

CHAPTER XV.

HISTORY OF CONCORD FROM 1835 TO 1845.

The first part of the period of our history from 1835 to 1845, is distinguished for nothing so much as the remarkable spirit of *speculation*, amounting almost to a mania, which extensively prevailed. It was awakened about the beginning of the year 1835, in relation to lands in the State of Maine, and soon extended to real estate in all the principal cities and villages of New-England. Visionary schemes were projected, airy hopes raised, and extravagant sums paid for land, with the expectation of amassing thereby a large fortune. Lots in Concord, valued at from forty to sixty dollars per acre, suddenly rose to twice and five times that sum; purchases were made—generally on credit—and many lots changed owners. Associations were formed of gentlemen who had by their industry laid up a few hundred or thousand dollars, and the whole placed at stake in a *speculating race* for wealth. In 1837 the crisis was reached, the bubble burst, and a large part of all who had enlisted in the enterprise found their money gone, without an equivalent. The loss to persons in Concord, principally by speculation in eastern lands, was estimated at from seventy-five to one hundred thousand dollars. The consequence was, a pecuniary embarrassment which lasted long afterwards, and from which some never recovered.

In the mean time the common affairs of the town proceeded in their usual order. As a means of security in case of fires, the selectmen were authorized, in 1835, to purchase two fire engines of a large size, for the use of Main street, and to locate those then on Main street, one at the East and one at the West village.

On recommendation of the selectmen, school district No. 12 was divided and a new district formed on the Dark Plain, (No. 22,) "consisting of the inhabitants living on the turnpike from Philip Stevens's to Pembroke line, from the turnpike to Loudon line, and from the turnpike to Pembroke line, on the Sheep road, so called." A school-house was subsequently built at the angle of the turnpike and Loudon road.

The superintending school committee reported this year the whole number of scholars 1049, in the winter schools, kept by male teachers. Of that number, besides reading and spelling, there were writers, 425; mental arithmetic, 239; written arithmetic, 223; grammar, 175; geography, 228; history, 40; philosophy, 25; chemistry, 7; astronomy, 7; Watts on the mind, 5; algebra and geometry, 9.

SMALL POX.

During the months of August and September, 1835, four cases of small pox occurred in town. The patients were removed to a retired situation, about two miles from the main village (to a house on the Bog road.) One case only proved fatal, viz., Abiel E. Thompson, aged 38, died September 20th. But in consequence of the general alarm produced by this disease in the community, the town, in 1836, adopted a law of the State, passed June 27, 1835, for the prevention of the small pox, and appointed Dr. Ezra Carter agent for vaccinating all the inhabitants of the town.

The selectmen were authorized to demand the highest sum of showmen in all cases, and to withhold licenses for the sale of ardent spirits.

By order of the town, land was purchased of Gen. Robert Davis for a burying ground in the West Parish, north of the meeting-house, at a cost of \$190.83. The first person buried therein was Mr. Orlando Brown, taverner in the West village, who deceased December 12th, aged 54.

RAILROAD STOCK.

At a special town meeting, October 10, 1836, William A. Kent, Robert Davis and Joseph Low, having charge of the parsonage and school funds, were authorized to invest the same in

two hundred shares* of the Concord Railroad. The same committee were "empowered and directed, for and in behalf of the town, to subscribe for five hundred shares of Concord Railroad stock, and to borrow a sum not exceeding \$30,000 at not more than six per cent. interest, redeemable after the year 1845." The same committee were appointed to make application to the Legislature, at its ensuing session in November, "to empower the town of Concord to procure a loan of \$30,000, or any less sum, to be invested by the town in the stock of the Concord Railroad."

At a town meeting, held November 7th, on the question, "Is it expedient for the State to grant an appropriation to build an Insane Hospital?" there were five hundred and fifty-three yeas, and sixteen nays.

1837.

SURPLUS REVENUE.

At a special meeting, January 30, 1837, "*Voted*, That the town will receive from the Treasurer of the State the portion allotted to it of the public money of the United States, deposited with this State, agreeably to the act providing for the disposition of the public money, passed January 13, 1837." Isaac Hill was at the same time appointed agent in behalf of the town, to receive from time to time the town's portion of the aforesaid money, as it should become due; to receipt for the same, and "to pledge the faith of the town for the safe keeping and their payment of the same when demanded by the State treasurer."

"*Voted*, That the act of the Legislature of New-Hampshire, passed January 14, 1837, authorizing the town of Concord to hire money to be vested in the Concord Railroad stock, be accepted by the town."

At the same meeting the vote of the town, authorizing William A. Kent, Robert Davis and Joseph Low, to subscribe for shares in the aforesaid stock, and to borrow \$30,000 on the credit of the town, was renewed; and they were directed to borrow from the agent of the surplus revenue "the portion allotted to the

* One hundred and ten shares were purchased with the parsonage fund, and ninety for the school fund.

town" as it became due, "for the payment of assessments on said railroad shares." The agent was authorized to loan the money to the committee, and to take a certificate from them that they had received the same for investment in the aforesaid stock.

At the annual meeting in March the above committee reported that they had received from the agent of the town the first instalment of the surplus revenue, amounting to \$4,287. From this had been paid, in part of an assessment on six hundred shares in Concord Railroad stock, \$900, and the remainder, \$3,927, loaned for the benefit of the town at legal interest, on a note signed by Joseph Low, George Hutchins, George Kent, Amos Wood, Asaph Evans, Samuel Fetcher, N. G. Upham and Samuel Evans. The next year the committee reported three instalments paid to the town, amounting to \$14,481.

Stringent regulations were adopted for security against fires ; no horses, cattle, sheep or swine were permitted to go at large within the limits of the town. The selectmen were instructed to "cause the hay scales, standing in the highway at the corner of Main and Pleasant streets, to be forthwith removed ;" to publish the warrant for the next annual town meeting in two public newspapers of the town ; and to purchase a hearse and pall for the new burying ground at the West Village, and build a house for the same.

1838-9.

On the question, "Is it expedient to revise the Constitution?" there were seven yeas, and two hundred and seventy nays.

Abiel Walker, Richard Bradley and Isaac Dow, a committee to sell lands on the town farm, reported that they "had sold and conveyed to Daniel Farnum the water power, with about two and a half acres of land and a right of way to the same, for \$550."

A part of the literary fund was this year appropriated to "employ a teacher to instruct in penmanship in the several school districts in town."

At a special meeting, June 15, 1839, it was voted, "That the income,—after it shall have been accepted by the trustees of the Asylum for the Insane,—accruing from the surplus revenue of the United States, now received by the town of Concord, be ap-

appropriated to the use of the Insane Hospital for the term of twenty years, *provided said hospital shall be located within the limits of this town.*" Robert Davis, William A. Kent and Joseph Low, were appointed a committee to secure said sum to the trustees of the hospital.

A great interest was felt by the citizens generally, and especially of the main village, in the *location* of the Hospital for the Insane. At a meeting, June 15, a committee of the town was appointed to show the State Committee of Location "the several sites in town proposed for the location and erection of the institution." This committee consisted of William A. Kent, Richard Bradley, Jonathan Eastman, Theodore T. Abbot, Cyrus Barton, Ezra Carter, Lewis Downing, Joseph Eastman, jr., Timothy Chandler and Abraham Bean. The sites which were examined were, Mr. Jacob Hoyt's place, on the Mountain, so called; John Glover's, on the Pembroke road, south-east of Concord bridge; Josiah Stevens's, near the Bradley monument; the Emery lot, owned by E. S. Towle, including upland and interval, at the place called 'Paradise;' also, a lot owned by Francis N. Fisk, on the west side of the road, opposite the Emery lot; and the lot owned by Benjamin Gale and Elisha Morrill, which was finally selected as the location. The chief competition of those interested in locating the hospital was between the Emery place and the Gale lot.

The sum actually appropriated next year from the surplus revenue for the Asylum for the Insane was \$9,500 — leaving available for other purposes, \$6,293,18.*

The interest in the Concord Railroad had by this time risen to such a pitch that William A. Kent, Robert Davis and Joseph Low, as committee, were empowered and directed, in behalf of the town, to subscribe for two thousand shares of the Concord Railroad stock, and to borrow a sum not exceeding \$100,000, redeemable after the year 1850, "the interest on said loan to be paid from the income of the road," or otherwise, as found expedient!

This amount of stock was not taken, and as the enthusiasm for the railroad cooled down, the town, having paid an assessment of

* See Auditors' Report, 1841.

\$900 on six hundred shares already subscribed for, finally, in 1841, transferred "all their right and title to said six hundred shares to the Trustees of the Concord Literary Institution, to relieve them of their debts and liabilities;" at the same time deciding to "carry on two hundred shares of said stock;" but subsequently the committee having in charge the town funds were instructed to sell one hundred shares of this stock, leaving one hundred shares only, which also were finally disposed of by the committee.*

1840.

In 1840 the town voted, "That so much of the interest of the surplus revenue fund as shall be necessary for the purpose, shall be appropriated to pay the poll tax of the town!"

Five hundred dollars were appropriated to be laid out on Dimond's hill, for repair and improvement of the road; one hundred and fifty dollars to build an engine house, and a sum not to exceed five thousand dollars, from the surplus revenue, "to pay the debts of the town." The whole amount of the surplus revenue in March, 1840, including principal and interest which had accrued, was \$16,886.84.

CONCORD BANK FAILURE.

About this time (June, 1840,) the failure of the Concord bank occurred, in consequence of which a portion of the Parsonage fund, that is, thirteen shares of the bank stock, amounting to \$1,326.25, and a portion of the School fund, (ten shares,) equal to \$1,020.25, was rendered worthless.

1842.

At the annual town meeting, 1842, Josiah Stevens, Jr., Joseph Low, Robert Davis, Luther Roby and William Restieaux, were appointed a committee "to purchase so much land as may be necessary for a cemetery or burying ground, in connection with the one near the old North Church," to fence and ornament the same, and five hundred dollars were appropriated for that purpose.

Robert Davis and Joseph Low, the committee who had for

*See Town Records, 1841-2.

several years had in charge the town funds, resigned; and Samuel Coffin, Francis N. Fisk and Seth Eastman were appointed in their place.

The average number of paupers at the town farm the past year was only sixteen, and the expense for each pauper eighteen dollars and seventy-nine cents.

In consequence of disturbances which had occurred for several years on the fourth of July, (especially in the evening,) by the assembling of numerous unknown individuals, endangering the property and in some cases the lives of the citizens, the several constables and fire-wards of the town were appointed "to keep the peace, and to assist in quelling any and all disturbances in and about Concord main village, on said fourth of July and at other times."

1843.

At the annual meeting in March, 1843, the committee on the burying-ground made the following report:

"The committee appointed at your last annual meeting to purchase land for a cemetery near the North Meeting-house, and fence the same, have attended to the duty assigned them, and have expended the following sums, viz. :

Paid for land,	\$127,50
" " lumber,	108,23
" " stone posts, iron bolts, building fence, making road, and other labor and ser- vices,	321,10
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Making in the whole,	\$556,83

Your committee would state, that they deem the quantity of land which they have purchased and enclosed with the old grave yard, equal to the public wants for half a century; that the whole, with the exception of the front, is enclosed with a fence as durable as they could construct of stone, iron and wood; that the front, until recently, has been occupied with sheds, which have prevented your committee from fencing the same; that a part of the sheds have recently been removed, and consequently the grave-yard is at this time entirely unprotected on the front; and your committee sincerely hope that immediate measures will be taken to complete this work.

LUTHER ROBY,
WILLIAM RESTIEAUX, } Committee."
JOSEPH LOW,

An additional sum, not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars, was appropriated to finish the fence around the grave-yard, and the horse-sheds were ordered to be removed.

The next year the cemetery was laid out in lots or plats, for the use of families, according to a plan drawn by Capt. Benjamin Parker, under direction of the committee of the town. The committee were authorized to convey a right or title to such lots to any individual, at their discretion, at such price as they deemed proper, not to exceed the sum of ten dollars;— to enter the name of the individual upon the number of the plan corresponding with his lot, and to give him a certificate, which, when entered and recorded by the town-clerk, in a record kept for the purpose, his title to such lot shall be absolute and exclusive.*

The town also voted to “accept the donation of a lot of land from Mr. Charles Smart, for a burying-ground, and the selectmen be authorized to fence the same.” This lot lies easterly, at the foot of Stickney’s hill, so called, and near the road that runs across from the Stickney Hill road to the old Dunbarton road. Jonathan Stickney, who formerly owned the land, died of the small pox, November 19, 1792, and through a fear of spreading the infection he was buried by his friends in that retired spot; as were, also, subsequently other members of the Stickney family. Mr. Smart bought the land of the heirs of Mr. Stickney, and made a donation of it to the town for the purpose specified.

The selectmen were directed to take a conveyance to the town from Abraham Bean of the property which was conveyed to him by Benjamin Green, and to settle with Mr. Bean agreeably to the conditions of his bond to the town, relating to that property.†

By a vote of the town the selectmen were “authorized to send to the New-Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, at their discretion, any or all insane persons who are now or may become chargeable to the town.”

Strict police regulations were this year adopted, respecting the

* See Records, 1844.

† This Benjamin Green is an Englishman by birth, a native of Yorkshire, aged at this time 61 years. He spent several years with the Shakers at Canterbury, left them, married and settled in Concord. He is subject to seasons of mental derangement, fancying himself a monarch, and authorized to put down all usurpation. He is now an inmate of the Insane Hospital.

extinguishment of fires and safe keeping of gunpowder ; no person being allowed to keep more than twenty-five pounds. Among the offences against the police laws of towns, which were prohibited with suitable penalties, were the following : No person shall make any brawls or tumults in any street or public place ; or be guilty of any rude, indecent or disorderly conduct ; or insult or wantonly impede any person passing in the streets. No person shall sing or repeat any lewd, obscene or profane song, or write or mark in any manner any obscene or profane word or obscene or lascivious figure or representation on any building, fence, wall, or any thing whatever. No person shall wantonly injure or deface any building, or cut or injure any tree standing in the highway, or rob any garden or field of fruit or vegetables. No person shall use any juggling or unlawful games or plays, or play at any game for money or other property. No one within the compact part of the town shall fire or discharge any cannon, gun or pistol, or beat any drum (without authority from a military officer) or fire any rockets, squibs or crackers, except by permission of the police. Nor shall any person bathe or swim, undressing for that purpose, in the day time, within view of any dwelling-house. If any person shall be found drunk in any street, or other public place ; or shall be a common street-walker or prostitute, such person shall be punished therefor : and no person shall sell, give or furnish to any pauper, or person committed to any house of correction, or to any spendthrift or idle person, under guardianship, any spirituous liquor.

At a town meeting, May 27, 1843, the following resolution, offered by Asa Fowler, Esq., was adopted : “ *Resolved*, That the selectmen be requested to grant the use of the Town-hall for the purpose of meetings, to any citizen or citizens who may apply for the same, without regard to the particular religious, political, or other sentiments, if such citizen or citizens will be responsible that the public property shall not be injured by such use.”

1844.

Failing to elect representatives this year, the town voted “ That Franklin Pierce, Richard Bradley and William Low, Esqs., be a committee, with instructions to apply for leave to be

heard in behalf of the town before the Legislature," on the subject of a new proportion of public taxes.

One hundred dollars were appropriated for building one or more reservoirs on Main street, between Francis N. Fisk's and Porter Blanchard's.

On the question taken at a town meeting, November 4th, "Is it expedient to abolish capital punishment?" yeas four hundred and three, nays one hundred and fifty-four.

On the question, "Is it expedient to alter the Constitution?" yeas four hundred and eighty-seven, nays one hundred and seventy-three.

A lot of Parsonage land near Little pond, containing nine and a half acres, was sold to Daniel Farnum for \$237,50.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS AND ANECDOTES RELATIVE TO THIS PERIOD.

[1835.] A company, called the "Sewall's Falls Locks and Canal Corporation," took active measures, at the beginning of the year, to construct a canal from Sewall's falls to the East village in Concord, for the purpose of carrying on manufacturing operations. A dam was constructed at the falls above Sewall's island, and a canal commenced at the same place, to terminate near Federal bridge. Both were left in an unfinished state, and the whole enterprise failed, with a heavy loss to the corporation.

As John Shepard, of this town, stage proprietor, was riding in an open wagon to Hooksett, on Wednesday, January 21st, the harness broke while descending a hill. The horse ran, overturned the wagon, and threw Mr. Shepard out; whose leg was broken by the fall. Another person in the wagon escaped without much injury.

MAY DAY. The return of this anniversary was celebrated in fine style by the members of the "Concord Literary Institution."

The scholars assembled at the Court House early in the morning; then made an excursion into the neighboring fields and woods, in search of flowers. Upon their return the court-room was tastefully decorated with evergreens and artificial fruit trees, and tables spread loaded with bountiful provisions. At half past six in the evening the pupils again assembled. A beautiful hymn, composed for the occasion, was sung, and an address on social habits was delivered by the principal, Mr. T. D. P. Stone. The festivities of the evening then commenced, accompanied with music, and continued until about nine o'clock, under the form of a festive social party.

Died in this town, June 7th, Mrs. Nancy Hazen Brigham, aged forty-two, relict of Mr. Levi Brigham, of Boston, and daughter of the late Capt. Richard Ayer. For the last twenty-five days of her life she endured the most intense sufferings from a total obstruction of the intestinal passage. The disorder had been gradually increasing for the last ten months. She bore her sufferings with remarkable patience and equanimity, sustained by the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ.

On Wednesday, June 17th, agreeably to appointment by the New-Hampshire Legislature, Hon. Nathaniel G. Upham delivered an eulogy, in the old North Meeting-house, commemorative of the life and services of Gen. LaFayette. The address occupied one hour and forty minutes in the delivery. It was well and ably written. Two hymns, composed for the occasion by Hon. Philip Carrigain, were sung—one by the choir and the other by Mr. George W. Dixon. The discourse was published by order of the Legislature.

In June a company was incorporated in this town, with a capital of \$75,000, for the manufacture of silk. Albe Cady, Esq., was chosen president, Moses G. Atwood corresponding secretary, and G. Parker Lyon, treasurer. Albe Cady, Isaac Hill, Abner B. Kelly, Stephen Brown, Samuel Evans, Charles Smart and John Whipple, were chosen directors. The farm formerly owned by Ballard Hazeltine, Esq., in the south-west part of the town, near Turkey pond, was purchased for the purpose. The house was handsomely repaired and several hundred

mulberry trees set out. Silk was manufactured in small quantities for a few years, and the business was then relinquished.

THE MORMONS.

On Tuesday and Friday evenings, June 25th and 28th, one of this sect—a Mr. Green—held forth in the Town Hall; and he proposed to continue his lectures until he had given a full exposition of the doctrines and practices of what he termed the “Church of the Latter Day Saints.” He made no converts in this town to his new doctrine.

In the summer of 1835 Mr. George Thompson, a celebrated anti-slavery lecturer from England, came to this country. In the month of August he visited Concord, and caused great excitement by his denunciations of slavery, and of all those who did not embrace his views on the subject. On Thursday evening, September 3d, a public meeting was held at the Court House, agreeably to a call signed by seventy-four citizens of Concord, at which Ralph Metcalf, Esq., presided, and George W. Ela and Joseph Robinson were secretaries. The meeting was numerously attended, composed of persons of both political parties—Democrats and Whigs. Addresses were made by Hon. Isaac Hill and Samuel Fletcher, Esq., of Concord, and Hon. Ichabod Bartlett, of Portsmouth. Resolutions were adopted, of which the third was as follows :

“Resolved, That we behold with indignation and disgust the intrusion upon us of foreign emissaries, paid by the money of open enemies to our form of government, who are traversing the country, assailing its institutions and distracting the quiet of the people.”

The next day the friends of Mr. Thompson posted up hand-bills, giving notice that a meeting would be holden on Friday evening, at seven o'clock, at the Court House, to be attended by George Thompson and John G. Whittier, when the principles, views and operations of the abolitionists would be explained. This notice produced a general and intense excitement, which it was evident would end in disturbance and tumult, should the meeting be held. Seeing this state of things Gen. Robert Davis, chairman of the board of selectmen, called on George Kent, Esq., a friend of Mr. Thompson, and advised that the meeting

should not be held. He also directed Mr. Constable Bean to close the door of the Town Hall—the door of the Court Room (in the same building) being also closed by the sheriff. At the hour appointed, however, persons of both parties began to assemble around the Town Hall. Soon three men were seen approaching, of whom one was supposed to be Thompson—the other two being Whittier, and Joseph H. Kimball, editor of the *Herald of Freedom*. These three were immediately assailed by the multitude with tumultuous shouts. Dirt and gravel were thrown at them, and they were followed up Washington street, down State street, to the house of Col. William A. Kent, when the people were assured that Thompson was not one of the number. Next the multitude—about two hundred—went to the house of George Kent, Esq., where Thompson was hospitably entertained. Aware of their approach, Thompson left the house, and Mr. Kent also withdrew, leaving the house in charge of Mrs. Kent. Just at this time Gen. Davis arrived, and ascertaining that Thompson was not in the house, and that Mrs. Kent was sick, notified the people accordingly; assured them that Thompson would not attempt to lecture on anti-slavery in town; that their assembling under such circumstances might be deemed riotous, and requested them at once to desist and withdraw. Col. Philip Carrigain seconded the motion, and, lifting his hands and voice, cried, “Come, let us go!” All moved off together; but, constructing an effigy, they paraded it through the principal streets, and afterward burnt it in the State House yard, concluding the whole with a display of fire-works and discharge of cannon.*

On Wednesday evening, December 23d, a fire was discovered in the garret of Hill’s brick building, which originated from a defect in the chimney. The night was intensely cold—the wind blowing fresh from the north-west, and the thermometer twenty degrees below zero. As soon as the fire was discovered Mr. C. R. Winter, clerk in the Patriot counting-room, and J. R. Whittemore, clerk in Brown’s book-store, rushed into the garret, which was filled with smoke and flame, and by well directed efforts extinguished the fire, which otherwise must have rapidly spread and caused immense loss of property.

* See *N. H. Patriot*, September 7, 1835, and *Herald of Freedom*.

[1836.] A meeting was held at the Court House, on Thursday, March 31st, on the subject of a hospital for the insane—Richard Bradley, Esq., in the chair, and Dr. Ezra Carter secretary. After the passage of resolutions approving of the object, the following delegates were chosen to attend the meeting at Portsmouth, on Wednesday, April 3d: Nathaniel Bouton, Hall Burgin, Joseph Low, Charles H. Peaslee, Thomas Chadbourne, Richard Bradley, Theodore French, Ezra Carter, William Kent, Benjamin Gale, Timothy Chandler, Cyrus Barton, George W. Ela, Jacob B. Moore, E. E. Cummings, Samuel Herbert and William Gault.

At this meeting Charles H. Peaslee, Esq., who from the first had manifested a deep interest in the establishment of an asylum for the insane, made an able and effective speech in behalf of the object. Gov. Isaac Hill also recommended the subject strongly in his message to the legislature in June, 1836.

Rev. George B. Cheever, of Salem, Mass., author of the famous "Dream about Dea. Giles's Distillery," by invitation delivered a temperance address in the old North Meeting-house, on the annual Fast-day, in April. Opposition was shown by sundry persons in the rum interest, and in the evening a party of them—about seven in number—passed through Main street in a noisy manner, and, stopping before Rev. Mr. Bouton's house, where Mr. Cheever was, assailed the front door—shaking it violently and calling for the man "who dreamed a dream!" The police soon coming, the party withdrew to the State House yard, where they burnt a man of straw in honor of Mr. Cheever! The next day the rioters were arrested, tried before Albe Cady, Esq., and fined three dollars each.

On Friday evening, June 10th, Samuel E. Coues, Esq., of Portsmouth, delivered a very interesting address in the Representatives' hall, upon the nature and extent of insanity, and the best method of treating it—enforcing the utility, importance and necessity of a hospital for the insane in this State.

The thermometer on Friday, July 8th, was snug up to one hundred degrees in the shade.*

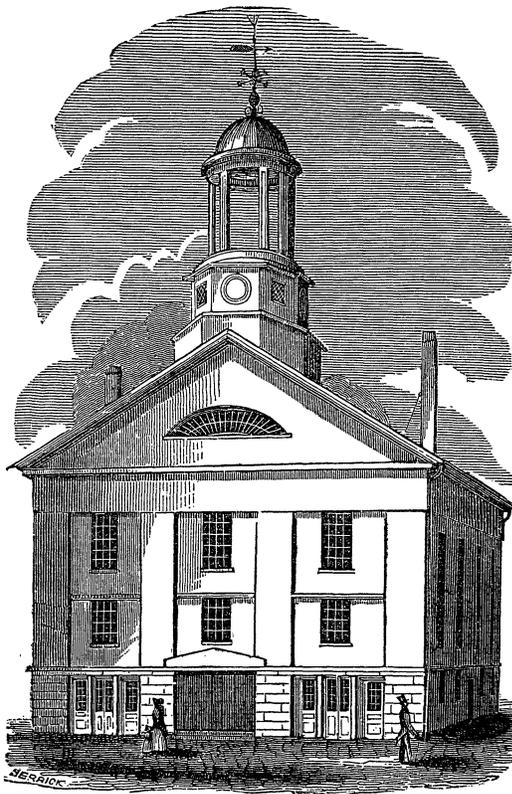
The joiners' shop belonging to Capt. John Miller, on State

* *N. H. Patriot.*

street, in this town, was entirely consumed on Friday, August 26th. The loss was about \$300, and no insurance. The fire was discovered about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and in thirty minutes the building was demolished and the fire extinguished. The house, which was connected with the shop, had a narrow escape.

A printer by the name of Charles Watrous, boarding at the Merrimack hotel, committed suicide by taking laudanum, on Thursday, September 22d. He lately published a paper at Chelsea, Vt., and his valedictory article bears evidence that he had for some time labored under insanity. He was a man of intemperate habits, aged about 36.

DEDICATION OF THE SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-HOUSE.



The house was built under the direction of

[1837.] On the 1st of February the house erected for the use of the South Congregational Church and Society was dedicated to the worship of God. The building is of wood, with a basement of stone — 77 feet in length and 64 in width, and has one hundred and eight pews on the lower floor. In the basement is a convenient vestry, 64 feet in length and 36 in breadth. In front of the vestry are two rooms designed for stores.

Capt. Philip Watson. The whole expense of the house was about \$10,000.

The body of a man was found in the Merrimack river, July 13th, in the south part of the town, too much decayed to be recognized; but from some articles found with it, it is supposed to be that of John Givens, a native of Ireland, who was missing some time in November last, and supposed at the time to have been drowned in the river.

[1838.] Died in this town, in February, Mrs. Lucia Anne, wife of George Kent, Esq., and daughter of the late Hon. Daniel Farrand, of Burlington, Vt., aged thirty-nine. Mrs. Kent was a woman of uncommon decision and energy of character, combined with cultivated taste and religious sentiment. As a wife, mother, sister and friend, she was greatly esteemed and beloved. A friend and helper of the poor and afflicted, and ardent in all benevolent enterprises, her charity always reached to the full extent of her means. For several years she was president of the Concord Female Anti-Slavery Society, in which cause she evinced great zeal and resolution. In a period of unusual excitement, in 1835, she showed her decision, in opposition to prevailing prejudices against the blacks, by taking a colored woman with her into church, and sitting by her side in the same pew. When Mr. Kent's house was assailed in search of George Thompson, Mrs. Kent, in feeble health, boldly went to the door, asked what they wanted, and assured them Mr. Thompson was not there. At the time of her decease she was a member of the South Congregational Church. Her funeral was attended by a large concourse of people.

A lad by the name of J. Q. Symonds, aged ten years, was drowned July 10th, a little above Concord bridge, while bathing. He was in the water but about fifteen minutes, yet all attempts to resuscitate him were fruitless.

A direct line of stages leaves the Phenix Hotel, Concord, for Hampton Beach, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at seven o'clock in the forenoon. Fare, two dollars and fifty cents.

Nathaniel Ewer, Jr., living in the north part of this town, was drowned in Lovejoy's mill-pond while bathing, on Sunday afternoon, July 29th, aged sixteen.

Died, August 9th, Mr. Joseph Bickford, aged sixty-nine. His death was occasioned by falling backwards from a wagon and breaking the spine of his neck. The accident occurred in East Concord, on the road to Canterbury, near the foot of the long hill south of Jacob Hoit's.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The first meeting of this corporation was held, agreeably to public notice, at the Grecian hall, (in the Eagle coffee-house,) August 14th. Richard H. Ayer was chairman, and Samuel E. Coues, of Portsmouth, secretary *pro tem*. The act of incorporation was adopted, and a committee of five appointed to draft by-laws, regulations, &c., viz.: Daniel M. Durell, of Dover; John H. Steele, of Peterborough; Charles J. Fox, of Nashua; Joel Parker, of Keene; Charles H. Peaslee, of Concord.

BALLOON ASCENSION.

Mr. L. A. Lauriat, a foreigner, proposed a grand balloon ascension in Concord, with his little son in company, September 11th. He was not, however, wholly successful in filling the balloon with gas; but just as it began to rise from the ground Mr. Amasa Powell, of Concord, jumped into the car and went up some two hundred feet, and made a safe descent two miles distant, south of the village. On the 21st of September Mr. Lauriat made a successful and grand ascension. His balloon, completely filled with gas, rose from the ground near the State House, about five o'clock in the afternoon, in the midst of an immense throng of spectators, and slowly and majestically ascended with the daring aeronaut about five thousand feet, moving in a north-westerly direction; then it changed to the north-east and went directly over the Shaker village in Canterbury, when a rope was thrown out, by which the balloon was pulled down. After partaking of the Shakers' hospitality, Mr. Lauriat again ascended, and was borne away toward Northfield, where he descended at six and a half o'clock, sixteen miles from Concord. The greatest altitude he reached was eleven thousand feet. A part of the time he was far above the clouds; at other times in the midst of them, and was wet to the skin by vapor.

Died at the hospital, in Boston, of typhus fever, November 6th, Isaac Shute, Jr., son of Mr. Isaac Shute, of this town, aged twenty-four. Young Shute was a youth of much promise, enterprise and intelligence, and his death was deeply deplored.

Died in this town, on Friday evening, November 9, 1838, Mrs. Elizabeth McFarland, aged 58 years, widow of the late Rev. Asa McFarland, D. D. Mrs. McFarland was born in Boston, March 19, 1780; the only daughter of Mr. Bartholomew and Mrs. Susanna Sewall Kneeland. Her grand-father, Samuel Sewall, of York, Me., was a kinsman of the distinguished chief justice Samuel Sewall, of Massachusetts. She was married to Mr. McFarland in September, 1803. Possessed naturally of superior endowments of mind and heart; with a good education, refined manners, and of singular conscientiousness, humility and devotion of spirit, Mrs. McFarland rendered herself eminently useful in the station which she occupied. In her domestic relations she was a pattern of industry, order, frugality and diligence. Rising early at all seasons of the year, she spent a season in private devotion, before other members of the family were up; thus, as she said, she was prepared and strengthened for the duties of the day. In the instruction of her children, she usually went over with them the studies they were pursuing at school; but most assiduously taught them lessons from the holy Scriptures, and aimed to form within them right moral and religious principles, and to mould them to habits of virtue and piety. By her charity, her self-denial, simplicity in dress and manners, her eminent social qualities, and, above all, by that "ornament of a meek and quiet spirit," which she always wore, she greatly endeared herself to all who knew her, without ever exciting the envy of any. Mrs. McFarland was one of those who not only "devised," but executed "liberal things." She first suggested the plan of the New-Hampshire Cent Institution, in 1804, and of the Concord Female Charitable Society, in January, 1812. With her commenced the first offerings made in Concord for foreign missions. She originated the first female prayer meeting held in town; and by her agency, especially, was the monthly female prayer meeting established

in the First Church, in 1816, which is sustained till this time.

After the death of her husband, less occupied with domestic cares, Mrs. McFarland spent a greater portion of her time, each day, in religious devotions and active christian duties for the welfare of others. The north chamber of her house was her closet, which seemed to all who entered it to be hallowed by her devout spirit. In her last sickness, of lingering consumption, she enjoyed in a remarkable degree the presence of her Redeemer and the consolations of his religion. She died in the complete triumph of faith, and in joyful expectation of a glorious immortality.

Of the many excellent women that have adorned society in Concord, at different periods, and whose memory is precious, it may be said in respect of her without envy, "Many daughters have done virtuously, but *thou* excellest them all."

On the white monument erected by her children to her memory in the ancient burying ground, are inscribed the fit words of the Saviour — "*She hath done what she could.*"*

Mr. Henry Farley died in this town, November 23d, in consequence of a fall of a few feet from a ladder in the wood-shed of his house, striking the back part of his head upon a box, which fractured his skull. He was taken up insensible and died in a few minutes.

In the latter part of December teams crossed the Merrimack river on the ice at the place where the Free Bridge now is — a road being opened across the middle interval for their accommodation.

[1839.] An interesting daughter of Capt. Ebenezer Ridgeway, U. S. N., of this town, five years of age, was so badly burnt on January 1st, by her clothes taking fire, as to cause her death the next day. The child was playing with her brother, two years older, and approaching too near the fire her clothes caught, and before assistance could be rendered were nearly

* For further and full particulars of the life and character of Mrs. McFarland, the reader is referred to a Memoir of her, written by Rev. Mr. Bouton, and published in 1839. See also "McFarland family," in Genealogical Chapter of this History.

consumed. No other person was in the room with the children at the time of the occurrence.

Died in Concord, February 15th, Mrs. Mary Ann P., wife of Rev. Nathaniel Bouton, aged 34. Mrs. B. was the eldest daughter of the late Hon. John Bell, of Chester. The funeral services at the North Meeting-house, on Monday, 18th, were attended by a large assembly of citizens and christian friends, who testified their deep sympathy on the mournful occasion. An appropriate sermon was preached by Rev. John M. Putnam, of Dunbarton, from Coll. i: 27, "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" During her residence of about ten years in Concord, Mrs. B. had endeared herself greatly to the people of the parish, and indeed to all who knew her, by her gentle and affectionate disposition and manners. She was especially distinguished by her native modesty and guileless simplicity of character. She possessed in an uncommon degree the "charity which thinketh no evil." "On her tongue was the law of kindness," and never was it heard to speak evil of any one. She bore her lingering sickness with christian patience and submission, deriving great comfort from the promises of the Bible; trusting in the mercy of God through Jesus Christ.* A short time before her death the account of the martyr Stephen was read to her, Acts vii: 56-60. She said, "I desire that the last prayer which shall be offered for me may be the same as his — 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'"

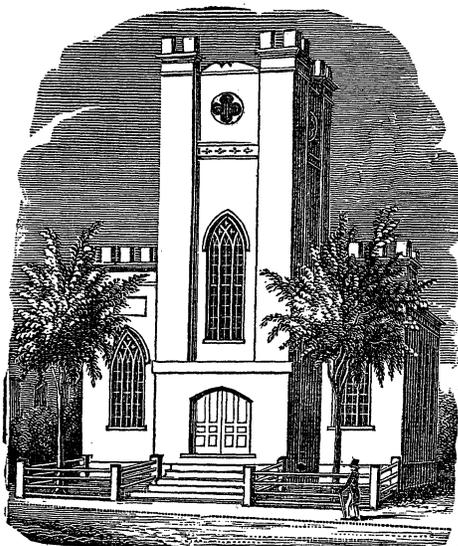
On Sunday, May 19th, a very extensive conflagration took place on the pine plain, directly east of the main village, which, as was estimated, run over more than a thousand acres, destroying the growth and consuming a large quantity of wood that was cut and in piles. It was believed to be the work of incendiaries.

The large dwelling-house owned and occupied by Mr. Leavitt C. Virgin and Capt. Samuel Blake, of this town, was consumed by fire early on the morning of Tuesday, May 14th. This is

* See Christian Panoply, February 22, 1839.

the first dwelling-house that has been entirely consumed in this extended village for the last twenty years.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH — LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE.



The corner-stone of St. Paul's Church, in Concord, was laid with appropriate ceremonies, on Thursday, the 13th of June. Service by Rev. Mr. Ten Broeck, assisted by Rev. Mr. Chase, of St. Matthew's Church, Hopkinton. An interesting address on the condition and prospects of the Society was delivered by the Rector, Mr. Ten Broeck. A

deposite of various articles was made beneath the corner-stone.

On Friday, July 5th, the dwelling-house of Mr. John Dearborn, of Concord, was struck by lightning. The fluid burst the top of the chimney, sending the bricks in every direction; passed down, bursting the chimney again between the chamber and lower part of the house, throwing off the breast-work, and precipitating the tongs through the cellar door. There were eight persons sitting in the room, yet no one was in the least injured.

The house, barn and shop, belonging to Mr. Jacob Clough, on the hill three miles from this village, on the Canterbury road, were entirely consumed by fire on Saturday, November 9th, about eleven o'clock, A. M. Loss about one thousand dollars. No insurance. It seems the boys had built a fire in the shop where they were husking corn, from which it was communicated to the husks. The buildings were in distinct view of this village, and the engines promptly repaired to the scene of conflagration,

but too late to render assistance. The house was formerly owned by Mr. Simeon Virgin.

[1840.] The stagemen's ball, held at the Eagle coffee-house on Friday evening, January 10th, was attended by one hundred and fifty couples, and everything was done up in the neat and elegant style peculiar to the gentlemen of the whip on such occasions.

Col. Stevens, Secretary of State, delivered a lecture upon the subject of common schools, at the North meeting-house, on Fast day, April 9th, before a numerous audience. The subject was ably and eloquently treated.

Died in this town, April 1st, Philbrick Bradley, Esq., aged 84. He was in the battle of Bennington, in Col. Stickney's regiment, and also at the capture of Burgoyne. Mr. Bradley was very social and facetious in conversation, and delighted to entertain the young with stories of olden time. He lived on the Mountain, so called, in East Concord, about three miles and a half from the main village, and was a pensioner of government.

On Saturday morning, September 3d, a small building in the rear of Stickney's block was consumed by fire. The air was still, otherwise there must have been an extensive conflagration, as the building destroyed was in the midst of the most combustible as well as valuable part of the town.

[1841.] The freshet of the second of January was one of the most remarkable ever known on the Merrimack in the winter. On Tuesday week the cold was excessively severe, the mercury down to sixteen, eighteen, and nineteen degrees below zero in the morning. Wednesday moderate, eight degrees below zero, and commenced snowing. Thursday, rain and strong south wind. Friday, as warm as April. At noon the river had risen four or five feet; by night-fall its banks were nearly full. About seven in the evening the ice started, and immediately a crashing sound, nearly as loud as the report of a small cannon, announced the destruction of the east part of the Free bridge, and pier after pier and section after section followed, till, at a little past eight, all but one pier on the west was carried away. One pier of the Federal bridge and two lengths of stringers were carried away. The ice blocked up the channel of the stream above the Lower bridge, and turned the water over the interval, thus saving the

bridge. Fears were entertained that the river had cut a new channel for itself, but it soon resumed the old channel. The ice between Wattanummons and Federal bridge was piled up in such quantities that some of it remained till the following May.

On Thursday, January 21st, the Bridewell, situate in the basement story of the wooden building opposite the American House, was discovered to be on fire. In it was confined a fellow named Rufus Orcutt, charged with attempting the life of his wife in a brutal assault which he made upon her. The door of the Bridewell was immediately forced and Orcutt found half buried in the burning straw. When he was taken out it was supposed he was dead. His face, neck and breast were very much burned. Medical aid was soon procured, and he was restored in some degree, but he survived only till Sunday, 24th. He had once been in the State prison for life, but was pardoned, and had threatened, if committed to the Bridewell, to burn it. The fire was extinguished without much damage to the building.

Died in this town, May 9th, Miss Mary Clark, aged 49, daughter of the late Mr. Daniel Clark. Miss Clark was a lady of uncommon gifts and acquirements, of a social disposition, simple in her manners, kind to the poor, ever sympathizing with the afflicted and suffering of all classes. In the latter years of life her health was very delicate, but she was interested in the events of the day, and especially in the cause of peace and the anti-slavery society. She was fond of historic and antiquarian research, and a particular friend of the late John Farmer, Esq. In religious views she was remarkably catholic; admiring and loving all, of all classes and denominations, who possessed a humane and devout spirit, but she was not united with any in a religious profession. A short time before her death she prepared a paper, giving her "dying testimony,—being on the brink of Jordan,—against all those ministers and churches *who have refused to pray for the slave.*"* She directed that her funeral should be without parade, and without the ceremony of an officiating clergyman. Accordingly, the services at the funeral were performed by her friends, Mr. Amos Wood and John B. Chandler.

On Sunday, September 12th, Stephen S. Foster, an anti-slavery

* See *Herald of Freedom*, May 14, 1841.

lecturer, from Canterbury, entered the North meeting-house, (the pastor, Rev. Mr. Bouton, being absent on an exchange with Rev. Jonathan Curtice of Pittsfield,) and interrupted the usual order of services. He first prayed, kneeling in front of the pulpit; then he ascended two or three of the pulpit stairs, and said he had a message from God to deliver. Refusing to desist, as requested by deacons of the church and others, three young men, Lyman A. Walker, James M. Tarlton, and Charles W. Walker, rose and took him, without violence, led him down the broad aisle, out of the front door, and he departed. He then proceeded to the South church, where he conducted in a similar disorderly manner, and whence, with less ceremony, he was ejected.

Josiah Hardy, of this town, raised from one pumpkin seed seventy-five pumpkins—seventeen of them suitable for family use. Beat this, if you can! Who can furnish from one seed such a bountiful supply of pumpkins for thanksgiving?*

Mr. Theodore T. Abbott, of this town, who carried on the cutlery business at Millville, contracted to supply the members of Congress, in 1841, with all the cutlery wanted for their use.

[1842.] Mr. Asaph Evans, formerly a trader in the old store corner of Pleasant and Main streets, died in New-York city, January 8th, aged 57 years. Mr. Evans was the first trader in Concord who voluntarily relinquished the sale of ardent spirits, after the temperance reform commenced.

The new Congregational meeting-house in East Concord was dedicated to the worship of God, January 13th. Sermon by Rev. Mr. Bouton.

Mr. Asa McFarland delivered the first lecture before the Concord Lyceum this year, February 4th, on "The Campaign of Napoleon in Russia." The lecture was ably written, and subsequently printed.

OPENING OF THE RAILROAD TO CONCORD. On Tuesday evening, September 6, 1842, at one fourth before seven o'clock, the locomotive "Amoskeag," with a train of three passenger cars and some baggage, came through from Boston to Concord. The grounds about the depot were thronged with men, women and children, to behold the new and wondrous sight! As the

* *N. H. Patriot*, November 4, 1841.

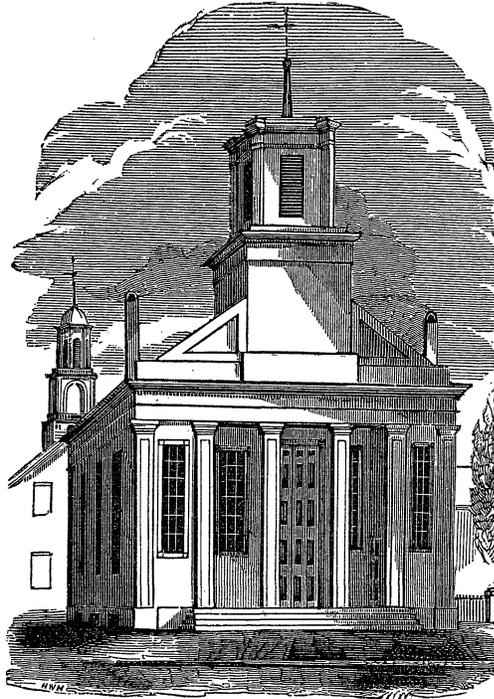
cars came in the multitude raised a cheering shout, and the cannon pealed forth its thunders to celebrate the event.

A few minutes after the arrival, it was announced that the conductor would give the people a ride. Immediately every car was crammed, and scores could not find a place to stand or sit down. The train went a few miles — as far as Bow-crossing — and returned, with the party delighted at the thought that theirs was the *first* ride in the *first* hour after opening.

The locomotive, cars and every thing appeared in the finest order. The passenger train commenced running regularly twice a day, and the week following three passenger trains a day were run.

The Universalist meeting-house in Concord was dedicated on Thursday, October 6, two o'clock, P. M. Sermon by Rev. Otis A. Skinner, of Boston.

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.



The house here represented was occupied by the Universalist Society until June, 1855; when the Society, having decided to erect a new, more spacious and costly edifice, it was sold to the South Free Will Baptist Society, Rev. Hiram Whitcher, pastor, and moved to a lot near the south end of State street.

The "Millerites," so called, believers in the visible advent of Christ and the end of the world in 1843, held a great meeting in Concord

the fourth week in July. Having erected and consecrated a spacious tent, capable of holding four thousand persons, on the hill, near where the house of Mr. Abel B. Holt now stands, a violent gust of wind soon after prostrated it to the ground. They next raised the tent in the valley west of the hill: assigning as a reason, 'that in raising the tent on the hill they had exalted themselves, and must move down into the valley of humiliation.' On Saturday afternoon the wind blew violently, attended with rain, which fell in torrents and flooded the ground where the large tent stood, so that they were obliged to desert it. The smaller tents, beds, &c., were completely drenched, and the occupants, amid darkness, thunder, lightning and rain, at midnight, were compelled to seek refuge in neighboring houses and in the public hotels of the village. On Sunday morning a fire engine with hose was used to draw off the water from the place of the encampment. The meeting was largely attended, and produced great noise and excitement among believers in the doctrine.

The workmen on the railroad at the lower end of Main street, near the river, have dug out the bones of two bodies, supposed to be those of Indians.*

On Friday, September 2, a large company of gentlemen and ladies from Concord main village, visited Long pond. The gentlemen caught fish and the ladies cooked them, and with other eatables furnished by the ladies, a fine dinner was prepared. After dinner it was resolved that, henceforth and forever, what had been called "Long pond" should be known as "*Lake Penacook*." But, notwithstanding the resolution, Long pond is still "Long pond."

On the morning of July 4, at eight o'clock, the corner stone of the new meeting-house, for the use of the First Congregational Society, at the corner of Main and Washington streets, was laid with appropriate religious services, to wit:

1. Singing, 87th Psalm, L. M.
2. Reading of select scripture by the pastor.
3. Depositing a box under the north-east corner stone, containing sundry documents.
4. Prayer, by the pastor.

* *N. H. Patriot*, August 11, 1842.

5. Singing, hymn 64, 2d book.

By the ingenious use of tackling, the whole main body of the house was raised before four o'clock, P. M.

Messrs. Mack and Lambert delivered a course of lectures in Concord during the winter season of 1842, on physiology and anatomy. Their lectures were illustrated by a *manikin*, or model of a man, so ingeniously wrought and put together in pieces as to require a near inspection to satisfy a spectator that it was not a real living subject. Every portion of the human body, suitable for exhibition before a promiscuous assembly, was exactly represented.

On Wednesday morning, May 11, James M. Abbot, oldest son of Mr. David Abbot, was drowned in Horse-shoe pond. It is supposed that he fell out of a boat — his cap and a boat being discovered floating near each other in the middle of the pond at the time he was first missed. He was eleven years old. His body was soon after recovered.

Maj. William Walker, jr., and Nathaniel White, of Concord, and B. P. Cheney, of Boston, have established a daily express between Concord and Boston, (Sundays excepted.)

William Ainsworth, Esq., member of the House of Representatives from the town of New-Ipswich, died at his lodgings in this town June 14th.

FOURTH OF JULY.

Scenes of rowdyism and violation of law and order were attempted in this town on the evening of the glorious fourth. A barrel of tar was lighted in the middle of the State House yard, and the tossing of fire-balls begun, when the police of the town interfered, with the design to stop such proceedings. Several persons were arrested, tried and fined. One of the beautiful maples in the State House yard was nearly destroyed by the burning of tar under it.*

On Friday, July 8th, Nathaniel P. Abbot, aged twenty-one, fell from the belfry of the newly-raised meeting-house, and was

* *N. H. Patriot.*

precipitated from the upper flooring to the ground, a distance of about thirty feet. Before any one reached him he was up and attempting to get upon the sill. A large gash was cut in his head, and he was much bruised, but no bone was broken, or dangerous wound inflicted.

George M. Thomas, aged eleven years and six months, only son of Rev. Moses G. Thomas, of this town, was drowned in Merrimack river on the 13th of July, near the Free bridge. He was bathing with other boys on the easterly side, and was missed about sunset by his companions. Between eight and nine o'clock in the evening search was commenced, and his body was found about half past eleven, P. M., near one of the piers, in about four feet of water.

OPENING OF THE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The New-Hampshire Asylum for the Insane was publicly opened for the reception of patients the first of November. Price of board for patients belonging to the State, two dollars and twenty-five cents. A patient from Tuftonborough was admitted the week previous, who was rendered insane by the excitement on the subject of the second advent. He prayed, preached, exhorted and harangued upon the subject about four hours every morning, and remained quiet the rest of the day.

Died in this town, October 28, Mrs. Nancy B. Fletcher, wife of Samuel Fletcher, Esq., aged 54. Mrs. Fletcher was a woman of great excellence of character, intelligent, affectionate, charitable to the poor, of exemplary piety, and greatly beloved by a large circle of relatives and friends. Her maiden name was Nancy Bordman, a native of South-Reading, Mass. She was for several years treasurers of the New-Hampshire Cent Institution, and president of the Concord Female Charitable Society.

On Tuesday morning, November 15, about half past three o'clock, a fire broke out in a stable belonging to William Walker, jr., & Co., situated in rear of the houses and stores on the corner of Warren and Main streets. By the energy and prompt-

itude of the firemen, with their engines, the fire was subdued with a damage only of about two hundred dollars.

DEDICATION OF THE NORTH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-HOUSE.



The new meeting-house erected for the use of the First Congregational Society was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, November 23d. Introductory prayer was offered by Rev. Abraham Burnham, of Pembroke; reading of Scripture by Rev. Moses Kimball, of Hopkinton; dedicatory prayer by Rev. John M. Putnam, of Dunbarton; sermon by the pastor, from 2 Chron. vii: 16; concluding prayer by Rev. Asa P. Tenney, of West Concord.

Public worship was first attended in the house on the following Sabbath, November 27th. The pastor preached in the morning from John ix: 27; "*Will ye also be his disciples?*" In the

afternoon from Acts ii : 47 ; “ *The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*”*

A man died in this town, November 24th, who confessed on his death bed that he set fire to the barn of William Walker & Co., which was partially destroyed by the flames on the morning of November 15.

On Friday, December 6th, Mr. Horace Call, a young man of Concord, while at work in repairing the Free bridge, across the Merrimack river, fell from the bridge upon the ice, about fifteen feet. His fall was not discovered till some time afterwards, when he was taken up insensible, and supposed to be dead. His right eye and side of his face were much bruised. Dr. Renton was immediately called, and the young man was restored to consciousness and suffered but little permanent injury.

Thomas W. Dorr, who claimed to be governor of Rhode Island, and was leader of the insurrection in that State in 1842, visited this town while under indictment for high treason. He attended public worship, *incog.*, at the North church, December 11th, but on the evening of the 14th a public meeting was held in the Court House, at which he delivered a speech occupying three hours. He was introduced to the meeting by Gov. Henry Hubbard, and his speech was followed by a complimentary address and resolutions by Hon. Franklin Pierce.

[1843.] The evening passenger train of cars, which usually arrives here at about half past eight o'clock, run off the track about half a mile below the depot, on Tuesday evening, January 24th, in consequence of the switch being out of place. But little damage was done.

On Sunday afternoon, night, and Monday morning, February 6th and 7th, we had a very severe snow storm, with heavy drifts. The cuts on the railroad were so filled that neither

* Previous to leaving the old North meeting-house as a place of public worship, a union meeting of the four Congregational churches in town was held in it. The meeting was attended two successive days, viz. : Thursday, 27th, and Friday, 28th of September, in which the several pastors took part, viz. : Rev. Asa P. Tenney, of the West church ; Rev. Daniel J. Noyes, of the South church ; Rev. Timothy Morgan, preacher at East church, and the pastor of the First church. In the forenoon of Friday the pastor preached a discourse on reminiscences of the old meeting-house. In the afternoon about five hundred and fifty communicants, belonging to the four sister churches, sat down to the Lord's Supper. It was a season of tender and affecting interest. Many wept at the thought of a separation from the place where they and their fathers had so long worshipped.

train of cars due here on Tuesday arrived, and it was impossible to force a passage through from Nashua to Concord until Wednesday afternoon, when the united energies of four powerful engines made a way through the drifts of snow.

APRIL 27. The freshet in the Merrimack river has been higher at Concord than has been known for a great number of years. The water, which a week ago last Monday was the highest, fell some four feet by the last of the week. Since that time, in consequence of rains and rapid melting of snow, it has been rising again. A great portion of the interval is submerged, and the entrances into Concord from the east over Federal and the Free bridges are impassable.

In anticipation that the second advent of Christ and the end of the world would take place on or about the 23d of April, 1843, according to the "Miller doctrine," a considerable number of people in this and other places, believing it, neglected all worldly business, gave themselves up to religious services; expended their property, and in consequence several became insane, and others were reduced to absolute want. At the time appointed they stood in hourly expectation of seeing the "sign of the Son of Man" in the heavens, and of being caught up in the air to meet him, while the world should be burnt up. A company went to the old burying-ground, to ascend with the rising dead. The day passed without any thing unusual!

TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT IN CONCORD.

At a meeting held in the Court Room the latter part of April, a committee, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Franklin Pierce, Lewis Downing, Abraham Prescott, Hosea Fessenden, Nathaniel B. Baker, Moses T. Willard, Joel C. Danforth, Josiah Stevens, Jr., Zenas Clement, Joseph Low, Francis N. Fisk, Samuel Coffin, Richard Bradley, Chandler E. Potter, Abraham Bean, Joseph F. Dow, Harry Houston, Theodore T. Abbot, Moses Shute and Atkinson Webster, were appointed to report at an adjourned meeting such resolutions and plan, as, in their judgment, would most certainly and speedily cause the use and traffic in intoxicating drinks to cease in this town, except for mechanical and medicinal purposes.

At an adjourned meeting, held at the old North meeting-house, may 7th, the above committee reported the following resolution and pledge, with a preamble and appeal :

Resolved, That the signature of every individual present be solicited to the following pledge and appeal ; and that the same be printed and presented to the citizens of each school district in town for the sanction of their names.

PLEDGE.

“ We, the undersigned, citizens of the town of Concord, believing that intoxicating drinks of every description, used as a beverage, are not only useless, but injurious to men in health under all circumstances ; and being fully persuaded that it would conduce to the best interests of said town, and tend greatly to promote the morality, happiness and prosperity of its citizens, of all classes and conditions, wholly to abolish the using and vending of such liquors within its limits, except for medicinal and mechanical purposes, hereby pledge to the accomplishment of so desirable an object our best exertions.”

This pledge and the appeal which accompanied it was signed by one thousand seven hundred and sixteen inhabitants of the town, male and female.*

Joseph Gerrish, a young man from Boscawen, aged about 25, supposed to be insane, drowned himself in the Merrimack river, near the Free bridge, early on Monday morning, June 19th. His body was found a week after, floating in the river about half a mile below the bridge, soon after the firing of a cannon on the bank near the river, for the purpose of raising it.

Col. Franklin Pierce delivered a most eloquent and powerful address upon the subject of temperance, Thursday evening, June 22d, at the old North church. He held his audience in breathless attention for one hour and a half.

On July 20th the Meredith stage, with sixteen passengers, returning from the White Mountains, was upset on the east side of the Merrimack river, descending from the plain to the interval which leads to the Free bridge. No bones were broken or lives lost, but some of the passengers were bruised and injured.

The price of butter in Concord (August 3d,) is only nine cents a pound.

Mr. Ebenezer Eastman, of this town, while at work on the

* See *N. H. Patriot*, May 18, 1843.

bridge over the Merrimack river at Hooksett, making repairs, on Saturday, August 5th, fell from the bridge and was precipitated upon the rocks below, about thirty feet. He received a cut on the head, and one wrist and one ankle were broken.

Mr. Eastman relates that in 1839 he went out west, and while in Brown county, Ill., in the month of May, he went with a party of two others to hunt deer. They came in sight of a pack of wolves, four in number, which had infested that section for some time. One of the wolves was shot and killed; the others retreated to their den in the hollow of a large oak wind-fall. At first the party attempted to shut the wolves in, but one not liking the idea of "durance vile," rushed to the mouth of the hole. The party seized him, tied his legs, and laid him down by his dead companion. Then the question was how they should dispose of the remaining two. One of the party proposed to get an axe and cut them out; but Eastman said a better way was to crawl in and shoot them, as old Putnam did. "Well," they said, "you may do it, we won't." Whereupon, loading his gun heavy with buck shot, he crawled into the hollow log till he saw the glare of the wolves' eyes. Discharging his gun it kicked him back, and the confined report nearly stunned him. Recovering, however, he reloaded, crawled in, and gave the wolves another shot. Both were killed, and dragged out of the hole by means of a hook fastened to a long pole. After this exploit, they called Eastman "the little smart yankee."

Jeremiah Pecker, Esq., died in this town August 12th, aged 71. Mr. Pecker was a thrifty farmer, and frequently held responsible offices in town. He was a man of quick wit, of much mechanical ingenuity, facetious in conversation, and a respected and useful citizen.

A severe gale was experienced in this town on the afternoon of Tuesday, August 16th, accompanied with torrents of rain. One of the fine elms in the State House yard was completely destroyed. The main branches were split off and the body of the tree, which was about twenty inches in diameter at the butt, was broken off about twenty feet from the ground.

In the year 1843 thirty-seven new dwelling-houses, making fifty-one tenements, were built in the main village of Concord, besides one large church and various stores, shops and offices.

E. B. Little, Esq., of New-York city, made a donation of five hundred dollars to the Episcopal society in this town, for the purchase of an organ for the church.

Died at the Eagle coffee-house, in this town, Saturday evening, September 30th, of consumption, Charles Walker, Esq., aged 45. Mr. W. was the eldest son of the late Charles Walker, Esq., of Concord. He graduated at Cambridge in 1819, was a tutor in Transylvania University, in Kentucky, with President Holley, two years; studied law with Thomas Addis Emmett, of New-York city, where he went into successful practice and continued until 1835. On account of ill health he visited the West Indies, but afterwards resided at Key West, in Florida, where he received the appointment of District Attorney of the United States. Subsequently he went to Porto Rico, and purchased a plantation, which he cultivated till the spring of 1843, when he returned to the place of his birth—to die! Mr. Walker possessed many admirable qualities, and was greatly esteemed and beloved by all who knew him. He brought a pony from the West Indies, for his use in riding, which, a short time before his death he gave to Mr. James Prescott, in remembrance of boyhood attachments, when Prescott lived in the family of Mr. W.'s father. The gift was made on condition that Prescott should use the pony well, and when too old for service should *kindly* kill him. This beautiful and tractable animal is yet alive, (1855,) and has had the honor of bearing on his back hundreds of ladies and gentlemen of Concord.

Mr. Walker's monument stands in the range of others of the Walker family, in the north-east section of the old burying-ground.

On the 18th of September, Charles Ferrin, son of Mr. Philip Ferrin, in drawing a charge from a loaded gun, struck the butt of the gun against a beam, with his hand over the muzzle, when the contents of the musket were discharged, badly shattering his hand.

October 23d there was a considerable fall of snow in Concord and vicinity.

On the 3d and 4th of November the printers, binders and booksellers of Concord, formed into two companies, and went out on a shooting match. On the evening of the 4th the game was

brought in and counted, and a supper had at Moore's tavern, north end of Main street. Members of the companies were as follows :

(1.) L. B. Morrill, *Captain* ; Perkins Kimball, Frank Eastman, N. B. Baker, F. Allison, H. H. Carroll, E. Mansur, S. S. Dow, Noah Little, E. Shattuck, George O. Odlin, William P. Foster, Josiah H. Nelson, Charles W. Walker, George F. Kent, John M. West, Joseph A. Pearson, John C. Stowell, Benjamin C. Lowell. (2.) John C. Wilson, *Captain* ; True Osgood, John M. Hill, George G. Estabrook, John D. Carswell, Oscar Knox, George H. H. Silsby, Harriman Couch, Ezra F. Pike, Charles Williams, Ira R. Philbrick, B. F. Watson, N. J. McClure, Samuel C. Hunt, Jr., Frank S. West, Samuel Dobie, Henry Anderson, E. D. Carpenter, Jacob H. Ela.

After supper the companies chose N. B. Baker president ; True Osgood, Frank S. West, vice-presidents ; John M. Hill secretary, and N. J. McClure toast-master.

The whole amount of game brought in was 7.772. Captain Morrill's side, 3.939. Capt. Wilson's side, 3.833. Difference in favor of Capt. M., 106.

On Capt. Morrill's side, Frank Eastman and Perkins Kimball brought in a count of five hundred each. On Capt. Wilson's side, Ira R. Philbrick brought in a count of six hundred and ninety-two, and True Osgood a count of five hundred.

On the 23d of November a frightened horse, running with the fore-wheels of a wagon, took the side walk below the Phenix hotel, and ran over a little daughter of Ira Perley, Esq., about two years old. By some means the child was thrown from the walk about ten feet, into the street, but received no material injury.

At a meeting of the citizens of Concord, at the town hall, August 9th, without distinction of party, Jonathan Eastman, Esq., was chosen chairman, and A. C. Blodgett and John Whipple secretaries. The proposition was made and unanimously adopted to invite the celebrated Col. Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky, then about to take a tour in New-England, to visit Concord. This invitation was accepted, and Col. Johnson made his visit to this place on Friday, October 25th. Leaving Boston in the morning by cars, he reached the crossing, near the south line of

Concord, about half past ten o'clock in the forenoon, where he was met by Col. Franklin Pierce and Judge Upham, of the committee of invitation. Mounting a beautiful white steed, he rode, escorted by a cavalcade of citizens, as far as the Rumford place, where he was received by the committee of arrangements, and welcomed to the hospitalities of the capital by Ira Perley, Esq. Thence a procession of citizens and soldiers, led by Gen. Charles H. Peaslee, chief marshal, Col. Johnson still mounted on his white horse, marched, amid the firing of cannon and ringing of bells, through Main street, down State street to Pleasant street, and thence to the American house, where lodgings were provided for the distinguished guest. The streets through which the procession moved were lined with people, who saluted him with shouts. The windows and balconies of the houses were thronged by ladies, who testified their interest in the scene by the waving of handkerchiefs and by smiling faces.

Soon after, Col. Johnson was conducted to the hall of the House of Representatives, where he was introduced to the people assembled by Ira Perley, Esq., in a highly appropriate address, to which the Colonel responded. Col. Johnson wore a *red vest*, the same he had on in the battle of the Thames, at the time he killed the Indian chief, Tecumseh, and which was pierced by eleven bullet shots.

At three o'clock in the afternoon Col. Johnson, with a large company, sat down to dinner in the hall of the Eagle hotel. At the dinner Franklin Pierce presided, assisted by Ira Perley, Joseph Robinson, Thomas P. Treadwell, Joseph Low, Abel Baker and Moses Shute. Speeches were made by the president and others. A beautiful song, written by Mrs. Susan A. Barnes, of Hooksett, was sung by Mr. George Wood with admirable effect. Mr. William Low proposed the question to Col. Johnson—"Did you or did you not, in your opinion, kill Tecumseh?" Col. Johnson then minutely related the circumstances of the battle, and closed by saying, "In my own opinion I did kill Tecumseh!"

In the evening was a public levee at the Eagle hotel, where great numbers had the pleasure of a personal introduction. On Saturday morning Col. Johnson rode about the town, and at noon left by stage for Newport.

On Thursday, November 30th, Anthony Potter, son of Samuel G. Potter, living in the eastern part of Concord, was drowned in Turtle pond while skating. A companion by the name of Parker, rushing to his aid, also fell in, when a third, seeing them, went to their rescue, who also fell in. A dog with them raised a pitiful howling, which attracted the attention of some men near by. By their exertions the two last were saved, but Potter sunk. His body was recovered the next day in about sixteen feet of water. One boot was pulled off. He was about 20 years of age.

At a temperance meeting, December 30th, a committee was appointed to prosecute all persons who continue to sell intoxicating liquors in town.

[1844.] The new road from Concord, east village, to the Shaker village, running west of Oak hill, was opened for public travel early in 1844.

On Friday morning, January 26th, between twelve and one o'clock, one of the watchmen of the State prison, in going his rounds, discovered a fire breaking out in the blacksmiths' shop in the prison yard. A fire alarm was given, and by the active exertions of the citizens the fire was extinguished, but with a loss to the State estimated at about \$1000, and to Messrs. Greeley & Eayres, contractors of the blacksmiths' shop, at a larger sum. The night was intensely cold, and it was with great difficulty that the engines could be worked.

Early on Saturday morning, February 5th, a fire broke out in the third story of the stone factory, at Fisherville. There being no fire-engine at Fisherville, Mr. Leonard Morrison, on horseback, riding at full speed, gave the alarm to No. 6 engine company, at West Concord, and to the fire companies in Concord main village. Great progress was made by the fire before the arrival of the engines, but it was checked and extinguished; with a heavy loss, however, in machinery and materials. The upper part of the factory was nearly destroyed. There were in operation in the factory one hundred and eighteen looms, and four thousand three hundred and eight spindles — employing about one hundred operatives.

A coroner's inquest was held on Tuesday, April 2d, on the

body of Mr. Ephraim Upham, who was found dead near the railroad track, about half a mile below the bridge over the railroad, at the south end of the town. He had been missing since the night of the 29th of March. He was 67 years of age. It appeared in evidence that Mr. Upham was at the house of Joseph Witcher, in the evening of the 29th, in a state of intoxication, and, attempting to walk home on the rail track, it is probable he fell and perished in the cold.

APRIL 18. The weather for the past ten days has been as warm and balmy as in June. Last Sunday was almost a hot day. Vegetation is very forward.

JULY 4. Mr. Carter, who lives near the stream that connects Great Turkey pond with Little Turkey, has fitted up five boats for the accommodation of those who visit the ponds for a boat-ride or for fishing.

There was a temperance celebration in Concord on the 4th, which was numerously attended. A collation was prepared in the State House yard, which was partaken of, as is estimated, by over two thousand persons.

The members of the Universalist society in Concord had a fishing party at Turkey pond July 23d. On their return they drove through the streets of the village, forming a large procession of carriages. First was a four horse carriage, with the Concord band, playing some most excellent and enlivening music; then a carry-all, containing their pastor and family, and others; then three stage-coaches, crowded full and covered on the top with ladies and gentlemen; then several two horse carriages, followed by twenty-six buggies, chaise and wagons.

Died in this town, very suddenly, of disease of the heart, August 23, Mrs. Anna, wife of Mr. Joseph Potter, aged 70. Mr. Potter rose early in the morning, went to his barn, and was absent about fifteen minutes. On his return his wife was a corpse.

Died in this town, September 7th, Capt. David Neal, aged 36. His funeral took place on Sunday, from the Universalist meeting-house. Capt. Neal was buried with military honors, being a member of the Concord light infantry at the time of his death, and formerly commander of the company. A very large procession followed him to the grave.

On the 24th of September a daughter of John Arlin, aged 15, was burned to death.

The drought in this region is extreme. Almost every thing is turned to dust. For three weeks, from September 1st to September 22d, we did not have one drop of rain.

A house belonging to James C. Whittemore, at the north end of Main street, was burned on Thursday, September 26th. One of the chimneys was burned out early in the morning, and it being observed that there were defects in it, by smoke issuing, it was watched till about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, when all danger seemed to be at an end; but in a little more than an hour afterward the house was discovered to be on fire — the fire having been communicated from a defect in the chimney to the flooring of the garret. The engines were upon the ground in good season, and had there been a sufficient supply of water the fire might have been extinguished in fifteen minutes; but in a long drought that had prevailed the wells near by gave out in a few moments. A line of people was then formed to Horse-shoe pond, for the passage of water. The fire was then too far advanced to be checked by the inadequate quantity of water thus supplied, and the house was completely consumed. It was occupied by four tenants — Rev. Sylvester Dana, Justin L. Robinson, Joshua Ingalls and Mrs. Anna True. Mr. Dana lost four or five hundred volumes of theological works, and many articles of bedding and clothing. Mr. Robinson's family suffered severely. The loss of the others was not so great. The house was insured in the Merrimack County Insurance Company for \$1000.

Died in this town, October 2d, Hon. Hall Burgin, aged 74. He formerly resided in Allenstown, owning the extensive farm now owned by George W. Ela, Esq. He was a man of great influence in Allenstown, had held the office of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and was once a member of the State Senate. Removing with his family to this town, about 1835, he built the elegant brick dwelling-house now owned by Joseph A. Gilmore. Toward the latter part of his life his property became embarrassed. He was highly respected as a citizen.

A shocking casualty occurred in Concord on Friday evening, November 8th, while the democratic party were celebrating the

triumph of the New-York election of Polk and Dallas, candidates for president and vice-president of the United States. Mr. John L. Haynes, one of the officers of the Columbian Artillery, had his left arm almost entirely blown off, his right arm dreadfully shattered, and his face shockingly burnt, in the act of ramming down a cartridge. The discharge took place in consequence of the vent not being stopped, in the excitement and hurry of the firing. His left arm was amputated by Dr. Haynes, of Concord.

The number of deaths in town in 1844 was one hundred and thirteen, which is a larger number than ever occurred in a year before. Of these, fifty were children under ten years of age, who died mostly of the bowel, or summer complaint, as it is called, which extensively prevailed this season. Among the number deceased was Mr. Samuel Jackman, formerly of Boscawen, a revolutionary soldier and pensioner. He lived in the easterly part of the town, near Lovejoy's mills, and at the time of his death, August 20th, was the oldest person in town, being 96 years of age. He was a man of uncommon physical vigor, with the exception of his eye-sight. He retained his physical and mental powers, in a good degree, to the last.