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## The New Gloucester Centennial, September 7, 1874

T. H. Haskell

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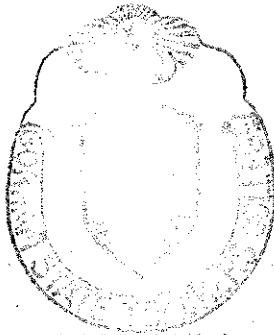
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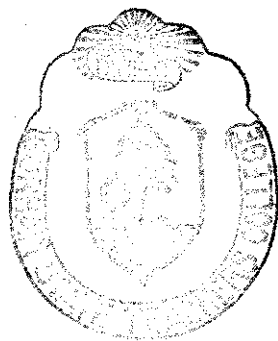
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Centennial

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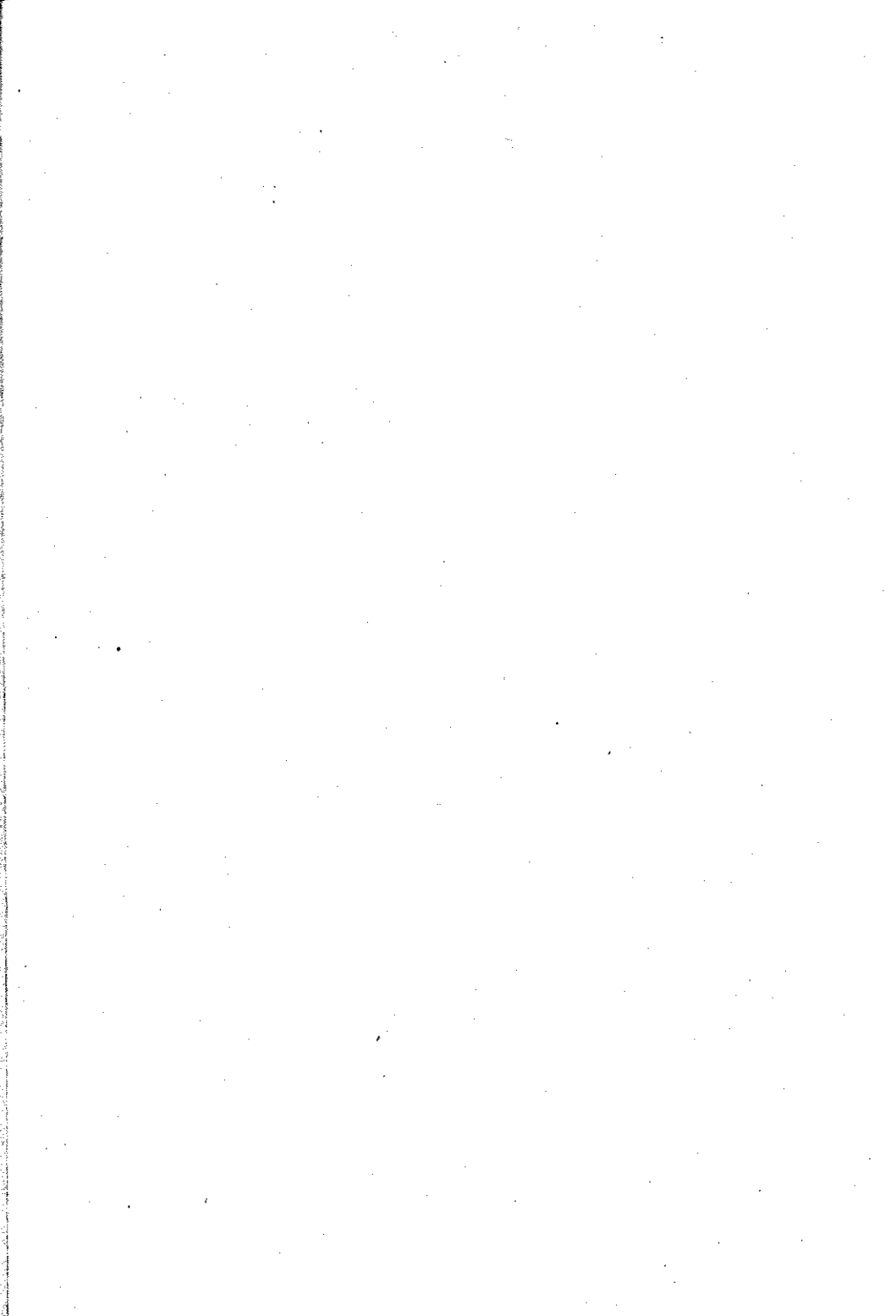


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THE

# New Gloucester Centennial,

SEPTEMBER 7, 1874,

BY

T. H. HASKELL.

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REUEL SMALL, Stenographer.

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PORTLAND:  
HOYT, FOGG & DONHAM.  
1875.



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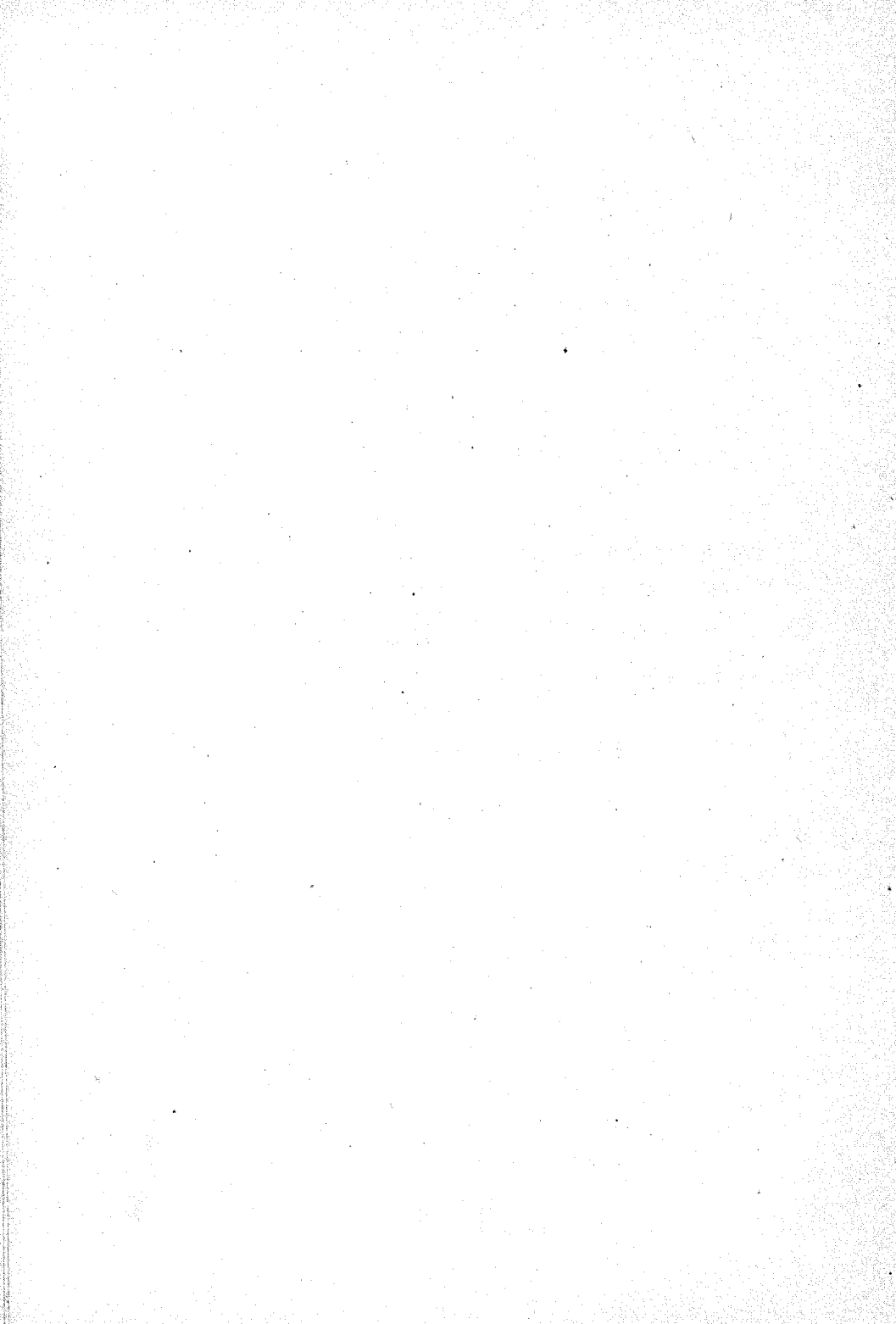
TO THE SONS OF NEW GLOUCESTER

THIS BOOK

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY THE AUTHOR.

23383



## P R E F A C E .

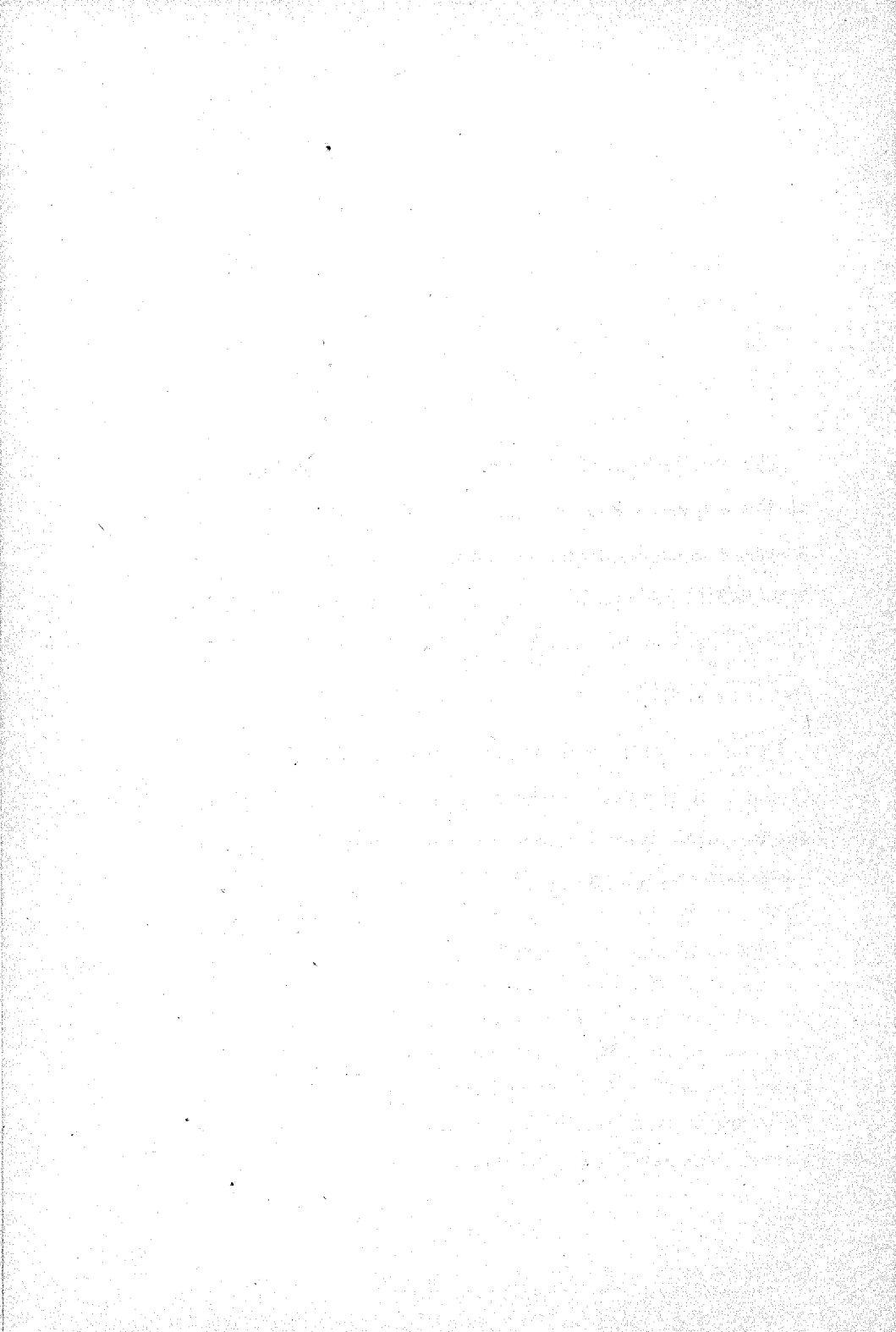
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The publication of this volume has been undertaken at the request of many citizens of New Gloucester and others, who are interested in the welfare of that beautiful town, where perhaps, like the writer, they were born, or their kindred used to dwell, and a lingering tie still draws their affections thither.

Doubtless errors and omissions may be found by the reader, but the writer asks that no offense be taken, as he has carefully endeavored to record truly, from all the information within his reach.

T. H. H.

PORTLAND, January 1, 1875.



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## PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS.

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The town of New Gloucester was organized September 7, 1774, by choice of the necessary town officers, under an act of the General Court of Massachusetts passed that year.

At the annual March meeting, 1874, the town voted to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of that event, and appointed a committee for the purpose, viz :

JOSEPH CROSS, ESQ.,  
AMOS H. NEVINS, ESQ., AND  
DEA. ANDREW C. CHANDLER.

The site of the old block house on the south side of the Gray road, a short distance south-west from the center of the town, was selected as the place for the celebration. The present owners of the spot, S. H. and A. C. Chandler, tendered the use of the same for the purpose, and Dea. A. C. CHANDLER, at his own expense, removed all fences and obstructions from the vicinity, thus providing a large smooth common of several acres, with its surface slightly sloping to the south, covered with green sward smooth as a carpet. Here a mammoth canvas tent of an oval shape,



one hundred and fifty feet long by sixty broad, was pitched. At the entrance swung the ancient sign of New Gloucester's hospitable inn, once kept by that public spirited citizen, Peleg Chandler, inscribed "BELL TAVERN, 1776, P. C." Within, a large platform was raised upon the north-east side, a long table extended through the center lengthwise for the refreshments, and all the remaining space was filled with seats conveniently arranged. The inside was tastily decorated with flags, bunting, evergreens and flowers, giving an appearance of beauty and comfort seldom equaled. The stars and stripes floated from a staff above the center of the tent, and streamers from the top of the tent poles at each end.

JOSEPH CROSS, ESQ., was selected for President, AMOS H. NEVINS, ESQ., for Toastmaster, and CAPT. WILLIAM P. EVELETH for Marshal of the day.

The Mechanic Falls Brass Band was engaged for the occasion, and a choir was selected from the singers of the town to furnish vocal music.

Invitations to be present were extended to all former citizens of the town, and their descendants.

The financial success of the celebration is due to the following public spirited citizens:

Andrew C. Chandler,  
Solomon H. Chandler,  
Nicholas Rideout,  
Otis C. Nelson,  
Gilman Martin,  
B. N. Merrill,

Nathaniel Eveleth,  
Sewal N. Martin,  
A. D. Harris,  
J. F. Churchill,  
A. G. Merrill,  
Elbridge Foss,

George Blake,  
F. A. Spring,  
H. N. Spring,  
Nathaniel Rideout,  
Thomas Clark,  
T. W. Brewer,  
Chas. P. Haskell,  
Walter Berry,  
Lemuel R. Fogg,  
Chas. H. Wharff,  
Charles Sampson,  
Charles Schillinger,  
Sewall Gross,  
Peter Haskell,  
Joseph Cross,  
Amos H. Nevins,  
Isaac H. Keith,  
Henry Fogg,  
Enoch Fogg,  
Jos. E. Bailey,  
Simon Wells,  
Ammi Wells,  
Ivory Jordan,  
D. W. Merrill,  
N. S. & N. L. Shurtleff,  
Clark Curtis,  
David A. Bennett,  
Moses True,  
A. D. Nevins,  
Jabez True,  
Wm. Eveleth,  
E. H. Morgan,  
S. F. Record,  
George Pendexter,  
A. F. Cole,  
John Whitman,  
S. H. Hurlbut,  
Hewett Chandler,  
Jacob Rowe,  
Moses Wharff,

C. H. N. Rowe,  
W. H. True,  
G. W. Ricker,  
Stephen Rowe,  
Theophilus Rowe,  
J. L. Davis,  
P. A. Downing,  
J. T. McCann,  
M. J. Rogers,  
Chas. S. Estes,  
Amory Leach,  
Jos. Tarbox,  
T. J. Dawes,  
Ozias M. Lunt,  
Z. A. Rowe,  
Wm P. Taylor,  
Chas. Small,  
D. J. Prescott,  
Wm. Greely,  
A. C. Underhill,  
John M. Haskell,  
James Jordan,  
Thos. M. Haskell,  
Samuel F. Hilton,  
William Taylor,  
George Washington Chandler,  
James Webster,  
Benj. F. Woodbury,  
A. W. Gooding,  
William Haskell,  
J. G. Bennett,  
L. C. Berry,  
Jonah Jordan,  
Wesley Strout,  
Silas Bickford,  
James Merrill,  
Leroy Fanar,  
Ira C. Chandler,  
Edward Small,  
J. P. Stinchfield,

## CENTENNIAL DAY.

John Preble,	Charles Merrill,
J. C. Lane,	G. W. Keirstead,
Thos. G. Haskell,	David Weymouth,
Augustus J. Haskell,	B. A. Merrill,
Wm. L. Morgan,	Ephraim Hilton,
Amos H. Eveleth,	Alfred Nevins,
Chas. Megquier,	James Hewlett,
John Jordan,	Geo. Eveleth,
Seth P. Snow,	Hanson Bailey,
S. D. Watts,	Geo. H. Bailey,
T. J. Stevens,	Isaac Blake,
Mark T. Clark & Son,	John B. Bennett,
Fred. Larrabee,	Wm. E. Blake,
Peter Stevens,	Simeon Wells,
Benj. Webber,	S. A. Plummer,
Seth F. Sweetser,	B. Wells,
John B. Wells,	Ephraim Stinchfield,
Alfred Larrabee,	Benj. Morse,
Herman Webber,	David Jordan,
Jabez H. Woodman,	Nathaniel Tufts,
Monroe Polister,	Philip Blake,
Emery J. Mitchell,	Hiram White,
S. H. Hackett,	Geo. W. Haskell,
J. W. Woodman,	Seth L. Haskell,
H. S. Bennett,	John H. Ward.
Elias Lane,	

## CENTENNIAL DAY.

A still, clear, warm, lovely day in early Autumn blessed the occasion. At morning, noon and night, the village bells spoke loudly of this joyous anniversary.

The former sons and daughters of the town came in goodly numbers. Early, carriages filled with people arrived from all directions. The ladies of the town loaded the spacious tables within the tent with all kinds of food, the Shaker sisters liberally providing a share.

At a quarter before ten o'clock in the morning the seats within the tent were filled, when the band, escorting the President, Committee, Orator of the Day, invited guests and Reporters, arrived at the tent, and these, with many prominent citizens of the town, took seats upon the platform. The Choir occupied the right and the band the left of the stage. Immediately in front a square of seats was filled by aged people, and upon the platform was seated MISS JUDITH ROWE, aged ninety-two years, the oldest person in town. All the standing room in the tent was filled, and it is estimated that from twenty-five hundred to three thousand persons were present.

Among the invited guests and former citizens of the town present, beside those who took an active part in the celebration, were noticed the Hons. William Wirt Virgin, Thomas B. Reed and Charles H. Haskell, Rev. B. P. Snow, and Alfred Woodman, Samuel Fogg, Isaac P. Whitman, Daniel W. True, John True, Samuel D. Bearce, John C. Proctor, Chas. M. Harris, Albion Keith, Samuel Rolfe, Thomas Nichols, E. N. Perry, and Merrill E. Haskell, Esqrs., and Dr. Charles S. D. Fessenden, of Portland; John S. Webber, Esq., of Gloucester, Mass.; Messrs. Allen Preble, William P. Haskell and J. W. Haskell, of Boston; Prof. Carmichael, of Bowdoin College, Dr. Sturgis, Seth P. Miller, Daniel Field, D. S. Tobey and B. A. Rideout, Esqs., and Hon. Robert Martin, of Auburn; David N. True, Esq., of South Paris; Haller

Little, of Chelsea, Mass., and John L. Little, of Boston, sons of Dr. Timothy Little, a former prominent citizen of the town; Charles J. Rice, of Winchendon, Mass., son of the Rev. Benj. Rice, a former pastor in the town; George W. Merrill, Esq., of Bangor, Hon. Henry Pennell and John D. Anderson, Esq., of Gray.

At precisely ten o'clock the President called the assembly to order, and after lively music from the Band, gave the following

WELCOME.

FELLOW CITIZENS :—The pleasant duty has been assigned me of bidding the strangers present to-day a hearty welcome. We welcome those who have once more returned to their native town to join in the festivities of the day. We welcome the descendants of those men and women who once made this their home.

We welcome all to this festive board, and to the hallowed associations of this, the one hundredth anniversary of the organization of this town.

It is a joyous day which brings so many of us together on the spot where our forefathers first made a permanent home. A common bond unites us; we all cherish a grateful remembrance of our ancestors, and especially of those whose hardships hallowed this spot more than a hundred years ago.

Ladies, we hail your presence with joy. The grandmothers and great grandmothers of many of you endured great privations with their husbands and fathers here in an unbroken forest. They were nature's noblemen and women, possessed of courage, integrity and perseverance. Their

deeds bring no blush to our cheeks, but rather pride and satisfaction. They were the architects of all that is truly valuable to their descendants, and we have reason to thank God for such a blessing.

I say to all, WELCOME! THRICE WELCOME to this anniversary!

The Rev. WELLINGTON R. CROSS, of Orono, formerly Pastor of the Congregational Church and Society at New Gloucester, offered the following

## PRAYER.

O Lord! Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations, Thou art great and good, Thy throne is in the heavens and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Grant us Thy presence and Thy blessing this morning, we pray Thee, as we are assembled here for the memorial services that are now to engage our hearts and our thoughts.

We rejoice that so many of the citizens and former residents of this venerable town, from all parts of the State and our land, have been permitted in Thy good providence to assemble here to-day, to honor the memory of its early settlers, to look again upon their childhood scenes, and to renew the friendships of former years. The heavens are bright and beautiful over our heads; the hills and these fertile valleys around us are luminous with Thy presence and Thy love; and our hearts are glad and grateful within us because of these, Thy special mercies, unto us as individuals and as a people, on this most auspicious day.

O Lord! Thou art our God and our father's God. Our hearts trust in Thee and our lips praise Thee for the nation that is ours, for the glory of our New England history and

our New England inheritance,—for the fair fame of our own beloved Pine Tree State; but more than all do we thank Thee at this time, for the sacred memories and the hallowed associations that cluster around this historic and consecrated spot. We thank Thee that here our fathers worshipped Thee and found a refuge from their foes and inspiration for their toils. We bless Thy Name for all Thy care over them while they cleared for us these fertile fields and built for us these pleasant homes, securing to us the institutions that are still our blessing and our pride. We thank Thee for all their deeds of heroism and of self-denial, for all the principles of truth and virtue and religion which they manifested in their lives, and have handed down to us, their children. And now, as we commemorate their deeds and rehearse their fame, may we drink still more deeply into their spirit and their faith.

Bless him who is to speak to us to-day of these things; and may his words be eloquent, truthful and wise, and so, eminently worthy the occasion and the themes which it suggests. Let all who shall address us be guided and helped by Thy Spirit and Thy grace.

O Lord! Thou art the God of nations and of men. Our hope is in Thee and our strength is in Thy Word. Sanctify unto us, we entreat Thee, the lessons of this hour. Make us loyal to Thee in all our rulers, our institutions, our hopes and our lives, that Thy beauty may be enkindled upon us as a nation, as a town,—and we be forever established in the work of our hands. Before another hundred years shall have come and gone, these places that now know us shall know us no more. Then we, too, shall have gone to our fathers and the everlasting awards for which we have lived. Help us to remember this tender and solemn reminder of

our immortality and its great responsibility; and when we go hence may it be with a new and fixed determination to live henceforth under the power of the endless life, and not so much under the power of this present temporal life.

Hear us, O Lord, in this our prayer. Forgive us all our sins, and be Thou with this people in all the future as Thou hast been with them in all the past, and finally receive us and them to reign with Thee in Thy kingdom above, to go no more out forever.

And Thy Name, Father, Son and Spirit, shall have all the praise, now and evermore. Amen.

The Choir, led by NICHOLAS RIDEOUT, Esq., with voice and violin, sung the

“ODE ON SCIENCE.”

“The morning sun shines from the East,  
 And spreads his glories to the West,  
 All nations, with his beams are blest,  
 Where'er his radiant light appears.  
 So Science spreads her lucid ray,  
 O'er lands that long in darkness lay,  
 She visits fair Columbia,  
 And sets her sons among the stars.”

“Fair Freedom, her attendant, waits  
 To bless the portals of her gates,  
 To crown the young and rising States,  
 With laurels of immortal day.



The British yoke, the Gallic chain,  
 Was urged upon our sons in vain;  
 All haughty tyrants we disdain,  
 And shout, long live America."

The President then announced the orator of the day, THOMAS HAWES HASKELL, ESQ., of Portland, a native of New Gloucester.

## HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

*My Friends and Fellow Citizens :*

One hundred years ago, when the voters of this township assembled in the old meeting house to organize this town agreeable to a warrant in the the name of His Majesty, George the Third, little did they suppose that their descendants would celebrate the event, at the end of a full century, in the manner of to-day.

Those men are gone. Their final resting place is in yonder churchyard ; and a simple headstone marks the spot, but their characters still remain, bright as the fixed stars in the dome of heaven, unobscured by the lapse of time, a guide to virtue. Their memories have kept pace with the roll of the century, and to-day call to us as we return to visit the old homestead, changed, perhaps, and vacant, but still the place of our childhood and their toil. Oh ! the memories that crowd through the mind and stir the soul ; memories of the dear ones that are gone, memories not recalled for years. With Longfellow can we say :

"This is the place, stand still my steed,  
 Let me review the scene,  
 And summon from the shadowy past,  
 The forms that once have been."

Turn back with me a century and a half. Then these hills were covered with the giant oak, maple, beech and birch. The stately pine flourished on yonder plains, and the noble hemlock in the valleys. The meadow, skirted by the majestic elm, and covered by a yearly growth of verdure, was watered by the noiseless current of the winding stream, waiting to bear upon its bosom to the sea the growth of centuries ripe for the woodman's axe, and hurrying on yet unvexed by the wheels of industry. Here the lordly moose, the surly bear, the ravenous wolf and timid deer, roamed unmolested, and here, too, the sleek beaver found a secure retreat, and the eagle reared her young secure from harm.

Then no pioneer had gone further north-west. All here and beyond was a wilderness. A few settlers at Gorham and Windham had just begun their clearings; while at North Yarmouth a "provincial garrison was kept," and the only considerable settlement was at Falmouth, now Portland. This whole country was infested with Indians, whose favorite hunting and fishing grounds were in this town.

Then it was that the General Court of His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, on the 27th of March, 1736, granted to sixty inhabitants of Gloucester in that Province, a township six miles square, exclusive of water, in the eastern part, where it could best be spared, reserving one right, or sixty-third part, for the first settled, learned, Orthodox minister, one for the ministry and one for the support of schools.

These grantees first located the township where Gorham and Gray now are, but finding that locality claimed under prior grants, they located the township above North Yarmouth, and the General Court confirmed the same to them the 5th of July, 1737. That year a road was bushed out

from Cousin's river in North Yarmouth, on the east side of Royal's river, to the township, and one division of lots was laid out, extending north-east and south-west from the center of the town. These were drawn by the proprietors, on the 17th of February, 1738. Lot number forty-four was set apart for the first settled minister, and one was drawn for the ministry and one for schools. The persons who drew lots number one, two, twenty-one and twenty-two, near "Stevens' Brook," were required to give bonds to build a saw mill within two years, and saw lumber at the halves for seven years.

The proprietors, doubtless calling to mind the cheerful associations of their homes, on the 27th of February, 1738, called the township New Gloucester, as an earnest that it should prove what old Gloucester had been to them and their ancestors before them. The township now having taken a name, and the lots being ready for settlers, the Proprietary sent JOHN MILLET to make a good way from Cousin's river in North Yarmouth, to the meeting house lot in New Gloucester (where we now are), twelve feet wide, and fit for a cart and horse, and to build a bridge over the river (now Woodman's bridge), and paid him 170£ old tenor. This road and bridge were completed in 1739, and the next move was to induce the hardy yeomanry of the province, to leave their comfortable homes to carve out new ones in a wilderness, then farther distant in time and convenience, than the extreme west now is. To accomplish this end the Proprietary offered 30£ to each proprietor, who in the Spring of 1739, "would go forward with a settlement for three years, and 20£ to those who would go the next year, and 10£ to those who would go the third year." A few of the proprietors came and put up frames of houses, began clear-

ings, and then for the first time civilization made its mark in this wilderness.

The first clearing was begun on lot number ten, upon the easterly slope of "Harris Hill," at the spot now known as the "Washburn place," by JONAS MASON, who afterwards settled at North Yarmouth. During the years 1739 and 1740, the settlers were furnished with provisions and stores from the old home in Gloucester, although the meat of the moose, then plenty here, was a constant diet upon their tables. Its hides made excellent clothing and shoes, and its tallow bountifully supplied their larder.

The families of the settlers, with their goods, were brought down to North Yarmouth by a vessel, in the fall of 1742, and from thence poled up Royal's River, on rafts, to the great bridge; and the winter of 1742 and 1743 was the first, when upon the sunny slope of these hills, the smoke curled upward from the log cabin of each settler, nestling near the edge of its clearing in the forest, and beside the blazing fire upon the hearthstone within, sat the matron with children clinging to her knee, while the mastiff watched at the door, as the sturdy blows of his master's axe echoed in the wood, and told the mother that all was well.

In the spring of 1743, the terms of the grant not having been complied with, the Proprietary offered 14£ to each proprietor who would within eight months build a log house, according to the terms of the grant, and the following August, 20£ to each proprietor who would settle in the township during the next winter, and engaged Capt. ISAAC EVELETH to build a way suitable for carting from the great bridge (that Millet made) to the center of the township, and early the next Spring, 1744, offered 12£ to each proprietor who would build a log house within ten months,

as provided by the grant, and determined to build a meeting-house.

Already the tocsin of war rang out its alarm; the whoop of the savage echoed in the clearings, and his dusky form, darting from thicket to thicket, sent terror through the settlement that had struggled for five years to subdue the obstacles of nature and to turn the forest into a garden; twelve miles of road had been built, with nineteen bridges, two of which were over Royal's river, and cost £400; a saw-mill had been built on Stevens' brook, below the road, where its remains may now be seen; when, the Governor of the Province, through the commanding officer of the fort at North Yarmouth, ordered the settlers off, who either scattered among the coast settlements, or returned to their old homes, leaving the product of their toil, and the result of their privations to the savages that fell upon the eastern frontier, as the plague sets upon the land it is to desolate, stalking where it will.

This French and Indian war entirely broke up the settlement. The dwellings and mill were burned. The bridges were carried away by a freshet. The roads again sprang up to bushes. For five years the axe of the pioneer was unheard. The smoke from his cabin ceased to curl upward. The family hearth stone was desolate. Here again the wild beast and Indian were unmolested as they roamed upon these hillsides and wandered in the meadow.

In the Fall of 1749, the French and Indians having been driven from the frontier, the Proprietary sent JOHN ROBERTS with four men to repair the way from North Yarmouth and rebuild the great bridge. He was prevented from doing this by the Indians, until the Fall of 1752, when he was joined in this laborious service by four others, and received orders

from the Proprietary to also rebuild the saw mill and cut timber for a meeting house ; that is to say, a block house, which would afford a protection from the Indians, and serve the conditions of the grant in being used for a "meeting house in the public worship of God."

The grant was renewed in the Spring of 1753 upon petition, and then the Proprietary offered £26, 13s. 4d. to be divided among ten families that would settle and remain in the township two years, and the same sum to be divided among them in the Fall, and a like sum in a year after.

During the Fall of 1753, and Spring of 1754, the "OLD BLOCK HOUSE" was erected on this spot by the Proprietary, and furnished with two swivel guns, twenty-five pounds of powder and seventy-five pounds of lead. Here then, just one hundred and twenty years ago, was completed a secure home for the settlers. Its thick walls of hewn pine timber, closely fitted together and dovetailed at the ends, were bullet proof. Its solid door from hewn oak, prevented ingress by the lurking foe. Long slots in the wall let in the light of day, and made port holes for the gunners within. A blazing fire upon the hearth cooked their food and lighted the apartment by night. Here for six long years the settlers lived, never leaving the place unguarded. Their rifles were their constant companions as they went forth to their daily toil. It was to them *a home, a fort, a church.*

In July, 1754, the proprietary offered 20£ to settlers, 20£ the next January, and 20£ the January after ; and the next Spring, 1755, employed JAMES PROCTOR, of Woburn, "as Captain of the block house, at the same wages the Captain of Saco Fort had," and sent with him six men at 40s. a month for a garrison. This year the Indians attacked the block

house and attempted to surprise the garrison. They captured two men who were without, and killed and scalped a third. The next year the garrison was taken into the Provincial service upon half pay and allowance.

In the Spring of 1756 the Proprietary employed Jacob Parsons to make a new road from North Yarmouth water-side, on the west side of the river, by way of Walnut Hill, and directed him to seek help from North Yarmouth and New Town (now Pownal), cut the meadow, rebuild the saw mill and take a plan of the town, and offered 60£ to settlers during this and the next year.

In 1758, a grist mill was completed in connection with the saw mill on Stevens' Brook. Prior to this the settlers carried their corn to the mill in North Yarmouth, and frequently carried it thither, and brought the meal back again upon their shoulders in a day, a distance of twenty-four miles.

The year 1760 brought peace to the settlement. Canada had been taken by the English. The war was substantially over. The settlers who had previously lived within the garrison now began to build log houses upon their clearings, and to occupy separate homes of their own. This year marks the time when the settlement began to increase. A road was laid out to New Boston (now Gray). The mills were moved to the great falls on Royal's river. The second division of lots was laid out and £4 bounty brought a goodly number of settlers.

COL. ISAAC PARSONS, a native of Gloucester, Mass., came in June, 1761, located and lived until his death, the 9th of Oct. 1825, at the age of 85, on the farm where his grandson, PETER HASKELL, who succeeded him, now resides.

MR. JOHN WOODMAN moved to town from North Yarmouth with his wife and one child the same year (1761), and settled a little south of "Woodman's Bridge," on the westerly side of the Yarmouth road; his goods came on a raft up Royal's river.

In 1763 the road was laid out to the mills. New Boston line, which formerly ran near the block house, was moved south-west about two miles, and twenty-five new lots were laid out for settlers in the newly acquired territory.

The first meeting of the Proprietary at the block house, was held on the 22d of Nov. 1763. All prior meetings had been held in Old Gloucester, with which place, up to this time, both intimate business and social relations were maintained. At this meeting SAMUEL MERRILL was chosen Moderator and Treasurer; ISAAC PARSONS, Clerk; JONATHAN TYLER, DANIEL MERRILL and WILLIAM HARRIS, Committee to manage the prudential affairs of the township, and Assessors; NATHANIEL EVELETH, Collector, and WILLIAM HARRIS, Surveyor of Roads.

The next year, 1764, the proprietors, actuated by a desire to provide suitable instruction "to the youth," built a school house at the center of the town, hired a school-master; and eager to comply with the laws of the Province, as well as mindful of their religious duty, gave a call to the REV. SAMUEL FOXCROFT, a graduate of Harvard College, and son of the REV. THOMAS FOXCROFT, pastor of the Chauncey St. Church, Boston, to settle in the ministry, upon a salary of £80, and a settlement of £100 to be paid in boards, clapboards, shingles and other things suitable for his buildings, and in labor, with which, and his own resources, he erected, in the year 1765, the commodious mansion that his grandson, SAMUEL FOXCROFT, ESQ., now occupies.



This call was accepted, and JOHN SAWYER, JONATHAN TYLER and WILLIAM HARRIS, were appointed a committee by the Proprietary to provide all things suitable for the ordination, which occurred on the 16th of January, 1765, and was largely attended from all the surrounding country. PARSON SMITH says, "It was a jolly ordination, and they lost sight of decorum."

At this time a church was gathered, consisting of THE PASTOR, JOHN TUFTS, JABEZ TRUE, DANIEL MERRILL, MOSES WOODBURY, WM. STEVENS, EBEN'R MASON and PELEG CHANDLER, which soon largely increased by the reception of new members.

In 1766 the third and fourth divisions of lots were drawn. The latter was called the pine timber division. In 1767 the fifth or intervale division, in 1773 the sixth division, and in 1790 the seventh, or last division, was drawn.

The meadows were "common lands," owned by the Proprietary, and when the time came for cutting the grass, a meeting of the proprietors was usually held to determine the method. In the year 1766 they voted "that sixteen cocks of hay be cut to a share in the great meadow, and seventeen cocks in all other meadows; and to begin to cut August 11th, at seven o'clock in the morning, and that no man should begin before that time."

In 1770 sixty-one persons subscribed to build a meeting house. The lot where the Congregationalist Church now stands was purchased of COL. WM. ALLEN for this purpose. The pew ground in the church was sold at auction. Each purchaser built his own pew, which was required to be surrounded with a "rail and banisters."

The Proprietary, on the 8th of February, 1774, elected

SIMON NOYBS, EBENEZER MASON and ISAAC PARSONS, a committee to petition the General Court for an act of incorporation into a town.

For thirty-five years the proprietors and settlers of this township had been striving to carve out new homes from the midst of a forest, twelve miles from the sea, and one hundred miles distant from their old homes, where regular communication could not reach them. Once they were driven away by the Indians. The product of five years' toil was lost. For six years more they were confined to the close limits of a garrison. Yet these men, by their determination, enduring energy and unyielding perseverance, brought up the settlement to above sixty families, built more than twenty miles of road, a saw-mill and grist-mill, built and maintained a block house suited for a garrison in time of war, built a school house and meeting house, maintained a public school, and supported a public religious teacher for more than ten years, in addition to making their clearings, and erecting their own houses and barns.

Surely, when we look upon these fair fields to-day, we must feel grateful for the labors of these pioneers, as we enjoy the fruits thereof! The troubles and hardships they endured, we cannot imagine, for this generation was reared in the lap of luxury, in striking contrast with the privations of these men, which no tongue can now picture, no pen describe, and which the enervated imagination of to-day fails to conceive. This toil and sorrow was not in vain, and these happy faces about me bear witness to the fact.

The General Court of the Province lent a willing ear to the petition of the Proprietary, and early in the year 1774 incorporated the town of New Gloucester. A warrant issued to PELEG CHANDLER, from COL. WILLIAM ALLEN,

bidding him, in HIS MAJESTY'S NAME, warn the freeholders and other inhabitants qualified to vote, to assemble at the "Old meeting house" on the 7th of September, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, one hundred years ago, to choose the necessary town officers.

This first town meeting is the event we celebrate. Insignificant in itself, it was the birth day of this town's corporate existence. Then was laid the corner stone for an edifice already one hundred years old, and good for centuries to come. At that meeting, every male inhabitant of the town who had reached his majority was allowed to vote, regardless of *race, creed, color, and any property qualification*. A right which the century has hardly ordained throughout this broad land—A FREE BALLOT,—the safeguard of our liberties.

Twenty days afterward the Selectmen were instructed by the town to hire Mr. SAMPSON COALBEE, a schoolmaster, and "to place the school in that part of the town where it would do the most good." At the same meeting the town voted to build a Pound in the westerly corner of the Common about the meeting house. The construction thereof was put up at auction. ISAAC PARSONS stepped forth as vendue master, and it was bid off by PETER GRAFFAM, for 3£, 14s, 8d.

Scarcely had the town organized when the horizon of our country blackened, ominous clouds, threatening war, rolled upward, as each new budget of news came from Great Britain. The Sugar, the Stamp and the Tea Acts had been passed; British troops were quartered in private houses; trial by jury in the Colonies was denied; all principal colonial officers were to be appointed by the Crown; taxes were imposed without the consent of the Colonies; those

accused of treason were to be transported to England for trial; the port of Boston had been closed to commerce; citizens of Boston had been shot by British soldiers; non-importation and non-consumption of British goods had become the watchword of the Colonies; the appeal of that Boston Patriot, JOSIAH QUINCY, JR., had fired the colonial heart; the Concord Convention had resolved "that to obey these acts of Parliament would be to annihilate the last vestiges of liberty in the Province."

On the 27th of September, 1774, in compliance with a request from the Hon. JEDEDIAH PREBLE, of Falmouth, this town appointed Col. WM. ALLEN, Capt. WM. HARRIS and Capt. ISAAC PARSONS, delegates to a County Convention to be held at Falmouth, to take into consideration the alarming situation of public affairs; and elected MICAH WALKER, JOSIAH SMITH, ISAAC PARSONS, JOHN WOODMAN, ENOCH FOGG and NATHANIEL BENNETT, a committee to inspect the inhabitants of the town, "to see whether they do submit themselves to the resolves of Congress, not to use any British goods, and expose them that do not."

This Committee faithfully searched every house in town, but such was the patriotism of the inhabitants, that they found no contraband articles, although one crafty dame succeeded in secreting in an oven her store of tea, obtained unbeknown to her husband for her own private use, from a Falmouth Tory.

In October, 1774, the Provincial Congress organized the Militia of the Province. This town was divided by a line running nearly east and west through the center of the town, into two companies of infantry. The North Company was commanded by Capt. ISAAC PARSONS, and the South Company by Capt. WM. HARRIS, comprising all the able

bodied men in the town. One-quarter of these were detached as minute men, to take up arms at a moment's warning. The town purchased two casks of powder, two hundred pounds of lead, three hundred flints, and offered one dollar apiece for thirty men who would enlist and be ready for an encampment.

Early in the morning of April 25, 1775, news was received of the battle of Lexington, fought six days before. That afternoon a town meeting was held, which had been called on personal notice to all the inhabitants, by the Selectmen; and it was determined to have twenty men in readiness for service, upon the shortest notice, and that "those who go shall have their labor done every week faithfully, while they were gone, and their wages; and be furnished with as much provision as they could carry, and be billeted on the roads free."

On the 30th of October, 1775, Capt. WM. HARRIS, Capt. ISAAC PARSONS and Mr. DAVID MILLET, were chosen a Committee of Safety. This committee, and the Committee of Inspection, with a change of some members upon each, were continued until the close of the war in 1784. At this time the town voted to join in fortifying on Falmouth Neck.

This was the last town meeting warned in His Majesty's name, and the page of its record is the last evidence of allegiance to the British Crown. Then Royal authority was formally consigned to the tomb, although it died long before in the hearts of this people. Thereafter, openly these ancestors of ours asserted *the eternal right to be free*, and on the 21st of May, 1776, voted:

"That if the Honorable Congress should, for the safety of the Colonies, declare them independent of Great Britain, they will

solemnly engage, with their lives and their fortunes, to support the Congress in the measure."

On the 4th day of July, 1776, a day that will live so long as centuries to come shall complete their circuit, this was done; and through the next six years of blood the inhabitants of this town kept that engagement sacred, freely giving their lives and their treasure a willing sacrifice to freedom.

The entire soldiery of the town above the age of sixteen years, numbered about one hundred and fifty. From this number, prior to the year 1780, the town had furnished more than thirty-eight men for the army, and forty-eight pairs of boots and shoes, forty-eight shirts and sixteen blankets, besides continuous and burdensome taxes. In May, that year, Capt. ISAAC PARSONS, with a company of fifty-five men and officers was mustered into the service for eight months, and ordered to the command of Brig. Gen'l WADSWORTH, at Thomaston, in Col. PRIME'S regiment, to operate against Bagaduce.

At this time the people of the town were reduced to great distress. In the spring of this year, 1780, the town was called upon to furnish seventeen pairs of shoes and stockings, and eight blankets, and in the fall, seven men for the Continental Army for three years, and ten thousand, eight hundred and sixty-five pounds of beef. The town had paid large bounties to soldiers (its quota had usually been filled by volunteers); had furnished the soldiers with clothing, and their families with the necessaries of life. The currency was depreciated. Coin was at four thousand (forty to one), taxes could not be collected in current money. Already, the Collector had on hand ninety bushels of corn, gathered for taxes, which the General Court voted to take in lieu of

coin. The General Court had in vain fixed the prices of labor and merchandise. In vain had this town elected committees to regulate the prices of innholders, teamsters, laborers and merchandise, and to see that the people conformed thereto. Eighteen dollars a day was paid the Selectmen, taxes had to be collected in produce, and all trade became barter.

Not discouraged by this deplorable state of affairs, these people still struggled to sustain the cause they so dearly loved. On the first of November, 1780, the town voted to raise 4,800£ to procure the beef required, and appointed a committee for the purpose, who canvassed the town, and reported that the beef could not be had.

On the 12th of January, 1781, the first town meeting was held in the name of the Commonwealth, under the new constitution, to procure the seven men called for, and the town voted to raise 202£ hard money for the purpose. So determined were the people to succeed, that this meeting met by adjournment fourteen times to accomplish the object.

On the 22d of June, 1781, two thousand nine hundred and nine pounds of beef, twelve shirts, twelve pairs of shoes and stockings and six blankets were required of the town for the army. This was the last levy furnished, as Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown the following October, and then for the first time during seven years of war, did the Patriots of our country clearly see a deliverance from the British yoke.

At the onset, the inhabitants of this town advocated the Revolution and engaged to support it. Nobly did they redeem their promise. They furnished money as long as any remained to be had, and then turned out from their substance its equivalent. They supplied their quota of men

to the Continental army by volunteers. By regular turns the soldiers were detached to serve in Rhode Island, on the Eastern coast, and under Arnold on his expedition against Canada. While the soldiers were away in the army, their labor was performed for them, and their families were supported from the public treasury.

The men and women of this town labored day and night to provide clothing, shoes and blankets for the army, all manufactured from material raised by themselves. So eager were they to supply these for the fathers and sons fighting for freedom, that no beef was allowed to be eaten, no sheep or lambs to be killed, that the flesh of one and wool of the other might afford diet and covering to the shivering form of some Patriot exposing his life for his country. They lived upon corn and pork; their drink was water and milk; their clothing rags, but within their souls burned the eternal fires of freedom, which to-day shine out from every hilltop in this wide land. Under one flag we are a free people, and as that flag to-day floats upon the breeze in every land and upon every sea, yielding ample protection to every American throughout the world, we should look back down the long line of the century, and return thanks beside the tombstones of these men and women for the boon they have bequeathed us.

When this town was organized, it assumed the support, by taxation, of the Rev. SAMUEL FOXCROFT, "an able, learned Orthodox minister, of good conversation, to dispense the Word of God to them," as required by the laws of the Province. Then the people were united in one faith, one worship, and one religious teacher. Then upon every Sabbath, the people were required by law to attend divine service, and give due observance to the ordinances of relig-



ion. It was the duty of certain town officers to see these requirements observed.

A large portion of the early settlers of this township were of that iron mould, who could only see that "a rigorous enforcement of these laws would redound to the general welfare, and to the glory of God." A few thought otherwise, and believed that religious worship should be voluntary, and free to the choice of every man, according to the dictates of his own conscience.

On the 31st of May, 1775, SIMON NOYES, DAVID MILLET, JOHN WOODMAN and seven others, appeared in open town meeting and objected to the payment of any tax towards the Rev. Mr. FOXCROFT'S salary, and had their protest recorded; nevertheless, the tax was assessed, and they were compelled to pay it. Four years after, they again applied to the town to be allowed to provide a public teacher for themselves, but were refused, and paid their taxes. Three years after this, JOHN WOODMAN and ADAM COTTON applied to the town to repay the money they had paid towards the support of the minister for the two years previous, but were refused. Then war being ended, these aggrieved brethren set about in good earnest to procure their liberty from the support of religious teaching they did not approve, and Mr. JOHN WOODMAN, the leading spirit in the measure, wearied with continued applications for relief, and in despair of any redress from the town, refused payment of all taxes for this purpose, and the tax gatherer, sold his cow therefor. On the 2d of September, 1782, he applied to the town for indemnity, which was refused him. In May, the next year, he applied again, and was again refused. In June, 1783, opposition was made to raising the usual salary for the minister, but

the town voted to raise it, and that it was not dissatisfied with him, and in the next October again voted to the same purport. But November 4th, to prevent further disputes, the town voted to set off from Mr. FOXCROFT's parish, all who were dissatisfied; and Mr. SIMON NOYES, JOHN STINCHFIELD, JOHN WOODMAN, PELEG CHANDLER, WM. WIDGERY, ELIPHALET HASKELL, JOHN TUFTS, JOHN MEGQUIER and thirty-two others recorded their names for the purpose. These men represented all shades of belief.

Here was the first decisive step for toleration in this town. But the victory was incomplete, for, by law, towns were still compelled to maintain a public religious teacher of the Orthodox faith. Taxes for the purpose were levied as formerly until 1786, when the joint strength of the Baptists and Universalists carried a vote of the town by two majority, to absolve the former from taxes to support the town minister, although a like favor was refused the Universalists at the same meeting, by the Baptists voting with the Orthodox.

The Universalists were not absolved from this tax until 1789; when it was voted them, they in return voting with the Baptists a free consent of the town, for the latter's incorporation into a separate religious society.

At one time the Rev. SAMUEL FOXCROFT sent a letter to a town meeting, having these troubles under consideration, requesting the meeting to adjourn for two weeks, and that meantime the people join with the church in observing a *fast*, that greater wisdom might direct the deliberations of the town at the future meeting. The town having great respect for its religious teacher, at once complied with his request. The meeting adjourned and a day of fasting and prayer was duly observed.

By act of the General Court, 1790, Mr. JOHN WOODMAN and seventy-two others, were incorporated by name of "*The Baptist Religious Society of New Gloucester and Gray*," which was afterward divided, and Mr. JAMES ALLEN and thirty others were incorporated in 1803, by name of "*The Baptist Society in New Gloucester*."

In 1805, SOLOMON ATWOOD, JR., and forty-eight others, citizens of New Gloucester, Gray, Pejepscot and Poland, were incorporated by name of the "*First Universalist Society of Christians in New Gloucester*."

The same year the town voted its consent to the incorporation of the "*Freewill Antipedo Baptist Society of New Gloucester*."

In 1818, DAVID NELSON, ISAAC GROSS and thirty others, certified to the town clerk that they were members of an "*Unincorporated Particular Baptist Society*," who had for a religious teacher, Elder ROBERT LOWE, of this town. This society was afterwards known as the *Calvinist Baptist Society of New Gloucester*, over which since then have been settled many able, pious, learned and beloved pastors.

In 1829, the Rev. ZENAS THOMPSON was ordained in the old church, which was freely tendered to the Universalist brethren for the purpose, where, less than half a century before, the Baptist and Universalist brethren had been forbidden to worship.

"Let the great world spin forever down the ringing  
grooves of change."

The Rev. SAMUEL FOXCROFT, a gentleman of great talents and fine education, from the time he was ordained over the church and people of this town, in 1765, until after the Revolution, was the sole religious teacher of an entire com-

munity. He stands forth to-day, a good exponent of the religious sentiment of his time; a sentiment brought over by the Puritans; an ideal church, to be universal, with none to gainsay its doctrines, none to deny them; its teachers to be supported by the entire community, and in return the whole community to attend upon their teachings, that all may be gathered within the fold of the church.

How futile such a scheme, the record of the pastorate of this man clearly proves. One whose piety, integrity, learning and ability none would question, beloved by his church and esteemed by all; to whose culture, instruction and example the people of this town are much indebted for their intelligence and morality. For nearly twenty years his pastorate continued without serious dissent, but at length, actuated by convictions of their own, a few became uneasy of the restraint upon them by the laws of the time, and incited by their insatiable thirst for liberty, liberty from the burdensome exactions of a church, as well as from the tyrannical hand of a monarch, determined to sever allegiance from that religious rule to which they could not honestly submit. And at the end of the next decade, when the Rev. Mr. FOXCROFT voluntarily laid down his charge in 1793, he saw his ancient parish, once united in one belief, now severed into as many religious sects as the conscience of man told him was right. A sad spectacle indeed, that truth could not be viewed by all alike, and glorious too, that thought at last is free.

This town for a long time, doubtless owing to dissensions among the people, remained without a settled public teacher; and at the June term, 1800, of the Supreme Judicial Court, held at Portland, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth filed an information against the town for not having

procured a settled minister for above five years; and upon summons, NATHANIEL COIT ALLEN, an agent chosen by the town, appeared and answered in a spirit of humility, that the town did not wish to contend with the Commonwealth. The case was continued for judgment from term to term, until May term, 1802, when the town having procured a settled minister and paid the costs, the Solicitor General said he would prosecute no further.

This is the last recorded act of the town concerning religious matters. Here political and religious interests bade adieu, and started down the nineteenth century by separate and distinct roads. To-day three-fourths of that century has gone, and experience tells us, to that parting we owe the religious liberty in which we live, and which we should bequeath to those after us as unsullied as we found it.

In 1802, the meeting house had been conveyed to the First Parish, and Rev. ELISHA MOSELY was "ordained as pastor of that people," who died in the pastoral office in 1826, after a long and useful service.

"In his duty prompt at every call,  
He watched, and wept, he prayed and felt for all,  
And as a bird, each fond endeavor tries  
To tempt its new fledged offspring to the skies,  
He tried each art, reproved each dull delay,  
Allured to brighter worlds and led the way."

Since then there have been installed as pastors over that parish, the Rev. BENJ. RICE, October, 1828; the Rev. SAM'L H. SHEPLEY, Oct. 30, 1838; the Rev. NEWALL A. PRINCE, October 17, 1848; the Rev. CHAS. PACKARD, November 2, 1854; the Rev. WELLINGTON R. CROSS, September 7, 1865, who resigned in 1873, and the pastoral office is now vacant.

In 1797, the road from Bald Hill to Poland was built, and in 1801, from the mills to Sabbath Day Pond.

In 1787, the town voted unanimously, to adopt the Federal Constitution without amendment, and instructed its Representative to the General Court, the Hon. WILLIAM WIDGERY to use his influence to have the District of Maine erected into a separate and independent State, and for the emission of paper money, and general amnesty for the Tories. That year the block house was sold at auction for seven bushels of corn.

In 1806, NATHANIEL COIT ALLEN and others, conceived the idea of a canal from the Little Androscooggin to Royal's River, but on account of opposition from the town for fear of an increased volume of water along the intervalles, the project was abandoned.

JOHN STINCHFIELD and NICHOLAS CHESLEY were mighty hunters, and in 1779 the town paid the latter 6£ a head for wolves killed in town. In 1785 PETER GRAFFAM shot a bear from the big elm by Woodman's Bridge.

Early were the settlers of this town reminded—

“There is a reaper whose name is Death,  
And with his sickle keen,  
He reaps the bearded grain at a breath,  
And the flowers that grow between.”

They selected yonder burying place, near the first clearing, upon a warm slope beside the brook, above the mill, where they might safely visit the spot under cover of the block house, and there sorrowfully laid the first of their number that died. In 1793 that lot was conveyed to the

town, although a common had been reserved about the block house for a meeting house lot and churchyard, which was then relinquished to the adjoining owners.

Around that place entwine the affections of us all; there repose our ancestors; there is all that remains of many who began this life by our side, and early faltered and fell beside the way, or whose footsteps kept along with ours well down the journey of life. Fathers and mothers are there; wives and children are there; more of us will soon be there. Let this spot be garnished and adorned; let it be turned into a garden that the fragrance of its flowers may soften the air, and their purity typify the spirits that were, that the place may not seem a cold graveyard, but rather a cheerful home.

“’Tis sweet, as year by year we lose  
Friends out of sight, in faith to muse  
How grows in Paradise our store.”

In 1792, this town became a half shire town with Portland, and the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, and of Common Pleas sat regularly here once each year till 1805, when Oxford County was formed and they returned to Portland.

These Courts sat each winter at the Court House standing at the center of the town just above the present Pound. The Sessions Judges always had rooms at Mr. JOHN WOODMAN’S and the Jurors had rooms at the “Bell Tavern,” kept by PELEG CHANDLER. The Common Pleas Judges frequently were the guests of Col. ISAAC PARSONS, and in extreme cold days sometimes held their courts beside his blazing fire. In this Court as many as four hundred and fifty new cases were entered at a term. The Judges that sat here in this Court were the Hons. DANIEL MITCHELL,

JOHN LEWIS, JOSIAH THATCHER, WILLIAM GORHAM, STEPHEN LONGFELLOW, ROBERT SOUTHGATE and JOHN FROTHINGHAM; the Clerk was ENOCH FREEMAN, and Sheriff JOHN WAITE, ESQ. The Hon. WILLIAM WIDGERY, afterwards a Judge of this Court, then was a Judge in the General Sessions of the Peace.

The old pound by the meeting house had a whipping post in the middle, and stocks beside it, where offenders received their deserts. Noisy people were confined in the stocks on Sundays, town meeting and training days when they became troublesome.

Court time filled the village with strangers, jurors, suitors and witnesses. All the principal lawyers in the county attended here upon Court, and here most of the cases from the back country were tried.

Political excitement never was more intense than in 1812. Navigation had been restricted by an embargo; our vessels were rotting at the wharves and our commerce had been swept from the ocean. Articles of foreign manufacture and all imported goods were scarce, and their prices high. This town in 1809 had voted a petition\* to have the embargo removed, and being opposed to the war, when the President called for one hundred thousand militia from the several States, a town meeting was held on the 24th of July, 1812, and the town voted by a large majority, that—

[A part of the preamble is omitted.]

“Whereas our country, from the highest of national grandeur, prosperity and felicity, to which it attained during the administrations of Washington and Adams, is now sunk to the lowest ebb of degradation, contempt and misery, and this calamity and

\* See Appendix.



distress have been the necessary results of the systems and measures conceived and pursued by Jefferson and Madison, of crooked and deceitful policy, which could only originate in sorrow and wickedness, and has a direct tendency to dismember the Union, to which the inhabitants of this town have been strongly attached, and to which they will still cling as the ark of their political safety, and inasmuch as they are anxious to maintain the union of the States, and would discountenance all rebellious opposition to government, and rely only on constitutional remedies for correcting the manifold and aggravated evils endured, and as our rulers, by their wayward policy, have beggared the nation and made it unable to afford an adequate support to those citizens who may be called upon to defend it from invasion, and as we are willing to share the burdens with our townsmen, be whose lot it may, to be dragged out in support of this war—therefore voted to make the pay of soldiers equal to ten dollars a month.”

At the same meeting a Committee of Safety was chosen.

In 1814, the town was indicted for not being provided with military stores, as required by law.

In 1815, the people had become so demoralized in consequence of the deplorable state of affairs, that many neglected attendance upon divine worship, thereby giving an example tending to corrupt the religious principles of the youth; and therefore the town chose that year twenty-eight tythingmen, seventeen of whom qualified for the office, and so effectually did they correct the evil habits of the people, that but two such officers were needed and chosen the next year.

At the annual meeting, 1816, Capt. NATHANIEL EVELETH voluntarily declined the office of Town Clerk, which he had held for forty-two consecutive years, accurately recording

with his own hand all the doings of the town in that period, for which he received a unanimous vote of thanks from the town.\*

In 1819 the town voted to adopt the Constitutions of Maine, and also—

“That the town do consider slavery, in all its forms, as opposed to the dictates of humanity and the Christian religion, and repugnant to the principles of our Republican Constitutions, and subversive of the rights and liberties of man, and that Congress has the right to require a prohibition of slavery in any State admitted into the Union.”

And also voted, unanimously,—

“To memorialize Congress against the admission of any new State into the Union, by the Constitution of which slavery shall not be prohibited.”

These principles are realized to-day, but at what fearful cost! Who can estimate it? The vacant places in families of this people show how dearly was purchased the rights, which were asserted here more than a half century ago.

From the Revolution till within the memory of many present, two companies of Infantry were enrolled in this town, and beside these, one company of Riflemen, one company of Cavalry and one of Artillery have been recruited here. All these troops, after the erection of Maine, were attached to the fifth Division, first Brigade, and the Infantry to the first Regiment. Their training field was on the

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\* Maj. NATHANIEL EVELETH, an aged and honored citizen, and a son of the veteran Town Clerk, kindly furnished me with a private book of records, from which I gathered much of the early history of the town, and to whom I wish thus publicly to return thanks for his kindness.

common about the old meeting house, and there, amid the applause of the entire populace, many deeds of valor were performed, which are recounted even to this day.

The rank and file of these troops furnished officers for the Massachusetts and Maine Militia of the highest rank, and could I call them to pass in review, you would see emerge from the dim vista of the past the commanding forms of Generals ALLEN, FESSENDEN, MEGQUIER, WEBBER and GROSS; Cols. PARSONS, FOXCROFT, JORDAN and CUSHMAN; Majs. EVELETH, CHANDLER, CUSHMAN, NELSON, HAMMOND, STEVENS, ALLEN, WEBSTER, LATHAM, TOBIE, WINSLOW and WHITE, followed by Maj. JAMES EVELETH with his corps of musicians, drowning all with their noise. Then would come a host of Captains and subalterns and other officers, dimly seen through the veil of oblivion; but you would recognize the stentorian voices of Capts. WM. HASKELL and PELETIAH LYON echoing in the distance as the train disappears from sight.

Spirituous liquors were openly retailed in this town until the year 1832, when the town voted not to use them at town's cost while at work on the roads, and not to grant licenses to sell the same, and to prosecute those who do; but as the chilly frosts of Autumn came, the people were reminded by the pinching cold how necessary it was to provide warmth within as well as clothing without, and reconsidered that vote, and nine licenses were immediately issued to meet the emergency of the case.

Here was the first recorded skirmish with intemperance, and those men, who then made a stand for temperance and morality, can with pride and joy point to the fact, that to-day not a glass of spirituuous liquor can be purchased for a bev-

erage in this town, and for the past decade not a single grog shop has existed within its borders.

The year 1832 also brought reform, in care for the poor, who had previously been sold at auction, and the town voted—

“That the practice of setting up at auction those of our fellow creatures who, through misfortune and adversity, have become unable to support and maintain themselves, is revolting to a civilized and Christian community.”

That year and the next they were properly cared for, but in 1834 the majority again voted for the old method, and they were again sold; but soon after a town farm was purchased, and now the poor of the town have a comfortable home in their adversity.

The roads in this town have always been repaired and maintained by a labor tax, except that, in the year 1837, a money tax was raised for the purpose, and expended by the Selectmen as surveyors of highways.

The *Old Church* stood with its front to the road, and had a tall square tower upon the south-west end, lighted with long, narrow windows and covered with a concave roof, above which extended upward an iron rod supporting two brass balls, with a vane at its top. A porch was at the opposite end. One entrance was through the base of the tower, another from the porch, and a third was in the center of the front side. Stair-cases led to the galleries within, from the tower and porch at each end. The outside was once painted white, but from long exposure at last assumed a shady hue. Twenty-six windows, in two rows, encircled it, with twenty-four panes of glass, eight by ten inches in size, in each. The pulpit was on the back side, opposite the front door.

and so high that the preacher could view the galleries which surrounded the other three sides upon a level with his eyes. A huge sounding board overhung the sacred desk, and in small closets within it, opening on each side, the town's store of powder was kept. A rail encircled the communion table and the deacon's seats beside it. Upon either hand of the pulpit, from the galleries, projected small balconies with seats for the colored brethren, while directly below these, near the pulpit, sat the wardens, with long poles to wake the sleepers. A broad aisle led from the front door to the communion table with seats upon each side in front, for those whose hearing was impaired. Another crossed this at right angles, extending from the doors at each end, while a third encircled the house a pew's length from the walls. The pews were inclosed with paneled walls and doors, mounted with a "rail and banisters." The seats within turned upward on hinges that the occupants might stand erect. Small holes through the floor served the chewers of tobacco for spittoons. The audience room was fifty-six by forty-five feet in size, nearly square, with twenty-four feet between ceiling and floor, which was scoured to snowy whiteness. No paint was anywhere to be seen.

Within those walls was many an exciting scene in political affairs. There many a tilt in town matters. There all elections were held, until in 1838 the present town house, formerly the old Baptist meeting-house, was purchased for the sum of three hundred dollars.

There too the people attended divine worship without any fire or place for building one; there all intentions of marriage were publicly cried from the galleries at church time for three consecutive Sundays. The singers sat opposite the pulpit, and sang the old songs of Zion to music from

fiddles, flutes, bass-viols and divers other instruments of the olden time. At last the old edifice, in 1838, gave place to the present Congregational church standing on the same spot. There for more than a hundred years the same gospel has been preached and the same psalms sung :

“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept,  
Line upon line, line upon line, here a little and there a little.”

Imbued with the belief that universal education was the foundation of all free institutions, the General Court of the Province reserved one sixty-third part of this township for the support of free schools, which created a fund of over four thousand dollars.

In 1764, one public school was established at the center of the township, and there maintained until the town was incorporated, when a school-master was employed, and the school was then kept in different parts of the town by turns until 1777, when the school money was divided into four parts, and each of four districts drew its part according to the number of its scholars, but agents to employ the teachers were chosen by the town. In 1790, one new district was formed. In 1805, a committee of five was chosen to inspect the schools. In 1803, three new districts were formed, and not till 1823 did the several districts select their own agents to employ teachers and provide for the schools. From that time to near the present, the school money has been expended in that way, the town always having a superintending school committee selected from its best citizens.

In 1792, a few zealous Shakers held meetings in this town near the present Shaker Village, and by their persuasive reasoning and pious example, a sufficient number were converted

to their belief to form a church and society. In 1794, their society was organized and a meeting-house built, from which time the growth of their settlement has been steady and permanent. To-day a thousand acres of the best land in town yields its harvest under their skillful care. Seeds from their garden, and the product of their manufactures, are to be seen in the market, living witnesses to their industry and skill; while their beautiful village, filled with trees bending with ripening fruit, as it lies sloping towards the glassy surface of Sabbath Day Pond, at once arrests the attention of the traveler, and persuades him to partake within their hospitable home.

For a century following the first settlement of this township, lumbering was a profitable industry for this people. Between Royal's River and the Little Androscoggin, was the best tract of pine timber lands ever known in Maine. From these, pines were drawn past the center of the town to the public landing below the "great bridge," on Royal's River, before the Revolution, two cargoes of masts for the Royal Navy of the King of England. These masts were floated down that stream to the anchorage of the British transports, below Yarmouth (being hauled around the Falls).

In 1824, a hundred ox teams loaded with lumber were frequently seen in a day, to pass the center of the town down the Yarmouth road. Then all the travel from the North passed there. Mail coaches and private carriages of all descriptions were continually going, and the village was lively and gay. But in 1833, the road was opened from the Upper Corner to Harris Hill. This turned a large portion of the travel to Gray Corner, and the upper village became the principal center of travel.

Until 1841 this town steadily increased in population,

drawn hither for employment in the thriving local trade and business of the place, but from that day the tide turned in other directions. The diligent hand of the pioneer had stripped the noble pine from its native soil; the local lumbering trade had substantially ceased; new fields for employment were opened; Massachusetts, with her thriving manufactures, called for operatives; the West began to attract the attention of the young men; California opened her golden mines, and the glittering ore called some thither. The current began to set westward; the open prairie and fertile bottom lands, towards the setting sun, were already waiting for the seed to cover their surface with golden grain. The iron horse, propelled by steam, soon made these hills resound with his shrill alarm, and tamed the soft bosom of the intervale to his continued tread. At his heels were drawn palatial coaches to carry our people from home, or a long train of wagons loaded with produce, hastening on to feed the hungry throngs at commercial centers. The mail coach ceased its lumbering roll; no more did the weary traveler take his rest within your hospitable taverns, and soon their doors were closed. The young men no longer made this their abiding place, still here was their home, and here would they again return as the waning sun of life approached the horizon, that where they were born, there would be their peaceful resting place.

This change may have startled those of this generation who still linger among us, and their faces may be furrowed with sadness as they look backward to the bright days of their manhood. But is there nothing cheerful in the outlook? As they review the better part of a century, can they not feel a satisfaction in what has been accomplished? Can they not see the rapid strides of progress? Can they



not feel that the times are moving forward, and not backward? Let such look out on these broad, smooth fields, green again, having been shorn by the even clipping scythe of the mowing machine. Let them view the long eared corn and heavy headed grain as it sweeps in the wind, and see the fruit trees loaded with blushing fruit. Let them not forget the old thoroughbrace wagon, (a wonder in its day), and the rough, unwrought roads, and old tote paths with the saddle and pillion, as they now glide smoothly upon fine broad roads through all parts of the town in carriages, for ease and elegance undreamed of forty years since. As they go let them inspect the snug white farmhouses and capacious barns, filled with produce and cattle, and find the people no longer wearing homespun, but rather clad with fabrics from abroad, with goods of fine texture manufactured in our own State; find them fed with flour from the West, with fruit from the Tropics, and supplied with tea, coffee and spices from the East; and then let them say whether the toil of a century has been fruitless.

No longer do a privileged class exclusively enjoy the comforts of life, but now labor receives its reward, and the laborer finds dollars in his pocket, where a half century ago cents would have been wanting. Intolerance has ceased to be "the head-stone of the corner." The silvery tones of church bells each Sabbath morning now call the people to worship in places of their own choice, or leave them to the solitude of their own homes, secure from official intrusion. Each neighborhood has its own school, and a high school affords its privileges to all alike. Loafing places and grog shops, where the news was passed from hand to hand, have given place to the post-office, at which the daily and weekly papers, both religious and secular, are distributed, to be perused by

all members of the several families in town. In every house can now be read the entire news of the world. The railroad and telegraph annihilate both space and time, and much that a few years ago was unknown, is now reported in every home. Colleges, seminaries and other institutions of learning are within the reach of every student, books are at his command, and the youth are at school, instead of toiling in the father's field till the end of their twenty-first year.

From the onset till now, this town has had a steady growth, and to-day its valuation is higher than ever before; its people are better educated, better clad, and enjoy more of the comforts of life than at any time past.

Its sons have gone out through this wide land to utilize those principles instilled into their youthful minds by the political, moral and religious atmosphere of the place. Among them are the names of GREENLEAF, CHANDLER, FESSENDEN, WOODMAN, WEBBER, INGERSOLL, HILL, MERRILL, PENNEY and ROWE.

Here have resided the Hons. NATHAN WESTON, EZEKIEL WHITMAN, SAMUEL FESSENDEN, and WM. WIDGERY; Col. ISAAC PARSONS, and PELEG CHANDLER, the Father and Son; the Hons. WM. BRADBURY and SEWALL N. GROSS; Dr. TIMOTHY LITTLE; and the Rev. FRANKLIN YEATON, beloved by all, besides scores of other honored names.

From here, too, have gone those patriots who rallied about their country's flag when assailed by the vile hands of traitors, in the last war. They are known to you all, and the memories of those who did not return are bright in your affections to-day. They need no eulogy, but their names should be engraved upon some imperishable stone, that generations who follow us may adorn it with gar-

lands, in gratitude for the liberties they purchased with their lives for us and our posterity for all coming time.

MY FRIENDS:—With pride I have reviewed with you the history of our native town for a hundred years, and as I stand, protected from the scorching rays of a noonday sun by this vast canopy, a device of modern genius, beside these planks, relics from the old blockhouse, and bid adieu to the century that has gone, replete with noble deeds of our ancestors, it is fitting I should demand, in their names, as we enter upon the century that now begins, that those principles of liberty and eternal justice, which they maintained at such fearful cost, shall be kept inviolate, that they who celebrate this event at the end of another hundred years can say of us as we truly say of these ancestors of ours—

NOBLE MEN,  
IMMORTAL NAMES,  
NEVER BORN TO DIE.

The oration closed at quarter past twelve, and after the band played "Hail Columbia" the entire audience rose and joined with the choir in singing

"AMERICA."

"My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountain side  
Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee—  
 Land of the noble, free—  
 Thy name—I love ;  
 I love thy rocks and rills,  
 Thy woods and templed hills,  
 My heart with rapture thrills  
 Like that above.

Our fathers' God! to thee  
 Author of liberty,  
 To thee we sing :  
 Long may our land be bright  
 With Freedom's holy light ;  
 Protect us, by thy might,  
 Great God, our King!"

A blast from "ye ancienne horne" then summoned the people to the

## BANQUET.

The Rev. H. M. PERKINS, supplying the Congregational pulpit, at New Gloucester, pronounced the following

## BLESSING.

O Lord! our Heavenly Father, we ask Thy blessing upon us at this time. We have been refreshed by pleasant memories connected with the history of this town, and now we gather around this festive board so richly and heavily laden with the bounties of Thy providence, the tokens of Thy

love. We are reminded of Thee, who "openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing."

May the enjoyments of this memorable and interesting occasion result in the mutual good and the spiritual welfare of all who are assembled here. These memories we ask in the name of our Redeemer. AMEN.

Then dinner was served by the ladies of the town. It consisted of tea and coffee, baked beans and brown bread, all piping hot, cold meats of the various kinds, prepared in every conceivable shape, bread, butter, cheese and pickles, all kinds of pies and cakes, melons and other fruit.

At two o'clock the President called the assemblage to order, and AMOS H. NEVINS, ESQ., the Toast Master, offered the following toasts:

MASSACHUSETTS OUR MOTHER. We cherish her memory.

Response by the Band.

The following letter was read from the Hon. NELSON DINGLEY, JR., Governor of Maine:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Augusta, Sept. 4, 1874.

*Gentlemen:*

I regret that a prior engagement will prevent my acceptance of your kind invitation to be present on the occasion of the Centennial Anniversary of New Gloucester. I doubt not that the exercises of the day will be of interest and profit, and will especially serve to increase the respect and love of every native of

New Gloucester for a town which has a history and prestige of which every son of Maine may well be proud.

Very respectfully yours,

NELSON DINGLEY, JR.

MESSRS. JOSEPH CROSS,

A. H. NEVINS,

A. C. CHANDLER, *Committee.*

THE STATE OF MAINE. May the daughter ever prove worthy of the mother.

Response by HON. WILLIAM WIDGERY THOMAS, JR.,  
of Portland, Speaker of the House of Representatives :

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

I am proud to respond to the sentiment "the State of Maine." Where indeed is there a son or daughter of Maine that is not proud of his mother State? It is indeed a noble State, a State of unlimited resources. In our quarries of limestone, slate and granite are mines of wealth, not only for to-day but throughout all ages; in fact, in the very cliffs of our rock bound State, is greater wealth and greater purchasing power than in the fertile soil of the most fertile State of the West. Our extensive coast is notched along its entire length with the very best harbors in the world, and our swift rivers bear with them in their fall, power sufficient to turn the factories of the nation; a power no longer flowing all idly to the sea, but which, lashed to the wheel, now turns the spindles of industry. And the ships of Maine, ships whose timbers are cut in our forests, and whose keels are laid along our shores, sail every sea and carry the flag of the Republic to the utmost maritime nations of the globe. But the noblest crop the State of Maine produces is her men; aye, and her women. Here in Maine we raise MEN;

men who are born and nurtured on our breezy hills ; whose muscles and sinews are toughened by work on the farm, and whose minds and souls are enlarged and ennobled by the teachings of our schools and churches ; men who grow up with sound minds in sound bodies, and who fight nobly the battle of life wherever their lot may be cast.

It has become an adage, that wherever you travel you find men from Maine. This is true, and it is no less true that wherever you find them, you find brave, solid characters ; men who take the lead in the communities where they dwell ; men whom you are glad to take by the hand and call brother.

I am glad to be present at this celebration, which carries us back one hundred years, to the founding of this good town. We Americans are too prone to look forward to the future. It is well, therefore, on such a day as this, to look back upon the past ; to call up before us the sturdy pioneers, our forefathers, and to reflect upon their characters and the work they have done for us.

When the first settlers came here, what were these verdant hills ? An unbroken forest ; a howling wilderness ; the abode of savage beasts and still more savage men. What toil, to turn the forest into farms ! The giant trees must be felled, "junked," "hand-piled" and burned. All summer long, from morn till night, the pioneers must labor with axe and brand in their clearings, and when winter comes on, they can have at best but blackened fields, filled with blackened stumps, but not a kernel from these fields to eat. The next Spring seed may be hacked in between the stumps, and the next Fall—the *second* Fall—the earth first yields her increase. In the meantime, houses and barns

must be built, and the settlers and their cattle must live as best they may. Life for the pioneers of this town, and in fact of our whole State, was in truth a battle, an incessant, perpetual hand to hand fight with savage nature and savage men, for existence.

*My friends*, only when we reflect upon what our fathers endured and accomplished, can we truly appreciate their indomitable courage and iron will. They felled the forests; they smoothed these fields; they built these roads and bridges; they made the land inhabitable; and we enjoy the fruit of their labors. And to-day, as we celebrate the birthday of the town, is it not pertinent, is it not proper, that we ask ourselves what would its founders have us to do? Surely they would not have us idly sit and enjoy what they have done for us. They would bid us go on in the pathway they have marked out for us. True it is, New Gloucester is one of the most beautiful towns in the State. You have wide spreading elms, cosy houses, beautiful gardens and bountiful orchards. But rest not content with these. Go on! Plant shade trees along every way; enlarge and improve your gardens and orchards; and work without ceasing, as did your fathers before you, to make your farms more profitable and more attractive. But this is not enough. It is not sufficient to imitate the thrift, energy and perseverance of our ancestors. We shall not have read the lesson of this day aright if we do not also imitate and emulate their honesty, truth and virtue; and surely never were these sterling qualities more needed than to-day, in business, in politics and in the church.

This, then, is the true lesson of our Centennial Day,—to emulate the virtues of our fathers. Thus shall we most honor them, our town, and our good State of Maine.



GLoucester. We welcome her to-day to our hearts and homes.

Response by Hon. JOHN J. BABSON, of Gloucester, Massachusetts.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

It is with the very highest satisfaction that I find myself here to-day. I don't know that I can claim relationship with any of you. I have no claim as a son of New Gloucester ; but perhaps if we were to look into the genealogy for the past generation, many of us might be able to trace up our pedigree to common ancestors. However that may be, it is from another view than anything connected with personal relationship, that I appear before you to-day, and enjoy so much pleasure on this occasion.

A great many years ago, I had occasion to investigate the families of our present town, and of course, in that investigation, I had occasion to become acquainted with the history of those who came to New Gloucester. I had occasion to learn all the facts of your early history, and I became so well acquainted with the names of these that it seemed as if I had been acquainted with all the families in the old town, and consequently in the new.

I hardly know where to begin in speaking of the early settlement of New Gloucester. I do not know as I can add anything to your knowledge regarding these hardy, worthy, wonderful men, brought up in the wild woods, about one hundred and thirty years ago. They were not ordinary men ; of that I am convinced from my investigations and my knowledge of families of my own town and other towns in New England. The EVELETHS, PARSONSES, HASKELLS

DAVISES (and I might name many others), were among the most influential and best families of the parent town, and they are worthy of all the respect and regard we can show them.

I need not remind you that the PARSONS family, which has been so well represented in New Gloucester, as it is now the most numerous family we have in old Gloucester, furnished the eminent Chief Justice, who, in the opinion of his cotemporaries, was the most eminent lawyer on this side of the Atlantic. I might call your attention to the HASKELS and tell you how many have been representatives, selectmen, deacons and elders in the church, but all this would be unnecessary and take up too much of your time. Let me therefore say that these settlers were worthy of the greatest honor and the most affectionate remembrances you can entertain for them. It was on account of my interest in them, that I made up my mind, as soon as I saw in the newspaper you were to celebrate this anniversary, that one voice from the old town should be heard among you on the happy completion of the first century of your corporate existence, and to bid you God speed on the commencement of another.

My first visit among the people of New Gloucester was upwards of thirty years ago, when, impelled by the same motive to which I before alluded on the occasion of becoming acquainted with your old families, I came down here and spent only one or two days, but I shall never forget the pleasure I derived on that occasion. I visited the oldest people I could find. I remember a visit I made to two elderly gentlemen about eighty years of age. I called on one and accidentally the other happened to be present. It would do your hearts good to see the eagerness with which

they got me down between them, asking me questions about old Cape Ann and telling me anecdotes of their early life.

I cannot forget that on that visit I called upon two or three families of elderly women. I remember at one house I found two maiden ladies that I thought far advanced in years then (the children of a very aged father recently deceased), and who entertained me sometime with an account of the talk of their father and mother for years before their death about old Cape Ann; how their recollections seemed to wander around the old trees, the old rocks around the old home; what joys and sorrows they had known, and all the incidents connected with people they had known there. When I took my leave they came to the window to express the great joy they had in my visit, and how much good it had done them to hear from old Cape Ann. And I count it quite a wonderful thing, that I find here to-day one of those old ladies upon whom I then called. I wondered when I was coming down how long they had been dead, when all of a sudden this venerable lady passed by me and was called Miss Rowe. I at once recognized her as one of the ladies I have just referred to. I made a subsequent visit ten years afterwards and enjoyed the hospitalities of Col. FOXCROFT, one of your best citizens at that time.

I found these ancient persons cheerful, happy, pleasant, good-natured, willing to stay if it were to be so, and willing to go when the Lord saw fit to call them. So that I thought that old age was not so disagreeable a thing after all. When I looked into the cheerful face of this venerable lady and felt the grip of her hand, I felt I had alighted on a happy soul, and I have no doubt that I did. But I must not dwell upon these personal recollections; other voices

are ready to be raised for your entertainment, and I will only add one or two words more.

Some years ago a very venerable man who was our Town Clerk for many years, and who was employed as a Surveyor in New Gloucester more than eighty years ago, told me that he had a very intimate friend among the earlier settlers of New Gloucester, who had besought him very often to make her a visit, but he had never seen an opportunity to do so, until on one occasion he had been visiting Portland and concluded he would spend the Sabbath with his old friend in New Gloucester. He procured a horse and chaise, and started, but before he had completed his journey his horse was stopped by an officer who told him he must get out and go with him. That was a time when the Sunday laws were upon our Statute book, which compelled the officer to arrest every one engaged in any unnecessary employment on the Sabbath Day. My venerable old friend said he pleaded hard to be allowed to proceed; that he was on a visit of necessity almost; that he was in Portland on business, and having an old and intimate friend in New Gloucester whom he valued very highly, and not being able to visit her on a week day, he thought, inasmuch as it was a case of intimate friendship, he would take Sunday. But the officer was inexorable. After some further pleading on the part of my friend, the officer inquired his name. He told him his name, and said he, "I am on my way to see Mrs. Such-a-one." Whereupon, the officer exclaimed, "Bless me! that is my wife; come right home with me." I need not say that he gladly accepted the invitation, met with a very cordial reception, and the husband made him forget the attempt to arrest him for breaking the laws of the Sabbath.

*Mr. President,* I have but one word more. When I look around on this beautiful town, its pleasant fields, its great means for all human enjoyment, I wonder why the population is slightly diminishing rather than increasing; I ask myself if it is because of the dislike of the young men to farming occupations, or is it because the soil is all taken up and cropped so long that it is not fit for cultivation? But I meet with no satisfactory response. I hear that the opportunities for farming are as good here as they ever were, and the young make a sad mistake in going away from these pleasant homes and fields to mingle in the dissipations, or at least the temptations of our larger communities. The parent town contains about 17,000 people. A year or two ago we obtained a city charter, and now we have all the paraphernalia of a city government. We have a police force, which I suppose is supported at an expense equal to your whole tax, made necessary by a vice, which I heard from your Orator with the greatest satisfaction, does not exist in your town. Oh! that the young men would be wise in time, and not seek to exchange the innocence and simplicity of farm life, for the dangers, turmoil and disappointments that follow the accomplishment of the desires to get away into the cities. I will close by offering you this sentiment:

TO THE MEMORY OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF NEW GLOUCESTER: May the hardships they endured, the virtues they displayed in founding on this spot a pleasant home for themselves and their descendants, be ever remembered with a grateful appreciation by all the coming generations who may dwell herein.

NEW GLOUCESTER now, and one hundred years ago.

Response by CHARLES PETER HASKELL, of New Gloucester.

*Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens :*

New Gloucester hardly needs an advocate to-day. She has been speaking for herself the last hundred years in tones that cannot well be misunderstood ; indeed, at one time dividing the judicial honors of proud old Cumberland County with Portland herself.

One hundred years ago, at church or in the field, the old flint lock musket was the settlers' truest friend ; now the citizen can worship or labor with none to molest or make him afraid. Then on each returning Sabbath, families on horseback rode to the old church to keep holy time ; now their descendants ride in light buggies and easy phaetons to their chosen places of worship. It is true, the eloquence of the elder FOXCROFT, MOSELY, STINCHFIELD and WOODMAN in the pulpit has long been silent ; yet others have come and stand in their places to break unto the people the bread of life.

LITTLE, once at the head of his profession, no longer rides with his saddle-bags behind him over our hills to heal the sick ; now his successors drive in their easy carriages to make their welcome calls. The blast of the postman's horn, as he rode solitary and alone up the Portland road bearing the scanty mail, long since ceased, and LONGLEY and HOWE, seated on the top of their rattling coaches, no longer rein their horses at yonder corner ; neither do we see the long line of freighted teams winding down the Yarmouth road, but the iron horse and railway car thunder along our valley. GROSVENER and ABBEY, the large-hearted BEARCE, the ac-

accomplished FOXCROFT and the jovial CHANDLER, of whom it was said in later days,

"He was ever on hand,  
When iron was rising the value of land,"

are no longer seen in their places of business, but other hands now deal in merchandize.

We would not forget that it was here that WESTON, WHITMAN, GREENLEAF, FESSENDEN, CHANDLER and BRADBURY had their homes, two of them being native born, and all eminent in the legal profession. We shall never forget, unless memory proves treacherous and the history of the nation is blotted out, that it was here Maine's great Senator, at one time the hope and pride of the nation, spent his youthful days. I need not call his name, you know it well. Some of his schoolmates are here to-day.

The inviting inns of NELSON, BEARCE, THOMPSON and CHANDLER are closed; their cheery fires have gone out and no one is called to re-kindle them, for in the irresistible march of events business has in a measure forsaken us and turned to other channels; yet the air is as pure, our hills and valleys are as pleasant and fruitful, our store houses are as well filled and our homes are as free as in days that have gone.

We glory in the history of the past, and hold in profound reverence the memory of our fathers, who with brave hearts and strong arms cleared these farms, made these roads, and out of a wilderness built up and bequeathed to us the priceless inheritance of a noble town. While we glory in the past and rejoice in the present, let us hope that they who celebrate the second centennial will have nobler triumphs to boast and more splendid achievements to rehearse than we have to-day.

THE LEGAL PROFESSION. May their record be as fair in the future as it has been in the past.

In response, the following letter from the Hon. PELEG W. CHANDLER, of Boston, was read by his nephew, Mr. SUMNER C. CHANDLER, of Brookline, Mass:

WHITE MOUNTAINS,  
5th September, 1874.

TO JOSEPH CROSS, A. H. NEVINS, A. C. CHANDLER,  
*Committee.*

*Gentlemen:*

When I felt obliged, several months ago, to decline your flattering invitation to deliver an address at the Centennial Celebration of New Gloucester, it was with an intimation that I would be present and render such aid as I could at the proposed meeting. This is not practicable, but I cannot forbear to express my deep sympathy in the feeling which calls you together, and to make a note of some points which may not be destitute of interest to the present generation. On such an occasion, it is becoming for any one who has a knowledge of facts relating to the past history of the town, to make them known, even though they may seem to strangers of trifling importance. What might appear as vanity in speaking of distinguished persons with whom one was acquainted and of events in which he bore a part, is pardonable at such a celebration. Even the garrulousness of old age does not fatigue and may be agreeable when it relates to those who took a part in our early local history and to transactions of which the eye-witnesses will soon be removed by death.

It is many years since I left New Gloucester, as a residence, but I have been familiar with the place and people



ever since ; and there are not many whose recollections extend back farther than my own. As a boy, I was familiar with the persons and knew something of the mental traits of many men in the old town who have now passed away. Among them were ELISHA MOSELY, Col. ISAAC PARSONS, TIMOTHY LITTLE, SIMON GREENLEAF, General FESSENDEN, WM. PITT FESSENDEN, JABEZ WOODMAN, WILLIAM BRADBURY, Col. JOSEPH E. FOXCROFT, OBADIAH WHITMAN, PELEG CHANDLER, Father and Son, and many others, whose names will doubtless be recalled by gentlemen who may be present. In after years I had the privilege of an intimate acquaintance with some of them ; and now at a period of life when the judgment is more mature and when it is possible to make a calmer estimate of character by comparison with other celebrated men, I recur with interest and a certain pride to those early citizens of a town somewhat remote who were greatly distinguished in their day and generation, and to others who only lacked the opportunity to become men of a national reputation. Allow me to mention some of the prominent men in the early history of the town with such reminiscences as occur to me at the moment.

SAMUEL FESSENDEN was a graduate of Dartmouth College, a classmate of RICHARD FLETCHER and an intimate friend of DANIEL WEBSTER. He commenced practice in New Gloucester, and, as I have often heard, his first great success was in soundly thrashing a witness after court was over, this witness having had the temerity to assert, during a trial, that the lawyer would not dare say out of court what his privilege allowed him to say within doors with impunity. The advocate overheard the remark, and, at the adjournment, on being attacked by the drunken bully, justi-

fied with his fists the utterances of his tongue. As the chastisement was effectual and generally regarded as just, the act was eminently popular in the whole region. General FESSENDEN, as I remember him, was a man of remarkable presence, tall, graceful, courteous, with a smile that was winning to all and quite bewitching to the young. He was a man of large and comprehensive ability which he displayed in a practice of fifty years at the bar. He always took great interest in political affairs and held responsible positions, but was not successful in one sense because his ambition took another direction. He also had a way of advocating unpopular theories and always stood by his guns whatever might be the danger to himself. It was he, who in the war of 1812, made the declaration in the Senate of Massachusetts, in the discussion of a proposition to send delegates to the *Hartford Convention*, that "he was ready to take the constitution in one hand and a sword in the other, and demand at Washington the constitutional rights of the people." In late years he was a most vigorous and uncompromising member of the Free Soil Party. His home was long a refuge for fugitive slaves, and his tongue and pen were ever ready to defend the rights of those held in bondage. He was also a warm temperance man, and, as usual, carried his principles into practice, however disagreeable such a course might be to himself. It is not many years since he visited his son in Washington and was invited to dine with Mr. WEBSTER. At the table, a distinguished lady asked him to take wine. He declined, but gracefully drank her health in water. After dinner, when the ladies had retired, Mr. WEBSTER exclaimed, "Sam, you are the bravest man living. No gentleman in Washington would dare to decline wine at the invitation of my wife." The

anecdotes of this remarkable man are numerous and no doubt will be largely referred to at your meeting. As he and his son, WM. PITT, practiced at the same Bar for many years, it was of course quite common that they found themselves on opposite sides. It was something worth seeing, for as they entertained great mutual respect and exhibited the greatest courtesy towards each other, and as they both were bound to win if they could, the contest not seldom became exciting and even amusing. "You never learned such law as that in my office, Sir," the General once exclaimed at some telling point of his son. "Perhaps not," was the reply, "for there were some things not taught in that office." I once heard THOMAS AMORY DEBLOIS, who was for many years Gen. FESSENDEN'S law partner, say that Chief Justice WESTON, when a young man at the Bar, lost his temper at some remark of Gen. FESSENDEN, and sent him a challenge. Unfortunately the messenger was a negro. The General replied blandly that he "did not decline the challenge, *but did object to WESTON'S second*"; which in those days was a point well taken.

I should like to refer right here to an anecdote which was related to me by General FESSENDEN himself, as it is a marked and affecting instance of the baleful effects of intemperance on the mental and moral faculties. There formerly lived in New Gloucester, a man who was distinguished and held high rank in the Revolutionary War. He was unfortunately addicted to the excessive use of ardent spirits and his faculties were becoming impaired. General FESSENDEN, although a young man, was on intimate terms with him, and considered it due to friendship to remonstrate; which he did in a manner as delicate as possible, pointing out the inevitable results of such a course and lamenting

the necessity of referring to the subject at all. The matter was taken in a friendly spirit, and the unhappy victim of habit remarked with perfect calmness, that no one could understand the evil consequences of intemperance better than himself; that he saw plainly the terrible end which was before him and lamented it more than his friends possibly could. But, he added, *it was impossible for him to change*. He could not reform if he would, and, so strong was the passion for drink, he would not if he could. General FESSENDEN replied, that having done his own duty and performed the painful service required by friendship, he never should refer to the subject again. It was not many months after this, when sitting in his office one summer's day, he heard a great outcry, with shouts for help. He rushed out and found some people from a distance endeavoring to force his old friend into a carriage. On demanding the reason for this extraordinary proceeding, he was informed that they had concluded to remove him to an insane hospital. The unhappy victim appealed in touching tones to FESSENDEN for protection; but the latter replied that he had once endeavored to avert such a calamity in vain. He had done his whole duty and now he could not interfere. "Well," exclaimed the unhappy man, "if FESSENDEN will not defend me there is no help; I will resist no longer." He was removed to a hospital, where he passed the rest of his life.

WILLIAM PITT FESSENDEN was not a native of the town, but was brought here when an infant. This eminent statesman, able lawyer and honest man had a national reputation; it is unnecessary to go into any details here respecting his character and history.

“The name that dwells on every tongue,  
No minstrel needs.”

Col. ISAAC PARSONS was in some respects one of the most remarkable men of our town. A native of Cape Ann and of a notable family, he early emigrated to Maine, where he became a large land owner. He was a Calvinist in religion and a Democrat in politics. Nor was he a man to hide his light under a bushel. On the contrary, he was decidedly aggressive as a religionist, and remarkably firm as a politician. In those days political sentiments and religious dogmas were held with such tenacity and entered so much into personal relations, that the young emigrant was not remarkably popular with his relatives in the old Bay State; and when he went up to Boston as a Democratic member of the Great and General Court, it was with a feeling that he would not be well received by his own family. There was no occasion for this apprehension. The most friendly feelings were manifested, and when his distinguished relative, Chief Justice PARSONS, made his circuit in Maine, he not seldom visited his country cousin, sometimes even prevailing with him, as I have doubtfully heard, to walk out of a Sunday. Deacon PARSONS was a man of great sense and sagacity, of considerable ability and remarkably “set” in his opinions. To no man could the line be more truly applied “*Homo justus et tenax propositi*,” (which the “Antiquary” translates “a just man but obstinate as a baited bull.”) He exerted great influence in the new town; no man was more respected, although he was not quite free from the peculiarities of his day. He stood by what he regarded as matters of principle and faith. I have often heard my mother describe

the Sundays at her father's home with a sort of shudder, although she did not regard them with that feeling. There was never a morsel of food cooked, nor the least manual labor performed which could possibly be avoided; even the table was spread the night before for the whole day. It was Col. PARSONS who said, in those days of political excitement, that "Bonaparte was the Almighty's High Sheriff." He was literally a patriarch, for I must not fail to mention that he had *five wives*—not, let me hasten to add—*all at once*, but in an ordinary and lawful way, one after another. His own children were numerous, and some of his wives had children by other husbands, so that when the Deacon died at a good old age, it seemed as though half the county was at the funeral. There was no little difficulty in settling the points of precedence, and the procession extended from the home half way up to the Corner. He was a man of forethought, as the arrangement of his wives' graves made clear. Two were placed together, then a space was left for himself, and then two were placed on the other side. Alluding to this in his will, he ordered that his body should be placed in the center between the four wives, and "whereas their grave-stones were of slate, he directed that his should be of marble and *a little higher than theirs*." You will find the grave stones as I have described them, in the old grave yard. The fifth wife survived her husband. To the good sense and practical observation of Col. PARSONS the State of Maine is greatly indebted. Before he came here no farmer to the eastward of Old York, ever raised a bushel of corn to sell; but the people were dependent mainly on the western and southern counties for their bread. He found that the settlers had not discovered the right way of managing and improving new lands. He found by strict examination in

1762, that land in a natural state, that had a full growth of hard wood upon it, if the trees were cut and lay a reasonable time, would collect so much nitre as to become light and more suitable for the roots of any vegetable to penetrate in quest of nourishment, than it could be made by all the arts of cultivation, especially when the wood was burnt off, and it had the additional benefit of the alkaline salts. He was fully convinced that if corn were planted on new land, cleared and well burnt over without breaking the surface any more than by chopping off the weeds and sprouts, a good and ripe crop might be produced, and that the opinion that it would not stand without "hilling" was entirely erroneous. A knowledge of this method soon spreading through the country, it proved a greater encouragement or inducement to the settling of the State, than any one thing except the withdrawal of the Indians. The statement is his own, made in 1824, but is amply corroborated.

I should be glad to allude to some of the other notable men of the town, especially to Master JABEZ WOODMAN, that eccentric but eminently honest, simple-hearted and scholarly man, who taught so many of the young in the higher branches of learning—to Captain MOSES WOODMAN and JEREMIAH ALLEN, to AMOS HASKELL, and many other model citizens and princely farmers; to ELISHA MOSELY, so many years the minister of the parish, whose political principles and party sermons were so at variance with the notions of his senior deacon,\* and whose famous beer was

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\* In 1810, the 4th of July was celebrated in the town by both parties, the Federal oration being delivered by General FESSENDEN. It was on this occasion that Parson MOSELY gave out the hymn beginning thus:

"Break out their teeth, Almighty God,  
Those teeth of lions, dyed in blood!"

so well known for its curative qualities as to attract many invalids to the town. His theology was mild and harmless, and he was not fitted for the religious controversies that arose towards the end of his life; but his influence was always great, and uniformly exerted for the benefit of the people; to Deacon NELSON, whose manly form and dignified bearing will never be forgotten by those who knew him; to PETER HASKELL, senior, whose name was the synonym of honesty, and whose sons and his sons' sons are to-day among the most respected citizens of the town; to OBEDIAH WHITMAN, brother of the famous preacher, BERNARD WHITMAN, a man of most genial spirit and great intelligence; to SOLOMON HEWITT CHANDLER, probably the wealthiest citizen the town ever had, a man of great energy and business ability, of the kindest nature, whose ringing laugh was contagious; to ISAAC PARSONS, Junior, and DEACON GROSS, reliable officers of the town; to FREEDOM KEITH, the skillful mechanic whose well made furniture is now in most of the houses; to DEXTER BEARCE, the kind neighbor and faithful friend, ever ready to enter into the joys and sorrows of others, who never turned the poor away from his door, and whose heart was large enough to welcome suffering humanity in whatever guise it appeared. In particular, I should be glad to refer at length to that model public officer, Col. JOSEPH E. FOXCROFT, whose personal manners so well became the important office he held for many years. You know of course, that his father was one of the first ministers of the town. He was a graduate of Harvard College and a son of the minister of the First Church in Boston (Chauncy street). The Parish and Church in New Gloucester always had a strong influence in the Congregational denomination, and probably more young men in the past



generation of that Parish were liberally educated than of any other of the same size in the State. Is it not probable that the early influence of a well educated man has been always felt in this direction; that he gave a tone to the public sentiment and a refinement to the people which were the direct result of his own learning and culture?

Nor must I fail to allude to Dr. TIMOTHY LITTLE, the physician and surgeon, whose great reputation drew him to a wider sphere of action. For many years before he left, he had large numbers of medical students and was universally held in great respect by all. Some of his students were wild young fellows. There were strange stories of midnight raids upon distant grave yards. Whether true or not will probably never be known; but certainly those incipient doctors sometimes came home very early in the morning with tired horses and attended by mysterious circumstances. There was always an air of simplicity about the old Doctor, well calculated to drown suspicion, although it is certain that there were a good many bones round his house and stable. His students once set up the skeleton of a cow at the head of the back stairs, which was left there when the family removed to Portland. I remember to have heard at the time, that the wife of the new tenant, going up stairs for the first time, fainted away at the unexpected sight.

I shall be pardoned for more than a mere allusion to PELEG CHANDLER, Father and Son. The former was the son of PELEG CHANDLER, of Duxbury, and *his* father bore the same name. One of the earliest settlers of New Gloucester, he owned, lived and died upon the farm at the Corner. The family now have the old sign of the Bell Tavern in 1776, which he kept. He was an honest citizen, a blacksmith by trade, *and a good one*. He had the voice of

a Stentor. It is related that he would, at his back door, call his men to dinner on the intervale, although the statement requires some verification to be accepted as literally true. His youngest son, PELEG, graduated at Brown University in 1795. He was a classmate and chum of Chief Justice WHITMAN. The celebrated WILLIAM BAYLIES, of Taunton, was in the same class. He was fitted to enter a year in advance. Well mounted on a gray horse, with a little money and saddle bags containing his whole wardrobe, the young student wended his way to the distant State of Rhode Island. When approaching the village of Titticut, in Bridgwater, on a warm day in August 1792, he saw a youth reclining under a tree by the wayside. They entered into conversation, when it appeared that the young man was a member of the same class which CHANDLER proposed to enter. So much were they pleased with each other, that they agreed to room together. This was the beginning of a friendship which lasted through life. And it was by PELEG CHANDLER's influence, that his friend, EZEKIEL WHITMAN, who was a native of Bridgwater, commenced his professional life in New Gloucester, and began that career which was so marked and even brilliant, for he became the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas and of the Supreme Court, and a member of Congress from the most important District in Maine. Young CHANDLER made his way through College and returned home to meet a life of disappointments. His mother, (SARAH MARIA WINSLOW) being strongly opposed on principle to the legal profession, her son reluctantly took charge of the paternal acres; acted as Justice of the Peace and in various positions of trust, until at length, when his parents were very old and near their end, and after the birth of the youngest of ten children, he

commenced the practice of the profession which he had chosen when a young man. Coming upon the stage at so late a day and under circumstances so adverse, he could not of course expect to take the highest position. But he was a man of marked ability, of great wit and humor, fairly read in the law, and an advocate of more than average success. In 1819, before the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Sessions, holding the office for several years after Maine became a State, and until his removal to Bangor. He continued in the profession until his death in 1848, at the age of 74. He was buried in the old graveyard in New Gloucester, and by his side there was placed years afterward all that was mortal of his beloved wife, ESTHER PARSONS, a woman of a character so fine, that no partiality of relationship can do it more than justice. She had much of her father's firmness and independence, with all his strength of religious faith, but united with a character so simple and a disposition so retiring and truly feminine, as to inspire in all who knew her a respect which was very great and a love which was very strong.

It is time that I should bring this letter to a conclusion. I have not attempted to indulge in moral reflections or flights of fancy or sentimental remarks on the interesting occasion which calls the citizens of the old town together. The humble task has appeared to me the better course, namely, to refer to facts and events which may not be known to many of the present generation. Some of them may seem trivial, but everything which helps to illustrate the history of the past is of some importance.

The town of New Gloucester compares most favorably, in some respects, with the rest of the county; its local position

is surpassingly beautiful. I have been in many parts of our own country and in some foreign lands, but I have often thought that there are views in your town which, for quiet beauty and a certain charm of contrasted scenery, are equal to anything to be found. It was formerly half-shire town and a place of considerable business importance. It has always exerted a strong and healthful influence. There never was an academy or a public high school in the place, but the common schools were good, and there were always excellent means of acquiring knowledge in private schools and by individual instruction. There is no place where the people have been in general more intelligent and respectable. It occurs to me, as I am writing this, that almost every teacher who lived in my days of going to school has passed away. There is certainly one exception in the case of the mother of your Orator of the day, who was for years a most successful instructor. I have the impression that she regarded the writer of this as almost incorrigible in point of idleness and indifference; but she was patient and persevering, and it is a great pleasure for me, now and here, to record my thanks for her efforts to make something out of a dull boy, who appreciated her trials long after she had probably forgotten them.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

PELEG W. CHANDLER.

The Hon. WILLIAM WIDGERY.

Response by Hon. WILLIAM WIDGERY THOMAS, of Portland.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

As I sat here to-day and listened to the story of the men who were born here, these texts have occurred to me: "Walk about Zion and go round about her. Mark ye well her bulwarks. Consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following, and of Zion it shall be said *this* and that man were born in her." My mother, nearly a hundred years ago, was born on yonder hill, and I rejoice that I may claim for her so good a birth-place. You should rejoice that you may claim it as your heritage, and that your lines have fallen to you in such pleasant places. New Gloucester has much to be proud of, in the beauty of her scenery, her agricultural resources, and the industry and high moral character of her population. Much has been said about the pioneers of New Gloucester, their energy, their courage, their virtues and their hardships.

The name of WILLIAM WIDGERY, one of these pioneers, is the sentiment which has now been given.

WILLIAM WIDGERY was my grandfather; he came to New Gloucester before the Revolution. During the Revolutionary War he was a Lieutenant of a privateer commanded by NATHANIEL THOMPSON, in which capacity he displayed the same resolute courage that characterized his after life. He came here poor, with a limited education, but with persistency of character and the determination to succeed. New Gloucester honored him with many official positions, and he honored New Gloucester *in* these positions.

In 1787, he was chosen Representative from New Gloucester to the General Court of Massachusetts, and held the office by repeated elections for nine years. In 1788, he was elected delegate to the Convention of Massachusetts, which adopted the Constitution of the United States. In 1794, he was Senator from Cumberland County to the General Court of Massachusetts. In 1791, being a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, he procured a term of the Court of Common Pleas to be held in New Gloucester, in January of each year, which continued until 1805.

In 1810, after his removal to Portland, he was chosen Representative to the 12th Congress. New England, as is well known, was deadly opposed to the war of 1812, and Mr. WIDGERY was one of the few members of Congress from the New England States who cast his vote for that most righteous war. This vote, given from a deep conviction of duty and in direct opposition to Mr. WIDGERY's own interest, made him the object of popular indignation, which was visited upon him on his return to Portland, in the most insulting manner. At Boston he visited one of the insurance offices on State street, and crowds gathered about him, cursing him and reviling him for his vote. At Newburyport, a mob gathered about the old stage house where he passed the night, hooting and yelling, and calling on "Old WIDGERY" to show himself. Mr. WIDGERY stepped out on the platform of the tavern and demanded what they wanted; told them he was there to defend himself, and that the first man who laid a finger on him did it at the peril of his life. The residence of Mr. WIDGERY on Exchange street, in Portland, was surrounded night after night by a mob that made night hideous, with beating of drums, blowing of horns, yellings and imprecations. Mr. WIDGERY

was at last compelled to remove his family to a place of quiet and safety, but he stood at his post, occupied his house, and though the mob cursed and swore, no one dared to offer personal violence to the brave old man.

Some years since a gentleman then located at the West, in reviewing the course of Mr. WIDGERY in Congress, and his vote for the war with England in 1812, said, "In Congress WILLIAM WIDGERY was a moral hero, proving himself a man of more moral firmness and more unbending integrity and self-sacrificing patriotism, by taking on himself the unenviable position and dangerous responsibility of voting *against* the express will of his constituency for a hazardous and unequal war, with the larger part of his wealth (his shipping) *uninsured* on the ocean to come in and *rot* at the wharves, while his town property, but just recovering from the desolation of the embargo (worse for the infant seaport than a war), must again become unproductive and furnish but a precarious resource for his declining years, and then buffeting the storm of popular indignation which he did."

In my journeying I have met and conversed about Mr. WIDGERY with Messrs. TALIAFERO of Virginia, POINDEXTER of Mississippi, CASS of Michigan, and POPE of Kentucky, and many other men who were active participators in the scenes and "times that tried men's souls," and all with one accord bestow on his memory the meed of their unqualified admiration for his political Holocaust, on the altar of his country's honor.

Mr. WIDGERY practiced law many years in New Gloucester; in 1812 was appointed associate Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held until the Court was abolished in 1822. Mr. WIDGERY was a man of great

courage and firmness. He frequently commanded his own vessels. On one occasion, when off the coast of North Carolina, his ship was thrown on her beam ends. The crew, fearing the loss of the vessel and the loss of their lives, were determined to leave her, and launched the boat and put their dunnage into it, but before they could get in themselves Capt. WIDGERY cut the painter, set the boat adrift and said, "Now boys, there is no escape for us but on board this vessel; we will sink or swim together," and they brought their vessel into port. On one occasion, in command of one of his own vessels, by his superior sagacity and shrewdness, and by pleading his own cause before an English Admiralty Court, he saved her from the fangs of the British Orders in Council. On another occasion, at the time of the downfall of the great NAPOLEON, Capt. WIDGERY was in a port of France, in command of a swift vessel. There he was sought out by Marshal NEY, then fleeing for his life from the allies, who besought the Captain to take him on board and carry him to America. Capt. WIDGERY, however, had already chartered his ship, and was compelled to stand by his charter party, which rendered it impossible to receive the Marshal on board.

Judge WIDGERY was a man of commanding and fine personal appearance, six feet or more in height, well proportioned, with a countenance expressive of dignity and intelligence. "Few men have seen more of this great world than Judge WIDGERY, or figured in a greater variety of scenes." He died in 1822, at the age of 69.

*Mr. President*, I am happy that I am a descendant of one of the pioneers of New Gloucester; happy to join in this Centennial Celebration; and may the places of these pioneers, whose deeds of self-denial and usefulness we have not



forgotten this day to recount, be filled by those who shall emulate their noble example.

The following letter from the Hon. SAMUEL C. FESSENDEN, of Stamford, Conn., a native of New Gloucester, was then read :

STAMFORD, CONN., 4th Sept., 1874.

*Committee of Arrangements for the Centennial Anniversary of  
New Gloucester, Me.*

GENTLEMEN :

It was my intention to be present and participate in the interesting exercises of the occasion, but the unexpected arrival of a friend from the other continent, who can remain with me for a few days only, will not admit of my leaving home just now.

This is my reason for a disappointment which, however great it may be to my friends whom I hoped to meet, is more regretted by me than it can be by them.

As expressive of my feelings (and therefore you may regard it as my personal greeting to the assemblage of the day), this is what I would say, and to its truthfulness all will attest.

THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF NEW GLOUCESTER: They have been true to the principles of their fathers who gave to the town during the first half century of its existence, an influence for good in State, and church, not second to that of any other town in the State, and the power of which has been, and will be felt at home and abroad in succeeding years; it is with just pride that their memory is cherished by their descendants.

I am yours respectfully,

SAM'L C. FESSENDEN.

## THE PAST AND PRESENT.

Response by Hon. GEORGE W. WOODMAN, of Portland.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

It is a pleasure to me to be here to-day, and to participate in this Centennial Celebration of my native town. It brings fresh to my mind many incidents of the past, and affords me an opportunity to interchange sentiments with many early and true friends. I hardly know what I can say to interest you, and the friends present, after having listened to the elaborate historical address from the Orator of the day. He seems to have covered about all of the ground.

But, sir, as you have seen fit to call upon me, I feel to respond with a few remarks, such as may flow into my mind. We have met here to-day to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of this good old town. When we look forward one hundred years, it seems to be a long time ; but when we look back and survey the past, it seems as it were but a day.

Sir, in reviewing the past, we notice the great changes that are constantly taking place around us, and with what rapidity we are making history. The progress and improvements we are making as a people, in the arts and sciences, in every direction, not only in the cultivation of the soil, in the breeding of animals, but in the culture of the human mind itself. Culture—yes, culture ; that's the word. When we speak of cultivating the human mind, that we may grow wiser and better,—of rearing our children and moulding them into manhood and womanhood, when we point in this

direction there is no end to its influence ; it encircles the world.

Sir, what a contrast there is in the picture that is presented here to-day, with that presented here one hundred years ago. Then all around us was a vast wilderness, with a sparse population, only here and there a settler, surrounded by the Indians, with the old block house on this very spot, as a place of refuge for our early settlers.

To-day, *Mr. President*, we have before us this large audience, these fair ladies and true men, the very type of civilization and progress, these beautiful hills and valleys around us, a panorama of nature that the artist cannot paint. Our Orator told us that the early settlers suffered very much from the Indians. It was either real or imaginary. I have sometimes thought that imaginary or borrowed trouble was really as hard to bear as the real thing itself. I have no doubt but that much of the suffering by our people in those days caused by the Indians, was through fear, and if you will allow me, I will refer to an incident that took place in those days, in proof of my position in this matter. It may be new to some of you, but probably not to all.

There were two gentlemen traveling together on the low lands near the river, between here and where my father lived, Mr. JABEZ TRUE and Mr. EBENEZER LANE. Mr. TRUE was sure that he heard the Indians approaching them. He said to Mr. LANE that he could hear them say "Mr. JABEZ TRUE, *I am as big a man as you—you—you.*" Then Mr. LANE was sure that he could hear them say "Mr. EBENEZER LANE, *I will stab you with my tomahawk and club you with my cane—cane—cane.*" Now these gentlemen were sure that they heard the Indians, but it turned out to be nothing more than *Bull Frogs* in the river. And my idea is,

that much of the trouble that comes to us in this life is imaginary, and when sifted, will turn out to be nothing more than *Bull Frogs*, as in this case.

Sir, our early settlers labored under great disadvantages as compared with the present time. Everything then was in a crude state. Their farming utensils were of a low order—the old stub scythe, sickle, flail, spinning wheel and the hand loom. Sometimes they went to mill on horse back, with a bushel of corn in one end of the bag and a stone in the other end to balance the grist. The stride in progress shows us to-day the mowing machine, the horse rake, the pitching machine, the reaper and the threshing machine. We go to mill with the iron horse, and we have factories of every description, with their thousands and tens of thousands of spindles and looms propelled by water and steam, all over the country.

Sir, perhaps New Gloucester has not made so much progress in certain directions as some other towns. In manufacturing, for instance, she has not been so well situated, but for agriculture and horticulture, if rightly managed, she is one of the best. She can grow anything you have a mind to ask of her, and you will pardon me, Mr. President, if I say she has grown men and women, and some of the best judicial and mercantile brains in the State. And when I refer to her as an agricultural town, *Mr. President*, you must remember that agriculture lies at the very foundation of all our prosperity in this country. It gives the lights and shades to the picture; strike it out and your likeness is gone. And, Sir, as soon as this is fairly understood, it will make no difference as to what a man's business is, what his ability or his proficiencies, for he will be proud to say that he is a producer—that he is an agriculturalist, either directly or

indirectly ; and then, Sir, those engaged in the business will have attained their true position, and great progress will be made, and their influence will be felt throughout the land.

*Mr. President*, I have referred to culture, and if you will allow me, I will give you simply one illustration in order to show what can be done in that direction. It may strike some of you as a new idea,—as rather novel. Suppose we take two infants of equal capacity by birth, one from one of the best families in New England, and the other from one of the best families in Ireland, and we will suppose these two babes to be exchanged in their infancy ; the Irish child to be brought up under the influence and culture of the New England family, while the American child is brought up under the influence and culture of the Irish family ; and at twenty-one years of age, you will find that the Irish boy will speak our language as well as any of us, no one suspecting him of being an Irishman, while the New England boy will speak the Irish language with the brogue, and will pass for an Irishman. Sir, why is this ? I will leave it for the audience to decide.

Sir, not many years since, there was but one stage-coach per week running between the city of Portland and the city of Boston, and when a party came forward and contracted to run two coaches a week between the two cities, he was considered a fool by some, for the undertaking, as it seemed to be impracticable at that time. We now have two railroads through from city to city, with ten passenger trains a day each way, making twenty trains daily, besides two lines of steamers.

Again, look at the mode of correspondence. It is comparatively but a few years since the business men of our city would correspond with the merchants of New York

and other cities, and would not get a reply, perhaps, for four or five weeks. We now speak from city to city, from State to State and from nation to nation through the magnetic telegraph, that wonder of the age, which, with its electric fire, is made to speak the very thoughts of men, and with its iron bands stretched from continent to continent, binding them together, as it were, and blending them into one.

It was supposed by many that when the Atlantic cable was first laid, it would not be a success—that it would soon be chafed off by the rocks below, or something else would happen to it, and then it would be next to impossible to repair it, and of course it would be a failure. But, Sir, what do the scientific men, the electricians of to-day, tell us about this matter? They tell us that if the cable breaks or anything happens to it, that they can measure the distance to it from either shore and tell us just what the fault is, whether it is one hundred miles, one thousand miles or ten thousand miles at sea; that it makes no difference; that they are sure to find it. To an unscientific mind it would seem impossible that such a fact as this could be accomplished. Yet, to the one who knows, it is perfectly feasible and can be done. This to me is more wonderful than the telegraph itself, and from whatever standpoint we look, we see this same onward movement, this same spirit of progress.

*Mr. President*, in conclusion let me say, I hope and trust that New Gloucester will continue to progress and improve, and in each returning anniversary of her birth, she will be found on her true position, that her people will not only cultivate the soil, but the mind; not only produce the cereals and the like, but continue to grow men and women that will honor her as heretofore. An able writer once used these words, "We out-grow our homes." This

may be true in a certain sense, but, Sir, this town has many attachments that bind me to her, that have long since been photographed upon the tablet of the mind, and will continue as long as memory shall last.

Sir, this was the home of my grand-parents on both sides, the birthplace of my Father and Mother, also the Father of Mrs. Woodman. It was here that I spent twenty-three years of my early life, and many of them were some of my happiest years. I have many times thought that I should like to return and spend the rest of my days here; and whenever I visit the town, I am always reminded of these words, "*Home, sweet home, there is no place like home.*"

The following letter from the Hon. THEOPHILUS P. CHANDLER, of Brookline, Mass., was read.

BROOKLINE, Mass., Sept. 3, 1874.

JOSEPH CROSS, Esq.

*My Dear Sir:*—The circular invitation to your Centennial Celebration came duly to hand, and I regret my inability to be present.

I was born in New Gloucester, in 1807, and lived there just twenty years.

In all my travels I have seen few towns more beautiful, or more healthful, and have met with no people of a higher moral tone. But few of my old associates are left, and to them give my cordial regards.

Truly yours,

T. P. CHANDLER.

OUR VENERABLE FATHERS. May their latter days be as peaceful and happy as their earlier were industrious and useful.

Response by OSGOOD BRADBURY, ESQ., of Portland, a former citizen of New Gloucester.

*Men and Women of the past and present generation :*

Strange as it may seem to the young men and maidens present on this interesting occasion, I do not feel as if I had lived in this breathing world more than three-quarters of the time since this good old town was incorporated one hundred years ago, and yet the town records show the stubborn fact. I take it for granted that the younger portion of this audience look upon me as an *old man*, but while watching the progress of events, hearing the hard breathing of the iron horse, the rumbling of the cars, the tell-tale ticking of the telegraph, and forgetting the numerous milestones which I have passed on my journey of life, I feel as if I had just commenced to live.

While standing here under this spacious tent, and on ground ever to be remembered, where our forefathers assembled in the *Blockhouse* so well described by the Orator of the day, and calling up in memory the *Old Church* that once stood on the hallowed spot where the new one now stands, erected by the zeal and enterprise of our Fathers; and especially while remembering the high old-fashioned pulpit and the jolly good old fat parson that stood in it, with the sounding-board over his head, and the big bible before him on the cushion which our good grandmothers had made to adorn the sacred desk and make the good book rest easy; and while I so well remember closing his eyes on the night of his death, assisted by Deacon MARSH, who dug



so many graves in yonder cemetery, and conducted so many funerals of those near and dear to us all; and again, while looking over this audience, and seeing countenances familiar to me many, many years ago, thinking of the hundreds of men, women and children who were wont to listen in the *Old Church* to the venerable FOXCROFT and the good-natured MOSELY, but whose bodies now rest in yonder city of the dead, I feel—I know—that those who call me an old man are not far out of the way.

*Once more:* when I look at the dresses now worn by daughters and their mothers too, even in this audience, and compare the furbelows, flounces, plaits and endless trimmings, almost all of foreign manufacture, with the plain gowns of the past generation, spun and woven by the wearers themselves, dressed in the old fulling mill on Royal's River and dyed a London smoke or brown, I am forcibly impressed with the belief that I have lived long enough to witness many and foolish changes in the fashionable world. Yes, I must be quite old in spite of all my youthful emotions. What chambers now resound with the music of the old spinning wheel which were wont to be turned by fair hands? Ah! well do I remember such "*chamber music*" made by the fair daughters, and the buzz of the linen wheel turned by the feet of their good mothers; and how industriously the girls would spin and weave to get the cloth early to the fulling mill, so they might have new dresses to wear to school, and how neat and tidy they looked in their home-made London browns; no flounces or furbelows disfigured their well pressed and shining surface, and no false bundles upon their backs to destroy the symmetry of their forms. *Such* dresses proved the truth of the saying that "Beauty unadorned is adorned the most," and so it is and always

will be. Nature does her work perfectly, and the less we try to improve it the better for us. All the dress-makers in Paris, Berlin or the world can't improve a beautiful form, but they have the power and skill to make it look ugly, and that is now done with a high hand. We live in an extravagant age, and how long foolish and hurtful fashions will continue to disfigure the form and try the depths of the parental purse is a problem not yet solved.

Let me allude to the temperance cause which has taken fast hold upon the inhabitants of this ancient and honorable town; it was not so in years gone by. I can well remember when I was a boy in a store at the Upper Village, and saw how the master of the establishment prepared the New England rum before it was dealt out to customers at fifty cents per gallon, or three cents per glass. After a cart would be driven to the store laden with iron bound white oak hogsheads of the liquid fire, they were rolled in, but before they were tapped the master would appear with a small proof glass with a string tied round its neck. Down he would plunge it through the bung-hole into the choice beverage, draw it up, shake it, examine the *bead* closely, and then say, "Osgood, this will bear more water." My duty was to go to the pump and bring in the water, which was mingled with the rum and reduced it to a certain proof ascertained by another plunge of the glass and another look at the bead. These hogsheads of rum were invariably thus treated before they were placed on tap. When I look back upon those days I am astonished at the amount of intoxicating liquor which was then sold in this single store, by the gallon and the glass, and yet the Anti-Maine Law people say there is as much rum drank now as ever. It is not so

by a long shot; where there is one gallon drank now there were hogsheads drank then. In the haying season oceans of it were guzzled down, no buildings could be raised without it, and alas! at funerals decanters and tumblers were placed upon tables in the room adjoining that in which the mourners sat; all who wished to imbibe helped themselves; a majority were thus inclined, and the decanters run low before all left the house of mourning. Oh! sorrowful days! How many bright, active, enterprising men of this town yielded up their lives to this fell destroyer, and yet funerals were not conducted without the presence and use of this liquid damnation. O! how few in those sad days clearly saw the untold miseries of intemperance! and how could they when their opinions took their hues from their stomachs. I was once riding with a son of a physician in this State—he then resided in Taunton, Mass. He was a talkative young man, and introduced the subject of temperance; he remarked that it was a good and glorious cause, but thought the people of Taunton were driving it a *little too hard*. I told him I anticipated his opinion as soon as he broached the subject. “How so,” he inquired, expressing some surprise at my intuitive knowledge. “*Because I smelt your breath,*” I replied very deliberately. He dropped the subject. So it is the world over; our stomachs *do* influence our opinions, and hence we must be careful what we eat and drink.

I will close with a few lines from a poet:

“O loving friend! if, when ’tis life’s summer,  
Earth’s griefs have made you old,  
Look where past years, forever in safe-keeping  
Their garnered harvests hold.

For, if one sweet word has been remembered  
Through long, slow years of pain,  
The saddest soul can never say in sorrow  
That it has lived in vain."

THE CLERGY. We acknowledge their efforts for the advancement of moral, religious and intellectual culture.

Response by Rev. JOHN F. MORGAN, of Kansas, a native of New Gloucester :

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen and Fellow Citizens :*

Among the primary objects, and I may say one of the leading objects, held in view by all these early settlers of the towns of New England, was that they might worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. Sometimes we of the present generation are led to criticize somewhat the austere manner of our Puritan Fathers, but I stand here to-day, however, to offer no apology for the seeming austere spirit that was manifested in the early days of my native town, in reference to the diffusion of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I look back with joy and gratitude to-day and remember the influences as far back as my memory goes, that the gospel has had on me. It has been said repeatedly by eloquent speakers who have preceded me, that among the products of this town we have given to the world noble men and women. That is true ; and one of these influences, yes, the most potent influence of all that has tended to produce these noble men and women, has been the influence of the gospel.

As I have been sitting here and listening to these varied exercises, and the remarks that have been made before me,

I thought how much we have to be thankful for, and how much reason we have to give thanks to God for his great goodness to us. I think that is the main and primary influence which has given us the blessings and enjoyments which we have here to-day. A short time since, I returned from my place of labor in Kansas, and since that time I have been at my Father's house talking over the scenes and incidents of the past. My Father has told me of things that transpired in my native town in connection with the gospel influences, and I have been more interested than ever before, as he has told me how, Sabbath after Sabbath, they were gathered together in the sanctuary of God without any fire to keep them warm save the warming influence of Jesus Christ, and of their hearts.

We have heard how those who came here to engage in the settlement of this town provided for the sustaining of the ministry. I thank God to-day, and I think we all have reason to thank God, that they thought so much at that early day of preaching God's word. I sometimes feel they were too severe; and we have heard time and time again that they chose forty tything-men, in order that they might make men, women and children sit straight during the Sabbath, without a smile on their faces. They were so determined that every child, every man and every woman, should be impressed with the influences of the gospel, that they used, perhaps, rather rash means, and rather severe methods; but I cannot help thanking God that we have been raised up under those same stern and austere influences.

I have been among those in the South and West who were raised under different influences, and when I have seen their recklessness, how little care or thought they had for the keeping of the Sabbath Day, or how little care they

had for promoting moral reform, I have been glad that I had a Christian Father and a Christian Mother to implant these principles in my breast in early childhood, who gave me the opportunity to sit, Sabbath after Sabbath, under the preaching of the Holy Word of God.

In this town we have been favored for the last century with a ministry whose names I need not repeat, who have esteemed it a joy and a privilege to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people.

Sometimes it is said that this town and other towns are diminishing in numbers, and perhaps it causes some to be discouraged when they are forsaken by the children and youth. Let me say to those Fathers and Mothers to-day, the influence of those who have taught the gospel is being felt not only here among these rugged hills of New England, but even to the Pacific coast. We find these principles are being carried by the young men, by the women and by those who have adopted as their profession the ministry of the gospel, as far as this country extends—yea, beyond the sea this influence has gone, and is to-day a permeating influence in all the institutions of this country, which are for the reformation and amelioration of the humankind. I don't stand here to-day to offer any apology for the stern manner in which our ancestors have trained us. I thank God for it. I feel there is a danger, in adopting new methods and those which are more congenial, that we shall forsake the true spirit of the gospel.

Let me say in conclusion, that while we rejoice in the fact that we have made progress in adopting better methods for propagating the gospel, let us beware that we do not depart in so doing from the spirit and teachings of those who have gone before us. Let us beware that we do not

let down the standard of our piety too low, so that this reverence which we hold dear shall not be forgotten. Let us see to it, that we, in receiving and enjoying as we do, the inheritance our fathers so bountifully left us, hand down the same influence to our children and to the generation that shall be raised up after we have departed from the stage of action, so that they may rejoice and thank God that we worked and taught them the pure gospel of Christ.

THE FIRST TOWN MEETING.

Response by JABEZ H. WOODMAN, A. M., of New Gloucester, a friend and room mate in college of the late Hon. JOHN A. ANDREW, of Massachusetts.

In seventeen hundred seventy-four,  
 On the seventh of September,  
 Our ancestors in council met;  
 Their *votes* we well remember.

And first in order, SIMON NOYES  
 Was chosen Moderator;  
 Who knows but he presided well  
 As any legislator?

Capt. NATHANIEL EVELETH,  
 For Town Clerk was selected;  
 No better choice from all the town  
 Could sure have been expected.

For two and forty years he served,  
 Deserving special honor;  
 And *this* he *had* by vote of thanks,  
 Quite near New Glo'ster Corner.

Selectmen and Assessors now,  
 Squire SIMON NOYES is Chairman,  
 MOSES and SAMUEL MERRILL next,  
 And each no doubt a fair man.

Col. ISAAC PARSONS, *Treasurer*,  
 Was a man of a stern look, sir,  
 I've seen him once; I know 'tis so,  
 And have it not from book, sir.

For Town Collector, WOODMAN JOHN,  
 (A kind of *rara avis*)  
 Was pitched upon, but wouldn't accept;  
 So WHIPT IN ABEL DAVIS.

Next come the Wardens, who preserve  
 Silence profound on Sunday,  
 In that Big Church whose belfry high,  
 Made us quite dizzy *one* day.

JOSIAH SMITH and PELEG CHANDLER  
 Were Wardens then appointed,  
 To flourish poles on Sabbath Day,  
 And thus keep things well jointed.

Be it known to MERRILLS everywhere,  
 Whether they in earth or moon are:  
 New Glo'ster's tything-man the first  
 Was MOSES MERRILL, Junior.

Three Road Surveyors greet our vision;  
 And first is JACOB HASKELL;  
 Then WM. HARRIS, ABEL DAVIS,  
 But "nary one" a rascal.



## WILLIAM WIDGERY.

And who's the sealer of weights and measures?  
 'Tis Deacon DANIEL MERRILL,  
 Adjusting every scale in town,  
 And bushel, peck and barrel.

Does vane upon the steeple rod  
 Point out the wind and weather?  
 And didn't SAM'L PARSONS point  
 The way of *sealing leather*?

Sir ROBERT BAILEY, o'er the hill  
 'Bout two miles from the river,  
 Did serve, that year, most faithfully  
 A loyal, good *feld driver*.

JEREMIAH THOITS and PAYNE ELLWELL  
 Were "hog reeves" duly chosen;  
 They took the oath, and drove the swine,  
 I guess now, by the dozen!

The precious names here brought to view,  
 To History's page belonging,  
 Are mentioned with unfeigned respect,  
 With no intent of wronging.

Peace to their ashes—every one!  
 May their descendants flourish,  
 And children's children call them blest,  
 As long as earth shall nourish.

Mr. WOODMAN added:

I wish to speak a moment in relation to WILLIAM WIDGERY. Mr. THOMAS, of Portland, has given us a brief but interesting biographical sketch of his ancestor, and if I mistake not, his statements have been very *opportune*, unless

others have been more successful than myself in finding out the history of Mr. WIDGERY.

In looking over not long since some old town papers, my attention was specially directed to some beautiful specimens of Mr. WIDGERY's handwriting, resembling in some respects at least the bold signature of JOHN HANCOCK, and I was determined if possible to learn more respecting the man. I knew he had in several instances represented this town in the General Court of Massachusetts, but of his origin and history I knew but little. I immediately called upon our worthy fellow citizen, THOMAS JOHNSON, ESQ., who had been well acquainted with Mr. WIDGERY. Mr. JOHNSON said: "Mr. WIDGERY was a fine, noble man, but of his early history I have never been able to ascertain much. On one occasion, however, WIDGERY did say, 'The first thing he could recollect about himself was, that he was wheeling a wheel-barrow in the streets of Philadelphia!'"

The following letter from BENJ. H. CORLISS, ESQ., of Gloucester, Mass., was then read.

GLOUCESTER, MASS.,

September 7, 1874.

*To the Committee of Arrangements for the Centennial Celebration of New Gloucester, Maine.*

GENTLEMEN:

I thank you most heartily for your kind invitation to be present at the Centennial Anniversary of your town on the eighth instant.

It would have given me great pleasure to have been with you and participated in the services incident to the occasion, but a

recent severe family affliction will necessarily prevent my doing so.

The early settlers of New Gloucester, many of them, went from this vicinity, and in consequence there have always been strong ties of affiliation and friendship between the two places, possibly a little weakened by time, but which I fondly trust will be renewed and strengthened in the future.

A celebration of this kind is always productive of good results, inasmuch as it furnishes the opportunity to bring together families and friends, who in many cases have been widely separated, to renew and quicken old friendships, to review the past, and by an interchange of kindly sentiment and greeting, serve as an incentive to new purposes, and a more earnest desire to promote the interests of the town.

Such, I doubt not, will be the result of this re-union; and that the occasion may be a happy one, pleasant and full of interest and profitable enjoyment to all concerned, is my sincere wish. In closing permit me to offer as a sentiment:

NEW GLOUCESTER. May the favorable auspices under which it enters upon a new era in its history, be regarded as the guarantee of its future prosperity.

With the assurance of my personal regards,

I remain truly yours,

BENJ. H. CORLISS.

THE UNITED SOCIETY OF SHAKERS. May their numbers never be less.

Response by OTIS SAWYER, the presiding Elder of the Community:

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

Unfortunately we Shaker brethren are sometimes stigmatized, by those who know no better, as old bachelors and

hating the women. In the name of the whole community, I repel the charge. There may be some women that we do not love quite so well, but, without fear of shame, we declare that we do love our good Shaker sisters.

What we have to offer may sound very tame after listening to so much eloquence from learned gentlemen, who appear to have omitted only one item of interest pertaining to the history of the town, and that is in regard to the Shakers; and as it is a matter of astonishment to many people that a society, based upon such principles as underlie our institution, could exist so long—*ninety-two years*—in this town, and still be increasing in vigor, to such and to the historian a brief history of the origin of Shakers and progress of the Society may be of interest.

There are but two towns in the State of Maine that can claim the honor of having within their corporate limits a Society of that law-loving, law-abiding, peaceable Christian people called Shakers, this, the town of New Gloucester and the town of Alfred, in York County, and evidently a history of the past could not be complete without a special notice of this peculiar people.

FIRSTLY—ORIGIN OF SHAKERS.—It is well known that we acknowledge a woman to be the founder of what is called the Shaker Society. Ann Lee, of Manchester, England, born in February, 1736, who firstly became a disciple of James and Jane Wardly, Friends or Quakers, who belonged to the sect called the French Prophets, was early endowed with uncommonly deep religious feelings, and under their teachings became deeply inspired, and was blessed with many divine gifts, heavenly visions, revelations and prophecies, until they, James and Jane Wardley, her Elders and the Society to which she belonged, all acknowl-

edged that she had received greater light and gift of God than they possessed, and instinctively looked to her for counsel, and called her Mother; an endearing title which all her faithful followers repeat with pleasure.

Her testimony was so sharp, keen and powerful against the root of human depravity that it aroused the enmity of the wicked, and she and her few followers were bitterly persecuted for their faith and for the testimony which they bore. At one time they led her out into a valley and attempted to stone her to death; but as she declared she was shielded by the power of God and they were not able to injure her, exasperated by failure to accomplish their fiendish design, her persecutors fell into contentions among themselves and she escaped. At another time she was placed in the stone prison of Manchester, in a cell so small she could not straiten herself, and there kept fourteen days without food or drink, except once in twenty-four hours a lad by the name of James Whittaker would insert the stem of a pipe through the key-hole of the prison door, and pour a little wine and milk into the bowl of the pipe; in this way she obtained all the nourishment she received during that time. At the end of the fourteen days the prison door was opened with the hope and expectation of finding her dead, but to the surprise of all she walked off as smart and strong as on the day she was put into prison.

After that she received a revelation to come to America, and on the 19th of May, 1774, she and eight of her followers embarked in a vessel called the Maria, which had been condemned as unseaworthy. During the passage Mother Ann told the captain he should not know whereof to accuse them, except it were concerning the law of their God, especially in the manner of their worship, which did prove

offensive ; and when they went forth to praise God in songs and dances the captain was greatly enraged, and threatened to throw them overboard if they repeated the offense. But she, believing it better to obey God rather than man, again went forth in the same manner to worship Him. This so enraged the captain that he attempted to put his threats into execution. This was in the time of a storm and the ship sprang a leak. All hands were called to the pumps. Mother Ann herself and her companions took their turns. The storm was so violent and the leak so bad, that the captain turned pale as a corpse and told them there was no hope of safety, that the ship must go down and all on board perish ; but Mother Ann said "Nay captain, be of good cheer, not one hair of our heads shall perish ; we shall all land safe in America. I just saw two bright angels of God standing by the mast from whom I received this promise." Immediately a huge wave struck the ship, closing the plank into its place, which had started off, and which caused the leak ; the storm abated, and after that the captain said to Mother Ann, "To *you* we owe the safety of the ship and our lives ; henceforth worship God as you please, you shall not be molested," and ever after treated her with great kindness. And, as Mother Ann predicted, they did all land safely in New York, on the 6th day of August, 1774, just one hundred years ago. They soon settled in Niskayuna, now Watervliet, N. Y., seven miles westerly from the city of Albany, from whence their testimony went forth and many believed ; which is the origin of Shakers in America.

FIRST SHAKERS IN NEW GLOUCESTER.—In November, 1782, ELISHA POTE, NATHAN FREEMAN and JOSEPH STONE came from Gorham, Me., into what was then called Thompson Pond Plantation, and held meetings in the house of

GOWEN WILSON, SR., which was situated in the field just south of our large garden, on the west side of the road. They were all preachers and singers. ELISHA POTE took the lead in speaking, whose reasonings were clear and convincing, and his voice mild and persuasive. After preaching they sang and went forth in the dance with much power. After singing and laboring one song, they gave liberty for any one to unite with them who wished to, when DOROTHY POTE and MARY MERRILL were simultaneously inspired by the power of God, their bodies were mightily agitated and they turned swiftly round like tops for the space of one hour. They both received faith, and with many others, like the multitude who went with Jesus to John the Baptist confessing their sins, were baptized in Jordan (which signifies judgment), so they confessed their sins and were baptized in the spiritual Jordan, which we believe is coming to Judgment.

Among the heads of families who early embraced the faith in Christ's second appearing may be named GOWEN WILSON, NATHAN, JAMES, and EDMUND MERRILL, JOSIAH, SIMEON, and GERSHAM HOLMES, THOMAS POTE (Father of ELISHA POTE), SAMUEL POTE (ELISHA'S eldest brother), BARNABAS and EPHRAIM BRIGGS, and THOMAS CUSHMAN. These, with their wives and most of their children, besides many individuals, males and females of various ages, were organized into a Society under the leadership of Elder JOHN BARNES, from Alfred, whose associates were ROBERT McFARLAND, from Gorham, Me., Eldress SARAH KENDALL and LUCY PRESCOTT, from Harvard, Mass.; these composed the Ministry, and presided over the Society at Alfred as well as this.

Here is an interesting fact for the advocates of woman's

rights, which they suppose is a new thing in the earth, but which has been acknowledged by the United Society of Shakers, coeval with their existence, when woman, the representative of the Mother in Deity, is permitted to take her place in the order and government of the Church of Christ co-equal with man.

The Shaker Society in this town was organized on the 19th of April, 1794. The first Trustees appointed were NATHAN MERRILL and BARNABAS BRIGGS; they then commenced to build the present settlement. Two years prior to this time timber was cut and hauled to Poland Corner to be sawed. This they used in building the meeting house and central dwelling. The meeting house was raised the 14th day of June, 1794, patterning the old Dutch style then in vogue in New York. It was finished and ready for occupancy on Christmas Day of that year. The bricks for the two chimneys, of which they used ten thousand in each, were made near the foot of Sabbath Day Pond and were somewhat smaller in size than those made nowadays.

All the nails used in its construction were made by JOSEPH BRIGGS (son of EPHRAIM BRIGGS) and a young apprentice. The shingles that were put on it that year are on it now, but after eighty years' exposure and wear, some few of them decayed or were blown off, and this season the roof received a slight patching. The old central dwelling house, which sits opposite the meeting house, was built the next year, 1795.

The first grist mill in this section of the town was built by the combined labor of the brethren in 1786, on a little stream about forty rods east of our present stately mill, the foundation of which can now be seen. It was a little one-story building, 14 feet by 18, with one run of granite stones,



in which was ground wheat, rye, corn and all kinds of grain. Its propelling power was what was called an undershot or flutter wheel. The bolt was made of linen cloth, spun on the linen wheel, and woven by the expert hands of the old Shaker Sisters. It was not propelled by machinery, but any one carrying a grist to the mill who was so fastidious and delicate as to want bolted meal, could turn the bolt by hand and bolt his own grist. Bolting was no part of the miller's duty. At one end of the shaft a little wedge-shaped piece of wood was glued on to the bearing, and at every revolution of the bolt there would be a jolt as it dropped from the thick end of the wedge, which was designed to keep the meshes clear.

In 1796 the Society built a saw-mill on a stream that crossed, at the foot of the hill, the old road leading from Shaker Village to Upper Gloucester, which was well patronized by the people living in the surrounding neighborhood. The Shaker brethren opened and built the present traveled road leading from Shaker Village to Gray Corner. In 1808 and 1809 the Society built quite a large grist-mill, just a little south of where our present mill stands, in which were two runs of stones and a good bolt made of imported cloth. To this mill a great many farmers living in the back towns of Poland, Hebron, Paris, Norway, &c., would bring their grain, have it ground, and then take the meal to the Portland market. For a few years the mill did good business; through the fall and winter months it was kept running all through the day and many times through the night, there being a house near by where the teamsters could find lodging. In the same building were turning lathes, and in the attic were card machines for making woolen rolls. Nearly the whole machinery was made by the brethren, assisted by

old friend Mayall, of Gray; these were well patronized, as hitherto the most of the wool manufactured in this section was carded by hand. When our present mill was erected, in 1853, this machinery was removed from the old mill, clothed with new card cloth, and has been in constant use ever since. Although it was said to be the second or third set of machine cards put in operation in this State, yet under the skillful hands of our present carder, Bro. JOSIAH NOYES, the old ladies who spin the rolls give his the preference over all others.

The members of the Society were many of them poor, and their combined acres formed at first but a small farm for so many, but by industry and prudence, additions have been made from time to time, until the real estate of the Society at large comprises some eighteen hundred acres, more than one thousand of which lies in the town of New Gloucester.

Attention was early given to gardening and the raising of garden seeds, and the Shakers in New Gloucester were the first in this State to prepare garden seeds in small paper bags, and pack in boxes for the market, which was done under the supervision of JAMES HOLMES, eldest son of JOSIAH HOLMES. The Society early commenced to manufacture wooden ware, tubs, pails, churns, dry measures, oval boxes in nests, hair sieves, linen and woolen wheels.

The Sisterhood would purchase cotton in Portland, wash and card it by hand, spin and weave it, not only for home use, but to make sheeting, shirting, bed-ticking and checked blue and white for aprons, for Portland market. After machinery was introduced into New England to manufacture cotton yarn, the merchants of Portland would furnish yarn, and the Sisters would weave many hundred yards

yearly, for which they received a certain percentage. Twenty cents per yard for weaving and whitening No. 20, thirty cents per yard for No. 30, and so on, more or less, according to the number of yarn. One of the old merchants, EDWARD HOWE, still lives (now over 90 years of age), for whom they manufactured cloth, to be retailed out to the ladies of Portland.

It may be interesting to the young ladies of our day who spend much time playing on the piano, to learn that the young ladies of that day would weave on a hand loom from ten to eighteen yards of plain coarse sheeting in a day, and smart hands would weave ten yards of firm bed-ticking in a day.

To show that the Shaker life and habits are productive of longevity, we look over the records and find there have been one hundred and five deaths in the Church Family, at the average age of fifty-eight years and a half, dating back to the year 1787.

It has been said, "To test a man's conscience touch his purse." As a proof of the Shakers' anti-war spirit and unselfishness as a people, we note the fact, that at the commencement of the late civil war many reasons were presented the War Department at Washington, why Shakers should be exempt from bearing arms or performing military duty, and after setting forth many vital conscientious reasons the following fact was shown, that had the members of the United Society been permitted to draw pensions for military services to which they were legally entitled, the Society at New Gloucester alone would have received from the United States Government in pensions, to say nothing of bounty land, which, had it been put at six per cent. compound interest, would have made the snug little sum of \$89,572.66, that

was refused for conscience sake, and this kind of reasoning was appreciated.

In conclusion we offer this apology to those who ate of the Shakers' baked beans to-day, and were disappointed in not finding death in the pot in the shape of pork: that in the year 1848, the Shakers, from purely physiological reasons, discarded the use of pork and pork fat as an article of diet, and no good Shaker, any more than a good Jew, will make use of it as such, not even in that good old Puritan dish, baked beans.

THE LADIES OF NEW GLOUCESTER. Known by their works.

Response by the Band.

THE SOLDIERS OF THE LATE REBELLION.

Response by AUGUSTUS P. MARTIN, of Boston.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I am very glad to have the opportunity of being present upon this interesting occasion and of joining with you in the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of this town; and while I cannot claim to be a citizen of New Gloucester, nor can I claim it as my birth-place, yet my childhood and early boyhood was passed in this town, and my first and earliest recollections are associated with "Bald Hill." Its yonder height looms up in the distance and must be familiar to every one here to-day. It was there that I first heard a mother's prayer. It was there that I first knew what it was to exist. It was there that I first learned as a child to appreciate the companionship of my young friends and playmates. My mind and my heart

often reach out to the scenes of those days when I had no responsibility but that of pleasure.

I cannot claim New Gloucester as my birth-place, but I have always called it my native town, for I never knew any other place of nativity except by record and tradition, and I never intend to cease claiming it as my native town so long as you do not object to my so doing ; besides, my father and mother were both of them born and raised here, and the family name on either side is familiar to the ear of every resident of this place, and has been as far back as any one here can recollect ; names that have always stood among the foremost on the roll of citizens of the town for nearly, if not fully one hundred years.

As we go journeying through life, our minds often reflect upon the past and take a retrospect of our lives and deeds. These make a perfect chain with innumerable links, one end of which is firmly fixed at the point or place where we first comprehended our being, and stretches out day by day, link upon link, and is not complete until our earthly career is ended. And as we wander along through the rough and rugged paths of life, our thoughts often run back with more than lightning rapidity over this chain to our early childhood, and there we seek and enjoy the pleasant recollections of days when we were not burdened with care, and our minds scarcely knew anything beyond the endearments surrounding the home of our youth. Such a place is "Bald Hill" to me. Hence I feel it is proper and fitting that I should be present here to-day and join in this Centennial Celebration.

While it was many years ago that I took up my residence in a distant city, there has not been a year that I have not made a pilgrimage to these hills and valleys, to the scenes of my childhood, and have kept informed of the changes that

were constantly going on among you. I have been familiar enough with the history of this town and its people for more than a quarter of a century to know, that as private citizens you have sustained the precepts and examples of former generations, and whenever you have been called upon to go out from your homes to defend the flag under which we live, your citizens have responded with alacrity.

It was my privilege to serve in the late rebellion side by side with the troops from this State and Town, and I can bear testimony to the noble and heroic manner in which your volunteers discharged their duty. They were always brave, always reliable, always persevering, always loyal and always successful. Wherever they were put, or whatever duty they were called upon to perform, they always acquitted themselves honorably. No troops fought better for the cause of the Union, or deserve higher praise than the soldiers from Maine. I could relate to you many instances to which I was an eye witness, of the personal courage of many individuals from your State, and of the valor of many of your battalions in defence of the national life and character; but it must be sufficient on this occasion for me to say from personal experience, what you already know by the record, that the reputation of the Maine soldiers, in every emergency, came out of the fiery ordeal untarnished, and I am sure that their heroism in the past will constitute an influence hereafter in the hour of danger, which will be a power in itself, and must serve to make this country enduring and powerful as a united and independent people.

The brief hour allotted to us here may not be without its fitting lessons of profit, that shall gladden our lives with its treasured sweets, in strengthening and enlarging those golden cords of sympathy that are found in friendship's

shining circle, and more firmly bind us together as citizens, friends and brothers.

Whose heart does not stir with quicker pulsations for being present here to-day? The history that has been pronounced upon this occasion by the gentleman who has filled the position of Orator and Historian, will be cherished by every citizen of this town who shall come after us, to the latest day of their lives. He has given us cherishing words, full of hope, full of generous memories, full of proud aspirations, to which, in the providence of God, we can turn our eyes and thoughts to-day with pleasure and satisfaction.

Sir, I rejoice that I am here to-day, and I wish to say, Honor to the families of this town! honor to those stern and gallant men who have upheld it through every vicissitude of fortune! honor to you for what you are doing here to-day, for the transmission of this history, as I hope, for hundreds of years to come!

ALFRED HASKELL, ESQ., of Portland, a native of New Gloucester, being called upon, said:

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I have been looking forward to this day with unusual interest, anticipating a very happy re-union, and I can most truly say, that my anticipations have been fully realized.

I have been living over again the happy days of my childhood, going back to the period when many of us were children together, some of us attending the same school, sliding down the same hill, playing upon the same lawn, and, if I mistake not, sometimes brought under the discipline of the same rod, which was so faithfully and so *feelingly* applied to our young shoulders by our good and faithful

teachers. How very fresh in my memory are the services of our first teacher, who, when our little limbs became so fatigued with sitting upon those old hard benches, and our little eyes became so dull and heavy that they would scarcely turn in their sockets, made up her little cots and put her younger pupils to bed. God bless her! I shall ever remember her with grateful recollections, not only for her offices of kindness, but also for her discipline. Aye, I shall ever remember her, for she "first taught my young idea how to shoot." It affords me much pleasure to know that she is still living, and I presume is present to-day. If not present herself, she has her representatives here, one of whom is the Orator of the day.

Since those days many of us have been traveling very different roads, and some of us have met now for the first time, and I can assure you all, it affords me much pleasure that I have the privilege of meeting you once more on this old familiar ground. It is very true that during our absence our faces have grown older, our heads have grown whiter, but I hope our hearts have grown warmer than when we first left. Yet, amid our kind greetings and hearty hand shakings, as we look around upon many old hearth-stones, our hearts are made sad with beholding so many vacant chairs.

I love to visit these scenes of my childhood; I love to look at the place where the old school house stood, and to think over the many scenes I have seen enacted within its walls. I love to stand in the road, and look down the hill where I have spent so many happy hours in coasting, sometimes with the boys and sometimes with the girls. I love to look over the fields where my father, my grandfather and my great grandfather lived and labored before me. If there is



any spot in this town I love to visit more than any other, it is the old cemetery, where I can read the inscriptions upon the tombstones, and hold sweet spiritual communion with many loved ones who have passed over the river before us. I love to think of the old men and the old ladies also. I mean those who were old when I was young.

I can very well remember the man who had the first carriage ever owned in this town. It was a two-wheeled horse-cart, and the owner was in the habit of letting it to his neighbors at one dollar a trip to carry their produce to market. I refer to Mr. JOHN HASKELL.

I very well remember ISAAC PARSONS, ESQ., a gentleman of culture and influence, very precise, very correct and very honest. He was the owner of the first chaise and the first pair of calf-skin boots ever owned in this town. I remember the chaise, but not the boots. I very well recollect a clause in the old gentleman's will, requesting his successors never to drive upon the intervale with iron-bound wheels, and always to shut the intervale bars after them. How little did 'Squire PARSONS think his intervale would be crossed by two iron-band roads, traversed by fiery steeds, at the rate of twenty and thirty miles an hour; but time has brought it all about.

There was an old gentleman who lived in a house which sat upon the spot where Captain CUTTER's house now stands. He went by the not very classical name of old "Fuddyduddy." His business was repairing carriages. Some of the mischievous boys painted a sign and placed it upon the stone wall, saying, "Wagons and sleighs repaired in the next barn by old Fuddyduddy."

There was another old gentleman whom I do not remember, for he lived before my day; but I have heard those older than myself speak of him, and relate a little incident

in which he took a prominent part. His name was BILDAD ARNOLD; he lived near the foot of the hill, on that level, sandy farm a little west of Cobb's Bridge; he was in the habit of calling his hogs by pounding on the house. Mr. LORING, the field driver, came along one day and finding Mr. ARNOLD's hogs in the road undertook to drive them to pound. Mr. ARNOLD sat very quietly in his house, watching the movements of the field driver until he had driven the hogs well up the hill towards the corner, when he pounded upon the house, and back came the hogs with the field driver after them. He succeeded in driving them up the hill a second time. Mr. ARNOLD pounded again upon the house, when back came the hogs with the field driver somewhat excited at their heels. Mr. LORING was a persevering man, and with a firm determination if not a little temper he started the hogs for a third time, fully resolved not to be conquered. After much laboring, fuming and sweating, he succeeded in driving them up the hill once more, when rap, rap, rap, went the blows and back rushed the hogs as if ten legions of devils had entered into them. As Mr. LORING\* stood gazing upon the scene, I imagine if any one had been near enough, he might have been heard soliloquizing something like this: "I find from experience, that driving hogs to pound is most decidedly an up hill business. Standing as I do here, in full view of the situation, I begin to comprehend the difficulty, and, under the circumstances, I think I had better retire." Suiting the action to the word, I presume he turned upon his heel and walked rapidly home, his mind somewhat exercised with

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\* This was BEZALEEL LORING, who lived on the OBEDIAH WHITMAN place, a Constable and Deputy Sheriff; the man who hung Drew, and thereby acquired the name of "HANGMAN LORING."

the obstinacy of hogs in general, and BILDAD ARNOLD'S hogs in particular.

Late in the afternoon the entire assemblage rose and sang the

## DOXOLOGY.

From all who dwell below the skies,  
Let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
Through every land, by every tongue.

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
Eternal truth attends Thy word;  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Thus ended one of the most enjoyable days the Town of New Gloucester ever witnessed, "remindful of the past and auspicious of the future."



## APPENDIX.

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### AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

New Gloucester, although a remote inland town, took a decided stand in the Revolutionary War, as appears by the following votes, etc.

1774, September 24. Col. WILLIAM ALLEN, Capt. WILLIAM HARRIS and Capt. ISAAC PARSONS were chosen a committee to attend a County Convention at Falmouth, to consider what measures were expedient to adopt for the general interest of the County in the then alarming situation of public affairs.

The following is a copy of the record of that Convention.

At a meeting of the following gentlemen chosen by the several towns in the County of Cumberland, held at the house of Mr. GREELEY, innholder in Falmouth, in said County, the 20th day of September, 1776, the Honourable ENOCH FREEMAN, Esq., being chosen Chairman, and Mr. SAM'L FREEMAN, Clerk, viz: from—

*Falmouth*—The Honourable Enoch Freeman, Esq., Stephen Longfellow, Esq., Mr. Enoch Ilsley, Mr. Richard Codman, Capt. John Waite, Mr. Samuel Freeman.

*North Yarmouth*—David Mitchell, Esq., Mr. John Lewis, Mr. Jonathan Mitchell, Mr. John Gray, Mr. William Cutter.

*Scarborough*—Capt. Timothy M. Daniel, Capt. Reuben Fogg, Mr. Joshua Fabyan.

*Gorham*—Solomon Lombard, Esq., William Gorham, Esq., Capt. Edmund Phinney, Capt. Bryant Morton, Mr. Jona Davis.

*Cape Elizabeth*—Dr. Clement Jordan, Mr. Peter Woodbury, Mr. Sam'l Dunn  
Mr. George Strout, Dr. Nathaniel Jones, Capt. Judah Dyer.

*Brunswick*—Mr. Samuel Standwood, Mr. Samuel Tompson, Captain Thomas  
Moulton.

*Harpswell*—Mr. Joseph Ewings, Capt. John Stover, Mr. Andrew Dunning.

*Windham*—Mr. Zorobable Honywell, Mr. Thomas Trott, Mr. David Barker.

*New Gloucester*—Mr. William Harris, Mr. Isaac Parsons.

A committee from the body of people who were assembled at the entrance of the town, waited on this Convention, to see if they would choose a committee of one member out of each town to join them, to waite on Mr. Sheriff TYNG, to see whether he would act in his office under the late act of Parliament for regulating the Government.

On a motion made,

*Voted*, That a messenger be sent to Mr. TYNG to desire his attendance at this Convention. Mr. Dow, who was desired to attend on this Convention, then waited on Mr. TYNG with the following billet, viz :

Mr. Sheriff TYNG's company is desired at the Convention now sitting at Mr. GREELEY'S.

SAMUEL FREEMAN, *Clerk*.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 21, 1774, eleven o'clock A. M.

Mr. TYNG accordingly attended, and after some interrogations, subscribed the following declaration :

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

FALMOUTH, Sept. 21, 1774.

Whereas, great numbers of the inhabitants of this County are now assembled near my house, in consequence of the false representations of some evil minded persons, who have reported that I have endeavored all in my power to inforce the late acts of Parliament relating to this Province, I do hereby solemnly declare that I have not any way whatever, acted or endeavored to act in conformity to said acts of Parliament, and in compliance with the commands of the inhabitants so assembled, and by the advice of a committee from the several towns in this County, now assembled in Congress, I further declare I will not, as Sheriff of said County or otherwise, act in conformity to, or by virtue of said acts, unless by the general consent of the said County. I further declare I have not received any commission inconsistent with the charter of this Province, nor any commission whatever since the first day of July last.

WM. TYNG, *County Sheriff*.

## COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

At the Convention of Committees from the several towns in the said County, held at the house of Mr. GREENLY, in Falmouth in said County, Sept. 24, 1774,

*Voted.* That the foregoing, by WILLIAM TYNG, Esq., subscribed, is satisfactory to this convention.

Attest,

SAMUEL FREEMAN, *Clerk.*

The Convention then formed themselves into a committee to accompany Mr. TYNG to the body of people to present the above declaration, and adjourned to the old Town House at 8 o'clock P. M., the deliberations there to be in public.

The committee accordingly went with Mr. TYNG, who read the declaration to the people, which they voted to be satisfactory, and after refreshing themselves returned peaceably to their respective homes.

P. M., 8 o'clock, met according to adjournment.

*Voted.* That Mr. SAMUEL FREEMAN, SOLOMON LOMBARD, Esq., DAVID MITCHELL, Esq., Mr. JOHN LEWIS, Capt. JOHN WAITE, Mr. SAMUEL TOMPSON, Capt. TIMOTHY M. DANIEL, Doctor NAT'L JONES, Mr. ISAAC PARSONS, ENOCH FREEMAN, Esq., Mr. DAVID BARKER and Capt. JOHN STOVER, be a committee to draw up the sentiments of this convention, and report the same at the adjournment.

Then adjourned to Thursday morning, 8 o'clock.

September 22. Met according to adjournment, when the committee presented the following report, which, after being read paragraph by paragraph, was unanimously accepted.\*

The great concern with which the people of this County view the increasing differences which now subsist between the Mother Country and the Colonies, and the dark prospect which some late Acts of the British Parliament, have in particular opened to them, has occasioned the several towns herein, to choose committees for this Convention, "To consider what measures it would be thought expedient to adopt for the general interest of the County in the present alarming situation of our public affairs." We, therefore, the said committee, pursuant to the request of our respective towns, guided by a strong attachment to the interest of our oppressed country, think it proper, with respect

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\*STEPHEN LONGFELLOW, Esq., though he voted fully against the late Acts of the British Parliament, yet he manifested his dislike to some expression made use of in said report, which he termed harsh and provoking.

and deference to our brethren in the other counties, to make known our minds as follows :

We think it the indispensable duty of every subject of the English Constitution, for our own sakes as well as that of future generations, to use his utmost care and endeavour, according to the station he is in, to preserve the same inviolate and unimpaired; for we regard it not only as the foundation of all our civil rights and liberties, but as a system of government, the best calculated to promote the peoples' peace and happiness. And we lament that in the present administration there are *men* so lost to all the principles of honour, equity and justice as to attempt a violation of the rights which we have long enjoyed, and which, while we profess ourselves, as we now declare we do, allegiant subjects to George the Third, our rightful Sovereign, we have a right still to enjoy entire and unmolested. And it is a melancholy consideration that the acknowledged head of this respected State should be induced to pass his sanction to such laws as tend to the subversion of that glorious freedom, which preserves the greatness of the British Empire, and gives its reputation throughout all the nations of the civil world. It is too apparent that the British ministry have long been hatching monstrous acts to break our constitution, and some they have at length brought forth. We think the Colonies deserve a better treatment from His Majesty than this which he assents to. We are his legal subjects, and merit his regard, and can't help thinking that if he would pursue his own unbiased judgment, and cast aside the selfish counsel of wicked and designing men, he and his subjects would be mutually happy, and provocations on both sides cease. But since the ministry have borne their tyranny to such a length as to endeavour to execute their wicked designs by military force in our metropolis, we fear it is their aim to introduce despotic monarchy. But though their tyranny and fell oppression seems now with hasty strides to threaten all the Colonies with ruin and destruction, we hope no vengeance will affright or will allure us to give up our dear bought liberty, that choicest boon of Heaven which our fathers came into these regions to enjoy, and which we therefore will retain while life enables us to struggle for its blessings.

We believe our enemies supposed we must submit and tamely give up all our rights. It is true a rigorous opposition will subject us to many inconveniences, but how much greater will our misery be if we relinquish all we now enjoy, and lay our future earnings at the mercy of despotic men? We cannot bear the thought. Distant posterity would have cause to curse our folly, and the rising generation would justly execrate our memory.

We therefore recommend a manly opposition to those cruel acts, and every measure which despotism can invent to "abridge our English liberties," and

we hope that patience will possess our souls, till Providence shall dissipate the gloomy cloud and restore us to our former happy state.

The late act for regulating the government of this Province, we consider in particular, as big with mischief and destruction, tending to the subversion of our Charter and our Province laws, and in its dire example alarming to all the Colonies. This, through the conduct of some enemies among ourselves, will soon bring us into difficulties, which will require some able counsel to remove.

We therefore recommend to each town in this County, to instruct their several representatives, to resolve themselves with the other members of the House at their approaching session into a Provincial Congress for this purpose.

To this Congress we shall submit the general interest of the Province, but for the particular benefit of this County we do advise and recommend—

1. That the Justices of the Sessions and Court of Common Pleas, and every other civil officer in this County, whom no authority can remove but that which constituted them agreeable to Charter and our own Provincial laws, would religiously officiate in their several departments, as if the aforesaid act had never been invented, and that every private person would pay a strict obedience to such officers, be always ready to protect and to support them, and promote a due observance of our own established laws, and if any person whatever should henceforth in any manner dare to aid the operation of the said tyrannic act, they should be considered as malignant enemies to our charter rights, unfit for civil society, and undeserving of the least regard or favor from their fellow countrymen.

2. That every one would do his utmost to discourage law suits, and likewise compromise disputes as much as possible.

3. That it be recommended to the Honourable JEREMIAH POWELL, Esq., and the Honourable JEDEDIAH PREBLE, Esq., Constitutional Counsellors of this Province, residing in this County, that they would take their places at the Board the ensuing session as usual.

4. We cannot but approve of the recommendation given by the Convention of Suffolk County to the several Collectors of Province taxes, not to pay one farthing more into the Province Treasury until the government of the Province is placed upon a constitutional foundation, or until the Provincial Congress shall order otherwise; and we recommend the same to the several Collectors in this County, but we think it is the duty of the several Collectors of County, Town and District taxes, to perfect their collections and pay the same into their several Treasuries as soon as possible. And we think it proper to observe, that though we do not coincide in every instance with our Suffolk brethren, which may be owing to a want of knowing all the circumstances of affairs, yet we highly applaud their virtuous zeal and determined resolutions.



5. We recommend to every town in this County charitably to contribute to the relief of our suffering brethren in our distressed Metropolis.

6. Lest oppression, which maketh even wise men mad, should hurry some people into tumults and disorder, we would recommend that every individual in the County would use his best endeavours to suppress at all times, riots, mobs and all licentiousness, and that our fellow subjects would consider themselves; as they always are, in the presence of the great God who loveth order and not confusion.

7. That when a general non-importation agreement takes place, we shall look upon it to be the duty of every vender of merchandise to sell his goods at the present rates, and if any person shall exorbitantly enhance the prices of his goods we shall look upon him as an oppressor of his country, and in order to prevent impositions in this respect, we recommend that a committee be chosen in each town to receive complaints against any who may be blamed herein, and if he shall refuse to wait on such committee on notice given, or be found culpable in this respect, his name shall be published in the several towns in the County, as undeserving of the future custom of his countrymen.

8. That every one who has it in his power, would improve our breed of sheep, and as far as possible increase their numbers, and also encourage the raising of flax and promote the manufactures of the country.

9. As the very extraordinary and alarming act for establishing the Roman Catholic Religion and French laws in Canada, may introduce the French or Indians into our frontier towns, we recommend that every town and individual in this County would be provided with a proper stock of military stores, according to our Province law, and that some patriotic military officers be chosen in each town to exercise their several companies and make them perfect in the military art.

10. Our general grievances being the subject of deliberation before the Constitutional Congress, renders it inexpedient to consider them particularly. On their wisdom we have a great dependence, and we think it will be our duty to lay aside every measure to which we have advised that may be variant with theirs, and pay a due regard to their result.

And now, we think it proper to declare, that as we have been recounting the hardships we endure by the machinations of our enemies at home, we cannot but gratefully acknowledge our obligation to those illustrious worthies, our friends of the minority, who constantly opposed those wicked measures; and would heartily wish some great and good men would invent and work out some plan that will unite the parent State to these, its Colonies, and thereby prevent the effusion of Christian blood. Then--

*Voted*, That every member of this Convention be severally interrogated, whether he now has or will hereafter take any commission under the present act of Parliament for regulating the government of this Province.

The members were accordingly interrogated, and each and every of them answered in the negative.

*Voted*, That the several committees which compose this Convention, or the major part of each be, and hereby are desired to interrogate the civil officers, and other persons whom they may think fit, in their respective towns, whether they now have, or will hereafter take any commission under the aforesaid act.

*Voted*, That the whole proceedings of this Convention be by the Clerk transmitted to the press, and also to the Town Clerks of the respective towns in this County as soon as may be.

*Voted*, That this Convention be continued, and that the Committee of Falmouth, or the major part of them, be and hereby are empowered on any occasion that in their opinion requires it, to notify a meeting of the delegates thereof, at such time and place as they may think proper, setting forth the occasion thereof.

*Voted*, That the thanks of this Convention be given to the Honourable ENOCH FREEMAN, Esq., for his faithful services as Chairman.

A true copy.

Attest:

SAM'L FREEMAN, *Clerk*.

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VOTES OF THE TOWN.

1774, September 27. *Voted*, To choose a committee of seven in number to inspect over the inhabitants of this town, to see whether the people do subject to the resolves of Congress, and expose them that do not.

*Voted*, The following persons be that committee: MICAH WALKER, JOSIAH SMITH, ISAAC PARSONS, JOHN WOODMAN, ENOCH FOGG and NATHANIEL BENNETT.

The above committee was to act in relation to the non-importation and non-consumption of British goods.

1775, March 21. *Voted*, That Capt. WM. HARRIS, Capt. ISAAC PARSONS and MOSES MERRILL, JR., be a committee to join in a County Convention, if called for.

*Voted*, Capt. WM. HARRIS, JOHN WOODMAN and ENOCH FOGG be a committee to provide a store of provisions and ammunition for the town's use, according to the recommendation of the County Congress.

1775, April 25. *Voted*, To have twenty men in readiness to go upon any campaign that may be called for, and upon the shortest notice.

*Voted*, That those that shall go shall have their proportionable part of their labor done every week (faithfully) so long as they shall be gone, and that they shall have their wages for their bounty, and be furnished with as much provision as they will carry, and be billeted on the roads upon the town's cost.

(The above meeting was verbally notified by the Selectmen upon news of Lexington fight.)

1775, October 30. *Voted*, That Capt. WILLIAM HARRIS, Capt. ISAAC PARSONS and DAVID MILLET be a Committee of Safety.

*Voted*, To join the other towns in this County in fortifying on Falmouth Neck.

1776, March 19. *Voted*, That Capt. ISAAC PARSONS, Capt. WILLIAM HARRIS and PELEG CHANDLER be the Committee of Safety.

1777, March 24. *Voted*, That EBENEZER COLLINS, SAMUEL MERRILL and LUKE RYERSON be the Committee of Safety.

1776, May 21. *Voted*, That if the Honorable Congress should, for the safety of the Colonies, declare them independent of Great Britain, they will solemnly engage with their lives and fortunes to support the Congress in the measure.

An act of the General Court in 1777 to prevent monopoly and oppression fixed the following schedule of prices.

Wheat, 7s. a bushel.	Butter, 10d. a pound.
Rye, 5s. "	Peas, 8s. a bushel.
Corn, 4s. "	Beans, 6s. "
Wood, 2s. "	Potatoes, 1s. 4d. a bushel in the Fall, not over 2s. at other times.
Pork, 4d. a pound.	Men's yarn stockings, 6s. a pair.
Beef, 3s. 4d. "	" shoes, 8s. "
Hides, 3d. "	Beef, 3£ 14s. 6d. a bbl., 240 lbs.
Calf Skins, 6d. "	Pork, 4£ 12s. " 220 "
Salt, 10s. a bushel.	Cotton, 3s. a pound.
West India Rum, 6s. 8d. a gal. by hhd.	Oats, 2s. a bushel.
6s. 10d. " bbl.	Flax, 1s. a pound.
7s. 8d. " gal.	Coffee, 1s. 4d. "
2s. " qt.	Tallow, 7½d. "
New Eng. Rum, 3s. 10d. a gal. by hhd.	Flannel, 8s. 6d. a yard.
4s. 6d. a gallon.	Wood delivered in Boston, 28s. a cord.
Sugar, 8d. a pound retail.	

Molasses, 4d. a gallon.  
 Cheese, 6d. a pound.  
 Tow cloth, 2s. 3d. a yard.

Turkeys 5d. a pound.  
 Milk, ½d. a quart.

The Selectmen of towns were authorized to fix prices in proportion, and a penalty was imposed for selling at higher prices.

By a subsequent act, the Selectmen and Committees of towns were allowed to fix prices every two months, to take effect after the same were posted in public places in town.

1777, July 22. Under this last act, ENOCH FOGG, JOHN HASKELL, JOHN TYLER, HONORY BUTLER, E. MERRILL and PELEG CHANDLER were chosen the committee.

1778, March 23. *Voted*, That PELEG CHANDLER, PETER GRAFFAM, LUKE RYERSON, EBENEZER MASON and BEZALEEL LORING, be the Committee of Safety.

1778, April 6. A Town Meeting was called to encourage enlistments. The return of the officer on the warrant is as follows :

CUMBERLAND, ss.

Agreeable to the within warrant, I have warned the inhabitants personally, they all being assembled in a muster, in the training field, and by the leave of the Militia Officers, the people attended the meeting.

(Signed), JACOB HASKELL, *Constable*.

At that meeting the town voted to raise \$800 for volunteers to serve seven months in the army.

1779, March 16. *Voted*, Capt. ISAAC PARSONS, PELEG CHANDLER and WM. PARSONS be the Committee of Safety.

*Voted*, LUKE RYERSON, PELEG CHANDLER and BENJ. HARRIS be a Committee of Inspection.

1779, Aug. 9. *Voted*, To accept the proceedings of the Convention, begun and held at Concord, on the 14th of July, 1779.

*Voted*, To raise a Committee of Seven to regulate the prices of innholders, teamsters, and our own labor and other articles of trade in our own town, agreeable to a resolve of said Convention.

Mr. SIMON NOYES, Capt. ISAAC PARSONS, Col. MOSES MERRILL, JOHN MERRILL, MOSES HASKELL, ENOCH FOGG and WM. HARTSHORN were chosen this Committee.

*Voted*, \$100 to Capt. ISAAC PARSONS, for attending said Convention.

1779, November 22. *Voted*, To accept the proceedings of the late Convention held at Concord on the sixth day of October last, for the purpose of regulating the prices on the articles of trade throughout this State.

*Voted*, ISAAC PARSONS, ESQ., PELEG CHANDLER and WM. PARSONS be a Special Committee to see that the people pay due observance to the resolve of the said Convention.

*Voted*, That JACOB HASKELL, Capt. WILLIAM HARRIS, PELEG CHANDLER, JOHN MERRILL and NATHANIEL EVELETH be a committee to set the prices on the articles of trade in this town, agreeable to the recommendation of the said Convention.

1780, March 7. *Voted*, That Capt. ISAAC PARSONS, PELEG CHANDLER and EDWARD PARSONS be the Committee of Safety.

1781, March 6. *Voted*, That PELEG CHANDLER, JOHN MERRILL and JOSIAH SMITH be the Committee of Safety.

1782, March 12. *Voted*, That Capt. WM. HARRIS, PELEG CHANDLER and EBENEZER LOWE be the Committee of Safety.

1783, March 11. *Voted*, That PELEG CHANDLER, ENOCH FOGG and Capt. ISAAC PARSONS be the Committee of Safety.

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Roll of Capt. ISAAC PARSON'S Company, mustered into service May, 1780, for eight months' service at Thomaston, under General WADSWORTH, Col. PRIME'S Regiment.

Isaac Parsons, Captain.	Henry Dyer,	Private.
Ichabod Hanson, First Lieut.	George Hayes,	"
George Roberts, Second Lieut.	Jeremiah Hanson,	"
Benjamin Haskell, Sergeant.	Andrew Jordan,	"
Josiah Wallace, "	Zebulon York,	"
Benjamin Trott, "	James Levitt,	"
Asa Libba, "	Thos. Mitchell,	"
Peter Smith, Drummer.	James Mitchell,	"
Moses Harris, Corporal.	Elisha Small,	"
Jacob Brown, "	George Strout,	"
Walter Simonton, "	Thos. Mayberry,	"
William True, "	Levi Morse,	"
Abraham Cleaves, Private.	Ebenezer Mason,	"
Philemon Collins, "	Eleazer Parsons,	"

John Chandler,	Private.	Ephraim Stinchfield,	Private.
James Chute,	"	James Stevens,	"
Nathaniel Chase,	"	Samuel Tobin,	"
Isaac Eveleth,	"	Barnabas Winslow,	"
Jacob Elliott,	"	John Winship,	"
Benjamin Herring,	"	Enoch Strout,	"
George Knight,	"	Micah Small,	"
Samuel Lord,	"	Isaac Foster,	"
Ephraim Avery,	"	Jonathan Haden,	"
John Bailey,	"	Joshua Clerk,	"
Ephraim Chamberlain,	"	Ezekiel Hackett,	"
Samuel Crockett,	"	Joshua Lane,	"
Paul Dyer,	"	John Megquier,	"
Edward Flint,	"	John W. Davis,	"

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WAR OF 1812.

In the exciting and troublous times of the embargo and war of 1812, the town was strongly federal in politics, although some of the principal citizens were of the Democratic party.

The following extracts from the records of the town show the state of public feeling :

1809, February 13. At a town meeting held in the meeting house,

*Voted*, To petition the Legislature of this Commonwealth to interpose their influence with the General Government to raise the embargo and repeal the several laws relative to the same, and afford us such other relief in these days of distress as they in their wisdom shall deem meet.

*Voted*, That PELEG CHANDLER, JR., NATHANIEL C. ALLEN, DANIEL HOWARD, ESQ., ZEBULON ROWE and DR. TIMOTHY LITTLE be the committee to draft said petition.

The committee withdrew a short time, and then returned and reported a petition which was accepted by the town. The following is the petition :

*To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled :*

We, the inhabitants of the town of New Gloucester, in the County of Cumberland, in legal town meeting assembled, deem it our duty respectfully to address your Honors on a subject in which our interests and liberties are deeply involved. For more than thirteen months past we have been subjected to the privations and distresses consequent upon the several embargo laws imposed

by Congress. Although those laws appear to have been introduced and forced through the National Legislature in a manner totally without precedent, although great and serious doubts were entertained of their constitutionality and expediency, and although we were not informed of the reasons for imposing them, yet we relied for a time on the sincerity of our National rulers, and submitted to great and unusual privations because they considered them for the general good; we had some reason to hope that the restraints on our trade and commerce would cease at the rising of Congress, but in this we were deceived. We were still cherished with hope, and gave credit to the positive assurances of those whom we considered in some measure in the secrets of the administration, that all our suffering would soon be terminated. Finding that these assurances were also illusive and calculated rather to influence our election than to afford relief, and being wearied with suffering and delay, we addressed our humble petition to the President of these United States, respectfully stating our grief, and praying that he would exercise the power vested in him by Congress, and suspend in whole or in part the several laws laying an embargo.

To this humble petition an indirect answer was returned, inducing us however to believe that the repeal of those laws would be one of the first acts of Congress at its then next session. But when we looked for good, evil came. Instead of finding a return of respect for our natural and chartered rights, we are doomed to bend to the strong arm of power. Our energies are paralyzed, our houses are liable to be searched at the caprice of subaltern Officers of the National Government without warrant issued or probable cause, or supported by oath or affirmation; our property is liable to unreasonable seizures and transportation. The mere will and pleasure, the secret instruction of an individual are to have the force of law by which we must be bound without promulgation, and of which we are to take notice without any possible means of knowing their import. Exorbitant rewards and encouragements are given to informers, and a system of espionage is established disgraceful to a free government, and subversive of our liberties, and a stain on our Republican Institutions. Our sufferings are immense. The produce of our farms will scarcely sell for the expense of cultivation. We have but very little circulating medium; that little is mostly paper, and to the last degree vitiated. Our lumber is unsalable. We are unable to meet our specie contracts made in better times; made in days when we had confidence that the government we had instituted would rather prove our shield and protection than a flaming sword to destroy us. All these hardships—nay, greater than these, we cheerfully (as a town) endured in our struggle for liberty and independence, for we then saw the necessity and merit of them, and we gloried in the sacrifice.

But now, when can come no possible advantage from these sufferings, but rather an abject submission to European caprice, when we cannot derive a shadow of utility in them, and no one can point out to us their necessity, our patience is exhausted, we can suffer no longer. In this extremity we look to your Honors as to the citadel and last refuge, our hope. We would humbly beg your Honors to address Congress in our behalf, in a language easily understood and not to be mistaken; warning them respectfully of our habits, our manners, our customs, our pursuits, our rights and our liberties; of our firm and inflexible attachment to them, and especially of that awful point beyond which obedience is no longer a virtue, and non-resistance becomes a treason; and we humbly pray that your Honors would devise some constitutional means of lightening our grievous burdens, and for the effecting of an immediate raising of the embargo, and a repeal of all the several laws relative to the same, and as in duty bound we will ever pray.

(Signed,)

PELEG CHANDLER, JR.

NATHANIEL C. ALLEN.

DANIEL HOWARD.

ZEBULON ROWE.

TIMOTHY LITTLE.

NEW GLOUCESTER, February 13, 1809.

Then *Voted*, That the same committee sign and forward the said petition to the Legislature of said Commonwealth; 107 for and 57 against it.

1812, August 27. *Voted*, That NATHANIEL C. ALLEN, Maj. JACOB HASKELL, THOMAS WHARFF, JR., JOSHUA ABBEY, JABEZ WOODMAN, ISRAEL SMITH, JACOB MERRILL, JONATHAN TRUE, DEXTER BEARCE and EBEN'R COLLINS be a Committee of Safety and Correspondence.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
FROM NEW GLOUCESTER.

1782, John Merrill.	1809 to 1811, incl., Jos. E. Foxcroft.
1783, Isaac Parsons, Esq.	1812 and 1813, Capt. David Nelson and Capt. Sam'l Fessenden.
1784, Peleg Chandler.	1814, Capt. Sam'l Fessenden.
1785, Isaac Parsons, Esq.	1815, Capt. David Nelson.
1787 to 1795, incl., Wm. Widgery.	1816, No choice.
1797, Wm. Widgery.	1818, Jabez Woodman.
1799 to 1801, incl., Nath'l C. Allen.	1819 and 1820, Isaac Gross.
1803 to 1805, incl., Jos. E. Foxcroft.	
1806 to 1808, incl., Jos. E. Foxcroft and Isaac Parsons, Esq.	



REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LEGISLATURE OF MAINE FROM NEW  
GLOUCESTER.

1821, Isaac Gross.	1842 and 1843, Joseph Raynes.
1822, William Bradbury.	1845, Peter Haskell, Jr.
1823, Isaac Gross.	1847, Charles Megquier.
1824, Simeon Parsons.	1849, Thomas Johnson.
1826, John Webber.	1851 and 1852, Jonathan True.
1827, Benjamin H. Mace.	1853, Solomon H. Campbell.
1828, Simeon Parsons.	1855, Hiram P. Osgood.
1829, Obadiah Whitman.	1857, Sewall Gross.
1830, Ephraim Stinchfield.	1859, George Blake.
1831, Obadiah Whitman.	1861, John P. Stevens.
1832, Aaron Eveleth.	1863, Miltimore Watts.
1833, Otis C. Gross.	1865, Otis C. Nelson.
1834, Samuel Foxcroft.	1867, David W. Merrill,
1835, Charles Cobb.	1868, George T. Merrill.
1836 and 1837, Moses Woodman.	1869, Andrew C. Chandler.
1838 and 1839, Osgood Bradbury.	1872, Freeman Jordan.
1840 and 1841, David Allen.	1874, Isaac H. Keith.

SENATORS IN THE LEGISLATURE OF MAINE FROM NEW  
GLOUCESTER.

1821, Joseph E. Foxcroft	1849, Charles Megquier.
1823, Benjamin H. Mace.	1861, '62, Sewall N. Gross.
1840, Otis C. Gross.	

LIST OF POLLS AND ESTATES OF NEW GLOUCESTER.

POLLS.		VALUATION.
1821,	366	\$147,390.10
1831,	322	162,000.00
1841,	425	331,674.00
1845,	309	287,777.00
1851,	356	395,501.00
1860,	404	665,946.00
1870,	407	843,905.00

In 1837 the population of New Gloucester was 1,861, composed of 186 children under 4 years of age, of 736 between 4 and 21

years, inclusive, and of 939 adults. A census was then taken for the purpose of distributing the surplus revenue, and each person received two dollars therefrom. In all \$3,722.00 was distributed in town. The population of New Gloucester in 1870 was 1,496. The town has no debt. In the year 1874 it raised to pay the State tax, \$4,248.60; County tax, \$1,072.71; for the support of schools, \$1,350.00; for High School, \$400.00; for contingent fund, \$1,200.00; and for the repair of roads, \$4,000.00, to be paid in labor.

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ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The following inscription is to be found upon a tombstone in the old churchyard.

“Sacred to the memory of

JOHN MEGQUIER.

Died December 27, 1825, aged 92.

He was one of the proprietors and first settlers of New Gloucester, and was one of those who felled the trees on the spot where his remains are now deposited.

A patriotic citizen and an honest man.”

In the summer of 1748, at the age of fifteen years, he came with others, from North Yarmouth, each with an ox team, to cut the grass upon the Great Meadow. At the time the party arrived the water was so high as to prevent work upon the meadow, and young MEGQUIER was selected to remain in a camp alone and tend the oxen while the others returned to their homes, to come back again when the water had settled away from the meadow.

For seven days he remained in charge of the oxen, with his rifle in his hands all the time, ready for instant use, as the Indians were lurking in the vicinity, watching an opportunity to catch him unawares.

This incident pictures the character of the man in after life—

*a man of great courage and determination, a trait bequeathed to his descendants.*

JOHN L. MEGQUIER (son of William and grandson of John), was born in New Gloucester Sept. 9, 1794, graduated at Bowdoin College Sept. 1, 1819, studied law with SIMON GREENLEAF, and after being admitted to the Cumberland Bar at the November Term of Supreme Judicial Court, 1825, became his law partner. For several years he was a member of the State Senate, and at the time of his death in 1840 (aged 46) he resided in Portland, and was the Register of Probate for Cumberland County.

BENJAMIN HAMMOND was the thirteenth settler. He came to the Block House in New Gloucester with his wife Sarah, and there temporarily remained until a log house was built near the top of "Harris Hill," where he made a permanent home and reared seven children.

During the French and Indian War, he, with two others, MATTHEWS and STINCHFIELD, were sent by the authorities of Massachusetts as spies to Canada. They were taken by the enemy and thrown into prison, but a good Scotchman and his wife, by the name of FOBES, living in Canada, contrived and aided their escape, and all three returned through the wilderness safely to their homes, a distance of two hundred miles.

During the Revolutionary War HAMMOND was commissioned and served as a Captain in the Continental Army, but died from sickness at Ticonderoga in the prime of life, leaving a widow and family of three sons and four daughters, the oldest being fourteen years of age; four of these were among the first settlers of Paris and Oxford. The widow died in her old home at the ripe age of ninety years and a half.

A LIST OF CITIZENS OF NEW GLOUCESTER WHO HAVE LIVED TO  
THE AGE OF SEVENTY YEARS AND UPWARDS, WITH  
THE DATE OF DEATH AND AGE OF EACH.

1807, March 2, Rev. Samuel Foxcroft, died,		aged 72.
1815, April 4, Abraham Sawyer,		" 78.
Mary, his widow,	" 23d May, 1815,	" 80.
1822, Sept. 1, John Burns,	"	" 70.
1824, April 10, Capt. William Harris,	"	" 92.
Oct. 9, John Tufts,	"	" 74.
Nov. 23, Capt. Nathaniel Eveleth,	"	" 88.
" 26, Jonathan Somes,	"	" 71.
1825, April 7, Jonathan Bennett,	"	" 79.
Oct. 9, Col. Isaac Parsons,	"	" 85.
Dec. 27, John Megquier,	"	" 92.
Rachael, his widow,	" 5th Feb. 1837,	" 72.
1826, Aug. 19, William Bradbury,	"	" 75.
Hannah, his wife,	" 19th May, 1820,	" 70.
1827, June 3, Capt. Jabez Cushman,	"	" 71.
Ursula, his widow,	" 23d April, 1840,	" 78.
June 18, Mary Burns,	"	" 72.
Sept. 28, Enoch Fogg,	"	" 82.
1828, June 15, James Stinchfield,	"	" 83.
Oct. 4, John Haskell,	"	" 84.
Hannah, his widow,	" 8th Feb. 1834,	" 85.
1830, July 23, Edmund Merrill,	"	" 80.
1831, Nov., Deacon Sylvanus Cobb,	"	" 84.
Mary L., his widow, died 25th Jan., 1853,		" 93.
1832, Feb. 12, Capt. Moses Bennett,	"	" 79.
1833, Aug. 6, Sarah, wife of Andrew Campbell, died,		" 84.
Dec. 7, Eliphalet Haskell,	"	" 80.
Mary his widow, died 23d Sept., 1829,		" 84.
1834, April 19, Nathaniel Ingersoll, died,		" 80.
Oct. 27, Peter Brackett,	"	" 78.
Sarah, his widow, died 12th Feb., 1839,		" 73.
1835, Jan. 22, Thomas Wharff, died,		" 87.
July 20, Sarah, his widow,	"	" 88.
1836, April, Deacon David Nelson,	"	" 71.
1837, March 1, Samuel Nevins,	"	" 78.
Susanna, his widow, died 23d Sept., 1838,		" 77.

## AGED PEOPLE.

1837, Aug. 4, Dr. William Bridgham, died,	aged 81.
Lydia, his widow, died 18th Oct., 1846,	“ 77.
Aug. 18, Ephraim Stinchfield, “	“ 78.
Sarah, his widow, died 18th June, 1841,	“ 76.
Oct. 18, William White, “	“ 85.
Nov. 8, Joseph Pearce, “	“ 92.
1838, March 23, Joseph Brown, “	“ 79.
June 8, Deacon John Hayes, “	“ 79.
Mary, his wife, died 27th May, 1836,	“ 77.
1839, Nov., Moses Sawyer, “	“ 70.
1840, Oct. 9, William Megquier, died,	“ 77.
Thankful, his widow, died 9th Nov., 1853,	“ 80.
1841, Feb. 21, Mary, wife of Jos. Johnson, died,	“ 70.
“ 22, Jemima Parsons, “	“ 94.
Polly Verrill, “	“ 70.
William Pickett, “	“ 80.
April 10, Joseph Dunbar, “	“ 75.
May 28, Samuel Sawyer, “	“ 74.
June 2, Azubah Fuller, “	“ 77.
July 13, John Preble, “	“ 70.
Oct. 20, Lucy Yetton, “	“ 75.
1842, Jan. 5, Salome, wife of Pelatiah Lyon, died,	“ 70.
Feb. 3, Lucy Penny, “	“ 83.
“ 23, Martha Pierce, “	“ 87.
Oct. 5, John Morgan, “	“ 77.
1843, April 26, Ezra Chapman, “	“ 78.
“ 27, Joseph Manning, “	“ 76.
May 2, Zebulon Rowe, “	“ 94.
Oct. 2, Joseph Eveleth, “	“ 75.
“ 3, Isaac Eveleth, “	“ 83.
“ 6, William Stinchfield, “	“ 78.
“ 26, Sarah Briggs, “	“ 74.
Dec. 17, Sarah Stinchfield, “	“ 88.
“ 31, Solomon Atwood, “	“ 93.
Hannah, his wife, died 31st March, 1836,	“ 81.
1844, Jan. 21, Simon Crockett, “	“ 75.
July 4, Diana Ryan, “	“ 76.
Sept. 13, Sarah Ingersoll, “	“ 80.
Oct. 16, Hannah Woodman, died,	“ 78.
1845, March 15, Sally, widow of Jacob Haskell, died,	“ 84.

AGED PEOPLE.

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1845, August 31, Nathaniel Thomas,	died,	aged 86.
1846, Jan. 11, Prince Hatch,	"	" 91.
" 29, Judith, widow of Nathan Haskell,	"	" 94.
March 6, Mary Tyler,	"	" 78.
May 26, Jonathan Bennett,	"	" 71.
July 3, Mary, wife of Capt. Plummer,	"	" 73.
" 11, Sarah Merrill,	"	" 74.
1847, Jan. 18, Peleg Chandler, Esq.,	"	" 74.
March 2, Elizabeth Thurlow,	"	" 82.
" 6, Ebenezer Collins,	"	" 78.
June 16, Bethulah Cotton,	"	" 73.
" 27, Major Berry,	"	" 75.
Sept. 25, Olive Briggs,	"	" 74.
Dec. 20, Richard Blake,	"	" 78.
" Joshua Gower,	"	" 70.
1848, Jan. 8, John M. Russell,	"	" 72.
Aug. Abigail, wife of Jabez Haskell,	"	" 70.
" James M. Russell,	"	" 72.
" 23, Florence Tolle,	"	" 72.
Oct. 24, Solomon Atwood,	"	" 72.
" 25, Stephen Dutton,	"	" 73.
1849, Feb. 10, Nathaniel Eveleth,	"	" 85.
" 22, Nathaniel Waite,	"	" 76.
April 27, William Hatch,	"	" 79.
July 14, Peter Haskell, Sr., died,	"	" 80.
Salome, his widow, died 25th March, 1858,	"	" 86.
Nov. 20, Margaret G. Lane,	"	" 84.
Dec. 6, Ruth Bennett,	"	" 78.
1850, May 7, Abigail Fogg,	"	" 83.
Dec. 16, Mary, widow of John L. Haskell, died,	"	" 85.
1851, Jan. 19, Nathaniel Allen,	"	" 79.
April 9, Abigail H. Brown,	"	" 82.
July 4, Samuel Watts,	"	" 75.
Sally, his widow, died 15th Feb., 1855,	"	" 75.
Aug. 9, Isaac Blake,	"	" 85.
Oct. 21, Jonas Eveleth,	"	" 86.
1852, Jan. 14, Prudence Rowe,	"	" 72.
July 21, Samuel Pierce,	"	" 83.
Aug. 16, Enoch Morse,	"	" 80.
" 30, Lydia, widow of Andrew Campbell, died,	"	" 76.

## AGED PEOPLE.

1852, Sept. 1, Col. Joseph E. Foxcroft, died,	aged 79.
Abigail, his widow, died 23d March, 1855,	“ 82.
Nov. 3, Daniel Fogg, “	“ 75.
Sally, his widow, died 28th Oct., 1853,	“ 85.
“ 24, Mr. Sanborn, “	“ 90.
his widow, died 22d Nov., 1853,	“ 85.
1853, March 6, Lydia, widow of Paul Stevens, died,	“ 85.
July 10, Jonathan Rowe, died,	“ 75.
1854, Feb. 14, Robert H. Noyes, “	“ 71.
March 9, Deborah Pote, “	“ 79.
“ 10, Moses Bennett, “	“ 73.
“ 11, Lydia Crowell, “	“ 77.
June 23, Judith, wife of Caleb Haskell, died,	“ 76.
July 20, Gowen Wilson, died,	“ 77.
Aug. 11, Abigail, widow of John Harris, died,	“ 89.
Oct. 7, William Proctor, died,	“ 70.
Nov. 24, William Stockman, died,	“ 70.
1855, March 13, Abigail Merrill, “	“ 86.
April 12, Isaac Blake, “	“ 81.
May 11, Polly Gowen, “	“ 73.
Aug. 20, John Bradbury, “	“ 70.
Oct. 14, George Parsons, “	“ 89.
Nov. 22, Samuel Tyler, “	“ 83.
Phebe, his widow, died Oct. 1863,	“ 97.
Dec. 9, Luke Leach, “	“ 89.
1856, Feb. 20, Samuel Hilton, “	“ 82.
April 17, Ebenezer Bennett, died,	“ 71.
“ 27, Phebe Merrill, died,	“ 76.
May 2, Susan, widow of Edward Thompson, died,	“ 72.
“ 10, Lucy Holmes, “	“ 72.
“ 17, Jabez Haskell, “	“ 80.
July 1, Joseph Briggs, “	“ 90.
“ 2, Ebenezer Hathaway, “	“ 84.
Judith, his wife, died 4th April, 1855,	“ 82.
Aug. 11, Abigail, wife of Benj. Witham, died,	“ 79.
“ 22, Judith Merchant, “	“ 93.
“ 27, Hannah, wife of Simeon Wells, “	“ 79.
Oct. 14, Edmund Merrill, “	“ 81.
Dec. 22, James Holmes, “	“ 85.

1857, Jan. 10, Betsey, wife of Jacob Merrill, died,	aged 80.
Feb. 8, James Winslow, "	" 86.
" 20, Mary, wife of Joseph Raynes, "	" 84.
March 9, Phebe Merrill, "	" 97.
" 18, Mary, widow of Ezekiel Martin, "	" 89.
" 27, James Eveleth, "	" 74.
June Polly Langfoot, "	" 90.
" 17, Louis Carle, "	" 84.
July 25, Capt. Moses Woodman, "	" 78.
Charlotte, his widow, died 7th Aug., 1863,	" 73.
Oct. 14, Jonathan Haskell, "	" 91.
" 26, Eleanor Stinchfield, "	" 84.
Polly Merrill, "	" 80.
1858, March 23, Lydia Verrill, died	" 76.
July 27, Abraham Strout, "	" 84.
Aug. 11, Benjamin Coombs, died,	" 72.
Shuah, his widow, died 26th Sept., 1873,	" 82.
Oct. 1, Daniel Fogg, died,	" 73.
Priscilla, his widow, died 5th Oct., 1866,	" 76.
1859, Feb. 17, Isaac Barry, died,	" 70.
March 19, Damaris, wife of Jabez Woodman, died,	" 75.
Sept. 5, Shubal Marsh, died,	" 93.
Elizabeth, his wife, died 14th Nov., 1857,	" 86.
Oct. 16, William Bradbury, Esq., died,	" 79.
Nov. 25, Hannah, wife of Jonathan Bennett, died,	" 73.
" 26, Amos Bailey, died,	" 71.
1860, Jan. 30, John Lunt, "	" 72.
Arethusa, his widow, died 12th Jan., 1873.	
Feb. 7, Lorena Nevens, died,	" 70.
March 13, Mary, widow of James Winslow, died,	" 85.
May 18, Asa W. Gore, died,	" 81.
Sept. 25, Abigail, widow of Jonas Eveleth, died,	" 90.
Dec. 22, Benjamin Whiting, died,	" 78.
" 24, Mary Hammond, "	" 90.
1861, Jan. 22, Susan Blake, "	" 83.
" 27, Nathaniel Haskell, "	" 81.
June 27, Ann Sawyer, "	" 75.
Nov. 28, Richard Tobie, died,	" 93.
Dec. 3, Isaac F. Hatch, "	" 72.
10, Moses Bennett, "	" 83.



## AGED PEOPLE.

1862, Jan. 8, Obadiah Whitman, died,	aged 79.
Susanna P., his wife, died 7th Nov., 1859,	“ 74.
Feb. 20, Susan, widow of William Rowe, died,	“ 80.
April 18, Joel Nevins, died,	“ 76.
May 10, Lucy Downing, died,	“ 77.
“ 25, Jonathan True, “	“ 76.
Oct. 23, Samuel Witham, “	“ 77.
Dec., Dorcas, wife of Cyrus Tripp, died,	“ 93.
1863, Feb. 13, Isaac Spiller, died,	“ 72.
April 17, Mary Morgan, died,	“ 71.
July 25, William Stinchfield, died,	“ 82.
Oct. 12, Martha, wife of Moses True, died,	“ 75.
Dec. 19, Major Woodbury Merrill, “	“ 75.
“ 20, Daniel Collins, “	“ 78.
1864, Feb. 15, Thomas Wharff, “	“ 93.
Olive, his widow, died 9th Jan., 1866,	“ 71.
“ 18, Perkins Eveleth, “	“ 79.
March 5, Aaron Eveleth, “	“ 74.
“ 29, Joel Merrill, “	“ 75.
July 4, Joshua Merrill, “	“ 79.
“ 14, Hannah Pickett, “	“ 84.
1864, July 7, Capt. William Haskell, died,	“ 84.
Jane, his wife, died 7th July, 1858,	“ 87.
August 5, Josiah Grover, died,	“ 71.
“ 30, Polly Verrill, died,	“ 85.
October 23, Nathaniel Wharff, died,	“ 75.
December 2, Sally Cobb, died,	“ 84.
“ 13, John Lunt, died,	“ 82.
1865, March 3, Nabby, wife of Isaac Atwood, died,	“ 72.
“ 9, Clarissa McIntire, died,	“ 72.
“ 16, Benjamin T. Woodbury, died,	“ 71.
June 22, Martha Witham, died,	“ 70.
August 25, Bethulia Merrill, died,	“ 75.
December 27, Zebulon Rowe, died,	“ 78.
1866, July 5, Martha Foxcroft, “	“ 91.
October 13, Patience W., widow of Gen'l John Farr, died,	“ 71.
“ 22, James Bickford, died,	“ 72.
November 20, Isaac Lowe, “	“ 71.
December 15, Ebenezer Rowe, “	“ 91.
1867, February 26, Samuel Pierce, “	“ 73.

AGED PEOPLE.

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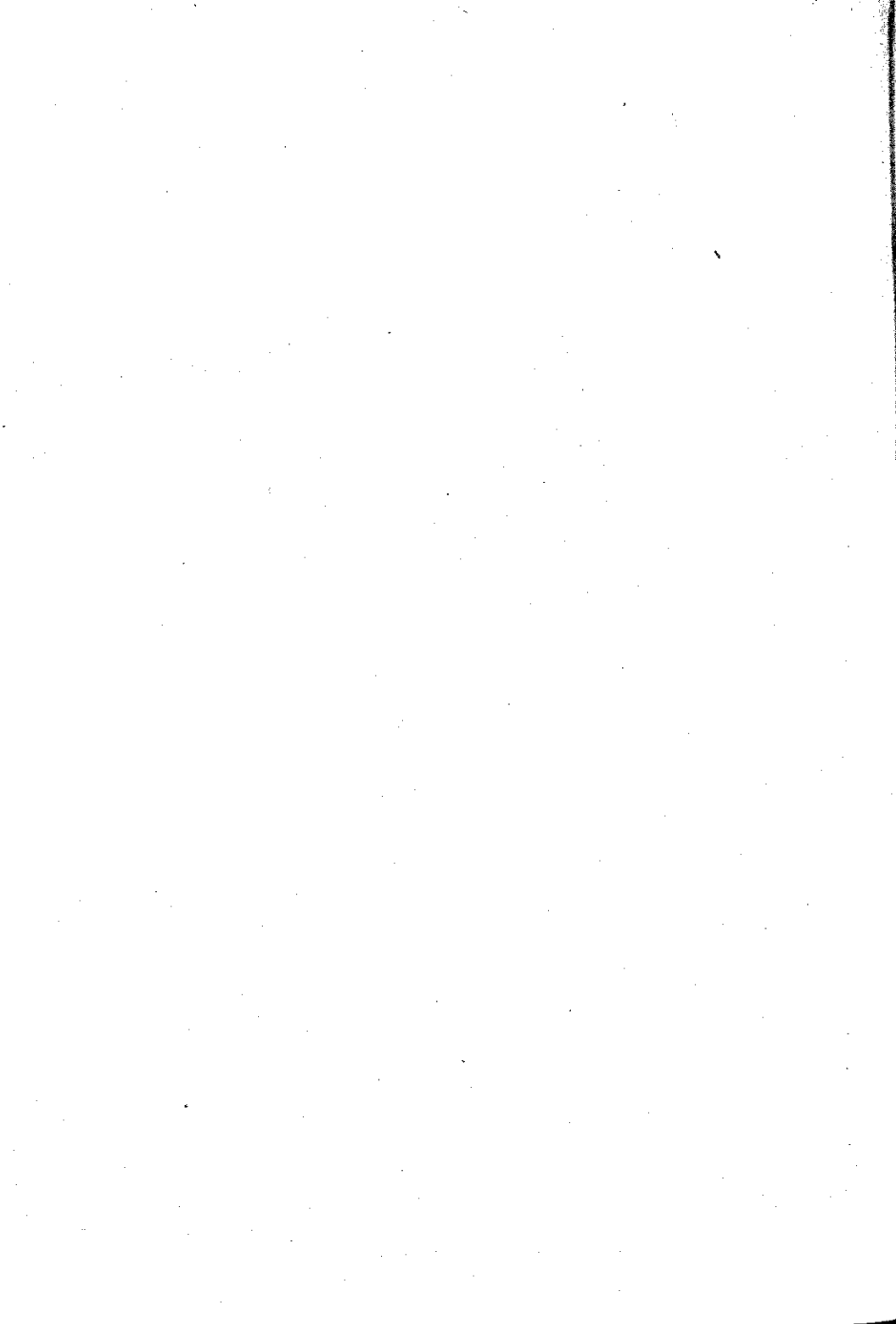
1867, June 10, Betsey, widow of Thomas Hawes, died,	aged 89.
July 25, Polly, wife of Samuel Witham,       “	“ 85.
1868, August, Amos Haskell, died,	“ 80.
Sarah, his wife, died 22d March, 1859,	“ 70.
1872, February 5, Betsey Poole, died,	“ 82.
1874, February 24, Polly Weymouth, died,	“ 99.
“           James Collins,           “	“ 71.
1875, January 14, Geo. Washington Chandler, died,	“ 81.
“           29, Abigail Stevens, died,	“ 78.
February 27, Dr. John P. Stevens, died,	“ 71.

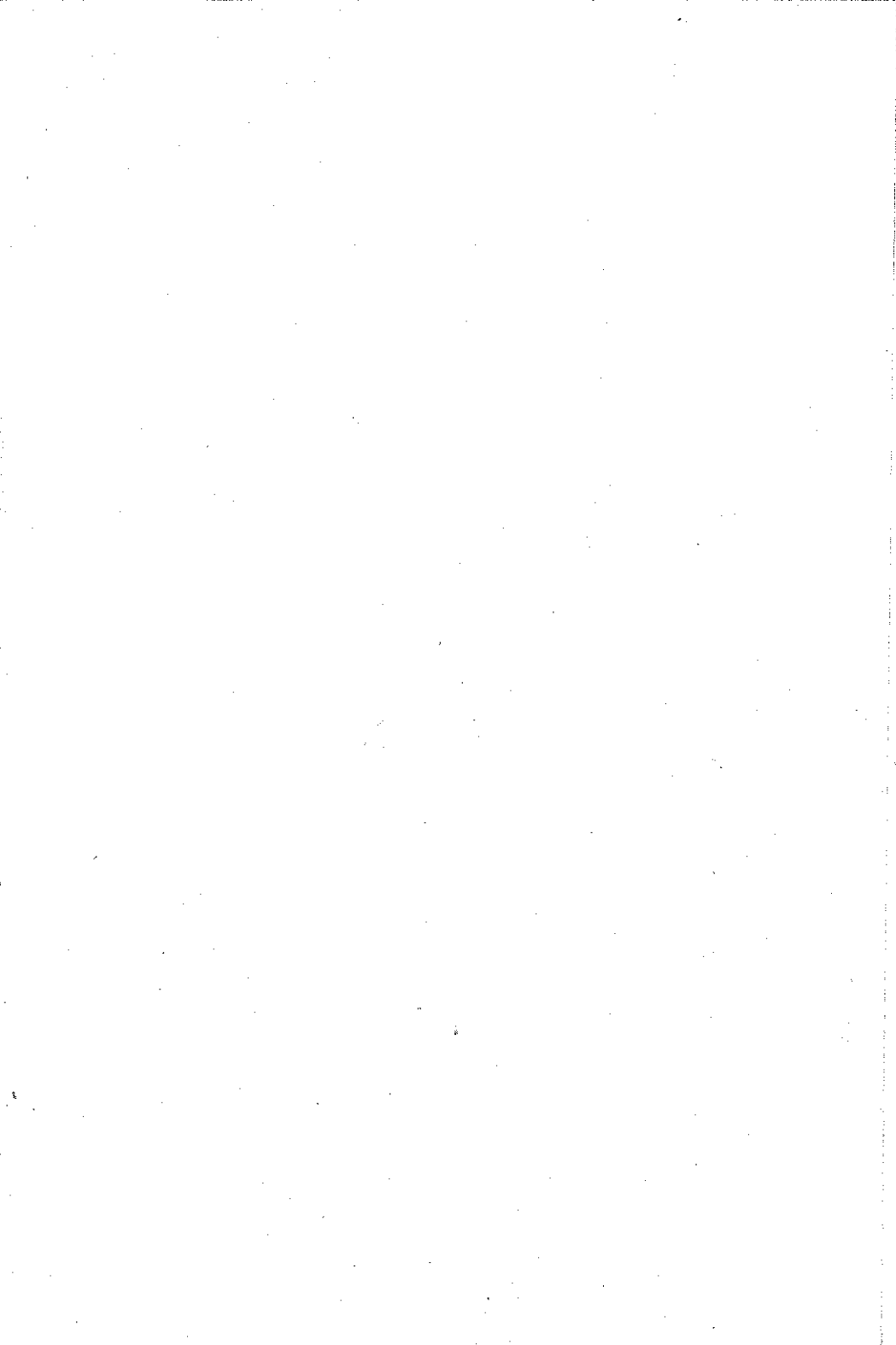




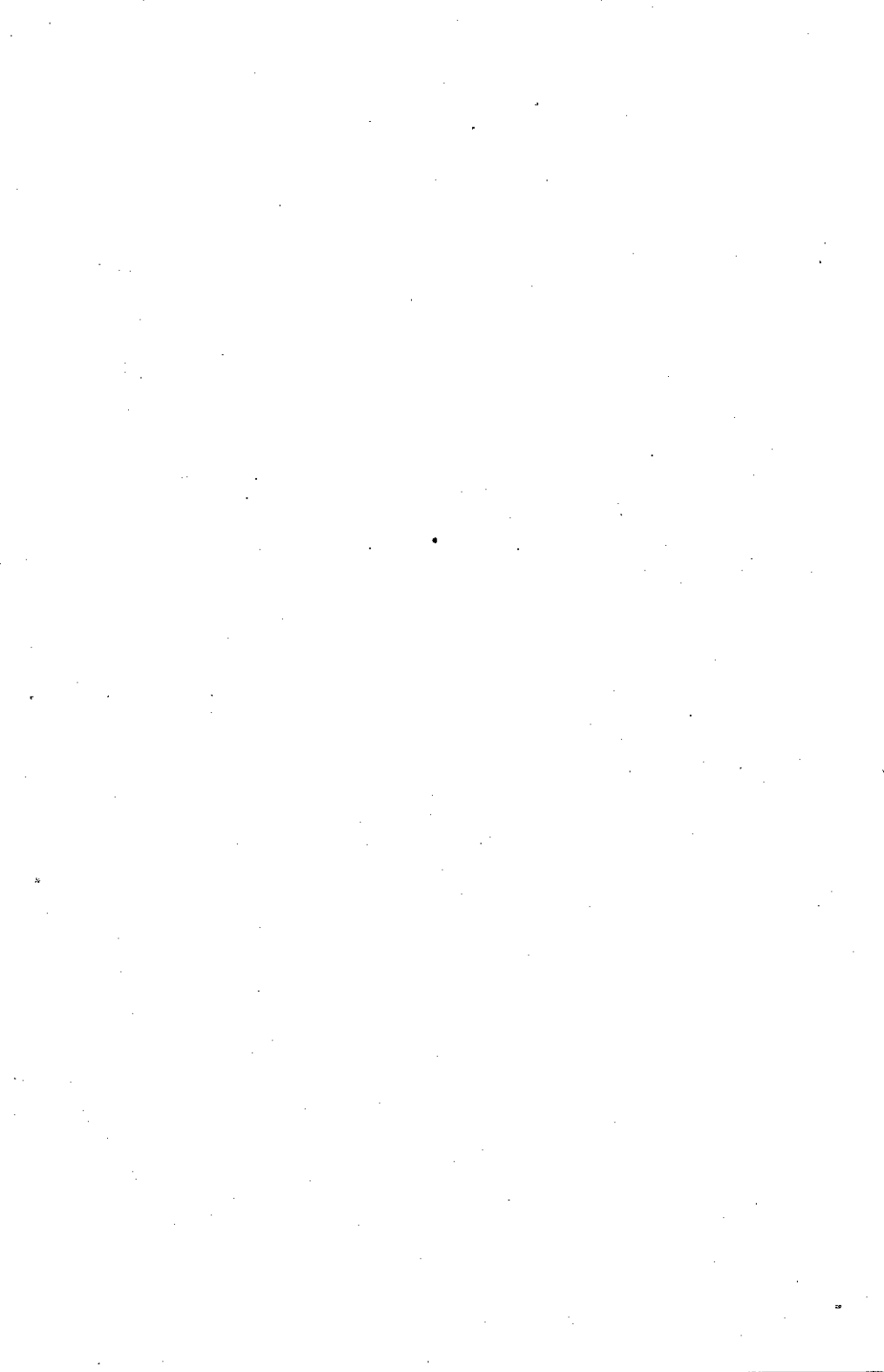
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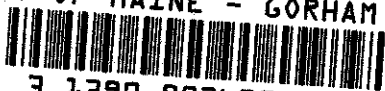


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