

and is engaged in building; one of the firm of Danforth, Forrest & Co. He was one of the old-time favorites, and still loves to talk of days when we were boys together.

"Ike" Farnum, who served in the war in Berdan's Sharpshooters, died a few years ago from malaria contracted in service. His widow now lives in Penacook. He was quiet and gentle, making friends wherever he went.

George H. Amsden, brother to Charles H. Amsden, died early in the seventies. His death, like that of E. S. Harris, was a public calamity. He was a man of the most amiable character, and none laments his loss more than those who knew him best, viz., his employees and his associates in the old band.

Mason W. Tucker, who used to work for Rolfe Brothers, left here after the war, and for years was engaged in the mercantile business in Boston.

"Charley" Shepard was with Ike Farnum in Berdan's Sharpshooters, was shot through the body at Fair Oaks, but recovered from the effects of his wound, and is at the present time mayor of Knowlton hill. Like Cincinnatus, his active life being over, he has returned to the plough, and has blossomed out a full-fledged granger.

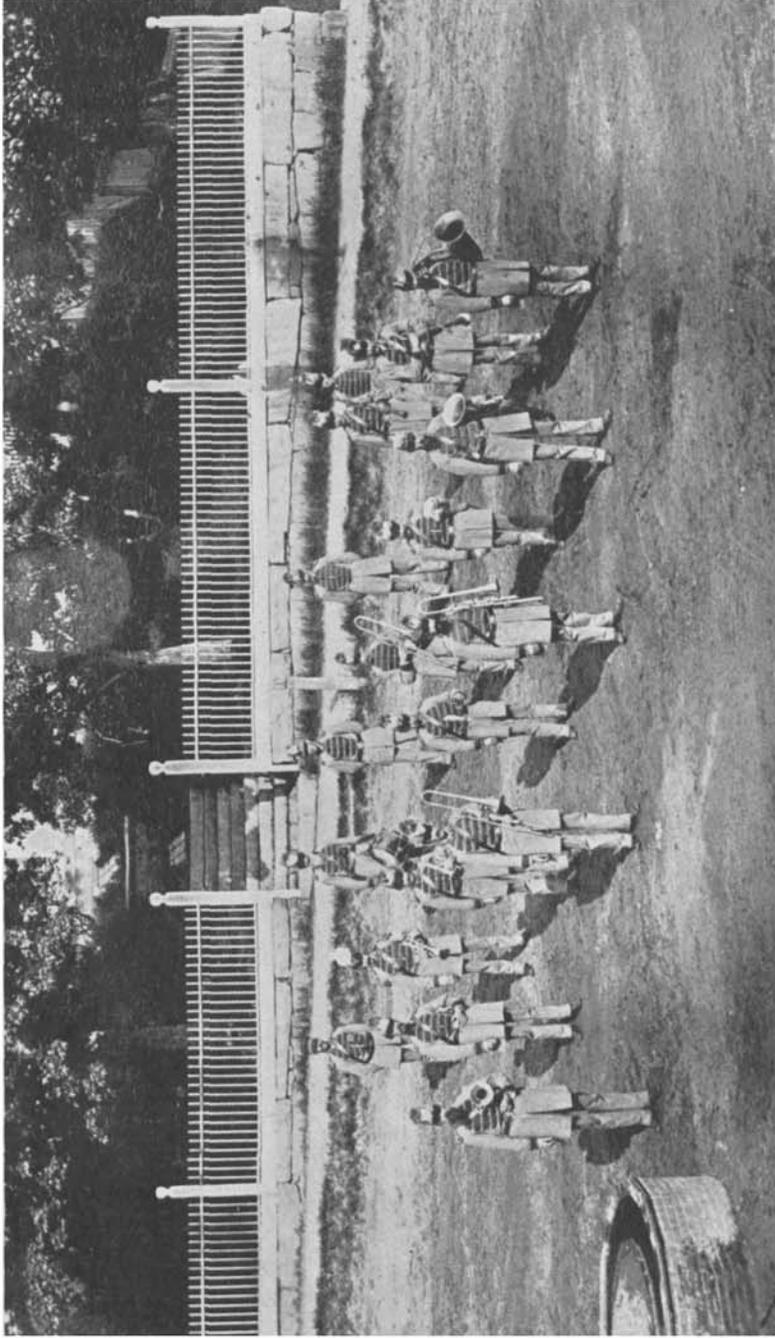
Charles C. Bean, who was ever a warm friend of the band, has been dead about twelve years. Kind hearted and public spirited, his sad ending will ever be lamented by those who knew and esteemed him.

#### BROWN'S BAND.

[WRITTEN BY JOHN C. LINEHAN.]

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Several attempts had been made, during the war, to maintain the organization of the old Fisherville Cornet band, but whatever headway had been made was blocked in February, 1863, by the departure of Loren M. Currier, David A., Samuel F., and Henry F. Brown, and John C. Mitchell. They were attached to the Post band, stationed during the war at Port Royal, S. C. This finally wound up the existence of the old band, and for over two years "tooting" was at a discount in Penacook. The only excep-



BROWN'S BAND, 1876



tion was Sam Noyes, who would blow an occasional blast just to let the public know that the fires were still burning.

The close of the war in the spring of 1865 gave hopes of its resurrection, and not in vain, for before the summer was over the absent ones had returned. A meeting was held at the Washington House. It took some time to get things into shape, for of course the boys who had but just returned had more important duties to attend to. After these had been adjusted to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned, the organization of a new band was finally perfected. This began its career under the most auspicious circumstances, for a large part of the members had acquired experience, as well as practice, on the "tented field."

The final meeting to perfect the organization was held on the evening of Oct. 15, 1865, and the name selected, in accordance with Article 1 of the Constitution and By-laws. "In view of the past services of David A. Brown in sustaining the musical interest in this village, this organization shall be known by the name of 'Brown's Cornet band.'" This was a deserved compliment to a gentleman who had always taken an active part in the support of the various musical societies in the village from the very first. The original members were D. Arthur Brown, John C. Linehan, Loren M. Currier, David A. Brown, George F. Sanborn, George F. Blake, David S. Marsh, John Pendergast, John C. Mitchell, Jeremiah Sanborn, Samuel N. Brown, S. P. Danforth, Warren W. Whittier, Charles H. Garland, Charles Abbott, Samuel F. Brown, J. H. Proctor, George E. Flanders, and Samuel G. Noyes. The officers were: D. Arthur Brown, leader; L. M. Currier, musical director; and John C. Linehan, clerk and treasurer.

The citizens of the village were so well pleased that they subscribed liberally towards the purchase of new instruments. The ladies, who had always taken the band under their special protection, did, if anything, more than their part. A levee held by them for the same purpose netted nearly \$400. For some five years after its formation the most of the playing outside of the rehearsal room was for excursions, picnics, lectures, etc., given or held under the auspices of the several religious or benevolent societies in the village and for which, as a rule, no charge was made. In this way the band had been noted for doing its share

in providing rational amusement as well as good music for the community.

Very little classical music had been rendered by the old band. The experience of a large number of the members during the war was such as to bring about a call for that kind, however. It was hard work at first. It was an easy matter, comparatively, to play quicksteps, polkas, mazurkas, etc., but it was another matter altogether to take up long selections from the different operas, and it must be said that the change was anything but pleasing to a large majority, the greater part of which would about as soon saw wood as to rehearse the different parts of "Il Trovatore," "Martha," etc. Constant practice, however, under the direction of Mr. Currier, effected a great change in this respect, so that in time all learned to love this style of music. In addition to being of a higher class than was usually played by a country band, it was worth a good deal more as a means to read rapidly, which is one of the first essentials to a player.

During the period mentioned it accompanied parties from the village to the many places of resort, from the mountains to the sea. Not a nook or cove on the beautiful Winnipiseogee but what were familiar to its members. It furnished music for the first reunion of the Third regiment, which was held at Boar's Head, Hampton, in the fall of 1870. This was an enjoyable occasion for such of the band as were in the service. For that reason it is one of the events that cannot be forgotten. Colonels Fellows and Jackson were present.

The late Charles W. Webster of Boscawen was an honorary member of the band, and during its existence he made it a special event of each year to have the band at his place on the Fourth of July. Those gatherings were perhaps the most enjoyable of any in which the boys participated. Usually Mr. Webster had as guests some of the most noted men between Boston and Boscawen. He was the soul of hospitality. It was his desire, when the time arrived to lay him away with his fathers, to have the band officiate at his funeral, but of the two he survived the longer and this part of the compact was not fulfilled.

Under the tuition of Mr. Currier and the leadership of Mr. Brown, the band had by this time acquired a reputation for pro-

ficiency in music as well as a reputation for discipline that was not confined to the village. When first organized there was no thought of accomplishing anything more than playing merely for personal pleasure or to remind them of the experience of the past. This was not to be, however. Applications for its services from outside were so frequent that it was finally decided to procure uniforms.

Some time before this, when the decoration service for Memorial Day was instituted, an organization was formed by the members of the band, called "The Fisherville Memorial Association," for the purpose of paying the respect on Memorial days due the memory of the veterans whose remains were interred in Woodlawn cemetery. A few outsiders also belonged. This service was faithfully performed from 1870 to the institution of the Grand Army Post in 1875. The band not only paid all the expense for the decoration of graves, but as well for speakers, hall, etc. In this laudable enterprise the ladies of Penacook coöperated by furnishing the flowers and wreaths.

In October, 1874, uniforms were worn for the first time. In color they were gray with red facings. The hats were of the latest style then in vogue, with pompons. They were very attractive, and the band made an attractive appearance on parade, creditable to itself and satisfactory to its friends. On this occasion it accompanied the St. Patrick's Benevolent society to a fair held in Concord for the benefit of Father Barry's church. Later it furnished music for the dedication of the Dustin Island monument, which was perhaps one of the greatest events in the history of Penacook; also on the occasion of the dedication of the new iron bridge. In the summer of the same year it accompanied the Mt. Horeb Commandery, Knights Templar, of Concord, on the annual excursion of the organization. From that time henceforth to its dissolution the band furnished all the music for this Commandery.

The excursion mentioned, or rather its route, was from Concord to Portsmouth, thence to the Isles of Shoals, where dinner was taken, back again to Portsmouth, remaining there over night. In the morning cars were taken for Dover, where the visitors were the guests of the Dover Commandery. A most bounteous ban-

quet was partaken of here, which was duly appreciated by the Sir Knights as well as by the members of the band. From thence the train was taken for Wolfeborough via Alton Bay and the steamer *Mt. Washington*. Here the party remained over night. Next day a sail was taken to Centre Harbor, where they dined, returning to Concord on the same evening. During this trip Sir Knight John Whittaker filled the part of drum major, his stalwart form and manly bearing naturally attracting a great deal of attention.

The following year, 1875, there were many calls. It accompanied the St. Patrick's Benevolent society of Penacook to the St. Patrick's Day celebration in Manchester and attended the services held in the cathedral. The political campaign of the same year kept it in service for nearly a month continually. An excursion to Downer's Landing, Boston, with the same society was another pleasing episode in its history. This year for the first time Mr. E. N. L'Africain of Marlborough, Mass., one of the best cornet players in New England, became an honorary member. Thereafter, until the dissolution of the band, on all occasions requiring extra-talent soloists, he was present.

September, 1875, it again accompanied the Mt. Horeb Commandery on its annual excursion. This time they went to Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard. In addition to Mr. L'Africain, the services of Jean Missud, leader of the Salem Cadet band, and Joseph L'Africain, tuba, and Pedro Meyrelles, clarionet, were secured, thus rendering the best service from the organization of the band. They also became honorary members. Another addition was William Kennedy, cornet soloist, formerly of the British army, who had joined the band as a regular member. This trip was the pleasantest ever undertaken, and the music from the start to the return was creditable to the band and enjoyable to all who heard it.

The first general reunion of the New Hampshire Veterans was held in Manchester in October, 1875. The services of the band were engaged on this occasion, and for them they were specially complimented by Major-General Griffin, camp commandant. It also furnished music at the annual levee of the Concord Board of Trade, held in White's opera house, the same year. The hon-

orary members were all present, the solos rendered by Messrs. Kennedy, Missud, and Meyrelles being loudly applauded and repeatedly encored.

Brown's band furnished music for a fair held in Eagle hall, Concord, in the November following, by the First Methodist society. It lasted for two evenings, and on the way down and return each evening the boys were agreeably entertained and highly edified by listening to a discourse by Professor Carrier on the snares and temptations which beset the path of the young man who leaves his home for the first time, to take part in the bustle and turmoil of a wicked world. His illustrations drawn from his own experience were vivid, and when he failed to find a suitable subject from that source, he drew largely from his imagination—all of which had such an effect on his hearers that not a dry eye was to be seen in the hack, with the possible exception of the sage himself, who was then a firm believer in the old saw,—

“A little nonsense, now and then,  
Is relished by the best of men.”

The kind, genial, old philosopher! Though his shadow is not large, may it never grow less! His mission in life has seemed to be to smooth out the crow's feet and wrinkles of care. He is still living, in the year of our Lord 1899, hale and hearty, and let us hope when the bugle sounds his last call, all that is mortal of him may be laid in some bright, sunny corner of the city of the dead, where the green grass and bright flowers can spring to life over him, in whose presence, care and gloom vanished like mist before the sun.

To a stranger entering Penacook five minutes before twelve o'clock on the night of the 31st of December, 1875, the village presented no unusual appearance, but five minutes later, immediately on the first stroke of the midnight bell, the booming of cannon, the rattling of musketry, the ringing of bells, the unearthly shrieking of steam whistles, the blaze of bonfires, the cheers of the multitudes, and the inspiring strains of the “Star Spangled Banner” from Brown's band, all gave notice that the Centennial of American Independence had arrived, and the citizens of Penacook were prepared to greet it and usher it in with

all the honors due such a great event. This was, without exception, the greatest event occurring in the history of the village, and will perhaps be remembered the longest by those who were engaged in it.

On Memorial Day, 1876, music was furnished for the Decoration Day services at Great Falls. The band went down the evening before and gave a concert in the town hall for the benefit of the Post. There was an immense audience, and a handsome sum was realized. The beginning of the centennial year found Brown's band in good condition, and with an enviable reputation, both for the quality and the quantity of its music. It was a common remark by the officers of the several organizations for whom it served, that they never had a band so liberal with its music. There was no "soldiering" in its ranks, as it was expected that each man would play his part until the signal to cease was given by the leader. In this respect the band never failed to give satisfaction. No organization, after having contracted to pay liberal wages for a day's job, liked to see a band marching at its head, with the instruments idle half of the time in the hands of the performers.

The discipline of the band was perfect, and this was nearly all due to the leadership of D. Arthur Brown, whose word on parade was law. On the 15th of January of this year a concert and ball were given in Contoocook. Although not a great success pecuniarily the occasion was enjoyable to all concerned. In the spring campaign of this year music was furnished in Concord. A new acquisition was made in March in the person of Thomas Fookes, a fine musician and a skilled performer on the trombone and euphonium. He had seen service in the English army and navy, and before coming to Penacook was the director of the Concord brass band. On March 2d it accompanied the White Mountain lodge of Odd Fellows to East Concord, the occasion being the funeral of one of their associates. The day was extremely cold and was well remembered, for it was hard work to keep the valves of the instruments from freezing. A levee was held by the ladies of Penacook for the benefit of the band during the same month, which was very successful, a handsome sum being netted.

On April 26 music was furnished the Penacook lodge of Odd

Fellows who went to Concord to take part in the anniversary of the establishment of the order in New Hampshire. On the first of May music was furnished for the Mt. Horeb Commandery in Concord, the occasion being its fiftieth anniversary. The Lawrence, Mass., Commandery was present and was accompanied by Edmund's band of Boston. Both commanderies turned out with full ranks, and the fine appearance of the Knights, with their magnificent regalia and good marching, made it a very attractive spectacle. A levee was held in the evening in Phenix hall, both bands uniting to furnish the music for the grand march. June 8, election day, Col. John A. White, of the governor's staff, secured the band for the First New Hampshire S. M., which was to take part in the inauguration of Governor Cheney. It was an old-time election day, the entire state militia being present, while on all sides were auctioneers, pop beer men, corn doctors, balloon sellers, peanut venders, lemo, lemo, lemonade stands, and crowds of people. Concerts were given in the state house yard in the evening.

On June 29 the band accompanied the Reform club to Concord to attend a mass meeting of the temperance people of the state. It was held in the state house yard. Among the speakers were John B. Gough and Wendell Phillips. July 4 the city of Concord celebrated the 100th anniversary of the republic. There was a grand trade procession, the finest ever seen in the city, every business house, mercantile, manufacturing, and otherwise, being represented in it. In addition there were large floats, many of them representing the stirring events occurring in different periods of the country's history from the discovery of America by Columbus down to the Civil War. All uniformed organizations in the city, military and civil, turned out; but the old saying of "Man proposes but God disposes" was never better illustrated, for the parade had no more than got fairly started when a terrific thunder storm, or rather a succession of them, burst over the devoted patriots' heads, putting an end effectually to the celebration.

July 6 it accompanied the Democratic Ward Committee to Concord, the occasion being the ratification meeting of Tilden and Hendricks. On the 9th of August it again led the Mt. Horeb Commandery to its annual field day, which was held in Suncook.

The Manchester Commandery was also present, accompanied

by the Goffstown band. After the exercises were over, a bounteous banquet was partaken of in a tent near the residence of Sir Knight Jewell. A visit was paid to the Head brick yards and a parting salute paid General Natt, who had his French brigade (bricklayers) turn out in uniform(?). On Sept. 5 the West Concord Reform club engaged it for an all day picnic on the shores of Lake Penacook. There was music and speaking in the grove during the day and a general illumination in the evening. On Sept. 7 the band was engaged to furnish music for two days at Great Falls, for the annual reunion of the Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic. It was reënforced on this occasion by Missud, Castle, and L'Africain. It played on the 21st of this month for the great Blaine ratification meeting in Concord, where all had an opportunity to see and hear the man who so narrowly escaped being president.

For several years music had been furnished for the Pioneer Engine company, taking part in the annual parade of the Concord fire department. It accompanied the Torrent Engine company on the 30th following. The immortal Saxie Pike was drum major and attracted more attention than General Grant would and undoubtedly felt better than Grant ever dared to feel. In October it accompanied the Amoskeag Veterans of Manchester to the World's fair at Philadelphia. The governor of New Hampshire and many of the eminent men of the state with their ladies were guests. It reported for duty in Manchester at 11 a. m. Oct. 14, 1876. After dinner a parade was made on Elm street, after which the line of March was taken for the railroad station. The weather was very pleasant, making the occasion enjoyable to all concerned. The band was reënforced by Jean Missud, Castle, Harrington, L'Africain, and Edward Bagley. The latter was one of the best cornet players born in New Hampshire as well as one of the most estimable of men, and for many years before his death was the leader of the Germania band of Boston.

The services of Saxie Pike were engaged as drum major. Both veterans and band made a fine appearance, especially the former, whose uniform was a novelty to the people en route. The journey was via the Sound and Jersey City. A concert was given on the steamer to a very appreciative audience. The boat was literally

packed with people. Every one seemed to be going to the Centennial and taking their wives or best girls with them. As it was out of the question getting either a stateroom or berth, the old saying that "Politics makes strange bed fellows" was beaten here as all lay around loose, both men and women, and in the desire for a few hours' rest all diffidence disappeared and Barnum's happy family was renewed on a large scale.

To those who had never seen New York before, the ride along the East river was delightful. The morning was bright and sunny, every object being seen distinctly. Blackwell's and Randall's Islands, with their public institutions, were quickly passed by. Hell Gate, the scene of so many wrecks, was on the right, and all around towers, steeples, ships, steamers, tugs, and ferryboats made the scene something wonderful for those who had never been to the sea-coast or in the harbor of a large city, and there were many of that class. They arrived in Philadelphia about noon. Quarters were assigned them at the hotel near the exhibition grounds. After dinner a parade was made down Chestnut street to Independence hall. The fine appearance of the Veterans and the good music, for the band never played better, drew a large crowd, and the streets were thronged with people who followed the procession until the hall was reached, when the line was broken and an opportunity given to all to examine the Philadelphia Cradle of Liberty and its priceless relics.

The great event of the trip was the celebration on New Hampshire day. The commander of the Veterans was a real veteran himself, Major Henry H. Huse of the Eighth New Hampshire. As a compliment, escort duty was performed from the hotel to the exhibition grounds by the Lexington Cadets of Virginia, who were dressed in the traditional rebel gray. Among the invited guests were Governor Cheney and his staff in full uniform, and the orator of the day, Professor E. D. Sanborn of Dartmouth college. The march through the Centennial grounds was something worth remembering. It was also Italian day. A statue of Columbus was dedicated in the forenoon. All the Italian societies in Philadelphia and vicinity and as far off as New York were present and participating. Witty Charles Garland remarked on seeing them that it was the first time that he had looked on so many Italians

without seeing either a hand organ or a monkey. The place of meeting was at the New Hampshire house. There was a large assemblage of the sons and daughters of the old Granite state waiting for the services. They were of great interest to all present. In addition to the music by the band, which had been especially prepared, the celebrated Hutchinson family sang some of their famous songs as well as a new ode composed for the occasion. This visit to Philadelphia was one of the pleasantest outings ever taken by Brown's band, and although more than twenty-two years have passed since then, the remembrances of it are as vivid as ever to those who survive. A sketch of the trip was prepared under the direction of the commander of the Amoskeag Veterans and published in pamphlet form. It contained full details of the event as well as the names of all who participated.

After its return the band gave a concert in Phenix hall, Concord, for the Centennial fountain erected in Fairmount Park by the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America. This netted a handsome sum. It was under the supervision of the St. John's Catholic Temperance society of Penacook. Nearly all of the same soloists were present, the pianoforte accompanists being Mrs. W. W. Hill of Concord and George H. Linehan of the band.

During the presidential campaign of this year, the band was kept pretty busy up to the very eve of the election. In January, 1877, a series of promenade concerts were given in Exchange hall, which were very successful pecuniarily. On May 17 following, a fine concert of both vocal and instrumental music was given in Exchange hall. Among those who assisted on that occasion were Dr. and Mrs. J. H. French, Mrs. C. H. Scott and Miss Grace E. Darling of Manchester. On May 30 it was called upon to go for the second time to play for the Great Falls Post, G. A. R., on Memorial Day. The concert was given in the town hall, which was as fine a performance as was ever given by the band. On June 28 it furnished music at the commencement at the New Hampton institute. On the way to that place a serenade was tendered the birthplace of Mr. Currier in Bristol as a compliment to the man whom so many loved.

On the glorious Fourth following it accompanied the Torrent Engine company to Franklin, and on the 12th gave a concert on

the stand near the Eagle hotel at Concord. Later in the evening some of the principal citizens were serenaded. Among those thus honored were Governor Prescott, Hon. George E. Todd, Rev. J. E. Barry, and J. Frank Webster. July 26 it accompanied the Mount Horeb Commandery to the funeral of Sir Knight Harris, who was interred at Warner. On the 14th of August a four days' trip was taken with the governor of New Hampshire and the state legislature to Bennington, Vermont, to participate at the Centennial of the battle. While here it had the honor of being called upon to furnish music for the reception of President Hayes at the depot on his arrival, at the levee in the hotel in the evening, and at the grand banquet the next day. Col. Charles C. Danforth of Concord acted as drum major, and by his skilful manœuvering gained new laurels for himself as well as the band. Again at Concord its services were called into requisition at the reception of the president during the day and evening. A two days' trip was taken later to Lake Memphremagog. It furnished music for the field day of Mt. Horeb Commandery on the 5th of September, and on the 27th of the same month accompanied the commandery to the funeral of Sir Knight Taylor at Bristol.

When 1878 came round, some of the older members of the band began to think it was about time to retire. The majority of them had been playing full twenty years. Meantime new cares and responsibilities had increased with the advance of age. Their services were being constantly applied for in the winter of 1877 and the year following, 1878. The most notable event of the latter year was the first reunion of the New Hampshire Veteran association held at the Weirs.

The band had furnished music for the very first gathering at Manchester in 1875, and the re-engagement for 1878 was evidence of the character of the service rendered. It was now at the height of its reputation, and after considering the matter the members decided to give up business while in this condition rather than let it continue and lose the prestige which years of hard labor had produced. They voted to disband; instruments and uniforms were sold, and Brown's band became only a memory. In its dissolution the village lost an organization that had done more during its existence in its line for Penacook than any other it had ever

contained. Its services were furnished gratis for levees held by the several religious societies in the village and for the Post on Memorial days, and concerts were given on the stand in the Square on many pleasant evenings in summer. The band stand was removed later to the cemetery, where it comes in good use on Memorial days as well as being a monument or a reminder of Brown's band.

Among those who joined later and before its dissolution, were William Kennedy, Jean Missud, E. N. and J. R. L'Africain, Pedro Meyrelles, Edward Bagley, George H. Linehan, Frank M. Garland, Frank E. Bean, Dennis and Edward O'Brien, Charles Perkins, Stewart I. Brown, Samuel Burdick, George S. Locke, Albert G. Bugbee, James McArdle, John H. Rolfe, Abial W. Rolfe, and Joe Warren.

One notable event in the history of the band that deserves recording was a visit to the White Mountains in October, 1877. It accompanied a party of excursionists, and with them went up the newly constructed railway to the Tip-top house on Mt. Washington. The atmosphere was perfectly clear; the view all around was, in consequence, grand beyond description; the air was warm and genial as on the average June day. It is believed that this was the first time that the national air of the republic was played on the highest peak east of the Rocky Mountains.

Of the nineteen original members of Brown's band, the following survive and reside in Penacook: D. Arthur and Samuel N. Brown, John C. Linehan, Loren M. Currier, Geo. F. and Jeremiah Sanborn, David S. Marsh, Warren W. Whittier, Charles Abbott, Geo. E. Flanders, and Samuel G. Noyes. Of the eighteen who subsequently joined, active and honorary members, the following are still in Penacook: Dennis and Edward O'Brien, Samuel Burdick, George S. Locke, James McArdle, Frank E. Bean, and John H. Rolfe.

D. Arthur Brown was the leader of Brown's band through its existence and filled the same position for some time in the older Fisherville Cornet band. It is not too much to say of him that without his energy and active coöperation neither band would have ever acquired the proficiency credited to them, and it is fully believed that this statement will be endorsed by the surviving mem-

bers of both. He has had, during the past twenty years, to encounter his full share of the vicissitudes of life, but he has met them like a man. He is to-day, as he has been since its establishment, the head of a corporation which has been for the people whom it employed, so far as wages and generous treatment are concerned, one of the best the village has ever contained.

Charles Abbott played the small drum, if it is believed, in all the bands organized in Penacook since its creation as a village. He is perhaps the oldest of the members still living, so far as years are concerned, with possibly one exception—in spirit he is as youthful as the youngest, and still officiates on occasions requiring his services as a drummer.

Several attempts have been made to revive the interest in organizations of this kind; so far with no permanent success. For obvious reasons no band equal to Brown's can be again established and maintained in the village.

THEN AND NOW.—THE FATHERS OF THE HAMLET.—MEN THAT  
WORKED FOR THE WELFARE OF PENACOOK.

[WRITTEN BY JOHN C. LINEHAN.]

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Half a century ago the operatives in the mills in Penacook went to work in the morning at 5 o'clock; half an hour was allowed for breakfast at 6:30; three quarters of an hour for dinner at noon; the day's labor closed at 7:30 p. m.

Fifty years later, the day's labor began at 7 a. m. and ended at 6 p. m., unless the hours were shortened on Saturday. In such an event they were added to the other five days in order to make up 60 hours for the week. One hour was allowed for dinner at noon.

In 1850 payments of wages were made in factories and on the railroads once in four weeks or once a month. To-day weekly payments are the rule. In those old days employees in the establishments named received for their services, as a rule, bills issued by the old state banks, which not infrequently proved worthless on account of the failure of the bank which issued them, and when good in New Hampshire not current in other states without discount.

In these blessed modern days wage-earners receive their pay in national bank bills which are good equally all over the country, for the reason that the government possesses the collateral necessary to guarantee their payment. Half a century ago nearly all of the great industries, except that of cotton manufacturing, were in their infancy. Among them neither weekly nor monthly payments were the rule. Money either in specie or currency was doled out only in small quantities and final settlements of accounts between employers and employees were few and far between.

If a man desired to get married, very often an order from his employer paid for the certificate and not infrequently the minister or the justice of the peace who tied the knot. If he desired to get a pair of boots, a suit of clothing, or a cord of wood, he had to pay for them in the same commodity, and if he died it would not be at all unlikely that the undertaker would be obliged to accept an order for the coffin.

Nowadays, men or women earning their daily bread by the labor of their hands, either as employees in cotton factories, in any of the great industrial works of the country, as day laborers, or females in domestic service, would be horrified if offered anything but the hard cash, either in silver, gold, or currency.

Fifty years ago the lines dividing the different evangelical societies were very sharply defined and the Catholic church was barely tolerated. To-day the lines between the first named are nearly obliterated, and very little feeling exists between either the old or the new churches. The members of all are gradually nearing a state in which they can be truly classed as Christians.

Fifty years ago the only means of illuminating mills, shops, and residences was the light produced from whale oil or candles. The use of kerosene was unknown. Camphene and burning fluid were just being introduced. Ten years later coal oil of very poor quality came into use and retailed at \$1.25 per gallon. The stores, as a rule, were poorly lighted; there were no lamps on the streets and people were obliged on dark nights, or when the moon had retired, to carry lanterns in order to find their way to church, store, post-office, prayer-meetings, writing school, or to visit their neighbors.

In this year of our Lord 1898, candles, except for ornamental

purposes or church use, have almost gone out of existence. People can have their choice of kerosene oil at ten cents a gallon, immeasurably superior to that of a third of a century ago, or, if they can afford it, light their houses with electric fluid. Whale oil as an illuminating agent has disappeared probably forever. On the darkest nights the streets of Penacook in our times are as bright as they could be, more so than with a full moon, and the necessity for carrying lanterns publicly has gone by.

Fifty years ago and later one could not take a walk on a summer's evening without his sense of smell being offended as badly as Dr. Johnson's was when he first visited Edinburgh. On a very sultry evening it was almost overpowering and odors made up of 999 varieties, varied according to age and quality.

In these better and more cleanly times the establishment of a system of sewerage has done away with all this, and except in the case of a break in the "main" the odor is transferred to the banks of the Merrimack at a point where it will not be an offence to either man or beast.

Fifty years ago the sink pipe, the well, and very often the hog pen were in close proximity, with the result that diphtheria, typhoid fever, consumption, and kindred diseases were quite common.

To-day, thanks to city ordinances, common sense, the introduction of Penacook lake water and better sanitary arrangements, the hog pen has disappeared, the wells have been filled up, and the sink pipe made a part of the sewer system. The three dreaded scourges mentioned have nearly disappeared to the great benefit of all, old and young.

Fifty years ago nearly all the wage-earners of Penacook occupied tenements for which they paid rent. But very few of them had carpets on their floors or musical instruments, save a jews'-harp, accordion, or violin.

To-day the majority of the people of Penacook own their own homes. Many of them possess all the comforts of life, some of them the luxuries, and but few are without pianos or organs.

Fifty years ago the men or boys at work in mill or shop wearing during the week a "boiled" shirt were few and far between. To-day it would be rare indeed to find one that is not wearing

that kind of raiment and having it laundered by John Chinaman as well or in the more fashionable establishment run by steam.

Fifty years ago it was a serious problem in the minds of many people as to whether or not the hordes of foreigners yearly arriving in the country could be assimilated with the population and become thoroughly Americanized. To-day, after the experience of half a century, during which we have had two wars, that question seems to be effectually settled, for none responded more promptly to the call for troops or performed their duty as soldiers more faithfully or loyally, than the men, and the sons of the men, who were born on the other side of the Atlantic. For all of which we should be devoutly thankful, and "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Among the former residents of the village who have passed away and who, while in life, were prominent more or less in its affairs, was Henry H. Brown, who can, as has been said, be justly called the "Father of the village." He was the head of the firm of H. H. and J. S. Brown, cotton manufacturers, and for a time operated the business in both of the stone mills. He was taught the stone mason's trade in his youth, and under his superintendence the Penacook mill was built in 1846. He was a public-spirited man, and to him is due largely the reputation Penacook enjoys among the newer manufacturing villages of possessing so many shade trees on its streets. Many of them were set out by his own hands or under his direction. He was one of the founders of the Baptist church, a faithful and consistent believer in its tenets and during life one of its deacons and most liberal supporters. His death was looked upon as a public calamity. His son, Henry F., who died but a few years ago, was perhaps one of the most popular young men the village ever possessed. He had a genial, happy disposition, and none knew him but to love him.

Samuel F. Brown, David A. Brown, and Edmund Brown were brothers of the first named. The latter died before 1860, and was therefore not so well known. Samuel was postmaster for many years and a public-spirited citizen. David, during life, was one of our best known men. Like his brothers he was active for the welfare of the village. Both were always great patrons of

music, and all were men of sterling worth and of the strictest integrity. Of the same class was Almon Harris, the founder of the woolen mill in the village, and his son, Sheldon, whose death was felt severely, not only by his immediate relatives but as well by every one who knew him, and that meant all the people in the village.

B. F. Caldwell, H. H. Amsden, and Samuel Merriam come under the same class. They were associated together in the cabinet shop. Mr. Caldwell was one of the best business men, as well as one of the most successful that the place ever contained, and the combination made up of those three men resulted in the cabinet shop doing a flourishing business in those old, palmy days.

Contemporaries of theirs were Capt. Henry Rolfe and his sons, Timothy and Henry. They were descendants of the first settlers of Penacook, but, unlike the majority of that class, not only their children, but their grandchildren as well, reside in the old home and follow the business established by their fathers. For some years before the war there was no concern in Penacook, with the possible exception of the cabinet shop, that furnished so many men with employment as the Rolfes.

Others well known, but perhaps now nearly forgotten, were S. B. Hoyt, father of J. I. Hoyt. He was one of the most genial, kindly men that ever lived in the village, and a special friend of the boys, protecting the younger ones in their games from any annoyance by their elders. He kept the livery stable connected with the Washington House and was for years the agent of the United States and Canada Express Co. J. C. Martin, Daniel Fox, Jacob P. Sanders, Grant and George P. Meserve, Hiram Simpson, John Batchelder, John Sawyer, William H. Allen, who has been but recently laid away in Woodlawn cemetery, Richard Crowther, Moses H. Bean, Dana W. Pratt, Charles C., Erastus, Joshua, and William D. Bean, Ira Sweatt, Nathan Chandler, Theodore, Eben, Henry, Nathan, and Luther Elliott, Nelson Davis, John Howard, and George Hinton. The latter in his day was, without exception, one of the finest looking men in town, as well as one of the most jovial.

Others were Richard Gage and his sons, Calvin, John C.,

Luther, Frank, William H., and Richard, all men of sterling worth and character. Unlike the Rolfes, very few representatives of this family now reside in Penacook.

Judge Nehemiah Butler was one of the same class, and from his first entry to the village was one of its most respected citizens.

Rodney Dutton has been dead forty-years or more. Like his son, George, he was in the dry goods business. He was a man of the most amiable character, honorable in all his dealings with his fellow-men, and his early death was a great loss to the village. His oldest son of the same name died but recently.

Isaac K. Gage, for nearly half a century, was one of the best known men in Penacook. He was a brother of Asa Gage. He was one of the most public-spirited men in the village, always taking an active interest in everything conducive to its benefit.

The only survivor of the physicians mentioned in "Witherell's Directory" is Dr. William H. Hosmer. He has had the most extensive practice doubtless of any of his profession ever located here, and a goodly portion of our people of Irish origin were in days gone by his constant patrons. He was a liberal patron of music, and old-timers cannot recall his presence without again seeing his bass viol.

Among the former members of the Catholic church who were while in life the pioneers of their creed in the village, as well as liberal contributors for its support, was Michael Bolger. He lived in and owned the house now occupied by the heirs of Charles C. Bean. He was one of the best men Penacook ever possessed. While living here he was in charge of a section of the Northern Railroad. He died in 1855 or 1856. Few men in the employ of the railroad corporation were esteemed more highly. The presence of Onslow Stearns and his wife at his funeral was the evidence of this. He was buried in Lowell.

John Gahagan was, like Mr. Bolger, a good specimen of the Irish Catholic of fifty years ago. He was industrious and thrifty, and was very nearly one of the first of his race or creed to possess real estate. His death occurred just after that of Mr. Bolger.

John Linehan was of the same stamp. He was always a liberal supporter of his church and a good citizen. For years it was a self-assumed duty for him to get the little hall in which services

were held in proper shape for Sunday. He had a temporary altar made, and this he used to carry to and from the church from his house on Sundays. Among others were Kieran Pendergast, Peter Keenan, Thomas Gahagan, George Kenney, Thomas Quigley, James Dolan, John Thornton, Edward and John H. Taylor, Lawrence Gahagan, Francis O'Neill, Edward and Peter McArdle, Patrick O'Brien, Edward Halloran, Patrick Kelley, Thomas Igo, Michael Griffin, and John Pendergast. All were good citizens and loyal supporters of the church and government.

Although no mention has been made in the foregoing but of those who have passed away, it would not be invidious to name a few of those who were their contemporaries and who had, like them, done their share, be the proportion great or less, in making Penacook what it is. Among them were John S. Brown, who was the second of the Brown brothers, and a man of enviable character. He possessed great will power and marked executive ability. He has been a strong pillar of the Baptist church and is one of the two original members now living. He has the peculiar distinction of having contributed more money for religious and educational purposes than any citizen in Penacook. The larger part of the funds for building the Baptist church and parsonage were given by him. Both buildings were erected under his personal supervision and are memorials of his liberality. Few men have been more charitable; very few, not even the recipients of his benefactions, knew the extent of this.

Others were Capt. William H. Gage and his son Asa. The latter is one of the sturdiest representatives of the old stock residing in Penacook to-day. Always true to his convictions of what is just and right, he is as honest as the days are long.

Of the same class is Capt. Nathaniel Rolfe. Forty years ago he was head of a firm employing at that time more men, perhaps, than any other in the village. He had always been a liberal employer and a good, kind-hearted man. The same can be said of his brother, Col. Abial Rolfe, who has always taken an active interest in the educational affairs of Penacook.

Until within a few years one of the best known men of the village was John A. Coburn. He was the assistant marshal of Concord for a long period, and while filling this position exercised

rare discretion in his treatment of those who violated the city ordinances but could not properly be classed as criminals. His occupation of undertaker brought him in contact with all classes of people, and his urbane, kindly disposition was one of his marked traits. He is now but waiting the call to follow the greater part of his former associates who have crossed the silent river.

Hazen Knowlton, although a native of Concord, has lived in Penacook since 1846. He has been one of our most exemplary citizens, as well as a good representative of the thrifty, industrious mechanics of the place. His vigorous health is the best index of the life he has led.

Two more who cannot in age be classed with the former, but who have been for the past thirty-five years among the foremost in business and public affairs, are John Whitaker and George W. Abbott. Both have recently retired from an active business life. The former devotes the most of his time in the summer season to his squadron on the Contoocook,—the *Modena* is as dear to him as the *Oregon* was to Phillips. The latter looks after his interest in the electric road and the First National Bank.

From 1865 until within a few years the cabinet shop employed, perhaps, the largest number of men of any concern in the village. Many of our leading citizens were at one time or another employed therein. The financial reverses which overtook its proprietor were, in consequence, brought home to nearly every fireside in Penacook. The only one surviving of the men who have operated the shop is the Hon. Charles H. Amsden, now, and for years past, first deputy naval officer of Boston. For the benefit accruing to the village his name, as well as the names of those who preceded him, ought to be held in grateful remembrance.

Many others there are who deserve special mention did the space allow.

What the future may have in store for Penacook time alone can tell. Its past is known, and the record made by the men whose names appear in the foregoing pages has been creditable to themselves as well as to the village. With a change in the ownership of the water privilege, and the property once in the hands of parties of broad and liberal views and possessed of energy and capi-

tal, Penacook may in time become what it ought to have been in the past, one of the leading manufacturing centres in New Hampshire.

## SPRING FRESHETS.

[CONTRIBUTED BY HON. JOHN C. LINEHAN.]

Water, like fire, is a good servant but a hard master. People who have lived in Penacook can appreciate the force of this statement, when they recall the several floods that have taken place during the past fifty years. On February 5, 1847, about one hundred and fifty feet of the railroad was washed away by high water, near Goodwin's Point. The freshet of April 21, 22, 23, 1852, was the most destructive to property in the village of any that has ever occurred. A stone foundry located then very near where the breakwater is built, between the cabinet shop and the dam, was completely demolished by the rushing waters. A large two-story frame building, used as a pattern house and fitting-up shop for the foundry, was washed from its foundation and started down stream; just before reaching the bridge it swung around into an eddy near the south end of the bridge, where it was secured by ropes to the shore; after the water subsided it was torn down.

Both cotton factories were shut down, and for a time people living in that part of the village known as "California," in the rear of the mill, were in danger of being drowned out. One of the results of this freshet was the building of the embankment which now exists, extending from the west end of the Penacook mill along the bank of the Contoocook river to the foot bridge crossing the canal near the Concord Axle Works.

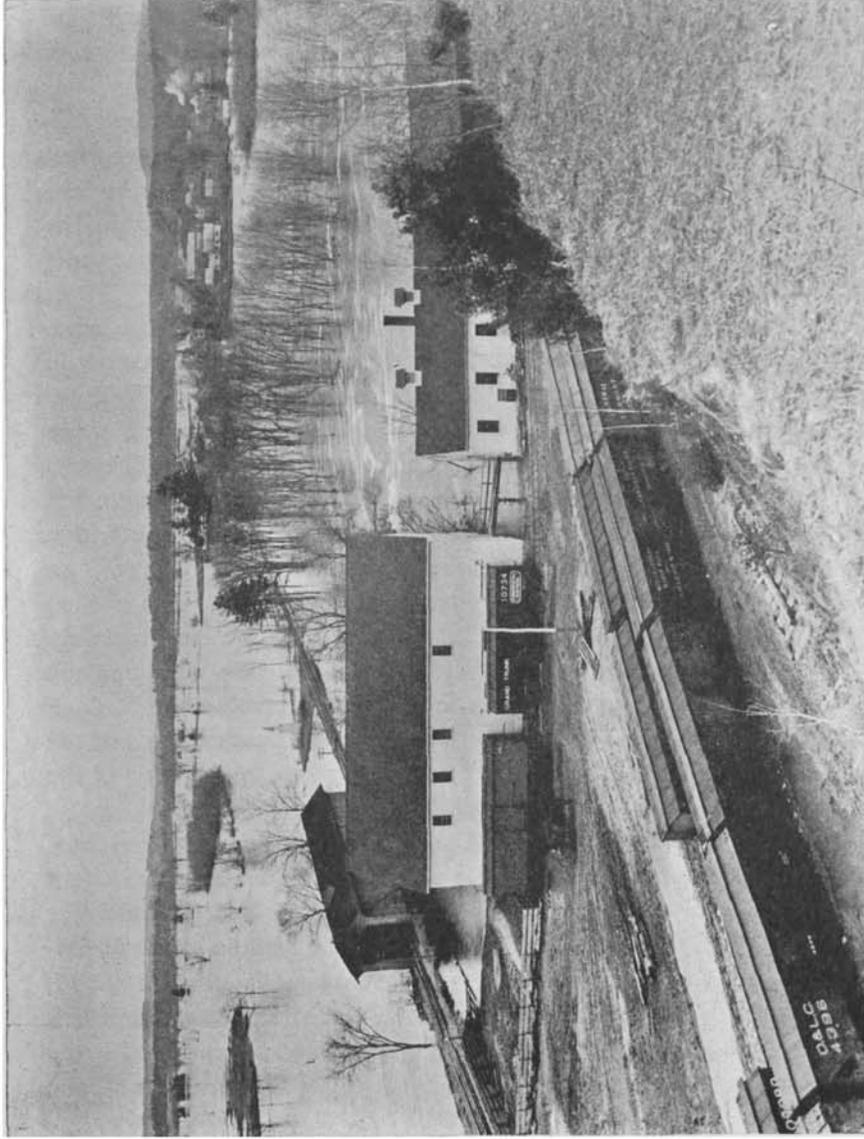
This was constructed under the supervision of Henry H. Brown, and in its condition to-day is evidence of his skill in that line. In his youth he was taught the mason's trade. Among the other buildings injured partially was the house on the bank of the Contoocook river on the Boscawen side opposite the residence of Edward McShane. The foundation of this house next the river was undermined and the whole rendered unsafe.

The next freshet of any magnitude was in 1862, when the Merrimack, as well as the Contoocook, overflowed its banks. In 1865 the bridge at Horse Hill and that at Sewall's Falls were both swept away, or injured so seriously that they had to be replaced.

It was repeated in 1869. The Contoocook was so high and the pressure so great against the gates at the head of the canal that in order to prevent any possible break a gang of men worked nearly all day during the height of the freshet, strengthening the supports on the inside. There was a fear of an overflow, the consequences of which would have been disastrous; as it was, many of the occupants of the stores and tenements along the canal removed their goods. The precautions taken, however, prevented any break. The Merrimack this year reached the highest point ever attained on the water marks in the railroad shops at Concord. New England, almost from one end to the other, was devastated by floods, the greater damage being done at Fitchburg and Worcester, and 1884 again found the rivers on a rampage. The water at the railroad shops in Concord reached the mark of 1869.

In 1895 there was again a great freshet which reached its highest point on Easter Sunday of that year. The water was a foot deep in the basement of the railroad shops at Concord. In Penacook the rise was so rapid in the Merrimack that on the evening of April 11 the occupants of the tenement house opposite the railroad station had to be taken away in boats. The track was flooded; a strong current was running between the freight house and the railroad station deep enough to carry large logs. The latter floated down the Merrimack but were swept under the railroad bridge into the Contoocook, where the current took them in its new channel as mentioned. The track was covered in many places between Concord and Penacook. The waters were higher than ever before in Penacook.

Nearly a year later, in March, 1896, Penacook experienced, so far as destruction of property on the railroads is concerned, the most severe of the floods thus far seen in the two rivers. The ice on the Merrimack broke up before that on the Contoocook, and its waters rose more rapidly. When the ice on the Contoocook gave away and went crashing down the falls between the Electric park and Dustin's island, it found no outlet to the larger river, as the waters of the Merrimack were at least two feet above the bottom of the two bridges. The current in the former river trended towards the bridge near the depot, and against this bridge thundered hundreds, possibly thousands, of tons of ice. By the force of the col-



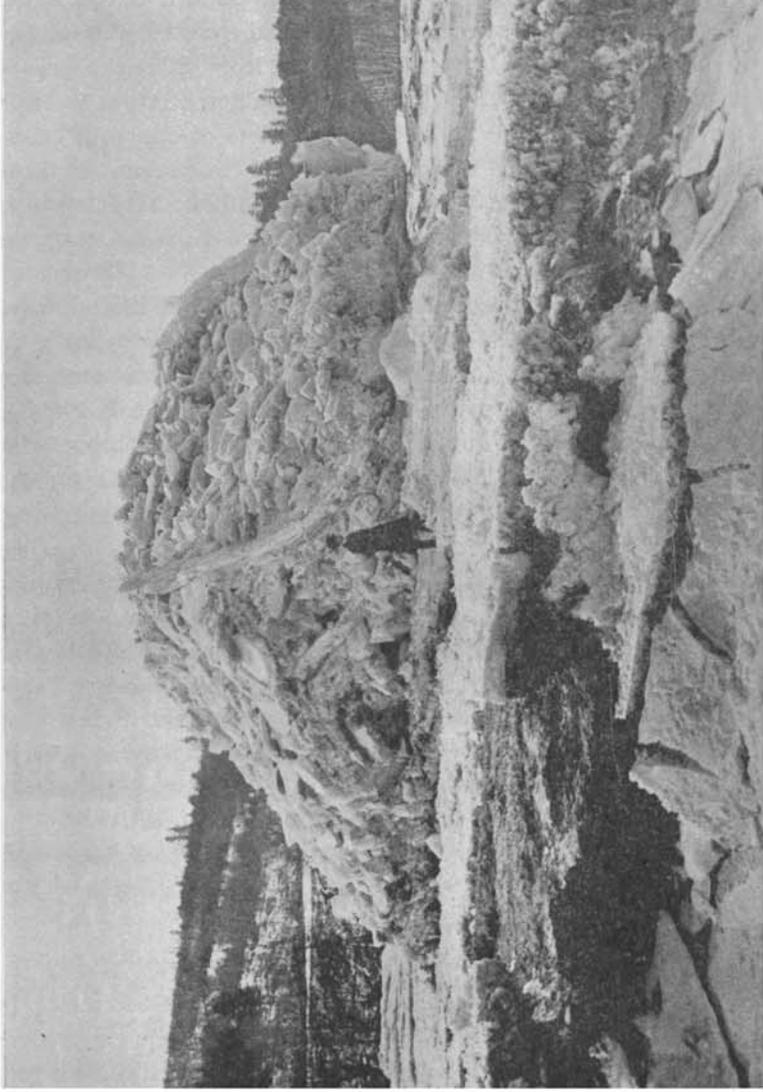
HIGH WATER IN THE MERRIMACK, 1895.

lision the ice was forced to the bottom of the river. An immense amount of it lodged here, gradually increasing in size and pressing against the bridge until its top was nearly on a level with the roof of the latter. Here it remained until it melted. This obstruction compelled the waters to find a new channel, and one was made through Dustin island, about the centre of the space between the two bridges. The track for a distance of about a hundred feet or more was swept on the opposite side, the sleepers with the rails attached standing on end, seemingly as a barrier between the waters of the two rivers. This channel was about forty feet wide, or thereabouts, and about twenty feet deep.

When the waters began to rise, Mr. Nolan, the section boss, realizing or fearing what was to happen, wired Mr. Chamberlin the condition of things and the danger to the railroad bridges. Mr. Chamberlin came up promptly with an engine and some loaded coal cars; the latter were drawn and left on the two bridges. At this time the water was about two feet above the track. Almost as soon as the engine left the end of the bridge next the station the track sunk out of sight. Word was also sent that between Penacook and Concord the roadbed had been washed out badly in many places, and for miles the track was completely submerged. Mr. Chamberlin, the engineer, the fireman, and the hands accompanying him were obliged to return to Concord on the electric. The engine was stalled on the track opposite the station for a week, the water at times being up to the hubs of the wheels.

But little work was done in the village for two or three days. The Contoocook river for a mile above Dustin's island was about as grand and picturesque a sight as can be imagined. In the rear of the Harris woolen mill and in the middle of the river is an immense boulder. Except at very high water it is never covered. It was completely submerged, however, and when the water struck it, as if maddened by the obstruction, it dashed in foam and spray fully twenty feet above its summit. A rabbit was seen on a cake of ice floating down the river.

In Concord the intervalles were completely covered, and long stretches of the track below the city were completely destroyed. Many houses were injured seriously, and one boy, named Godfrey,



ICE CONE ON THE MERRIMACK, 1896.

while out in a canvas canoe, was drowned on the intervalles near one of the culverts of the Concord & Montreal Railroad.

On the east bank of the Merrimack, at a point about opposite East Concord, a curious as well as a wonderful ice cone was formed by the rushing waters. It must have been from fifteen to twenty feet in height and thirty to forty feet in diameter. A photograph of it was taken at the time by Kimball brothers of Concord. One of the latter stood by it when the negative was taken, so those who view the picture can see its size. It was unlike anything ever seen before in this vicinity or elsewhere in New England, so far as there is any record.

Although the railroad company saved its bridges, the one over the Merrimack was lost. It was evident early in the morning of March 1st that the bridge would have to go, and in consequence hundreds of people were present during the afternoon and evening and late into the night, to see its departure. It battled bravely for life. Half a mile away, up at the village, above the roar of the Contoocook, could be heard the pounding of the ice continually against its sides, as the water was several feet above its floor. To an old soldier it was a reminder of days gone by, for the pounding of the ice against the hollow sides of the bridge sounded like artillery, and the ripping and tearing off occasionally of the boards resembled the rattling of musketry. After standing the bombardment and resisting it for twelve hours, about midnight it arose and swam down the current as gracefully and majestically as a swan, stranding on the west bank of the river a short distance below the railroad station. This was one of the floods that will never be forgotten.

#### ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS.

[CONTRIBUTED BY HON. JOHN C. LINEHAN.]

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Martin Sherlock, mentioned as the first Irishman to appear in Penacook, while at work attending masons during the erection of the Penacook mill in 1846, fell from a scaffolding and broke his leg.

When moving the machinery from the old mill to the new mill in 1847, John S. Brown fell from the third floor of the old mill to the ground, shattering the bones of his leg and ankle, and crippling him for life.

A young married couple took a ride through the village during their honeymoon, in 1856. While driving down "eel" street, the horse became unmanageable, starting on a run. When opposite the Dustin Island Woolen mill, and just at the head of the canal, the hub of the carriage collided with a post. The shock threw the woman into the canal; the current here is very swift, and as a consequence, strong. Those were the days when hoopskirts were in vogue, which was fortunate for her, as they kept her afloat with the aid of her clothing, but she was swept the whole length, and was taken out by the late Henry Tucker, safely, but very moist and much frightened. A daughter of Mrs. Mary Brannan fell into the canal, sometime during the Civil War, at a point opposite the cabinet shop. She was carried some distance under Andrew Linehan's store, and the Coburn and Chadwick blocks. The accident was witnessed by the late John Pendergast, who plunged after her, and following, caught and rescued her near the bridge across the canal, at the west end of the Penacook mill.

In 1855 a young man named Hazelton, while bathing near the ledge on the Boscawen side, opposite the Concord Axle Works, got beyond his depth, and being unable to swim, would have been drowned were it not for the same John Pendergast who was then but thirteen years old. He dove after him and succeeded, at the risk of his own life, in getting him out. When the half drowned man became conscious, he rewarded his rescuer by giving him twenty-five cents. The latter merely laughed and threw the money back in his face.

During the winter of 1864 two Penacook men, one a well-known merchant, the other one of the hands in the cabinet shop, conceived the brilliant idea of making a dollar in the way that many were doing at that time. By some means or other, they coaxed a young fellow about eighteen years of age, and at work in the shop, to accompany them to Portsmouth. There they put him through as a substitute, receiving a large sum in return. The boys in the shop got an inkling of the affair, and a party was arranged to meet the two brokers on their arrival at the station. It was headed by a returned Californian named Thompson, who was an adept in the proposed scheme. When the individuals mentioned got off the cars, after dark, one of them was nabbed, mounted on a rail, and

rode out of town; the other, through a friend, got wind of it and escaped. Nothing had occurred during the war, in the village, that aroused so much indignation as did this, and it extended from the proprietors of the shop to the smallest boy employed therein. If tar and feathers had been available they would have been put into use, and the occasion made still more picturesque.

The late Moses H. Bean was for some time after his arrival in the village, early in the fifties, day watchman at the Penacook mill. Near the head of the canal, inside the bulkhead, and in the bank next to the river near the dam, is a stone sluiceway provided with gates. When the water in the river was high, these gates were raised in order to let it run into the river, and relieve the canal of a possible overflow. At the bottom of this canal, and on a level with it, was a square hole through the bank to let the water out in case it was necessary to draw it all off. This was also provided with a gate. It was the watchman's duty to attend to these gates, morning, noon, and night. In the performance of this service Mr. Bean one evening while endeavoring to raise the gate at the bottom of the canal, and just after he had succeeded in doing so, lost his balance, fell into the water, and before he was aware of what had happened, found himself in the river, having been forced through the hole, between it and the canal. It was a narrow escape, for he was a very large man. Tradition has it, that when he regained consciousness, the first thing he did was to look at his watch, and say to himself,—

“Gosh! it's going sure.”

While a lot of boys were bathing, just above the dam near its center, in the summer of 1864, at the time when the water was very low and none running over it, one of the number, John Fiske, son of Rev. A. W. Fiske, took a header, but remained down so long that his companions became alarmed. One of them, always noted for being a good swimmer, Andrew Linehan, followed him to see what the matter was. He disappeared in turn and just as if both were gone sure, a noise was heard below the dam, and there were both boys, bruised, and looking like two half drowned rats. When Fiske went down he was swept into the current, running through a hole near the bottom of the dam, and here he was caught and held, until Linehan followed, the latter

being the smaller of the two, when he bumped against Fiske, knocked him out, and following, with the result that both found themselves below the dam, bruised, thoroughly frightened, but thankful that it was no worse.

During the high water in the spring of 1864, Michael Linehan, then but nine years old, went with a man in a row boat up the river above the dam, to collect driftwood. Coming back, in some way the older person lost the oars, and getting frightened, jumped out and swam ashore. The boy could swim like a duck, but not realizing the danger and thinking to save boat and cargo, was doing his best to get ashore by paddling with a piece of board. The men in the cabinet shop saw him, and with a full sense of the situation, rushed up to the bank of the river, and on the stone-work near the bulkhead. Their appearance here was the first inkling the boy's mother had of the situation. She was at the window on that side of the house next the river, sewing. Looking out she was horrified to see her son alone in the boat in the middle of the river, slowly but surely drawing towards the dam, and working like a beaver. He had succeeded in turning the boat towards the small island near the head of the canal. She rushed down. Over a hundred persons were present, some of them the best swimmers in Penacook. She begged of them to make an attempt to save him, but all shook their heads, saying it was too late for he would go over before he could be reached. Of a sudden the form of a boy was seen running towards the water. It was Andrew Linehan, who was ill, and in the house. He had heard the noise, looked out, took in the situation, started, and as he neared the bank, he shrieked at the top of his voice, "Jump, jump, you little fool, jump," at the same time plunging into the river, and striking out for his brother. The little fellow heard the command, threw away his impromptu paddle, jumped into the water, and facing Andrew, swam for his life. For a few minutes everyone held their breath. None dared to believe he could save him, and then a mighty shout arose, for he had reached him, and placing himself between him and the dam swam to the island mentioned, striking it not twenty feet above the mass of seething water below the dam, which boiled and roared and foamed as if enraged at the loss of its prey. All went up to congratulate the

brave boy, but completely exhausted by his efforts, as well as the strain caused by the danger to which he knew both were exposed, he burst out crying and went home. He was not then fourteen years old. Michael, however, took it coolly as if it was an every-day occurrence, and carried off all the honors.

In the fall of the same year a little girl, daughter of Thomas Sawyer, who was a veteran of the Seventh New Hampshire, fell into the canal at its head and outside the rack leading to the gate-house. Andrew Linehan happened to be in the house. The accident was seen by several women, who ran and told the child's mother. She rushed into Linehan's house, which was next door, and told Andrew. He ran down to the river, plunged in without a moment's hesitation, and brought the body out, but it was too late; life was extinct, and respiration could not be restored.

Before the enactment of laws forbidding the throwing of the refuse of mills into the river, the water at the end of the canal near where the bridge crosses, leading to the axle works, used to be covered with sawdust. One Sunday afternoon in summer, in 1865 or '66, several young Hibernians were going down to visit a neighbor in "California". One of the number was a recent importation. As they approached the bridge mentioned, this young man who prided himself on his athletic powers, burst out "Boys, I can bate the divil lepping," and before the others knew what he was about, he took a run and jumped into the middle of what he supposed to be a bed of sawdust. A more surprised crowd never lived. Luckily the "lepper" could swim, but his experience here taught him the value of the old adage, "Look before you leap," and at the same time showed the difference in taste between sawdust and oatmeal.

#### PENACOOK MEN HONORED.

[CONTRIBUTED BY HON. JOHN C. LINEHAN.]

Among the men, residents of Penacook, at one time or another, who have been honored in times past by being selected to fill various positions of honor outside of the village, have been S. M. Wheeler, who practised law here in 1850. He removed from Penacook to Dover, residing there until the time of his death. He represented Dover in the state legislature, was speaker of the

house and credited with being one of the most competent as well as one of the most accomplished men that ever filled the place. Hon. James F. Briggs, of Manchester, resided here at one time with his mother. She occupied the house on Canal street now owned by Andrew Spearman. Mr. Briggs practised law in Hillsborough and Manchester. He was quartermaster of the Eleventh regiment in the Civil War, and served two terms in the national house of representatives. He was speaker of the house of representatives at the session of 1897 of the New Hampshire legislature. Nathaniel B. Baker, son of a Penacook man, was governor of New Hampshire and adjutant-general of Iowa during the Rebellion. Hon. N. Butler, for many years a resident of the village, was judge of probate for Merrimack county, holding the position at the time he died. Col. Abial Rolfe served on the staff of Gov. Ichabod Goodwin with the rank of colonel during the two years preceding the Civil War, the only man from Penacook who ever held this position. Dr. A. E. Emery is a member of the board of pension examiners of Concord. Hon. Chas. H. Amsden, Hon. John Whitaker, Hon. John C. Pearson, Hon. Edmund H. Brown, and Hon. Willis G. Buxton represented their respective districts in the state senate and Hon. Charles A. Morse, now of Newmarket, a former Penacook boy, was this year state senator. Hon. E. N. Pearson, son of Hon. John C. Pearson, has but recently been elected secretary of state. George S. Morrill was for some years chief engineer of the Old Colony Railroad. Cyrus Wellington, who was a doffer in the Penacook mill in 1854-'55, has been for years the leading criminal lawyer in St. Paul, Minn. John G. Butler is the cashier of the Pillsbury-Washburne Milling Company in Minneapolis. John J. Linehan is a stockholder and director in the Bay State Corset Co., Springfield, Mass. D. H. Putnam of Boston is selling agent for several manufacturing corporations. David D. Smith is or was a professor in the dental college in Philadelphia. His brother, Albert L. Smith, is a member of the Board of Education in Worcester, Mass. The latter was an old time overseer in the Penacook mill, the former was in the Sixteenth New Hampshire Volunteers; both were brothers-in-law of Albert N. Drown. Hon. John C. Linehan served in Governor Sawyer's council in '87 and '88; he was ap-

pointed insurance commissioner by Governor Goodell in 1890 and reappointed by Governors Smith and Busiel in 1893 and 1896; also trustee of New Hampshire Industrial school since 1885, and now president of the board. Harvey Campbell served some years as register of deeds for Merrimack county, a position filled at the present time and for some years past by Samuel N. Brown. Hon. Charles H. Amsden was nominated for governor twice. Hon. Benj. A. Kimball of Concord, born in the village, has been for many years the leading railroad manager of the state, also bank president. Hon. John Kimball, a former resident, has been mayor of Concord, state senator, bank manager, etc.

Rev. Dr. Wm. J. Tucker, who resided at Penacook from 1863 to 1874, with his father (by adoption) Rev. Wm. R. Jewett, and who preached many times at the Congregational church from 1865 to 1869, has since become one of the leading minds of that denomination in the United States, and is now president of Dartmouth College.

#### ACCIDENTAL DEATHS.

April 23, 1812. Richard Kimball and Jeremiah Abbott undertook to run the falls of the Contoocook river in a boat from the Borough to the Merrimack river; both were drowned, and the bodies were recovered near the bridge which crossed the river just north of the present Axle Works.

May 25, 1817, an infant son of Squire Wm. H. Gage was drowned in the canal opposite the present saw shop, and the body recovered nine days later in the Merrimack river, seven miles distant.

Nov. 19, 1846. Three men, laborers on the Northern railroad, were buried by the caving in of the sand bank near the railroad bridge; two were taken out alive, but the third, Patrick Martin, was killed.

May 4, 1848. Robert Hall was crushed to death in the water wheel gearing of the match shop of Jeremiah Fowler, at the Borough.

March 31, 1849. A young man named Swett, employed by John Coburn, whose nickname was "Shoemaker," ventured out on the upper pond and was carried over the Penacook dam and

drowned; his body was recovered from the Merrimack river May 5.

October 15, 1851. Philip C. Hunt was caught in a belt and carried around the shafting in the Contoocook mill, mangling one leg and one arm badly, from which he never fully recovered, but lived until January 11, 1858.

Others who lost their lives by drowning were a Hurst girl, who fell into the outlet in 1852; Geo. W. Gage, aged seven, a son of Calvin Gage was drowned in the canal on Commercial street, August 8, 1854; Edward, aged five, son of H. H. Amsden, was drowned in the canal at the cabinet shop June 9, 1858; a son of Richard Crowther and a son of Thomas Healey were both drowned in the canal, the first about 1860, and the latter during the war. Thomas Healey was a soldier in the Seventh regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, and died of wounds in the hands of the enemy.

A daughter of Thomas Sawyer, also a soldier of the Seventh regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, was drowned at the head of the canal about 1864.

A French boy was drowned in the Contoocook, near the bathing place at the upper ledge, and two Canadians were drowned near the bridge over the Merrimack not far from the same time, about 1865.

More recent drowning accidents were those of the Tucker boy near the twin bridges; and the son of O. J. Fifield, who lost his life while skating on the pond near the Holden mill in the winter of 1891.

Some other fatal accidents were as follows: James H. Marsh, aged sixty-three, was killed by the fall of a tree January 9, 1864; George Kenney was killed on the Northern railroad, November 24, 1867; Jacob Whidden, who built the dwelling at the north-east corner of Summer and Cross streets, was thrown from his carriage and killed August 1, 1870. An earlier carriage accident caused the death of Albert Ames, the senior member of the firm of Ames, Gerrish & Co., iron founders. This was soon after 1850.

Frank, a young son of G. W. Wadleigh, was killed by the cars near the flour mill April 5, 1864.

Joshua S. Bean, a teamster, was crushed to death by the fall of

a bale of cotton from his wagon, while unloading at the Penacook mill. This occurred October 17, 1871.

John Young was caught on the shafting in the Penacook mill, and killed December 29, 1860.

John H. Gilman was killed while blasting rocks, June 26, 1863.

James Connor, a stone mason, met his death from the effects of a collision on the bridge.

James Garvey, who served in the navy during the Civil War, was killed by the caving in of a bank at Contoocook River Park on October 21, 1894.

A young son of John Gahagan was run over by an ox team and killed, near the family homestead on Main street.

Joseph Carpenter, a Canadian, fell over the rocky bank of the Contoocook river, opposite the Concord Axle Works, and was killed.

A child of Royal D. Scales was suffocated by falling into a barrel of soft soap, in 1878 or 1879.

Three persons have been killed by falling down elevator wells; first, David Morrill, son of Arey Morrill, one of the early residents of the village, fell down the elevator well of the Contoocook mill about 1847, and died from the effects of his injuries soon after.

John Owens was killed in a similar accident at the cabinet shop in 1873 or '74. The third was Alfred Elliott, a veteran of the Sixteenth regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, who was the night watchman at the cabinet shop. He fell down the elevator well and his dead body was found at the bottom on the morning of July 19, 1893.

A Scotch woman, in 1864 or thereabouts, while trying to return to the village in the night from the Borough, got bewildered in a snowstorm, became exhausted, fell and was frozen to death beside the main road, a few rods below Willow hollow.

There have been seven cases of suicide recorded as follows: Eliza Eastman, a domestic, who deliberately walked into the river from the bank opposite Foote & Brown's store. This was in the year 1862.

Royal D. Scales, a veteran of the Third regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, drowned himself in the Merrimack river; his

body was found a short distance above Sewall's Falls bridge, with a rope tied around his neck, to the other end of which a large stone was attached; this occurred not long after the loss of his child, previously mentioned in this article, and which loss was probably the cause of his suicide.

Charles C. Bean, one of the most useful of the village citizens, and a prominent member of the Methodist church and choir, while under great mental depression, causing temporary insanity, shot himself with a revolver, April 21, 1886.

Two other cases were those of a husband and wife, one by hanging and the other by drowning.

A woman named Sleeper, who lived near Woodlawn cemetery, took her life by cutting her throat.

J. Scott Durgin, youngest son of Maj. J. S. Durgin, and a veteran of the Eighteenth regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, returned from the war broken in health, and while suffering from an attack of insanity, shot himself fatally on April 28, 1870.

On January 24, 1901, Wilbur Sweatt, aged 22 years, son of Walter E. Sweatt, was accidentally stabbed in the breast by his friend, Fred Carr, while playing with a knife. Sweatt died February 6, and a post-mortem examination showed that the knife had pierced the lung and cut one half inch into his heart. It was considered a wonderful case that he could have lived so long with such a wound.

Accidents and damage by lightning have been of rare occurrence in the village, but one very serious case of that kind occurred in 1892, at the residence of B. Frank Varney, then living at the Borough on the place since occupied by Eli Hanson. At five o'clock in the morning, while Mr. Varney and two young men, Harry and Ralph Gray, were in the barn to feed the horses, during a heavy shower the lightning struck the roof of the barn and shot down directly where the men were standing. A part of the bolt struck Harry Gray, scorching his arm and leg severely, and splitting his shoes from heel to toe into strings like lace leather. The current struck Ralph on the ear, ran down his back and leg, passing out through his shoe, taking one quarter of the shoe along. Mr. Varney was standing within three feet of the young men, and though somewhat dazed by the shock, was not otherwise injured.

The barn was set on fire, and Mr. Varney first carried out the young men, and then took out nine horses, and lost but one horse and one hog. The fire completely destroyed the barn and dwelling-house. Harry Gray was laid up two months, and Ralph for four months, before they were able to get at work again.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### BIOGRAPHICAL.

#### DEA. HENRY H. BROWN.

Henry Hayes Brown, son of Deacon David and Eunice (Hayes) Brown, was born at Seekonk, Mass., June 17, 1805, his first ancestor in this country being Peter Brown, one of the *Mayflower* Pilgrims, who landed at Plymouth in 1620. He was the oldest of a large family of children, and early learned what work meant. His schooling was limited to the district school of a farming town, but he learned thoroughly there reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic, and before his majority was enabled to keep the district school two winters in his own district. At sixteen years of age he began learning his trade of his father as a stone mason. In four years he earned enough by working extra evenings to buy his time of his father when twenty years of age. When eighteen years old, he joined the Baptist church at Seekonk, Mass., and continued a member of that denomination during life. At the age of twenty-two he went into business for himself as a mason and builder, and shortly after took his next younger brother, John, into company with him, which partnership continued for forty years. At twenty-five years of age he built for other parties a stone mill at Attleboro, Mass., and at its completion he, with his brother John, leased the mill, and began the business of manufacturing cotton cloth, which proved to be their life-work.

In 1836 Henry married Mary Ann Daggett, of Surry, N. H., who bore him seven children, three of whom are living in 1899,—D. Arthur Brown and Mrs. Isabel N. Moore of Penacook, and Mrs. Mary L. Caldwell of Wellesley, Mass. In 1843 he moved his family to Fisherville, N. H., where he resided during the