

CHAPTER XVI.

HISTORY OF CONCORD FROM 1845 TO 1853 ; OR, TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

At a special meeting of the town, September 23, 1845, new rules and regulations were adopted for the organization of the fire department. Four hundred and twenty dollars were appropriated for the purchase of three hundred and fifty feet of hose for engine No. 2; three hundred feet of hose for engine No. 4, and twenty-five feet for engine No. 5. Reservoirs were ordered to be constructed; one between the South Church and Hoyt's tavern, at the south end of Main street; one opposite the State House and west of Green street, and one or more at such other place as the board of engineers of the fire department shall determine.

At the organization of the fire department, according to the new regulations, September 24, Luther Roby was chosen chief engineer, and Arthur Fletcher, George H. H. Silsby, Caleb Parker, Daniel A. Hill, John Haines, John Abbot, Lowell Eastman, Harvey Rice, Benjamin Grover, James Moore, Shadrach Seavey, William Pecker, H. H. Brown, Moses Shute, Benjamin F. Dunclee, Lewis Downing, Benjamin F. Dow, and Stephen Brown, were chosen assistant engineers.

The town also adopted a law of the State, passed at the June session, declaring "that any bowling-alley, situate within twenty-five rods of any dwelling-house, store, shop, school-house, or place of public worship, shall be deemed to be a public nuisance;"

and the selectmen were instructed to adopt the proper legal measures necessary to abate such nuisances as then existed in the town. At this time there were four or five bowling-saloons in the compact part of the village, in which some young men spent a portion of their time every day, to the grief of parents and friends, the injury of their morals, and waste of money.

1846.

Asa Fowler, Esq., was appointed one of a committee to take charge of the town funds, in place of Samuel Coffin, resigned. Two hundred dollars were appropriated to purchase of Lewis Downing engine No. 3, together with the house, hose, and other fixtures belonging to the same. This engine was purchased by Mr. Downing in 1833, for two hundred and twenty-five dollars, for the protection of his large carriage manufactory establishment, then situated at the south end of Main street, on the spot now owned and occupied by Mr. J. Stephens Abbot & Son.

A law of the State was adopted by the town, authorizing "any two or more contiguous school districts in any town to form a union, for the purpose of maintaining a high school, for the instruction of the older and more advanced scholars." An attempt made to unite the three adjacent school districts in the main village proved unsuccessful.

The superintending school committee reported that "some of the higher branches, History, Philosophy, Astronomy, Physiology and Algebra, had received the attention of the more advanced scholars in district schools."

1847.

The auditors reported that "the whole expenditure for the support of the poor the past year, including the interest on farm and overseer's salary, over and above what has been received for that purpose, amounts to \$374,49." The average number of paupers, twenty-two and two thirds, and the "income has been sufficient to support them."

The committee having in charge the various funds of the town were authorized to sell and convey, in the name of the town, the

real estate formerly owned by Hall Burgin, Esq. This property was mortgaged to the town for money borrowed of the surplus revenue fund. In pursuance of the above authority the Burgin house and land—including the widow's dower, which the town had purchased—was sold to Mr. Caleb Pratt, late of Hartford, Conn., for \$4500. Mr. Pratt died suddenly at his house, September 26th, aged fifty-seven, of disease of the heart.

A sum not exceeding four hundred dollars was appropriated for a new burying-ground in the East village, and for fencing the same. Land for this purpose was bought of the estate of the late Jeremiah Pecker, Jr., and a new burying-ground laid out on the south side of the cross road running east of the meeting-house, to the Loudon road.

The selectmen were "directed forthwith to remove all nuisances called bowling-saloons;" and "to cause the blacksmith shop, stone shop, and all other incumbrances now on the highway and common near the old North Church, to be removed." The blacksmith shop stood near the corner of the lot where the new house of Francis N. Fisk now stands.

1848.

At the annual meeting this year, a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars was appropriated, for enlarging and fencing the burying-ground at Millville, on the Hopkinton road. Permission was given to fence the common about the Biblical Institute, or old North Church, and incipient measures taken towards erecting a new Town-house. These measures were fully carried out after the town became a city. One hundred dollars were appropriated for the support of a Teachers' Institute in and for the County of Merrimack; a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars to purchase land and fence the same, for a burying-ground at Fisherville. The selectmen were instructed to grant no licenses during the year, permitting the exhibition of circuses; and upon the question, "Is it expedient that a law be enacted by the General Court, prohibiting the sale of wines, or other spirituous liquors, except for chemical, medicinal or mechanical purposes?" affirmative, one hundred and eighty-six; negative, none.

The superintending school committee reported one thousand five hundred and thirty scholars in winter schools, and one thousand four hundred and thirty-two in summer schools, of whom one thousand three hundred and twenty-four were under fourteen years of age.

At a special meeting, May 6th, resolutions introduced by Col. Dudley S. Palmer were adopted, requiring the selectmen to appoint a committee of five, whose duty it should be "to enforce the provisions of the license law against the unlawful sale of intoxicating drinks;" and also "a committee to prosecute every instance of a bowling-alley being used unlawfully;"—the expenses of such committees to be defrayed by the town, not exceeding five hundred dollars.

1849.

Our representatives to the Legislature were instructed to oppose the annexation of any part of Bow to this town!

H. H. Brown, Nathaniel Rolfe, Eldad Tenney, Theodore F. Elliot and E. F. Brockway, were appointed a committee to lay out into lots the burying-ground at Fisherville. The selectmen were instructed to pay each member of any engine or hook and ladder company in the town, twenty-five cents per hour for all labor actually performed by him at fires. Luther Roby, chief engineer of the fire department, reported that the expense of constructing reservoirs of desirable materials, and which will contain one thousand cubic feet of water, will vary, according to the kind of earth and depth of excavation, from one hundred dollars to one hundred and sixty dollars;—and that the fire hooks which belong to the town, whenever their use has been attempted, have either broken or straightened out, and consequently thrown down and made a pile of the men attached to them, instead of pulling down the building to which they were attached.

The summer of 1849 was an unusually sickly season, from the prevalence of cholera morbus. In two or three cases the disease strongly resembled what was called the Asiatic cholera. Hence, on petition of Joseph Low, Nathaniel B. Baker and others, the selectmen, June 7, appointed doctors Ezra Carter, Thomas

Chadbourne and Charles P. Gage, Joseph Low and Asa Fowler, Esqs., a board of health,— which board immediately adopted sanitary regulations; examined out-buildings and places where stagnant water, decayed vegetables, or other offensive matter was accumulated, and ordered the removal of the same; also recommended to the inhabitants “the observance of strict temperance in regard to food and drink—limiting the diet to the most plain, simple and easily digested articles; avoiding all crude vegetables and unripe fruit, much fresh animal food, large draughts of cold water, and, above all, ardent spirits in every form.” This year the deaths in town were one hundred and fifty-eight—a larger number than ever occurred in one year before.

At the June session of the Legislature this year, an act was passed “to incorporate the City of Concord.” September 22 the vote of the town was taken on the adoption of the charter. Yeas, 183; nays, 637.

1850.

To render the crossings of the highways by the several railroads more safe and practicable, the town voted that the Concord and Claremont railroad, the Northern, and the Boston, Concord and Montreal railroads, should be required to secure the crossing of their respective roads with the Free bridge road, by the construction of bridges; and that at the intersection of the Boston, Concord and Montreal road with the highway near the easterly end of Federal bridge; of the Northern railroad with the highway near Horse-shoe pond; of the Concord and Claremont road with the highway near Horse-shoe pond, near Benjamin Farnum's, and near the Mast Yard, gates should be erected and maintained; and that at the crossing near the West Concord depot a bridge should be built.

A sum not exceeding one thousand dollars was appropriated for the purchase of a fire engine, hose, &c., for the use of engine company No. 3, to be located near Mr. J. S. Abbot's carriage manufactory; and a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars was appropriated to purchase a new hearse and burying-cloth, to be used at the West Parish. The town paid the “Temperance Committee,” for services and expenses, seventy-three dollars.

At a meeting, October 8, called "to choose delegates to represent this town in a convention to revise the Constitution of this State, to be held at the Capitol, in Concord, on the first Wednesday of November next," the following ballots were cast :

Whole number,	662
Necessary for a choice,	333
Franklin Pierce,	441
Nathaniel G. Upham,	365
Cyrus Barton,	369
George Minot,	395
Nathaniel Rolfe,	382
Jonathan Eastman,	376
Moses Shute,	381
Richard Bradley,	222
Asa Fowler,	263
Nathan Stickney,	260
Simeon Abbot,	261
Jeremiah S. Noyes,	272
Francis N. Fisk,	127
John Eastman,	202
Ira Perley,	150

and others, scattering. This Convention assembled in November. Hon. Franklin Pierce was chosen President of the Convention, which, with adjournments, continued its session till January 3, 1851. Proposed amendments to the Constitution were agreed upon by the Convention, and ordered to be laid before the people, to adopt or reject at the annual town meetings in March, 1851. The amendments were fifteen in number, every one of which was rejected in this town by majorities of from four to six hundred,* and also rejected by a large majority throughout the State.

The Convention again assembled, April 16, and agreed upon *three* amendments to be sent out to the people, viz. : 1. To abolish the property qualification for office. 2. To abolish the religious test. 3. To empower the Legislature to originate future amendments of the Constitution. These were acted on at the March meeting, 1852, and the vote stood as follows : (1st.) Yeas, 304 ;

* See original Records, March, 1851.

nays, 341; (2d.) yeas, 286; nays, 360; (3d.) yeas, 294; nays, 348.

At a meeting November 18, the town appropriated \$1500 to pay the award of the road commissioners to the proprietors of Federal bridge, for a highway across the same, and other expenses connected with necessary repairs. The selectmen were authorized to advertise for proposals and to contract for rebuilding said bridge. The Federal bridge thus became free. In 1851 it was rebuilt in the most substantial manner, at a cost to the town of \$14,830.14.*

1851.

At the town meeting in March, Asa McFarland, Esq., introduced the following, which was unanimously adopted :

“Whereas the tolling of bells on funeral occasions is productive of no good, and may, in case of the illness of the living, result in evil—Therefore,

“Resolved, That the practice be discontinued here, as it has generally been in other populous places.”

Thus ended a custom which had been invariably observed since a bell was first used on a meeting-house in Concord. At the funeral of Mrs. Sarah, wife of Mr. Richard Herbert, May 5, the bell was tolled by his particular direction.

A committee, consisting of Joseph P. Stickney, Seth Eastman, and Ira Rowell, reported that in consequence of turning the current of Merrimack river to the east side of Sewall's island, by the Northern Railroad corporation, “from two to three acres of the most valuable interval land had been washed away” from the town farm.

Measures were taken to suppress billiard tables.

The selectmen were authorized to employ two or more suitable persons as a night watch for the main village, and one or more for the village of Fisherville. The persons employed in the main village were Horace H. Holt and Loring R. Cook, who were paid for their services \$387.87.

The selectmen were instructed to license but one person to sell

* See Miscellaneous Chapter, “Free Bridges.”

spirituous liquors and wines for medicinal, mechanical and chemical purposes. Mr. Joel C. Danforth was appointed.

1852.

Money was this year appropriated for the construction of new reservoirs: \$100 for one near the brick school-house in district No. 10; \$100 for one near the house of A. B. Currier; \$100 for one near the house of Francis N. Fisk; \$50 for one at the brook near Isaac Emery's; \$50 for one at the brook near Philip Watson's; \$200 for the enlargement of the reservoir in front of the State House, and \$50 for one near the school-house in district No. 9.*

NEW TOWN HOUSE. A committee, consisting of Josiah Minot, Richard Bradley, Joseph B. Walker, John Abbot and Nathaniel B. Baker, was appointed, and "authorized in behalf of the town to make such arrangements as they think proper with the county, for the erection of a new building, on or adjoining the site of the present Town House, with a town hall, court room, and other offices in the same." The committee was also authorized "to dispose of the old town house as they may think advisable, and appropriate the proceeds thereof to the new building."

A committee, viz. Sylvester Dana, Asa Fowler, Jacob A. Pot-

* From a report of a committee on the Fire Department, it appears that at this time the town is provided with six good and reliable Engines, which are located as follows: No. 2 near the State Prison, at the corner of Tremont and State streets; No. 4 on the north side of Warren street, a few rods west of State street; No. 3 at the south end of Main street, nearly opposite Abbot & Co's carriage manufactory; No. 8 at Fisherville; No. 6 at the West Village, and No. 7 at the East Village.

In regard to a supply of water, your committee find that there are now in the town fourteen public reservoirs, located as follows: At the south end of Main street, opposite Abbot & Co's carriage manufactory, is a reservoir whose capacity is about 1000 cubic feet; opposite the Thompsonian building is another, whose capacity is about 1000 cubic feet; near the South Church is another, whose capacity is about 400 cubic feet; in front of the State House are three others, whose aggregate capacity is about 2300 cubic feet; at the intersection of Centre and Main streets is another, whose capacity is about 600 cubic feet; opposite the Merrimack County Bank is another, whose capacity is about 600 cubic feet, but which is always fully supplied with water; opposite the house of John H. George is another, whose capacity is about 800 cubic feet; on State street, near the house of Sewel Hoyt, is another, which is supplied by a brook, and is unfailing; on South street, near the house of N. B. Baker, is another, whose capacity is about 1000 cubic feet. Besides these there are others of various capacities, not strictly public reservoirs, located in different parts of the Centre Village—there being three near Warren street, between Main and Green streets; one in the rear of Call's block; one at the intersection of State and Washington streets; one at the intersection of Main and Franklin streets, and various others, of small capacity, which it may be unnecessary here to enumerate.

ter, Moses Shute and Abel Baker, appointed last year, on the establishment and perpetual maintenance of a public library for the use of all the inhabitants of the town," made a report, and proposed a plan, which was accepted, and resolutions in favor of it adopted. The plan, however, failed of being carried into execution.*

At a town meeting, August 14, Joseph B. Walker, John H. George and Stephen C. Badger, were appointed a committee, "with full power to build a bridewell for the use of the town."

The selectmen were authorized and instructed "to take immediate measures for building a bridge across Merrimack river at Sewall's falls." The bridge was completed the next year as a free bridge.

1853.

The annual meeting in March, of this year, was the last ever held in the capacity of a town. On the question of the acceptance of a city charter, which had three times before been rejected, the vote stood : yeas, 828 ; nays, 559. The usual town officers were elected, who continued in office until the organization of the city government.

From the report of the committee having the town funds in charge, it appeared that at this time the

Parsonage fund amounted to	\$4.296,76
School fund	8.188,58
Surplus Revenue fund (in 1852,)	7.985,30

This latter fund had been borrowed by the town : but as the fund itself was considered the property of the town, and entirely at its disposal, the committee having it in charge, March 13, 1852, were "directed to cancel the certificates of this fund :"—the effect of which was to extinguish not only the debt due from the town, but the fund itself.

The last important business transacted by the town, at this meeting, was passing the following votes :

"*Voted*, That the committee appointed at the last annual town meeting, viz. : Josiah Minot, Nathaniel B. Baker, Richard Bradley, Joseph B. Walker and John Abbot, be authorized, in addition to the powers and authority given by the vote passed at said meeting, which

* See Town Records, 1852.

are hereby renewed and confirmed, to purchase for the use of the town all the premises in said town lying between Main street, on the east; Court street, on the north; Summer street, on the west; and the south line of the Dearborn lot, so called, as it now runs, extended in a straight line westerly to Summer street, on the south — or such parts thereof as they think proper; and that the selectmen be authorized from time to time, in behalf and on the credit of the town, to borrow such sums of money as may be necessary for that purpose, or for any of the purposes mentioned in the vote aforesaid; and that the same be placed at the disposal of said committee."

"*Voted*, That a committee of three be appointed, with full powers to procure the publication of such portions of the original proprietors' and town records as they may deem expedient, either in connection with the proposed history of the town by the Rev. Dr. Bouton, or otherwise, at their discretion; and that a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars be appropriated therefor.

"*Committee* — Nathaniel B. Baker, Jonathan Eastman and Joseph B. Walker."

"*Voted*, That the selectmen be instructed forthwith to organize the city government."

"*Voted*, That this meeting be dissolved.

JOHN P. JOHNSON, *Town Clerk*."

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS AND ANECDOTES RELATIVE TO THIS PERIOD.

[1845.] A fire broke out in the store of Mr. Albert Herbert, on the corner north of the Merrimack house, Main street, on Saturday evening, May 10th, at half past nine o'clock. By the prompt exertions of the firemen the fire was kept from spreading. The house of Capt. Samuel Herbert, on one side; the Merrimack tavern and the house of Mr. Richard Herbert, on the other, being in imminent peril, were cleared of furniture, &c., as was also, in part, the house of Rev. Mr. Bouton. The store of Mr. Herbert was totally consumed, together with a considerable quantity of goods. Loss estimated at about \$2,500 — insurance, \$1,800.

A highly interesting, able and exciting political debate took place at a public meeting held in the old North church, on

Thursday, June 5th, between Hon. John P. Hale and the Hon. Franklin Pierce. Mr. Hale represented the cause of the Anti-Slavery party and Mr. Pierce that of the Democracy. As usual, the friends of each claimed the victory. A sketch of the debate may be found in the newspapers of that week.

The New-Hampshire Anti-Slavery Society met in the old Town Hall on Wednesday, June 4th. The whole day was spent in discussing the question whether a *secretary* should be appointed and the meeting regularly organized by the choice of officers. N. P. Rogers, of this town, and others, spoke against organization, and in favor of allowing every member perfect liberty. Stephen S. Foster, of Canterbury, was in favor of organization. The meeting was split on this rock!

Mr. John G. Gould, of Concord, was drowned on Sunday, June 15th, in the Merrimack river, aged 28. He was bathing at the foot of Turkey falls, near the railroad crossing, in company with two others. He swam a few rods to a small island in the river, and on returning was drowned.

Mr. Benjamin Hoit, living near Horse Hill bridge, killed a rattle-snake, in the month of June, which was five feet long and nine inches in circumference. Forty-nine eggs were taken from it. It had twelve rattles, and consequently was supposed to be fifteen years old.

One day last week an eagle, which measured six feet from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other, was shot by a boy only thirteen years old, by the name of Goodrich, in the west part of the town.*

George W. Currier, aged 29, and Alva C. Currier, aged 22, brothers, were drowned in Little Turkey pond on Wednesday evening, July 2d, about six o'clock. Their bodies were found on Thursday morning, about six rods from the shore, in about nine feet of water. They fell from a boat in which they were attempting to cross the pond.

Died in this town, September 5th, at the house of his son-in-law, Lewis Downing, Esq., Mr. Jonathan Wheelock, a Revolutionary soldier and pensioner, aged 85 years. He was born at Lancaster, or Lempster, Mass., and entered the army of the

* *N. H. Patriot*, July 10, 1845.

Revolution when he was 16 years old, as a musician. He was at the battle of Bunker Hill, at the capture of Burgoyne, and served through the whole war — occupying the station of drum-major at its close. Not ten minutes before his death he had signed the papers necessary for the receipt of his pension, sitting up in a chair.

Twelve thousand eight hundred letters were mailed from the post-office in Concord during the quarter ending October 1st. The receipts for the quarter ending June 30th were \$827,16½, and for the quarter ending September 30th, \$742,43.

The Rogers' family, consisting of three girls and one boy,* of ages varying from 11 to 17 years, gave a concert at the Unitarian church on Wednesday evening of last week. The house was full, and all were highly satisfied with the performances of this interesting family.†

About the 1st of November Mr. Thomas D. Potter, of Concord, fell from a chestnut tree a distance of thirty-four feet, bruising him, but not fracturing a limb. Twenty-four years ago the same individual fell from the same tree, and the same distance, breaking an arm, thumb, &c.

On the 26th of November a drove of five hundred and twenty-five turkeys passed through our streets — a pleasing sight for the day before Thanksgiving.

Samuel Carr, of this town, took a dose of laudanum on Friday, October 31st, designedly, it is supposed. The application of the stomach-pump relieved him of this, but he died on the next day in a fever, superinduced by the poison.

Mr. George Battes, recently resident in this town, while eating his breakfast on Monday morning, November 17th, dropped from his chair and died instantly. It is supposed he was strangled with meat. He was formerly of Lebanon, about 35 years old, and was a man of intemperate habits.

A blacksmith's shop, at the north end of Main street, caught fire on Saturday forenoon, December 13th, and the roof was nearly destroyed before the fire could be extinguished. It was occupied by Mr. Justin L. Robinson.

Capt. Benjamin Parker, of this town, slaughtered a hog last

* Children of Nathaniel P. Rogers, editor of the *Herald of Freedom*. † *N. H. Patriot*, Oct. 23.

week, which weighed six hundred and thirty-nine and a half pounds.*

In the month of December a party of four men went from this town to the neighborhood of the White mountains, to hunt for deer. They made their head quarters at Littleton, and were successful in getting ten fine deer in a few days.

[1846.] On Saturday morning, January 3d, about half past six o'clock, the two story wooden building on Main street, owned and occupied by Messrs. Morrill, Silsby & Co., printers, stereotypers, binders and booksellers, was discovered to be on fire in the press-room of the second story. By the promptness of a few individuals, and the exertions of our firemen, it was extinguished in the course of an hour, with but comparatively little damage. The fire was communicated from a stove — in which a boy had a few moments previously kindled a fire, and then left the room — to a quantity of printed sheets which had been hung up to dry on the preceding evening.

At a little past twelve o'clock at night, January 7th, a fire broke out in the spacious frame buildings at the dépôt of the Concord Railroad Company, occupied by Messrs. Gilmore & Clapp for an extensive wholesale grocery establishment, and by the railroad company as a car house.

The building contained an immense amount of West India goods and groceries, comprising a large quantity of flour, lime, oil, plaster, pork, fish, iron, &c., besides four valuable passenger cars and three baggage cars, belonging to the railroad, nearly all of which were destroyed, or so much injured as to be almost a total loss. By the well directed efforts of our firemen on that part of the building in which Messrs. Gilmore & Clapp's safe — containing all their books — was situated, the latter was drawn out but slightly heated, and with the contents uninjured. The building was entirely consumed.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

At a meeting held at the office of Gen. Charles H. Peaslee, on Saturday, February 14th, for the purpose of considering the expediency of forming a natural history society in Concord, Dr.

* *N. H. Patriot.*

William Prescott was chosen chairman and Nathaniel B. Baker secretary. After some remarks from the chairman, from Rev. Mr. Bouton, Hon. Franklin Pierce, Hon. Nathaniel G. Upham, Paul Wentworth, Esq., H. H. Carroll, Esq., and others, on motion of Stephen C. Badger, Esq., it was unanimously voted that it was expedient to form a natural history society in Concord.

February 28th the following persons were chosen officers of said Society: William Prescott, president; N. G. Upham, Paul Wentworth, vice presidents; N. B. Baker, recording secretary; Asa Fowler, corresponding secretary; I. F. Williams, treasurer; John H. George, librarian and cabinet keeper; Joseph Low, Charles P. Gage, Richard Bradley, Abiel Chandler, managers.

Messrs. E. & G. G. Hook, of Boston, have recently erected, in the First Baptist meeting-house in this town, a splendid organ from their manufactory, a subscription of \$1.500 being raised for the purpose.

About two months since a new organ was erected in the new North Congregational church, which cost \$1.150.*

A child of Mr. John Shields, an Irishman, was run over by a team heavily loaded with timber, on Monday afternoon, April 20th, and was instantly killed. The wheels passed directly over its head, crushing it in a most shocking manner.

The damages paid by the Northern railroad for land taken for the track of the road, &c., on the east side of Main street, as appraised by the State Railroad Commissioners, were as follows:

	Damages.	Rods—length.	Area.	Per sq. rod.
Abel Hutchins,† . . .	\$1000 . . .	12 . . .	64 . . .	\$15,46
Isaac Hill,	400 . . .	6 . . .	32½ . . .	12,31
Joseph Low,†	480 . . .	6 . . .	33½ . . .	14.40
Benjamin Grover,	601 . . .	13 . . .	64 . . .	9,39
Mechanics' Bank,	139 . . .	3 . . .	9½ . . .	14,26
W. B. Safford,	400 . . .	3 . . .	7¾ . . .	51,61
Mary Ann Stickney, . . .	1000 . . .	27 . . .	183¾ . . .	5,43
Luther Farley,	350 . . .	6 . . .	26½ . . .	13,23
Samuel Butterfield, . . .	551 . . .	12 . . .	60¼ . . .	9.14
Sarah Hall,†	251 . . .	6 . . .	34¼ . . .	7,32

**N. H. Patriot.* †The names above marked, cultivated their ground for gardens.

	Damages.	Rods—length.	Area.	Per sq. rod.
Woodbridge Odlin,	301	8	38	7,92
John Whipple,	148	4	20 $\frac{1}{3}$	6,83
George W. Ela,	400	17	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,72
Nancy West,	250	26	100	2,50
Samuel Morrill,*	50	13	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,33
D. L. Morrill,*	10	2	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3,61
E. S. Chadwick,*	11	3	3	3,66
Nathaniel Bouton,*	25	8	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,42
Richard Herbert,*	400	11	57	7,00
Samuel Herbert,*	200	4	18	11,11
James Woolson and wife,	250	5	25	10,00
Asa Fowler,	252	5	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	10,90
William Prescott,	233	4	21	11,10
Lucy A. Jordan, 2d,	175	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	16,66
Charles H. Stearns,	165	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	16,56
Pecker & Lang,	354	10	54	6,51
P. Lang and Smart,	500	18	93	5,45
Joseph B. Walker,†	508	18	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	—

On Tuesday morning, May 5th, about half past one o'clock, a fire broke out in one of two barns, owned by Messrs. Joseph and William Low, situated a few rods south of the lower dépôt of the Concord railroad, just west of the track. Both barns were totally destroyed, together with about twelve tons of cotton waste and paper-rags, belonging to Peabody & Daniell, of Franklin. A buggy-chaise, belonging to Gen. Low, and a small quantity of hay, were also consumed. The fire arose from spontaneous combustion of the cotton waste.

The ancient dwelling-house, long owned by Dr. Peter Green, opposite the Court House, on the east side of Main street, and occupied by Irish families, with a small barn and shed in the rear, was nearly consumed by fire on Thursday afternoon, June 18th.

Died in this town, in the evening of Tuesday, August 4th, Henry Harrison Carroll, Esq., aged 33 years; editor and proprietor of the N. H. Patriot and State Gazette. His disorder

* The names above marked cultivated their ground for gardens.

† Mr. Walker's land includes Horse-shoe pond. Other lands of his were purchased at private sale.

was congestion of the brain, of which the partial loss of sight for the last three months had been but too sure a precursor, — ending in twenty-three distinct fits of convulsion. Mr. Carroll graduated at Dartmouth College in 1836. As a political writer, for his age, “he was capable of wielding as strong a pen as any other editor in the State.”

A considerable shock of an earthquake was felt in this town and vicinity, for twenty or thirty miles around, on Tuesday morning, August 25th, about five o'clock.

The foundation for a new brick school-house, in district No. 10, for which \$3,200 had been appropriated, was laid early in September.

A man named Scales, a tailor, at the west parish of Concord, last week presented a note for eight hundred dollars, signed by himself as principal, and two sureties, to the cashier of the Merrimack County Bank, and received the money therefor. It was afterwards found that the names of the sureties had been forged. Scales was arrested, five hundred dollars recovered, and then he escaped.

Mr. Abel Hutchins raised a musk-melon in his garden, this season, four feet and two inches long! At the age of 83, Mr. H. is industrious, and as active as most men of 60.

A fire occurred Saturday, September 26th, in the house of Mr. Samuel Palmer, on Green street, corner of Warren street, which took from the pipe of a boarder, setting fire to a bed on which he lay down to take a nap after dinner.

Died in this town, October 5th, at the house of his daughter, Mrs. Susan Webster, in the East village, very suddenly, Stephen Ambrose, Esq., aged 75. His disease was dropsy in the chest. Mr. A. rose at the usual hour in the morning, nearly completed dressing himself, and had been called to breakfast by his daughter, to which he answered. In about fifteen minutes afterward she opened the door of his room, and found him sitting in an upright posture in his arm chair — dead! For more than forty years he was extensively known as a trader at the East village. He represented the town in the Legislature several years, and filled various important offices of trust and responsibility, with ability and credit. He was an ardent politician, embracing the

Whig cause, and was highly esteemed as a kind neighbor and an enterprising and useful citizen. At the failure of the Concord Bank he was its president.*

Lieut. Joseph H. Potter, a son of Thomas D. Potter, Esq., of this town, who graduated at the West Point military academy in 1843, was wounded in the battle of Monterey, September 21, 1846. In a letter to his friends here, dated September 27th, he says: "I was shot through the leg about two inches below the knee — the ball passing between the two bones of the leg and out on the opposite side. I was wounded while storming a battery on one of the hills back of the town. We had three days hard fighting."

AN AGED MAN. Capt. John Palmer, who died in Canterbury in October, 1846, at the age of 102 years and 5 months, was for many years a resident in this town. He was born in Marblehead, Mass., in May, 1744; followed the sea, in the East India trade, about thirty years, and in the Revolutionary war he was a lieutenant and captain of a privateer. About 1790 he moved to Hopkinton, N. H., where he went into trade; thence he moved to Concord, in March, 1794; from Concord to Canterbury, in 1800, and remained in the latter place till 1816, when he again returned to Concord and lived with his son, Capt. John Palmer, Jr., in the house built by the latter on the Mountain, so called. In 1844 he returned to Canterbury, where he remained till his death. Capt. Palmer was small in stature — about five feet and four inches — but very spry and quick in his motions. Unfortunate in business, he was reduced in his circumstances, and disheartened. For a few years he was somewhat irregular in his habits; but afterwards he became strictly temperate in drink and rather abstemious in food. In his old age he was industrious and active — working at the cooper business, which was his trade, in a little shop near his son's residence, on the Mountain, on the west side of the road. He continued to work till near one hundred years of age. He retained his faculties of sight and hearing, and also his memory, till within a week of his death.

[1847.] A meeting of teachers, and others interested in the improvement of schools and education generally, assembled at

* See lists of officers, &c.

the Court-room, Friday afternoon, January 1st. Josiah Stevens, Esq., presided; Asa McFarland and Arthur Fletcher, Esqs., officiated as secretaries. In the evening Prof. Haddock, of Dartmouth College, the State School Commissioner, delivered an address. After he had concluded, Rev. Mr. Bouton introduced a series of resolutions, which, after a full discussion, were unanimously adopted.

One hundred and ten couples attended the stagemen's ball in this town, on Friday evening, January 15th, and had a jovial time of it. The music and entertainment are said to have been excellent.*

A meeting of the citizens of this town was held on Tuesday evening, February 23d, to take into consideration such measures as it might be deemed expedient to adopt for the relief of suffering caused by famine in Ireland. At this meeting a committee was appointed, who issued the following notice:

"The undersigned individuals, having been appointed a committee to receive and transmit to Ireland such contributions of money, provisions and clothing as may be made for those suffering from famine in that country, hereby give notice that they will receive and transmit contributions for this purpose, made by the citizens of Concord and other towns, to Boston, free of expense, whence they will be transmitted free of expense by the committees in Boston to Ireland. Persons making donations in provisions or clothing are requested to forward them to the care of Gilmore & Clapp, in Concord, and donations in money to the care of E. S. Towle or George Minot, cashiers.

JOSEPH B. WALKER,
NATHAN STICKNEY,
GEORGE MINOT,
JOSEPH A. GILMORE,
STEPHEN BROWN,
EBENEZER S. TOWLE,
MITCHELL GILMORE, JR.,
SAMUEL G. BERRY.

Concord, February 25, 1847."

The following donations were sent in:

From citizens of Concord,	\$1,293,02
" " " Pembroke,	5,25
" " " Gilmanton,	5,62
" 6th school district in Canterbury,	14,00
" citizens of Concord, 100 bushels of grain.	
" " " Pembroke, 168 " " "	

* *N. H. Patriot*, January 31.

Died at Loudon, February 13th, Thomas Haines, a Revolutionary soldier, aged 87, well known in this vicinity as "old soldier Haines." He entered the army at the age of nineteen; was at Ticonderoga in 1777, and in the retreat from that place was shot at and his woolen frock pierced in several places with bullets — he being only slightly wounded. He escaped the pursuit of Indians by hiding in a deep ravine. He was in the battle at Bemis's Heights, near Saratoga, and was shot down and lay among the dead more than forty-eight hours. When found, it seemed doubtful whether the breath of life was in him. He was wounded by a ball passing through his cheeks, from side to side, nearly cutting off his tongue and knocking out most of his teeth. His face bore the marks of mutilation till his death. In the latter years of his life he received a pension from government. Soldier Haines lived many years in a small house about four miles from Concord Main street, towards Chichester, and near the corner of the road leading to the mills on Soucook river, known as Dickerman's mills. He often came into the main village, and was highly respected. He removed to Loudon only a few months before his death.

In answer to a call* signed by one hundred and fourteen citizens of Concord, a large meeting of those "in favor of a vigorous and determined prosecution of the war with Mexico," was held at the Town Hall, on Monday evening, February 8th. The meeting was called to order by Col. Josiah Stevens, and was organized by the choice of Jonathan Eastman, president; Isaac Dow, Moses Shute, Francis N. Fisk, William Low, Nathan Call, vice-presidents; Joseph B. Walker and John M. Hill, secretaries.

The meeting was addressed by Gen. Charles H. Peaslee, Franklin Pierce, Joseph Low, Charles F. Low, and a letter was read from Lieut. Joseph H. Potter, who was wounded at Monterey, but was then in town.

At this meeting Franklin Pierce, Joseph Low and William Butterfield were appointed to procure subscriptions "in aid of the citizens of New-Hampshire who are attached to the regiment

* See names in Hill's N. H. Patriot, February 11, 1847.

of volunteers" under the command of Col. Caleb Cushing. A subscription from seventy-three individuals amounted to \$310.*

Hon. Franklin Pierce having received the appointment of brigadier-general in the United States army for the Mexican war, on Monday evening, May 10th, an elegant sword was presented to him by ladies of Concord. In behalf of the fair ones, Mrs. N. B. Baker, in presenting the sword, addressed Gen. Pierce in a very happy and appropriate manner, to which the General responded.†

A beautiful horse, lately purchased of Col. Fox, of Nashua, by gentlemen in this town, and intended as a present to Gen. Pierce, died last week from the effects of a sudden and severe cold. Since that event several gentlemen, distinguished for their liberality, have purchased and presented to Gen. Pierce the fine black horse which has been owned by William Walker, Esq., the proprietor of the Eagle coffee-house.†

Messrs. Fisk & Norcross, of Lowell, have employed the last winter about one hundred men, in cutting and drawing timber in the vicinity of the White mountains. In the month of May they had upwards of thirty thousand timber logs scattered along the Merrimack river, between Thornton and Concord. These logs are to be carried to Lowell and sawed into lumber for building purposes, in the steam saw-mill of Fisk & Norcross.

* The following are the names of the subscribers and the amount subscribed for the "Volunteer Fund:"

Gen. Joseph Low, . . . \$20,00	Jacob Carter, . . . 3,00	True Osgood, . . . 5,00
Franklin Pierce, . . . 20,00	John Lull, . . . 1,00	Atkinson Webster, . . . 3,00
Abel Baker, . . . 5,00	J. Blodgett, . . . 1,00	R. G. Wyman, . . . 1,00
J. M. Hill, . . . 5,00	Joseph Robinson, . . . 10,00	William Butterfield, . . . 5,00
Nathan Call, . . . 5,00	Samuel B. Larkin, . . . 3,00	W. P. Hill, . . . 5,00
L. S. Noyes, . . . 2,00	Cyrus Hill, . . . 10,00	E. A. Bodwell, (Manchester,) . . . 3,00
Benjamin Grover, . . . 10,00	John H. George, . . . 5,00	S. G. Sylvester, . . . 2,00
H. Langley, . . . 2,50	Isaac Dow, . . . 1,00	Emery Burgess, . . . 5,00
M. S. Judkins, . . . ,50	R. T. Leavitt, . . . 2,00	William Low, . . . 3,00
L. M. Kimball, (Hillsborough,) . . . 1,00	S. C. Badger, . . . 1,00	Nathaniel Rolfe, . . . 3,00
D. G. Fuller, . . . 2,00	George Minot, . . . 5,00	J. A. Gilmore, . . . 20,00
John McDaniel, . . . 3,00	L. Runlet, (Manchester,) 5,00	William Hopkins, . . . 1,00
Cyrus Barton, . . . 5,00	Daniel Poor, . . . 5,00	Ebenezer Symmes, . . . 3,00
Jonathan Currier, . . . 1,00	Jonathan Eastman, . . . 3,00	John Gass, . . . 5,00
Samuel G. Berry, . . . 2,50	H. N. Harvey, . . . 1,00	J. E. Lang, . . . 3,00
C. A. W. Folsom, . . . 5,00	W. Johnson, . . . 1,00	J. B. Walker, . . . 5,00
Joseph Greeley, . . . 5,00	T. P. Treadwell, . . . 5,00	F. N. Fisk, . . . 5,00
N. B. Baker, . . . 5,50	Josiah Minot, . . . 5,00	William Prescott, . . . 3,00
Ezra Carter, . . . 5,00	John Pettengill, . . . 2,00	Abiel Walker, . . . 5,00
J. A. Potter, . . . 5,00	John L. Tallant, . . . 2,00	Cash, . . . ,50
H. Houston, . . . 2,00	Josiah Stevens, . . . 5,00	Franklin Low, . . . 5,00
Charles H. Peaslee, . . . 10,00	Philip Sargent, . . . 2,00	Perkins Gale, . . . 3,00
Parker West, (Manchester,) . . . 5,00	W. H. Wyman, . . . 1,00	J. F. Brown, . . . 2,00
G. W. Morrison, do. 5,00	George Jones, (Bradford,) 2,00	
	J. C. Duncklee, . . . 1,00	
	J. S. Hatchman, . . . 1,00	Total, \$310,00

† *N. H. Patriot*, May 13, 1847.

On the first of July, 1847, JAMES K. POLK, president of the United States, visited the capital of New-Hampshire, and was received and entertained in a manner worthy of the high station he occupied.

Patrick Hart, of this town, a young man in the employ of the Concord Railroad, as brakeman, was so severely injured near Lowell, on Monday evening, August 30th, that he survived the accident but a few hours.

The Ancient and Honorable Artillery, of Boston, under command of Gen. J. S. Tyler, celebrated their two hundred and eleventh anniversary on Thursday, September 9, by a visit to the capital of the Granite State. This corps, accompanied by Flagg's brass band, arrived by the noon train. Disembarking a short distance below the village, they formed in column and marched to the foot of Main street, at which point they were received by the Concord Light Infantry, Capt. Charles A. Davis, attended by the Fisherville band. After the usual ceremonies of reception by the military, Gen. C. H. Peaslee, in behalf of the citizens, welcomed this time-honored corps to the hospitalities of Concord.

Lieut. Charles F. Low, son of Gen. Joseph Low, of this town, sailed for Vera Cruz from New-York, on the 17th of September, with eighty-five recruits of the ninth regiment.

Died in this town, October 6, Mr. Andrew Willey, aged 96 years; the oldest man in town.

Sergeant John C. Stowell and Henry F. Carswell, both of the ninth regiment, and both lately printers in the N. H. Patriot office, died at the camp near the city of Mexico about the first of September. The former was very severely wounded in the battle of the 20th of August. Carswell died of fever.

Died in this town, November 7, Col. John Carter, a revolutionary pensioner and colonel in a regiment in the war of 1812, aged 88 years and 5 months. Col. C. was a native of Concord, and at the time of his decease was the second oldest resident of the place. He was always a firm and consistent democrat, and lover of his country.*

On Thursday night, December 2, about eleven o'clock, the

* *N. H. Patriot*, November 11.

cabinet shop of Mr. Charles E. West, adjoining the foundry, on Warren street, was discovered to be on fire. It had made such progress before it was discovered that the building was nearly consumed before it was extinguished. Loss about \$1,500. Four young men, Messrs. Pettengill, Bickford, Ricker and Marden, mechanics employed in the shop, lost their tools, valued at about \$200.

[1848.] On Wednesday, January 19, the large and nearly new dwelling-house and barn of M. N. Brown, situated in the north-eastern part of Concord, were entirely destroyed by fire, together with most of his household furniture, thirty or forty tons of hay, a large quantity of grain, farming tools, and a young horse, &c., amounting in value to about \$2,500. Insured for \$775.

Gen. Pierce arrived in this town, on return from Mexico, January 27, and was received with distinguished honor. It was estimated that between three and four thousand persons were at the railroad dépôt to greet him. At the Dépôt Hall he made a public address. In the evening, a public levee was held at the State House, where he received the congratulations of his friends.

The body of a child, enveloped in a napkin and handkerchief, was found May 1, by some young people who were out "Maying," in the woods west of the village, near what is known as the New Colony. From appearances when discovered it had probably laid there nearly a week.

Died in this town, May 19, Capt. Samuel Davis, in the 90th year of his age. He was a Revolutionary soldier, and for several years the oldest *native* of the town. His life was characterized by industry, integrity, and a faithful discharge of life's duties. He spent much of his time in old age in reading the Holy Scriptures.

A beautiful monument has lately been cut from Concord granite, at Mr. Luther Roby's stone-yard, at the north end of Main street, to be erected in West Cambridge, Massachusetts, on the spot where Jason Russell and eleven other American citizens were killed by the British army on the 19th of April, 1775.

On Tuesday, September 12, Charles West, son of Hazen K. West, of this village, was struck, at the north end of Main street,

by a boy named Quinn. There had been some controversy between them in the former part of the day; and upon meeting, towards night, the latter boy struck West several blows with a stake over the head. He died the next morning. The boys were about 15 years of age. Quinn ran away.

Mr. Theodore A. Hall died in this town on Thursday, October 12, under the following circumstances: Being employed in the wood-shop of the Northern railroad company, on the Saturday previous, he received a severe blow from another workman, which took effect in the region of the chest, or stomach. No bad consequences were apprehended at first; but he soon became very ill, and died in five days after receiving the injury. No malicious intention was imputed to the person who struck him.

On Friday morning, November 24, about two o'clock, as Gen. Joseph Low was returning from a visit to a sick friend, in passing the block opposite Gass's hotel he heard something resembling the cry of an infant in an entry-way next door to S. E. Brown's store. Proceeding to the spot he found a little male infant, apparently about two weeks old, lying on the floor, upon its face, nearly stifled. Gen. Low took the foundling home, and gave it proper care until provided for by the town.

Died in this town, on the 28th of January, of paralysis of the left side, after an illness of about ten days, Hon. David Lawrence Morrill, aged 77 years.*

The building owned by Capt. Ebenezer Symmes, and occupied as a bakery and confectionery establishment, was discovered to be on fire on Tuesday morning, February 13. The night was intensely cold, and the fire had made considerable headway at the time of the discovery; yet, by judicious management, it was extinguished. The fire took from ashes which had been thrown out near the building, communicating to a flight of outer stairs, and thence running to the building itself.

On Tuesday evening, February 13, at half past ten o'clock, the quiet of our usually peaceful village was broken by the cries of fire and the ringing of bells. The extensive coach manufactory of J. Stevens Abbot, Esq., (formerly Downing & Abbot,) was found to be on fire, which had made such progress before its discovery as to baffle the exertions of the fire department. The

* See Biography.

entire establishment, with the exception of a large blacksmith's shop, (a fire proof building,) was in a few hours laid in ashes.

An Irishman, named Michael Storan, committed suicide in this town on Tuesday morning, April 8, by drowning himself in the Merrimack river.

Died in this town, March 30, Isaac Emery, Esq., aged 80 years. Mr. Emery was a native of this town, and was for many years the well known landlord of a public house on the east side of the river. He had been twice elected a member of the Legislature, and had held a number of important stations in the gift of his fellow-citizens.

In the evening of March 17, Mr. Henry Larkin, an Irishman of this village, drank by mistake — supposing it to be brandy — a quantity of poison, (tincture of aconite,) enough to kill fifty men; and was immediately thrown into the most dreadful convulsions, and died in about twenty minutes.

The presentation of the sword voted by the Legislature of the State of New-Hampshire to Gen. Pierce, took place June 27, at half past four o'clock, P. M., in front of the State House. The sword was presented by Gov. Samuel Dinsmoor, in presence of a large number of the members of the Legislature and of citizens.

A serious accident, resulting in the death of one individual and the serious injury of two others, occurred on the Concord and Claremont railroad upon the occasion of its opening to Warner, on Friday, September 21. Mr. Matthew G. Gould, of Sutton, aged about 20 years, was accidentally thrown from the platform of a car near Farnum's crossing, and his legs were shockingly crushed, so that death ensued.

George E. Farnum, aged 15 years, eldest son of Dea. Benjamin Farnum, of this town, was fatally injured on Tuesday evening, September 18, by falling from a scaffolding to the lower floor in his father's barn, thereby fracturing his skull and breaking his right thigh, causing his death in two or three days.

The clothing store of F. C. Edmunds, in this place, was broken open on the night before Thanksgiving, and about one hundred dollars' worth of clothing stolen therefrom. A small trunk, containing papers of little value, was taken, but was found the next morning near the Free bridge.

On Friday, December 14, about half past twelve o'clock, the large three story wooden block on Main street, next south of the Eagle coffee-house, called Butterfield's block, was discovered to be on fire, and before men enough to resist it had assembled, the fire had made such progress as to render it impossible to save the building, and it was entirely consumed, together with the two story building next south, owned and occupied by Abraham Prescott & Sons, for the manufacture and sale of musical instruments. Next to that were two "ten footers," and then a two story dwelling-house, all owned by Col. Benjamin Grover — the first of which was nearly burned up and the others considerably injured.

Died in this town, December 22, Mrs. Mary Abbot, aged 85 — just three weeks after the death of her husband, Mr. Samuel Abbot. They had lived together in wedded life sixty-three years, and in their death were not long divided.

[1850.] Mr. Peter Jenness, of Chichester, was instantly killed, on Saturday, February 9, at the crossings of the railroads and Free bridge road. He was coming into the village with a horse and sleigh, just as the eleven o'clock train on the Concord and Claremont railroad was starting out, and either supposing the train had not started, and wishing to cross before it, or for some other reason, he whipped his horse into a very fast gait, and just as the horse had cleared the track, and the sleigh had got square upon it, the engine struck him and killed him instantly — cutting, tearing and mangling his body in a horrible manner. Mr. Jenness was a respectable farmer, about 53 years of age, and has left a wife and children.

Daniel Prince, residing on Pleasant street, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a knife, on Saturday evening, March 23. He survived until Tuesday morning. He was 67 years of age, and leaves a wife. The only cause assigned for this act was the fear of pecuniary troubles, which had no real foundation.

Died in this town, in May, Mr. Nathaniel Ewer, aged 77. He ate his dinner as usual, and, going out of his house, suddenly fell and died.

The grocery and provision store of W. Odlin & Co., in this village, was broken into one night last week, and about twenty-

five dollars in money stolen therefrom. It was probably entered by means of a false key.*

On Friday, November 15, upon the Poor Farm in this town, two men were engaged in blasting rocks, and while one of them was charging a seam from a keg of powder which he held under his arm, the charge exploded, igniting the powder in the keg, and very seriously injuring and burning both of the men. Neither of them were fatally injured, but it is a wonder that both were not killed. Their names were Sullivan Davis and ——— Corliss.

Another horrible accident occurred on the Concord and Claremont railroad on Tuesday morning, attended with the loss of two lives. As the morning train was coming through the cut at Farnum's ledge, about two miles above this village, where the highway crosses the track diagonally, it came in contact with a two horse wagon, containing a gentleman and lady coming into town. The horses had barely crossed the track, and the wagon was upon it, when the engine struck the wagon, staving it in pieces, and passing over the bodies of its occupants, horribly mangling and instantly killing the lady, and so injuring the man that he soon died. The persons were William Coult and wife, of Manchester, aged about 55 years. They had been on a journey to Vermont and Western New-York, and were just returning home, when thus suddenly called to another world.

[1851.] On Monday night, November 3, between eleven and twelve o'clock, the dwelling of Mr. David Tandy, near the Sand hill, so called, was assailed by several young men, and violence committed. The assailants on reaching the house commenced calling for the sons of Mr. Tandy, threatening violence if they came out, and that the house would be demolished if they remained within it, accompanying their threats with a volley of oaths. The sons, David and Calvin L., went out to resist the assault, when they were saluted by stones, one of which struck Calvin L. Tandy in the forehead, just above the right eye, and fractured his skull.

MISSIONARY CONVENTION. A convention was held at the North church, in this town, on the 4th and 5th of November,

* *N. H. Patriot*, September 19, 1850.

the object of which was to obtain more full information respecting the state of nations unenlightened by Christianity, and to awaken and diffuse more of a missionary spirit in churches. The convention was well attended by ministers and others from different parts of the country; and great interest was given to the meeting by the presence and addresses of Rev. Mr. Goodell, a returned missionary of the American Board, who has spent about thirty years in the service, and of Dr. Pomroy, one of the secretaries of the Board.

Gen. Robert Davis, of this town, sustained serious injury on Monday, October 6, by falling from the roof of his dwelling-house, whither he went to remove leaves and other obstructions in the gutter. He had a hook attached to a pole — being accustomed to ascend the roof for a similar purpose — which he applied to the ridge-pole, and descended towards the gutter. The hook became detached from the pole, and Gen. Davis was precipitated to the ground, breaking one thigh and being otherwise injured.

Mr. Stephen Chase, formerly a resident of the East Village, died in Conway a few days since, at the age of 67. Mr. Chase will be remembered by those who were boys in 1812–15, as being the man who had the honor of carrying and beating the first base drum ever seen in the world-renowned Eleventh Regiment of New-Hampshire militia, at a muster which took place on the “lower interval,” as it is called, east of Federal bridge.*

The most destructive conflagration ever known in Concord took place on Monday night, August 25, about eleven o'clock. The flames were first discovered issuing from a long, three story wooden building, known as “Mechanics’ Row,” immediately in rear of the apothecary store of Mr. E. H. Rollins, and which was surrounded by structures as combustible as itself. The fire rapidly spread to the stable of the Eagle coffee-house; thence to a new and elegant brick building, called the “Merchants’ Exchange;” near the same time enveloping wooden buildings on the south, owned by Mr. Abraham Prescott and Col. Grover, and on the north the Eagle coffee-house and the brick block

* *N. H. Statesman*, October 25.

occupied for stores, together with all the wooden buildings in the rear. The fire was finally arrested on the north at the building with brick ends, still standing, owned by Mrs. M. A. Stickney, and on the south by the brick building known as Low's block. All the intermediate buildings — forming the business centre on the east side of Main street — were destroyed, with much of their contents. The buildings were mostly insured. The light of this great fire was seen over nearly every part of New-Hampshire — as far as Franconia; also in Thetford, Vermont, eighty-four miles; and in Portland, Maine, one hundred miles from Concord. At Portsmouth, it is said, it appeared as if only twelve or fifteen miles distant, and at Francestown it shone into sleeping chambers like the light of the waning moon. The owners or occupants of the buildings burnt and principal sufferers were as follows: Benjamin Grover, Abraham Prescott, Prescott & Brothers, Jane Dustin, Allison & Gault, Porter, Rolfe & Brown, William Walker, Jr., E. H. Rollins, Mrs. M. A. Stickney — owners; John Gibson, of the Eagle hotel; Jacob Carter & Son, C. W. Gardner, J. & C. Munroe, C. W. Harvey, Nathaniel Evans, Jr., Page & Fay, Johnson & Dewey, Moore & Cilley, C. E. Savory & Co., Brown & Young, G. P. Lyon, Sylvester Dana, Ephraim Eaton, B. W. Sanborn, McFarland & Jenks, J. Prescott & Co., G. D. Abbot, Fogg & Wiggin, Dr. T. Haynes, David Winkley, R. C. Osgood, H. A. & A. H. Bellows, Peaslee & George, C. Ainsworth, James Peverly, Tripp & Osgood, G. Bullock, B. Gage, S. G. Sylvester, Miss A. Hamlin, Reed & Stanley, Norton & Crawford — occupants.

Discourses of a kind naturally suggested by the fire were delivered to most, if not all of the congregations here, on the following Sabbath.

Mr. John F. Brown, of this town, the well known book-seller and publisher, presented us on Wednesday with an apple raised by himself, which weighs seventeen ounces, and the greatest circumference of which is thirteen and a half inches.*

The mansion house of the late Gov. Hill was purchased on Monday, September 22, by Isaac Danforth, Esq., of Boston. The price at which it was bid off was \$4.450.

* *Statesman*, September 27.

The freight train down over the Northern railroad, last week, consisted of one hundred and ninety-four, and on Tuesday, October 7, of two hundred and forty-two loaded cars.

[1852.] On new year's day two of our young men were removed from us by death. Mr. Marshall B. Colby, station agent on the Claremont road at the Mast Yard dépôt, was crushed to death between two cars, and Mr. Lyman Aldrich died on the same day of inflammation of the lungs, following a course of typhus fever. The funeral services of both were attended on the following Sabbath, at the West Parish church. Sermon by Rev. A. P. Tenney.

On Friday morning, January 23, between three and four o'clock, a fire was discovered in a small wooden building on the Free bridge road, within a few feet of a range of wooden buildings on Main street, owned by Mrs. Mary Ann Stickney, to which the fire was soon communicated, and the whole were destroyed. The occupants of the consumed buildings were Daniel A. Hill, furniture ware-house; David Symonds, harness maker; Day & Emerson, marble workers; William Gilman, shoe maker; Eben Hall, tin-ware manufacturer; Joel C. Danforth, whip manufacturer, and Moore & Jenkins, market house.

On Friday morning, April 23, the interval on both sides of the Merrimack river was completely covered with water, extending from immediately east of Main street to the "Dark plain." There was an unbroken sheet of water from the foot of the hill, near the Walker barn, to the East Village. In the distance Kearsarge mountain was seen white with snow.

John McAlpin, assistant road-master on the Concord Railroad, was instantly killed on Wednesday, April 21, by being thrown from a gravel train, which passed over him. He leaves a wife and four children.

On Wednesday, May 19, Rev. Augustus Woodbury, pastor of the Unitarian church in this town, while examining a *jam* of logs, owned by Fisk & Norcross, at the Concord lower bridge, having stepped upon the timber, fell into the water; and such was the rapidity of the stream, he was instantly carried beneath the thickly imbedded logs, to a point some *sixty* feet from the upper end of the jam. Fortunately he was rescued from his perilous

situation — when death seemed inevitable — by two of the men in Fisk & Norcross's employ. Their names were John Crawford and Abbot Haynes, both of the State of Maine.

A fire occurred on Saturday, May 29, about five, P. M., in the large house — formerly Washington hotel — owned by Mr. Charles Smart, north end of Main street. It was extinguished without much damage.

The new jail, located about three-fourths of a mile from the Main street, at the intersection of Warren and Pleasant streets, was finished the last of May. The site, including about ten acres of land, was purchased of Mrs. M. A. Stickney for \$1.100. The building was erected at an expense of \$11.000. The labor was performed mostly by contract. The stone work by John C. and Francis Farnum; the wood work by Cross and Warren; the brick work and slating by James C. Whittemore; the copper work and plumbing by J. D. Cooper, and the iron work at the State Prison. The plan was designed by Messrs. George A. Pillsbury, Luther McCutcheon and John Tennant, committee, in connection with John Miller, architect.

The body of an Irishman, named John Montgomery, was discovered floating in the Merrimack river, near the Free bridge, on Wednesday, A. M., June 30. Montgomery, who was lately in the employ of Robinson & Morrill, tanners, of the East Village, was intemperate; and late on Saturday night was in company with one John Quinn and other Irishmen — the whole company having indulged, in the course of the evening, in frequent potations. An inquest on the body was held by Seth Eastman, Esq., and the following verdict returned: "That said Montgomery came to his death on Sunday morning, 27th June, by the hands of some person or persons unknown; and that John Quinn was the person last known to have been in company with him before his death."

The fourth of July was celebrated in Concord pretty much as usual. The bells were rung and salutes fired at sunrise, noon and sunset; chowder parties came off at Long pond and other favorite resorts, and the boys wound up the whole with a little fun in the evening.

Mr. P. C. Holmes, aged 20, son of Charles Holmes, Esq., of

Dunbarton, clerk in the store of Mr. B. Plummer Whipple, of Concord, was drowned in the Merrimack river, under the Free bridge, on Sunday morning, between five and six o'clock, where he went to bathe with another young man. His body was found next day about four, P. M., being raised by the firing of cannon on the bank of the river.

Wednesday, August 25, is the anniversary of the great fire in Concord last year. New and elegant buildings have already been erected upon the ruins, and nearly all are tenanted, or ready for occupancy. The hotel, on the site of the old Eagle coffee-house, is to be opened on the first of November, by Maj. John Gibson, and will be the most spacious and elegant in the State.*

An elegant and lofty flag-staff, or liberty pole, near the State House yard, on Main street, was erected in August, by the "Granite Club," at a cost, with the flag, of three hundred dollars. The main pole is ninety-three feet in length. The flag pole about sixty. The pole and staff were cut in Dunbarton.

The flag-staff erected this season in West Concord is one hundred and ten feet high.

Died in this town, September 8, very suddenly, Mr. John Park Gass, aged 58, extensively known as the popular keeper of various public hotels. Mr. Gass was named for his uncle, Stuart J. Park, Esq.† His mother was S. J. Park. In 1816 he came to Concord with his uncle, and was the overseer of the State Prison convicts, to learn them to hammer stone for the State House. After the State House was finished, Mr. Gass and Dearborn Johnson hired the prisoners to work for them, up to 1820. He then went to Columbia, South Carolina, and built locks and canals on Saluda river, and made a handsome sum of money. Returning to Concord, he bought the Columbian hotel of Maj. Peter Robertson, kept the hotel until 1826, went to Boston, kept the Back-street house, now called Salem-street, stayed there a few months, then went to New-York, and kept the Broadway house until the fall of 1829. At the request of Isaac Hill he then returned to Concord and took the Eagle coffee-house, and kept it until 1834 — having for about two years

* *N. H. Statesman.* † See notice of Mr. Park, p. 365, note.

of the same time the charge also of the Columbian hotel. In 1834, in connection with his son John, he built the American house, where he continued till 1847, when he went into the grocery business in a store fitted up in the basement of the old "Emmons house," immediately north of the hotel. Mr. Gass was one of the most agreeable and popular taverners in New-Hampshire. His accommodations were always on a liberal scale, in which he himself participated; attentive to his guests, sociable and witty in his remarks, he rarely failed to give satisfaction. Mr. Gass died suddenly of apoplexy and congestion of the lungs. He left an only son, Mr. John Gass, proprietor of the American house, and three daughters. Susan, the eldest, married George Wood; Jane Park, married Sullivan H. Sanborn; Mary Ann, married Oliver Greeley.

Three hundred and eighty-two cars, loaded with live stock, passed down over the Concord Railroad on Tuesday, September 14, besides the regular freight trains, amounting in all to five hundred and thirty-four cars.*

OMNIBUS. Mr. George Dame, of the Pavilion hotel, has started an omnibus, which runs twice, hourly, between the north end of Main street and the dépôt. Upon the panels are views of the State House, Dépôt, and Main street, and a likeness of Gen. Franklin Pierce, painted by Mr. Wolcott, in the employ of J. S. Abbot & Co. This was the *first* omnibus started in Concord.

News of the death of Hon. Daniel Webster, at Marshfield, Massachusetts, on Sunday morning, October 24, twenty-two minutes before three o'clock, was received in Concord by telegraph at nine o'clock the same morning. The bells of the town were immediately tolled, flags that were on public buildings were lowered half-mast, and the several clergymen in their church services made appropriate allusions to the national bereavement.

On Monday morning, at ten o'clock, most of the stores and offices on Main street were closed, and the citizens, as if moved by a spontaneous impulse, assembled in the Representatives' Hall in the State House, to express in an appropriate manner their feelings on the mournful occasion. A large number of ladies were also present. The meeting was called to order by Edward H.

* *N. H. Patriot*

Parker, M. D., when prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Bouton. Hon. Ira Perley was chosen chairman, and Dr. Parker secretary. On taking the chair Judge Perley made an appropriate and impressive address. A committee, consisting of W. H. Bartlett, Richard Bradley, N. B. Baker, Ezra Carter, and H. A. Bellows, was then chosen, to report resolutions appropriate to the mournful occasion. On the resolutions being offered, Gen. Franklin Pierce, then in nomination as a candidate for the presidency of the United States, made an address, in which he used the impressive words, "How do mere earthly honors and distinctions fade amid a gloom like this! How political asperities are chastened—what a lesson to the living! What an admonition to personal malevolence, now awed and subdued, AS THE GREAT HEART OF THE NATION THROBS HEAVILY AT THE PORTALS OF HIS GRAVE."*

On Monday evening, January 3, as Hon. Henry Hubbard, of Charlestown, was going from the Eagle hotel, in stepping from the sidewalk at the north end of the block his feet slipped, he fell heavily upon the ice, and struck his left arm upon the curb stone, breaking the bone above the elbow. For this accident the governor sued the town for damages, and obtained a verdict in his favor for about \$800.

Benjamin, the only son of Gen. Franklin Pierce, was instantly killed on Thursday, January 6, by a terrible accident to the cars on the Boston and Maine railroad, about one mile from Andover, Mass. In company with his parents he had just left the house of his uncle, John Aiken, Esq., of Andover, for Concord. The cars, running at a rapid rate, were suddenly thrown from the track, and precipitated down a rocky embankment of twenty feet or more. At the time of the occurrence the beautiful boy was standing near his parents, and when the cars went over it was supposed he was thrown forward in such a manner as to fracture his skull and produce instant death. It is remarkable that he was the only one killed, although some were severely and many slightly injured.

His remains were conveyed back to the house of Mr. Aiken, where funeral services were performed on the Monday following, in the presence of a numerous and sorrowing assembly. Rev.

* See report of proceedings, &c., *N. H. Patriot*, October 27, 1852.

Henry E. Parker, of Concord, officiated. About sixty persons from Concord attended as sympathising friends. Twelve lads, associates and school-mates of "little Benny," attended as pall-bearers. After the services at Andover the remains of the dear boy were brought to Concord and followed by an immense procession from the Dépôt to the ancient burying-ground, at the north end of the village, where they were deposited in the family enclosure, beside those of his deceased brother, Robert, who died November 14, 1843, aged 4 years and 2 months. The silver plate on the coffin of the deceased bears the following inscription: "Benjamin Pierce, died January 6, 1853, aged 11 years and 9 months."

The dwelling-house of Mr. Isaac F. Williams, opposite the South church, took fire on Sunday, January 16, a little past noon—originating probably from a defect in the chimney. It was soon extinguished. The damage from fire and water is estimated at between two and three hundred dollars.

On the 24th of February, John Virgin,* commonly called "Uncle John," or "Old John," was found dead in a small hut near Sugar Ball, where he had lived alone about three years. He was discovered by Mr. Moses Cass and Mr. True George, upon whose information a coroner's inquest was held by Seth Eastman, Esq. When found he was lying on the floor, with only a shirt on, one hand in the stove, (in which was no fire,) and his lower limbs frozen. Virgin was a soldier from Concord in the war of 1812, and was with General Harrison at the battle of "Tippecanoe"—which was a theme for his boasting as long as he lived. He was an invalid, having an ulcerous sore on one of his legs, which was very offensive. Virgin received a pension of \$96 a year from the government, and upon this he determined to live independently of every body. Refusing the offer of assistance from the town, he lived alone the latter part of his life, in his little hut, in a most wretched and filthy condition, exposed to the severities of winter, and sometimes without sufficient food, or wood to warm him. He would occasionally visit the main village, where his haggard appearance and his loud, patriotic harangues, always excited attention!† Virgin was a man of vio-

* See page 47.

† See sketch of Virgin in the Concord Directory, published by Charles H. Wheeler, 1853.

lent passions. He had no friends, because he *would* not have them. He *lived* alone, *died* alone, and was *buried* alone. At the order of the selectmen, on the evening of the day that he was found his body was taken by the sexton, Joseph Brown, and carried to the hearse-house, in the burying-ground by the old North Church. Next morning at 11 o'clock he was buried without the attendance of a single person, except the sexton.

It is but just to remark, that notwithstanding Virgin spent his last days in so wretched a condition, the selectmen repeatedly offered him assistance, and would gladly have made him comfortable. Individuals, also, from the main village sent him many little comforts; and the families near him, at Sugar Ball, particularly Mr. Samuel Clifford's and Joseph Lougee's, looked after him, and from their own table often sent him warm food, and in winter provided him with wood. When he came into Main street people treated him kindly, and even with a degree of respect. Some were always ready to listen to his eloquent harangues, and to applaud him. He had remarkable fluency and command of large words. The following is a specimen, taken from Wheler's Directory, of 1853 :

"When the 'Old Hero,' as 'Uncle John' called General Harrison, was up for the Presidency, he had no more ardent or sincere supporter than John Virgin. We remember him then; and, in imagination, we seem to see him coming down the street with his peculiar gait, staff in hand. Some one accosts him. He halts with military precision and promptness. 'Good morning, Uncle John!' 'Ah! good morning, my friend ——.' 'How is the election going, Uncle John?' And then he brings up the cane from the ground; he unconsciously assumes an oratorical attitude, and then breaks out in the following style:

'Ah! (rising inflection) the gallant General Harrison! whose name has always been allied with victory! illuminating the great American heart like the brilliant meteor, as it madly dashes through the Universe! The heroic General Harrison! whose name, that once struck terror to the hearts of his country's enemies, shall cause still greater consternation among his political foes, when, like the deep rumbling earthquake, or the irresistible tornado, he shall ascend to the throne of the people's grateful heart!

'Glory to the noble General William Henry Harrison! whose fame has already burst upon the distant nations with the swiftness of the comet and the brightness of the lightning's glare! Ever shall his name glow like the sun at mid-day, and the stars by night! [Oratorical pause.] Ah! what mighty voice is that I hear? It is the

howl of the angry ocean waves, as they madly dash against the earth-bound rocks! Ah! 't is the uprising of the glorious American people in their majesty, speaking in thunder-tones; reverberating from North to South, from East to West,—*The gallant Harrison is our President!*"

"At times some wight is hardy enough to disparage the hero of 'Uncle John's' laudation—but wo to him! 'By all the mighty cataracts!' begins the enraged orator; and before he is through with him he drives him into the knot-hole of his insignificance, and then kicks his diminished shadow in after him! But Uncle John is generally very kindly treated, whatever may be the political complexion of his audience."

On the 5th of March, Benjamin Hazen, child of Mr. Robert P. Kimball, aged 2 years and 9 months, accidentally fell into a pail of hot water, and was scalded to death.

CITY OF CONCORD.

The CITY CHARTER, which, as already stated, was granted by the New-Hampshire Legislature July 6, 1849, has been published in a permanent form, and distributed generally among the citizens. It is, therefore, deemed unnecessary here to insert it. Strongly attached as many of the people were to the usages of the town organization, and not having experienced *personally* much inconvenience on account of the increase of population and correspondent changes in the business affairs of the town, they were reluctant to hazard a change from a town to a city government, especially as it was apprehended that the expenses would thereby be greatly enhanced. One strong argument in favor of a city government was found in the inconvenience of the annual town meeting in one place. The number of voters having increased to upwards of two thousand, the annual meeting, in contested elections, was necessarily protracted and tedious—requiring, in repeated instances, four, five and six days to choose officers and transact the ordinary business of the town.

On the question of the adoption of the city charter, four trials were had, which resulted as follows :

VOTES UPON THE ADOPTION OF THE CITY CHARTER.

	Sept. 22, 1849.	May 17, 1851.	March 13, 1852.	March 10, 1853.
Whole number of votes cast,	820	721	1072	1387
Nays,	637	582	614	559
Yeas,	183	139	458	828
Majority against adoption, .	454	443	156	
Majority in favor,				269

The first election under the charter adopted by the town on the 10th of March, took place on Saturday, the 26th of the same month. There were three candidates for mayor,* viz. : Richard Bradley, Joseph Low and Asa Fowler. The result of the vote was as follows :

	Bradley.	Low.	Fowler.
Ward 1.	87	42	3
“ 2.	59	86	7
“ 3.	73	25	5
“ 4.	135	170	25
“ 5.	102	189	46
“ 6.	113	157	33
“ 7.	75	80	7
	644	749	126

Majority against Low, 21

At the first election the following gentlemen were chosen to office in the several wards, viz. :

ALDERMEN.

Ward 1. John Batchelder.	Ward 5. Edson Hill.
“ 2. John L. Tallant.	“ 6. Matthew Harvey.
“ 3. Joseph Eastman.	“ 7. Josiah Stevens.
“ 4. Robert Davis.	

COMMON COUNCIL.

Ward 1. Jeremiah S. Durgin, Eben F. Elliot.
“ 2. Samuel B. Larkin, Heman Sanborn.
“ 3. George W. Brown, Moses Humphrey.
“ 4. Ezra Carter, George Minot.

* See *N. H. Statesman*, April 2, 1853.

- Ward 5. William H. H. Bailey, Cyrus Barton.
 " 6. Ebenezer G. Moore, Thomas Bailey.
 " 7. Moses Shute, Giles W. Ordway.

ASSESSORS AND MODERATORS.

	Assessors.	Moderators.
Ward 1.	Nathan Chandler.	Jeremiah S. Durgin.
" 2.	William Pecker.	Timothy W. Emery.
" 3.	John Abbot.	Daniel Holden.
" 4.	Jonathan E. Lang.	John H. George.
" 5.	Nathan Call.	John L. Hadley.
" 6.	William M. Carter.	N. B. Baker.
" 7.	Jeremiah S. Noyes.	Josiah Stevens.

CLERKS.

Ward 1. James D. Page.	Ward 5. Mitchell Gilmore.
" 2. John M. Dearborn.	" 6. John F. Brown.
" 3. Elbridge Dimond.	" 7. James M. Otis.
" 4. J. B. Smart.	

SELECTMEN.

- Ward 1. Albert H. Drown, Samuel F. Brown, Rufus D. Scales.
 " 2. Thos. D. Potter, Isaac Virgin, Zebulon Smith.
 " 3. Simeon Abbot, Hiram Farnum, Jeremiah S. Abbot.
 " 4. Lyman A. Walker, Thos. A. Ambrose, Jas. H. Buswell.
 " 5. Jona. Sargent, Benj. Coffin, Jr., George A. Pillsbury.
 " 6. James F. Lund, Joseph H. Mace, Caleb Parker.
 " 7. Atkinson Webster, Isaac Abbott, James Thompson.

SCHOOL BOARD.

Ward 1. Edmund Worth.	Ward 5. Chas. P. Gage.
" 2. Henry A. Kendall.	" 6. Jas. W. Sargent.
" 3. Asa P. Tenney.	" 7. Josiah Stevens.
" 4. Eleazer Smith.	

On Tuesday, the 5th of April, a second and successful effort was made to elect a mayor, the vote in the several wards being as follows:

	Bradley.	Low.	Scat.
Ward 1.	74	60	1
" 2.	69	84	
" 3.	73	31	3

Ward 4.	138	175
“ 5.	106	197
“ 6.	107	153
“ 7.	68	127
	—	—
	635	827
		635
		—
Low’s majority,		192
Whole vote on the first trial,		1.519
“ “ “ “ second trial,		1.466

ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

Agreeably to public notice, a large number of the people of Concord assembled in the Representatives’ Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, April 6, at 2 o’clock, to witness the induction to office of the Mayor elect and the two branches of the City Council.

At twenty minutes past 2, Gen. Joseph Low, mayor elect, arose from the chair of the speaker, addressed the chairman of the board of selectmen, and stated, that having been apprized of his election to the office of mayor, he appeared before his fellow-citizens to take the oath required, before entering upon the duties of his office.

The chairman of the selectmen, John C. Pillsbury, Esq., then invited Hon. Josiah Minot to administer the oath of office, which was done, after which the mayor administered the oath to the aldermen, the common council, the school committee, and the board of assessors.

The aldermen, councilmen, school committee and assessors were seated on the right and left of the speaker’s desk, and the board of selectmen, chosen by the town on the 9th of March — Messrs. Pillsbury, Webster and Abbot — were at the clerk’s desk, immediately in front of the mayor.

After the administration of the several oaths, Rev. Mr. Flanders, pastor of the Baptist church, read portions of scripture, when the Throne of Grace was addressed by the Rev. Dr. Bouton, senior ordained clergyman of the city.

These several ceremonies and services being concluded, the

mayor arose and addressed the members of the city government as follows :

Gentlemen of the City Council and Gentlemen of the several Boards of the City Government here assembled :

Unacquainted as I am with the rules of legislation or with the municipal affairs of the town, it is with the sincerest distrust that I venture to enter upon the trust assigned to me by the suffrages of my fellow-citizens.

It is, indeed, a distinction that I may most highly appreciate, but a position that my habits of life and course of business but illy fit me to hold. I can, therefore, only promise that whatever of strength or ability I possess shall be devoted to a prompt, impartial and faithful performance of all the duties pertaining to the executive office of this corporation.

The change of government upon which we are about to enter involves duties and responsibilities that can be successfully met and performed only by the united and patient efforts of those to whom the administration of the affairs of the city have been confided. I may consider myself singularly fortunate that I am associated with so many gentlemen of tried worth and long experience in the municipal affairs of the town ; and I doubt not that it will be the anxious care of every member of the government of the corporation, to have the change bear as lightly upon every section and every individual, as may be consistent with the highest good and truest interests of the city, and realized only by its convenient, economical and efficient action.

I might here, perhaps, with great propriety take a retrospective view of the rise and progress of this highly favored town, from its earliest organization, in 1725, through its seasons of weakness, privations and hardships, as well as its days of prosperity and distinction, down to the present period of mature strength and enviable position ; but as the labor of writing our history is now being performed by a gentleman in every way competent to the task, and the results of which, it is understood, will soon be accessible to all, I may not properly detain you longer upon this subject.

By one of the provisions of the charter it becomes the duty of the mayor from time to time to communicate to the city council such information and to recommend such measures as in his judgment the interest of the city may seem to require ; and, gentlemen, I trust that I need not assure you that it will be my anxious desire and earnest purpose, as circumstances and experience shall suggest, to discharge this duty with promptness and fidelity.

I am not aware that any considerable change or unusual outlay will be required to accomplish all the objects for which the city charter was obtained—nor do I apprehend, gentlemen, under your administration, any augmentation of burthens, or material increase of taxation, consequent upon its adoption.

Our fire department, composed as it is of our most active and

efficient fellow-citizens, has at all times answered the most sanguine hopes of its friends, and received the commendation and liberal support of the town; and I am happy to say on this occasion that no further considerable appropriation will at present be required on account of this department.

The management and improvement of our schools is an object of paramount interest, and in my estimation immensely transcends in its beneficial consequences to the children and youth of our city, and the welfare and prosperity of any community, all considerations of mere dollars and cents; and as I have so often spoken in the hearing of the town of the importance of an improved and more elevated standard of education in our primary schools, I may not on this occasion, with propriety, further allude to this most important subject, otherwise than to express my fullest confidence that a liberal and enlightened policy will always characterize your acts in connection with this great interest.

In regard to the expenditures upon our highways, respecting the construction of common sewers, the draining and grading of our streets, the substantial construction of our roads and the improvement of our side walks, I will only say, they are subjects that especially belong to you, gentlemen, to consider, and which you are so fully competent to decide that I will not venture upon your judgment any suggestion of my own.

The town farm, so valuable in itself, and which has so largely contributed in by-gone years to the comfort and support of the unfortunate and destitute, will, I doubt not, receive at your hands that provision and consideration its importance and reasonable expectation demand.

I avail myself of this opportunity to call your early attention to the importance of providing a house of correction for the security of vagrants, truants and disorderly persons, where they may be made, in some good degree, to contribute by their labor to their own support.

It is already seen that a slight amendment must be made in the city charter, in order to the convenient arrangement and limits of one of the wards. I would therefore suggest the propriety of an early examination of all its provisions and defects, with a view to an application to the approaching session of the Legislature for such alterations and improvements as its practical working has thus far shown to be desirable.

It becomes us at all times to realize and acknowledge our dependence upon the great Maker and Governor of the universe, for life and for all its blessings; especially does it become us now, as we are about to enter upon new and untried duties and responsibilities, involving the dearest earthly interests of our citizens, to remember our accountability to Him in whose hands our breath is, and whose are all our ways, and at all times to look to Him for guidance and direction.

It may not, gentlemen, be inappropriate for me, in closing, to remark, that in my inexperience I must rely largely upon your kind-

ness and support for a successful discharge of the duties that devolve upon me, and that I shall at all times take pleasure in the fullest coöperation with you in every measure calculated to advance the interest or promote the convenience of every section of our city and of every class of our citizens.

At the close of the address the common councilmen retired to another room, and the boards organized separately. In the board of aldermen, Messrs. Harvey and Stevens were appointed, with such as the council should join, to report rules for the city council; and Messrs. Davis and Tallant, with such as the council should join, to procure rooms for the various branches of the city government.

In the common council, Thomas Bailey, Esq., the oldest member, took the chair, and they proceeded to elect a president. On the first ballot there was no choice — George W. Brown had one, Ezra Carter six, and Cyrus Barton seven. On the second ballot Cyrus Barton was chosen, having twelve votes to two for Ezra Carter, and on taking the chair returned thanks for the honor conferred upon him.

W. H. H. Bailey was chosen clerk *pro tem.* of the common council. Messrs. Minot, Moore and Barton were joined to the committee to report rules.

Messrs. W. H. H. Bailey, Shute and Thomas Bailey, were joined to the committee to procure rooms.

The two boards met in city council, and alderman Stevens was elected city clerk, *pro tem.*

Both boards then adjourned to meet at the Court House on Saturday, April 9, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

At this adjourned meeting John F. Brown was elected city clerk, and William H. Bartlett city solicitor. Amos Hadley was elected clerk of the common council.

The city government being thus in due form fully organized, proceeded to the transaction of business, according to the provisions of the charter; for which reference must be had to the original records in the office of the city clerk.

LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL TOWN OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES,
FROM 1815 TO 1853, INCLUSIVE.

[See page 384—notes.]

Year.	Moderators.	Town Clerks.	Selectmen.	Auditors.	Collectors.	Representatives.
1815.	William A. Kent.	John Odlin.	Nathaniel Ambrose, Joshua Abbot, Richard Bradley.		Pearl Kimball, S. Coffin.	Richard Ayer, George Hough.
1816.	William A. Kent.	John Odlin.	Richard Bradley, Samuel Runnels.	Charles Walker, Stephen Ambrose, Richard Ayer.	Richard Bradley, A. Farnum, Jr., Pearl Kimball.	George Hough, John Odlin.
1817.	Stephen Ambrose.	John Odlin.	Joshua Abbot, Richard Bradley, Samuel Runnels.	Stephen Ambrose, Charles Walker, Richard Ayer.	Isaac Eastman, James Hoit.	John Odlin, William A. Kent.
1818.	T. W. Thompson.	John Odlin.	John Odlin, Nathaniel Abbot, Nathaniel Ambrose.	Benja. Kimball, Jr., Stephen Ambrose, Charles Walker.	Isaac Eastman, Timothy Carter.	T. W. Thompson, William A. Kent.
1819.	Charles Walker.	Francis N. Fisk.	Abiel Walker, Joseph Pecker, Jeremiah Pecker.	Stephen Ambrose, Timothy Chandler, William A. Kent.	Samuel Coffin, James Hoit, Isaac Eastman.	Abiel Walker, Nathan Ballard, Jr.
1820.	Samuel Green.	Francis N. Fisk.	Richard Bradley, Isaac Farnum, Jeremiah Pecker.	Charles Walker, Stephen Ambrose, Timothy Chandler.	James Hoit, Timothy Dow, Abraham Bean.	Stephen Ambrose, Nathaniel Abbot.
1821.	Stephen Ambrose.	Francis N. Fisk.	Richard Bradley, Isaac Farnum, Jeremiah Pecker.	Charles Walker, Stephen Ambrose, Joseph Walker.	James Hoit, Timothy Bradley.	Stephen Ambrose, Nathaniel Abbot.
1822.	Stephen Ambrose.	Francis N. Fisk.	Albe Cady, Isaac Farnum, Isaac Dow.	Charles Walker, William Low.	James Hoit, Enoch E. Bradley.	
1823.	Stephen Ambrose.	Francis N. Fisk.	Jeremiah Pecker, Isaac Farnum, Isaac Dow.	Charles Walker, Stephen Ambrose, William Low.	James Hoit, Richard Potter, Jr.	Stephen Ambrose, Samuel Fletcher.

LIST OF OFFICERS — CONTINUED.

Year.	Moderators.	Town Clerks.	Selectmen.	Auditors.	Collectors.	Representatives.
1824.	Stephen Ambrose.	Francis N. Fisk.	Stephen Ambrose, Richard Bradley, Benjamin Parker.	Charles Walker, William A. Kent.	James Hoit, Samuel G. Potter.	Samuel Fletcher, Richard Bradley.
1825.	Stephen Ambrose.	Francis N. Fisk.	Jeremiah Pecker, Robert Davis.	William A. Kent, Richard Ayer, Stephen Ambrose.	James Hoit, Abraham Bean.	Richard Bradley, Francis N. Fisk.
1826.	Joseph Low.	Francis N. Fisk.	Joseph Walker, Robert Davis.	Richard Bartlett, Richard Ayer.	James Hoit, John Jarvis, Hazen Virgin.	Francis N. Fisk, Isaac Hill.
1827.	Joseph Low.	Francis N. Fisk.	Jeremiah Pecker, Robert Davis, Samuel Coffin.	Richard Ayer, Richard Bartlett, Samuel Fletcher.	Esra Ballard, Abraham Bean.	Jeremiah Pecker, Nathan Ballard, Jr.
1828.	Joseph Low.	Francis N. Fisk.	Samuel Herbert, Benjamin Parker, Isaac Eastman.	Samuel Fletcher, Samuel Coffin, Stephen Ambrose.	Moses W. Nichols, Esra Ballard, John Jarvis.	George Kent, Jacob B. Moore, Richard Bradley,* Samuel Herbert.
1829.	Joseph Low.	John West.	Benjamin Parker, Isaac Eastman, Samuel Knowlton.	Richard Bartlett, Stephen Ambrose, Dudley S. Palmer.	Esra Ballard, John Jarvis, Samuel G. Potter.	Richard Bradley, Samuel Herbert, Robert Ambrose.
1830.	Joseph Low.	John West.	Richard Bradley, James Moulton, Jr., Cyrus Robinson.	Stephen Ambrose, Richard Bartlett, Dudley S. Palmer.	Abraham Bean, Henry Fisk.	Robert Ambrose, Richard Bartlett, Theodore French.
1831.	Richard Bradley.	John West.	James Moulton, Jr., Cyrus Robinson, Joseph P. Stickney.	Stephen Ambrose, Dudley S. Palmer, Samuel Morril.	Abraham Bean.	Theodore French, Richard Bartlett, Theodore French, David George.
1832.	Richard Bradley.	John West.	Richard Bradley, Laban Page.	Stephen Ambrose, Joseph Low, Horatio Hill.	Abraham Bean.	David George, William Kent, Samuel A. Kimball.
1833.	Abner P. Stinson.	Samuel Coffin.	Robert Davis, Laban Page, Thomas D. Potter.	John Estabrook, Isaac F. Williams, Jona. Eastman, Jr.	Abraham Bean.	Abel Baker, Isaac Emery, Charles H. Peaslee.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

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1834.	Francis N. Fisk.	Samuel Coffin.	Robert Davis, Laban Page, Thomas D. Potter.	Isaac F. Williams, Jona. Eastman, Jr., Moses Shute.	Abraham Bean.†	Charles H. Peaslee, Jeremiah Pecker, Joseph P. Stickney
1835.	Francis N. Fisk.	Samuel Coffin.	Robert Davis, Moses Shute, Jacob A. Potter, Jacob A. Potter.	Henry Sweetser, Jacob A. Potter, David Davis, Jr.		Jeremiah Pecker, Isaac Emery.
1836.	Robert Davis.	Jonathan E. Lang.	Robert Davis, Moses Shute, Jacob Hoit.	Samuel Coffin, John Putney, Abial Rolfe.		Charles H. Peaslee, Ezra Carter, William Dow, Ebenezer Eastman.
1837.	Isaac Hill.	Jonathan E. Lang.	Robert Davis, Jonathan Eastman, Enoch H. Dow.	Samuel Coffin, Laban Page, Stephen Ambrose.		Ezra Carter, Ebenezer Eastman, William Dow, Luther Roby.
1838.	Joseph Low.	Robert E. Pecker.	Samuel Coffin, Hazen Virgin, Ezra Ballard.	William Kent, Luther Roby, Ebenezer S. Towle.		Joseph Low, George Kent, Cyrus Robinson, Abiel Rolfe.
1839.	Joseph Low.	Robert E. Pecker.	Samuel Coffin, Hazen Virgin, Ezra Ballard.	John Putney, Luther Roby, Benjamin Grover.		Abiel Rolfe, Cyrus Robinson, William Kent, Ira Perley.
1840.	Ezra Carter.	Jacob C. Carter.	Enoch H. Dow, William Pecker, Nathan Stickney.	John Whipple, Nath'l H. Osgood, Jacob A. Potter.		Moses Shute, Abiel C. Carter, Jacob Hoit.
1841.	Josiah Stevens.	Jacob C. Carter.	John McDaniel, William Pecker, Jeremiah Fowler.	John Whipple, Nath'l H. Osgood, Jacob A. Potter.		Joseph Robinson, Moses Shute, Abial C. Carter, Jacob Hoit.
1842.	Richard Bradley.	Jacob C. Carter.	Nathan Stickney, Ira Rowell, Thomas Potter.	Samuel Coffin, John Whipple, John L. Eastman.		No choice.

* Chosen November 3d, "to represent the town until the first Wednesday in June next." † By contract with the selectmen, Mr. Bean was collector from year to year until 1853, except two years, 1838 and 1839, when George Virgin collected in the east district, and Charles Finart and James Woolson in the south and west. Three persons were appointed "assessors of taxes" this year, viz: Samuel A. Kimball, John Eastman, and Jeremiah Fowler.

LIST OF OFFICERS — CONTINUED.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Moderators.</i>	<i>Town Clerks.</i>	<i>Selectmen.</i>	<i>Auditors.</i>	<i>Representatives.</i>
1843.	Joseph Low.	John P. Johnson.	Nathan Stickney, Ira Rowell, Thomas Potter.	Samuel Coffin, John Whipple, John L. Eastman.	No choice.
1844.	Ezra Carter.	John P. Johnson.	Nathan Stickney, Jeremiah Fowler, Jeremiah S. Noyes.	Samuel Coffin, George Minot, John Whipple.	No choice.*
1845.	Ezra Carter.	John P. Johnson.	Nathan Stickney, Jeremiah S. Noyes, Jeremiah Fowler.	Samuel Coffin, Seth Eastman, John Whipple.	Jacob Carter, Nathaniel Rolfe, Jeremiah S. Noyes, Asa Fowler, William Page.
1846.	Nathaniel B. Baker.	John P. Johnson.	Josiah Stevens, Nathan Stickney, Joseph Eastman, Jr.	Samuel Coffin, Seth Eastman, John Whipple.	Jacob Carter, Jeremiah S. Noyes, Asa Fowler, William Page.
1847.	Asa Fowler.	George H. H. Silsby.	Nathan Stickney, Joseph Eastman, Jr., John Whipple.	Samuel Coffin, Mitchel Gilmore, Jr., Charles Smart.	Edmund Worth, Laban Page, Asa Fowler, Cyrus Robinson, Joel C. Danforth, Simeon Abbot.
1848.	Asa Fowler.	George H. H. Silsby.	Nathan Stickney, John Whipple, Reuben Goodwin, Jr.	Samuel Coffin, Mitchel Gilmore, Jr., Charles Smart.	Edmund Worth, Joel C. Danforth, Asa Fowler, Cyrus Robinson, Chase Hill.
1849.	Nathaniel B. Baker.	George H. H. Silsby.	Nathan Stickney, R. Goodwin, Jr., John Abbot.	Mitchel Gilmore, Jr., Stephen Brown, Nathan' B. Baker.	Luther Roby, Perley Cleaves, Cyrus Hill, Charles H. Norton, William Page.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

1850.	Nathaniel B. Baker.	John P. Johnson.	Joseph Robinson, Moses H. Farnum, Isaac Virgin, John C. Pillsbury, Atkinson Webster.	Paul Wentworth, Stephen C. Badger, Jonathan E. Lang, Lewis Downing, Samuel Coffin.	Perley Cleaves, Cyrus Hill, Charles H. Norton, John L. Tallant, George F. Sanborn, Nathaniel B. Baker, Ebenezer Symmes, Nathaniel B. Baker.
1851.	Nathaniel B. Baker.	Wm. D. Robinson.	Nathan Stackney, John C. Pillsbury, John Abbot.	Samuel Coffin, Jonathan E. Lang, Calvin Ainsworth.	Nathaniel White, Shadrach Seavey, Benjamin F. Gale, Nathan Chandler, Joseph Eastman, Caleb Parker.
1852.	Nathaniel B. Baker.	John P. Johnson.	John C. Pillsbury, Benjamin Grover, Moses H. Farnum.	Samuel Coffin, Henry H. Brown, Joseph Robinson.	Jeremiah S. Noyes, John H. George, John Sawyer, William H. Page, James Frye, James Moore, Henry P. Rolfe, Benjamin F. Dow.
1853.	Nathaniel B. Baker.	John P. Johnson.	John C. Pillsbury, Atkinson Webster, David Abbot, 2d.	Samuel Coffin, Mitchel Gilmore, Jr., H. H. Brown.	

* There being no representatives chosen, Franklin Pierce, Richard Bradley and William Low, were appointed a committee "to be heard before the Legislature, in behalf of the town," on the subject of a "new proportion of public taxes."