

## DESCRIPTIVE AND PERSONAL.

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In the preceding chapters we have given, in chronological order, whatever pertains to the civil affairs of the town, with numerous miscellaneous incidents and anecdotes relative to ancient and modern times. The limits assigned to our work require that the remaining portions, embracing, each, a distinct subject, should be more condensed, in matter and form.

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No. 1.

### PHYSICAL HISTORY.

The most striking *physical* features of Concord are its *Rivers, Ponds and Streams*; its *Diluvium Plains* and *Granite Hills*.

The *Merrimack* river, which, properly, is formed by the confluence at Franklin of the Pemigewasset and Winnepiseogee branches, receives on the northern line of the town the Contoocook river from the west, and thence flows, gently and gracefully meandering through the whole length of the township, dividing it near the centre into eastern and western sections. Above Sewall's Island is a considerable fall, but no available water power is afforded until it reaches Turkey and Garvin's Falls. Subject to *freshes*, or overflowings of its banks from heavy rains and sudden melting of snows, the whole adjacent interval is sometimes covered with water, as far as the eye can reach. These freshes more commonly occur in the spring and autumn. After a great rain the river attains its greatest height in about twenty-one hours. Sometimes extensive damage is done to bridges, mills, lumber, &c., but the freshes, by their alluvial deposit, enrich the intervals for a future crop.

Within the past fifty years great changes have taken place in the bed and course of the river. In 1853, at the request of the New-Hampshire Historical Society, Dr. William Prescott made an examination and survey of these changes, assisted by Richard Bradley and Jonathan Eastman, Esqs. In his report to the Society Dr. Prescott

specifies these changes, which he attributes to three causes: 1. To *abrasions*, or the wearing away of the bank on one side of the river, and a corresponding filling in of the other. 2. To *freshes*. 3. To artificial operations along the river. By the first process the channel becomes more and more crooked; long curves and short bends are formed, until only a narrow neck of land remains at some point, which is cut through at the next great overflow, thereby forming a new channel, while the old one is left, either dry or studded with stagnant pools. In this way, no doubt, in ancient times, Horse-shoe pond and the Frog ponds were formed. Previous to 1825 the river, passing the bluffs at Sugar Ball, had flowed in a remarkably circuitous channel along the banks by Fort Eddy, sweeping easterly, southerly and westerly, so as to form a respectable *ox-bow*. A great freshet, in 1826, swept away a large mass of bank on the east side, and in 1828 it cut a channel directly through from Sugar Ball, forming, on the west, an island, now owned by Richard Bradley. The first week in January, 1831, the river swept straight across Hale's Point, cutting off the old ferry road. Other changes are visible above and below Farnum's eddy; in the vicinity of Squaw lot; above and south of the Free bridge, where the whole width of the channel has been changed from east to west,\* and at the curve in the vicinity of the Frog ponds, where much new and valuable land has been formed on the west side, by washings and deposits from the eastern bluffs.

In the construction of the Northern Railroad, in 1846 and 1847, Farnum's eddy was filled up and rubbled, thus throwing the current of the river to the east side. At Sewall's Island, where the river flowed around it, the whole course was turned east. At Goodwin's Point, around the west end of which, close under the great sand bank, the river formerly flowed, about forty acres were cut off by excavating a new channel on the east side, and forming an island. In excavating this channel the workmen, at the depth of about twelve feet, struck upon a bed of vegetable matter, consisting of leaves, twigs, branches and trunks of small trees, the form of which was perfect, and the limbs and bark distinct. This vegetable deposit was imbedded in a stratum of fine, blue sand, from one to three inches in thickness. Hence it is inferred that this place was, at some remote period, the bed of the river; and that, in fact, the whole of what now constitutes our rich and beautiful interval, has been produced, or *manufactured* out of the adjacent uplands, by the ceaseless action and deposits of the river.†

The *Contoocook* river rises in or near Rindge, N. H.; flows *north-erly*, nearly parallel with Merrimack river, through Peterborough, Antrim, Hillsborough, Henniker and Hopkinton, about fifty miles, and as it approaches its junction with the Merrimack—from the

\* Moses Shute, Esq., says he used to drive cows along the west bank of the Merrimack, when a boy, and since then the river has washed away its entire width, adding valuable land to the farms opposite.

† See the whole of Dr. Prescott's valuable Report, in the archives of the N. H. Historical Society, with a Map. To him I am indebted for the substance of the above.

"Mast Yard" to its mouth—it runs through, and, indeed, constitutes a fertile section of Concord, and affords fine mill privileges for more than a mile in its course, at the Borough and at Fisherville.

The *Soucook* river rises in Gilmanton, and, entering Concord near the line between Loudon and Chichester, furnishes the water power at "Dickerman's Mills," so called; thence constituting the boundary between Concord and Pembroke, it flows east of the "Dark Plain," affording mill privileges along its course, till it empties into the Merrimack below Garvin's Falls. This river, after it enters Concord, is very crooked and rapid, requiring seven bridges to be maintained for convenience of crossing it.

The *Ponds* in Concord are—1. *Turkey Pond*, in the south-west part of the town, containing about one hundred and seventy acres, by survey of Capt. Benjamin Parker—so called from a fancied resemblance in its form to a turkey, with its ample body and bended neck. Surrounded with bogs, the waters of this pond are of a dark color, imparting their hue somewhat to the fish with which it abounds. Northerly of this principal pond, and united with it by a small stream, is *Little Turkey* pond, which, in the summer season, is a place of delightful resort by people from the main village. The outlet of both is *Turkey* river, a considerable stream, affording valuable mill-sites. Here was the first grist and saw-mill ever erected on the west side of Merrimack river.

2. *Horse-shoe Pond*, at the head of Main street—in form resembling the shoe of a horse—was, no doubt, anciently the bed of Merrimack river. It encloses a fertile tract of land, owned by Joseph B. Walker, Esq. The house lots west of this tract were, in the original survey, called the "Island range." This pond is crossed by the track of the Northern Railroad. The *outlet* and *inlet* of it is called *Wattannummon's brook*. Connected by the brook with Merrimack river at the east end, the water in the pond rises and falls according to the flow of water in the river. This pond abounds with perch and pickerel, larger than are found in any other place in town.

3. *Long Pond* is a beautiful sheet of water, in the west part of the town, one mile and three fourths in length, half a mile in the widest part, and its mean or average width  $75\frac{3}{4}$  rods. As lately surveyed by George Abbot, Esq., it contains an area of two hundred and sixty-five acres. Its greatest depth, as measured by Reuben K. Abbot, in the summer of 1852, was eighty-four feet. Fed by streams that gush from neighboring hills, the water in the pond is cool, pure, clear as crystal, and abounds with perch and pickerel, whose color is bright and sparkling. Only *one trout* was ever caught in this pond; it weighed about five pounds. From the north end issues a never-failing stream, that affords valuable mill privileges. It is said that no person was ever drowned in this pond. Should the city of Concord, in its main village, ever require "Croton," or "Cochituate water," like the *smaller* cities of New-York and Boston, we cannot doubt it will be supplied from Long Pond.

4. *Little Pond*, on the hill easterly of Long Pond, lies quietly in

a basin, concealed from view by a thick grove on the west and south, and by an overshadowing hill on the north.

5. On the east side of the river, towards the Loudon line, is *Turtle Pond*, supposed to derive its name from the unusual quantity and size of turtles found there. It is nearly surrounded by bog and swamp land. When the pond is frozen over there is occasionally heard issuing from it a deep, low, groaning sort of sound, which elderly people in the neighborhood describe, by saying — “The pond has the belly-ache — there will soon be a change of weather.” Its waters are discharged by Mill-brook, through the valley, southerly, into the Merrimack, furnishing excellent water privileges in the East village for mills and factories. On this stream the *first* grist and saw-mill in Concord was built, in 1729.

6. *Snow Pond*, north-west of Turtle Pond, on the westerly side of Oak Hill, derives its name from an early settler by the name of Zerobbabel Snow. According to a recent survey, by Capt. Benjamin Parker, it contains about twenty-five acres. Jacob Hoyt, Esq., says that near this pond Mr. Snow, on a hunting excursion, was *treed* by a pack of wolves just at night. He fired away at them all the balls he had, and then cut off buttons from his coat and discharged them; but the wolves kept round the tree till broad day light next morning, when they went off, and he escaped. On the north-west issues a small stream, sufficient to carry a shingle-mill. Uniting with Hackett's brook, this stream flows into the Merrimack river above Sewall's falls bridge.

North-east of Snow's pond, in a deep valley at the base of Oak Hill, on the Concord and Loudon line, is a pond measuring thirty-one rods across it, called *Hot-hole Pond*, the bottom of which, it is said, has never been reached.

The *Interval land* that borders Merrimack river, from a quarter of a mile to a mile in width, is distinguished for its extent, beauty and fertility. Though of unequal quality in different places, yet, taken together, it yields bountiful crops of grass, corn, oats, potatoes, and sometimes wheat. The soil throughout is a rich alluvial, believed to be equal to any on the Connecticut river, within the limits of New-Hampshire, except that at the “Ox-bow,” so called, in Haverhill. Large solitary trees of elm and walnut, scattered over the interval, add greatly to the beauty of the prospect, as surveyed from adjacent uplands.

On the east side of the Merrimack the “*Dark Plain*,” extending from Turkey Falls to Mill-brook, about five miles in length, and from the eastern bluffs of the Merrimack to the Soucook, three miles, was formerly covered with a heavy growth of pitch-pine. Though the growth on this plain has been repeatedly cut off and burnt over, it still remains a “dark pine plain;” thin, sandy soil, incapable of much improvement by cultivation. When the pine growth is cut and subdued, shrub oaks spring up; or, what is much better, a rich growth of blueberry and whortleberry bushes. Opposite to this plain, on the west side of the river, is another, extending from Tur-

key falls to Main street, and from the banks of the Merrimack south-westerly, to the Iron Works. In the West parish is a plain, which extends from the burying-ground, near the meeting-house, to Fisherville northerly, and from the banks of the Merrimack to the Contoocook river west. One portion of this is dry, sandy soil, and another portion wet, heavy bog.

Of the *up-lands* in Concord there is considerable diversity of quality, generally uneven, rough and hilly; of hard, granite soil, a large part covered originally with a heavy growth of hard-wood; but, when cleared and cultivated, forming excellent farms and good pastures. On the east side, northerly of the Dark Plain, is a tract of hard-wood and pine, of gravelly soil and not very productive. The tract bordering Turtle pond is valuable for pasture and tillage. Westerly to Oak hill is a growth of hard maple, from which sugar is manufactured; and a chestnut orchard, belonging to the Potter family, annually yields from sixty to eighty bushels of chestnuts, which sell from \$2,50 to \$3,00 a bushel. Westerly and northerly of Oak hill — which is famous for its heavy growth of hard wood — in what is called "Snaptown," and "the Mountain" districts, are some of the best upland and most productive farms in the town.

On the west side of Merrimack river the "Horse-hill" district is especially noted for its rich pastures, and for the excellent dairies which furnish the market with butter and cheese. The whole of the West parish district is an uneven tract, composed of wood, pasture and arable land; which latter, cultivated by the patient and persevering industry of hardy yeomanry, richly rewards their labors. More attention is paid to raising fruit in this section than in any other part of the town. Not only excellent apples, but peaches, pears and plums, of various kinds, are raised here. Owned by the Flanders family is a valuable chestnut grove. The Abbots, Carters and Farnums, now living in the West parish, retain and cultivate the old homestead farms which have descended to them from their ancestors. Mr. Stephen Carlton supplies the market with the best of early vegetables and fruit, and Dea. Ira Rowell with the purest of milk — sending in on Saturday evening a generous supply for the Sabbath. What is true of the section westerly of "Long Pond" is applicable equally to the "Little Pond" district, where beautiful and productive farms are seen. The scenery in the vicinity of Long Pond, especially in summer and autumn, is highly picturesque, beautiful and attractive.

The remaining sections in the westerly part of the town, including "Beech," "Dimond" and "Stickney Hill," present a fine growth of wood and timber; are rich in pasture, and, under cultivation, fertile. The section known as the "Bog Road," formerly the "Great Swamp," now cleared and cultivated, yields an abundant reward for the labor bestowed upon it. The "Iron Works" section is well cultivated and productive.

*Granite* is found in every part of the town in ledges, or cobbles on the surface, in inexhaustible quantities, but varying in quality and texture in different locations. West of the Main village is a hill

range, of the primary formation, running from north to south, about three miles in length. This is covered with a thin soil, overgrown with wood of every variety, but beneath the surface composed of granite ledges. The range rises to its highest point in the geographical centre of the town, about two miles from the main village, where it is computed to be five hundred and eighty feet above the high water mark of the river. The more northerly section of this range belongs to the town farm; the central portion to John and Simeon Abbot, and to Moses H. and Benjamin Farnum; the southern and "Summit ledge," as it called, belonged to the estate of the late Charles Walker, Esq. It was purchased in 1834, by Luther Roby and William Green,\* by whom, under the superintendence of Mr. Roby, it has been extensively wrought.

Near the Summit, on the eastern declivity of this range, are localities known as the old *Rattlesnake Dens*. Particular rocks have also received names from circumstances connected with them; such as "Sheep rock," "Old Phebe," "Sow rock," "Raccoon" and "La Fayette." Mr. Simeon Abbot and Mr. Luther Roby have furnished some interesting and amusing facts and anecdotes, derived from tradition and personal observation. Mr. Abbot says: "My father bought thirty-six acres of the hill, which I and my brother John now own, for fifty cents an acre, or \$18. He sold a single rock, called the 'Phebe Rock,' to Gass and Johnson, for \$110. They sold it on a contract, at the State Prison, for \$1540. It was wrought there for the New-Orleans market, and sold for \$6000." This 'Phebe rock' lay upon the surface, and derived its name from the Phebe bird, which built its nest annually under its lofty sides. On this the first experiment of *seam shot* blasting was tried. Joseph Parker and Jacob Badger were the managers. Having made a seam by means of wedges through the depth of the rock, they began at the outer edges and poured in sand, which, running obliquely, filled the crevice sufficiently for the purpose. They then deposited a keg, or twenty-five pounds of powder, in the middle, overspreading the same with sand and pressing it down as hard as could safely be done. For a *fuse* they inserted a thistle-stalk, and then set a slow match of tow, extending a considerable distance. The explosion produced a shock like a little earthquake; the huge mass was thrown over, to the amazement and joy of the beholders! When split and worked up it was found to contain 11,000 feet of dimension stone, beside a large quantity of cellar and refuse stone. The "Sow rock" contained six thousand feet, and was so called from the fact that a sow found a secure retreat under its sides for a litter of pigs in rattlesnake times. The "La Fayette rock" was so named about the time Gen. La Fayette visited this place, in 1825. Its splitting qualities were so remarkable that the workmen frequently exclaimed, as the pieces were split off—"as true as the leaves of the Bible"—meaning exact and regular. From this portion of the hill the stones were obtained for the first grist-mill built in Concord, in 1729, by Nathan Symonds.

\* Lately sold to the New-York and Concord Granite Company.

In 1819 Messrs. John P. Gass and Dearborn Johnson made a contract with the State, and hired the convicts at the prison, for the purpose of supplying a foreign market; and the products of their labor, by means of the Concord and Boston Boating Company, which had just commenced operations, reached Boston, New-York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

In 1820, and for quite a number of years afterwards, the business was successfully carried on by the warden of the prison, Capt. Moses Pillsbury, the successor of Capt. Dearborn, by whose efforts and perseverance stone splitting and cutting was reduced to a system. Stones were furnished to the prison in the rough at twelve and one half cents per surface foot, or fourteen cents per cubic foot. From 1819 to 1834 the foreign trade was pursued with vigor and profit, giving employment to many of the inhabitants of Concord.

Mr. Roby, who has carried on the business of cutting, splitting and hammering stone for the last fourteen years, relates that in 1842 he got out of his ledge stones for the Concord dépôt that weighed from twelve to fourteen tons. One of the largest of these stones, about seventeen feet long, he drew from the top of the ledge the back way — that is, by Little Pond road — having the power of forty yoke of oxen to draw it. The stone was placed on two strong, new sleds, in the month of March. The chain which he used, weighing about five hundred pounds, with studded links, was broken soon after the first start, and the sleds run back to the brow of the ledge against a large oak tree. One sled was entirely demolished, and the hind beam of the other broken. A second attempt, with new chains and sleds, was successful.

From this ledge, at the expense of the State, was furnished the block for the Washington Monument, four feet and two inches wide, and eighteen inches thick. It is polished and lettered, NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

From the summit of Granite hill, above Roby's ledge, is a magnificent view of the main village, the interval of the Merrimack, and a large portion of the eastern section of the State. Westerly and northerly the prospect is bounded only by the distant horizon—taking in the Monadnock, Kearsarge, Moosehillock, and, in fine weather, mountains extending to the White hills.

There is a valuable granite ledge on the hill south-west of Richard Bradley's, owned by Joseph B. Walker.

On Horse-hill, near the Mast Yard dépôt, is a locality of porphyritic granite. Boulders, also, of porphyritic granite and of other kinds, some of mica slate, are found, supposed to have drifted from localities at the north.

A short distance from the West Concord meeting-house, on the line of the railroad, is a locality of quartz and feldspar.

IRON ORE in small quantities was found at an early period, in the south-westerly part of the town, and at the bend in the river, south-east of the main village, above Concord bridge. The surface of the soil still indicates the existence of ore.

Excellent CLAY, for making bricks, is found on the Hopkinton road, three miles from the State House; also, westerly of Turkey falls; on the Loudon road, near Turtle pond, and various other places.

Of the QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, REPTILES and FISHES of Concord, little more can be said than that they are such as are common to the northern parts of New-England.\* Bears, wolves, deer and beaver, formerly here, like the original natives, have become extinct, or withdrawn from the face of civilized men. The partridge is common, but the quail is a rare bird in Concord. After a residence of thirty years, the writer has yet to see the first one. Rattlesnakes are no more: the war against the *varmint*, and especially the premium offered for their "tails," has resulted in their extermination. Formerly, the good people caught their own shad and salmon, which annually, in the spring season, passed up the Merrimack to their summer resorts—in the Winnepiseogee and Pemigewasset waters; but factories, and dams across the river, have impeded their course, and left us to lust in vain for their flesh. It is a curious fact, well attested, that formerly, as the shad and salmon reached the confluence of waters that form the Merrimack river, at Franklin, the former always went up the Winnepiseogee branch to the lake of that name; and the latter, the Pemigewasset branch to the Squam and Newfound lakes—there respectively "to lay their young." A few salmon, in old times, went up the Contoocook river, and in ascending the falls where Fisherville now is, were caught in pots and nets. When President Monroe visited the town, in 1817, he took an excursion, in a small steamer, down the river as far as the locks and canal at Garvin's falls, and in passing through the canal a large salmon was caught, which was taken on board and introduced to the President, who expressed his great gratification, and said it was the first *live* salmon he had ever seen.

Concord has never been distinguished for its *fruits*. The apple flourishes well, and was formerly raised in considerable quantities for the purpose of making cider. Within the last twenty-five years many of the old apple orchards have been cut down; others have been renovated by being grafted with scions of a superior quality. Young orchards are found in every section of the town.

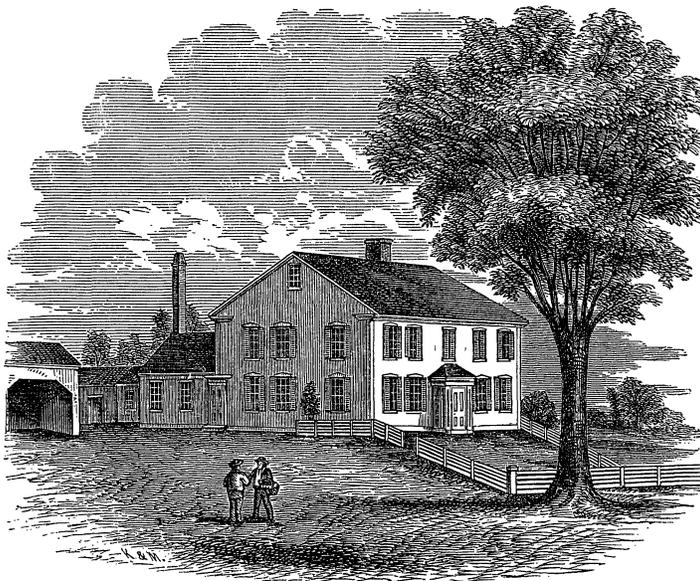
The pear and peach do not flourish so well in the main village as on the uplands east and west of the river. Vegetables common to New-England are abundant here. Native grapes are found; but the more delicate exotic grapes are not sure of coming to maturity before they are nipped by frost. Various kinds of wild berries—the strawberry, blackberry, blueberry, whortleberry, raspberry; also, the hazel nut, oilnut, chestnut, walnut, (in less quantities,) are found in every section of the town.

TREES. Concord is distinguished for the elms and other beautiful trees which ornament the principal streets of the main village. The Rev. Timothy Walker, and his son Timothy, with the help of "Prince," about the year 1756, set out *four* elms standing in front

\* See a list of these, severally, in the Documentary Chapter, furnished by William Prescott, M. D.

of the house of Joseph B. Walker, and the one standing now in the yard in front of the house where Mr. Walker was born; and, also, one elm standing at the easterly corner of the house of the venerable Timothy Walker. One elm, a little north of the four first named, was probably set out about thirty years afterwards. These elms, taken together, are the most stately in town.\*

Ezekiel Walker, brother of James, set out *three* elm trees in 1760, in front of the Hannaford house, so called, now belonging to Professor Stephen M. Vail, of the Biblical Institute.



Capt. Enoch Coffin, and his brother, Col. John Coffin, about the year 1782, set out the elm now standing in front of the house of Samuel Coffin, Esq., — a tree admirable for its fair and magnificent proportions, as represented in the above cut, though not equal to the original. The elegant elm tree close to the house of the late Abiel Walker was set out about the same time.

\* Circumference of first, at three feet from the ground, sixteen feet; at six feet from the ground, fourteen feet. Trunk divides into branches at twelve feet from the ground, and the diameter of the top, measured up and down Main street, is one hundred feet; and measured at right angles with Main street, is one hundred feet.

Circumference of second, at three feet from the ground, twelve feet and nine inches; at six feet from the ground, twelve feet and three inches.

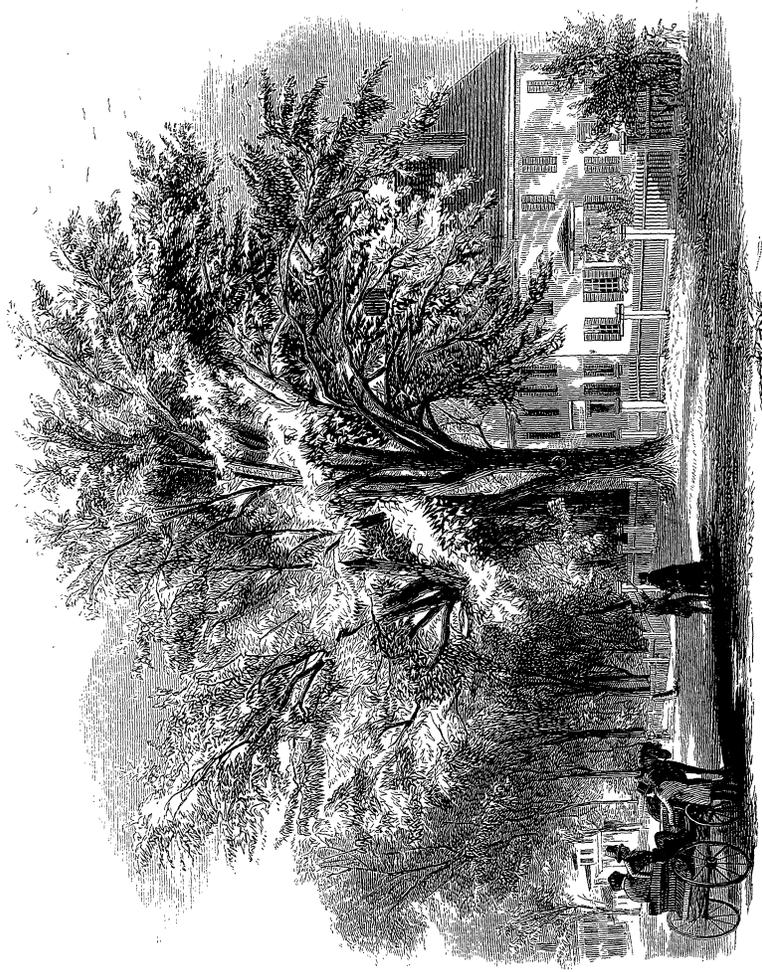
Circumference of third, at three feet from the ground, nine feet; at six feet from the ground, nine feet and three inches.

Circumference of fourth, at three feet from the ground, thirteen feet; at six feet from the ground, twelve feet.

Circumference of the fifth, at three feet from the ground, eight feet and two inches; at six feet from the ground, seven feet and nine inches. This tree was planted at a later date.

Tree in front of Timothy Walker's house. Circumference, at three feet from the ground, twelve feet and nine inches; at six feet from the ground, twelve feet and two inches.





RESIDENCE OF THE LATE COL. THOMAS STICKNEY.

Ephraim Colby set out an elm tree at the corner of the burying-ground, near a house owned by David George, now burnt down. He also set out the four elm trees in front of the house owned by the late Dr. Peter Green — since burnt down — now partly shading the house of Henry A. Newhall, opposite the Court house.\* It is supposed that these trees were set out by Colby about the year 1787.

The six elms now standing in front of the old house of Rev. Dr. Bouton, were set out about 1787, by Major Daniel Livermore, who built the house in 1785. The wide-spread elms in front of the mansion of the late Col. Thomas Stickney [see view] are said to have been set out by Ephraim Colby, about the year 1787. The late Mr. Jeremiah Stickney, who died in 1850, aged 85, used to say that when the trees were set out he was big enough to help hold them up.

This house, it will be recollected, was formerly a garrison house. From time to time it has been enlarged and modified, but still retains its venerable appearance. It has been occupied from the beginning by successive generations of the Stickney family. [See genealogy.] Mrs. Mary, widow of John Odlin, Esq., and daughter of Col. Thomas Stickney, now the oldest native woman in town, was born in this house, October 30, 1766. The house is now owned by Mrs. Mary Ann, widow of Thomas Stickney, jr., and is occupied by herself and her son, Joseph P. Stickney. The beautiful engraved view of the house and trees was executed by Mr. Herrick, now of New-York, son of Mr. Israel E. Herrick, formerly of Concord.

The noble trees at the Thorndike place, so called, on Main street, by the residences of Charles and George Hutchins and Stephen S. Sweet, are said to have been set out by Timothy Walker, brother of Isaac, grandfather of Abiel Walker, who formerly resided near that spot in a garrison house.

A majestic elm, with brawny limbs, thin foliage and defiant aspect, stands nearly opposite the residence of the late Col. Wm. A. Kent, that looks as if it had been in battle with the elements a hundred winters, but whose age is not certainly known. Other specimens of this superb tree, out of the main village, are equally worthy of note. On Stickney hill stands one, near the road, and close to the residence of Capt. John Sherburne, that spreads its cooling shade in summer over a diameter of one hundred and seventeen feet. Its trunk measures seventeen feet at four feet from the ground. Another elm, distinguished for its height and circumference of overhanging branches, stands close to the road, near the house of Moses H. Farnum, about one mile and a half from the main village, on the Boscawen road. Of elms and other beautiful shade-trees of a more recent period, in the main village, those in front of the house of Samuel A. Kimball, Esq., were set out by Hazen Kimball, brother of Samuel A. About the year 1818, Samuel A. Kimball, Esq., took charge of setting out the rows of elms which adorn the sidewalk opposite his house. In 1831, being highway surveyor, he set out a row of willows on the south margin of Horse-shoe pond.

\* This house since purchased and occupied by Dr. Bouton.

Charles Walker set out six elms in front of his office and garden, now the residence of Joseph H. Pearson, about the year 1802, and five more a little later, on a line with them, in front of his house, now owned by Cyrus W. Paige. There is a lofty elm in the house-yard of the late James Buswell.

The elm trees before the new North Church were set out in 1818, by old soldier John Elliot, who brought them from the West parish by hand, two at a time, on successive days. The premises were then owned by the late Mr. Robert Davis, 2d, and David Davis, then a clerk in his brother's store, paid Elliot twenty-five cents apiece for the trees, and assisted in setting them out.

The elms about the old North church, or Biblical Institute, were procured and set out under direction of the late Mr. John D. Abbot, of Brooklyn, N. Y., son of Nathaniel Abbot, in the spring of 1832. Mr. Abbot raised a subscription for the purpose, and the trees cost upon an average two dollars apiece.

Centre street is ornamented with a beautiful row of maples on each side, now of about twenty years' growth. The maples and elms which shade and beautify the State house yard are the growth of about thirty years. Nearly all of the younger ornamental trees in Concord main village were transplanted, when of small growth, from the adjacent forests, at the order of individuals who wished for them, and were dug up and set out by laborers, at an average price of from half a dollar to two dollars apiece, according to their size. In the summer a portion of the elms at the north end of Main street extend their waving branches till they meet and form an arch over the middle of the highway, far more beautiful and splendid than ever graced the triumph of a Roman conqueror.

Of the *forest trees* it need only be added that they are of every variety such as is common to the northern parts of New-England.\* The abundant growth which formerly covered the plains and hills, and which still forms a marked feature of the town, led the fathers to discuss the question, whether the township was to be valued more for its rich intervals, or for its well wooded uplands.

The climate and temperature of Concord are favorable to health and longevity, as the statistical tables will show. In the extreme heat of summer the thermometer occasionally rises to ninety-six and even one hundred degrees, while the mean temperature in June, July and August together, is about sixty-three degrees. In the extremest cold of winter—that is, in December, January and February—the thermometer occasionally sinks to twenty-five and thirty degrees below zero, but the average for those months is about twenty degrees above. The mean temperature of the year is about forty-two and a half degrees.† Good sleighing commonly lasts from about the

\* See a list, in the Documentary and Statistical Chapter.

† The following table, kept by the late John Farmer, Esq., shows the mean temperature in Concord of each month in 1836 :

January, . . . . .	22.5	May, . . . . .	55.5	September, . . . . .	56.5
February, . . . . .	14.7	June, . . . . .	59.7	October, . . . . .	48.5
March, . . . . .	26.0	July, . . . . .	67.6	November, . . . . .	37.0
April, . . . . .	38.1	August, . . . . .	62.5	December, . . . . .	22.7
Mean temperature for the year, 42.4.					

middle of December to the last of February. Sometimes it commences in November and lasts till the middle of March. It has been known to continue till the first of April. The usual time of planting is from the 1st to the 20th of May, but good crops have been raised after the 1st of June. Cattle are turned out to pasture about the 20th of May.

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NO. 2.

BIOGRAPHY.

The following brief biographical sketches relate to individuals of every class and condition in life, whose names are either particularly prominent in the annals of the town, or who are remembered as distinguished for peculiar characteristics or positions in society. Some things are related of individuals which, perhaps, family friends might prefer should be left out; but, in such cases, the facts are stated for general instruction and entertainment, and never designed to disparage the individual. In this difficult part of my work I have been studious to avoid all partiality. The sketches which have been furnished me are inserted as written, subject only to such correction and abridgement as was judged necessary. The sketches, it will be seen, relate only to persons deceased. Their names are arranged in the chronological order of their death. More might have been added, but it must not be inferred from the omission of a particular name that his merits are less appreciated.

It should further be noted by the reader, that, for special reasons, it was judged best, in many instances, to give a biographical sketch in other portions of the History; for example, under the head of ministers, lawyers, physicians and graduates; and, also, in the body of the work, at the time of an individual's death—to all which reference may be had by the index of names.

CAPT. EBENEZER EASTMAN.

In addition to the many interesting facts respecting Capt. Ebenezer Eastman, which the preceding history furnishes—the part he took in the first settlement of the town—the services he rendered, and the offices of trust and honor which he held—it may be stated that, having considerable property, and coming as he did at the earliest period of the settlement, with six sons, the oldest of whom was 15 years of age, and able to work, Capt. Eastman became in a few years the *strong man* of the town. In 1731 his house and home lot were in better order, and more land under cultivation than any other in the settlement. From his youth he had been inured to hardship and to bold and daring enterprises. When 9 years of age (1698) his father's house and buildings, in Haverhill, were destroyed by Indians. At the age of 19 he joined the regiment of Col. Wainwright in the expe-