton — Elder Joseph Grafton, Nathan Dana.

The council enquired of the church if they still desired Br. Eliot to settle with them in the ministry. To which they answered in the affirmative.

\* \* \* \* \*

The council enquired of Mr. Eliot if he accepts the call of the chh. Answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Eliot was called upon to give an account of his Christian experience and his teachings to preach, with which the council voted they were satisfied.

The council examined the chh respecting their Ideas of supporting the minister. It appears, by a vote of the chh, that they held it their duty to support by the rule of equality.

Voted, upon the whole, that the council are unanimous in proceeding to the ordination of Mr. Wm. Eliot.

Voted, that Elder Peckens make the introductory prayer. That Elder Green preach the sermon. That Elder Crossman Pray at the imposition of hands. That Elder Fletcher give the charge. That Elder Grafton give the right hand of fellowship, and make the concluding prayer.

As the chh, in their letters to the chhs, desired assistance [in] setting apart one of their brethren as a Deacon in the chh, Voted, that there is a propriety in their request, and [we] are satisfied with the conduct of the chh respecting this affair.

Voted, that the council, after examining the character and abilities of Mr. Ezra Mansfield, as Deacon, they are free to ordain him as such.

Voted, That the council proceed to set apart Brother Ezra Mansfield to the office of Deacon, in the following manner :

First—Prayer with imposition of hands, with a charge and right hand of fellowship.

Voted, that Elder Peckens pray at the imposition of hands at the ordination of the Deacon. That Elder Green give the charge, and Elder Crossman give the right hand of fellowship.

Voted, that the council adjourn till after divine service.

The council met according to adjournment. Voted, to dissolve the council.

(Signed,)

THOS. GREEN, Moderator.

JOSEPH GRAFTON, Clerk.

1788. Sept. Rachel Chandler was received, being baptized before.

In 1790, the additions were 2; in 1791, 11; in 1792, 6; in 1794, 1; in 1795, 3; in 1796, 1; in 1799, 1; in 1800, 4; in 1801, 34; in 1802, 15; in 1803, 9; in 1804, 6; in 1805, 3;

of these numbers, 56 are judged to have been inhabitants of other towns.

The whole number of members reported in 1805, was 98; in 1806, 101; in 1807, 106; in 1808, 105; in 1809, 79; in 1810, 87; in 1811, 92; in 1812, 94; in 1813, 93; in 1814, 92; in 1815, 73; in 1816, 74. In no other years, is the whole number of members entered. During these years, this church embraced members residing in New Ipswich, Temple, Wilton, Milford, Lyndeborough, Brookline, Hollis, Dunstable, Towns-end, Society Land, and perhaps other towns. In 1809, the Milford church was organized, which reduced the number from 105 to 79. In 1815, the list was revised and corrected, and the number reduced from 92 to 73.

The peace of this church seems to have been but little disturbed by cases of discipline, but it was not wholly free from such trials. Brother Aaron Wheeler thought he had a call to preach, and "The church agreed to hear Br. Wheeler's gift till we have gained satisfaction respecting his call to preach." His "gift" seems not to have approved itself to the brethren, for, presently after, it is recorded that "The church called upon Brother Wheeler and Brother Chandler to give in their reasons for withdrawing from the chh at the Lord's Table, and not fellowshiping the chh, and setting up a meeting by themselves." They gave their reasons as follows: "1st. Because there is not a oneness in the chh. 2d. Because the chh don't hold to that liberty in improving of gifts in the chh that they agreed to when they Imbodyed." The church took these reasons into consideration, and voted that they were not sufficient to justify them in their conduct. The aggrieved brethren, at an adjourned meeting, set forth the reasons of their withdrawal more fully and specifically, the principal one of which was, the "not allowing the improvement of Brother Wheeler's gift." The church voted that these reasons, thus newly assigned and set forth, were not sufficient. The matter was, in some way, adjusted; how, the record does not show. The date of these disturbances was 1787. In 1789, Brother

Chandler received a letter of dismission to the church in Stoddard. Brother Wheeler subsequently withdrew from the meetings of this society, and, for many years previous to his death, was a constant attendant on the meetings of Mr. Hill's society. He kept up a careful watch against any departure from orthodox doctrines.

Under the ministration and watch and care of their worthy elder, this church enjoyed a long season of peace and prosperity, their numbers gradually increasing, until, in process of time, assuming the office and duties of a mother church, they established, from members of their own body, new and independent churches in the neighboring towns, all of which continued to be, in some measure, under the watch and care of the venerable Elder Eliot so long as he was able to journey from place to place, and exercise his ministry among them.

In 1802, it was "Voted, That Dea. Webber, Br. John Adams and Br. Dakin be a committee to admonish those baptized persons who have joined Mr. Hill's chh, and report to the chh."

In 1803, "Voted, unanimously, against bearing arms and taking oaths, and to communicate these sentiments to the association."

The place of worship of this society was, at first, the school house near the residence of their elder. Afterwards, a house for worship was erected about one fourth of a mile on the north of the Congregational meeting house. It was a one story building, but it was never finished, inside or out. It was built principally by individuals, with some aid from the society. There is no entry in the church records of the proceedings in the building of this house, but there is a vote recorded, November 9, 1812, the house having been sold, directing "that the money for the old meeting house be distributed among those that built the house," and on the 10th of June, 1817, it was "Voted, That Dea. Webber give a deed to Joshua Blood of the meeting house lot." The house was taken down about the year 1812, after which the society

continued their meetings at the school house until the brick house was erected in the village, in the year 1827, after which, but, it is supposed, under a new organization, that house became and continued the place of worship of the church and society.

Dea. Jotham Webber and Dea. Andrew Elliot served in the office of deacon in this church for many years, and each until his death. Dea. Joseph Saunders was elected to the office of deacon, and served as such for several years. Benjamin Robinson was afterwards set apart to fill that office, by the church.

In 1827, the brick meeting house was built in the village, and a new Baptist church was organized in 1828. At this time, Eld. Eliot was so burdened with the infirmities of age as to be, in a great measure, cut off from active duties. He died June 4, 1830. After his decease, this church kept up its organization for some years, but most of its members having united with the new church organized at the village, it soon ceased to hold public meetings for worship, and its existence may, perhaps, be considered as merged in that of the new church.

#### THE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The original Baptist Church in Mason, being, for many years, composed of members, many of whom resided in adjoining and some in more distant towns, found no inconvenience in holding their meetings at their place of worship near the residence of the elder, or at their meeting house near the centre of the town, but as from time to time churches were formed in the adjoining towns, leaving most of the members remaining in this church resident in town, and as the population, business and importance of the village were, from year to year, advancing, and yet in it there was no place of worship, of any denomination, it was found to be in accordance with the views of a majority of the church to remove their place of worship to that locality. Accordingly, measures were taken to insure the erection of a meeting house for this church, which was so far completed in 1827 as to be ready to

be occupied. In 1828, a new Baptist church was constituted at the village, consisting of 24 members—ten brethren and 14 sisters. The pastors' names, time of commencement and close of the labors and the additions to the church during the term of each, are as follows:

NAMES OF PASTORS, TIME OF COMMENCEMENT, AND CLOSE OF THEIR LABORS, AND THE ADDITIONS TO THE CHURCH, FROM 1828 TO 1858.

Names of Pastors.	Time of commencement.	Close of labors.	Ad
Rev. Bela Wilcox,	December 24, 1828,	March 4, 1831,	14
“ John Woodbury,	June 19, 1831,	November 19, 1833,	54
“ Joel Wheeler,	January 24, 1834, (or- dained June 11, 1834)	January 10, 1835,	21
“ Benjamin Knight,	June 16, 1835.	September 18, 1836,	1
“ Alfred L. Mason,	Ord. Nov. 27, 1836,	Died October 7, 1844,	73
“ D. F. Richardson,	June 21, 1845,	April 1, 1848,	16
“ John Woodbury,	April 23, 1848,	April 21, 1849,	5
“ Isaac Woodbury,	April 25, 1849,	December 31, 1850,	21
“ Daniel P. French,	January 5, 1851,	January 18, 1852,	10
“ A. H. House,	April 18, 1852,	June 19, 1854,	13
“ Geo. W. Cutting,	May 8, 1855,		

Mr. Cutting remains pastor to this time. A manufacturing is much more fluctuating than an agricultural population, and, in consequence of that fact, the present number of members of the church is much less than would be indicated by the additions above reported. No list of removals that can be relied on as accurate, has been kept, so that it has not been possible, from time to time, to state, in this account, the actual number of members. It is, however, stated by the pastor to be 63, in March, 1858. The church edifice is a well built structure of brick. It was thoroughly repaired in 1854, at an expense of about \$900, and is now made commodious and perfectly comfortable for all seasons of the year. This church adopted, at an early date, the resolution to pay their minister his salary quarterly, and have adhered to this plan with honest punctuality. It is now in a state of prosperity; its members are united in christian fellowship and effort, and looking for richer displays of the power and grace of God in their increased spirituality and enlargement.

The deacons of this church are: Abel Adams, chosen in 1830; Amos Elliot, chosen December 4, 1830, dismissed at

his own request January 9, 1835; Jonas Adams, chosen November 5, 1831; James Barrett, chosen September 2, 1833, dismissed on his removal from town April, 1835; Adams B. Winn, chosen March 6, 1840, died May 31, 1842; Samuel Hartshorn and Calvin Boynton, chosen January 17, 1843. Dea. Boynton was dismissed from the church, July 15, 1855. Deacons Abel Adams, Jonas Adams and Samuel Hartshorn remain in office.

#### THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The place of meeting for the public worship of the Congregational church, was first established at the centre of the town, and notwithstanding the business and population of the village had increased at a much greater ratio than that of the other parts of the town, the Sabbath ministrations of that church and society had continued to be held at the meeting house at that place until 1847. At a public meeting held at the village, February 1, 1847, a resolution was offered, and, after a full discussion, adopted, "that the time has come, when the spiritual interests of this community and the cause of religion require that a Congregational church be established at this place." The reasons justifying and requiring this step were, the large numbers of the Congregational church, who would be better accommodated at the village than at the centre. In furtherance of these proceedings, measures were taken to call an ecclesiastical council, which was convened June 3, 1847, and in pursuance of the advice of this council, a new church, composed of eight members, was organized, under the name of the "Second Congregational Church of Mason." On the 20th of June, 1847, 58 members were received by letters of dismissal from the old church.

On the 11th of April, 1849, the Rev. William Olmstead, was ordained pastor of this church. His labors were blessed in the conversion of souls to Christ. During the winter previous to his ordination, a season of religious interest was enjoyed, which continued into the summer following, the fruits of which were the addition of 33 members by profession.

Thirteen were added also by letter. The early death of their young pastor, was deeply felt by this church, and by many others in the community. By it, each member of the congregation lost a personal friend, and the church a spiritual and devoted pastor. He died while on a visit to his friends in Connecticut, so suddenly that the news of his illness preceded that of his death but a few hours. It was his dying request that his mortal remains should rest in the cemetery, into which his congregation would, in God's due time, be gathered, with them to rest till the final resurrection, and his dying wishes were complied with, and there he was buried.

His successor in office was the Rev. E. M. Kellogg, installed May 20, 1852, and on account of ill health, dismissed at his request, December 26, 1855. The Rev. Samuel J. Austin was ordained pastor of the church February 25, 1857.

On the 9th of September, 1847, Simeon Cragin, Stephen Smith, Nathan Wood and Franklin Merriam were elected deacons of this church. Deacons Merriam and Wood soon after removed from town. Deacon Smith died in 1857, and Merrill C. Dodge was elected to fill the vacancy.

The society occupied a commodious hall in Dea. Cragin's house, until accommodated with a house of their own. A house of worship was erected, by individual subscriptions, for this church and society; and was dedicated to the Triune God on Sabbath, December 16, 1849; sermon by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Olmstead. The building is of wood, 70 by 43 feet. It contains 64 slips, and in all about 400 sittings. The cost was between \$4000 and \$5000. Four sons of Dea. Cragin, on the completion of the house, presented to the society an excellent church bell. The basement is finished into an ample vestry.

The salary of the two first pastors, payable quarterly, was \$600 a year; that of the present pastor is \$700.

Owing to the fluctuating nature of the population of a manufacturing village, the burthen of supporting religious institutions falls, in a great measure, upon a few, but it is to the

credit and praise of this society, that all its engagements have been promptly met, notwithstanding the severe losses of many of its members by the railroad and by the depression of business.

#### THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

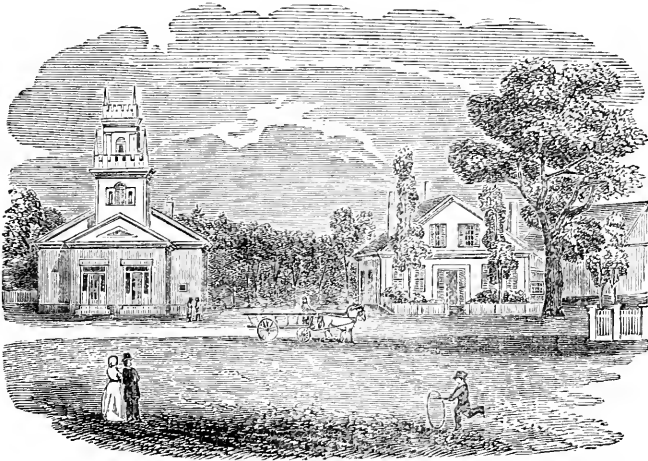
This church, in Mason, had its origin in the following manner: Some few brethren, who were not united with any denomination, were desirous of hearing preaching from some ministers of the Christian faith, to learn what were their views of bible doctrine. Accordingly, an invitation was given to some ministers in Boston and other places, to make them a visit, and permission was given, by the selectmen of the town, to hold a meeting at the old meeting house, when the people came together and heard them gladly. This was in or about 1831. In 1832, Elder Henry Plummer visited them, and preached in different parts of the town, in school houses, where he had an opportunity, but mostly in the northeast part of the town, where there was a good interest in religion, and the largest portion of believers. On the 15th of July of that year, Elder Plummer baptized three individuals, viz: Doctor Willis Johnson, William Wright and John Peabody. The first two named are still living, and members of the church. September 23. seven others, two males and five females, were baptized by Elder Plummer. November 4, eight others, two males and six females, were baptized.

There were baptized on the 7th of April, 1833, three individuals, and May 19, one, making in all, twenty two. On the 23d of May, a meeting was attended by several ministers, among whom were E. Shaw, J. C. Blodget and H. Plummer, at which time the church was organized, composed of the twenty two above mentioned baptized persons, who unanimously agreed to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Head and Leader, and the New Testament as their rule of faith and practice, and to acknowledge no name but that of "Christian." Of the twenty two who composed the number at the organization, ten are still living, and members of the



church. William Wright was chosen the first deacon, and David Blood, clerk. During the year, nine other individuals were received into fellowship, eight of them by baptism.

In 1834, twenty nine were added to the church by baptism, and one by letter, who afterwards became a minister. One young lady was baptized June 1, and deceased July 18, of this year.



THE CHRISTIAN CHAPEL, ERECTED IN 1835.

In 1835, thirteen were added to their numbers, who were baptized by different ministers, who visited the place and preached to the church and people.

Only five were added to the church during the year 1836, three by baptism and two by letter. Elder Plummer, though not living in the town, had been the pastor up to this time.

In 1837, Elder A. G. Comings became the pastor, and the church was still in a prosperous condition, but one member out of eighty one, up to this time, had been excluded. From August 6 to December 31, the ordinance of baptism was administered, seven times, and twenty were added to the church. On the 4th of October, Mr. Joseph Elliott, a member of the church, was ordained to the work of the ministry, by recommendation of the church and ministry.

During the year 1838, but few were added, and some trials were endured, and labor was engaged in to enforce good discipline. One member received the approbation of the church to labor in public as a minister of the gospel.

In the two succeeding years, Eld. C. W. Martin had the pastoral care, and thirteen were added, eight of them by baptism. Some trials were also endured. From 1841 to 1843, inclusive, Eld. H. Burnham had the care of the church, and during his ministry, over sixty were added to the church, fifty two by baptism, but many of these soon fell away, and were of no permanent benefit to the church.

The church had now existed ten years, and were in an unusually prosperous state, with but little labor required to enforce good discipline. About one hundred and eighty persons had been members of the church. From this time the church passed through a series of trials, and for a number of years no additions were made, but, on the contrary, a number were dismissed, by their own request, to unite with other churches, and some withdrew under the excitement of 1844, to "get out of Babylon," and some were excluded. During this season of declension, Eld. J. Goodwin, Jr., labored with the church two years, after which they were supplied with preaching, without any regular pastor, by several ministers, until 1849, when Eld. A. G. Comings again took the pastoral charge, and remained nearly six years. But the trials did not cease when the pastor was settled over them, and but few were added to the church.

In 1854, Eld. L. Phillips became the pastor, but remained only one year, during which time nine persons were added to the church. In this year, the society purchased a neat and convenient parsonage, for the minister. The house is situated within about thirty rods of the chapel.

In the spring of 1855, Eld. J. F. Whitney took the pastoral care of the church, and labored with them until the autumn of 1857, when he closed his pastoral relation with it. During his pastorate, ten were added to the church by baptism.

In December, 1857, Eld. W. H. Nason became the pastor, by the request of the church, and is now pleasantly situated with them, as their spiritual leader under Christ.

This church has now existed over twenty four years, and has maintained the worship of God the greater part of the time, by sustaining preaching, and other meetings of worship. It has had eight pastors, including the present one. There have been two hundred and twelve members in all, who have united with the church, sixty six males and one hundred and forty six females. One hundred and six persons now remain members, twenty four males and eighty two females.

There is no other church of the same denomination within thirty five miles of Mason, and it seems rather strange that there should have been one here, isolated as they are from the body of the denomination, and yet maintaining all the distinctive features of the body as to doctrine and practice. And amidst all the severe trials through which they have passed, they have clung to that word which, at the beginning of their history, they took for their only rule of faith and practice, and the distinctive principles, which underlie the Christian structure, are still dear to the hearts of all its devoted members.

## CHAPTER IX.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NATIVES AND CITIZENS OF MASON.

DR. JOHN BACHELDER, son of John Bachelder and Mary Hartshorn, his wife, was born in Mason, March 23, 1818. He graduated at Dartmouth College, July, 1841, and commenced the practice of his profession at the village called Monument, in Sandwich, Mass., in 1844, and received his medical diploma from the Massachusetts Medical Society, January 29, 1845. He was married to Martha Swift Keene, of Sandwich, September 30, 1846.

DR. WILLIAM BARBER, was born in Worcester, Mass., in 1767. His father's dwelling was burnt, by accidental fire, when he was an infant, by which his life was exposed to imminent danger, from which he was saved by the courage and presence of mind of his elder sister, afterwards the wife of Mr. Josiah Flagg. He pursued his professional studies at Worcester, with Dr. Greene. He came to Mason in November, 1790, and commenced the practice of physic and surgery, which he continued until disabled by the infirmities of age. He married (1) Mary Campbell, of Berlin, Conn. She died November 2, 1792. (2) Rachel Cutter, of New Ipswich, who survives him. He died July 11, 1852, aged 85 years.

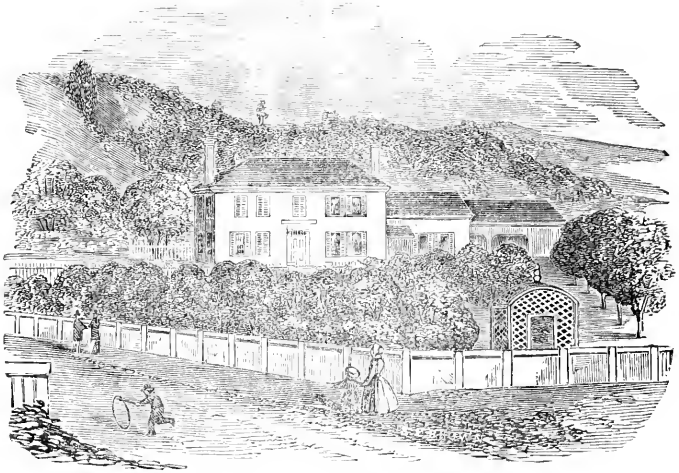
CAPT. JOSEPH BARRETT, was a descendant of Humphrey Barrett, who came from England, and settled in Concord, Mass., about 1640. He was born in Concord in 1745. His wife was Sarah [Brooks?], born in Concord in 1751. She

died March 29, 1794, aged 43 years. He came to Mason before the town was incorporated, and settled on the farm lately owned by his son Elisha Barrett, and now owned by his grandson, Elisha Brooks Barrett. He was a frugal, industrious farmer, and well esteemed by his fellow citizens. Their confidence in him is shown by the many important offices to which he was elected by their suffrages. He was town clerk fourteen years, first selectman fourteen years, second selectman one year, town treasurer twelve years, representative four years, and was frequently chosen a member of conventions, and on committees in public business. The records made by him as town clerk, fill the principal part of several volumes, made up in a very neat and uniform hand, but in the somewhat uncertain and wandering orthography of those days. He died December 30, 1831, aged 86 years.

REV. CHARLES EMERSON BLOOD, son of Reuben Foster Blood and Relief Whiting, his wife, was born in Mason, March 1, 1810, joined the Congregational church at Rindge, in October, 1828, pursued his preparatory studies at New Ipswich Academy and in Jacksonville, Ill., graduated at Illinois College in Jacksonville, in 1837, and at the Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1840. He was ordained pastor of the Presbyterian church in Collinsville, Ill., November, 1840. He married Miss Mary B. Coffin, formerly of Wiscasset, Me. For three years previous to 1858, he has been and is now a home missionary in Kansas. He has organized a church of twenty eight members, of which he has the pastoral charge, at Manhattan, K. T., where he resides.

REV. LORENZO WHITING BLOOD, brother of Charles E., born in Mason, April 13, 1812, pursued his studies preparatory for college at Wilbraham, Mass., graduated at the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. He was ordained a deacon of the Methodist Episcopal church, by Bishop Hedding, at Providence, R. I., June 13, 1841, and elder by the same, at Warren, R. I., June 11, 1843, and is (January, 1858,)

a member of the Providence Conference, and stationed at West Killingly, Conn.



RESIDENCE OF LOAMMI CHAMBERLAIN.

LOAMMI CHAMBERLAIN, son of Captain Isaac Chamberlain, was born at Chelmsford, Mass., June 6, 1791. At an early age, he gave evidence of a predilection for the mechanic arts, and was apprenticed to Salathiel Manning, a machinist of his native town, to learn that trade. Mr. Manning afterwards removed to New Ipswich, where Mr. Chamberlain graduated a "Master of Arts," in a noble sense, in 1812.

Soon after, he took a contract for building the cards for the Mason Cotton Mill Company, doing the work at the shop of his late master, in New Ipswich. Having finished this engagement, he came to Mason village, and put the carding and spinning machinery into operation. For two or three years subsequently, he appears to have been engaged, much of the time, in setting up machinery and "starting on" mills, in New Ipswich, Milford, and various other places.

About the year 1815, in company with Roger Chandler and Eleazer Rhoades, he bought a small mill in New Ipswich, near



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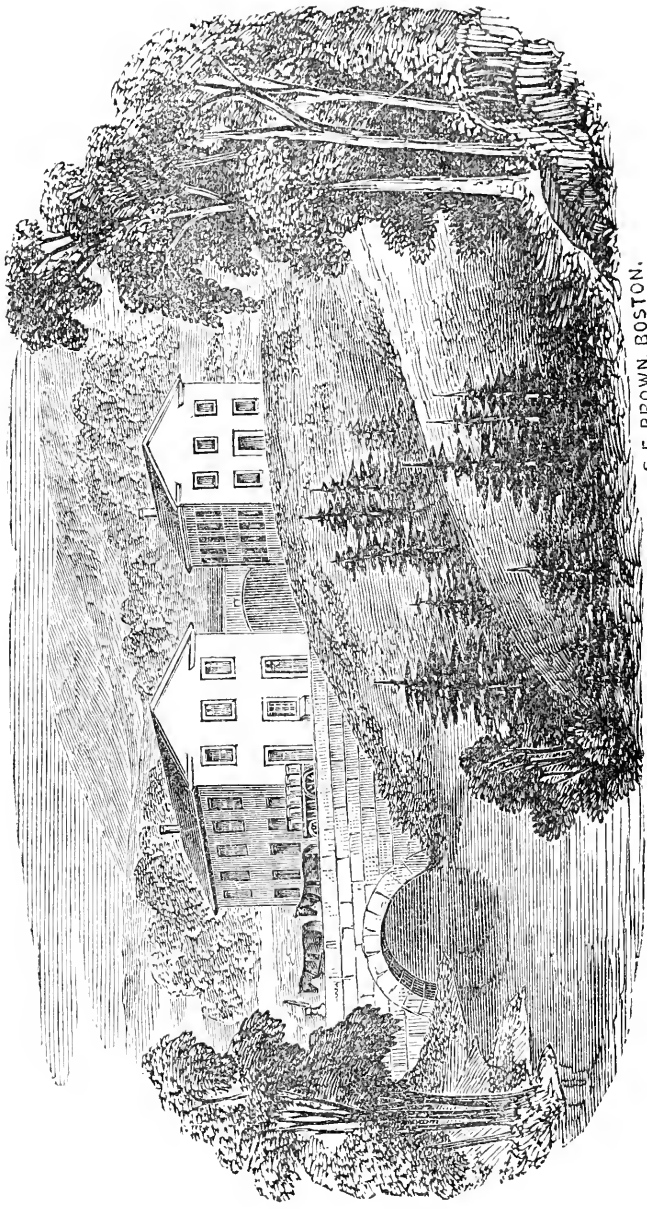


the present residence of Col. Gibson, fitted it up, and for two or three years was concerned in manufacturing cotton yarn.

In 1818, he bargained for water power of the Mason Cotton Mill Company, and built a machine shop, which is still standing. In 1821, Mr. Chamberlain made a contract with the Mason Cotton Mill Company, "to build, make and put in complete operation, sixteen power looms, equal, in every respect, to those in the Waltham Factory," and, if necessary, "to buy a loom of the Waltham Factory for a pattern, then the said company are to advance the money for the same," &c. About this period, he made a valuable improvement on the power looms then in use. This added greatly to his reputation as a machinist, and gave him employment in business from most of the adjoining states. For several years, he carried on, quite extensively, the manufacture of woolen and cotton machinery, machine tools, &c., employing, at times, thirty or forty workmen. In 1846, he sold his machine tools, and engaged wholly in other pursuits. For several years he carried on blacksmithing.

About the year 1840, in company with Thomas Pierce, he fitted up the lower cotton mill, which had stood idle since the failure of the Mason Cotton Mill Company, and manufactured, for a short time, satinets, and other woolen fabrics. About this time, also, he built a saw mill on the river, below the village, upon the new road leading to Wilton. For several years previous to his death, he was chiefly employed in superintending his saw mill and farm.

Mr. Chamberlain possessed strong powers of observation, good inventive talent, and mechanical skill in a high degree. Among his apprentices, may be reckoned some of the best mechanics in the country. By his workmen he was generally beloved, and some were dismissed, when he closed his shop, who had become old in his employ. Few men have done more for the material prosperity of Mason village than Mr. Chamberlain. He never courted public distinction, but filled some offices in the town, with honor and ability. As a neigh-



S.E. BROWN, BOSTON.

JAMES LANGDON CHAMBERLAIN'S FLOURING MILLS.

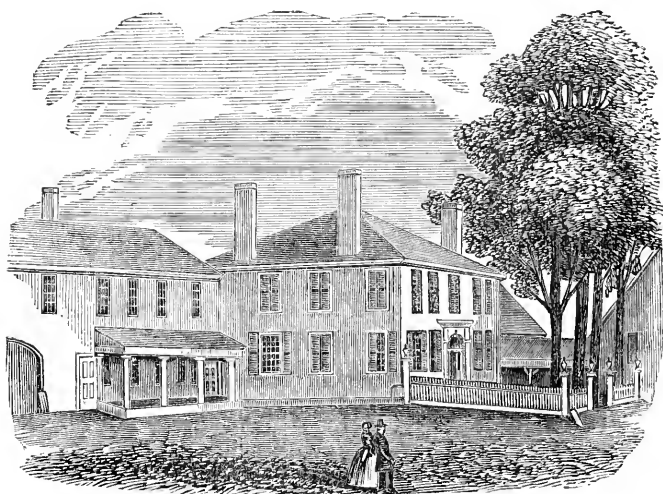
bor and citizen, he was highly esteemed. He was eminently a domestic man, and it was in the bosom of his family and in the circle of his intimate friends, that his virtues were best known and his excellencies most fully appreciated.

In 1821, he married Eliza S. Tucker, of Brookline, who is still living. His son and only child, James Langdon Chamberlain, was born February 16, 1824, and married Mary A. Prescott, of Mason, February 16, 1854. He now carries on successfully the extensive business left by his father.

Mr. Chamberlain was subject to periods of melancholy and great depression of spirits, which sometimes continued for many months, or even years, unfitting him for business or social enjoyment. He died of disease of the heart, resulting in dropsy, November 24, 1853, aged 62 years. Having been a member of the order of Odd Fellows, and also a Free Mason, his funeral was conducted in conformity to the burial rites of those orders, and attended by a large concourse of citizens.

Upon the water privilege, occupied by the old cotton mills, referred to on page 243, owned by Mr. Chamberlain at the time of his decease, but upon the other side of the river, his son has, during the last year, 1857, erected one of the most extensive and complete flouring mills in the state. The buildings, a view of which is presented on the opposite page, are of brick, constructed in the most substantial manner, with window and door sills and caps of granite, and, in all respects, as nearly fire proof as buildings of that kind can be made. They are 34 by 42 feet, and two stories high. In their construction 180,000 of bricks were laid up. The bridge shown in the view, is a substantial structure of granite, the length is 168 feet, the height from the river bed to the top of the wall 36 feet, the span of the arch 37 feet, the arch being a half circle. The expense was about \$4600, paid by the town. It is a fine piece of masonry, a noble structure, as lasting as time.

DEA. SIMEON CRAGIN, is the son of Benjamin Cragin, Esq., formerly of Temple, who died at Mason, April 19, 1816. He was born in Temple, January 4, 1787, and was the youngest son of his parents. In 1806, he commenced the shoemaking business at Mason village, and continued it two and a half years. He then returned to Temple, and took his father's farm, and carried it on and supported his parents through life. He married Elizabeth, the only daughter of Dea. Timothy Dakin, May 23, 1811. In 1816, he purchased of Dea. Dakin, his father-in-law, the farm where he now lives, and removed to Mason, and devoted his attention wholly to agriculture.



RESIDENCE OF DEA. SIMEON CRAGIN.

The Cragin family in this country, it is said, are the descendants of John Cragon, a Scotchman, who, with other prisoners taken at the battle of Dunbar, Sept. 3, 1650, by Cromwell, was, by order of the English government, shipped to Massachusetts, and sold for a term of years, to pay the expenses of the transport. His name appears in the list of two hundred and seventy three "passengers in the John and Sarah, of London, John Greene, mr., bound for New England," under

date of November 8, 1651. Of the poor prisoners thus taken forcibly from their homes and carried into exile, the Rev. John Cotton, of Boston, in a letter addressed to "the Lord General Cromwell," under date at "Boston in N. E., 28 of 5th, 1651," respecting some who had arrived in a previous vessel, says:

"The Scots, whom God delivered into your hands at Dunbarre, and whereof sundry were sent hither, we have been desirous (as we could) to make their yoke easy. Such as were sick of the scurvy or other diseases have not wanted physick and chyrurgery. They have not been sold for slaves to perpetual servitude, but for 6 or 7 or 8 yeares, as we do our owne; and he that bought the most of them (I heare) buildeth houses for them, for every four an house, layeth some acres of ground thereto, which he giveth them as their owne, requiring 3 dayes in the weeke to worke for him (by turnes) and 4 dayes for them themselves, and promiseth, as soone as they can repay him the money he layed out for them, he will set them at liberty." See *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. I, p. 380.

About four thousand were killed in the battle and about ten thousand taken prisoners. A romantic incident is related of John Cragon:

"The scurvy broke out on board during the voyage, and Cragon being supposed at the point of death, was about to be thrown overboard, but was spared at the intercession of a young woman, by whose assiduous attentions he was restored, and whom he afterwards married, and settled in Woburn." See *Hist. of New Ipswich*, p. 354.

CAPT. ABNER CHICKERING, was a descendant of Thomas Chickering, who, in the reign of Henry the VIII., resided in Wymondham, in the county of Norfolk. Stephen, his eldest son, lived in Wicklewood, a village adjoining Wymondham. He died in 1576. Henry, his eldest son, removed to Kingsfield, in the county of Norfolk. He died in 1627. Henry, his eldest son, and his brother Francis and his nephew, Nathaniel, emigrated to New England, about the year 1635, and settled at Dedham, Mass. Henry held important offices, and was several years a representative in the general court. He died in 1671. His only son, Dr. John Chickering, of Charlestown, was heir to his large estates. From him, Capt. Abner Chickering is a descendant, in the fourth generation.

He was born in Holden, Mass., in 1767. He came to Mason about 1788. He was a blacksmith by trade, and carried on that business at the village and at the centre. His first wife was Eunice, daughter of Dea. Amos Dakin. They were married April 19, 1792. She died May 7, 1804. He built and resided in the house in the village now owned by Dea. Abel Adams. Here most of his children were born. He removed to New Ipswich, where he resided on what was called the Knowlton place. He was a good farmer, and a good citizen. He died in 1841, aged 74 years.

JONAS CHICKERING, son of Capt. Abner, was born in Mason, in the year 1798. He removed with his father's family to New Ipswich. He had a world-wide celebrity for his taste in music, and for the excellence of the pianos by him manufactured. He established a manufactory of pianos in Boston, in which instruments were produced that have never been surpassed. He died at Boston, December 8, 1854, suddenly, in the midst of his enterprises, his usefulness, and his fame, in the 57th year of his age.

DEA. AMOS DAKIN, was the son of Capt. Samuel Dakin, who was born in Concord. He was a descendant of Thomas Dakin, who was resident in Concord before 1650, and died October 21, 1708. His son, Dea. Joseph, was the father of Capt. Samuel Dakin. Amos Dakin, his son, was born January 29, 1732. His mother died when he was an infant, for his father married his second wife, Mercy Minot, December 13, 1732. His father, Capt. Samuel Dakin, lived in Sudbury. He was a Captain in the French war, and was slain in battle with the French and Indians, at Halfway Brook, near lake George, July 20, 1758. His wife was Sarah Thankful Minot, daughter of Dea. Samuel Minot, of Concord. She was born March 4, 1737. Her mother, Sarah Prescott, of Westford, died March 22, 1737, when she was less than three weeks old. They were married before they removed to Mason, and lived, it is said, in Lincoln. The date of the birth of their first

child, is June 9, 1756. Thomas Barrett, Jr., married one sister, and his brother Charles Barrett married another sister of Dea. Dakin's wife, and it seems that it was in some connection in business and ownership with them, that he came to Mason to live, and became a part owner with them at first, and finally sole owner, of the mills and water power and farm, at the village. It was, at least, as early as 1768, that he began there, for in a warrant for a town meeting in September of that year, Thomas Barrett and Amos Dakin's mills are mentioned. See Municipal History, p. 59, also tax list p. 60.

He was one of the most useful and enterprising citizens of the town, as will appear by referring to the Municipal History, in which it will be found, that he was constantly called on by his fellow citizens to act for them in all important concerns of the town, as delegate to the Provincial Congress, to Conventions, as representative in the legislature, and on important committees during the time of the revolutionary war, and in all matters of importance in affairs of the town, church, and state. He was one of the original members of the church when it was first gathered, and was chosen one of the two deacons at the first election of those officers, and in this office served till his decease, which was April 21, 1789, in the midst of life and usefulness, at the age of 57 years.

DEA. TIMOTHY DAKIN, son of Dea. Amos Dakin, was born in Lincoln, Mass., March 17, 1764. He succeeded his father as owner of the mills and farm at the village. He was elected deacon by the church in place of his father, deceased. He was a man of action, always full of business, in which he engaged as a farmer, a merchant, mill owner, manufacturer of and dealer in lumber, manufacturer of potash, and contractor for building roads, bridges, school houses, meeting houses, &c. He built the house in which the widow of Samuel Hill lives, in which he lived many years. It was adjoining his father's, which stood where Mr. Richardson's house is. He also built the house in which Dea. Cragin lives. About 1821, having

disposed of his mills and real estate, he removed to western New York, and there engaged extensively in the lumber business and other enterprises, in which he was not successful. Having lost his property, he returned to Mason, and a few years after died, in October, 1845, aged 81 years.

SAMUEL DAKIN, son of Dea. Amos Dakin, was born in Mason, November 17, 1770. He graduated at Dartmouth College in 1797, was an attorney and counsellor at law many years in Jaffrey. He married a daughter of the Rev. Stephen Farrar, of New Ipswich. While residing at Jaffrey, he engaged in the manufacture of crockery ware, using for this purpose a clay found in that town, which, it was thought, would make a good article, but the enterprise was not successful. He removed to western New York, and died at Hartford, N. Y., about the year 1843-'44.

DR. MOSES DAKIN, son of Amos Dakin, Jr., was born in Mason, May 20, 1794. He adopted the medical profession, and settled in Hope, Me. His wife was Sarah W. Whiting, of Mason. They were married May 17, 1821.

GEORGE ELLIOT, was descended, by both his parents, from early settlers in the town. His father was Dea. Andrew Eliot, a son of John Eliot, and brother of Eld. William Eliot. His mother, Hannah Dakin, was a daughter of Dea. Amos Dakin. He was born in Mason, April 24, 1797. He was but fourteen years old when his father died; after which he labored several years at farm work, a part of the time on the homestead, for his elder brother, Andrew, and, at other times, for farmers in the neighboring towns. His education was obtained in the short terms of the district schools of his own neighborhood.

When near twenty one years of age, he and his brother Amos, carrying their bundles, traveled on foot in search of employment, to Troy, N. Y. After driving coach a short time,

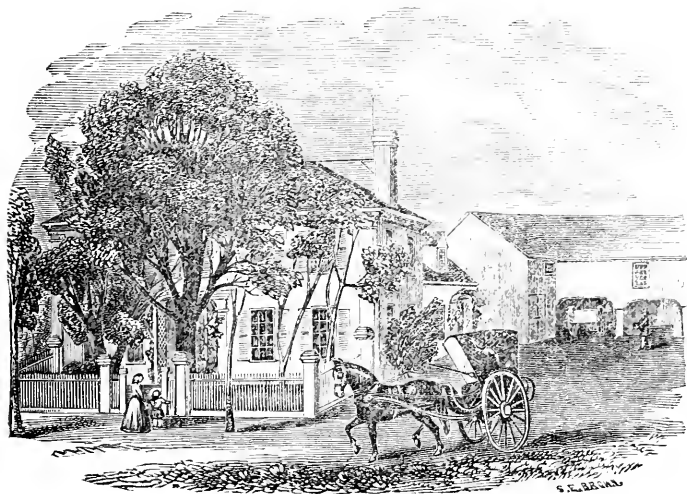




Engraved by C. F. Smith

*Geo. Elliot*





RESIDENCE OF GEORGE ELLIOT.

he engaged in school teaching at Castleton, Vt., at which place and in Greenbush, N. Y., he spent two or three years teaching schools, returning home once or twice in the meantime, walking both ways.

In the fall of 1820, he came home, and taught a term of the district school. Early in the following year, he bought a stock of goods of Dea. T. Dakin, and commenced trade in the village. On the 19th of April, 1821, he married Sally Farnsworth, of Sharon. She died August 17, 1827. By this marriage, he had two children. One died in infancy. The other, Lucius Alva, born October 25, 1825, is now a merchant in Boston. On the 2d of September, 1828, he married Eliza Cumings, of New Ipswich, who survived him a few years, and died August 9, 1855. By this marriage, he had several children, all of whom died in infancy.

Mr. Elliot was a large sufferer by fire. In 1823, his store, with all its contents, was burned. It was rebuilt, and the second story occupied as a dwelling. This shared the same fate about two years after. Nothing was saved. His wife, with an infant child in her arms, followed by the nurse, barely

escaped over the burning stairs. Absent at the time, Mr. Elliot returned only to find his property in ashes, and his little family without shelter, food, or clothing, except as furnished by neighbors. Yet his heart failed not. He was liberally aided by his fellow citizens, and the present building was erected on the old site, and he was soon again in successful business. He afterwards lost two or three other buildings by fire, on none of which was there any insurance. Insurance against losses by fire had not then become common. He continued trade at the old stand, till his death, nearly thirty years. His son was associated with him in business for a year or two before he died, and afterwards he sold the stock of goods to William Claggett, who still occupies the store.

Mr. Elliot was remarkable for his industry, frugality and perseverance. He not only prosecuted his own business with energy and success, but took an active part in the affairs of the village and town. He was public spirited and liberal, the friend of morality, good order, and general education. In private life, he displayed many excellencies of character. His sympathies were quick and active, and his manners bland and deferential. He was a regular attendant on public worship, and contributed generously for the support of the Baptist society, to which his ancestors and relatives generally belonged.

When the Peterborough and Shirley Railroad was projected, he engaged heartily in the enterprise, and subscribed liberally to its stock. He was chosen one of its directors, and also one of the executive committee for superintending the building of the road. The financial difficulties in which the road became involved, induced him, and others of the board, to pledge their private securities to carry on the undertaking. In the midst of such labors and perplexities, he was seized with the typhoid fever, which terminated fatally on the 15th of November, 1850. His age was 53 years. His memory is cherished by his numerous friends, as that of one by whom the duties of life were faithfully fulfilled.

REV. WILLIAM ELIOT, was the son of John and Sarah Eliot. He was born in Bradford, Mass., December 1, 1748, O. S. About the year 1766, his father purchased a lot of land in the northwesterly part of Mason. William was his second son. He then being but eighteen years old, with the assistance of his younger brothers, David and Andrew, commenced the preparation for a farm and residence upon the lot, being then an unbroken wilderness, and built a house and made arrangements for the comfort of the family, before his father removed from Bradford. His father is rated in the first tax assessed in the town, in the year 1769, and was probably then a resident. William continued to live in town, and on the same farm, with his father. His first wife was Dorothy, the daughter of the Rev. Mr. Merrill, of Nottinghamwest, now Hudson. They were married in September, 1772. They had six children, two sons and four daughters. His wife Dorothy died June 14, 1785. His second wife was Rebecca Hildreth, daughter of Mr. Oliver Hildreth, of Townsend. They were married by the Rev. Mr. Dix, of Townsend, March 20, 1787. Their children were twelve, eight sons and four daughters. She died October 18, 1828, aged 65 years. He died June 4, 1830, aged 81 years, and nearly six months.

His advantages for education were limited, having no other means to that end, than the ordinary country schools of that day, which furnished very poor and indifferent means for the acquisition of learning. But he possessed naturally a very strong and vigorous mind and a sound judgment, which are of more value in the conduct of life than all the teachings of all the schools, where these are wanting. But he was by no means deficient in education, according to the standard of that day, in his state in life. This is evidenced by the fact, that he was for many years employed as a school teacher, and took a very active and important part in the management of the affairs of the town, especially through nearly the whole period of the revolutionary war, often serving during that period, on important committees, in town business. He

served as town clerk and first selectman in the years 1780, 1782-'85-'86; was moderator of the annual meeting in 1785, and town treasurer in 1783 and 1784. His records remaining in the town books are well made up, and his handwriting, although possessing no claims to elegance, is perfectly plain and legible. In those days of trouble and disturbance with the people of this town, both in church and state, town meetings were very frequent. A great number and great variety of taxes were raised and assessed, the whole labor, probably, of assessing, certainly of recording which, fell to him. Of course, the records made by him occupy more space than those of many more times the same number of peaceful years.

He became a member of Mr. Farrar's church in New Ipswich in 1772, and afterwards, on the formation of the Congregational church in Mason, October 13, 1772, he was one of the original members. His father and mother became members of that church at the same time, and his wife Dorothy in the year 1776. In the unhappy contentions between the Rev. Jonathan Searle, their first minister, and the church and people, he was, with few exceptions, upon all the committees on behalf of the town, for conducting their cause. The records of the church, during this time, contain no allusion to the controversy, but he was, undoubtedly, as active in his sphere in the affairs of the church, as of the town.

But the most important view of his life, is his character and services as a preacher of the gospel. It has been stated, that, early in life, he became a member of the Congregational church. It was the church of his fathers. No other denomination was then known, especially in the country places in New England. All serious minded persons united with the church in their towns. The clergy and the church then possessed a power and authority little dreamed of in these days of license and misrule. But all was peace and harmony. No one thought of or inquired for any other or better way. But, with the war of the revolution, and with the establishment of independent governments in the former colonies, came juster

notions of civil rights, and, as a necessary concomitant, more freedom of inquiry and of religious opinion. The Baptist denomination, soon after the close of the war, began to make itself felt in New England, as an element of religious life. The subject became, with Mr. Eliot, a matter of the most serious consideration and the gravest examination, which ultimately resulted in a settled conviction, in his mind, that the Baptist views of the ordinance of baptism, were the only scriptural views. He accordingly adopted them, fully and heartily, and devoted the remainder of his life to a zealous and unwavering support of the principles and practices of that order. It is stated, in the sketch of the history of the Baptist church, that he made these views known, by a protest against a vote to raise money to pay for preaching, in town meeting, in 1782. He was one of the three original male members of the church "imbodyed" September 28, 1786. He seems to have devoted himself from that time, to the work of preaching and exhortation, with such acceptance on the part of the church, that in August, 1788, the church, at a meeting, voted unanimously, that he be set apart as an evangelist; and arrangements were made for a council to meet to ordain him. At a subsequent meeting, the church voted to give him "a call to settle with them in the gospel ministry, and to continue so long as it shall appear it is for the glory of God and our mutual advantage." He accepted the invitation, and was ordained on the third Wednesday of October, 1788, and continued to be the minister of the church till his death, June 4, 1830, a period of 41 years and 8 months.

The bible was his book, almost his only book. With its contents, he was thoroughly and intimately acquainted. With its spirit, his temper and heart were imbued. From the time he began to preach, he gave up all active participation in the affairs of public, political, and municipal life, and seldom, if ever, attended a town meeting, or cast a vote for any officer, of town, state, or nation. Indeed, his labors were abundant. He not only had charge of the interests of his denomination

in his own town, but, for many years, in all the neighboring towns and a large region around. The Baptist churches in New Ipswich, Wilton, Jaffrey, Milford, Hollis and Townsend, owe their origin and early growth, in a great measure, to his self-sacrificing and almost, in an earthly sense, unrewarded toils.

He secured for three of his sons advantages of education very much superior to what he had himself enjoyed, and had the happiness to see them all walking in his footsteps in the service of his and their Lord and Master. Israel graduated at the University of Vermont in 1813. He was drowned in Boston harbor, August 29, 1815. Joseph was ordained at Hinsdale, in June, 1809, at which place and afterwards, in many other important churches of the Baptist denomination, he ministered with much acceptance and success, until recently, he has removed to Elliota, Minnesota, the residence of his son, Mr. J. W. Elliot. His son Jesse graduated at the Literary and Theological Seminary, at Hamilton, N. Y., in 1826, was ordained the same year, and is now the pastor of the Baptist church in Mayville, N. Y.

Notwithstanding the irreconcilable differences of opinion upon many subjects of doctrine, ordinances and discipline, the two pastors of the Congregational and Baptist churches, Mr. Hill and Mr. Eliot lived in great peace and harmony with each other, mutually entertaining a high esteem and regard, each for the other, manifested by many instances of christian sympathy and brotherly kindness, in seasons of affliction, with which both were severely visited; and in view of this fact, perhaps no more appropriate close can be made of this sketch of the life of Mr. Eliot, than the following extract from a sermon preached by Rev. Mr. Hill, in his own pulpit, on the Sunday, while the remains of his departed friend lay unburied, awaiting the last sad and solemn ceremony of committing "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

The text of this discourse was these words: "Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus



Christ." 1 Cor., 15:57. After opening and explaining the subject, he proceeds to say:

I have been led to call your attention to this subject more particularly at this time, on account of the death of the aged and Rev. William Eliot, whose corpse now lies unburied. Mr. Eliot, we believe to have been a sincere christian, a true believer on the Son of God. And we have as full and satisfactory evidence, as we can have, perhaps, in any case, that to him is given the victory over death and the grave, and that he possessed this victory for a long time before his departure.

Mr. Eliot was not favored, in early life, with more than ordinary means of education. Had his strong mind and sound judgment been cultivated in early life, no doubt he would have been distinguished above many. His constitutional temperament was rather grave and serious than otherwise, and inclined to serious contemplation, and from his habits of contemplation and a disposition to embrace opportunities for improving his mind, he acquired what was, in those days, called a good education. He was, for many years, employed in the public business of this town. It was not, however, till after he had lived some years in this town in a family state, as I have learned from his own mouth, that he was made the subject, as he trusted, of experimental religion. I speak now merely from recollection of conversations in times past. He was, for a time, a subject of some serious impressions, and became very careful of his walk, and attentive to the duties of religion, and indulged the hope that he was a christian. But he was at length led to see that he was resting on his own righteousness — his foundation was sand — Christ, in him, was not his hope of glory. What were the leading steps that brought him to the discovery of his self-deception and groundless hopes, I do not now recollect, but for a time he was under deep and pungent conviction of sin, until, at length, he was brought to discover, in the once crucified but now exalted Jesus, all that he needed for salvation; and, as he trusted, and we also trust, he was brought to bow to Him as the Lord our salvation, and to be willing to be in His hands, and be saved by His merits alone. The gospel scheme of salvation by grace through faith, and not by works of righteousness which we have done, appeared glorious to him, and so continued to the last. His own particular experience greatly qualified him to deal with self-exalted or deeply wounded spirits. He at length was persuaded in his own mind, that he was called to preach the gospel to his fellow dying men, and was ordained a minister over the Baptist church, and, for more than forty years, continued to preach Christ as the only name whereby we must be saved, and faith in Him as the only way, the necessity of regeneration by the spirit of God, and the fruit of repentance, as the only evidence of grace in the heart. His general system of doctrine was what is called evangelical, and was drawn from the bible. This book he studied much, and, being favored with a retentive memory, he could quote it with much readiness. And, we have reason to hope,

that he has been an instrument, in the hands of God, of good to many souls. In his numerous family, he was a kind husband and a tender father, and very exemplary in his walk before his house, and among his fellow men. Although his particular views of gospel order did not permit him to hold visible fellowship in some parts of the christian walk with other denominations of christians, yet he loved and enjoyed the society of all those, of whom he had evidence, that they loved the Lord Jesus Christ.

But in his long continued and grievous sickness, the evidence and the fruits of religion shone, perhaps, with the greatest brightness. In all this time, his mind was clear, and though his sufferings were frequently severe, and pain excruciating, he bore them with patience, not a word escaped from him as if God dealt hardly with him, but his language was that of praise to God, for unmerited mercies and light afflictions. Almost uniformly his evidence was bright, his faith strong, and when frequently brought, as he thought, to the very close of his trials, and just ready to launch forth beyond the reign of sin and suffering, he seemed quietly to submit to be borne back upon the troubled ocean, and to wait and suffer what more his Heavenly Father saw fit. And when, at last, the hour had come for his dismissal from trial, his mind was clear, as I am informed, and he could view the king of terrors approaching without the least dismay. As far as is possible for man to judge, he had a glorious victory over death and the grave—his end was peace.

This example is invaluable for the interesting lesson it affords. What strong proof of the truth of God's word! How should it animate the believer to run the race set before him. How should it excite all professors to see whether they are indeed following the Lamb of God. Happy, happy soul is he who is as a servant waiting for the coming of his Lord, prepared to receive him. Then though he go down through the valley of the shadow of death, he need fear no evil, for Christ will be with him and his rod and staff shall support him.

ISRAEL ELLIOT, son of the Rev. William Eliot, was born in Mason, January 1, 1788, graduated at the University of Vermont in 1813. After graduating, he taught school at Cavendish and Chester, Vt. He was drowned in Boston harbor, in 1815.

REV. JOSEPH ELLIOT, son of the Rev. William Eliot, born in Mason, April 12, 1789, was an eminent Baptist minister. He was ordained at Hinsdale in 1809, at which place and in many other important churches of his denomination in New England and in the west, he ministered with much acceptance

and success, until recently, when, suffering under the infirmities of age, he has removed to Elliota, M. T., the residence of his son, Mr. J. W. Elliot.

JESSE ELLIOT, son of the Rev. William Elliot, was born in Mason, December 24, 1799. He graduated at the Literary and Theological Seminary, at Hamilton, N. Y., in 1826, and was ordained a minister of the Baptist church the same year, and is now pastor of the Baptist church at Mayville, Chatauque county, N. Y.

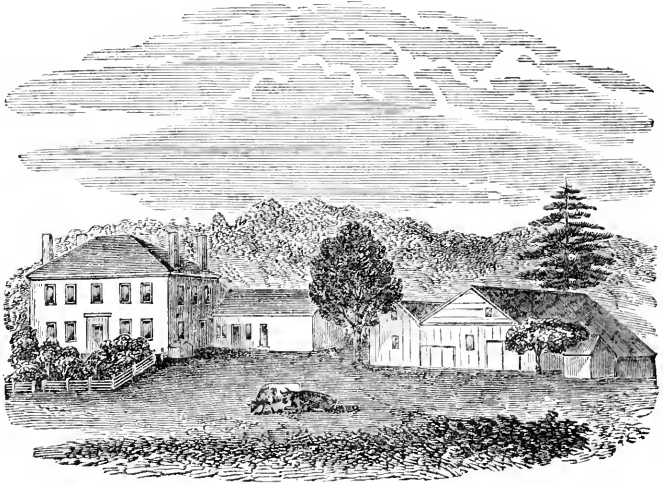
JONAS FAY, JR., Son of Jonas and Dolly Fay, was born in Mason, July 6, 1775. He was a member of Harvard College, but died when an undergraduate, June 23, 1800, aged 25 years.

DR. JOSEPH GRAY, was a physician. He came into town in 1790, and settled on the farm now owned by Vearon Eaton, and removed from town about 1806.

DR. HENRY GRAY, son of Dr. Joseph Gray, surgeon and physician, was born in Mason. He practiced in Mason a short time, and then removed to Cavendish, Vt.

DEA. NATHAN HALL, was born in Bradford, Mass., December 25, 1715. Mary, his wife, was born in Boxford, March 29, 1723. He removed to Mason, then called No. 1, about 1751. He bore his full share in the labors, trials and privations attending the settlement of the new town. He began upon the farm on which Capt. Joseph Saunders now resides. In 1752, in the report made by the committee, at the proprietors' meeting, of "what each man has done in No. 1," he is entered as follows: "Nathan Hall, a house and seven acres of land, six of it broke up, and dwells there." See Proprietary History, p. 41. He was frequently appointed on committees in the business of the Proprietary, and after the incorporation of the town, he was elected town treasurer, which office he

held eight years in succession. He was one of the original members of the Congregational church, and elected a deacon at the first election of those officers, and held the office till his death. He died May 7, 1807, aged 91 years, leaving behind him a reputation for spotless integrity and a useful and blameless life, which his posterity may cherish as the best legacy he could leave for them.



RESIDENCE OF REV. EBENEZER HILL.

REV. EBENEZER HILL, was born in Cambridge, Mass., January 31, 1766, graduated at Harvard College in 1786, and was ordained pastor of the church and minister of the town of Mason, November 3, 1790. He died May 20, 1854, in the 89th year of his age, and the 64th of his ministry. For a more extended account of his life and labors, see the Memoir published at the same time with this volume.

REV. JOSEPH B. HILL, son of Rev. Ebenezer Hill, was born in Mason, November 25, 1796. He graduated at Harvard College in 1821. Ordained an elder of the Cumberland Presbyterian church in Tennessee, he was, for many years, an itin-

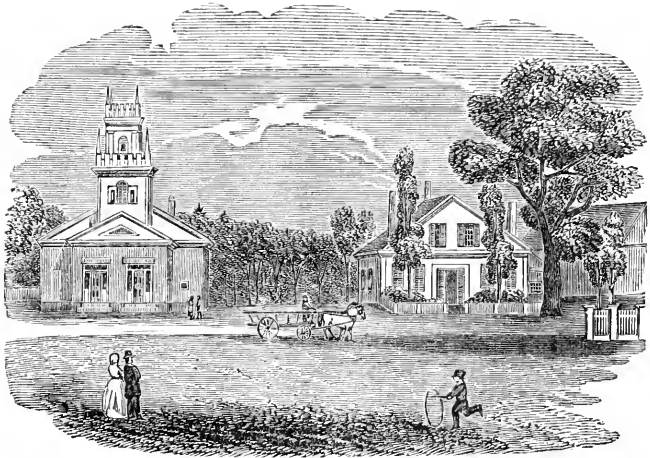
erant minister of that church in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky. He returned to New England in 1840, and was settled as colleague pastor, with his father Rev. E. Hill, of the Congregational church in Mason, in 1841. This connection continued until 1847. Since that time, he has resided most of the time in Colebrook and Stewartstown in New Hampshire, employed in the duties of his calling.

REV. TIMOTHY HILL, youngest son of the Rev. Ebenezer Hill, was born in Mason, June 30, 1819. He graduated at Dartmouth College in 1842, and at the Union Theological Seminary in New York city in 1845. He preached as a missionary, under the direction of the Home Missionary Society, for several years, in Missouri, and is now pastor of a Presbyterian church in Saint Louis, Mo.

DR. OTIS HOYT, came to Mason in the spring of 1835, and commenced practice as a physician and surgeon, at Mason village. He was a pupil of his uncle, Dr. Enos Hoyt, of Sandbornton. His first wife was a daughter of Maj. Seth King, of New Ipswich. In September, 1837, he removed to Framingham, Mass., where his wife died. His second wife was also a daughter of Maj. King. In 1838, he received the degree of M. D., at Dartmouth College. At the commencement of the Mexican war, he joined the army as a surgeon, served to the end of the war, then returned to the United States and established his residence in Wisconsin, and was appointed receiver in the land office at Hudson, in that state.

REV. NEHEMIAH HUNT, son of David Hunt, was born in Mason, in the month of September, 1812. He joined the Congregational church in September, 1833, and in 1834 was a student in the Oberlin Institute in Ohio, from which he went to the Mission Institute in Quincy, Illinois, at which and at the Lane Seminary in Ohio, he pursued his studies for the period of eight years, and completed his academical and theo-

logical education. He was licensed to preach in 1845, and has resided in Illinois since that time, engaged in preaching, and, most of the time, also, teaching high schools. He now resides in Bethel, Bond county, Illinois, where he has been pastor of a church for the last seven years.



RESIDENCE OF DR. WILLIS JOHNSON.

DR. WILLIS JOHNSON. was born in Sturbridge, Mass., Dec. 21, 1786. He studied medicine with Dr. Ephraim Carroll, of Woodstock, Conn., two years, and with Dr. Ferdinand Lethbridge of South Brimfield, Mass., one and a half years. He married (1) Dorothy Flinn of Woodstock, Conn., March 30, 1806. She was born January 16, 1785. He first commenced the practice of his profession at Jaffrey, in August, 1807, and removed to Peterborough in January, 1808, where he remained till 1814, in July of which year he removed to Mason, where he now resides. Dorothy, his wife, died January 2, 1843. He married (2) Sarah Ann Robbins, daughter of Mr. Luther Robbins, of Mason, August 4, 1844.

Dr. Johnson was elected town clerk of Mason, May 5, 1823, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Samuel Merriam, Esq., and he was re-elected to that office at the annual



Engr. by L. Brozeler Boston

*Doctr Willis Johnson*





town meetings between 1823 and 1854, twenty one times, so that he served in the office of town clerk twenty two years in all, a longer time than the office has been held by any other person. He also served five years as chairman of the board of selectmen. He was appointed a justice of the peace in 1823, and still holds that office.

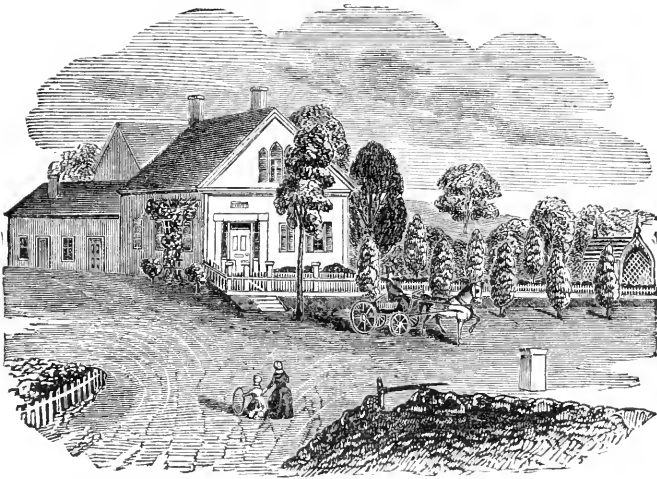
DR. ENOSH LAWRENCE, was the son of Lieut. Enosh Lawrence, and grandson of Ens. Enosh Lawrence. He studied medicine, and had just commenced the practice when he was cut down by disease. He died a victim of consumption, September 28, 1798, at the age of 25 years, 10 months, 12 days.

BENJAMIN MANN, ESQ., removed with his family from Woburn, to Mason, about 1771. His father and mother, James Mann and his wife, and his brother-in-law, Simon Ames, removed to Mason about the same time. Mr. Ames' wife was Mr. Mann's sister. These three families settled on the farm lately owned by Joel Ames. One of their dwelling houses was in the field north of the road and east of the John Bachelder house, the other was near the large willow tree by the road side south of and near the residence of S. H. Wheeler. Benjamin Kendall, whose wife was a sister of B. Mann's wife, came from Woburn about 1785, and built the house where Mr. White now lives; and about 1780, Abraham Merriam, whose wife was an aunt of Benj. Mann, came also from Woburn, and settled on the Wilton road, on the lot east of Mr. Mann's. James Mann and his wife both died about the year 1781.

Benjamin Mann was, soon after he came into town, employed in public offices in town. He was moderator of the annual town meetings twelve years, town clerk four years, one of the selectmen six years, representative four years, and was chosen several times a delegate to conventions, a member of the committee of safety, and on many other important committees in business relating to the revolutionary war. He com-

manded a company in the battle of Bunker Hill, also in the army in Rhode Island. He built the house in the centre village, now owned by Asher Peabody, and kept a tavern there, and also a small store of goods. That village is also indebted to him for the noble elm trees which adorn the common. These he planted on the day of the ordination of Mr. Hill. Also, for the venerable willow planted about the same time, which has attained a circumference of about fifteen feet. Mr. Mann was the first person appointed a justice of the peace in town. About the year 1800, he sold his estate in Mason, and removed to Keene, and from that place to Troy, N. Y., where he died in 1831, aged about 91 years.

DR. THOMAS HASTINGS MARSHALL, son of William Marshall, was born in Jaffrey, December 2, 1806. His father William, the son of Thomas, was born in Tewksbury, Mass. He removed to Jaffrey during the time of the revolutionary war, and commenced a farm upon a new lot of land in the west part of that town, on which he resided until his death, in 1828. His mother was Sarah Cutter, born in New Ipswich. Her first husband's name was Kimball. Dea. Isaac Kimball, of Temple, John Kimball, of Fitzwilliam, and Benoni C. Kimball, of Mason, are her sons. Mr. Marshall was her second husband. Dr. Marshall and one sister are the only children of this marriage. He worked upon the farm with his father until he was 21 years of age, about which time his father died. His early education was obtained in the district schools of his native town. After studying two or three terms at New Ipswich Academy, and keeping school a few winters, he commenced the study of medical science, in 1832, with Dr. Luke Howe, of Jaffrey, a physician and surgeon of good reputation. He graduated M. D., at Dartmouth College, in 1834, having attended medical lectures at Bowdoin College, at Dartmouth College, and at Harvard University. He commenced his professional life at Fitzwilliam, in 1835. His wife is Abigail Sophia Hawkes, of Templeton, Mass. They were

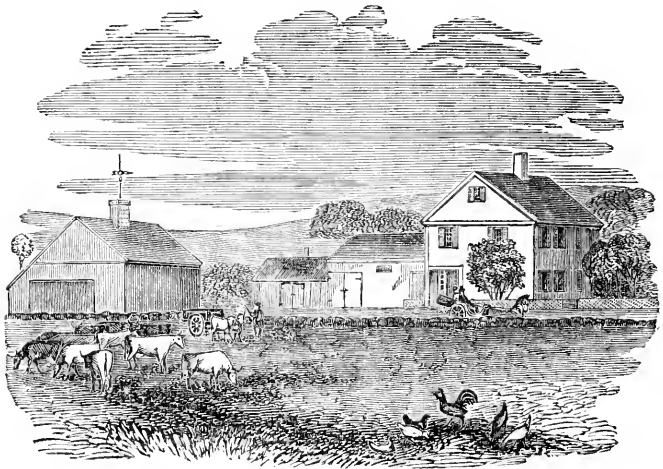


RESIDENCE OF DR. THOMAS H. MARSHALL.

married December 1, 1836. He removed to Mason village in September, 1837, and has there continued in practice as a physician and surgeon to the present time.

JOSEPH MERRIAM, was born in Concord, in which place his ancestors have lived from its earliest settlement, and so many of them of his name that it is difficult to trace out his lineage. He settled in Mason about the year 1769. He was an industrious farmer, a good manager, and acquired a good estate. He enjoyed through his long life a large share of the confidence and esteem of his townsmen, shown by their electing him to important offices. He had not the gift of speech making, but he possessed a sound judgment and an honest heart—qualities more useful in life than the most full and flowing eloquence without them. He was one of the selectmen fourteen years, and was the first representative elected after the town ceased to be classed with Raby. He lived many years on the farm now owned by Capt. Moses Merriam. About the year 1800, he built the large house near where Mr. Abijah Allen lived. Here he died, November 6, 1826, aged 82 years.

SAMUEL MERRIAM, Esq., was the son of Joseph Merriam, born at Mason, October 14, 1773. His first wife was Lucy, daughter of Aaron Wheeler. He served many years in town offices, as moderator, town clerk and selectman, was a justice of the peace and coroner, and was much respected for intelligence, integrity and business capacity. Lucy, his wife, died August 30, 1817. He lived on the farm now owned by his son, Capt. Moses Merriam, where he died, April 20, 1823, at the age of 50 years. His second wife was Huldah Burton, of Wilton, who survived him.



RESIDENCE OF MOSES MERRIAM.

REV. ALFRED L. MASON, was the son of Daniel and Martha Mason, and was born at Andover, Mass., in February, 1812. At the age of fifteen years, he united with the Congregational church at Andover. With the design of engaging in the ministry, he commenced a course of study at the Teacher's Seminary, in Andover. After a brief term at that institution, he was, for a time, obliged to relinquish effort in that direction. Returning again as soon as circumstances permitted him to do so, he applied himself with the utmost earnestness, to preparation for the great work which he had chosen. His means



Lith. by T. Crozier, Boston

*A. L. Mason*



were limited to the earnings of his own hands, and very few students contend with greater difficulties than those which encompassed his path. He was generally obliged to labor until late at night in the manufacturing of shoes, to procure the means of continuing his studies, and his constitution was, naturally, by no means strong.

In 1830, he united with the Baptist church at Methuen, Mass. On the organization of a Baptist church at Andover, he removed his membership thither. By this church, he was licensed to preach, and was soon called to the pastorate of the church at Mason village. This call was accepted, and his ordination took place on the 20th of June, 1836.

On the 15th of November, 1837, he was married, by Prof. Emerson, of Andover Theological Seminary, to Miss Mary Town, of Andover. Of this marriage, were three children, Mary, Judson and Daniel, all of whom, with their mother, still survive, and reside at East Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. Mason's constitution, delicate always, and doubtless greatly impaired by efforts while in his academical studies, gradually gave way under the earnest labors of his charge, until the autumn of 1843, when a severe attack of hemorrhage of the lungs laid him aside from his public duties. Somewhat recovering, after a time, he renewed his labors, but was soon again attacked as before, and continued to decline until his decease, which took place October 7, 1844.

Of the characteristics of Mr. Mason, the following is an extract from an extended obituary notice of him, in one of the papers of the Baptist denomination: "His character was peculiarly amiable and lovely. He was distinguished for equanimity, cheerfulness, affability and kindness. His piety, moreover, was not more simple and unaffected, than it was fervent and sincere. He manifested piety *at home*. As a preacher, his style was correct and impressive. His simple exhibition of truth and earnest appeals to the conscience, delivered in an affectionate manner, produced powerful and lasting impressions on many of his hearers. As a pastor, he felt deeply

for the spiritual advancement of his charge, was laborious and eminently successful."

CHARLES TILDEN OTIS, pursued his preparatory studies at New Ipswich Academy, and entered Yale College in 1839. He was a good scholar, an amiable, promising youth, but was cut off by disease while a member of the college. He died, July 17, 1840, aged 21 years. His grave, in the village graveyard, is marked by a headstone, but on it no mention is made of his literary life. His father, who resided on the farm formerly occupied by Timothy Wheelock, removed out of town soon after his decease.

LIEUT. OBADIAH PARKER, may well be considered one of the fathers of the town. He was born in Groton, his wife, it is supposed, in Chelmsford, Mass. He began his farm on lot No. 8, R. 10, on which he built his house within a few rods of the line of New Ipswich. It is probably owing to this fact, that, in the History of New Ipswich, he is placed in the number of the early inhabitants of that town. The same is the case with Aaron Wheeler, whose lot was next north of Lieut. Parker's, and his house near New Ipswich line. Lieut. Parker began to improve his lot in 1751. In the report made by the committee, at the Proprietors' meeting, in 1752, is entered: "Obadiah Parker, a good house and about two acres of land cleared." When he removed his wife into town, there were but three women in the place, and he used often to remark, in after years, that when his wife "was young, she was the handsomest woman in town, except three." Lawrence, Hall and Tarbell, were the three who settled prior to Parker. It will be noticed, that Lieut. Parker's name appears on almost every page of the early history of the town, that he was a leading and active man in all affairs of church, town and state, on committees to hire preaching, and to seat the meeting house, &c., under the Proprietary, and was sent to Portsmouth to get the incorporation, and was directed, by a vote of the



Proprietary, to "disburst the money" for that purpose. He was moderator, selectman and representative under the town organization. Possessing at all times through life the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens, he passed through the changes of life to extreme old age, and died October 5, 1816, aged 86 years. Without sickness or pain, in the quiet of night, without a struggle, from the repose of natural slumber, he fell into that deeper sleep that knows no waking.

OBADIAH PARKER, son of Lieut. Obadiah Parker, was born in Mason, February 18, 1772. He graduated at Harvard College in 1799. He never entered upon any professional life, but gave his attention to teaching in private schools. He had, for several years, a popular school at Lexington, Mass. Afterwards, he removed to the state of New York, pursuing the same business, at various places, and finally, in the city of New York, in which place or in that vicinity, he died, about the year 1830.

JASON RUSSELL, JOHN RUSSELL and HUBBARD RUSSELL, were brothers, and their sister, ELIZABETH WEBBER, wife of Dea. Jotham Webber, were born in West Cambridge, then called Menotomy. They all settled in Mason, Jason in 1769, Hubbard in 1772, John in 1774, and Dea. Webber in 1780. Each brought up a numerous family, and lived to old age, Jason to 84, John 86, Hubbard 88 years, and Mrs. Webber 82 years. Hubbard Russell served as selectman several years.

Richard Russell was, undoubtedly, the ancestor of this family. He was born in Hereford, county of Hereford, England, in 1611. He came to New England, and settled at Charlestown, in 1640. He was a representative from Charlestown thirteen years, was several times elected speaker of the house, was treasurer, and one of the assistants. He was an eminent merchant, and several of his descendants have been distinguished for their success in mercantile business. John Russell was appointed, 1645, "clerk of the writs at Cambridge."

REV. JONATHAN SEARLE, was born at Rowley, Mass., in 1744. He graduated at Harvard College, in 1764. He preached in Mason, as a candidate, in 1770, and received an invitation from the people to settle as their minister. In 1772, he accepted the invitation, assisted in organizing a church, of which he was one of the original members, and was, on the 13th of October, of that year, ordained pastor of the church and minister of the town. As the first settled minister, he was entitled to a right of land in the town. This he owned in fee simple. A part he disposed of early, and a part he continued to own till near the close of his life. He purchased the valuable farm now owned by Ebenezer Blood, and built on it a very good house, which is yet standing in good condition, and in it he resided till his death. It has already been related in this work, how difficulties arose between him and his people, which resulted in his dismissal, in 1781. He was commissioned as a justice of the peace, in 1785, and held that office until his decease. Soon after his dismissal, he ceased to officiate as a minister, and devoted his attention to his farm, on which he brought up, in a very respectable style, his numerous family. He died December 7, 1812, aged 68 years.

STEPHEN SMITH, was born at Kingston, R. I., August 31, 1807. At the age of fourteen years, he entered the employ of Bradford Sparrow, of Killingly, Conn., a cotton manufacturer. With him, he remained several years, and acquired a good practical knowledge of that business. His next engagement was with a manufacturing company in Sutton, Mass., by the failure of which, in 1829, he lost all his savings, several hundred dollars, and was left in debt, even for his board.

In the spring of 1830, he returned to Killingly, and engaged in the employ of Jedediah Leavins, with whom an intimate friendship sprung up as lasting as life. In the year 1831, he united with the Presbyterian church in Killingly. In 1832, he married Marcia G. Leavins, a sister of his employer. In 1834, he went to Norwich Falls, Conn., and there he buried



Lith by L. Crocker Boston

*Stephen Smith*



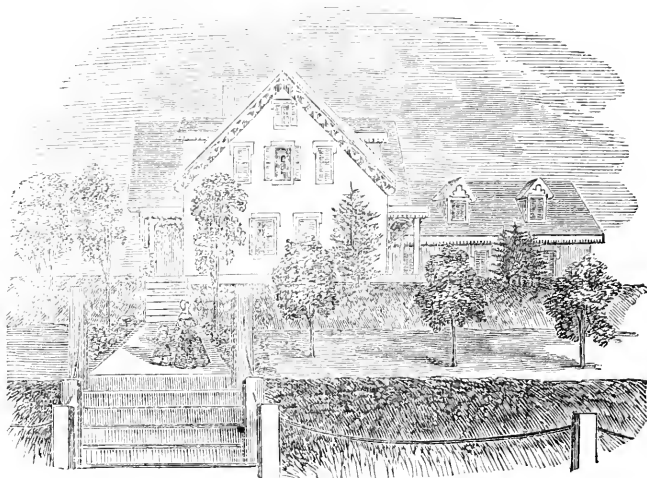
all his family, a wife and two infant daughters. In 1837, he married Maria Ellis, of Attleborough, Mass. Their only child, Erwin L., was born November 6, 1839.

The financial crisis of 1837 having thrown him out of employment, he, with another, undertook to operate a small mill in East Haddam, Conn. Disappointed as to the pecuniary ability of his partner, and by the failure of the man who contracted to stock the mill, the enterprise, after a few months, was abandoned, leaving him once more stripped of all his hard earnings, and plunged in debt. Under these circumstances, his health became impaired, his spirits depressed, and partial derangement ensued. He returned to Killingly, and, at the genial home of his brother-in-law, Leavins, gradually regained his wonted strength and cheerfulness.

In the spring of 1839, he removed to Uneasville, a small manufacturing village in the town of Montville, Conn. While residing here, he removed his church relations to Montville, and was elected deacon.

In 1843, he was invited by the Columbian Manufacturing Company, to take charge of their mill at Mason village, to which place he soon after removed his family. The company having had full proof of his integrity and capacity for business, increased their operations, and, in 1845, rebuilt the High Bridge mill, in New Ipswich, now No. 2. In 1855, having purchased the old saw and grist mill in the village, then owned by William Durgin, the company commenced building, upon its site, the new or No. 4 mill. About the same time, the old Water Loom mill in New Ipswich, now No. 3, was bought, and underwent thorough repair. The planning, drafting, contracting for, and supervision of, all this business, was done by Mr. Smith. In the midst of these multiplied labors and cares, his health again failed, and his mental equilibrium was once more overcome. In January, 1857, he relinquished business, and in April, by advice of eminent physicians, he was placed at the McLean Asylum, in Somerville, Mass., where he died, August 13, aged 50 years.

Stephen Smith was a self-made man. In youth, he was bashful and retiring, almost shunning society, which he afterwards highly valued and enjoyed. His educational advantages were little more than those of the common schools, but doubtless well improved. He wrote a fine hand, composed readily and correctly, and was an effective public speaker. His private residence and corporation improvements, are monu-



RESIDENCE OF HON. STEPHEN SMITH.

ments of his refinement and taste. He united a good degree of mechanical ingenuity with what may be termed executive ability, and great energy in the prosecution of business.

Mr. Smith held the office of a justice of the peace throughout the state, was once elected representative of Mason to the legislature, and served two years as one of the executive council. He was always foremost in good works, and especially generous in his contributions to aid the cause of education, temperance and anti-slavery. Every good cause had his sympathy, and every one he regarded bad, his fearless opposition.

But it is as a philanthropist and a christian that his memory breathes the choicest fragrance. His was an earnest life,

guided by principle. He evidenced his sincerity by his sacrifices. As an illustration of his character and the spirit of the times, the following incident is given: While at Norwich Falls, he opened an anti-slavery prayer meeting at his house, which was threatened with mob violence unless discontinued. But the faith within was too strong for the force without. The little band prayed on unmolested.

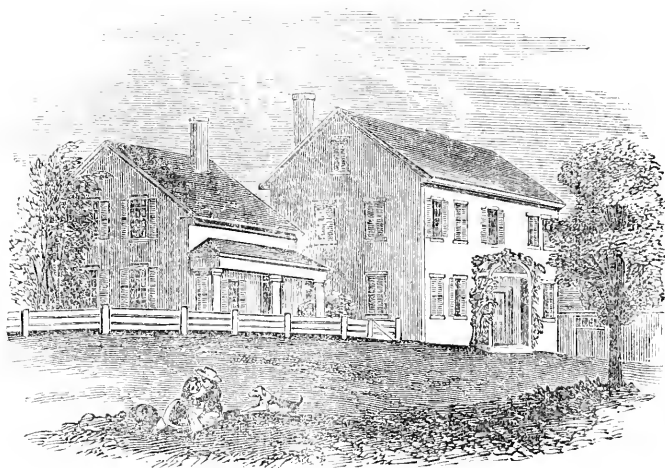
Dea. Smith was one of the principal founders and supporters of the Congregational church, formed at Mason village, in 1847, also one of its officers, and for many years the efficient superintendent of its Sabbath school. With children, he was always popular, enjoying with them innocent hilarity and cheerful recreations, with the keenest relish.

The prominent traits of his character were, a vigorous will, generous impulses, strong sympathy with suffering, and a practical zeal for reform of the social, political and religious evils of our day.

His funeral took place at Mason village, Sabbath, August 16—a large concourse of people testifying by their presence and sadness, that a friend and public benefactor had fallen.

REV. JOHN SPAULDING, son of Hezekiah and Sally Spaulding, was born in Mason, November 30, 1800, graduated at Middlebury College, in 1825, completed his theological studies at Andover Theological Seminary, in 1828, and was ordained a missionary to the valley of the Mississippi, September 25, 1828. He was installed pastor of the Presbyterian church at Athens, Ohio, April 23, 1829, and of the Main-street Presbyterian church at Peoria, Illinois, June 6, 1838; was Secretary of the Western Education Society at Cincinnati, Ohio, four years and a half, and Corresponding Secretary of the Seaman's Friend Society, New York city, sixteen years. He was a successful and popular school teacher, having before and during his college life, taught school four successive winters, in all one and a half years. During his pastorate of eight years, were admitted to his churches mostly on examination

and profession of faith, 177 persons. Of one of his bible classes, in number 87, all but nine became professors of religion; of these, twenty one entered the ministry, two of whom were missionaries in foreign countries. Of the ladies of the class, five or six married ministers.



### RESIDENCE OF JOHN STEVENS, ESQ.

JOHN STEVENS, was born at Wilton, N. H., July 21, 1783. His parents removed from Chelmsford, Mass., and were among the early settlers of that town. He had several sisters, but no brother who attained mature age. The rural sports of childhood, and the labors of the farm, contributed to give him a fine physical development, a heritage to be coveted by every youth, whatever may be his future employment.

In addition to the advantages of the district school, the subject of this sketch attended, for a time, a private school, kept by the Rev. Mr. Beede, the clergyman of that town, to whom Wilton is much indebted for the high character, her common schools have so long held.

When about eighteen years of age, he commenced school teaching, an employment in which he soon attained great





John Storrs, 1850.

*John Storrs*



celebrity. The "hard schools" particularly, sought his services; and, what moral suasion and kind treatment could not effect, his powerful arm was prompt to accomplish, the entire submission of the most refractory scholars. For more than twenty years, his winters were chiefly devoted to this business.

June 6th, 1807, he married Hannah Lovejoy, of Wilton, and settled upon the homestead farm, ministering to the wants of his parents, while they lived. His mother, from an accidental injury, was almost helpless for many years.

In January, 1824, he removed to Mason village, and was employed as clerk and treasurer of the Mason Cotton Mill Co., till the failure of that company.

He soon afterwards, built the family residence where his widow still resides, with her son-in-law, Mr. Albert Taft.

From this period till his death, when not engaged in public business, he was chiefly employed in his work-shop, or upon his farm.

Mr. Stevens, in person, was tall and commanding. His countenance was strongly marked, indicating talent and executive power. In manners, he combined a judge-like gravity, with politeness and affability of deportment.

His strong intellect was early stimulated into active exercise, by high aspirations. Self culture, and the mental training which a want of educational helps imposes, fitted him to "act well his part," in those public stations, he was afterwards called to fill.

His dignity, urbanity and tact, made him a good presiding officer. He was, consequently, frequently chosen to preside in town meetings, or on other public occasions. As selectman, he did much service. As representative in the state legislature, either of Wilton or Mason, he served more than twenty years. The office of justice of the peace he long held, and in it transacted much business. His papers were characterized by good penmanship, minute accuracy, and business-like execution.

In politics, he was a whig, and hence, though the choice of his party, the higher offices of the county and state were closed against him.

As a citizen and a man, he always stood in his lot, meeting the wants of society, with a liberal spirit and a generous hand. He was a kind husband, a tender father, and an obliging neighbor. He died of an affection of the heart, March 25, 1848, aged sixty-four years.

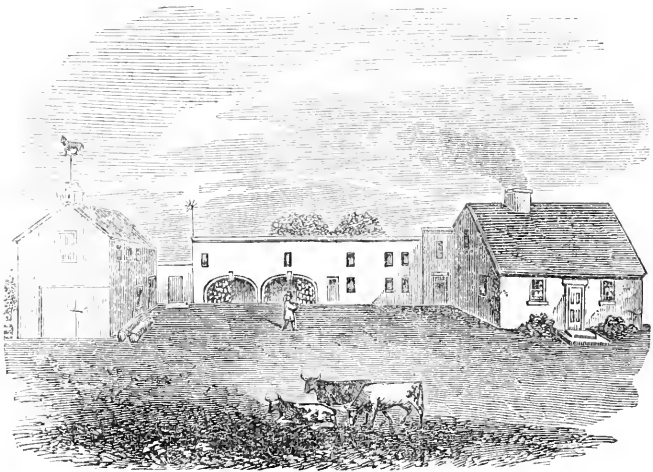
DR. OLIVER SCRIPTURE, a physician and surgeon, the son of Oliver Scripture and Jane, his wife, was born in Mason, June 16, 1783. He married Eliza, the youngest daughter of the Hon. Timothy Farrar. He settled in Hollis, N. H., where he now resides. It was in his family that Judge Farrar passed the closing years of his life, and there he died, February 21, 1849, aged 101 years, 7 months and 12 days.

LIEUT. JOHN SWALLOW, was the eldest son of John Swallow and Deborah, his first wife. He was born in Groton, February 22, 1729-30. His father removed to Dunstable, Mass., about the year 1750. While residing in his father's family, at Dunstable, he commenced clearing up his farm. His lot was No. 6, R. 6, now owned and occupied by his son-in-law, Dea. S. Withington, and his grandson, Luke Newell. Here he commenced his farm, probably in 1751. In 1752, he is reported as follows: "John Swallow, cleared about one acre, and got some timber for a house." At that time, there was no road from Dunstable to No. 1. He would start on Monday morning, from his father's, with a pack load of provisions on his back, and, finding his way by marked trees to his clearing, he would fill the forest echoes with lusty blows of his ax, from sun to sun, till his stock of provisions was exhausted, and then starting a few hours before sun set, he would wend his solitary way through the forest, twenty two miles to his Dunstable home, to replenish his stock, and, after a brief resting,

would again renew his journey and his labors. Thus he subdued the forest, built his log cabin, and set up his household. In this log cabin, a house of one small room, he lived till after the birth of his eleventh child, when he removed into the two story framed house now standing, in which he spent the remainder of his life, extended to the good old age of 86 years. He never knew what it was to be sick, or ever tasted of any thing called medicine, until past his 75th year. His death was occasioned by a fall and broken bone, the pain of which wore out his life, November 23, 1815. He was twice married. His first wife was Sarah, daughter of Ens. Enosh Lawrence, the second, Mary, daughter of Dea. Nathan Hall.

DEA. ROGERS WESTON, was born in Billerica, Mass., September 30, 1757. His father was Samuel Weston, born in Reading, Mass., in 1722. He was a descendant of John Weston, who was married to Sarah Fitch, April 18, 1653. Dea. Weston was an inhabitant of Mason as early as 1780. He began his farm on the lot where his son Rogers Weston now lives. He married, (1) Deborah Lawrence, daughter of Ens. Enosh Lawrence, April 12, 1785. She died, October 20, 1798. (2) Anna Frost, of West Cambridge, Mass., December, 1799. She died September 30, 1829. (3) Rebecca Keyes, of Townsend, in 1830. She died August 15, 1830. (4) Mrs. Lydia Buttrick, of Pepperell, in 1831. She died March 13, 1837. (5) Mrs. Betsey Wright, of Brookline, who survived him. He died March 9, 1843, aged 85 years, 5 months, 9 days. Dea. Weston was an industrious, frugal and successful farmer. He was an active and ardent politician, and for many years the leader of the democratic, or, as it was then called, the republican party in the town, a firm supporter of the policy and administrations of Jefferson and Madisen, and, as such, was elected to represent his town five years in the legislature. He was appointed a justice of the peace in 1808, and held the office till his death.

COL. JAMES WOOD, became a resident in Mason, about the year 1780. His father, Ens. John Wood, removed to Mason, with his family, in 1778. Their ancestor, William Wood, was born in England, in 1582. He settled at Concord, Mass., in 1638, where he died, May 4, 1671, at the age of 89 years. Ens. John Wood was born in Concord. He died at Mason, December 9, 1785. Col. James Wood, came from Leominster, Mass., to Mason. He was a cabinet maker by trade, and worked at that business through life. He built the house where Oliver Allen now lives, a view of which is here presented. He was of a generous, liberal disposition, his hand



RESIDENCE OF COL. JAMES WOOD.

and heart were always open to the call of friendship, or to the claims of the indigent and distressed; always ready, to the full measure of his ability, to aid in every good word and work, he was popular in his manners and well esteemed by all his fellow citizens. He was, in politics, a federalist of the old school, and, for many years, the leading man of his party in town. He was the representative of the town five years in succession, commencing in the year 1800, and was again

elected in 1809, making, in all, six years. He served as one of the selectmen seven years. He had a taste for military affairs, in which he held office from the lowest grade up to that of colonel. He was, also, in office for many years as a justice of the peace. His character, as a townsman, a neighbor, a christian and a public officer, was without blemish. No man ever lived in the town who was more universally and more deservedly beloved. He died, July 31, 1838, at the age of 83 years.

REV. WILLIAM OLMSTED, was born at Westchester, a parish or society in Colchester, Conn., January 5, 1821. His parents were Zachariah and Elizabeth Olmsted. They were both pious, and earnestly desired that William, the youngest of eight children, might be a minister. His father dying when he was eleven years old, he was left to the guardianship of his elder brothers. He is represented as a slender, quiet, home loving boy, who preferred the society of his sisters, to the harsh, out-door amusements, boys generally love. His early youth was chiefly spent at school. At the age of sixteen years, he was placed as clerk in a store at East Haddam. It was at this place, during a revival of religion, that he was converted and united with the church. Here he probably remained till he was of age. He next engaged as a clerk in a dry goods store at Hartford. Being taken sick shortly after, he changed his plans for future life, and resolved on preparing for the ministry. Everything afterwards was made subsidiary to this purpose. When sufficiently recovered, he entered Williston Seminary, where he remained till August, 1844. During vacation, he was examined and admitted a member of Yale College. But his health being delicate, by advice of friends, he abandoned the idea of a college course and commenced at once theological studies. His first year was passed at East Windsor, the two last at Union Theological Seminary, at New York. He graduated in 1847. A society in Brooklyn, N. Y., secured his services for one year, and

wished to retain him longer. Thinking his health might be better in the country, he came to Mason village in the fall of 1848, and was ordained there, April 11, 1849. In May, 1852, with health slightly impaired, he left his people to attend the anniversaries at New York. On his return, he stopped for a few days with his friends in Connecticut, fell sick and died in his native town, and among his kindred, June 6, 1852. Agreeably to his dying request, "bury me among my beloved people," his remains were interred in the graveyard at Mason village. The marble which marks his resting place bears this inscription, indicated by himself: "I shall be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness."

To speak of Mr. Olmsted as he still lives in the hearts of his "little flock," might be thought flattery. But the memory of the good should be blessed; fragrance should exhale from the tomb of earth's benefactors. In person, he was tall and slender, seeming to want that muscular proportion and physical symmetry so necessary to active endurance, and which, in many cases, early out-door exercise and bodily labor only can impart. His eye was dark and penetrating, the whole countenance intellectual and benignant in expression. Alas, that so many of earth's gifted ones should perish ere they are ripe, from this unequal development—this disproportion between the brain and its animal machinery! His style, as a writer, was chaste and graphic, and his manner of speaking was peculiarly his own, animated, impressive and winning. His power, as a public speaker, seemed to be derived mainly from his knowledge of human character and his sympathy with and ready adaptation to the wants and the minds of men. An intimate friend and room mate thus speaks of him: "For his age, he had the best knowledge of human nature of any one I have ever met. He had a faculty of keen and close observation of the thoughts and motives of men, which was truly wonderful. He saw at a glance, he moved instantly, he made it plain to all. His end was the ministry, and he carried the direct aim of all true business





*J. Perkins del. "G. Wood" sc. Boston*

*Wm Olmsted*

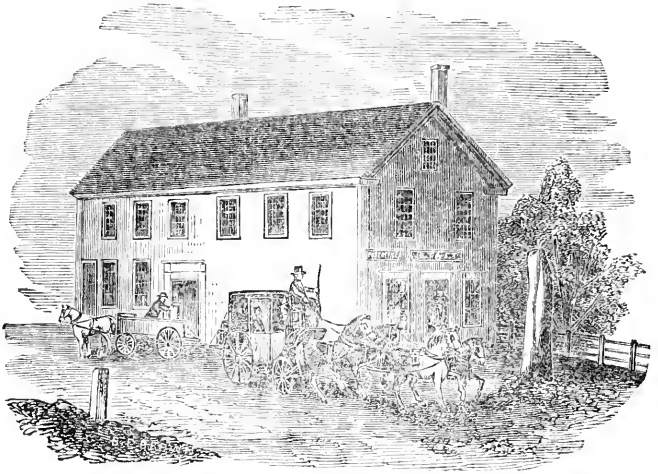
REV. WILLIAM OLMSTED.



life into his studies. The study of Latin and Greek classics had no charm for him; it seemed like drudgery; but he trained himself by a thorough course of mental philosophy, and delighted in the investigation of every question which bore upon his great object. He was eminently conscientious. In all my acquaintance with him, I cannot recall a single word or act, which could throw the least discredit upon his Christian character."

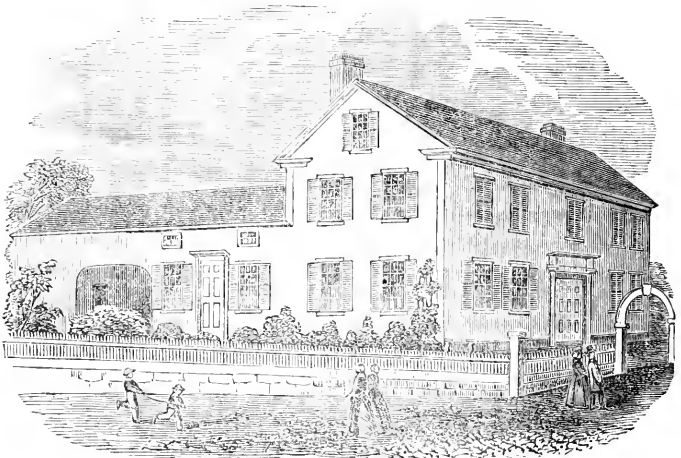
Mr. Olmsted was social in his habits, decided in his opinions, and bold and fearless in their advocacy. He took a deep interest in public improvements, and whatever promoted the general welfare. The erection, during his ministry, of the church edifice for the Congregational society in the village, was greatly aided by his influence and example. A sermon from Jeremiah 7:18, "The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven," was preached by him in promotion of this object, and was a happy specimen of the writer's tact and genius. His brief life with his people, abounds with pleasant reminiscences.

JAMES TAFT, was born in Uxbridge, Mass., June 13, 1780. In 1796, he commenced his services as an apprentice to learn the tanner's trade, at Petersham. In 1802, he established himself at New Ipswich, in the business of a tanner. His tan yard was that commenced in 1787, by Jeremiah Pritchard, at the foot of the hill south of the old burying ground. He built the house lately occupied by Mrs. Clary. He commenced business in company with Roger Chandler and Henry Isaacs, in 1812, and removed to Mason village. This company built the first cotton factories in the village, and for several years made the spinning of cotton yarn their principal business, and some years after they introduced machinery for weaving cotton cloths. In the spring of 1837, he commenced business as a merchant, and continued in it until his death, March 3, 1856.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES TAFT.

In 1805, Mr. Taft married Hannah Proctor. His only daughter, Mary, died June, 1828, aged 22 years. His three sons, Albert, George and James, survive him, and all reside in the village. He served many years as one of the selectmen.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE TAFT, ESQ.

CAPT. THOMAS TARBELL, was one of the original proprietors of No. 1, and named as such in the grant of the Masonian proprietors. He was one of the first settlers, was clerk of the proprietary, first chosen in 1762, and continued in office till the last meeting of that body, in 1773, and was one of the most active and leading men in all affairs of the township prior to the incorporation. Six of his sons settled on farms near him. He was a native of Groton. Thomas Tarbell, his ancestor, was one of the original proprietors of Groton in 1661. In the list are the names of Thomas Tarbell, Sen. and Thomas Tarbell, Jr. There were so many of the name of Thomas, that it is difficult to trace them all to Thomas, Sen., from whom, undoubtedly, they all descended. One Thomas was town clerk in Groton in 1704-'5, another from 1731 to 1733, another from 1745 to 1756, inclusive. The extracts from Capt. Tarbell's records, as clerk of the proprietors, on pages from 47 to 54, show that his notions of orthography were peculiar and unique. The following specimen, from a record of his ancestor, Thomas Tarbell, town clerk of Groton, will show that he could plead ancestral example in excuse for the liberties he took with the syllables of the language:

groton march 8 1704

at a legul townmeeting the town did yot that they wul met for the  
futur to chus town offesurs the fust tusday of march annuelly  
thomas tarbell clark

The name of Tarbell is very rare in this country. It does not appear in the long list of those who took the freeman's oath before 1669, nor does Farmer, in his Genealogical Register mention any of the name except Thomas, Sen., and Thomas, Jr. It is from these that all of the name in Massachusetts and New Hampshire are descended. There is one romantic incident in the history of the family thus related in Butler's Groton, page 96, in the chapter relating to the sufferings of that town in the Indian wars. He says:

Besides these instances of alarm, attack and suffering from a savage foe, others are known to have occurred, of which there is

more or less authentic evidence. One, of which the tradition is undoubtedly nearly correct, is that of two lads, John Tarbell and Zachariah Tarbell, brothers, and sons of Thomas Tarbell, who were taken and carried to Canada. The story runs thus. One evening, a little after sunset, the Indians came suddenly upon the inmates of a garrisoned house, which stood where the Rev. Mr. Sanderson's house now stands, or near that spot. They all escaped and got safely into the garrison, except these boys, who being on a cherry tree, had not sufficient time to descend and save themselves from captivity. The precise time of this event is not known, but it is said Zachariah was so young, that he entirely lost his native language, and the records of Groton show, that John was born July 6, 1695, and Zachariah January 25, 1700. So it was probably between 1704 and 1708. Some years after, they both came to Groton on a visit, but having become accustomed to savage life, no persuasion prevailed on them to return and live with their friends and relatives. The present inhabitants of that name are their collateral kindred. Their descendants are still among the Indians in Canada.

## APPENDIX.

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### NOTE TO PAGE 45.

EXTRACT FROM A JOURNAL OF JOSEPH HOLT, OF WILTON, N. H., "OF THE MARCH OF CAPT. EBEN'R JONES' COMPANY, IN THE EXPEDITION TO CANADA," IN 1758.

JOSEPH HOLT, probably of Andover, Mass., and who resided many years at Wilton, N. H., was a soldier in the French war of 1758. He kept a journal, from day to day, from the time he left home, May 24, 1758, to October 24. This journal was recently found in the possession of a gentleman in the city of New York, and copied and forwarded for publication in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, by Frederic Kidder, Esq., a gentleman to whom all who feel any interest in the past history of New Ipswich and its vicinity are greatly indebted. It is published in full, in vol. 10, pp. 307-310 of the Register. The following extract from this journal will be of interest to many in the town of Mason and the vicinity:

July 20. A terrible day as ever I saw. Early in the morning, as a party of ten men were coming down from ye Lake, the enemy fired upon them, and killed & took all but one; sundry officers and men, to the number of about thirty, sallied to the assistance of the scout, & many others directly followed; the enemy exceeding our number, they run upon us and beat us off, & killed 6 commissioned officers, & took and killed many others, a list of which follows: Captains Samuel Dakin of Sudbury, Ebenezer Jones of Wilmington, Thomas Lawrence of Groton, all killed: Lieutenants Samuel Curtis of Sudbury, of Capt. Dakin's company — Simon Godfrey of Billerica, of Capt. Jones' Co.; Ensign Daniel Davis of Methuen, of Capt. Foster's Co.; Sergeant Peter Russell of Concord, of Capt. Fletcher's Co.— all killed. Sergeant Wright of Westford, of Capt. Lawrence's

Co., missing. John Bateman of Concord, Abner Keys of Billerica, Bill Eaton of do., all of Capt. Fletcher's Co., killed. Corporal Gould of No. 1, [now Mason, N. H.], Eleazer Ames of Groton, Abel Sawtelle & Stephen Foster of do., Simon Wheeler and Joel Crosby of Westford, all belonging to Capt. Lawrence's Co., killed. Joshua Newton of South Berwick, missing. Isaac Little of Dedham, William Grout of Sudbury, Jonathan Patterson & Nathaniel Moulton of do., belonging to Capt. Dakin's Co., missing. David Payson of Rowley, killed. Caleb Kimball of Ipswich, Moses Hagget of Andover, killed. William Coggin of Wilmington, wounded. Abraham Harding of Pennycook, of Capt. Foster's Co., killed. 21st. We went out with a party of 200 men to reconnoitre the woods and ground where our yesterday's battle was, and to seek for missing men; we found 4 dead, and also the enemy's lurking place; P. M., I went up to the lake to take care of the sick we left there; Moses Hagget died of his wounds.

## NOTE TO PAGE 42.

For many years after the settlement of Mason was commenced, the inhabitants were dependent upon the neighboring clergy for such religious services as their exigencies required, except as they were, from time to time, temporarily supplied by candidates and preachers hired for short terms. This state of things continued for twenty years or more. The neighboring clergy, at that time, were the Rev. Caleb Trowbridge, of Groton, H. C., 1710, ordained at Groton, March 2, 1714-15, died September 9, 1760; the Rev. Phineas Hemenway, of Townsend, H. C., 1730, ordained at Townsend, October, 1734, died May, 1760; the Rev. Daniel Emerson, of Hollis, H. C., 1739, ordained at Hollis, April 20, 1743, died September 30, 1801; the Rev. Jos. Emerson, of Pepperell, H. C., 1743, ordained at Pepperell, February 26, 1746-47, died Oct. 29, 1775, and the Rev. Stephen Farrar, H. C., 1755, ordained at New Ipswich, October 22, 1760, died June 23, 1809. Of these, the nearest, in point of distance, was the Rev. Mr. Hemenway. He received a call to settle in Townsend in 1734. His acceptance is dated July 22, 1734. The time for his ordination was, by vote of the town, the third Wednesday of October. Under date of July 12, 1734, is recorded the vote of the town, that Mr. Hemenway's "stated annual salary shall



altar in proportion as the value of silver shall alter with the goldsmiths and merchants in Boston, as silver money at 25s. per ounce." His stated salary was £60, half yearly. In 1740, the town raised £200 for Mr. Hemenway's salary, in 1741, £140 16s. 8d., in 1742, £180. For subsequent years till 1753, no entry is made. Probably the salary of £120 remained unchanged. In that year, the town, May 28,

Voted, To raise one hundred pounds, old tenor, for Mr. Hemenway, this present year, it being for his great sickness and lameness the year past, and for the great dearth of provisions the present year.

Voted, That the *money* be paid in labor, grain, meat, butter, cheese, wool, flax, &c., or else in cash, before the last day of January next.

Mr. Hemenway died in May, 1760. On the 2d day of June the town

Voted, To pay all the charges that has already arisen for the Rev. Mr. Hemenway's funeral, which sum is £102 16s. 8d., old tenor.

September 16, 1760, the town

Voted, That the Rev. Mr. Hemenway's salary shall run on six weeks after his decease, provided Madam Hemenway will give the town the boarding of the bearers the six days they preached, and *all the board at the fast, and be entirely easy with the same.*

It was the custom of that age for the town to pay the expenses of the funeral of the minister, the amount of which, in some instances, might now be thought extravagant. The neighboring ministers officiated as pall bearers, and it was the rule for each of the bearers to give one Sunday's preaching and services to the bereaved parish and church, and it is to this custom that allusion is made in this condition of the town's vote to continue Mr. Hemenway's salary six weeks after his decease.

In October following, the town "chose Mr. Samuel Dix to be their pastor and gospel minister, by a unanimous vote," at a salary of £66 13s. 4d. Mrs. Hemenway did not remain long in widowhood, for in the record of marriages by Mr. Dix,

under date of October 20, 1761, is the marriage of Mr. David Taylor, of Concord, and Mrs. Sarah Hemenway.

NOTE TO PAGE 102.

Congregational singing, that is, the singing of psalms and hymns in metre, by the congregation in the public worship, was a custom revived in the churches, at the time of the reformation, it having been banished by the Romanists from their worship. This service was highly prized by our pilgrim ancestors. But among the singers, although their purpose was to cultivate harmony of voices, there was not always found harmony of temper. Sometimes bitter heartburnings and controversies arose among them. This was especially the case, when attempts were made to introduce new modes, new music and instruments. The organ was looked upon as a box of whistles, the violin as a profane and ungodly instrument, and even the solid base viol was regarded as no better than one of the bulls of Bashan. One of the most amusing cases illustrating this characteristic of our fathers, is found in the memorial of Joseph Hawley, presented to the general assembly of Connecticut, in 1725, literally copied as below, from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 10, p. 311:

To the Honourable y<sup>e</sup> General Assembly at hartford y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> of may 1725.

the memorial of Joseph Hawley one of y<sup>e</sup> house of Representatives humbly sheweth your Memorialist his father and Grandfather & y<sup>e</sup> whole Church & people of farmingtown have used to worship God by singing psalms to his praise In y<sup>t</sup> mode called ye Old way.

however t'other Day Jonathan Smith & one Stanly Got a book & pretended to sing more regularly & so made Great disturbance In y<sup>e</sup> worship of God for y<sup>e</sup> people could not follow y<sup>e</sup> mode of singing. at Length t'was moved to y<sup>e</sup> church whither to admit y<sup>e</sup> new way or no, who agreed to suspend it at least for a year.

yet Deacon hart y<sup>e</sup> Chorister one Sabbath day In setting y<sup>e</sup> psalm attempted to sing Bella tune—and yo<sup>r</sup> memorialist being used to ye old way as aforesd did not know *bellum* tune from *pax* tune, and supposed y<sup>e</sup> deacon had aimed at Cambridge short tune, and set it wrong, whereupon y<sup>r</sup> petitioner Raised his Voice in y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> short tune & ye

people followed him, except y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Smith & Stanly, & y<sup>e</sup> few who Sang allowd In bella tune; & so there was an unhappy Discord in y<sup>e</sup> Singing, as there has often bin since y<sup>e</sup> new singers set up, and y<sup>e</sup> Blame was all Imputed to yo<sup>r</sup> poor petition[er]. and Ju<sup>o</sup> Hooker, Esq<sup>r</sup> assistant, sent for him, & fined him y<sup>e</sup> 19th of febr<sup>y</sup> Last for breach of Sabbath, and so yo<sup>r</sup> poor petition<sup>r</sup> is Layed under a very heavie Scandal & Reproach & Rendered vile & prophane for what he did in y<sup>e</sup> fear of God, & in y<sup>e</sup> mode he had bin well educated in and was then y<sup>e</sup> settled manner of Singing by y<sup>e</sup> agreem<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Church.

Now yo<sup>r</sup> Petition<sup>r</sup> thinks y<sup>e</sup> Judgment is erroneous, first, because y<sup>e</sup> fact if as wicked as m<sup>r</sup> hooker supposd Comes under y<sup>e</sup> head of disturbing God's worship, & not y<sup>e</sup> statute of prophaning y<sup>e</sup> Sabbath: secondly, because no member of a Lawfull Church Society can be punished for worshipping God in y<sup>e</sup> modes & formes, agreed upon, & fixed by y<sup>e</sup> Society. thirdly because tis errors, when y<sup>e</sup> Civill authority sodenly Interpose between partyes y<sup>t</sup> differ about modes of worship, & force one party to Submitt to y<sup>e</sup> other, till all milder methods have bin used to Convince mens Consciences. fourthly because tis error to make a Gent of yo<sup>r</sup> petition<sup>r</sup> carracter a Scandalous offender upon Record, for nothing but a present mistake at most, when no morral evil is Intended.

Wherefore yo<sup>r</sup> poor petitioner prays you to set aside y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Jud, or by what means yo<sup>r</sup> hon<sup>rs</sup> please, to save yo<sup>r</sup> poor petition<sup>r</sup> from ye Imputation of ye heinous Crime Laid to him, & yo<sup>r</sup> poor petition<sup>r</sup> as in duty &c shall ever pray.

Joseph Hauly.

In order that the play upon words in the latin terms used in the petition may be understood, it is well to add that bella is wars; bellum, war; pax, peace.

#### NOTE TO PAGE 124.

In anticipation that a large armed force might be required to put down the "Whisky rebellion" in Pennsylvania, Congress, on the 9th of May, 1794, passed an act authorizing the president to make requisitions on the executives of the several states for troops. The whole number provided for was 80,000. Of these, the number required from New Hampshire was 3,544. It was under this act that the volunteers tendered their services, and were paid the bounty by the town. This insurrection, which, at one time, assumed a threatening and formidable attitude, was quelled by the forces under Gen. Lee, without bloodshed, and the troops from New Hampshire were not called for.

## NOTE TO PAGE 82.

When the government of Massachusetts was established under the first charter, none could vote at any elections of magistrates or officers, except those who had been admitted to take, and who had taken, the freeman's oath. For some years, the elections were all held at one place, generally at Boston. All the freemen were required to attend personally at the stated time and place. While they all thus lived in the vicinity of Boston, no great inconvenience to the voters or danger to the community was experienced by the compliance with this rule. But as the settlements were extended to considerable distances from Boston, and as the people began to be under alarm of sudden attack by their Indian enemies, it was found necessary to provide for some modification of the law, which was done by the two acts of the general court, copies of which are here given :

1635-6. March 3. Further, it is ordered, that the Gen'all Court to be holden in May next, for elec'on of magistrates, &c., shall be holden at Boston, that the townes of Ipswich, Neweberry, Salem, Saugus, Waymouthe and Hingham, shall have libertie to stay soe many of their ffreemen att home, for the safty of their towne, as they iudge needeful, and that the said ffreemen that are appoyneted by the towne to stay att home shall have liberty for this court to send their voices by pr'x'y.

1736-7. March 9. This court takeing into serious consideration the greate danger and damage that may accrue to the state by all the ffreemen's leaueing their plantations, to come to the place of elections, have therefore ordered it, that it shal bee free and lawfull for all freemen to send their votes for elections by proxie, the next Gene'all courte in May, and so for hereafter, w<sup>h</sup> shall bee done in this manner: The deputies w<sup>h</sup> shall bee chosen shall cause the freemen of their townes to bee assembled, and then to take such freemen's votes as please to send by pr'xie for every magistrate, and seale them vp, severally subscribing the magistrate's name on the back side, and soe to bring them to the court sealed, with an open roule of the names of the ffreemen that so send by pr'xie.

Some dim tradition of these laws having come down to their times, probably furnished the foundation of the claim of Obadiah Parker, Joseph Ball and others, to send their votes for representative, to the town meeting by Joseph Merriam,

## NOTE TO PAGE 247.

No national festival was ever kept with more heart-felt pleasure than the old-fashioned New England thanksgiving. Our fathers regarded the christmas festival as a remnant of popery, or, at least, as one of the superstitious observances of the church of England, from whose tyranny they had fled into the wilderness, and they at once instituted the thanksgiving festival in its place. For them, it had all the charms of the old christmas festival, without any of its objectionable features. It was first introduced in 1633, by the following order of the general court:

**1633.** Sept. 3. In regard of the many and extraordinary mercys w<sup>ch</sup> the Lord hath beene pleased to vouchsafe, of late, to this plantacon, viz: a plentiful harvest, ships safely arrived with p'sens of speciall use and quality, &c., it is ordered, that Wednesday, the 16th day of this present month shall be kept as a day of publique thanksgiving through the sev'ral plantacons.

The custom finally prevailed for the governor, with advice of council, to appoint the day, and give notice thereof by special proclamation. For many years the observance of this festival was peculiar to New England, but it is now becoming the practice in most of the states, for the governor to appoint a day of thanksgiving, to be observed at the close of the harvest. The time generally selected is some one of the Thursdays in the two last weeks of November or the first week of December. Not content with establishing thanksgiving, in opposition to christmas, our fathers went further, and actually prohibited the keeping of christmas, under a penalty, by the following law:

For preventing disorders arising in several places within this jurisdiction, by reason of some still observing such festivals as were superstitiously kept in other countries, to the great dishonor of God, and offence of others:

It is therefore Ordered by this Court and the authority thereof, That whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas, or the like, either by forbearing labor, feasting, or any other way upon any such account as aforesaid, every such person so offending shall pay for every such offence five shillings, as a fine to the Country.

In a report upon the revision of the laws in 1681, this, among others, having been objected to by the attorney general and solicitor general in England, it was disposed of as follows: "Sth. The law against keeping Christmas to be left out."

#### DEPTH OF SNOWS.

No record has been kept, in Mason, of the state of the weather, depth of snows, &c., for any considerable length of time. The following table, kept by Mr. Luther Nutting, in the northerly part of the town, of the depth of snow each year, commencing in the fall of 1843 and ending in the spring of 1857, he having carefully measured and recorded every fall of snow, may be relied on as accurate:

TABLE OF DEPTH OF SNOWS, IN MASON, FROM 1843 TO 1857, INCLUSIVE.

	ft.	in.		ft.	in.		ft.	in.
1843-44,	13	6	1847-48,	7	2	1851-52,	10	11
1844-45,	6	7	1848-49,	5	8	1852-53,	7	00
1845-46,	5	11	1849-50,	8	8	1853-54,	6	3
1846-47,	6	9	1850-51,	7	9	1854-55,	9	10

#### ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Page 277, after Dr. Moses Dakin, add M. D. Bowdoin College, 1828.

Page 285, Dr. Joseph Gray was born in Providence, R. I., in 1751, took an active part in the war of the revolution, studied physic with Dr. Mann, of Rhode Island, attended the medical lectures of Dr. Rush, was one of the earliest regularly educated physicians in the county of Hillsborough. He commenced practice in Nottinghamwest. He married Lucy, daughter of Dea. Sam'l Baneroff, of Reading, Mass. In 1790, he removed to Mason, and resided there till 1809, in which year he removed with his family from the town.

Dr. Henry Gray, was born in Nottinghamwest, in 1783, removed from Mason to Londonderry, Vt., where he now resides.

John Gray, son of Dr. Joseph Gray, studied law, was established in prosperous business in Kentucky, but died at an early age. Two of his sons are lawyers in Kentucky.

Page 161, line 19, for 1758, March 30, read 1759, April 11, and for Betty Hazen, r. Thankful Harrington, of Pepperell.

Page 178, l. 6 and 7, for wife, r. sister, and for 75, r. 79 years.

Page 179, l. 29, for Elizabeth, r. Deborah.

Page 210, after l. 18, insert, their children were; l. 26, for June 3, r. June 17; l. 35, for 1755, r. January 7, 1756.

Page 211, l. 10, after Lucy, insert, born March 6, 1762, and in the same line, for 1819, r. 1849; l. 11, before Stickney, insert Joseph.

Page 215, l. 8, for 1778, r. 1788.

Page 220, l. 21, for Edward, r. Edmund.

Page 250, l. 32, for Andrew Reed, r. Andrew H. Reed.

Page 260 and 261, for Olmstead, r. Olmsted.

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Your affectionate Father

Ebenezer Hill

MEMOIR 2

OF THE

REV. EBENEZER HILL,

PASTOR OF THE

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,

IN

MASON, N. H.

FROM NOVEMBER, 1790, TO MAY, 1854.

WITH SOME OF HIS SERMONS,

AND HIS DISCOURSE ON THE

HISTORY OF THE TOWN.

BY

JOHN B. HILL.

---

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## P R E F A C E .

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To write the biography of a parent, is a delicate task. It has not been undertaken in the present instance, without a full appreciation of the difficulties in its accomplishment. Neither the feelings of the writer, nor the proprieties of the occasion, would permit any other tone than that of eulogy. My endeavor has been in this sketch, to exhibit fairly, the prominent traits of the character and incidents of the life of my father, especially in their effects upon the church and people of his charge; and in doing so, I am not conscious that I have stepped beyond the line of propriety, either in the exhibition of commendable traits, or in the concealment or suppression of faults or imperfections. For the main body of this sketch, I am indebted to my brother, the Rev. T. Hill, of Saint Louis, Mo.

The discourse upon leaving the Old Meeting House, is printed from a manuscript transcribed from the original, soon after it was delivered. The other discourses, are reprints of the first edition, with no change, but the correction of manifest errors. The portrait accompanying this volume, is engraved from a painting made at the age of about seventy years. The engraved page of a sermon, is a fac simile of the sermon preached at the dedication of the meeting house, in 1795.

J. B. HILL.

BANGOR, May 1, 1858.





# MEMOIR.

---

“Every man’s life is of importance to himself, to his family, to his friends, to his country, and in the sight of God. They are by no means the best men, who have made most noise in the world; neither are those actions most deserving of praise, which have obtained the greatest show of fame. Scenes of violence and blood, the workings of ambition, pride and revenge, compose the annals of men. But piety and purity, temperance and humility, which are little noted and soon forgotten of the world, are held in everlasting remembrance before God.” *Hunter’s Sacred Biography, vol. 1, p. 24.*

No two men have ever existed, whose lives were, in all respects, exact counterparts of each other. Every human being, is thoroughly individualized by his own will, and has a history that is peculiar to himself, which can never be so blended with that of another, as not to possess points of interest, in contrast, to attentive observers. No two persons can be found, whose physical endowments are not such as to render them distinguishable by their intimate friends. So also, a marked distinction will be found in the mental powers, the modes of thought, and manner of action of individuals most closely resembling each other. Each, in all these respects, will have traits in a good degree original and peculiar to himself. Hence, the faithful portraiture of the character of any individual will afford instruction to others. They will recognize in it, situations similar to their own, and by observing how difficulties have been overcome, and trials borne, or how temptations have led to ruin, they may be encouraged to struggle for victory, and shun the path which led another to destruction.

If it be true, that every man is so individualized as to render his real life instructive to others, it is peculiarly so, with the life of a christian; for with him a new element of power is introduced, and grace controls and silently renovates the man, evolving its own light from the darkness of nature, and so moulding the original elements, that upon all is enstamped the glorious image of Jesus, and the man is formed anew, and fitted for heaven.

Could the real life of any christian be written, it would form a most interesting volume, and it would matter little, what position in life the subject of it might have occupied. The life of Moses is rich and varied, but the simple sketch of Lazarus, sitting at the rich man's gate,—dying alone, and borne by angels to Abraham's bosom, has a touching beauty, equalling in interest anything found in that of the law-giver.

If these views are correct, the life of any earnest, successful preacher of the gospel, must have an intrinsic interest in whatever station his lot has been cast. He may not have been as eloquent as Whitfield, as deep a theologian as Edwards, nor have possessed the finished grandeur of Robert Hall; but he has fought a good fight himself, has pointed many sinners to the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world; and trained many souls for immortality, and fitted them for heaven. The memory of such a man is enshrined in the best affections of many who have felt always his influence, and a view of his life will furnish them, and others also, with new motives for leading a life of faith.

Such was the humble, earnest life of him, of whose history and character, it is proposed here to give a brief outline. His was the quiet life of a retired pastor of a country church; of one, whose highest ambition it was, to be a faithful preacher of the gospel, to those whom God had placed under his care. It is the object of this sketch, to enable those who read it, to form a distinct idea of his individual character, of his manner of life, and of the general results of his labors; and the many friends who revered and loved him

while living, to preserve a fresh and vivid memory of their departed pastor, counselor and friend.

Ebenezer Hill, the subject of this memoir, was born in Cambridge, Mass., January 31st, 1766. He was the youngest son of Samuel Hill and Sarah Cutler, his wife. His father was born in Boston, but of his parentage and ancestry, nothing is certainly known. He was a carpenter by trade, but never rose above the condition of the most humble poverty. He served as a common soldier, in the war of the revolution, and returned to Cambridge at its close, to resume his occupation as a carpenter. After his son Samuel settled in Mason, he came to that place, and resided there with him, most of the time, till the close of his life. He died at Mason, June 21st, 1798, aged about sixty-six years. His mother, Sarah Cutler, was born in the year 1733, in what was, April 24th, 1746, incorporated as the second precinct of Concord, and afterwards on the 19th of April, 1754, incorporated as a town by the name of Lincoln. Her father, Ebenezer Cutler, was one of the petitioners for the incorporation of the precinct. She was a woman of great energy. With very scanty means, and, in a great measure, with the labor of her own hands, she provided for the support, training and education of her children. In October, 1781, she purchased a lot of land in Cambridge, thirty feet square, for the price of "nine pounds, twelve shillings, lawful money of this Commonwealth." It is described in the deed, as lying "on the north side of the house of Moses and William Boardman, deceased; on the road leading to Lexington." It was about one mile northerly of the colleges. Upon this plot, she placed a small cottage house, in which she and her family resided. The building was a portion of barracks occupied by the Revolutionary army, when stationed at Cambridge. The land was appraised by three disinterested persons, in June, 1796, at one hundred and thirty-five dollars. It undoubtedly comprised, at that time, the principal part of the family estate. About the year 1790, she went to Mason, and resided there

with her son Ebenezer, until the close of her life. She died December 30th, 1808, aged seventy-five years.

Two sons, Samuel and Ebenezer, were their only children. Samuel, the eldest, was born in 1764. He was a carpenter by trade, and followed that occupation through life. It seems that the brothers at an early period, formed the resolution to fix their residence in the same town. Samuel writes to Ebenezer from Goshen, Vermont, under date of November 24th, 1787, as follows: "If things will permit, as you wrote to me about our living in one town, I hope, that by the blessing of God, we shall; but when, I know not, but must wait God's own due time." This purpose, so early formed, was accomplished. Samuel came to reside in Mason, probably, in the year 1792. He was certainly resident there early in 1793, and there he passed the remainder of his life, a useful, industrious man, noted for sterling integrity and independence of character; a good husband, father, and citizen. He died May 23d, 1813, aged forty-nine years. His first wife was Dorcas Wyeth, born in Cambridge. She died at Mason, January 19th, 1807, at the age of thirty-seven years.

His second wife, was Mary Adams, daughter of John and Mary Adams, born in Mason, August 11th, 1780. They were married in September, 1809. This wife survived him, and is still (January, 1858) living in widowhood, at Mason.

Ebenezer, the second son of Samuel and Sarah, was the favorite son of his mother. By the devotion, on her part, of all her means to that end, he was prepared at the age of sixteen years, to enter Harvard college. His preparatory studies were pursued at the grammar school in Cambridge, under the tuition among other teachers, of the late Rev. Dr. Bancroft, of Worcester, and Rev. Dr. Kendall, of Newton. Students were then admitted to the college, upon a personal examination into their literary qualifications, made by the officers of the college; and if found by them to be sufficiently grounded in the requisite preparatory studies, and to furnish the proper testimonials of moral character, their names were

entered upon the books of the steward as students, on their producing the bond, and making the payments required by the college laws. A printed extract from these laws, was delivered to the student, whose examination had been found to be satisfactory, pointing out what further was required to be done on his part, before he could become a member of the college. This document, as well as the bond he gave, was found carefully preserved, among his papers. It is thought that as a matter of curiosity, and as illustrating the manners of the times, most readers of this book, will feel interest enough in the subject, at least to excuse its insertion. It is as follows :

“Extract from the second and third laws of Chapt. 1st, of the College Laws.

#### CHAP. I. PART OF LAW 2D.

“The Parents or Guardians of those who have been approved on Examination, or some other person, shall pay three pounds to the Steward, towards defraying their College Charges ; also, give bond to the Steward, with one or more Sureties to his Satisfaction, in the sum of two hundred ounces of silver, to pay College Dues Quarterly, as they are charged in the Quarter Bills, Viz: the Stewards, Glaziers and Sweepers. And in case of Death or Removal before College Charges arise, to the sum of three pounds, the Steward shall return the remainder to the person who gave the bond.”

In the original paper the sums expressed were “thirty shillings,” which was erased, and “three pounds” inserted ; and “Forty pounds” erased, and “two hundred ounces of silver” inserted ; and “thirty shillings” erased, and “three pounds” inserted.

“Part of Law 3d. Every one that has been accepted, shall, as soon as may be, exhibit to the President, a Certificate of the Steward, that the foregoing rules have been complied with. Upon the receipt of which, the President shall sign an

Order for the Admission of such Person, in the following words:

Cantabrigiæ Augusti.

Admittatur in Collegium Harvardinum. A. B.  
Præses.

And the Order shall be kept on File by the Steward. And no one shall be allowed to take Possession of any chamber in the College, or receive the Instructions of that Society, or be considered a member thereof, until he has been admitted according to the form prescribed."

This paper is dated July 19th, 1782. At the foot, is a memorandum in the hand-writing of Joseph Willard, the president, and signed by him as follows:

"The above alterations were made in conformity to a late order of the Government of the College.

J. WILLARD, Presdt."

Upon the first page of the same sheet, is the admittatur in the words following:

"FORM OF ADMISSION.

"Cantabrigiæ Julii 13<sup>o</sup> 1782. Admittatur in Collegium Harvardinum *Ebenzer Hill*.

JOSEPHUS WILLARD, Præses."

The bond required, was signed by his mother's brothers, Elisha Cutler of Waltham, yeoman, and Jonas Cutler of Groton, shop-keeper, and is dated August 13th, 1782.

He thus become a member of this venerable and useful institution, and supported by the exertions of his mother, and his expenses borne, in part, by the aid furnished by funds liberally and thoughtfully contributed by benevolent persons, to enable students in want of pecuniary means to pursue their studies, he completed his college course with commendable diligence, and a fair exhibition of scholarly attainments, but without displaying any striking traits of character, or meeting with any note-worthy incidents; a sample of that class of

industrious, persevering and conservative students and professional men, who have contributed in no small degree, to make the character of the New England people and their institutions, what it has been, and, it is hoped, will continue to be, for all coming time.

Of his student life, few memorials remain; but these are enough to prove it to have been both pleasant and profitable. He always spoke of, it as if the associations connected with it were agreeable, and there remain indications of his progress, which shew that it must have been with him a time of industry, and of creditable success. His knowledge of the Latin language, was quite accurate, and he retained his fondness for that noble speech until his old age.

While in college, he acquired a habit of exactness which remained with him through life. His penmanship, which was always singularly uniform, close and beautiful, was early acquired. A blot or illegible word, or word misspelt, will hardly be found in all his manuscripts, which are very numerous, embracing a period of more than seventy years. There is no difficulty, in recognizing the same beautiful hand through the entire period. A sample of his hand-writing, being a fac simile of a page of one of his sermons, will be found among the illustrations of this work.

There is now, in the possession of the writer, a manuscript book of one hundred and thirty foolscap pages, containing a system of mathematics, as taught while he was a member of the college, being, in fact, the exercises required to be wrought out by the student, in that branch of study; embracing arithmetic, algebra, geometry, surveying, drawing, &c., all written and executed with the most singular neatness and care. The diagrams are drawn with great beauty and accuracy, and some of them are carefully and tastefully colored. There is, also, in the same possession, a letter written on his eightieth birth-day, which, when compared with the manuscript book, shews the same hand almost unchanged. Nor did it ever change, until his powers so

failed that his trembling<sup>d</sup> hand no longer obeyed his will, and the feeble lines traced by it, too plainly showed the decay of old age.

He graduated at the commencement, in 1786. Among his class-mates were the Hon. Timothy Bigelow, many years speaker of the house of representatives, of Massachusetts; Rev. Alden Bradford, secretary of the commonwealth, and author of a valuable history of the state; Rev. Dr. Wm. Harris, president of Columbia College; Hon. John Lowell, distinguished as a jurist, a politician, a controversial writer and an agriculturalist; Hon. Isaac Parker, chief justice of the supreme judicial court of Massachusetts; and Thomas W. Thompson, and Christopher Grant Champlin, members of the house of representatives and of the senate of the United States. Of his intimate friends in the class, the Rev. Jacob Norton, formerly of Weymouth, survived him. He died at Billerica, where the last years of his life were spent, January 17th, 1858, at the age of ninety-three years, eleven months, five days, being, at the time of his death, the oldest surviving graduate of Harvard College.

There is a fact worthy of a moment's notice, as an indication of the comparative longevity of the New England clergy. In his class, the number of graduates was forty-five. Ten of these were clergymen. When the triennial catalogue of 1839 was published, but fifteen of this class were living, and of that number, seven were clergymen. As another indication of the same fact, it is worthy of note, that on the first day of May, 1854, there were residing in the state of New Hampshire, within a distance not exceeding in all fifteen miles of each other, three congregational clergymen, whose united ages would make two hundred and seventy-eight years; Rev. Laban Ainsworth of Jaffrey, at the age of ninety-seven, Rev. Gad Newell, of Nelson, at the age of ninety-three, Rev. Ebenezer Hill, of Mason, at the age of eighty-eight years; all of them enjoying a comfortable measure of health, and all of them residing in the town and society in which they



were originally settled in the ministry; Mr. Ainsworth having passed his one hundredth, and Mr. Newell his ninety-sixth year, still (January, 1858) survive. Another remarkable instance of the longevity of the clergymen of that time and region, is presented in the fact, that in February, 1858, there were living, four graduates of Dartmouth college, whose united ages exceeded four hundred years; viz: the Rev. John Sawyer, D. D., of Bangor, Maine, one hundred and two years and four months, the Rev. Laban Ainsworth, of Jaffrey, N. H., one hundred years, seven months, the Rev. Ethan Osborn, of Fairton, N. J., ninety-nine years, five months, and the Rev. Zachariah Greene, of Hampstead, L. I., ninety-nine years, one month; all undoubtedly natives of New England.

Soon after graduating, in the autumn of 1786, he commenced school-teaching in Westford. He remained there, and in that employment, about two years. Here he formed the acquaintance with his first wife, Mary Boynton, daughter of Nathaniel Boynton, and Rebecca (Barrett) his wife. While residing at Westford, he seems to have finally determined on, and made choice of the gospel ministry, as his profession and business in life. In a letter from his friend and classmate, Tapley Wyeth, dated June 9th, 1787, occurs this sentence. "I am glad to hear you are determined on the study of divinity; the prospects are bright, when compared with those of the other learned professions." This, to be sure, was a very mundane view of the subject, but it was one perfectly in accordance with the notions on this question, by many entertained at that period. With the subject of this memoir, there is reason to believe, that the considerations finally inducing him to the adoption of this line of life, were of a much more grave, serious and appropriate character. The citation is made, rather to show that at this early period he had made known to his friend, his determination to adopt the clerical profession, rather than to indicate his ultimate inducements to that choice.

It was, in those days, customary for young men soon after,

if not before, graduating, to make choice of a professional life according to their several tastes. It was not then, as now, among the clergy calling themselves orthodox, deemed an essential qualification, before commencing the study of theology, that the student should possess and profess personal piety, and manifest it by uniting with some church; but the embryo preacher chose his profession, undoubtedly in most instances, with serious reflection and consideration; and acquired his piety and religious experience, not before, but after he commenced his theological studies. Whether Mr. Hill's thoughts were turned in this direction, before, or soon after graduating, is not now known, but it is understood that he had in his own mind, made choice of this walk in life, before he was the subject of any personal religious impressions. While engaged in his duties as a teacher at Westford, the thought occurred to him, when contemplating his purpose of a clerical life, how inconsistent it would be for him to undertake to teach others the way of life, and become their spiritual guide, when he was himself ignorant of "the way, the truth and the life." This reflection fastened itself upon his mind, and led to deep, serious, and anxious enquiry, resulting in religious conversion, and the full and sincere dedication of his life and all its energies, to the work of the ministry. This incident of his religious life and experience, a subject to which he was, in his intercourse with his most intimate friends, singularly sparing in any allusion, is preserved alone in the memory of Mrs. Dunster, who in a venerable old age, with a remarkable preservation of mental vigor, remains in the year 1858, the sole surviving member of the church as constituted at the time of his ordination as its pastor. The authority for this statement, is the funeral sermon, preached at Mason village, after the death of Mr Hill, by the Rev. Mr. Kellogg.

A singular incident connected with his school-teaching at Westford, was brought to light a few years before his death. As it exhibits a remarkable instance of firmness, decision of character, energy and perseverance in a yankee boy, conduct-

ing him to the most honorable and useful stations in life, it is hoped that the use made of the correspondence, as an illustration of the manners of the times and the characters of the actors, by its introduction here for that purpose, will be pardoned. In January, 1848, Mr. Hill received by mail the following letter :

M——, Vermont, Jan'y 4, 1848.

REV. EBENEZER HILL,

*My Dear Sir:*—I noticed, not long since, your name as a clergyman in Mason, in a New Hampshire register. My object in writing to you is, to ascertain if you are the person, that taught a district school in Westford, about the winter of 1788. Will you be so kind as to inform me by mail, and if I find that you are the same person, I will then, inform you of my object, in asking for this information.

*Yours, with great respect,* J—— R——.

To this letter, Mr. Hill replied as follows :

MASON, JAN'Y 10, 1848.

MR. J—— R—— :

SIR:—I received a line from you, requesting information, whether I am the person who taught a district school in Westford, in the winter of 1788.

In answer to your question, I say, I graduated at Cambridge, in the year 1786, and in the autumn of the year, took the town school in Westford, for a year. This school, I kept two years, removing from one district to another. Whether the turn came to the Forge, or Stony Brook district in the winter of 1788, I do not recollect. But of this I am sure, that there was no school kept in the town, in those two years, other than was taught by me, and, for a season, after quitting the schools, I remained in Westford, and made that town my home, so that I feel confident, that no school-master of the name of Hill, taught a school in Westford, but myself.

I shall, sir, with some degree of excited curiosity be waiting, for the promised information, respecting the enquiry.

*Respectfully yours,* EBEN'R HILL.

To this the following reply was received :

M——, Vt., Jan'y 18, 1848.

REV. EBENEZER HILL :

*Dear Sir:*—Yours of the 10th instant is received, in which you say, you taught school in Westford two years, commencing in the autumn of 1786. I am satisfied, that you are the person I have been anxious to find, for the last half century or more. I am the son of J—— R——, living in the east part of the town. I attended your school in the winter of 1787, and in the fall of the same year, when you kept in the middle of the town, also, the winter school of 1788, you kept in the district where my father resided. Col's Wright and Osgood lived in the same district. I think you boarded with Capt. Peletiah, or Capt. Thomas Fletcher, both winters. All passed pleasantly, till the last week in February, when for some trifling fault, in (say whispering,) being then only eleven years of age, you called me up, and ordered me to stand out in the middle of the floor, about an hour before the school closed in the afternoon, and let me stand there without my reading or spelling, until the school closed for the day, and without your saying a word to me; which I considered a great insult. I therefore remained, until you and the scholars had retired, except a young man (Levi Wright) who was to take care of the house. I then thought of revenge, &c., and collected your books, inkstand and ruler, with intent to burn them up; but before I could effect the object, Levi Wright discovered what I was doing, and interfered, and saved all except the inkstand, ruler, and a small book or two, say to the value from three to six shillings worth. Wright told me I should be whipped to death the next day, which brought me to my senses. I then resolved to leave the country. I had an uncle visiting at my father's, who lived at Plymouth, N. H. I resolved to go home with him, to get clear of punishment, and finally persuaded my father to let me go, though he would not if he had known the reason, and I was off in a day or two; so I escaped the

punishment I so richly deserved, without my parents knowing my crime, and I never returned [to reside in the town.] I have ever regretted my fault and error, and have intended, if ever I could see you, or learn your place of residence, to make an apology and satisfaction, though, perhaps, you have long since forgotten the transaction. I now sir, enclose to you \$5,00, to pay debt and interest, which I hope you will receive with the same kind feelings, which I have in sending it to you; and wish you to consider my extreme youth when the error was committed. Perhaps you may have some curiosity to know my success in life, &c. I resided in Plymouth until May, 1803, when I came into this state and engaged in trade, and followed trade successfully about thirty years. In public life, I have been eight years a representative to the legislature, a justice of the peace thirty years, a judge of our courts some years, also, judge of probate in this county, one of the electors of president and vice president of the United States, (Harrison) one of the council of censors to revise the constitution of this state, county treasurer the last twenty years, and many minor offices. I now live in retirement, being seventy-one years of age. *Respectfully yours, with my best wishes for your health and happiness.*

J—— R——.

P. S. Will you be so good as to acknowledge the receipt of this, and oblige  
J. R.

The substance of Mr. Hill's letter in reply, is as follows:

HON. J—— R——.

*Dear Sir:*—Yours of the 18th instant, came safe to hand, and you may be assured it has been read repeatedly, with deeply interested feelings. I thank you for the favor. It has led to some reflections on the ways of Divine Providence in bringing about events very important, yet unlooked for, and unexpected. Who would have thought that the wild freaks of a boy eleven years old, in attempting to escape punishment for a pardonable fault in school, would lead him

to forsake his father's house, and all the endearments of home and family connections, and youthful acquaintances? that such an event, should be the first step to bring that youth to fill places of honor and trust to which few aspire, and to which very few attain? And yet, had one link been wanting in the chain of events which placed J—— R——, the little lad, with his distant relatives in Plymouth, he would not be, as at this day, the Hon. J—— R——, in Vermont, having filled most of the various offices of high and honorary trust. With respect to the "debt and interest" of which you write, I had no debt, and the circumstances named, were entirely forgotten. If debt was due to either, it was rather to you, than to me. However, I receive the sum gratefully, as a token of your kind remembrance and continued friendship. I rejoice in the blessings which God has bestowed upon you, and hope still to enjoy your kind remembrance while I remain on earth. Judging from the pleasure I have received in the sketches of your life, I am led to presume that it will not be entirely uninteresting to you, to learn some of the events of my life since the time to which your letter refers.

After leaving the school, I made Westford my principal home, until I went to read with Dr. Payson of Rindge. In the year 1790, I was ordained pastor of the congregational church in Mason, and that relation has continued to the present day. I have had two colleague pastors settled with me, but now am alone in that office. I have been blessed with an unusual degree of health, having in all my ministry, but very few times been taken off from public ministerial labors, for want of health, and through the abounding mercy of God, have been spared to see the last day of January, 1848, which completed my eighty-second year of pilgrimage on earth. But four or five are now living in the town, who were at the head of a family, when I became their minister." The letter closes with some particular details of his family, which will be more pertinently introduced in another connection.

To resume the narrative. After closing his school-teaching at Westford, he pursued the study of theology with the Rev. Seth Payson, (afterwards known as Dr. Payson,) of Rindge, N. H. While residing at Rindge, and in his family, he united with the church in Rindge, by profession, September 28th, 1788.

At that time, there were no theological seminaries in the land. The usual course was, for the candidate for the ministry, to resort to some well known divine, who had a reputation for learning and ability to teach, and with him to pursue such a course of study, as the parties should think proper. After the course of instruction was sufficiently advanced, the pastor would introduce his pupil to his own pulpit and people, before he went abroad; and thus give him the benefit of a certain degree of experience, under the most favorable circumstances. This form of instruction, if it did not furnish to the student so good an opportunity for extensive and accurate scholarship, as the present mode, yet possessed advantages for carefully observing the operations of divine truth on a christian parish, and thereby preparing himself for the discharge of his professional duties, with fewer embarrassments than are usually in the way of a cloister student, who has passed through a full curriculum of collegiate and theological education.

The reasons inducing him to apply to Dr. Payson for instruction, are not now known, but he seems to have been favored by a divine providence, in the selection of his teacher. Dr. Payson was a man of sterling worth, and he secured the regard of his pupil, and retained it till his death.

If, as stated in his letter to Mr. R—, he spent two years as a school-teacher in Westford, he must have commenced his residence with Mr. Payson in August, 1788. That it was so, his letters show; for in one bearing date at Rindge, August, 1788, (the day of the month not inserted,) he writes, "I have now been here eleven days." His novitiate was very short, for his license to preach, bears date October 28th,

1788. He commenced preaching as a candidate, immediately after. Many of his sermons remaining, bear date in that year. Indeed, it is probable, that his first effort in conducting the public worship in the pulpit, was prior to that date, for in a letter dated, as usual with him at that time, by the day of the week, omitting that of the month, under date of Saturday evening, October, 1788, he writes, "Mr. Payson has just been into my study, and says I must preach for him to-morrow, for he is not prepared." The letter continued on subsequent days, till Saturday, two weeks from the first date, makes no mention of the examination or license.

The following copy of this venerable document is worthy of insertion, for its quaintness, and also, as a sample of the mode in which such important matters were disposed of, by the fathers of the New England churches:

*At an Association in Ashburnham, Oct. 28, 1788, Eben'r Hill, A. B. appeared and submitted himself to examination as a Candidate for ye Gospel ministry:—Upon enquiry into his moral Character, ministerial furniture, and views in undertaking ye work, voted unanimously satisfi'd with Him in sd Character, and He is heartily recommended to preach wherever God in his Providence shall give him opportunity: and we wish He may prove a rich Blessing to the Chh and Pple of God, and that He may be an able and Faithful minister of the new testament.*

*By Order of ye association.*

*John Cushing, scribe.*

There cannot be much doubt, that while teaching school during the two years in Westford, he was under the direction of Dr. Payson, pursuing his theological studies, and that the date above stated, is that of the commencement of his resi-



dence in the family of his instructor, rather than that of the commencement of his professional studies.

Among other places, he exercised his ministry in the town of Marlborough, so much to the acceptance of the church and people, that they gave him a call to settle in that place, as their minister. This call was voted in concurrence with the church, at a town meeting, held November 13th, 1789. The provision for his support, offered by the town, was as follows:

“Voted, To give Mr. Hill one hundred and sixty pounds, settlement; sixty pounds to be paid in specie, one half of which, is to be paid in three months after his ordination, the other half, to be paid in nine months. The one hundred pounds to be paid in beef cattle, Equal to beef at twenty shillings per hundred, or other meet stock Equivilent; sd. beef to be paid the fifteenth day of October, after his ordination.

“Voted, To give Mr. Hill sixty pounds salary for the first year, and to add Twenty shillings a year, until it arrive to the sum of sixty-eight pounds, and also,

“Voted, To give Mr. Hill thirty cords of wood, delivered at his house, the salary and wood to be paid annually, so long as Mr. Hill shall perform the work of a gospel minister, in this place.

“Voted, That when the majority of the Church and Town shall agree to invite a council, to settle any difficulty, if any should arise between pastor and church and Town, that Mr. Hill be obligated to join with the church and town, in a mutual council.”

At a subsequent meeting, December 24th, 1789, the offer was modified by the following vote:

“Voted, To alter the payment of Mr. Ebenezer Hill's salary as it now stands, in the proposals which the town has made to him, and to pay the said salary, annually, so long as he shall remain our gospel minister.” This was, undoubtedly, intended to apply to, and modify that provision of the

former offer, which limited the payment of the salary, by the phrase "so long as Mr. Hill shall perform the work of a gospel minister in this place." This made the payment contingent on services actually performed. The contract by which a preacher was settled, as the pastor of a church and minister of a town, was then regarded as indissoluble, without fault on the part of the minister, as the marriage contract was then esteemed to be. Hence it followed, that if the minister should become disabled from disease or old age, to perform "the work of a gospel minister," he was still entitled to claim and receive his stipend, and the people were not permitted, after having enjoyed the best services of his youth and vigorous manhood, to turn him adrift in his old age, laboring under poverty and infirmity, to spend his last days in penury and misery. The clergy were particularly cautious, not to permit any stipulations looking to an abridgement of this right, to be incorporated into the contract; on the other hand, the people were somewhat inclined to entertain the notion, that the principle of no work, no pay, should apply to these, as well as to other contracts. These ideas, doubtless, had something to do with the framing of this proposed contract, and of the modification, adopted at the second meeting. These were old world notions. As the French say, "All this, we have changed." Now the contract between ministers and people, has little more permanency than a hiring from year to year, and, from the frequency with which divorces are sought, and the ease with which they are obtained, in some parts of our country, the marriage contract is fast verging to the same miserable state. It is sufficient to say, that this call was not accepted; for what particular reasons, does not appear. He had, at the same time, under consideration, a similar call from the church and people in Mason, which was first in point of time, and was by him finally accepted; but he ever entertained for the people of Marlborough, an affectionate regard.

His first introduction to Mason, the scene of his future

labors, in which his life was to be spent, was undoubtedly, through the Rev. Samuel Dix, of Townsend, with whom he formed an acquaintance while residing at Westford, or at Rindge, which ended, only with the life of that worthy gentleman. Addressed "To Mr. Ebenezer Hill, at Rindge," is a letter, of which the following is a copy:

"MR. HILL:—I am desired in behalf of the town of Mason, to request you to preach with them four Sabbaths; to begin, the first or second in April next. They wish to know soon, whether you comply or not; if you please to send the information to me, I will convey it to them, by divine permission; I mean, in case you can't bring it yourself, to your friend and servant,  
SAM'L DIX."

TOWNSEND, May 20th, 1789.

There is, undoubtedly, a mistake in the date of this letter. It should be March, instead of May. This invitation was complied with. It appears by the minutes of the Holles Association, that at their meeting at Townsend, July 1st, 1789, there were present as "company, the Rev. Mr. Bullard, of Pepperell, and Mr. Hill, a candidate preaching at Mason."

In coming to this, his future home, he came to no place of ease, no well cultivated garden spot, where the young preacher was to find a polished people, a full salary, and to enjoy the opportunity for becoming a scholar, a theologian; but he came to an uncultivated field, which demanded, from its occupant, the most laborious toil, in order for success. The people were poor, unpolished in manners, but sincerely desirous of the establishment of the institutions of religion among them, and ready to receive their minister, with open hand and heart. The "Gaius, mine host" who first received and entertained this youthful apostle, upon his entry into this his future diocese, was the worthy and excellent Jason Dunster, a lineal descendant of Henry Dunster, the first president of Harvard college. He then resided in the south-east part of the town. Mr. Dunster, then an aged man, remained his firm and unwavering friend, to the close of

his life. The mode of travelling in those days, was on horse-back, the wayfarer taking with him his scanty wardrobe, and a few books, and manuscript sermons in his saddle-bags. There were then, no wheeled carriages in the town, except the ox-carts, and no vehicle for winter conveyance, except the ox-sleds and pungs, a coarsely-made box, placed upon runners, and drawn by one or more horses. The roads were rough, and by no means free from stumps and stones; so that the means of passing from place to place, were only those just described, or the more primitive method, the use of the sturdy limbs furnished by nature to all well made up men and women.

His services as a minister, seem to have been from the first, very acceptable to the people of his future charge, and he continued to preach in the place, with a few interruptions of time, spent in other places, until his final settlement and ordination. Soon after coming into town, he became domesticated in the pleasant family of Mr. John Winship, in which he resided most of the time, till he was married, and could sit down by his own domestic hearth. For this worthy family, he always entertained an affectionate regard. It seems, that after fulfilling his first engagement at Mason, of "four sabbaths," probably extended to a few more weeks, he preached at Ashby, at which place he was employed in August, 1789; as appears, by the letter of the meeting house committee of Mason, dated August 29th, 1789, addressed to him at Ashby; which has been inserted in the History of Mason, page 111.

The people of Mason, without any long trial of their candidate, determined to invite him to become their minister. A church meeting for this purpose, was held October 13th, 1789. Just seventeen years before that time, October 13th, 1772, the meeting was held for the gathering and formation of the church, into an ecclesiastical body. The church, at this meeting, at which the Rev. Mr. Dix presided, voted, unanimously, to invite Mr. Hill to become their pastor. In

this action of the church, the town concurred by their votes, at a meeting held on the 16th of October. Copies of the votes of the town and of the church were communicated to him.

Thus, was presented to him, the most important question he would be called upon to decide in his long life; one, upon which his happiness as a man, and his usefulness as a public teacher and minister of the word of God, was mainly to depend. The prospect was far from cheering. There were many discouragements. The town was small, and the inhabitants few in number. They were poor, and there was little promise that they would ever be otherwise. Their sole employment was agriculture, except the few handicrafts always found in agricultural communities, and the character of the hard, stubborn, rocky soil was such, as to afford promise of rather scanty harvests, and no anticipations of rapid improvement. But, on the other hand, the people were industrious, temperate, frugal, warm-hearted, ready to do according to their best ability for his comfort and support.

The church formed October 13, 1772, then consisting of twenty-one members, twelve men and nine women, had hardly kept its numbers good. Unhappy difficulties arose, soon after the settlement of their first minister, the Rev. Jonathan Searle. He was dismissed August 14th, 1781. After his dismissal, they had procured a temporary supply, from time to time, and had invited several preachers to settle with them but all the invitations had been declined. Only one member had been added to the communion, for more than thirteen years, and he, Jonathan Chandler, by letter, from the church in Grafton.

But there were circumstances of encouragement. The neighboring ministers, particularly Dix of Townsend, and Farrar of New Ipswich, were anxious to welcome him as a fellow-laborer, and to have the waste place which this church had, for so many years exhibited, built up. In 1785, a religious revival, of a remarkable character, took place in New Ipswich, in which the neighboring towns, and particularly the

town of Mason, largely shared. Many of the young persons in that town, on becoming subjects of the revival, had united with the church in New Ipswich. All these were now ready, in prospect of the re-establishment of gospel ordinances, to remove their church-membership to Mason church; and many inhabitants of the town, members of churches in the places in which they had formerly lived, were ready to remove their membership to this church. These, uniting with the remaining members of the church, constituted at the time of his ordination, a body of thirty-six in number, ready to receive him as their pastor and teacher.

After due consideration, in July or August, 1790, he gave his answer to this call in the affirmative, accepting the invitation. In pursuance of these proceedings, an ecclesiastical council was called, which met on the second day of November, 1790, and, having made the necessary examinations and arrangements therefor, on the next day, they proceeded to ordain him, as pastor of the church. For the details of the votes of the church and of the town, his answer to their call and the proceedings of the council, reference may be had to the History of the town of Mason, pages 111 to 119.

His inducements to accept this invitation, rather than that of Marlborough, appear in a letter to a friend, under date of May 5th, 1790. He writes, "I have tried to think it was my duty to settle at Marlborough, but it appears quite plain to me, that Providence has pointed out Mason as the place. I think I never saw such an union, and such engagedness, as is apparent in this place. What their motives are, I am not able to say, but trust, with regard to the greater part, they are gospel motives, and upon the whole, I dare not deny them."

The provision for his support amounted to \$250 a year, a very moderate stipend upon which to sustain a family and keep up the hospitality which was then expected of the clergy, and generally maintained by them. It was, however, considering the habits of living of the times, quite as ade-

quate for that purpose, as the compensation now paid generally by country parishes to their clergymen. It was a matter belonging to the town, in its municipal capacity, to see that this sum was paid, which was done by levying and collecting a tax upon the poll and estates of all the inhabitants and land-holders in the town, except such as by the laws of the land were excused from the payment, by reason of their membership of other religious societies.

According to the provisions of the charter, by which the title to the lands in the town was granted, see History of Mason, page 28, he would, in addition to the sum of seventy five pounds annual salary, be entitled to the use of the lands granted "for the use of the ministry"; but at the meeting held October 16, 1789, immediately after passing a vote to concur "with the church in giving Mr. Ebenezer Hill a call into the work of the Gospel Ministry," the town "Voted, To Reserve the Ministry Rite of land in this Town for the use of sd. Town." This assumption, on the part of the town, of the right to appropriate this land to any other use than that limited in the original grant, was clearly without authority. The land was never the property of the town, and the town could grant no lawful title to it. It was not *given* to the town, but was reserved out of the grant, by the proprietors of the whole township, "for the use of the ministry." No action of the town could lawfully divert it from that use, or apply it to any other purpose; much less could the town sell it, and give any valid title to a purchaser. No doubt, the fathers thought they had a right to do as they pleased with it. The land was subsequently sold by the town, and the proceeds paid into the town treasury, and applied to the ordinary town charges; and thus a provision intended by the grantors of the town for the support of the ministry, was, in violation of law, at this early period, diverted from its original object, and, so far as that purpose was concerned, entirely lost.

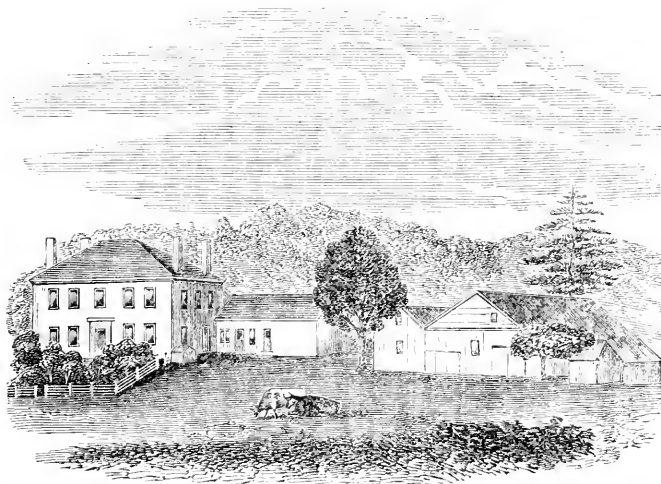
Of course, he was the servant, or in other words, the minister of the town; all of the people had a right to attend on

the public worship as conducted by him, and for that purpose, ample provision was made, for the accommodation in the meeting house, without charge, of all who, for want of means, or other reasons, were not provided with pews, or seats in pews. There was no other society or meeting in town than his, for many years, except a small society of Baptists, composed of residents in this, and some of the neighboring towns, who had religious services a part of the time in town. He was expected to visit all in sickness and affliction, and attend to the burial of the dead. These services he considered it a part of his duty to do, and he performed them faithfully, at all seasons, postponing thereto all considerations of private business, convenience, or inclination. In the sick room and in the house of mourning, he was always received as a welcome visitor. His addresses and ministrations on funeral occasions, were remarkable for appropriateness, solemnity and tenderness. Many of his discourses on such occasions were, at the request of the friends of the departed, published, of which a list will be found at the close of this memoir. From the time of his ordination until he ceased to take any active share in parochial affairs, he kept an accurate record of all marriages by him celebrated, and also of the death of all persons occurring in the town, generally with some indication of the disease and of the age of the decedent. Both these records are inserted in the History of Mason.

But it is time to resume the narrative of his life and labors. Having found and united himself with a church and people, he forthwith proceeded to supply the next great want of a New England clergyman, a domestic household. This he formed, by uniting in marriage with Mary Boynton, of Westford. They were married by the Rev. Samuel Dix, of Townsend, February 2, 1791. As early as March of this year, he commenced a negotiation with John Bishop & Son, of Medford, for the purchase of the farm formerly owned by Capt. William Chambers, and then owned by these gentlemen.



This negotiation resulted in a purchase of the place, and he thus secured for himself a home, in which he spent all the remainder of his days. To this first purchase, he afterwards added, at different times, a meadow lot, a wood lot and a pasture, making in all a productive and valuable farm. This was a fortunate proceeding on his part, as this farm rendered him, in a good degree, independent. The house was small. It was one of the oldest buildings in the town. It stood in



the garden, a little distance north and west of the present edifice. The first house on the farm, was built in the north-west corner of the old orchard, where the remains of the cellar, now mark the place. It was occupied many years as a tavern, by Samuel Abbott. It was the nearest dwelling to the old meeting house, and on occasion of town meetings, in the cold winter weather, the fathers would adjourn to Mr. Abbott's tavern, to warm up. The road then passed east of the site of the present buildings; a view of which is here presented. The wall on the west side of the old orchard, was the boundary of the road, which came into the road now travelled near the school house. The road leading to New Ipswich, left the road opposite Abbott's tavern, and making

a curve, came into the road as now travelled, on the site of the town house.

About the year 1799, he commenced the erection of a comfortable and commodious dwelling, to which he removed in the year 1800.

This mansion was built in the most substantial manner, in a fashion common at that day, though now seldom copied. The rooms are large and square, and in the internal arrangements, as well as outward appearance, it presents a marked contrast to the dwellings in the now prevailing fashionable, sharp, zigzag, multi-angular, modern style, in which the object of the architect seems to be, to multiply corners rather than comforts. In the frame, more timber was used, than would now be employed in the construction of five houses of the same size. The form of the roof, though perhaps, not the most convenient, is one that gives the greatest strength and power of resistance to tempests. This quality of the roof was severely tested, in the most violent tempest which has visited the coast of New England within the last hundred years, known and remembered as the September gale of 1815. This gale, driving from the south-east, and meeting with nothing on its way from the ocean, to break its force, burst with its full power upon this dwelling. The two tall chimneys upon the southern side, were, by the force of the gale, at the same instant broken off, at the point where they issued from the roof, and fell with a thundering crash upon the roof, where shattered in peices, they lay till the storm abated, when it was found that the roof had escaped uninjured, needing but a few shingles to be replaced, to make it perfectly sound; the weight of the falling mass having been received and sustained by the corner rafters of the roof. Such a mass of brick and mortar, thus falling upon a roof of the common form, would have broken it through, and exposed the whole roof, to be torn into fragments and carried away by the tempest; leading, probably, to a total destruction of the edifice.

The wood seen in this view, on the east, in rear of the buildings, is a portion of the native forest, composed in great part of white oaks, hickories, chestnuts and pines; among which, one of the monarchs of the original forest is conspicuous. This wood, he protected and cherished with great care, and it has now become one of the most valuable timber lots in the vicinity.

By means of the farm, with the aid of his salary, he brought up and educated, in a respectable and creditable manner, a numerous family, and had always a seat at his board and fireside, and a spare couch for his brethren of the clergy, who were always made welcome, whether coming from near or distant parts, to his hospitality, and sent on their way, on their departure, rejoicing. Many a poor student on crossing his threshold, has felt that he was in a haven of rest and comfort. For such, he felt great sympathy, remembering that he was once himself, a poor student.

It is proper here to state, that in some years he was in a great measure deprived of the benefit of his salary, by the facility with which he was induced to give orders, anticipating the payment of it in favor of persons, who applied to him for pecuniary aid, and who frequently made very inadequate returns to him for the aid so received.

During the first twelve years of his ministry, there was nothing of a marked character exhibited, in the religious condition of his parish; there were no revivals, and no indications of any rapid changes among his people. The seed was carefully sown, but seemed to germinate slowly. The regular services of the Sabbath, were two long written sermons. There were but few meetings of any kind, during the week, except the lecture preparatory to the regular bi-monthly celebration of the Lord's supper. These discourses were delivered in a meeting house, in which no fire was ever found, however severe the winter weather might be. The first use of stoves for warming the meeting house, was in the winter of 1820-'21.

But if the first twelve years were not distinguished by success in his work, they were a period of singular and severe trials to himself, in his domestic relations, such as to leave their traces on his character ever after. With his first wife, he lived but three years and one month. She died March 2d, 1794, aged twenty-nine years.

After a single life of a year and a half, he married (November 18th, 1795) Mrs. Rebecca Howard, widow of Samuel Howard, and daughter of Col. Ebenezer Bancroft, of Tyngsborough, Mass. But his house was soon again left desolate. Consumption took from him the second wife July 2d, 1797. She was twenty-six years and four months of age.

On the 27th of September, 1799, he married Mrs. Abigail Stearns, widow of Edward Stearns, and daughter of Col. Timothy Jones of Bedford, Mass. With her he lived in great harmony and happiness, the remainder of his days, and she still lingers in lonely widowhood, at the home now desolate, where for many years, a numerous and happy family was gathered.

These severe afflictions seem to have had an important influence upon his character; they gave him a capacity to appreciate scenes of sorrow, and enabled him to sympathize with, and console those who were in trial.

It has already been remarked, that the first years of his ministry, were not distinguished by any particular and striking indications of progress. It was a time of quiet labor, and preparation for future harvest. In a country community, receiving no accessions from abroad, and sending off constantly, many of its most enterprising young people to the cities, and to Vermont and New York, the then distant West, the increase of the church, was usually slow and silent.

In 1802, there was a revival season, which resulted in the addition of forty-four persons to the church. Again in 1812, there was another season of revival, by which twenty-five persons were brought into the church. From this time, until 1826, no time of particular attention to religion, occurred.

From time to time, persons united with the church, but no period of general interest was seen.

In the year 1826-'27, there occurred a more general and powerful revival, than had ever been known in Mason. It was a genuine work of grace, and had immediate and permanent effects upon the church and town. Many who have been influential and decided christians, entered the church at that time. The season was one of constant and arduous labor for the pastor; he preached almost incessantly on week days, in the school houses, and in the private houses of the town, and held frequent meetings for conference and inquiry, that he might know the state of all, and adapt his instructions to their condition.

Rev. John Spaulding, who is pleasantly remembered for his participation in the labors of that season, has furnished some important items, respecting it. He says in a letter, "It was my privilege to be a co-worker with him, to witness the joy of the harvest, as he garnered the seed long before sown. How many scenes and incidents during that work, never to be forgotten! That first prayer-meeting of the youth at the house of Mr. W., one of the daughters of the pastor, there being so impressed, that she went home to weep and to pray, and to give her heart to Christ, that very night. The many meetings for inquiry and prayer, in the pastor's house, meetings of weeping and joy! I seem still to see the heaven-lighted countenance of the good pastor glow, as successively informed that one and another and another, perhaps the last and least expected, had given the heart to Christ."

Several letters of his own remain, in which he gives many facts, concerning this deeply interesting work. From these letters, a better idea of that work can be formed, than from any other source, now accessible. The first of these, is a letter to his son in New York, dated Mason, March 15, 1826. An extract from which, is as follows: "It is with humble gratitude, that I can give you some intelligence more pleasing

than I could have done a few weeks since. God is manifestly visiting this long barren spot, with some tokens of his special favor. There is, more than formerly, a degree of serious attention in some sections of the town, but it is not general. Religious meetings are frequent in some school houses. Some persons are now, under serious impressions, some greatly distressed, and a few, are already rejoicing in hope of salvation; and many others appear to listen and hear, with attention and feeling. \* \* \* \* \* has had a most distressing season for some weeks, so as not to attend to any work, but he appears to have found relief, and has a supporting hope. None have as yet, joined our church. We hope these are but the first-fruits of a large harvest. The Lord in his mercy grant that I may be able soon to give you a richer account of the displays of his grace, among the people of Mason." The second letter, giving a fuller account, is as follows:

MASON, May 1, 1826.

MY DEAR SON:—My time is so much taken up attending meetings, preaching, &c. that I can spare but little for writing now, and as I scarcely know any thing that is doing on the farm, shall not attempt to tell you any thing concerning it or other worldly affairs. I attend one or more meetings every day in the week, except Saturday. The attention to religion yet increases. It first appeared in the westerly part of the town and has extended on to the east, like the progress of a cloud driven by the wind and shedding down rain. At present it seems confined to Mason in a great measure, if not entirely. You remember that a few years since, the neighboring towns had a refreshing shower, while not a drop fell on this barren spot. It seemed as if the very lines of the town were a barrier to the influences of the Spirit. I pray that the present refreshing cloud may spread over all our region. I have not ascertained exactly the number of hopeful converts, but it is probably not much from eighty, in both societies, (the Congregationalist and Baptist.) Thus far the

work has been different from what has been common in works of revival and reformation. It is principally among the middle aged and heads of families, and the greater part of them men; comparatively few young men have yet been subjects of converting grace. It is devoutly hoped that where stubborn, irreligious heads of families are made to bow, there is a blessing in reserve for their children. I mourn to see so little effect on my own family. This day, the concert of prayer was attended, the fullest I have attended in Mason. After that, an enquiry meeting was held at my house; more than forty persons present, not all enquirers. This evening, a very full conference, at J. W's. I have noticed above, stubborn heads of families, but here remark, some of the most moral and regular, have been subjects of as deep and pungent conviction as any. Their names will convey to you all that is needful, to show you that the most moral and immoral, are included in this work of grace. \* \* \*

I have mentioned these persons, to give you some view of the wonderful work. Several of these men I have named, have their wives with them, either rejoicing in hope, or tremblingly anxious. And I must name to you, as trophies of divine grace, the distinguished worldlings, \* \* \* \* \* and \* \* \* \* \*. I must not omit to mention your friend, W. B. He has had a long season of conviction, but has now a very comfortable, if not joyful hope. In short, the greater part of the people of the town, are unusually thoughtful. It is late, and I am weary. I can write no more, only to commend you to God, and the riches of his grace, and devoutly pray that you may share, and your brothers and sisters, in the same divine mercy here displayed.

From your Father,

EBEN<sup>r</sup>. HILL.

The next letter written to the same son, further described the progress of the revival.

MASON, January 12, 1827.

DEAR SON:—\* \* \* \* As for news from this region, the report is, the general state of health is good. The weather has been very mild and open until Christmas, then we began to experience *Christmas weather*. The ground continued bare until new year's day, when a severe snow storm commenced, and now we have an *old fashioned winter*, snow sufficiently deep, and drifts sufficiently large.

But to come to matters of more importance than all worldly concerns. The state and progress of religion, I think, is still promising in this town. After an apparent declension for some weeks, of the religious excitement and attention which had existed and been so powerful here, in some parts of the town, there is a manifest increased attention. There has been a short wintry season. Christians feared the work of grace was over. They were affected to see the multitude left out of the ark, and, I believe, gave themselves to prayer. The church met once and again for conference, to enquire into their own state of feeling, and to search for the causes of the work of God declining. Their hopes now begin to revive. In some parts of the town, the meetings are full and solemn. Two new cases of deep concern, and at least of conviction of danger, have come to knowledge this week. The last week, Mr. —, who has been wading in deep waters since last spring, fearing for himself, yet contending against God, has discovered that nothing was in the way of his salvation, but his own wicked, rebellious heart, and has joyfully bowed in submission. His difficulties all removed, so that he wondered at them, and thought he could show every one the way so that they *must* see it. Alas! he cannot make them open their eyes. I hope when I write to you again, I shall be able to write you more similar interesting facts. Through the goodness of God, we are all in health.

From your affectionate Father,

EBEN<sup>r</sup>. HILL.



Three days later he wrote to his eldest son, residing in Tennessee. In the following extracts from this letter, some additional facts are stated.

MASON, January 15, 1827.

MY DEAR CHILDREN:—\* \* \* \* I have another reason however, for not writing many letters in the year that is passed. We have had a season of unusual religious attention. The revival began in the winter, and for a time, very few, if any in all the town, were not unusually thoughtful and solemn. For six or eight months, I preached as often as once a day, or nearly, besides on the sabbath, and attended many other meetings. You must be sensible my time has been fully occupied, nevertheless, I have not forgotten, but daily remembered my absent, far distant children. O! may they be the happy partakers of that mercy and grace, which has been displayed here. We have received into the church, sixty-seven members. Above thirty have joined the Baptist church. Probably fifty more entertain hope in Christ. And although the work seems to have abated, new cases of serious concern occur. Among those who have made profession of religion, are our principal young married men, who are taking the places of their fathers, gone and going off the stage. Of my family, only Lucy has made a profession of religion. I hope the rest are not all without some well-grounded hope, of having chosen the better part. O! could I hear from my distant children, that they are wise for themselves, this would indeed be good news from a far country. Will you not each one, at my request, on the receipt of this letter, sit down and calculate what will be the real profit, to gain the whole world and lose the soul. Since the soul may be lost, and if lost, it is forever lost, every dictate of reason and prudence, urge to attend to the salvation of the soul, before any other concern. We may trifle with solemn subjects, we may frame or admit as forcible, arguments which may make us careless about our souls, or may quiet our minds, when but little moved, but so long as awake to our

eternal well-being, nothing but hope like an anchor, can support us; and O! eternity is near! and as surely as God is holy, so must we be holy, to be happy in him. Consider, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" After death, there can be no change until the judgment, the sentence then will be eternal. \* \* \* \* \*

From your affectionate Father,

EBEN<sup>r</sup>. HILL.

Such letters as these, show something of the rise and progress of this interesting work of grace, and also, exhibit the pastor's uprightness and skill in the work before him. The direct results of that revival, were the addition of eighty-six members to the Congregational church, and also, a large number to the Baptist church. Religious things were in a better state, for many years following that interesting season, than they had ever been in Mason. There were no new measures used, no protracted meetings in the more recent acceptation of that term, and not much preaching, except by the pastor, and Mr. John Spaulding, a young minister, who was his particular assistant. There was no effort made to gather numbers into the church, but an earnest effort to have all the professed converts well indoctrinated, and thoroughly acquainted with practical religious truth. Time has given good evidence for the greater part of those converts, shewing that they were the children of grace; they have been prominent in all the religious affairs of the town, from that time until the present; they are now found the active members of the churches of Mason and other places, while some of them have gone home, leaving behind them evidence that they sleep in Jesus.

In 1831, the report of the meetings held in Western New York under the name of "three days meetings," attracted attention abroad, and gave rise to the idea of having them in other sections, and on the 19th of April, 1831, a *three days*

*meeting* was commenced in Mason. It was a new thing, and attracted much attention. Many persons who had not been in the habit of attending religious meetings, were induced to come where the gospel was preached, and there was a general attention to religion among all classes of people, for a time. Several persons were added to the church, apparently the fruits of this meeting and the state of things that followed it, but nothing like a general revival took place.

In 1835, there was a time of religious interest, which resulted in the gathering of thirty-eight persons into the church. This was the last season of revival while Mr. Hill remained sole pastor of the church, and during this season, he was aided for several weeks, by a young man of very decided ability, but somewhat erratic, who did not always carry out the views of the pastor and the more judicious members of the church.

These seasons of revival, were the most prominent points of the long pastoral life of the subject of this sketch; they were the harvests of the seed sown in quietness, and watched and waited for with care, at times when no direct results were apparent. Such times and seasons, when free from sectarian zeal, and when they are, as these were, the outgrowth of quiet, permanent influences, are the richest rewards of the pastor's life, seasons of his highest joy and most satisfactory labor, glorious harvest scenes, when the souls of men are gathered into the kingdom of God. Blessed is that minister, whose manner of preaching and course of life, is best adapted to induce and promote them.

While attention should be directed to the seasons of revival in a particular manner, there are many things of a different character, details of common, practical life, that need to be given, in order to exhibit a distinct idea of a New England pastorship, and the general customs of that region during the period of his life. The customs of society are always silently changing, and the changes are, perhaps, as manifest in religious things, as in any other. These

changes, are also better seen in reviewing the long life of a single individual, than in any other way.

During Mr. Hill's life as a minister, the most remarkable religious revolution that has ever been seen in New England, began, and passed on to its full development; it was the rise and progress of Unitarianism. The germs of this movement, are found much farther back, but there was nothing of it visible, for years after he began his active ministry. The Calvinism of the puritans, preserved the forms of its ancient life for many years after its spirit ceased to live in the heart of many of the churches. Few of the New England churches passed through the period of the war of the Revolution, retaining their ancient doctrine and spirit entirely unchanged. But the development of principles is always slow, and it was a long time before this departure from the ancient faith, became fully evident. The time at length came, when those holding doctrines so unlike as the Arminian or Socinian and Calvinistic, could no longer walk together in the same religious fellowship; division must take place. A large majority of the churches in that section of New England, were divided into parties, known as Orthodox and Unitarian. It was a time of difficulty and trial; a time, when the ties that had bound neighbors and families for years in harmony, were to be violently sundered, and two churches, often hostile to each other, or at least, one party feeling that they had been deeply wronged, were found, where but one had been before. In this movement, the pastor of the church of Mason never was a prominent actor. His attachment to the Calvinistic form of doctrine was strong, and his avowal of his sentiments, bold and earnest; but he was never in a position to become a partisan.

Neither his natural disposition nor his habits of life, fitted him to be a polemic. In his own parish but little of the Unitarian element developed itself. The church at its organization, declared itself to be Calvinistic, upon the basis of doctrines set forth in the Westminster Assembly's Catechism.

Such had always been the faith of its pastor, and in this faith the church and people had been carefully instructed. At an equal remove from the Arminianism of some of the churches in the region, and the Hopkinsianism of others, this church had ever held, with its pastor, a middle ground; not a middle ground of compromises and concessions, but of sound and rational interpretation and reception of doctrines. But although not called upon to meet and combat in his own parish, what he viewed to be erroneous doctrines, he could not look with indifference on the struggle which took place between the old and new doctrines in his neighborhood. In this controversy the rule he adopted and followed, was that to which he adhered through his long life, that is, first to ascertain what is duty, and then to the extent of his ability to do it, without passion, haste or undue feeling or excitement. In two of the adjoining towns, this disturbing element appeared, to the interruption of the ancient harmony and fellowship. In this contingency he, without hesitation, placed himself on the side of those who held to the ancient faith, and aided them by his council and services, and encouraged them to establish for themselves, a church organization, and the institutions of public worship.

In the first portion of his pastorship, the system of Sabbath School instruction, as now practiced, was not known in this region. But though that important aid, now considered absolutely necessary to the well-being of every church, did not then exist, its place was in a good degree supplied, by the careful attention given to catechetical instruction. In this way, many minds were more thoroughly indoctrinated, than most are, who are taught in the Sabbath Schools of these days. The following extract, from a letter written by one trained in his congregation, gives a picture of the manner of instruction then pursued.

“The last Sabbath of every month, I think it was, the children, not only of the church but of the parish, were gathered together, and seated on the long seats in front of

the pulpit, the girls on the right hand, and the boys on the left of the broad aisle, to be catechised. Those were happy, pleasant times, I can assure you. Many happy faces were seen on catechising day, as it was called. This was all the real public, personal instruction the children received, when I was young; and, in truth, it was a great and everlasting blessing, to both parents and children; it was "line upon line, and precept upon precept," not soon to be forgotten."

In this matter of the catechism, his precept and example coincided, for he was ever careful to train his own family, into a thorough knowledge of its principles. His usual custom was, to assemble his whole family on Sabbath afternoon, after the second service, and go through the whole of the Westminster Assembly's Shorter Catechism, with great care, interfusing as he went, his own illustrations and comments. This was continued, until the youngest of his family had been trained through it. But although he was attached to the catechism, he hailed with joy the rise of Sabbath Schools. A Sabbath School was permanently established in his congregation, about the year 1816. At that time, he preached a sermon from Eccl. 11. 6: "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." The same person who has described his manner of catechetical instruction, also describes the introduction of Sabbath Schools, as follows: "Mr. Hill made several trials to have a Sabbath School, but failed, for want of suitable superintendents and teachers. Sometimes a few persons would collect together for a few Sabbaths, and recite verses of hymns, learned probably, years before at home, and a few chapters of the Bible, and then drop away one by one, as their stock of hymns wore away, and the novelty wore off. The first Sabbath School that was kept through the summer, was in 1816. \* \* \* was the superintendent. Three or four females were found, who would go in and hear the children recite their lessons.

It was the first Sabbath School I ever attended. \* \* \* would open the school with prayer, and then leave. Sometimes he would return in season to close the school, and sometimes we would get tired of waiting, and leave for our dinner. The children had something set down to them, according to the number of verses recited, and when it amounted to one cent, a ticket was given. At the close of the school, the account was reckoned up, and a reward to the value of what each child had earned, was given. From the commencement of the Sabbath School, the [public] catechising was given up."

In his care for his people, Mr. Hill was an industrious pastor, watching closely every opportunity to interest and benefit them. The sick and the afflicted in every part of the town, and of every denomination and character, shared his parochial care. He considered himself the servant of the whole town, and felt bound to render them all the aid in his power. Whenever any accident or calamity occurred, he was among the first to be sent for, and often, on like occasions, he was called to neighboring towns. Many in town, who neither did anything for his support, nor attended his church, were sure to send for him in time of affliction. A careful observer of disease, his opinions and judgment respecting the condition and prospects of the sick, were often sought for, although he never in any way, intruded upon the physician's profession. A quiet self-possession which never forsook him, and a general knowledge of the common principles of physiology, enabled him often in cases of emergency to render useful services, one marked instance of which occurred at Townsend. It was on the occasion of the preparatory lecture, which he was to preach. The services had just commenced, when a sudden shower arising the house was struck by lightning, and one of the worshipers was left apparently dead. It was a scene of confusion and dismay, in which no one seemed to know what should be done. He at once interfered and directed what should be done, and saw to the exe-

cution of his orders, with so much promptness and efficacy, that the happy result was the perfect restoration to life and eventually to health, of the apparently lifeless sufferer.

An incident illustrating the character of Mr. Hill, and shewing the confidence which was placed in him by his parishioners, is related thus: One of the members of his church, feeling himself aggrieved with his pastor, on account of some matters growing out of the politics of the day, made a complaint against him to the church, which resulted in the calling of a council, before which, the matter was to be laid. As the time for the hearing approached, the complainant found that it was necessary on his part, that the subject matter of his complaint, should be put in proper form, to be presented to the council. The brother, having exhausted his own skill in his efforts to draw up, and present his complaint in proper form, and not succeeding to his mind, finally brought his papers to his accused pastor, whom he was about to bring for trial before the council, and asked his aid in putting his accusation into proper form, which was readily and cheerfully given. It may be added, that the council, a large part of which, were the political friends of the complaining brother, after the hearing, by an unanimous vote, exonerated the pastor fully, from all the charges in the complaint.

Thus time passed rapidly on, bringing the various changes related above, and Mr. Hill, leading a quiet and cheerful life, was silently growing old. In 1836, he was by far the oldest active pastor, in that region of country, and although apparently as well able to perform the duties of his office, as he had ever been, he proposed of his own accord, to his people, that they should select a young man as colleague with him, in the pastorship of the church, offering, at the same time, to relinquish his whole salary, in order that the younger man might receive a support. On this subject, Rev. John Spaulding, who was the one first written to by the church, to act as colleague, says "Sometime before he resigned, and before his people agitated that question, he called a public meeting



of his people, and reminded them that he was growing old, expressed his willingness to resign, and suggested the appointment of a committee to nominate a successor. The committee was appointed, including himself as chairman. In behalf of the committee and the congregation, he addressed me on the subject, and after urging various reasons why I should leave a western for an eastern field of labor, he characteristically remarked, "I wish to resign my pastoral charge, now, while I am in full possession of my mental faculties, lest, in remaining longer, they become so impaired, I shall be unwilling to resign." The proposed arrangement was made in the most amicable manner, with the undiminished confidence and regard of all parties. Mr. Hill performed all his duties as before, until a colleague was found in the Rev. Andrew H. Reed, who was installed November the 23d, 1836.

A new society having been formed in connection with the church, a new meeting house was built in 1837, leaving the old one to stand unoccupied, and Mr. Hill took leave of the place where he had spent so many happy Sabbaths. In his farewell sermon delivered in the old meeting house, in November, 1837, on taking leave of that edifice, he declared of the pulpit in which he was then standing, "This is the dearest spot on earth to me." In this sermon, he reviewed the history of the church, during the period of its occupancy of that house. It is thought that this sermon is worthy of preservation, and it is included among his discourses inserted in this volume.

Mr. Reed remained until December 11th, 1839, when he was, at his own request, dismissed, and Mr. Hill again resumed his post as an active pastor, and continued his labors, until he was succeeded by his own son, Joseph Bancroft Hill, who began his labors in August 1st, 1840, and was installed as co-pastor, October 20th, 1841. Mr. J. B. Hill remained, until preparations were made for the division of the church, for the purpose of forming the Mason village

church, in February, 1847, after which at his own request, his pastoral relation was dissolved, by the result of a council held April 22d, 1847. The church did not secure a permanent pastor, until 1851, when the Rev. J. L. Armes was installed as colleague with Mr. Hill, and he remained pastor until the decease of Mr. Hill.

Mr. Hill was always fond of preaching. The gospel was to him, a great reality, and he was happy in his work, as a herald of its glorious truth. After his retirement from the active duties of his own parish, he still continued to preach, for many years. He preached regularly for some time in Sharon, and after the death of Rev. Mr. Tinker, of Ashby, he supplied the pulpit there, for a short time, but his most useful labors, were at Brookline. The church in Brookline was small, and disheartened by a series of untoward circumstances. Their meeting house, which, like the first houses in all that section, was built by the town, passed from their control, and they were left, few in number, as sheep without a shepherd. In this condition, they spoke of disbanding, and scattering to other towns, for the purposes of worship, but Mr. Hill encouraged them to remain together, and offered to preach for them until they could secure a pastor. He encouraged and aided them in their efforts to build a meeting house of their own, remaining with them as pastor, preaching in the school houses of the town. Soon after their house was completed, he met with a recent graduate of Andover, who was not then employed, and he was so much pleased with him, that he engaged him to preach for a single Sabbath, in Brookline, and he was there and heard him. So confident was he, that God had sent them the right man, at the right time, he at once informed the church that he should preach for them no more, and urged them to secure the services of the candidate without delay. They followed his advice, and the result was the settlement of the Rev. Daniel Goodwin over that church, and time has fully shown the wisdom of the choice. Mr. Goodwin in a letter to the writer, says "It was through

his (Mr. Hill's) agency alone, that I came to occupy this post."

In the year 1839, and again in 1840, Mr. Hill was elected by the town, a representative to the state legislature, and served as such, in the sessions of those years. He was never a political partisan, but he was firm and decided in his political views, and was well known as an advocate of the general policy of the whig party. While in Concord, he wrote to his youngest son, June 16th, 1839, "It has fallen to me, to perform the duty of chaplain, most of the time. Some of the members of the house, were opposed to having prayers by any person, yet there was a good majority for it, and it was determined that the service should be performed by the clergymen belonging to the house. When the search was made, it was found there were but two in the house, myself, and Mr. Whitaker of Weare, (a Free Will Baptist.) We have leave to invite others to perform with us." The following letter was written from the house of representatives, to the same son, then a member of Dartmouth College.

CONCORD, June 20th, 1840.

MY SON:—I received yours by Mr. B——, and was glad to hear of your health. I spent last Sabbath at home, and can inform you that all the family were then well. This week has hitherto been a noisy week; and I have been much wearied with it. I do not attempt to describe to you, the scenes of Wednesday. It has been calculated, that not less than seven thousand men formed and marched on to the hill in procession; and I should judge there were as many in the streets, and on the hill, as in the procession. There was speaking in abundance. General Wilson took up at least two hours, in a continued strain of eloquence. Our session is short, it will close Saturday morning. It has, on the whole, been a quiet and peaceable session; nothing of a very exciting nature has come forward, to stir up bad feelings. I send you a small sum of money, which I hope will be a supply for your present wants. I have full confidence that

you do, and that you will, use all the economy, that is necessary for a poor scholar to use. But I most earnestly desire, that while you are cultivating the mind, and laboring to fit yourself for usefulness, you will have great watchfulness over your heart, and strive to grow in grace. Ambition for distinction as a scholar, has often proved detrimental to spiritual improvement; your only safety is in continued prayer.

\* \* \* \* \*

From your Father,

EBEN<sup>r</sup>. HILL.

At this time occurred an incident of a domestic character, which will long be remembered by his family; it was the meeting of his whole family, for the first and only time. Mr. Hill had a numerous family of children, and they were early and widely scattered from their father's house. The eldest left home, and settled in Fayetteville, Tennessee, before the birth of the youngest, and he did not revisit the place of his birth, until the youngest had grown up to manhood. In July, 1844, there was a meeting of all the living children, ten in number, at their father's house. It was a time of the deepest interest to all parties, of joy to the parents, at the sight of long absent children, pleasure among the children, of forming acquaintance with those they knew and loved by report, but who were strangers in fact.

The time spent together by the family, was quite short. The intercourse was most cheerful and social, but partook largely of a religious character; and the father threw a hallowed feeling of calm religious reverence, into his most common actions. The worship around the family altar, the visits at different places, were all full of tenderness, and cheerful religious emotion. After a few days spent together, the company separated, each to his home, and never met again.

Mr. Hill retained all his faculties, both of body and mind, with a good degree of activity, until about the year 1846, when he began perceptibly to fail in both. There was no sudden change, but a gradual decline of all his powers. His

health was good, but his strength was wasting away, his memory was broken, and his mind ceased to act with its accustomed vigor. It was the decline that knows no restoration; the shadows of evening, precursors of the sunset of life. About the last of 1851, the childhood of extreme old age began to come over him. There was little of sickness, or apparently of pain, but a gradual wasting away of strength, until about the middle of May, 1854, when, in consequence of having taken a slight cold, there was induced a low stage of fever, under which he suffered until the 20th day of May, 1854, when he quietly fell asleep. His exit from the scenes of time, was perfectly calm; there was not a struggle or a groan; his breathing grew difficult, short, and with intervals between each respiration, until it gently ceased forever. He slept in Jesus, on the morning of the 20th day of May, 1854, an old man, full of days. His age was eighty-eight years, three months, and twenty-one days.

On the 23d, his funeral took place. He was followed to the grave by a great concourse of relations, friends and parishioners. The day was calm and bright, in which he was laid to rest. The mild sunshine of spring fell upon the world of nature bursting into life; the trees and shrubs, many of which planted by his own hand, bordered the road leading from his dwelling to the graveyard, awaking from the death and sleep of winter to the bloom and verdure of spring, were emblems fit of the resurrection that awaits the good, after the winter of the grave. On such a day he was borne to his resting place, into which he had seen all but a few scattered surviving remnants of his original congregation, one after another, gathered. It was fitting that he too should slumber there, pastor and people together, until the final morning hour. Of the large concourse which followed him to the grave, few had known him before the meridian of life, and fewer still had witnessed his ordination day. But one person, who was a member of the church when he was ordained, survived him; and the church of this day is com-

posed mainly of the children and grandchildren of those who were his people then.

Thus within sight of the dwelling he had so long occupied, was he left to repose, in the ancient graveyard; "the garden of the dead," which in his latter years, he was wont frequently to visit, and there to spend the declining hours of the summer afternoon, calling up to recollection, the forms of the departed sleeping there; his family, his parishioners, his neighbors and intimate friends of two entire generations, whom he had attended to this, their last resting place, and whose company he was shortly expecting, and patiently waiting to join.

The funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. A. W. Burnham, of Rindge; the successor of his own venerated instructor, and for many years, a valued personal friend. The following extract from this discourse, exhibits the view therein presented of the personal and professional character of the deceased.

"As a man, our departed father was small in stature, but of a firm, vigorous, well constituted frame, of sound constitution, he enjoyed remarkable health, till overtaken by the infirmities of old age. It is a singular fact, that for fifty years he was detained from public worship, but two Sabbaths. Exceedingly amiable in his disposition, moderate in his temperament, a mind well balanced, conceptions clear, reasoning powers of no mean order, with no inconsiderable degree of shrewdness, he had a large share of that quality so much needed, but unhappily not possessed by every minister: good common sense, sense that could be used for good in the exigencies of life. In his deportment, grave, as befitting a minister of Christ, gentlemanly and courteous in his bearing, he was instructive in conversation, familiar and pleasant in all social intercourse, in the family, among his people, and his brethren.

In his domestic relations, true-hearted, kind and careful, he aimed to fulfil every conjugal and parental duty, in the

fear of God, and with a conscientious regard to the highest welfare of the numerous household, of which he was the head.

“As a christian, he appears to have had deep experience in spiritual graces. Profoundly reverent of God and sacred things, he was imbued with love to God, his house, people, word and worship, submissive in trials, patient in tribulation, rejoicing in hope, and relying on Christ alone for acceptance, he aimed and was enabled to maintain a devout walk with God. As a theologian he was sound in the faith, holding the system of doctrines, usually denominated Calvinistic, as set forth in the Assembly’s Catechism.

“As a preacher, plain, effective and impressive, he set forth with simplicity and earnestness, in the mode and style of the generation to which he belonged, the doctrines of the gospel in their true aspects and bearings, always careful to engraft upon them, the enforcement of practical godliness, as their genuine fruit.

“In his pastoral intercourse and duties, our reverend father set an example worthy to be imitated by all who hold the same office. Deeply interested in all that affected the welfare of his people, he was affectionate yet faithful, and having drunk deeply of the cup of affliction himself, he was able and ready to sympathize with his people, and administer to them the same consolations wherewith he himself was comforted, of God. And as he watched for souls, as one that must give an account, God gave him success in his ministry. While under his regular ministrations, the children of God were nourished up unto eternal life, and sinners were occasionally gathered into the fold; several seasons of spiritual refreshing, more or less general in their extent, and abundant in their fruits, were enjoyed. In those days, the pastor rejoiced, labored and prayed with a diligence, fervency and faithfulness becoming a minister of the gospel, and evincing the tender concern he cherished, for the spiritual welfare of the flock over which the Holy Ghost had made him overseer. In a

word, he was a good minister of Jesus Christ, one who studied to show himself approved of God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

One of his brethren in the ministry of a neighboring town, and who, in point of age, approached the nearest to the deceased, writes of the deceased, "He was a man of good intellectual powers, well educated, and his mind was well stored with theoretical and practical knowledge. He might have filled almost any department in public life, with credit and usefulness." Another, whose acquaintance with him commenced after old age had gently laid its hand upon him, writes as follows: "Were I to speak of him in general terms, I should say, he was distinguished for a somewhat rare, yet exceedingly desirable combination of qualities, which rendered him agreeable and instructive to all parties, gave him a peculiar ease and familiarity, and at the same time, a decision, energy, dignity, and solemnity, which are rarely found in the same person.

Children were always interested in him, and I think none would be disposed, as is sometimes the case, to shun his presence, for his manner and conversation were admirably fitted to place them at their ease, and secure their confidence. He possessed, for certainly he exhibited, a great amount of kind, social, benevolent feeling. His house was always a welcome home for clergymen, and for others who sought his aid and direction. I have said he was an old man, when I first became acquainted with him, but I would rather say, that, in a most important sense, he was never old. He certainly kept up with the spirit and enterprize of the age if he did not go before it, and kept himself thoroughly versed in relation to all questions of doctrine and practice, and adapted himself with great ease and propriety, to the occurring changes and exigencies. Thus by keeping up his acquaintance with these matters till the last, he was always a warm friend of younger brethren in the ministry, and was always regarded by them



as a father in affection and interest. Hence too, his services, after he had ceased to be the active pastor of his own church, were frequently sought, and highly prized by the neighboring churches. \* \* As a pastor, as far as I can judge, and I speak in part from what I have felt, he had few equals. It was my privilege, when a beloved wife was lingering under a fatal disease, through ten long months, to enjoy his frequent calls, and well do I recollect how much these visits were prized, not only by myself, but by her whose spirit was ripening and longing for heaven." On this subject also, Mr. Spaulding has said, "What a father and friend was he, in the house of mourning! how appropriate his addresses and sermons, how specific and well suited his prayers! and how sympathetic his heart in the sick room, and on funeral occasions."

There was much of tender earnestness in his addresses at the celebration of the Lord's supper, and in all things connected with the examinations for admissions to the church. He loved to dwell on those themes, that are peculiarly appropriate to the communion season; they were ever new to his taste, and sources of deep emotion, which he manifested in his addresses at such times.

A lady who united with his church quite early in life, thus writes on that subject: "Do you remember the day when we were examined for admission to the church, at the old meeting house? There was one little incident connected with it, which I shall ever remember. As my name was called, and I started tremblingly up the broad aisle with but little thought that I should be accepted, the pastor met me, and as he took my brief "experience" from my hand, said, with his kindest look and tone, "We love to see the lambs come." How assured I felt. It seemed as if the Good Shepherd was speaking to me through him. I always love to remember that I united with the church, when he was the only pastor."

Mr. Hill was in his person small, not much exceeding in stature five feet, but perfectly symmetrical in his limbs and

proportions, quick and active in his movements, of a cheerful temperament, frugal and temperate in his habits, industrious and economical in worldly affairs. He enjoyed through his long life, a remarkable degree of health and exemption from sickness and pain, having never been confined to his bed for the space of twenty four hours, until his last sickness, less than one week before his death. With small means, he brought up, in a respectable style, his numerous family, all of whom were trained to habits of industry and constant employment, to which they owe their success in life. He carefully and sedulously accustomed them all, in early life, to improve all leisure time in reading useful and instructive books, a taste and habit which they have great reason to thank him for implanting and cultivating at that early period. He never had the means to acquire an extensive library, but he had many rare and valuable books, among which were the works of William Perkins, of whom Fuller quaintly says, "He had a capacious head with angles winding, and roomy enough in which to lodge all controversial intricacies," of Owen and other puritan divines of the age of Cromwell, some of the works of Baxter, of Bishop Patrick, of John Newton, and of the pioneers of the New England churches, Richard Mather, Samuel Shepherd, John Wise of Ipswich, "the simple cobbler of Agawam," Increase and Cotton Mather, and Edwards. These, with the social library, a small but well-selected collection, which he was instrumental in forming about the year 1802, were his sole reliance in the way of literature. It is a question well worth propounding, which deserved best of their generation, those who collected the social library and for more than thirty years used it and preserved it in good condition, or those who sold and scattered it to the four winds of heaven. His literary taste was sound and correct. His style of writing, was plain and simple, free from ornament; the substance of his discourses was direct and practical.

Of the English poets, Milton, Pope, Young, and Cowper, were his favorite authors. But with him, the book of books

was the bible. To it, he always appealed. From it, all his illustrations and proofs were drawn. His habits of study were little methodical. The subject upon which he was to preach, would be thought over in his own mind during the week, but generally, he would not commence writing until Saturday. Then his discourses, both for forenoon and afternoon upon the same text, would be fully written out, but often not until late in the night of Saturday. When composing his discourses, he had the power of abstraction, in an unusual degree; so that when seated by the cheerful fire, of a Saturday evening, surrounded by his family, uninterrupted by their conversation or employments, he would pursue the train of thought induced by the subject selected, and follow it with a speedy pen, with as much regularity and composure as if in the recesses of the most retired study.

Although his public discourses were all carefully prepared and written out, he was by no means deficient in the power of ready and forcible extemporaneous discourse. This was often witnessed on funeral occasions, and in meetings for conference upon religious topics. On these last occasions, frequently taking a passage of scripture, sometimes a part, or the whole of a chapter, reading it verse by verse, he would accompany the reading with an extemporaneous commentary and explanation, which would be pertinent, apt and profitable to the hearers. Such meetings were his delight. He attended them constantly and regularly, till the physical and mental disability attendant on old age, deprived him of the power so to do. And, in the last years of his life, when his mental power was broken, and his mind was often wandering, he would many times on a winter's evening, when the household work was done, and his family, then reduced to a small number, were seated by the parlor fire, fancy himself in the conference room, and commence an exhortation in a quiet, low, indistinct tone of voice, and continue it for the space of half an hour or more; then having closed and dismissed his meeting, he would rouse up and remark that it had been a

very pleasant meeting, and enquire whether a goodly number had attended.

He was not fitted by nature, nor trained by habit to be a pioneer. He seldom sought out of his own accord, new paths. He was content to walk in the old and trodden ways, but still, he was always ready to welcome and further all new movements which he judged tended to the improvement and benefit of the human family. As such, he gave a ready and hearty welcome to the temperance movement, which has produced in many places, such immense good. The habit of using ardent spirits as a beverage, was universal in his early life, and until he had passed the meridian of life, he never thought it a duty to abstain, or that the indulgence of the habit was dangerous. The same was the case, with all the clergy of his day, and indeed of all the gentry, and it may be said of all the people. Some of the clergy of his acquaintance fell victims of this indulgence, and the wonder is, not that here and there one was swept away by the demon, but that all did not go down.

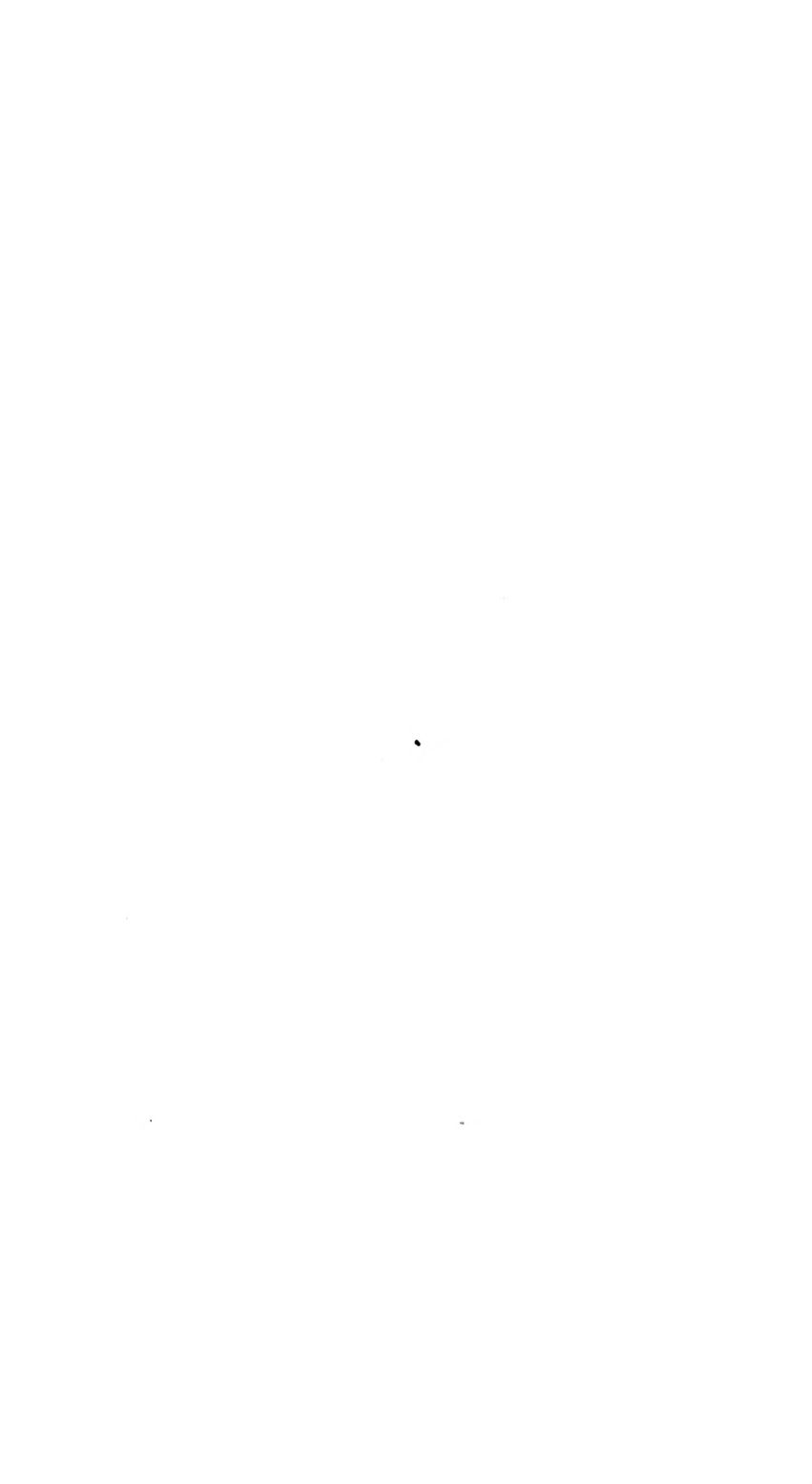
These warning examples produced no effect; but when the public mind was aroused to the consideration of this evil, he at once saw, as every man of sense must see, that the only safe rule, was total abstinence. He readily adopted it, and from that time to the close of his life, a period of some twenty-five or thirty years, strictly practiced total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors. He also abandoned the use of tobacco, to which he had been addicted from early life. He was ready to testify to the perfect safety of the immediate adoption of total abstinence in both cases, and to the happy effect of the reformation, whether regard be had to peace and comfort, either physically or mentally considered.

Another instance of the readiness with which he saw, and appreciated the importance of new movements, first brought forward by others, has already been stated on page 42, in regard to the introduction of a new system of sabbath school instruction.

In the sermon there referred to, he directed the attention of his people to the importance of the early education of children, in matters of religion, and in the knowledge of the scriptures, and urged them to new and more persevering efforts in that direction; and from that time, so long as he was able to take any part in this portion of christian duty, he devoted a large share of his time, to the sabbath schools; and he left among his papers, at his decease, manuscript questions carefully prepared by him for his own use, as a sabbath school teacher, embracing the whole circle of sabbath school instruction, usually undertaken in his parish. His last efforts as a religious teacher, were bestowed upon the children of his parish.

This summary of his life and character cannot be better concluded, than with the closing sentences of a notice of him, published soon after his death, in *The Congregationalist*. "In his later years especially, he was accustomed to spend several hours each day, in reading the Bible and in communion with his Savior. His humility was manifest, and also his love of the sanctuary. To him "Christ was all," and self was mortified and forgotten. His regard for his church was ever the same, he cherished for it an undeviating affection. Between him and his colleagues, there was perfect harmony. He never gave them the least trouble. The ruling purpose of his mind showed itself, amid all his infirmities. Often when he was unable to preserve the sequence of his thoughts on ordinary subjects, and when he scarcely knew whether it was morning or evening, he would offer prayer in a perfectly coherent manner, as if his family were gathered around him. The christian graces all seemed to be ripe in him, years before his exit, and he "came to his grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season."

"Soldier of Christ well done,  
Praise be thy new employ,  
And while eternal ages run,  
Rest in thy Savior's joy."



at the dedication of the Meet-house N<sup>o</sup> 381  
Nov<sup>r</sup> 26, 1795 -

Psalm Ps. 1. -

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord  
of Hosts! -

The b. of o G is evident from his wks - for  
e incredible & of m for e creation of e  
O & clearly seen, b. & by e & w<sup>th</sup> a made  
even his O power & head. And t G is to  
b worshipped w<sup>th</sup> e homage, is not only  
evident from his w<sup>th</sup>, 1 m to b e o vine  
of reason. for t nations, however igno-  
rant & barbarous, agree in giving some  
k of worship to m w<sup>th</sup> they are maker  
& ruler of e O. We w<sup>th</sup> are lot in a land  
of vision & highly favored in compari-  
son w<sup>th</sup> others, - We not only have in o w<sup>th</sup>  
e evidence of his b. conveyed by his  
wks, 1 & b<sup>th</sup>ly acc<sup>d</sup> w<sup>th</sup> his char<sup>d</sup> O's. &  
& trust it is e acceptable review w<sup>th</sup> he  
req<sup>d</sup> - and as it is e duty of individuals  
to worship & bow down before e Father  
in, pray m of grate & av<sup>s</sup> for his fav<sup>r</sup>  
& supplicate e b<sup>th</sup>ly w<sup>th</sup> need, for p. so-  
cieties b. = y & upon m, it is manifestly  
y<sup>r</sup> duty to unite at some t times for e  
purpose of worshipi m w<sup>th</sup> rules in t O's,  
& has a right to y<sup>r</sup> services. - y<sup>r</sup> is e voice  
of reason. - and it is req<sup>d</sup> in e Rev w<sup>th</sup> has  
made. It was enjoined upon his ancient  
ppl, t y<sup>r</sup> sh<sup>d</sup> meet in a solemn Ass<sup>y</sup> & hence  
e Ps. 134. Enter into his gates w<sup>th</sup> d. & his  
carrots w<sup>th</sup> praise, & agreeable to y<sup>r</sup> e Ap  
to e Heb. 13 e X m not to forsake e assem-  
bling together - 1<sup>st</sup> Reason & Rev point





# A S E R M O N,

PREACHED IN THE OLD MEETING HOUSE, IN MASON, NOVEMBER, 1837,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE REMOVAL BY THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY, OF  
THEIR PLACE OF WORSHIP, TO THE NEW MEETING HOUSE,

BY THE REV. EBENEZER HILL.

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DEUT. XXXII. 7.

Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations.

WHEN Moses had conducted the children of Israel, God's chosen people from Egypt, through the great and terrible wilderness to the very borders of Canaan, and was informed that the time was just arrived, that he should leave them and be gathered to the great congregation of the dead, by divine direction he gathered the people together, and rehearsed in their ears the great things God had done for them, and put them in mind of their many provoking sins and acts of rebellion, and of the many judgments God brought on them and their fathers for their sins and provocations, and also, the great mercy of God in sparing them. And when he had written the history of the law to be deposited in the sacred ark, by the same divine command, he was led to compose a hymn or song, comprehending the important facts in their past history, likewise containing many predictions of future events. This was designed for them to commit to memory, and to be often rehearsed and sung, that so they might never forget them. Here we see how important it is, in the sight of God, that men should retain the knowledge of his mighty acts, and remember his mercies and his judgments. He

knew their liability to forget even the most remarkable and solemn scenes and events, and provided a help against this sinful infirmity, by having such facts as would excite the young to enquire about them, and keep the recollection of them ever fresh in their own memory, embodied in a popular, familiar song. This was the most effectual way of diffusing the knowledge, and preserving the memory of remarkable and solemn events which could be before the art of printing was discovered, and consequently when books would be scarce.

This is the only way in which unlettered nations can, or do preserve, any fragments of their history; even by embodying them in their songs, and thus handing them down from generation to generation. God not only took care thus to preserve the history of his church and his dealings with his people and their enemies, but also in the very same way inculcated the duty of charging the memory with these truths, and meditating on them much. Hence, whenever they repeated this song, they would of course repeat the command to "Remember the days of old, and consider the years of many generations." They are cautioned, that it is not enough for them to admit the facts related by their fathers, and treasure them up in their memory, but it is requisite, that they frequently call them up and cause them to pass before their minds, and make them subjects of deep thoughtfulness and meditation. From the words following the text, it is manifestly a duty to enquire after and seek to obtain knowledge of what God has wrought in ancient times and in later days. It is added to the text, "Ask thy Father and he will shew thee, your Elders and they will tell thee." It is a solemn and important duty of us all, to make ourselves acquainted with the history of the days of old, as far as we can, and that we frequently revolve in our minds the events of past generations. This was certainly the case with the children of Israel, and we should remember that God addresses us in the same language that he did them. "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations:" and ignorance or forgetfulness in us of the most

wonderful and remarkable events of very ancient or of more modern times, would be very inexcusable. For we have the bible, which will carry back the mind to the very beginning of time, and we have richly the means of obtaining knowledge of civil and ecclesiastical history, in this day and land of books and general education. This is required as a duty, not only in the text, but in many other places, in plain and positive language; and it is designed and calculated, as all other duties are, to promote our spiritual and moral edification, and comfort.

In further pursuing the subject, I shall call your attention,

1st. To some things we may see as included in the requisition, "Remember the days of old."

2d. To some of the advantages, which may result from the due remembrance and the contemplation of the days of old, and the years of many generations.

I. The remembrance of the days of old; things to be remembered and studied. Here I can name but few, and dwell upon none of them, as their importance requires. The things to be remembered and studied I name as included:

1st. The whole history of redemption, from the first intimation of mercy to fallen man, down to the full completion of the great work of redemption, by the actual sufferings of the divine Redeemer, and ascension of the Son of God.

Whatever other events may be correctly related, constantly remembered and carefully studied, if this be not in some measure remembered, and do not engage our solemn consideration, we shall only have the more splendid way down to eternal death. It would have been better for us, never to have had an existence, nor to have known what great things God has wrought for sinners, than for us to disregard the divine command, in this respect.

2d. Among the things included in the days of old, and to be remembered, we may see as included, the constant and unchangeable care which Christ has ever taken of his church, and the protection he has afforded to individual saints, and

the wonderful deliverances he has effected for them, in seasons of the greatest perils and sufferings. Often has the church been brought low, exceedingly low, and the enemies have thought that they had prevailed, but the Lord has brought deliverance, and given the triumph to his distressed people. And we should remember the instances of his faithfulness with individuals, when he has borne with them, and carried them through severest trials; though they have passed through the water, it has not overflowed them, and though they have passed through the fire, it has not consumed them.

Wonderful indeed have been many instances, where God has wrought for his saints, when all other hope was gone, and these are recorded that we may remember and meditate on them.

3d. Again, the many instances wherein God has brought sore judgments upon his church and people, and individual saints, for their sins, are to be remembered by us. They are recorded, that we may know them well, and be admonished; for examples, we have the histories of David, Hezekiah, and others.

4th. Again, the things to be remembered of old, are the remarkable judgments God has brought upon his enemies, and the enemies of his people; such, for instance, as upon Egypt, Pharaoh and his host, and upon Babylon. We may also, especially on this day, view as included among the things of old to be studied, the events of divine Providence in which we are directly or individually concerned, such as:

1st. The preparation of our forefathers to leave their native land, their pleasant dwellings and possessions, in order that they might have the gospel in its purity, and worship God according to the dictates of their consciences, and especially, in preparing an asylum for them in this land, so shortly before unknown to the old world. Here God planted his choice vine, and caused it to take root and bear fruit, once glorious fruit, however since degenerated. The kindness of the Lord to our forefathers, the deliverances he

wrought for them, when foes rose up against them, and the blessings he bestowed upon all their labors, until a little one had become a great nation; these are all of them, things of old, which are to be remembered, and which ought to be studied, until our hearts are filled with gratitude and praise.

2d. There are many things in the history of our own life, though it be short, and in the events which have led on to the circumstances in which we are placed this day. Our childhood and youth, our manhood and age, have not passed away, without many dispensations of Providence, which call for our continued remembrance, with deep feelings of gratitude, holy joy, and lively praise. The history of this town and of this church, with all the train of events, which have led to the circumstances in which we are placed this day, contains many things, which call for our lasting remembrance, and solemn meditation. In them, we may trace the leadings of divine Providence, and though on a smaller scale, yet more remarkable, because so much nearer to us.

II. I proceed to invite your attention to some of the advantages resulting from the continued remembrance, and due consideration of past events. And it is believed to be capable of proof, that historical facts, especially those which are contained in the bible and the late history of the church, teach us most conclusive lessons of wisdom, and the most solemn, remarkable, alarming, and profitable truths. If we remember and consider well, the whole history of redemption, we shall learn that there is, and can be but one possible way of escape for sinners, from the just, though tremendous wrath of God. The dispensations of God against the wicked, as well as his faithfulness and truth to those who fear his name and believe his promises, occur on every page. The first hope that sinful man could ever indulge, was grounded on the promises to the woman's seed; the display of divine anger against stubborn sinners, in the days of old, is sufficient to make those fear, who are not in the way in which sinners may come into the favor of God. O! what

proofs does the history of the world give of the prevalence of sin, and of its hatefulness to a holy God. If we look through the days of old, to the very morning of time, we see death reigning over all, in that all have sinned, for the wages of sin is death. In every view we take of the days of old, we see the evil of sin, and the dreadful consequences of apostasy from God. The whole history of redemption contained in the bible, when it is seriously contemplated, goes to teach the wicked world, that vain is the effort to prevail against, and overturn the church of God. How has God swept away whole and mighty nations, when they have risen up against his little flock! How solemn a call 'is this on sinners, to accept his mercy! We may learn some of the special benefits of remembering the days of old, and of acquaintance with ancient times, from many cases related in the bible; and the special benefit to be obtained thereby, is to be seen. Thus, is the church in a low, depressed, or oppressed state; are christians borne down with troubles, discouraged, and ready to faint; let them remember the days of old, &c., and they will find facts, which may strengthen their faith, and encourage their hope. Thus it was with the Psalmist, as related in the seventy-seventh Psalm. He had a season of darkness and sore trial, and was almost ready to despair of the mercy of God; but when he remembered the days of old, the years of ancient times, when he called to mind his song in the night, and on his having made diligent search, he was led to ask, will the Lord cast off forever? Can such a thing be? Will he be favorable no more? Is his mercy clean gone forever? Do his promises fail? Hath God forgotten to be gracious? Such desponding, unbelieving thoughts had troubled him. But how did he check himself, and recover a tranquil state; yea, a state of holy joy, by calling to mind what God had done of old. His language is, "I said this in my infirmity," and instead of yielding to such despondency, he said, "I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High, I will remember the works of the

Lord, I will remember the wonders of old ;” and we find him soon speaking the language of praise. This is the benefit that the people of God may derive, from remembering the days of old, when they are by any means brought low. Here they may take courage.

Again, when Moses would keep the people low in their own minds, and grateful to God for all his wonders of mercy and favors, he called upon them to “remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and a stretched out arm.” If we would call to mind past events, and even go no further back than our own experience, we should remember our once totally ruined state, our state of slavery in sin, and how we owe all to divine mercy, if we are not now in worse than Egyptian bondage. If any thing in the world can humble us and hide pride from us, this would do it. And this is the great good received. And when he would bring them to deep repentance and continued humility, he charged them “remember and forget not, how ye provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness, from the day when ye departed out of the land of Egypt, until ye came into this place ye have been rebellious until this day.” And when he would inspire them with courage to face their enemies and attempt arduous duties to which they thought themselves not able, he thus called upon them, “Thou shalt remember what the Lord did unto Pharaoh and unto all Egypt.”

Such benefits may result to us from proper meditation, on the years of many generations gone by. And the more we acquaint ourselves with the history of this nation and the Church of Christ contained in it. And the more frequently we call to mind, and the more closely we meditate on the dealings of God; the more we shall find to humble us and bring us to repentance, to incite in us gratitude and a desire to make returns for unmerited kindness. And to these marvelous events we have not time to advert. Many circumstances conspire to call our attention to know what to some would

be things of many generations, things transacted long before their birth, and to some few, although they are things in which they had a personal share, they would seem of ancient times long since done. But entering immediately on the subject, I will call our attention to a few inferences; I shall barely name them and then leave them for our own reflections. The Old Testament, much despised by many, would be of exceeding value for the edification of all, and for the strengthening of their faith; not only is it very essential to their salvation, as well as the New Testament, but to their establishment in the hope of the gospel. Here only have we the history of the dealings of God with man and with his church for about four thousand years.

2d. We see the value of his preached word.

3d. Acquaintance with the history of God's dealing with the church and the world, with the history of former times, is of importance, as affording subjects for profitable meditation, at all times, to the exclusion of vain, foolish and impure thoughts.

This day is an epoch in the history of this town and church. This day, we leave this house, where we, and our fathers have worshiped for many years, and we may receive it as the voice of God to us. "Remember the days of old." Let us now together meditate on the events occurring in the days of our fathers, and trace them down to the present day, and we shall see much to humble us, and to shew us the many, and wonderful kindnesses of our God. I begin with some in the civil history of the town, such as I have been able to collect. The time of the first inhabitants moving into this town, was in the year 1752, and it was called township No. 1; and the first white child born in the town, would be, if living, more than eighty years of age. The first settlers in the town were many of them poor, and the settlement did not proceed so rapidly as in some other towns, nor was it until the year 1768, that an incorporation was sought and obtained. In that year, the inhabitants were incorporated a



body politic, and the place named Mason. This was in August; and in November following, when the first tax was levied, there were but seventy-six rated polls or persons, liable to be taxed. The original proprietors erected a meeting house, just by where this stands, for the inhabitants, before the town was incorporated; that is, they set up a frame, covered and enclosed it, but it never was finished. There it stood a shell until 1790. And in that your fathers, and some now living, worshiped, and even in the winter. In that house, I commenced my ministry in this place. Then, there was not a riding carriage in the town, and in the winter, whole families would come to meeting on a sled drawn by oxen, and the ladies were not ashamed to be seen in their plain, decent, *warm, comfortable, homemade clothing*. Were those times more unfavorable, or on the whole more uncomfortable, than the present, *judge ye*.

At length the town as a corporate body, agreed to build a house for the worship of God, but were not agreed as to its location. This was submitted to a committee of disinterested persons, and they *unhappily* selected this spot. I say unhappily, for had it been located where it should have been, it might have well continued many years longer as the place of our solemnities, and with small expense be made comfortable. When our fathers entered upon the work of building this house, it was with many discouragements and fears. They felt poor, and weak handed for such an undertaking; but God smiled upon them, and succored them far beyond their fears. They felt it to be a heavy burden, but they undertook it with cheerfulness, and were enabled to sustain it. And forty seven years ago this present month, the house was so far finished, that the ceremonies of my ordination were performed in it, which were the first public religious exercises in this house. It was soon after solemnly dedicated unto Almighty God, as a place for his worship, and through the rich goodness and mercy of God, very few sabbaths have passed from that time to the present, when the house has not been occupied by some

as a place of worship. And since that time the Lord has blessed his people, agreeably to his promises to his chosen people of old. He has increased their number and increased their wealth, proving that none are poorer for what they spend for God. In the year 1790, when this house was built, there were but about one hundred and ten dwelling houses in the town, poor and good, and now there are more than two hundred and ten, and our eyes are permitted to behold a new house completed, to be dedicated to God for the use of this church and the congregation worshipping with them. Surely we have cause this day to set up our Ebenezer, and say, hitherto hath the Lord helped us, and to give thanks at the remembrance of his merciful kindness, when we remember the days of old, and consider and think upon our present state as a society, for when we go out of this house we are not left houseless.

I will now add something relative to the changes that have taken place in the town, to be remembered among the things of the days of old. There is but one dwelling house and two barns now standing in all that can be considered as contained in this centre village, which were standing when I first came to this town, and but one building of any kind in all the west village, and there had never then been a resident physician, nor other professional man, except the short time Mr. Searle was the minister. Supposing five persons to a dwelling house, there would not at that time have been more than five hundred and fifty inhabitants, but they did probably some exceed six hundred. We have enjoyed at least a comfortable share of health with other places, and there have been many instances of longevity. But some years have been distinguished by great mortality. In the years 1818 and 1819, we were visited with that dreadful scourge angina maligna or throat distemper, and it swept away many of the children. In the year 1818 was the greatest number of deaths that ever were in the town in one year; there were thirty four; of these twenty two were children under fourteen years of age, and of these

twelve died of throat distemper. In 1819, there were thirty one deaths, and of these eighteen were under fourteen years of age, and twelve of them were removed by the same malignant distemper.

In the space of forty-seven years, there have been removed from this place to the narrow house prepared for all the living, somewhat rising eight hundred. What a large congregation! How often have all the now living, been warned to prepare for death and the judgment.

But it is time to call to mind the years of many generations, respecting the church in this place. Previous to my acquaintance with this church, it had been in a state of perplexity and trouble, for most of the time of its existence as a church. Among the earliest settlers in the town, were some professors, but no church was constituted until 1772, four years after the town was incorporated. When the church was embodied, it was stated to be a *Calvinistic* church, and the articles of faith to agree essentially, with the Westminster confession of faith. At this time Rev. Jonathan Searle was ordained, and constituted the pastor of this church. Shortly after, unhappy difficulties arose between the pastor and the flock, which caused his dismissal, nine years after his settlement. Soon after, or from the time of this event, he ceased to preach. He was appointed a civil magistrate, officiated in that capacity, and remained in the town until his death. During the nine years of his ministry, fourteen were admitted by profession, and nine by letter, and eleven owned the covenant, so called, according to the practice of most of the churches in N. England, in those days. After that period, until the time of my ordination, I find record of admission of *one* member only. There was a long time of deathlike sleep in the church, until about the year 1785, when it pleased God to pour out his spirit, and cause a great revival of religion in his people, and of his work in converting sinners, in New Ipswich, under the ministry of the venerable Mr. Farrar, and soon it extended, in some measure, to this and other

towns. This part of the vineyard, although in a very deplorable state, was not wholly passed by; some few christians were awakened, and brought to submit themselves to their long neglected duty.

Many of the people of Mason, especially of the young, flocked to the solemn meetings at New Ipswich, and were struck with wonder, and soon some were convicted of sin, and became anxious for their soul's salvation, and shortly after were rejoicing in the hope of pardoning mercy. But such was the state of the church in Mason, destitute of a minister, broken, dispirited, that the new converts sought to unite with the church in New Ipswich, to which they had become greatly attached, by their acquaintance with the members, which the situation and intercourse had brought about, and by that mutual love, which new born souls who have mourned, and wept, and rejoiced together, feel. Their request was granted, on condition that they removed their relation, whenever the church in Mason should become settled. One happy effect of this revival, was a determination in the church and congregation, to seek the settlement of a gospel minister; and, in the very mysterious providence of God, the present speaker was elected to this office, and is continued to this day.

Just before my ordination, those who were residing in town, members of other churches, and these members of the New Ipswich church, removed their relation to this church. The church consisted of thirty-six members when I settled with them, and has now rising one hundred and fifty-seven, in this town, in regular standing. The whole number added, during my ministry, is two hundred and eighty-one; of these, two hundred and sixty-one by profession. A small number indeed compared to the number of inhabitants, and length of time, although we have been favored with some precious seasons of refreshing, from the presence of the Lord, seasons when the Holy Spirit has come down with power, and wrought wonders, making the word of God powerful, and causing joy

and gladness on earth and in heaven, over penitent sinners. It will be doubtless refreshing to some, to be reminded of those years, in which they rejoiced when first they knew the Lord, or rejoiced when salvation came to their house, and their dear friends became dearer to their hearts, by being united to the family of God.

The years 1801 and 1802 were indeed years of the right hand of God. After a long season in which but few, and at distant intervals, were persuaded to embrace the Savior, God was pleased to grant such a refreshing season, as never had before been experienced in this place, and the fruit that was gathered, was an addition of fifty-four members by profession. The number that united with the Baptist church, I cannot tell. It seemed then, as if it could not be, that there should be such a lowering down as would be like night after a bright and glorious day. But oh! what wonderful changes we have witnessed, which should humble our souls, while we rejoice in the goodness of God, that after his spirit has been grieved away, and his people gone away backward, he should remember them in mercy. Again, in the year 1812, was a short season of the special display of the mercy of God, and twenty-five were added to the church. After this, only now and then a mercy drop was found to fall, until the year 1826, which was a year more distinguished than any other in the annals of this church. God wrought gloriously, every part of the town was visited, and so manifest was the work of God, that for a time, all opposition seemed to be silenced, and the fruit of this glorious revival, was an addition to this church, of sixty-two members. Oh! that we may soon see such another day of the mercy and goodness of God. As the fruits of this revival, there were added to the church in 1826 and in 1827, seventy-nine members; in 1831, twenty-one, and in 1834 and 1835, thirty-two. Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations, and think what changes will shortly take place here.

When I look around on this assembly, I can see but one of

the number of those, who from this town joined the church in New Ipswich, and removed their relation at the time of my settlement. Then they were young, but where are they? I can see but two [Jonathan Batchelder, and the widow Polly Dunster] of all the thirty-six, which composed the church in that solemn hour, when I was constituted their pastor. Where are they? Some have removed to other churches, and perhaps remain on earth, but most of them have fallen asleep. Oh! how near at hand, should this view bring the time of our own departure; how excite us to be up and doing, while it is day. It is matter of rejoicing certainly to me, that when we leave this house, we have a place of worship to which we may repair, and that, although I minister no longer in this house, or any other, I do not leave you as sheep without a shepherd.

Where will be the present inhabitants of this town, after the revolution of such another period as we have contemplated. Certainly, with many, the places that now know them, shall know them no more. Some few may remain on earth, monuments of God's sparing mercy and goodness. It is hoped, that many will be shouting the praises of redeeming love in heaven; and oh! distressing thought! it is feared that some will be wailing their folly and madness, in eternal despair. What changes may be expected to take place, in half a century to come, in this church and congregation, and the inhabitants of this town. The farms we now cultivate with so much care, will have passed into other hands. The houses we now inhabit, will not be inhabited by us then. This house, which has been consecrated to God, for his service, and the place where he has displayed his mercy, will then be mouldered into ruins.

The house to which we are about to remove will become old, and the religious assembly will be another generation; while we shall probably all be sleeping in dust. Yes, that communion table will be surrounded with other members, unless God in his wrath shall remove his candlestick. Not

only will these seats be vacated by this assembly, not only will the present communicants cease from coming to this table, not only will these walls cease to resound with the voice of praise from the lips of this assembly, but the house in which we are to worship after this day, will be filled with other worshipers than those who may have the privilege to unite with us in the first religious exercises in that earthly temple. In thirty years another generation will occupy our present places.

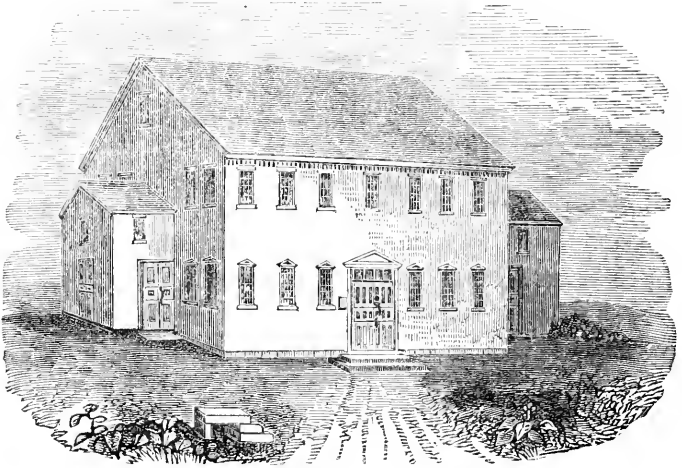
It is right that as we leave this house, we should leave it under the impression of such remarkable truths. I cannot however, say farewell to this house, before once more calling on christian brethren and sisters, to remember the time is short, and to do with their might what they have to do; think not your work is done because you leave this house of worship. Keep in grateful remembrance the works of God. Take courage from his precious promises and his dealings with his people, in the years that are gone, be instant in season and out of season. Cease not to plead with God, for the outpouring of his spirit upon this church and congregation. Let your light so shine, that others seeing your good works, may come and put their trust in that God and Saviour you love and adore. Oh! sinners, this is the last message to you from this place, you can have but little time left, the door of mercy is now open; O! fly to the Saviour, who stands with open arms to receive you, while it is yet an accepted time, and a day of salvation.

I now bid farewell in my own name, and in the name of this church and congregation, to this house as a place of worship, as the place of our solemn assemblies.

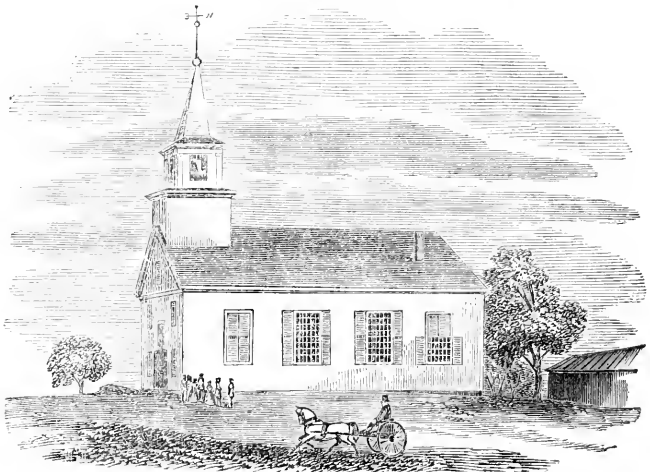
FAREWELL TO THIS PULPIT: to me indeed, for many years, the dearest spot on earth. And although I expect not to labor any more in this pulpit, if I do in any other, I never shall think of this place, and remember the days of old, without such associations as will be calculated to move the feelings of humility and gratitude.

FAREWELL TO THIS HOUSE, which has been the place, in which we have witnessed many painful and joyous scenes.

O! may these walls, once consecrated to God, never be *desecrated* or *polluted*, by being made the place where infidelity or error shall be disseminated; or the spirit of party, manage to subvert the freedom of this favored land.



OLD MEETING HOUSE. FIRST OCCUPIED NOVEMBER 3, 1790.



NEW MEETING HOUSE. FIRST OCCUPIED NOVEMBER, 1837.



## A FUNERAL SERMON,

DELIVERED AT MASON, N. H., ON LORD'S DAY,

DECEMBER 10, 1826,

OCCASIONED BY THE DEATH OF

CAPTAIN HIRAM SMITH,

Who Deceased December 6, 1826, Aged 25 Years.

BY REV. EBENEZER HILL.

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JOB XXI. 23, 24, 25, 26.

One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet. His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow. And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure. They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them.

ONE interesting point of instruction conveyed in these words of the aged, experienced, and afflicted Job, is manifestly this. The grave may be very near to the most prosperous, and healthy, and strong, as well as to those who endure the greatest afflictions, and most severe sufferings. I shall endeavor, briefly, to establish this truth, in order to exhibit some of the important instructions which the great uncertainty of life seems forcibly to convey to us all; and to prepare the way for such application and addresses as the solemn scene which so lately passed before our eyes, together with others of no long date, seem to require.

Job was a man of very eminent piety. It appears from divine testimony, that he exceeded all the men on earth in his day, in devotedness to God, and in labor after inward

purity, and practical holiness. "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" Job was a wise man; a man of good understanding; a man of much and careful observation. It is evident he was well acquainted with the history of preceding ages, so far as this was handed down by tradition; and he had attentively observed the dispensations of Divine Providence in his own day. The remark in the text was the result of his own observation, confirmed by the testimony of the fathers, who had lived long before him. And the same truth has been gaining additional evidence in every age of the world since, down to the present day. "One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet. His breasts are full of milk and his bones are moistened with marrow. And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure. They shall lie down in the dust, and the worms shall cover them."

This truth also comes to us with authority; being written by the pen of inspiration, preserved by the providence of God, and making a part of the holy scriptures. O let us feel our personal interest in this solemn truth! As we know that it is appointed to all men once to die; as we know that we are of the dust, and must return to dust again; so we are taught in the text, that we are not sure of any long previous warning of the time of our dissolution. No circumstances in life can give any security that death is not at the door.

If to be full of strength, and free from any disease, the blood and spirits flowing with life and vigor, can give no security for the continuance of life; then surely no attachments to life, no worldly circumstances, no pleasing prospects, no connections formed, no engagements made, can give the least assurance that the grave is not just before us. How often do we see this melancholy truth demonstrated! We do not need to repair to the chronicles of ancient times for evidence that the young, even children, and the sprightly youths of fairest

promise, may suddenly drop into an untimely grave. Neither need we go far for proof that the young, the strong and vigorous—their parents' hope, their parents' joy, while in the full enjoyment of health,—their warm and lively imaginations painting bright prospects before them, which seem to them certain; perhaps forming connections, which they fondly believe will be lasting, and on which they ground the warmest expectations of happiness—we need not, I say, go far for proof, that such may, in an unexpected hour, fall into the cold embrace of death.

Parents, while they feel not, or scarcely begin to feel any of the decays of nature; while their nerves are strong, and their bodily organs are able to perform their functions with ease, and they behold with joy, their children like olive plants around their tables, or settling in the world with hopeful prospects—no sickness, no apparent messenger of death alarms them—*they* may drop and die in the fulness of their strength; or their children may fall before their eyes. In either case, how unlooked for, how surprising the change! Circumstances in life give no more security against death, than health. Death spares the rich no more than the poor. Engagements, of whatever kind, are unavailing to protect against death. We may have much upon our hands to do, much unfinished business, according to our promises to others, or plans which we have laid out for ourselves; but as our full strength will not be able to withstand, so our engagements and promises will not move death to delay his stroke, when commissioned to strike. And oftentimes there is little or no warning given, by any previous indisposition, before the strong man is made to bow. One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet, as well as another at whose door death had seemed to knock, by long continued, or frequent sicknesses.

Death, in unnumbered forms, stalks in every path we tread. The grave is ever before us, and we are constantly approaching it; and no one can say that the next step is not into it.

As David said of himself, so it may be with us, "There is but a step between me and death." The prophet was directed to cry, "All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof as the flower of the field. The grass withereth and the flower fadeth; because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it. Surely the people is grass." Job also, guided by the Holy Spirit, hath said, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth as a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." Surely then no one may consistently boast himself of to-morrow. However firm his health now is, he may then be in his grave.

It is not my intention to labor to prove a truth so evident in frequent occurrences. I have barely reminded you, my fellow-mortals, of what we all admit, I trust, and what every one must admit, who receives testimony of God, or only casts his eye over a little space around him; and I have done it for this purpose, that our minds might be prepared to receive the instruction which such facts press upon all the living.

You will suffer me to state, and, I beseech all duly to weigh, some consequences which must follow from the foregoing acknowledged facts. And,

1. If then in the midst of life we are in death; if, in the fullness of our strength, and in our brightest worldly prospects, we are liable every moment to be cut down by death, and in the grave to be hidden from the world and all it contains; to have all our connections dissolved, and to leave all our earthly enjoyments behind us forever; then, certainly, they are miserably poor who have no better interest than what this world affords; nor enjoyments superior to all those of time and sense. Though they be now free from suffering pain, in full health and strength; though placed in the most easy and flattering circumstances, and having the brightest earthly prospects before them, they are poor indeed! We may feel ourselves to-day to be full and happy in our wealth and friends; but if these be all we have, in one short hour

we may have nothing. Is not vanity inscribed on all this world, when immortal beings seek their happiness in it; and neither the most vigorous health, nor the greatest abundance, nor the most endeared connections and friends, can save us a moment from death; and as soon as death passes upon us we must leave the world as naked as we came into it! O, if we have not a better inheritance, richer enjoyments, and more glorious prospects than all this world can afford, we are in an unenviable, in a most pitiable state.

2. A correct view of the uncertainty of life, the certainty of death, and the change produced by death, shews the inestimable value of Religion.

It is only religion, personal religion, which consists in conformity of heart to the character and government of God, and the gospel of salvation by Jesus Christ, that can reconcile the mind to leave the world, support it in the near view of death, and render the soul happy after death. O then, of what incalculable worth is religion; since we all must die, leave kindred and friends, and possessions behind us, and launch into the eternal world. Nothing but that glorious hope which springs from feeling reconciliation to God, trust in Christ's atoning blood for the pardon of sin, and belief in the promise of his favor forever, can enable us to view the world receding, and the constant, near and certain approach of death, without dismay. And it is only evidence that they possessed this religion, which can give us consoling hopes, and comfort our hearts, concerning those who were dear to us, but are hidden from our eyes in the cold grave. It is this religion only which fits the soul for heaven. Who then can conceive, much less express the danger of every soul, destitute of religion, and thus unprepared to die. For no one knows the day of his death; and there is no change of moral character after death. There is no work, nor devise, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave; yet the soul must exist forever, and in a state to be decided according to the character formed, and the deeds done in the body: Who then can

rest without evidence of a heart by grace subdued to the will and service of God? without evidence of vital union to the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Savior of sinners? Surely to know Jesus Christ, and him crucified; to know him as the Savior in whom we trust, whom we love, and whom we serve, must be that wisdom which is thus described by the king of Israel, "Wisdom is more precious than rubies; her merchandise is better than the merchandise of silver; and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold on her; and happy is every one that retaineth her." O, who can dare, in this dying world, to believe his own immortality, and not seek this treasure!

3. The view which has been presented, of the close connection between us and death, between every thing here and the grave, should teach us to live habitually as strangers and travelers in this dying world, and not to set our affections on things below. Surely our hearts ought to sit very loose to all things we hold by such an uncertain tenure as life. And to make anything which is purely of this world, our confidence, our hope, our idol, is not only *exceedingly criminal* but *exceedingly absurd*. Why should we cleave so fast to that which we may so soon be called to leave forever? O if the case be with us as has been represented, how careful should we be not to suffer any inferior attachment to hinder us in seeking the present enjoyment of God, and laboring to secure an heirship to the glories of his heavenly kingdom.

In attempting an application of the subject to the assembly at large, the few aged people present will permit me to offer a word directly to them in the first place.

Is it true, my aged friends, that some die in youth, yea, die in their full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet? Have you walked so many years on earth, that but few of all your youthful acquaintances are left? then, while you well may wonder that you are alive this day, you may know that the time of your departure is at hand. Although you have been wonderfully spared, you have not obtained a discharge from

the warfare. You must meet the king of terrors. Are you prepared *now* to meet death? Are you prepared to stand in the presence of the holy God? If any of you have lived to this day without returning to God by unfeigned repentance, and by faith in Jesus Christ, not only death, but everlasting destruction is before you. The sparing mercy of God, if you have rejected, and continue to reject his grace, offered in the gospel, will only aggravate your condemnation. O then, while a few more sands may run, and you are continued prisoners of hope, turn to the strong hold. If any of you, aged friends, have a comforting evidence that you are prepared, through grace, for a peaceful death, see that ye be as servants who watch and wait for the coming of their Lord at an unknown hour.

From the aged, I turn to call upon the middle aged, and young people. I ask you, dear friends, to consider, in view of the subject, and the occasion of it, and let your own understanding answer the following questions. Is it possible that you can have any business, or concerns of so much immediate importance as the immediate care of your souls? Is there any thing you cannot neglect with more propriety, and less hazard than preparation for death? Can you believe that you may die in the fulness of your strength, and yet dare to live to another day without seeking God! Can any of you dare, not to attempt now to do what you must wish you had done, but it may be too late to do, when you feel the cold hand of death?

But it is expected that some particular address will be made to the mourners; made mourners indeed, by the affecting instance of mortality which has been publicly mentioned this day; and for whom, I trust, many have earnestly prayed, that they may be sanctified, and supported, and comforted, under their heavy trial.

To the dear friend of the deceased we first look, and with no ordinary feelings of sympathetic grief. How has this truth, thus painfully realized, "one dieth in his full strength,"

struck a death blow to your pleasing earthly prospects; perhaps fond dreams of years to enjoy the society of a beloved friend; and that ye might go down the vale of years together. Perhaps you were anticipating much worldly comfort and respect, by your mutual efforts, and mutual kindness. Perhaps hoping that you might be helpers of each other's joy in a wearisome journey to a brighter world. Death has stepped in, and the bright visions have disappeared. Your friend is gone! But while the scene through which you have passed, is heart affecting, and long must be, it is instructing; for it is the voice of God. He does not forbid you to mourn; and no one may; but He calls you to take up the cross, to humble yourself under his mighty hand, to bear the yoke of trouble in your youth; and you have the prayers of many that you may find it good for you.

I say, the scene through which you have passed, is instructing. You cannot easily be taught, and more impressively, the uncertainty of life, and the importance of being prepared for death, at an unwarned hour. You cannot have set before you, more feelingly, the uncertainty of all earthly prospects. But are you comfortless? O there is a source of consolation always open for the afflicted. God reigns. The heavenly Father reigns. He who afflicts calls the afflicted to seek him early in their afflictions. We hope you know the way to the mercy-seat through a crucified Savior. Draw near in humble boldness in his name, and he who has laid this burthen on you will support you. O let the loss of an earthly friend render the *Friend of sinners* more precious to your heart. Let the disappointments in human calculations raise your heart above the world, and lead you to seek divine consolations, and press forward towards the mark for the prize of the high calling, and you will find lasting benefit from the scenes, which for the present are so grievous. If Christ be indeed the friend of your heart, he will never leave nor forsake you. And you may look forward to a sudden death and an early grave with composure; or quietly wait all the days of your appointed



time, till your change shall come, even though you continually bear a cross.

To the bereaved parents all our eyes turn, and our hearts move with tenderness.

God has been very gracious to you, in bestowing an uncommon share of health in your family. Your children have all been spared to grow up to manhood; and the voice of health has been heard almost constantly in your habitation. Now grievous sickness and death have entered your home. The breach is made. A beloved son is taken away in the fulness of his strength; and while your hopes and fond expectations were rising, and his prospects brightening. How suddenly, how unlooked for, has your trouble come! But you will remember, mourning friends, "Affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground." You will eye the hand of God, which has touched you in this event; and O listen to his voice. It is, *Prepare suddenly to exchange time for eternity*. You see a breach made in your family, which is a sure presage that all the rest must go, and that you must follow, or precede them. You see that you are not sure of wearing out with old age, or that you shall have long warning of the approach of death. Healthy, promising, children are apt to be their parents' hope in their declining years: but you are now feelingly admonished not to lean on such props. O let the Lord be your confidence, and then, though all earthly props sink under you, you will be supported and comforted; for in every affliction you may repair to him, and he will be found a present help. Your age admonishes you that your time must be short; but what scenes of trouble, what sore disappointments are first to be endured, you do not, and cannot know. You are to look for troubles in this world. May you be favored with the teachings of the Holy Spirit, and make a wise improvement of this affliction, and be prepared for what is to come. We wish you divine consolation. God has inflicted the wound, and He alone can heal. You may lose the sensible and pun-

gent feeling of your trouble; time will render the remembrance less painful; but it is only God who can heal the wound, and repair the breach.

What can I now say to the brethren and sisters of the deceased? what need I say? The voice of God speaks to you loudly, and most intelligibly. A beloved brother has fallen in the prime of life, in the fulness of his strength. Your health, your strength, your prime of life, can no more secure you against the arrest of death. Dear friends, be entreated to listen to the voice of Providence, which calls you to attend to the concerns of your souls, without delay. And, O, listen to the dying request of your brother. Did you witness his anxiety for his own soul, and for your souls? Did you hear his warning, supplicating voice, while his reason lasted, urging you to seek religion; to become reconciled to God without delay? Did you hear him reprobate the sentiment he had labored to believe, and warn you against it? Did you hear him declare his full conviction of his own just condemnation as a sinner; and that the only hope of escaping everlasting death was through the atoning blood of Christ, even by faith in him? O, then, rely upon it, the time will come when the favor of God, peace in the soul, and hope like an anchor, sure and steadfast, will be found, *by you*, to be of more value than the whole world, and all the fulness thereof. When shall this be sought? You may die suddenly, in the fulness of your strength. You may be deprived of reason before the close of life; and then nothing can be done to prepare for death. It is certain *you must* die, the time is unknown; and when death has his commission to strike, he is inexorable. O then let not the plea be made in vain, acquaint *now* yourselves with GOD, and be at peace with him, that good may come to your souls.

On this solemn occasion the officers and soldiers composing the Militia Company of which the late HIRAM SMITH was Captain, have a right to be particularly noticed in this address; for they are specially afflicted in this mournful event of

Divine Providence ; for they are, indeed, mourners, as their appearance at his funeral, and on this holy day, clearly manifests.

How affecting, how alarming have been the calls of Providence to this Company ! In the short space of one year and a half, two Captains, young and active, have been cut down, not by the sword of battle, but by that foe with whom each one, officer and soldier, must contend in single combat, and before whom each one must fall.

You, respected officers and soldiers, notwithstanding the military parade you make, live in a time of profound peace in your country. There are no apparent indications that you may soon be called to active service. Why then all this military parade ? Why all these pains to learn the discipline and art of war ? O, methinks I hear you say, "It is the dictate of wisdom, in peace to prepare for war. It is uncertain how soon we may be called to defend by force and arms, our dearest rights, and jeopardize our lives in the high field of battle ; and what then, if found unacquainted with the art of war, wholly unprepared, undisciplined, unarmed ?" forcible reasoning ! O let it apply with all its aptness, with all its force, in another case. Here I may address you as fellow soldiers, although I am unacquainted with all your military manœuvres. Before *us* is a war in which there is no discharge ; no engagements, nor attachments, nor fears, can be an excuse. Here, is it not equally the dictate of wisdom, *In peace prepare for war?* that we should arm ourselves with that armor which will not fail in the day of battle ; acquaint ourselves with the holy discipline, and become expert in the use of those arms ? When called to combat with the common enemy, death, and all the innumerable foes of our souls' salvation, it is only when clad in the whole armor of God, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit, and the breast-plate of righteousness, that we can come off conquerors and more than conquerors. Thus armed and disciplined, we shall be crowned with victory,

although the enemy shall seem to triumph. You now, fellow men, appear as soldiers. But are you soldiers of the cross? are you marching in the ranks of the great Captain of salvation, and obeying his orders? Then may you proceed boldly. But whatever leader you may follow, when you fall as you must, you fall to rise no more.

Hence, whenever you meet on military occasions, your very manœuvres are calculated to remind you of interesting truths, and to convey to you important instruction. And it seems strange that in a christian land, military meetings are not generally solemn meetings. Every word of command given, every manœuvre performed, every step marched to the music should remind you of the necessity of preparation for the great conflict, and of the danger of being untrained to the holy war. Can *this Company* meet again and trifle with the art of war? Can a training be a season of rude merriment after this? Can the soldiers, who see their officers fall before them, feel safe, until they have enlisted under the great Captain of salvation, Jesus Christ, the same forever? This day you see, you have painful evidence, that the art of war cannot defend from death. No more can any other arts or devices. Your Captain was esteemed a good officer; but he has fallen. Death did not respect *him*: no more will he respect *you*. Soldiers may inconsiderately brave death in the field of battle; but it is only the christian soldier who has true courage in the hour of danger, and can contemplate the constant approach of death without dismay. It is not courage, it is dreadful hardiness to jeopardize life fearlessly without the prevailing hope of a happy eternity.

Soldiers, you acknowledge Captain SMITH was a good officer. But you may rely upon it, for I had it from his own lips, he felt the worth of his immortal soul; he acknowledged himself justly condemned as a sinner; with lively emotions he mourned his past neglects; and he was anxious for the salvation that is in Christ. Now will you not be anxious for salvation? can concern for the soul be unbecoming a soldier?

To you, the surviving officers in this Company, this day must be a solemn day. Who can be the successor to your late Captain, and look back one year and a half, and not tremble? Who can rise to a higher grade and not tremble? But why speak of this? Each one, whether he rise in rank or not, must bow to the king of terrors, and go to that world from which there is no return. Who, which of you, is prepared to follow next? whose turn will it be next? This is a question no man can answer. One in his full strength as likely as one who is diseased and feeble. O then, let me affectionately entreat you, and not entreat in vain, to take care of your souls. Now give yourselves to Christ. Delay no longer. Receive him as your commander; rely on his righteousness; believe and obey his word. Then, and not till then, may you live in peace, die in peace, and be crowned with victory.

THE SUBSTANCE OF TWO LECTURES  
 ON THE  
 HISTORY OF MASON,  
 DELIVERED BEFORE THE LYCEUM  
 IN MASON VILLAGE.

BY REV. EBENEZER HILL.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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TO THE REV. EBENEZER HILL,

Dear Sir:—We, whose names are here subscribed, were appointed a committee, to request a copy for publication, of your recent instructive and interesting discourse upon the early history of Mason, delivered before the Mason Village Lyceum. Desirous of preserving the history of the past, and admonished by your advanced age, that we cannot long hope to enjoy your society, we trust you will comply with our request.

Yours truly,

GEORGE ELLIOT,  
 THOMAS H. MARSHALL,  
 D. F. RICHARDSON.

Mason Village, February 24, 1846.

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To George Elliot, Esq., Dr. Thomas H. Marshall, and Rev. D. F. Richardson,  
 Gentlemen:—The request of the Lyceum, made through you, of a copy of the Lectures on the History of the Town, delivered last winter, I cannot refuse. Yet I am constrained to appreciate the request, rather as a mark of respect to old age, than as an evidence of merit in the performance.

Various hindrances have caused delay in examining facts, and in transcribing and preparing the copy. Such as it is, I cheerfully present it to you, and through you, Gentlemen, to the members of the Lyceum, with many warm wishes for the spiritual and temporal prosperity of the risen and rising generation.

Very respectfully your friend and humble servant,

EBENEZER HILL.

Mason, May 1, 1846.

## LECTURE.

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Most people take pleasure in reading history, and learning the events of ancient days. But when the history relates to scenes in which their immediate ancestors were concerned—to events which have a bearing on their own state and condition, the interest deepens as they proceed.

Who will not find entertainment and profit in reading the history of England from its earliest period? But as the time approaches when our forefathers were forced to leave their pleasant dwellings and their beloved country, and seek an asylum in a newly discovered continent, where they might enjoy civil and religious liberty, what man of common sensibility—certainly, what true American, is not moved more and more? And is there even a scholar in our common schools, who can read the landing of the pilgrims on the rock in Plymouth, and the severe sufferings they had to endure, and the labors they had to perform, without feeling his heart beat quick within him? But history, whether civil, ecclesiastical, or biographical, not only affords entertainment, but in a pleasing manner valuable instruction. Nor is it necessary that the history should abound in marvelous and wonder-stirring events, to render it pleasant and profitable.

Entertaining these views, I am led to believe that the history of Mason may be thus useful to the present inhabitants of the town, and especially to the young people; and in compliance with a special request, I now attempt to present such

facts relative to this town, and its early inhabitants, as I have been able to collect, from records which have come into my hands, and from conversation had with old people, almost all of whom are now—as we must shortly be—in the grave.

The land included in this town is part of a grant made to Captain John Mason, of London, by the king of England, and it appears from records that certain persons bought of John Tufton Mason, heir of John Mason, a tract of his said grant in New Hampshire, containing about 77 square miles, of which tract this town is a part.

At a meeting of these proprietors by purchase of Mason, held at Portsmouth, Joseph Blanchard, of Dunstable, was accredited their agent; and as such, in their name, by deed or charter, conveyed to a company, whose names are expressed in the instrument, a certain tract of land five miles square, which was the dimension and shape of this town in its original grant: but afterwards a strip of land containing 200 acres was taken from No. 2, now Wilton, and annexed to No. 1, so called; also when the Province line was run between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, a gore of land was cut off from Townsend, and annexed to Mason; so that it was no longer square, but wider from North to South than from East to West. The charter or deed was executed June 16, 1749; and the names of thirty-four men are inserted in the instrument as grantees; most of whom, as far as I can judge by the names and other circumstances, were from the towns of Dunstable, Hollis, Groton, Pepperell and Townsend. This township, thus obtained, was designated No. 1, in the Province of New Hampshire, north or back of Townsend.

In the charter were certain reservations, which shew the regard, both grantors and grantees had for the education of the youth, and the moral and religious instruction of all, as well as for the comfort of the early settlers. For instance, two lots of land were reserved for encouragement to build mills; six acres were reserved for a common, wherever the meeting house should be located. Three shares were



reserved for other uses, viz: One share to the first settled minister; one share for the ministry from generation to generation.\* This right has been disposed of, and I say *happily* disposed of, (notwithstanding the good intentions of the grantors, and perhaps the illegality of the act,) for in this day it is not a bone of contention. A third share was reserved for the support of schools; and it is a matter of *regret* that this also is disposed of.

There were not only reservations, but also conditions in the charter. The first condition was that a meeting house should be built by the grantees, for the use of the inhabitants; and built as near the centre, as by the grantees should be judged most convenient. The time for this to be done was limited to May, 1753. Such a house within about three rods north east of the now Old Meeting House, was erected, enclosed and covered, and little more ever done to it. Thus, it remained the place of worship, until after what is now called the Old Meeting House in the centre was occupied.†

Another condition in the charter was, that on some lot in each share, three acres should be cleared, enclosed, and fitted for mowing or tillage in two years from the date; and on each should be a house at least sixteen feet square, and seven feet or more studded, with a chimney and cellar, fitted for a dwelling, and some person or family inhabit it, before the last of May, 1752; and residence be continued until May, 1755.

The settlement of the town advanced slowly. Yet it appears from the report of a committee, appointed to ascertain who had *not* performed their duty, that in three years after the grant, twenty-three settlements had been begun—few had more than eight acres cleared, and the greatest clearing was twenty acres. Two good houses, one barn and

\* Supposed to be three lots.

† This house was afterwards torn down; and at the time the following incident took place. When the frame was all down except the four posts confined by the gallery sills, Amos Dakin was standing on one of these sills, when the remainder of the frame swayed and fell. He kept his place until almost to the ground, and then leaped and fell flat; the timber just passed over him, and he received no injury.

a young orchard were reported. What kind of houses, the first were, may be gathered from this circumstance, that Mr. Obadiah Parker's house was the first framed house in the town, perhaps the only one, at that time,\* and only two were called good. From which we may conclude that twenty-one out of the twenty-three were made of round logs, or at best with square timber; but one of these log houses remains to this day.†

When the settlements were very few, instead of being compact, as might have been expected from the social nature of man, they were scattered to almost every part of the town. Enosh Lawrence, whose axe was first heard to resound in our forests, was from Pepperell, and began his settlement in the south part of the town, where Ephraim Hildreth now lives. His wife was the first white woman in the town, and lived to old age. Nathan Hall, known here as Deacon Hall, also from Pepperell, began next to Mr. Lawrence, and settled in the north part, where Joseph Saunders now lives. Obadiah Parker located himself on the west side of the town. There were only three women in the town, when Mrs. Parker left her relatives and friends in Chelmsford, to accompany her husband into this wilderness, which was then considered as almost *the far West*. Thomas Tarbell settled in the east, where some of his descendants now live, and a Mr. Powers located in the extreme east. For a time the only place that appeared like a neighborhood was on the hill, where deacon Hall settled. Soon after him Henry Jefts began where Jonathan Batchelder lives; Nathan Fish where Ira Hall lately lived, and one Samuel Tarbell where Luther Nutting lives.

The character of the first settlers was that of plain, honest farmers. Most of them, in the common language of the world, were poor. Some of them had scarcely more than their clothes, their axe and a little provision. They were

\* This is the old house on the place where Samuel Wheeler Weston now lives.

† The house in which Stephen Foster now resides.

also men of little education, and their children suffered greatly for want of schooling.

Would our children and youth know how great their privileges are, and how to prize them, let them, in imagination, go back fifty or sixty years, and place themselves for a little time beside those of their age at that period. The children were then so widely scattered, that for a time it was impracticable to form them into schools. The standard of education also was low. A man who could read plain reading, and cypher to the Rule of Three, was considered qualified to teach a common school. And even in the early days of *your* fathers, my young friends, when they went to school they had not a well constructed and comfortable school house. Most commonly they had a room in some private house, miserably fitted up with benches to sit on, and a kind of tottering table on which to write, and not unfrequently scarcely light enough to see to read. Add to all this, they had very few books in schools or in families. In many places scholars seldom if ever heard in school of English Grammar, Geography, Natural Philosophy, Mathematics, &c., which are studies now brought within the reach of almost every youth. If therefore the present generation do not exceed the preceding in useful learning, great blame must be attached to them.

Our forefathers, and mothers too, who subdued the wilderness before them, were a hardy and an industrious race. The prime object of their clothing was comfort, and their food was very uniform and plain. Tea was not known among them in this early period. In summer, milk and bread was the food, especially of children, morning and evening; and in the winter, as a general thing, they had a good boiled dish for dinner, which laid the foundation for a supper, and for a breakfast next morning for the family. And I presume those early inhabitants of the town never heard of such a disease as dyspepsia. They were not distinguishingly subject to fevers; and cases of consumption were very rare; and where they did occur, they were slow in their progress—not unfre-

quently did it take years to do the work, which consumption now sometimes performs in a few weeks. Also, when our hardy ancestors were going through the toil of subduing the wilderness, they did not have ardent spirits to cool them in the heat of labor, when toiling in the sun, or to warm them when buffeting the storms, or enduring the cold of winter.

Another trait in the character of the early settlers of No. 1, is to be distinctly noticed, or we shall injure them. Most of them were brought up where the holy Sabbath was regarded, and they were accustomed to hear the gospel preached. They did not, when removed far from the sanctuary, and from the ordinances of the gospel, feel as if this were a desired freedom. They not only made early efforts, even before they were an incorporate body, to have occasional preaching, but they were desirous of having a minister settled among them; and few and feeble as they were, they did not shrink from the effort on account of the expense. As early as 1753, the proprietors and inhabitants voted to allow sixty pounds (Old Tenor undoubtedly,) to pay for preaching, and from this time it appears they had preaching more or less every year.

Previous to this, they had voted to build a meeting house, agreed upon the dimensions, appointed a committee, and directed them "to enclose the house, lay the under floor, and build a convenient place for the minister to stand in to preach." This was an arduous undertaking considering their number, and especially that they had no mill, in which they could prepare materials for building from their own forests. But it was done. And having a house for worship, they were not satisfied with preaching part of the time. They voted to settle a minister as early as 1762, i. e., in thirteen years after the grant of the township. At the same time they gave a call to Mr. Ebenezer Champney, (the late Judge Champney, of New Ipswich,) to settle with them; and offered him as settlement "700 £ silver, O. T. £400 salary yearly, and a right of land." This was a generous offer considering their

number and circumstances. I have named these sums more particularly for the benefit, or perhaps the amusement, of the young people, who may wish for some information respecting this Old Tenor, and its valuation.

The currency of our ancestors in New England was reckoned in pounds, shillings and pence, and was called Old Tenor, in distinction from another valuation of the same denominations of money, called Lawful money, or sometimes New Tenor. Now although the same terms were used in both, their meaning, or valuation was widely different. The denomination in Old Tenor was just seven and a half times less in value, than the same in Lawful money. Hence to reduce Lawful money into Old Tenor is to multiply it by  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , and to reduce Old Tenor into Lawful money, divide by the same. Hence we see that the offer made to Mr. Champney was, in the present currency of the day, \$311 12 cents settlement, and \$177 78 cents salary.\* Mr. Champney did not accept the call; nevertheless the people were not discouraged. In 1766, they gave a call to one James Parker, with an offer of £400 O. T., until there were eighty families, and then £450 until one hundred families, from which time the salary should be established at £500. This call was not accepted; and it does not appear that any other like attempt was made, until an act of incorporation was obtained.

These hardy pioneers not only suffered many privations, but endured many severe hardships. Not the least of these was the labor of making roads, and for years the badness of traveling, where something was done to make a road. And until they could raise some grain on their new farms, all their bread stuffs, and most of their other provisions must be brought from the older settlements. The instance of hardship, which I am about to name, may be an extreme case, but it may help our young friends to form some idea of the sufferings incident to new settlers, especially to those, who are

\* Thus £700-:- $7\frac{1}{2}$ =£93, 6, 8 Lawful=\$311 11-|- settlement. Again, £400 O. T.-:-by  $7\frac{1}{2}$ =£53 6s. 8d. Lawful=to \$177 78-|-cents.

poor and destitute. Deacon Hall, who has been named, I have been informed, after having toiled all day on his farm, has in the night traveled on foot to Pepperell, and returned bringing a bag of meal on his shoulder for his hungry children; and then labored the next day as usual.

Not the least of the sufferings, and the cause of continued suffering, arose from their ignorance of clearing wood land, by felling the trees and then burning the ground over. I have been told by some of them that for several years, the only method of clearing the forest was to chop the wood, draw it together, pile it, burn the heaps, and then break up the ground with the plough, or breaking-up hoe, before planting or sowing. This accounts in some measure for the slow progress they at first made in clearing.

Again, the people suffered very much for years from want of mills. It was a primary object with the grantees and first settlers to have mills erected; and, as encouragement, mill seats were looked out, and land granted and contracts made, but I can find no evidence, of a mill of any description in the town before the year 1766 or 7. In the year 1767, I find an article in a warrant for a meeting of the proprietors, to see if they will accept the road by Thomas Barrett's mill, and build a bridge across Souhegan river, near said mill. It appears that Benjamin Bellows, Esq., contracted to build mills at this place, but did not fulfil his contract. And also that Thomas Barrett and Charles Barrett built mills in this place, and sold them to Amos Dakin, of Lincoln, Mass., who removed with his family into this town in the year 1768. At that time, seventy-eight years since, there was no opening in the dense forest, where this village now stands, except for the mill, and a spot cleared for a house. In 1767, Elias Elliot's mill was accepted by the proprietors. I have also evidence that not far from the same time, a mill was erected in the east part of the town, on the Ward place so called, where Mr. Bennet now lives.

Now think how much the people must have suffered who

lived ten or fifteen years, where, if they raised any grain they must carry it to Townsend or Pepperell, and sometimes even to Groton, to have it made into meal; and although they had timber in abundance, they could not have a board, but it must come from another town. Yet they submitted to these inconveniences and hardships with cheerfulness, and persevered in labor, till they had prepared for the comfort of their children.

Not only did the men display courage, and resolution, and public spirit, but I have been told by the women themselves, that they have traveled, some two, and some three miles through the woods, with nothing to direct their way but marked trees, to carry dinner to their husbands, when working at the meeting house. I believe that some of my hearers would think such a case a great hardship, if the case was theirs.

But, however strong female fortitude may be in duty, where none are exposed to danger but themselves, how must the tender mother suffer, if her young children are absent a little longer than was expected, or if out of sight when the light of day departs—where the wolves and other wild animals are so numerous, that their noise in the night would break those of their rest, who had toiled all day, and needed the refreshment of sleep?

Many of the early settlers reared up and left large families, and their descendants are numerous in the town; but some of the families are almost extinct. Our fathers, where are they? Many of them lived to be old. But they are gone.\*

As to natural curiosities, this town does not abound in them. There are no very remarkable caverns, or precipices, or streams; and we all know that the face of the ground is uneven, and the soil is stony. There is, however, in the deep

\* A case I will here name as very uncommon and remarkable. Deacon Hall, of whom I have spoken, built him a house in the early period of his settlement, and dwelt in it, with his family (which was not small) to his old age—till it was no longer habitable, and never did an instance of death occur in that house. Nevertheless, the builder, and I believe all that were brought up in that house, have gone the way of the earth.

hollow, east of the old meeting house, (where by some convulsion of nature the rocks are thrown together in wild confusion,) a small cave, which those who have visited, have thought worthy of a visit. The streams of water are small, yet they afford some valuable mill sites, on which are now eight saw-mills in operation part of the year, and six run of stone for grinding grain.

In this place, I will name another fact, which may be considered belonging to the history of the town. The hills were favorite hunting grounds, and long before a grant of the town was obtained, and for years after it began to be settled, the hunters frequently kindled fires in the woods for the benefit of their hunting. And if the hunters did not fire the woods, some men from lower towns did, that young sprouts might come up for young cattle to feed upon. By these means, some parts of the town, especially Pole Hill, so called, ranging south from the stone school house, was greatly injured, while yielding grain to those who did not own the soil. And some families in Groton used to make hay in the meadow, near the centre, called Nose-meadow, where they had a camp, and in the latter part of winter send up young cattle, and a black man named Boad, to feed and tend them, until they could get their living in the woods.\* Here Boad used to spend months alone, year after year, like Robinson Crusoe, "sole monarch of all he surveyed."

The period to which we have now arrived, was to this town like that of youth, just blooming into manhood. They began to think, and talk of being incorporated. They had a desire to be like other towns; and yet had fears whether equal to take such a stand. This kind of trembling state of mind appears from their votes at meetings, where the subject was agitated. At a meeting called partly for this purpose, April, 1766, it was finally voted, not to be incorporated at present. Thus it rested until January, 1768, and the meeting was

\* Boad's camp was but a few rods from the spot, on which Joel Ames' house now stands.— This Boad was a slave.



adjourned four weeks for consideration. At the adjournment it was voted to be incorporated, "and that Lt. O. Parker be appointed to attend to the business, and get it accomplished as soon as may be."

The next point to be settled, was the name by which the town should be called. And at a meeting held June, 1768, it was voted that the town be called Sharon. It does not appear from any records I have seen, or from any tradition which has reached me, why the name of Sharon was dropped, and the name Mason adopted. There was, however, a report current among the old people, that "a bell was sent from England for this town, as a present from the heirs of Mr. Mason," which, if fact, will account for the name. It is also reported, that by the knavery of the agent of Mr. Mason in Boston, the bell was lost to the town—that he sold the bell, and absconded with this and other dishonest gains. And the bell on the Old South in Boston, is said to be that bell. The next meeting was warned in the name of the inhabitants of Mason; and the place was no longer known as Number 1. But although they had assumed a rank among the towns in the Province, they felt themselves, as a society, weak and feeble. When the first tax was assessed under the corporation, there were but seventy-six rateable polls, and probably not more than fifty-six voters; for young men between eighteen and twenty-one years of age were rateable, and their rates charged to fathers or masters. And for a number of years, Brookline, then Raby, was classed with Mason to send a representative to the General Court; and the meetings for choice were held alternately at Brookline and Mason.

It will be necessary now to take some notice of the church, in connection with the history of the town. At that time a town was an incorporate *religious*, as well as civil society. And all the inhabitants of a town belonged to that society, except they united with, or formed another religious society, according to law. The meeting house erected by the original proprietors, was by them given to the town, and remained

the only house for their religious assemblies, and other public meetings, until the year 1790. It was an uncomfortable place. In that house did your fathers worship; and uncomfortable as it was, seldom did a Sabbath pass, even in the cold of winter, in which there was no meeting, after they had a stated ministry. A good number of the early settlers were members of the Congregational church, in the towns from which they removed, but no church was formed in Mason, until the year 1772, at which time Mr. Jonathan Searle was ordained their pastor. The church then consisted of twenty-one members, twelve brethren and nine sisters, all of whom are gone to their long home. When the church was gathered, it was stated to be a Calvinistic church, and that their articles of faith agree substantially with the principles of religion, contained in the Shorter Catechism of the Assembly of Divines.

Shortly after the settlement of Mr. Searle, unhappy difficulties arose between the pastor and the flock, which eventuated in his dismissal, in nine years and three months after his ordination. From that time Mr. Searle ceased to preach, but continued in the town, and officiated as a civil magistrate, to an advanced age. During his ministry, only fourteen were admitted to the church by profession, and nine by letter, and eleven owned the covenant, as it was called, according to the practice of many churches in New England, in those days. The last admitted by profession in Mr. Searle's ministry, was in April, 1777, and but one more, and that by letter, until 1790. Here was a long death-like sleep! but one added to the church in thirteen years. The sleep seems to have been profound—death-like indeed, until the year 1785, when a great revival of religion, and of the work of God, commenced in New Ipswich, under the ministry of the venerable Farrar—a name venerated indeed by all who knew him. The gracious work extended into other towns; and this part of the vineyard was remembered in mercy. Some few christians were awakened, and brought to apply themselves to

neglected duties; and the people in Mason, especially the young, flocked to the solemn meetings in New Ipswich, and soon some were reprov'd of sin, became anxious for their souls, and after a time, rejoiced in hope of pardoning mercy. Such, however, was the state of the church in Mason, broken, and dispirited, that the young candidates for the church were led to seek admission to the church in New Ipswich, to which they had become peculiarly attached by that acquaintance, which their situation and intercourse had brought about; and by that mutual love which new-born souls, who have mourned, and wept, and prayed and rejoiced together, must feel. Their request was granted, on condition that they remove their relation whenever the church in Mason should become in a settled state. In the year 1790, the resident members of other churches removed their relation, and the church was increased to thirty-six in number, and in the same year, Nov. 3d, was the present pastor ordained, and constituted pastor of this church. In this long period of fifty-six years, there have been precious seasons of revival. I will mention some of those seasons. In 1802, the church was increased by the addition of forty-four members—in 1812, added twenty-five—in 1826 and 7, added eighty-six—in 1834 and '35, added thirty-eight; and in 1841, added eighty-three. The whole number of members, received by profession and letter, is rising four hundred and fifty.

A Baptist church was embodied in this town, Oct. 28, 1786, then consisting of seven members, three males and four females. Additions were made by letter and profession to this church in this and neighboring towns. About this time, Mr. Wm. Elliot, an inhabitant of the town, commenced preaching the gospel, and labored much in this and other towns, as an evangelist, until in August, 1788, the church of which he was a member, gave him a call to become their pastor, which call he accepted, and was ordained by an ecclesiastical council, on the 3d Wednesday in November, 1788. For a time, the care of almost all the Baptist churches in the

vicinity, came upon him. He raised up a numerous family, and had two sons settled in the ministry. He lived to a good old age, his last sickness was very distressing, which he endured with patience, and died in the triumphs of faith, June 14, 1830, aged 81 years. The church of which he was pastor, is now merged in the Baptist church in Mason village.

In the month of May, in the year 1833, another church and society was gathered and embodied in this town, consisting at the time, of twenty-three members. This society assume only the name of *Christian*.

Since the year 1790, there has been no inconsiderable increase of inhabitants, and no little improvement in buildings, and other accommodations. The exact number of voters in 1790, is not ascertained; but in 1768, we may calculate about fifty-six, and in March, 1845, our check list told three hundred and six legal voters. In the year 1790, when almost the whole town undertook to build a meeting house, it was with many discouragements and fears. They felt poor and weak-handed for such an undertaking. The house was built and remains the meeting house of the town. And now, besides this, we have three meeting houses, and three religious societies, and probably each society equally able to build their house, as was the first.

I can reckon up but one hundred and ten dwelling houses, of every description, standing in the town in 1790. And at that time, on all the ground which contains this flourishing village, there were standing the first mill built here, one dwelling house, built at two times, for the accommodation of two families, and one barn.\* Now we can count fifty-two dwelling houses, three stores, one meeting house, three factory buildings—one in full operation, carrying two thousand four hundred and sixty-four spindles, in this village.

Compare the present state of the Columbian Factory, with the one first built here, and it will give a fair view of the advance of our country in manufactures, arts and commerce.

\* The widow Polly Hill now occupies the remaining part of the house.

The first Cotton Factory in Mason, commenced operation in the year 1813, with one hundred spindles, in four small frames, and was kept running night and day. At that time, the price of cotton was from twenty-five to thirty cents per pound, and the price of yarn, No. 16, was one dollar per pound. In 1814 cotton was forty cents, and yarn one dollar and sixteen cents per pound. At that time all the cotton was picked by hand, in private families, and the cloth was wove in house looms; and the price of shirting, was from thirty to forty cents per yard. For constant market the cloth must be sent in wagons to Albany. And at that time there was no market here for farm produce.

At the time referred to, 1790, there were but four, and those very poor, school houses in the town; now there are ten; some of them may be called good. And not only is the number of dwelling houses increased, but there is an advance in elegance and convenience. At that time many of the dwellings were miserably poor; and but one in all the town, Mr. Parker's, had any paint on the outside, and that scarcely perceptible by reason of age. And I can think of only three rooms in all the town, then adorned with paper hangings.

Since those ancient days there have been great changes in customs and fashions, and manner of living; and many conveniences have been introduced; but whether on the whole for the better, remains to be proved. At that period there was not a chaise, or other wheel carriage for pleasure, in all the town, (a light one horse wagon, for pleasure or business is a modern invention,) neither was there one single sleigh. To ride on horseback was fashionable for men and women; and could they have a single horse, this was traveling in style. It was not uncommon for a man and woman to ride on the same horse to meeting or a short journey, and carry one or two children. Probably if I should tell some of my young friends, that their mothers and grandmothers rode on a *pillion* behind their husbands, they would have no idea of that easy and commodious seat, a pillion. But, I have frequently seen

a man and his wife ride together on a horse to meeting, on the sabbath, after their united ages amounted to one hundred and sixty-nine years. It was also not uncommon for families to ride to meeting, or to make social visits, in the winter, on sleds drawn by oxen, and they would chat and smile as cheerfully, as they now do in a stage and four or six.

And will you, my young friends, believe that your mothers and grandmothers, and those who moved in the first grade of society, were not ashamed to be seen in the religious assembly, or in any company on other occasions, dressed in their plain, decent, warm, home-made clothing, or at the most, in the summer, in a chintz gown, and a white linen apron? Such was indeed the fact. And you may judge, whether they were not more *comfortable* than they would have been in some modern dresses—whether the change to costly elegance and finery has been a real advance in the enjoyment of life.

In the early period of the settlement, it was often impracticable to keep the roads open in the winter, so as to pass with a team or a horse from house to house, to meeting or to mill. The people were not however confined at home, through a long and dreary winter. Every family, and almost every man was provided with a pair of snow shoes, otherwise called *rackets*. (It would doubtless be as difficult at this day to give our young men a correct idea of rackets, as to give our young ladies a correct idea of a *pillion*.) With these snow shoes they were enabled to walk on the snow, and after passing a few times would have a good foot path from house to house. And not unfrequently were they necessitated to get up their wood, and carry their grain to mill, on hand sleds drawn on these racket paths. And although horses could not travel, you may not think the young ladies or their mothers were confined at home, and must lose all the pleasures of social visits, while the snow lay deep on the ground. They too would put on the snow shoes, and travel off; and although enduring a little more fatigue, they enjoyed their visits, it is

presumed, as well as do ladies at the present day, when wafted over the snow with the music of bells.

Our ancestors were a hardy race, but they were sometimes visited with sickness, and death entered their dwellings. For a long time they must have obtained all their medical aid from other towns; for there never was a resident Physician in the town, until about 1790, when Dr. Joseph Gray and Dr. William Barber established themselves permanently here. Dr. Barber is yet living. Dr. Willis Johnson commenced medical practice here in the year 1814.

The inhabitants were not so exactly on the peace establishment as to have no litigation; but they were necessitated to seek legal advice and services from gentlemen of the bar in other towns. For there never was a lawyer became an inhabitant of this town, until the late Samuel Whiting, Esq., opened an office, and commenced residence about the year 1825. At the time of my earliest acquaintance with the town, there were, and there had never been, but two justices of the peace in the place, Jonathan Scarle and Benjamin Mann; they remained the only magistrates in the town several years after this. Esquire Mann held his office until he removed from the town, and Esquire Scarle held his until his death. Who was the first Representative of the town in the General Court, as it was then called, is not easily ascertained. But it appears that as early as the year 1775, Amos Dakin was chosen by the joint ballot of Raby and Mason, to represent them in a Convention at Exeter in December; and likewise commissioned to act in the Assembly, if requisite. This must have been the time when Mr. Dakin traveled from Mason to Exeter on snow shoes, because not practicable in any other way. He may be considered the first Representative. The first Grand Juror chosen was Thomas Tarbell, the first petit Juror drawn was Zachariah Davis—the year 1771.

The early inhabitants of the town of Mason were true sons of liberty. When the difficulties between the mother country and the Colonies, arose to such a pitch as to take away the

hope of accommodation, they were ready to act with decision. I have never heard of but one inhabitant of Mason, at that time, who was unfriendly to the cause of the Colonies. Captain Samuel Tarbell was then considered a *tory*, as those were called, who were disposed to espouse and maintain the cause of the King and Parliament in all their oppressive acts against the Colonies. He, after the war commenced, fled and took refuge within the British lines. When it was apparent that the Colonies must submit unconditionally, or, weak and feeble as they were, must defend themselves against the mighty power of Great Britain, these sons of the forest were by no means behind any of their brethren, in making preparation for defence, and in readiness to step forward and exert their strength, when called to action. In the year 1774, meetings of the town were frequent; and it appears that there was great unanimity in their resolves, which were all of the defensive character. In this year they voted to purchase a town stock of ammunition, and a quantity of arms. At the same time, they entered into solemn covenant to suspend all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, until her acts of Parliament leveled at the rights of the Colonies should be repealed, and the Port of Boston, which was then shut, should be opened. This covenant was substantially the same, as was entered into in the Colonies generally; but the spirit of these sons of liberty was seen in the closing up of the solemn covenant, the last clause of which was in substance, that "all who refused or neglected to come into this or a like agreement, ought to be, and should by them be considered and esteemed enemies to their country." Such a covenant was not only voted in town meeting to be accepted, but a committee was appointed to see that the covenant be signed by the inhabitants, and to take and report the names of all who refused to sign. This committee consisted of the following persons: Amos Dakin, Samuel Brown, Joshua Davis, Nathan Hall and James Wethee. Also, in 1775, a committee of *inspection* was appointed, to see that the resolves of the Con-



tinental Congress be duly observed. And to prepare for comfortable subsistence as well as for defence, in town meeting it was voted, in view of the increasing difficulty which might be expected, of procuring such a necessary article as salt, "that thirty hogsheads be purchased, while it could be had, for the use of the town."

We have evidence also, that the fathers of the present generation were not only brave and prudent in *Resolves*, but also in *action*.

When tidings arrived in Mason, that the *Regulars*, i. e. the British troops, had gone out from Boston, and proceeded as far as Concord, and that blood was actually shed in Lexington and Concord, the men dropped their tools, and with all possible speed, hastened to the spot, where blood had flowed. And I have been informed that the training soldiers, on this occasion, ready to avenge the blood of their slaughtered countrymen, marched under officers, who held their commission from the King, whose troops they were willing to engage, without thinking of any impropriety. New Hampshire troops were distinguished in the war. And as far as can be judged at this time from town records and tradition, Mason bore its full proportion, with other towns, in sufferings and effective labor.

I wish I could give you the names of all the Mason men, who were with the gallant Stark in the battle of Bennington. Many of the young men of the town spent their best days in the army. Some of the elderly men were found in the tented field; but many of the soldiers entered the service of their country in their very boyhood, not by compulsion, but by voluntary enlistment, and continued in the service, until the independence of the country was acknowledged, and peace spread her blessings over the land. A few, and but a few of them all, survive to the present day.

The names of most of the early settlers in the town, are handed down in their posterity. A few families have lost their name, yet the greater part of the present inhabitants,

are descendants of those who cleared the forests for them. Who will be ashamed of such ancestors? We pretend not that they were faultless; but let their descendants emulate their virtues, and avoid their errors and faults, as far as they are known, and Mason will be a happy spot in our favored land.

Your attention is now called to another subject, which makes a part of the history of the town, yet of a different character from that which we have been contemplating.

Health is said to be the greatest of temporal blessings. Of this we have been favored with, at least, a common share with other towns around; and we can tell of many instances of longevity. In the course of the forty last years, there have died in this town fifty-seven between eighty and ninety years old, fourteen between ninety and one hundred. One man, Jonathan Foster, exceeded one hundred years, and another, Oliver Elliott, one hundred and two and one-half. It may be well to note in a passing remark, that these two old men were very temperate in the use of intoxicating drinks, for the age in which they lived, and their common food was of the plainest kinds. •

But notwithstanding the acknowledged healthiness of the place, and many instances of longevity, we have had seasons of calamity, in which mortal sickness has prevailed. We have had two seasons in which *angina maligna*, or throat distemper, or canker rash, so called, has spread terror and dismay over the place, and carried many of the young children and blooming youth, to an early grave. In the year 1810, this dreadful distemper made its appearance, in the last of March, or beginning of April, and continued to spread dismay, until the month of August. In this short period many families felt the scourge, and death cut off twelve children, all but two, under the age of five years. Again, in the years 1818 and 1819, the same dreadful disease was epidemic in the town, and many of the children and youth fell before this destroyer. These years were the years of the greatest mor-

tality ever known in the town ; in one 34, in the other 31 deaths, 65 in two years. In the reign of this malignant disease, but one aged person fell before the shaft of death, while 40 were cut down under the age of eighteen. With respect to the visitation of this malignant distemper at this time, it is to be remarked, it began in the South East part of the town, in the family of Darius Hudson, in a small house standing on an highly elevated spot, not near any other building ; this was about the middle of September, 1818 ; and it continued to rage until the beginning of August, 1819. It is noted, it began in the South East part of the town. By this, you will understand, that we have no knowledge that the sickness existed at that time, in any neighboring town, and certainly it was not in any other house at this time. Its first appearance was in its most malignant form. In the short space of eight days, three out of seven children died in the first visited family. The disease did not spread in the nearest families. This did not appear to be a radiating point, from which contagion should issue forth in all directions. Instead of that, its next appearance was at a good distance, at least a mile to the North East, where there had been no communication between the families. And the third case was in the extreme South part of the town. And thus it extended from East to West, from North to South, to every part of the town. Neither was it always the case, that all the children of the same family, or who lived in the same house, where the sickness was, had it. And not only, as in the first instance, but in other instances, those had the disease, who had not been exposed to catch it, as they say, by coming in contact with the diseased, or entering infected places.

Here I will name one extraordinary case, and leave it without comment.

There was a little girl in a family in the South side of the town, somewhat remote from neighbors, who was the only child in the house. She was an adopted daughter ; and the foster mother had such forebodings of death, should the

disease attack her child, and such apprehensions of danger from exposure, that from the first knowledge she had of the existence of the disease in the town, she restricted her child to the house, and suffered no child from abroad to enter her doors. This secluded child fell sick of this frightful disease, and died.

In conclusion of this point of interesting history, I state that in the space of the last forty-six years, there have been removed from this town—from their houses, and fields, and possessions, to the narrow home appointed for all the living, a number, little, if any short of eight hundred and thirty. What a congregation this would make! more than half the number of the present inhabitants. Looking at the past, what changes may be expected in the future? It is believed that there are but two living, on earth, who were members of the Congregational church, in this town, in the year 1790, (Lydia Wilson and Polly Dunster,) and but two who were at that time at the head of a family, (widow Withington and James Wethee.) O how often have we all been admonished to prepare for death, and for that judgment which is after death. Death doth not select his victims among the aged, but often levels his arrow at the fairest blooming youth. Let such another period, as we are contemplating, pass away, and few, if any, of the present active inhabitants of this town, will be on earth.

Be not offended, then, with one who has passed the greater part of his short life with you, and whose glass of life is just run out, who would affectionately entreat you to consider your latter end—would direct your attention to the end of time, and to your present preparation to die. O remember, Christ in you is the hope of glory, and the only hope that will not fail. Look away to the Lamb of God, as the only savior of sinners—go to him as sinners—go without delay. Or if you have already made Christ all your salvation, let him have your heart—let him have your life, and then when you shall have done with all things here below, you will not

only rest from all your labors in the peaceful grave, but you will live in the full enjoyment of the love and favor of Christ, forever and ever. Your friend prays that your future history, may be pleasantly instructive to all who come after you; and may your last end be peace.

## LIST OF PUBLISHED DISCOURSES.

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The following list includes, it is believed, all the published discourses of Mr. Hill.

1. A sermon delivered at Mason, April 11, 1803, at the funeral of Miss Persis Lawrence, daughter of Mr. Stephen Lawrence, aged 23 years. Text Eecl. 8 : 8. Printed at Amherst, by Joseph Cushing.

2. A sermon delivered at Mason, March 22, 1805, at the funeral of Miss Hannah Lawrence, daughter of Stephen Lawrence, Esq. Aged 26 years. Text, Psalm 90 : 12. Printed at Amherst, by Joseph Cushing.

3. A sermon delivered at Mason, July 18, 1805, at the funeral of Mr. Luther Lawrence, son of Stephen Lawrence, Esq., aged twenty years. Text 1 Cor. 15 : 21. Printed at Amherst, by Joseph Cushing.

4. A sermon delivered at New Ipswich, June 3d, 1811, at the funeral of Miss Ruthy Bachelder. Text. Psalm 88 : 7, 8, 18.

5. A sermon delivered at New Ipswich, August 6th, 1811, at the funeral of William Kimball Bachelder. Text, Eecl. 9 : 12; with an appendix, containing a sketch of the life of Miss Bachelder, and extracts from her letters and papers. Printed at Boston, by Mumroe and Francis. Sermons and appendix, pp. 48.

6. A sermon delivered at New Ipswich, September 22, 1815, at the funeral of Miss Clarissa Davis. Text, Eecl. 9 : 4; with an appendix, containing extracts from her diary and letters, by the Rev. Richard Hall. Printed at Boston, by Sannel T. Armstrong.

7. A sermon delivered at Mason, May 16th. 1817, at the funeral of Mrs. Mary Blodgett, wife of John Blodgett, Esq. who was instantly killed by being thrown from a wagon. Text, Ezekiel 24 : 18. Printed at Amherst, by Richard Boylston.

8. A sermon delivered at Brookline, November 27th, 1817, at the interment of the remains of the Rev. Lemuel Wadsworth, pastor of the Congregational church in that place. Text, 2 Cor. 5 : 1. Printed at Amherst, by Richard Boylston.

9. A sermon delivered at Mason, August 28th, 1826, at the funeral of Joseph Addison Robbins, son of Joseph B. Robbins and Hannah his wife. Text, Jer. 9 : 21. Printed at New Ipswich, by Salmon Wilder.

10. A funeral sermon delivered at Mason, on Lord's Day, December 10th, 1826, occasioned by the death of Capt. Hiram Smith, who deceased December 6th, 1826, aged twenty-five years. Text, Job 21 : 23—26. Printed at Amherst, at the Cabinet press.

11. A sermon delivered at Mason, at the house of James Wood, Esq., November 4th. 1835, being on the completing of his eightieth year. Text, Psalm 90 : 9—12. New Ipswich, printed at the News Gatherers's office.

12. A sermon preached at Ashby, at the house of Mr. Jacob Cowdry, on the birth day of Mrs. Tabitha Pearson, who then completed the one hundredth year of her age. Text, 2 Sam. 19 : 34, 35, 37. Amherst, printed by Richard Boylston.

13. The substance of two lectures on the History of Mason, delivered before the Lyceum in Mason village, February, 1846. Printed at Fitchburg, by W. J. Merriam.

These, with some contributions to the Medical and Agricultural Register, a periodical conducted by Dr. Daniel Adams, and some occasional communications to the Farmer's Cabinet, a newspaper published at Amherst, N. H., comprise all his printed works, so far as is known at this time.

In a family monument of native granite, erected in the old grave yard, is inserted a marble tablet, with an inscription, of which the following is a copy :

HIS CHURCH AND PEOPLE DEVOTE THIS  
TABLET TO THE MEMORY OF THE

**REV. EBENEZER HILL.**

BORN IN CAMBRIDGE, JAN. 31, 1766.

GRADUATED AT HARVARD COLLEGE, 1786.

ORDAINED PASTOR OF THE CHURCH,  
AND MINISTER OF THE TOWN OF MASON,  
NOVEMBER 3, 1790.

DIED MAY 20, 1854, IN THE 89th YEAR OF HIS  
AGE, AND THE 64th OF HIS MINISTRY.

A FAITHFUL SERVANT, HE DEVOTED HIS  
TIME AND STRENGTH TO THE WORK OF HIS  
LORD AND MASTER; READY AT ALL TIMES  
TO DIRECT THE ENQUIRING, TO CHEER THE  
DOUBTING, TO WARN THE SINFUL, TO VISIT THE  
SICK AND AFFLICTED, AND OFFER TO THEM  
THE COMFORT AND SUPPORT OF RELIGION;  
AFTER A LONG LIFE OF USEFULNESS, HE  
DEPARTED IN PEACE, HUMBLY TRUSTING TO  
RECEIVE THE WELCOME MESSAGE, WELL DONE  
GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, ENTER THOU  
INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD.















