

CHAPTER XIII.

HISTORY OF CONCORD FROM 1815 TO 1825.

At the annual meeting in March, 1815, the town voted "That the intermission be *one hour* through the year, except Communion day, and on those days one hour and a half."

On the 23d of September a violent gale swept over this town, and indeed over the greater part of New-England, which did immense damage to buildings, fences, and especially to wood-lands. Hence at a meeting January 1, 1816, Richard Bradley, one of the selectmen, was appointed "agent in behalf of the town, to dispose of the wood and timber blown down on the eighty acre lot belonging to the parsonage, and that the net proceeds of the sale be given to the Rev. Asa McFarland." Mr. Bradley was also appointed agent to sell the wood and timber at the Rocky Pond, so called, that is now blown down on the land belonging to the town, and all the wood and timber blown down on any other lands owned by the town. Abiel Walker was appointed "assistant agent" for the same purpose.

1816.

This year the building of the State House was begun. A spirited competition arose between the North and South End, as to where the house should be located. The North End inhabitants were in favor of the location where the old town-house stands, or further west, on land owned by the late William Stickney. At the annual meeting, March 12th, it was voted, "That

the town-house may be removed, if the Legislature should want to make use of the land for a State House, on which said house stands."

The conditions on which the State House might be located in Concord, as proposed by the Legislature, were, "That said town of Concord, or inhabitants of said town, shall convey to the State of New-Hampshire a suitable piece of ground on which to erect said State House, to the acceptance of his Excellency the Governor and Honorable Council aforesaid — shall level and well prepare said piece of ground, to the acceptance of the committee to superintend the building aforesaid — shall also give all the stone necessary to be used in the erection of said building, and shall convey or have conveyed said stone, under the direction of said committee, to the place or plot of ground upon which said State House shall be erected; which condition shall be performed free of any charge or expense to the State."

The inhabitants of the South End were in favor of the location at or near where the State House now stands. Especially interested and active in securing their object were the late Col. William A. Kent, Gov. Isaac Hill, and William Low. In examining the two locations it appears that a committee of the Legislature had reported favorably of that on Stickney's land, but the decision of the question was left with the Governor and Council. In order to fulfil the conditions, subscriptions were started at both the North and South End; the latter soon amounted to about four thousand dollars; and tradition says, that in the mean time the most urgent and favorable considerations were presented to Governor William Plumer by those in the South End interest. The Governor had formerly boarded at the North End, with Francis N. Fisk, Esq., but this year he boarded with Mr. Hill, and both personal and *political* considerations were brought to bear on the question. The arguments for and against the respective locations in dispute were: That Stickney's land was dry, elevated and airy; a building erected thereon could be seen far and wide; it was near the Town House, where the Legislature had been accustomed to meet, and had been recommended by a committee of that body. The other location was said to be more central, and less difficult of access: to which it was objected that it was

low and wet, and contemptuously it was called a "frog-pond," out of which a member facetiously remarked, "that the frogs would peep up, and with their croakings interrupt the debates of the House!"—That the expense of laying a foundation in such a spot would swell the cost far beyond the estimate; and, in fact, that the people at the South End had no just claim whatever to put in, in opposition to the location on Stickney's land. Tradition further says, that the Governor and Council were as much divided in their opinions on the subject as the people of the respective sections. Two of the Council, Gen. Benjamin Pierce and Samuel Quarles, boarded with the late John George, and were decidedly in favor of the Stickney location—indeed, a majority of the Council were in favor of the latter spot. A day was fixed on to decide the question;—but, it *happened*, that just at that juncture one member of the Council, who was in favor of the north end location, was called away on special business, and before his return the Governor called the Council together, and decided the question in favor of the South End. Thus saith tradition.

The lot on which the State House is erected, containing about two acres, formerly belonged to the estate of Peter Green, Esq. On the north-east part of it stood the house of Capt. Peter Robertson, which house was sold to Mr. William Kent, and moved to Pleasant street, where it still stands. The entire lot was purchased and presented to the State, agreeably to the conditions specified.

Mr. Stuart J. Park* was chief architect, assisted by Mr. Levi Brigham.† Messrs. Albe Cady, William Low and Jeremiah Pecker, of Concord, were the superintending building committee.

* STUART J. PARK. The parents of Mr. Park were natives of Scotland, and came to this country in 1767. His father was a stone mason, and the first here who practiced splitting stone with a wedge. Mr. Park possessed unusual mechanical genius. He was the overseer or contractor of the following structures: overseer in the work of building a jail in Portland, 1798; overseer of jail at Northampton, Mass., 1801; contractor State Prison at Charlestown, 1803; overseer upon prison at Windsor, 1808; contractor State Prison in Concord, 1810; Middlesex Locks and Canal, 1813; overseer State House in Concord, 1816; overseer jail at Dover, 1818; overseer Boston Mill Dam, 1820; overseer Dry Dock, Charlestown, 1825; overseer Lowell Railroad, 1835. Since that time he has resided upon his farm in Groton, Mass., one of the best in Massachusetts, and is eighty-two years of age. He visited Concord in March, 1854, and was then enjoying fine health and a green old age. He is still living.

† Mr. Brigham was from Boston. He married Ann, daughter of Capt. Richard Ayer.

Convicts of the State prison were employed to hammer the stone. On Tuesday, September 24, 1816, the corner stone was laid. The building was completed and the Legislature first convened in it, in June, 1819.

The expense of building the house, including the fences and the furniture of the house, amounted to nearly eighty-two thousand dollars.*

At a meeting November 4, 1816, it was voted, that in future the ballot for Representatives be brought in on the same ticket for State and County officers.

1818.

At the annual meeting in March the selectmen were authorized to purchase two hearses; one hundred dollars were raised for purchasing a fire engine and other necessary apparatus therefor, and a quantity of hose to the amount of forty dollars. The selectmen were also authorized "to sell any part of Timothy Abbot's land, or the whole, as they may think best, and pay his debts."†

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Heretofore Dr. McFarland, *ex officio*, had performed the service of visiting and inspecting the schools of the town, examining teachers, &c.; but this year, March 11th, for the first time, a committee was appointed to visit the schools, viz.: Thomas W. Thompson, Dr. McFarland, Capt. Richard Ayer, William A. Kent, George Hough, Abiel Rolfe, Stephen Ambrose, Thomas Chadbourne, Moses Long, Richard Bradley, Samuel A. Kimball, and Samuel Fletcher.

It was also voted, "That the committee in each school district make out a list of all the children in their respective districts,

* For description of the State House see Miscellaneous Chapter.

† Timothy Abbot was a son of Edward Abbot, 2d. His land lay north of Centre street and extended back to Sand Hill. On account of irregular habits he was placed under guardianship. His property was conveyed to the town, which became obliged to support him. He died in 1820, leaving a [second] wife, *Lydia*. By virtue of her interest in her husband's estate, she received support from the town in her old age. She boarded for several years at Mr. Jacob Hoyt's; then at Simon Virgin's. In her latter years she fell and broke her thigh, and hence became very infirm and helpless. Finally she was boarded at Mr. Ebenezer Eastman's, in the East Village, where she died, May 25, 1853, aged eighty-five.

from the age of four years to twenty-one, and return the same to the selectmen in the month of April in each year, under oath if required."

TEMPERANCE.

Voted, "That it shall be the duty of the selectmen to prosecute all persons in the town of Concord who shall, within knowledge or from satisfactory information, retail spirit contrary to law, except on public days."

The selectmen were also directed to prosecute any person or persons who had trespassed or who shall hereafter trespass on any of the lands belonging to the town; and "to confer with the directors of Federal and of Concord bridges with respect to the compensation they will require, to permit the inhabitants on the east side of the river to pass and repass to attend public worship; and likewise to attend town-meetings by the year." The immediate occasion of this vote was a vote passed by the directors of Federal bridge, September 2, 1817, requiring "all persons crossing Federal bridge, going to or returning from public worship on Sabbath days, (excepting foot-passengers,) to pay toll," which vote was reconsidered September 24, 1817.

Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining a road from West Parish village to Horse Hill bridge, on account of conflicting opinions as to the best route; hence, at a meeting of the town December 21st, it was voted, "That a committee of three from some adjoining town or towns be requested by the selectmen to assist them in laying out a road from Horse Hill bridge to Orlando Brown's in such way as shall best accommodate the public." Andrew Bowers, Capt. Stone and Dea. Pettengill [of Salisbury] were chosen for the purpose.

1819.

On the 10th of March, voted, "That in future it shall be the duty of the selectmen and auditors of accounts to report at each annual meeting such sum or sums of money as will, in their opinion, be necessary to defray the expenses of the town the ensuing year; *and that they specify each object of expense, together with the sum they judge necessary to meet it.*" This rule

has been found highly useful, and been generally acted on since its first adoption.

Thomas W. Thompson, Samuel Sparhawk, Stephen Ambrose, Isaac Hill, Samuel A. Kimball, Timothy Carter and Nathan Ballard, jr., were appointed a committee to report at the next town meeting "the most eligible mode they can devise for supporting the poor in future."

LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL.

Voted, "to admit the south end of the Town House, called the Senate Chamber, to be prepared and occupied by a Lancasterian school, provided the town be at no expense." This kind of school derived its name from a philanthropic gentleman in England, by the name of Lancaster; the school was designed for a large number of scholars of every age, to be conducted on the plan of *monitorial* instruction: that is, at the head of each class was a monitor, who was the teacher of the class, under the supervision and direction of the Principal. Cards were generally used instead of school-books, and the exercises consisted much in repeating lessons, after the monitor. The schools had a short-lived popularity in different parts of the country.

COWS AND SHEEP.

Voted, "That whereas the inhabitants of Concord and travelers with teams and loaded sleighs are frequently annoyed by cows and sheep running at large; — therefore, that hereafter no cow or sheep shall be permitted to run at large in the Main street between Carr's inn and Richard Bradley's dwelling-house, or within half a mile to the west of Main street, after the first day of November, 1819, till the first day of April, 1820."

Isaac Eastman and James Hoit were appointed by the town, to take legal measures to ascertain the names of those persons who have injured or *damnified* the seats, candlesticks, &c., belonging to the Town House, and report their names; and that they, the said Eastman and Hoit, prosecute the same.

September 2d, Richard Bradley was appointed "an agent to settle or defend the suit commenced against the town of Concord by Ephraim Farnum, jr." This suit was to recover from the

town the value of a horse belonging to Mr. Farnum, hired to Col. William Kent to go to Boston, and which horse, with a chaise, run off a bridge just north of the house of the late Dea. Wilkins, in the time of a high freshet, and was drowned. Mr. Farnum failed to recover.

1820.

At the annual meeting this year the town voted to pay five dollars "as a premium to the engine which may arrive at a fire first, and that the same be awarded by direction of the firewards." On the sixth of April the selectmen were directed to lease to the 11th school district, for such a length of time and on such terms as they may think proper, so much of the Parsonage lot near the house of David George as will be needed by said district for the purpose of building a school-house — provided the Rev. Dr. McFarland, or those who may claim a right to said lot under him, shall give his or their consent." The selectmen were also authorized to purchase or build a house or houses sufficient for the safe-keeping of the hearse or hearses which belong to the town. On the 4th of January, 1821, the selectmen were authorized to agree with the selectmen of Boscawen to repair or rebuild the bridge across Contoocook river, near John Chandler's, in the same place it now is, and that the town of Concord pay half the expense.

1821.

At the annual meeting in March, 1821, upon recommendation of a committee previously appointed, consisting of Samuel Sparhawk, Charles Walker and William A. Kent, the town voted to provide a book "for the purpose of entering therein all returns of roads,"* and whatever else relative to that particular subject: also a book in which an account should be opened with every pauper maintained wholly or in part by the town; and an invoice and tax-book, so ruled and arranged that "any one who wishes may see at one view both the amount of his taxes and the prop-

* See Doc. for Chap. XIII., No. 1, "Return of Roads."

erty on which his taxes are assessed." It is to be regretted that the second recommendation above was never carried out.

1822-3.

A NEW COUNTY.

The question of forming a new county — to be called *Merrimack County* — was acted on by the town at the annual meeting in March. Yeas, 522 — nays, 6. The selectmen were directed to petition the General Court "so to alter and establish the line between Concord and Boscawen, that said line may strike the centre of Contocook river at the place fixed upon to build a new bridge across said river."

The committee for visiting schools recommended in their annual report, "that a sum not less than three per cent. of the monies raised for the support of schools, be appropriated by the town and placed at the disposal of the committee — to be expended in *premiums*, in part, to school-masters" who shall have distinguished themselves for their ability and success in instruction and government; — "and the residue in useful books, to be given as rewards of merit to those scholars who shall have made the greatest improvement in their studies." The recommendation was adopted.

A new county being constituted, Concord became the shire town, and hence, for the accommodation of the courts, it became necessary to make alterations and improvements in the old town house. September 16th it was voted, "That the town so far comply with the act of the Legislature of June session, 1822, as to remove the town house back, turn it end to the road, raise it one story, and complete it to the acceptance of the Justices of the Superior Court, — provided Mr. Stickney will give the land which may be necessary for this purpose; and provided, also, that one third of the expense of removal and repairing said house be defrayed by individual subscription." Jeremiah Pecker, Robert Davis, 3d, and Joseph Low, were appointed superintendents, and eight hundred dollars appropriated towards defraying the expense of removing and repairing the building, agreeably to the foregoing vote.

The school committee reported that about one thousand children and youth, or *one third* of the whole population of the town, attended school during the winter; and that one half of them studied English Grammar, Arithmetic and Geography. Add the little children who attend only in summer, and nearly *one half* of the population are actually receiving their education "at these domestic institutions."

Jacob B. Moore made proposals to the town to publish "a history of the town," which he had prepared, to contain, with an appendix, about one hundred and fifty pages; whereupon the town voted, "to take a sufficient number of copies of said history to furnish each family in the town with one copy." The work was published in 1824, entitled "Annals of the Town of Concord." — pp. 112.

1824.

This year the selectmen were authorized to straighten "Centre street," and "to lease or otherwise dispose of the land given to the town by Deacon Joseph Hall, deceased." It was voted to give the proprietors of Federal Bridge twenty-five dollars per annum as a compensation for the privilege, to the inhabitants of the town, of passing toll free on Sabbath days, when going to and from public worship. At a meeting November 1st the selectmen were authorized to purchase that part of the New-Hampshire Turnpike (including the Branch) which lies in Concord; to pay a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars for the same.*

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS AND ANECDOTES RELATIVE TO THIS PERIOD.

The first boat, with regular freight, from Boston to Concord, through the Middlesex canal, arrived at Concord June 23, 1815.†

* The New-Hampshire Turnpike was the road from Federal Bridge through to Chichester, Epsom, Northwood, on to Portsmouth — and the "Branch" run from Concord bridge north-east till it met the Turnpike near the late Philip Stevens's.

† See "Boating Company," in Miscellaneous Chapter.

The summer of 1816 was remarkable in Concord and throughout New-England for the severity of the cold. It is said that there were frosts every month in the season, from April to November. Corn, rye and other crops were almost entirely destroyed. Apples and other fruits were likewise cut off. In consequence, the price of provisions was unusually high, and the poor suffered from scarcity.

The lot where the brick school-house now stands, in district number eleven, was the Parsonage house lot, which Dr. McFarland had liberty to improve during his ministry. Some years after his settlement he leased it to Benjamin Kimball, jr., hatter, at the north end of Main street. Mr. Kimball moved his shop on the lot—agreeing to pay Dr. McFarland one bushel and a half of *white beans* annually. In the cold summer of 1816 white beans were a scarce article, and the quantity due could not be had. Mr. Kimball gathered from various sources two bushels or more of beans, “ring-streaked and speckled,” and of all colors, and carried them to Dr. McF. for payment. The Doctor observed, “You have brought me more than a bushel and a half.” “*Not of white ones,*” said Mr. Kimball, “and the rest I’ll throw in.”

[1817.] Mr. Benjamin Thompson was drowned in Turkey Pond, June 20th, by the upsetting of a boat, in a squall of wind. He was in company with Lieut. B. Kimball. The former attempted to swim to the shore, and was drowned; the latter, who could not swim, clung to the boat, and was saved.

On the 18th of July President MONROE, on his tour through New-England, visited Concord. He was met on the borders of the town (on his way from Dover,) about three o’clock, P. M., by a committee of the citizens, consisting of the selectmen and Thomas W. Thompson, Samuel Sparhawk, William A. Kent, Charles Walker, Jonathan Eastman, Stephen Ambrose and Abiel Walker, Esqs., and under escort of Capt. Abbot’s company of cavalry and citizens of Concord, proceeded by the Branch turnpike to Concord bridge. His approach was announced by Capt. Samuel Herbert’s company of artillery, which saluted him from Butters’s Hill, as he passed the bridge and through the Main

street. Arrived near Barker's tavern, he was received by Capt. Long's excellent company of light infantry, and saluted by that and a company of citizens consisting of several hundreds. After a few moments' rest, he ascended a stage erected for the occasion, three sides of which were covered by the three escort companies, with presented arms—where he was met by the cheers and huzzas of the surrounding multitude.

Here the Hon. Thomas W. Thompson made an address to the President, welcoming him, in the name of his fellow citizens, to the town. To which the President responded.

A sumptuous dinner was partaken of at Mr. Barker's, after which the President gave as a toast—"The town of Concord—May its inhabitants continue to flourish and prosper." In the evening he attended a musical concert at the meeting-house, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. On Saturday he received calls from individuals, among whom was the venerable Judge WALKER, eighty years of age. After dining with Mr. Thompson he took an excursion down the river as far as Garvin's Falls in the newly launched pleasure boat; the President, with a select company of ladies and gentlemen—returning by land in carriages. He passed the evening with an invited party at Col. William A. Kent's; attended public worship in the morning of the Sabbath at the Old North Church, and left town on Monday morning, highly gratified with his visit to the Capital of the Granite State.

Died in this town, at the residence of her grandson, Richard Bradley, August 10, 1817, the widow MARY CALFE, aged ninety-eight, being the oldest person in town. She first married Samuel Bradley, who was killed by the Indians August 11, 1746, and was the mother of the late Hon. John Bradley. She afterwards married Richard Calfe, Esq., of Chester. About six years before her death she was disabled by a fall, and was confined ever after to her bed. She retained her faculties in a remarkable degree to the last. In her youthful days she had studied the Scriptures, and when strength and sight failed her, not only its doctrines but its very language were familiar to her—which she would repeat, to the comfort and satisfaction of her friends. She placed a firm reliance on the merits of her Saviour,

and died in sweet peace and hope of rest in the kingdom of God.

Miss *Abigail Kimball*, aged sixty, who had been an attendant and nurse of Mrs. Calfe for about thirty years, died on the 4th of August—and Mrs. *Hannah Bradley*, widow of the Hon. John Bradley, aged sixty-six, died in the same house on the 15th of August. Their united ages made two hundred and fourteen years. Mrs. Bradley was a woman of uncommon excellence and usefulness in all the relations of life. The disease of which she died was dysentery.

Drowned in this town, Sabbath morning, August 17, 1817, *Ebenezer Chickering*, in the nineteenth year of his age—a youth of much promise. In his anxiety to become a swimmer, and unbeknown to the family where he lived, early on Sunday morning, with two other youths, he went to the river, and venturing in deep water, where he was unable to manage himself, he was carried down the stream.

The body of young Chickering was found several days after, floating on the surface of the river, about two miles below the place where he was drowned.

A smart shock of an earthquake was felt in this town on Sunday, October 5, 1817, about twenty minutes before twelve o'clock. It was of one or two minutes duration, apparently in a direction from south-west to north-east.

✱ On Tuesday, November 25th, a large three story dwelling-house, chiefly owned by Mr. Abel Hutchins, and occupied by him and Mr. Albe Cady, was consumed by fire. The fire burst out of the roof about one o'clock, P. M. — probably communicated from a stove in the third story. A considerable portion of the furniture was saved. Loss estimated at about three thousand dollars. The house stood on the spot where the Phoenix Hotel now stands. The fire was prevented from extending to adjacent buildings, by the energetic efforts not only of men but of the fair sex, who were busy in furnishing carpets, coverlets and blankets to cover the exposed buildings, assisting also to bring water, forming lines for the engine, and in clearing adjacent buildings. Burning flakes fell among combustibles under a large barn full of hay, but were accidentally discovered and extinguished by

Gen. Isaac Eastman and Capt. Philip Watson, who were carrying a tub of water, by a circuitous route, for the engine. To this circumstance the preservation of the adjacent buildings is mainly ascribed.

MAD DOG.

A large dog, from every appearance mad, was killed in this town on Friday, November 28th. The day before from twenty to thirty dogs were bitten by him on Concord street.

[1818.] “*Portsmouth and Concord Wagon Company*” was formed at the beginning of the year 1818, “for the transportation of merchandize” between the two places. Wagons to leave Portsmouth every Monday for Concord, and pass over the Turnpike through the towns of Durham and Northwood; returning, leave Concord every Thursday, and arrive in Portsmouth on Saturday.

From the 2d to the 10th of April continued rain and snow fell, without the appearance of the sun. Stages from the north and south arrived on runners, on the 6th and 10th of April.

FIRE ENGINE.

An additional fire engine was purchased by the inhabitants of this town in April, 1818. It was a new invention, by Mr. S. F. B. MORSE, the celebrated painter (and inventor of the electric telegraph) and was procured for about half the usual expense of other engines — say one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars.*

On Tuesday, May 5th, was an unusual freshet. The intervalle was covered with water, and the river extended from its usual channel to from one to two miles. Bridges in town were impassable for a number of days. No spring freshet is recollected to have been so high. The bridge between Boscawen and Canterbury was carried away.

The raising of the EAGLE which crowns the spire of the State House took place on Saturday, July 18, 1818, with appropriate ceremonies. At two o'clock, P. M., a procession was formed

* *Patriot*, April 14, 1818.

in front of the State House, under the direction of Major Robertson; proceeded down State street and back, entered the State House, where a handsome extemporaneous address was delivered by PHILIP CARRIGAIN, Esq. Refreshments were plentifully distributed; toasts were drunk amid loud cheers and the firing of artillery, the Concord Band, at intervals, playing appropriate airs. The thirteenth toast was — “THE AMERICAN EAGLE, — *May the shadow of his wings protect every acre of our united Continent, and the lightning of his eye flash terror and defeat through the ranks of our enemies.*”

A Sunday School was established in the West Parish village in Concord, on the first Sunday in June — consisting of about fifty scholars. During the months of June and July they committed thirteen thousand six hundred and forty-six verses of Scripture and answers in the Catechism. In the month of August forty-five scholars attended, and committed twelve thousand six hundred and six verses and answers.

On Thursday, November 12th, a newly discharged convict from the State Prison, by the name of Royal Allen — a mulatto — entered the new State House and stole the keys of most of the doors, (fifteen in number.) He was soon arrested, and besides the keys he was found to have stolen twenty-six dollars in money the same day.

The Phoenix Hotel was opened as “a house of entertainment,” by Mr. Abel Hutchins, the first of January, 1819.

Mr. David Carter, of Concord, aged about fifty-five, dropped dead while driving his team.*

Mr. Henry Moulton, aged eighty-five, fell dead from his arm-chair.†

The citizens of Concord have for two weeks past been much gratified with the appearance for the first time of a *steamboat* in our river. A good portion of the ladies and gentlemen in town availed themselves of the very polite invitation of the proprietors to take pleasure rides up and down the river, for two or three miles.‡

This boat was owned by John L. Sullivan, Esq., superintendent of the Concord Boating Company, and was intended to tow loaded boats up and down the Merrimack river.

* *Patriot*, January 12, 1819. † *Ib.*, May 25, 1819. ‡ *Ib.*, June 22, 1819.

Tuesdays, November 2d and 9th, 1819, were remarkably dark days. Candles were found necessary near the middle of each day. On the 9th, domestic fowls retired as if it was sundown, soon after two, P. M. It seemed almost as dark as at the time of the great eclipse in 1806.

[1820.] JANUARY 4.* On Wednesday evening last a splendid ball was given in this town, in honor of the gallant Col. McNeil, of the United States army. The party was very numerous and respectable. On entering the hall Col. McNeil was announced and introduced by the managers, and was received by the ladies as well as gentlemen by a manifestation of the glow of beauty and the fervor and animation of patriotism. Among the strangers who attended were Gen. Benjamin Pierce and lady, and their daughter, Mrs. McNeil.

Christmas was celebrated in this town by the Episcopal society. The Town Hall (their place of meeting,) was fancifully decorated with evergreen. An excellent discourse was given by the Rev. Addison Searle, who at present officiates alternately in this town, in Hopkinton and Bradford.

On Thursday morning, the last day but one of the year 1819, previous to a serious storm of wind and snow, the thermometer stood in this town at eight degrees below zero, and during the storm it did not exceed ten degrees above.

APRIL 25. Notwithstanding the high grounds in this vicinity are covered, and the snow remains two or three feet deep in our forests, the thermometer stood in the shade, on Tuesday and Thursday last, at eighty-four, in this town.

MAY 16. Nearly seventy tons of goods were sent to the landing, in Boston, of the Union Boating Company, the first week of business on the river.

MAY 30. Last Friday the fields in our vicinity exhibited the novel spectacle at this season of a mantle of snow, extending as far as the eye could reach. The storm was from the north-east, and cold.

* Most of the articles which follow with the prefixed dates, were taken from the newspapers of the day.

Died in this town, June 13th, a child of Mr. Runnells, aged two years, in consequence of eating *dirt* the day before.

From the 1st of July, 1819, and the 7th of June, 1820, six thousand eight hundred and seventy-two persons visited the State House, and were shown its apartments.

The General Assembly of the Grand Lodge of New-Hampshire convened on Wednesday, the 14th of June. Officers for the ensuing year were appointed, and on the second day of the session a grand procession was formed, and religious services performed in the meeting-house. Sermon by Rev. Thomas Beede, G. Sec., from Numbers xv. : 38, 39.

JULY 4. The fare from this place to Boston, by stage, a distance of sixty miles, is reduced to one dollar. This was the effect of competition between two lines of stages.

AUGUST 15. A meteor was seen on the evening of Friday, August 4th, in this town, at about twenty minutes before eleven o'clock. A bright flash was observed, followed by a luminous meteor, rising from the western horizon thirty degrees or more towards the zenith, lasting about two minutes.

The celebrated traveling preacher, Lorenzo Dow, preached in town on Sunday and Monday, the last of July.

AUGUST 22. That part of vegetation which the drought and grasshoppers had left, was revived by a gentle rain on Thursday last; not indeed until the crops of corn and potatoes on the higher grounds had been almost entirely cut off.

SEPTEMBER 5. Died in this town Mr. Abel Merrill, in his seventy-third year. He went to bed apparently well, and before midnight was a corpse.

SEPTEMBER 12. The Merrimack river was never known to be lower than at present. The boats can ascend no farther than Hooksett.

CARD OF THANKS.

The Youth's Christian Knowledge Society in Bradford, New-Hampshire, acknowledge the reception of seventy volumes of books, from Concord and other places, all by the hand of the

Rev. Ezekiel Rich, to constitute for them a library, for which they render most cordial thanks to the benevolent donors.

By order of the Society,

Bradford, September 1, 1820. SARAH BLISS, *Librarian*.

OCTOBER 24. On Tuesday last the water of the Merrimack covered the intervalle to a higher extent than has been known for twenty years. The river had been unusually low, but rain commenced on the evening of the fourteenth, and continued to the evening of the sixteenth. The water rose perhaps fifteen feet in twenty-four hours.

NOVEMBER 21. Intense cold succeeded the late snow storm, and several boats, fully laden, were frozen up in the river.

[1821.] JANUARY 15. The Episcopalians of this town have finished a building, centrally located, as a chapel. It is fifty-five feet by thirty, affording a commodious place of worship. This building was located on the spot where the American House stands.

APRIL 16. The Concord Female Academy and Boarding School commenced April first, with fifty scholars.

JUNE 11. A panorama of victories on Lake Champlain and at Plattsburgh, comprising three distinct views, was exhibited at the Town Hall the second week in June.

JULY 9. The forty-fifth anniversary of our National Independence was celebrated by companies on each side of the Merrimack, in a most agreeable and appropriate manner.

[1822.] JANUARY 14. Thermometer on Friday morning last, at sunrise, stood twenty-four degrees below zero.

FEBRUARY 18. Died, Eveline, daughter of Mr. Caleb Campbell, aged three years — scalded by falling into a tub of hot water.

MARCH 9. On Saturday evening, about ten o'clock, a most brilliant meteor, in size nearly as large as the moon, followed by a long and dazzling train, was observed passing from north-east to the west with incredible swiftness. Though the moon was in high meridian, the illumination of the meteor ap-

peared to persons sitting in their houses like continuous flashes of lightning.

JUNE 24. The visit of Capt. Partridge and his cadets has afforded great satisfaction, both to our citizens and strangers. Capt. Partridge lectured on the battle of Waterloo, on Monday evening. Tuesday the young ladies of Mr. Blake's school presented a standard to the cadets, with appropriate addresses, and in the evening Capt. P. again lectured, by request, on the improvement of the militia.

JULY 15. During the thunder storm on Thursday, hail fell in the back part of this town of a sufficient size to break glass and cut down the corn.

SEPTEMBER 16. The Rev. Mr. Truair, pastor of the Mariner's Church, New-York, delivered a sermon in behalf of seamen, in Rev. Dr. McFarland's meeting-house on Friday evening. At the close, a collection, amounting to fifteen dollars, was made for the benefit of the church for seamen, lately erected in New-York.

In the garden of John George, Esq., of this town, a radish was raised weighing *three pounds and one half an ounce*, and measuring thirteen inches and three-quarters in circumference. This radish was the growth of a second crop—the seed being planted in the latter part of June, and the tops weighed nineteen pounds.

[1823.] JANUARY 13. On Friday the Londonderry Expedition Line came into town from Boston at half past three, P. M., having passed sixty-three miles, including stops to dine, exchange the mail and horses, in eight hours.

JANUARY 20. Died, Mrs. Rebecca, wife of Dr. Moses Long, aged thirty-six years. The death of Mrs. Long resulted from poison of white lead, accidentally mixed in the sugar used by the family.

JULY 4. A company of citizens repaired to the grove opposite Kimball's Island, listened to the reading of the Declaration of Independence and to a short but pertinent address from Col. Richard Bartlett. After an excellent dinner, toasts were drank and several original and selected songs sung.

A child of Robert Davis, 2d, of this town, was killed in 1823, by being thrown, with its mother, from a chaise, in Epsom.

SEPTEMBER 29. A swarm of bees, taken up by Richard Bradley, Esq., in this town, last week, yielded, in weight of honey and comb, one hundred and sixty-five pounds.

NOVEMBER 10. On Saturday, first instant, a transient person, named Joseph Lusty, a native of England, sixty-eight years of age, called at Mr. Gale's tavern early in the evening, bespoke and paid for lodgings. Being intoxicated he was refused spirit, and in a rage received back his money and left the house. The evening being very dark, after the Boston stage passed an outcry was heard, and he was found with the bones and flesh of his left leg crushed almost to a jelly, from both wheels having passed over it. Surgical aid was called, and Mr. Gale kindly received him at his house, where every attention has been bestowed; and there is a prospect of his recovery without amputation of the limb.

DECEMBER 15. Priscilla Hunt, an esteemed minister of the society of Friends, attended a meeting at the Union school-house in Concord, on the evening of the third of December.

[1824.] MAY 28. On Tuesday morning, the 18th instant, at nine o'clock, the corner stone was laid for the new brick meeting-house now building in this town by the First Calvinistic Baptist Society of Concord. The ceremony was introduced by singing the one hundred and twenty-seventh psalm, read by Dr. McFarland, after which a short and appropriate address was delivered by the Rev. William Taylor—who then, assisted by Rev. Dr. McFarland, cordially invited to join in the ceremony, deposited the corner stone in the place assigned for it. Mr. Taylor then, standing on the stone, addressed a pathetic prayer to the Most High God, for a blessing on the great undertaking. The whole was concluded by singing the eighty-fourth psalm. The house is located on the east side of State street, on land presented to the society by the Hon. William A. Kent, about forty rods south of the State House.

JUNE 5. The Election Sermon, by Rev. Dr. Tyler, Presi-

dent of Dartmouth College, was eminently worthy of the station which he occupies; a fine display of sound practical morality, as applicable to the citizens of a State, both in their individual and collective capacity — embellished by the graces of a chaste and finished composition, and enforced by a manly and energetic delivery.

In this town, May 25th, Mrs. Abigail Hoit died, aged eighty-seven, widow of Mr. John Hoit. Her descendants were thirteen children, eighty-two grand-children, one hundred and five great-grand-children, and five of the fifth generation.

A public dinner was given at the Columbian Hotel, to Gov. Miller, of the Arkansas Territory, on the fourth of June — Gen. Benjamin Pierce presiding.

The forty-eighth anniversary of American Independence was celebrated on Monday, the fifth of July. The procession marched to the meeting-house and listened to religious services and an oration by Philip Carrigain, Esq., which did equal credit to the head and heart of its author; then proceeded to the area of the State House, where some three hundred partook of a sumptuous entertainment, prepared by Mr. A. Hutchins. An original song by George Kent, Esq., and an ode by Jacob B. Moore, Esq., were sung, and many prepared and volunteer toasts drank, accompanied by the discharge of cannon, and music from the band.

JULY 24. About six o'clock, on Monday afternoon last, this town was visited by an unusually severe thunder storm. While the cloud from the northward was passing over our village, the lightning struck the brick meeting-house, and did considerable injury to the frame of the tower, raised a few days since, and not enclosed. The timbers of the tower were split and doors and window-frames injured, but no damage was done to the brick or stone work. Two young men on the ground floor were knocked down but not materially injured.

Rev. JOSHUA ABBOT died at Norfolk, Virginia, September 22, 1824. He was interred in the grave-yard of the Baptist society in Portsmouth, a small town separated from Norfolk by Elizabeth river. Two neatly executed white marble slabs mark

the spot where rest the remains of this devoted servant of Christ.
The inscription is as follows :

“ Sacred to the memory
of the
Rev. JOSHUA ABBOT,
who departed this life September 28, 1824,
aged 45* years.

“ He died in Jesus and is blest,
How sweet his slumbers are :
From sufferings, from sins released,
And freed from every snare.”

Mr. Abbot was a native of Concord, son of Capt. Joshua Abbot. He married Miss Eliza Kimball, by whom he had six children, four sons and two daughters. He became a member of the First Congregational Church in 1814, and turned his attention to the study of theology, although he had not the advantage of a public education. Licensed to preach by the Deerfield Association of ministers, he went to the South, in 1820, for the benefit of his health ; resided at Norfolk, Virginia, where he conducted a school on the Lancasterian system, and preached the Gospel in the vicinity, as opportunities occurred. He made his family one visit after his first departure, and hoped either to rejoin them permanently in Concord, or have them go to him. He died of fever after a short sickness. At his funeral a discourse was preached, from 2d Cor. V. : 1 ; “ *For we know that if our earthly house,*” &c. Mr. Abbot was a man of amiable spirit, gentle and conciliatory manners ; modest, upright and devout.

Nathan Carter, son of *Ephraim*, of this town, was killed in a saw-mill in Hopkinton, March 2, 1825, aged twenty-nine.

NOVEMBER 6. The Rev. Mr. Gallaudet, Principal of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Hartford, Connecticut, visited this town last week, with two of his pupils, and gave, on Friday afternoon at the Town Hall, a very interesting exhibition of their talents and attainments.

* He was only 42 years of age.

NOVEMBER 20. The Rev. Chester Wright, of Montpelier, delivered an address last evening, to a very full assembly in the Representatives' Hall, in behalf of the American Colonization Society.

DECEMBER 24. Mr. Benjamin Gale had two hogs killed, which weighed one thousand and eight pounds. The weight of the largest was five hundred and sixty-three pounds. They were thirteen months old.

Number of deaths in town in 1824, eighteen only.

NOTE 1. Heretofore, at the close of decennial periods, we have published the names of *all* who have been chosen annually to any town office; but on account of the yearly increase in the number of minor offices, we are obliged to restrict the names hereafter to those only who were chosen to the principal offices.

NOTE 2. By a law passed January 1, 1796, any person who was chosen to any town office in a town for one year, "for which he was liable to be fined for not accepting it," thereby gained a "settlement" in said town. This law was so far repealed, by an act passed December 25, 1816, that a person could gain a settlement only by being chosen and actually serving for one year "in the office of clerk, treasurer, selectman, or overseer of the poor."

NOTE 3. For more convenient reference we have placed the list of principal town officers and representatives chosen since 1815, at the close of the civil history of the town, in 1853.