CHAPTER XXVIII.

NEWSPAPERS AND THEIR EDITORS.

FRANK W. ROLLINS.

"When I first came to Concord in 1809," wrote Isaac Hill in 1833, "there were three small printing houses only, the whole united apparatus of which would be scarcely sufficient to print a large-sized weekly newspaper of the present time. With the aid of a single journeyman and my eldest brother, then under twenty years of age, the *Patriot* newspaper was printed weekly, and such jobs of printing as came in from customers were executed in addition. The printing press I then had was one that had been used at Norwich, Conn., to print a newspaper of foolscap size, during the War of the Revolution; and the types were a remnant of these which had been nearly worn out by Mr. Etheridge of Charlestown in printing a quarto Bible, etc. The whole expense of the office was about three hundred dollars; and it was really worth, perhaps, half that sum. My colleagues in the business, in this town, were the late veteran printer George Hough, and our friend Jesse Carr Tuttle, the latter of whom printed a rival political newspaper. Mr. Hough had a font of small pica, and about a hundred pounds of old brevier type; and he had a printing press not quite as rickety as mine, because he had sold my predecessor the older one, and bought another that had not been used probably more than twenty years, and this constituted nearly the whole of his apparatus. He very rarely had more than one apprentice; but he always worked himself when he had a job of printing on hand, and obtained other occasional assistance. . . . As for our other colleague printer, Mr. Tuttle, his also were the old Scotch types which had long been used by Mr. Hough, and nearly everything done in his office was the newspaper; this was at first larger than the *Patriot*, and better supported with advertising patronage. . . . About the close of the late war (1812) he sold out his newspaper to a family of printers by the name of Spear; but in their hands the *Concord Gazette* did even worse, until it was finally discontinued, leaving the *Patriot* the whole field.

"Such was the condition of our art in this place twenty years ago. At this time there are six different newspaper establishments in the village, and these constitute but a small portion of the printing

done here. There are probably more than twenty different kinds of school books stereotyped and published here, some of which find a market at more than a thousand miles distance. I had the gratification to present the president and vice-president of the United States and the secretaries of war and navy, who visited this town last summer, with specimens of the fine Bible stereotyped and manufactured by Luther Roby & Co., and of the 'Christian Harmony,' a volume of music published by Horatio Hill & Co.,—specimens, the almost entire material of which was produced here, and which twenty years ago would have been wonderful if produced by the best artists in Europe."

The eighteenth century was far spent when George Hough came to Concord and set up the first printing press. This was in September, 1789. Mr. Hough was then thirty-two years old, a native of Connecticut, and a printer by occupation, who had published newspapers elsewhere before coming to Concord. On the 6th of January, 1790, the inhabitants of Concord saw the issue of the town's first newspaper. Its name was *The Concord Herald and New Hampshire Intelligencer*, and its size could almost be measured by a foot rule, its face being fourteen inches by nine. Small as it was it had for a motto "The Press is the oracle of science, the Nurse of Genius, and the Shield of Liberty." Mr. Hough began work as a printer and editor in a small one-story building that stood on Main street on a site now included in the state house yard. From this little establishment also issued the first pamphlet ever printed in Concord; it was called "Christian Economy," and was followed the same year, 1789, by the sermon preached at the installation of the Reverend Israel Evans at the Old North, a well preserved copy of which is in the state library. In the conduct of his newspaper Mr. Hough did what most of his contemporaries did, he squeezed his exchanges to sustain his own paper, as he ingenuously says in the first issue of the *Herald*: "We receive papers from most of the printers in the United States, from which we will extract the proceedings of congress and other matters of entertainment and instruction." Thus one discovers the germs of the associated press of 1789.

George Hough, besides being Concord's first printer and editor, was a prominent and useful citizen. He was born in the town of Bozrah, Conn., the 15th of June, 1757. He learned his calling in Norwich, and followed it there until he moved to Windsor, Vt., in 1783. There, too, he engaged in newspaper work, and helped to establish the *Vermont Journal*. Six years later Mr. Hough came to Concord, and here he remained until his death in 1830. He was not constituted for aggression, he lacked the capacity to deal sharp

blows, yet he was a leader in his way and exercised a good influence among his townsmen. Judged even by the standards of his time, he was a character whose peculiarities invited mirth and gossip. Asa McFarland recalls Mr. Hough as "small in person, deliberate in motion, and a gentleman by instinct. He could no more have been made to perform an unkind act than to run a foot race. I shall never forget the deliberation and care with which, seated at our fireside, he prepared an apple for eating, nor the moderation with which he told a story. Colonel Kent often 'put the nub' upon and raised a laugh at the conclusion of the stories of Mr. Hough, which, but for Colonel Kent's assistance, would have been rather pointless." It is easy after this touch to see Concord's first editor and comprehend his personality.

Prim no doubt he was and methodical as well, yet these traits had a market value, as was shown at the time of the run on the lower or Kent bank. Bill holders began calling for redemption in specie and the situation grew grave. Then was conceived the ingenious plan of employing the slow and mechanical Mr. Hough to count out the small coin while an express rider galloped to Boston and brought back the necessary amount of ready money. In looking through the records of that period one finds frequent mention of Mr. Hough, for he was really a public-spirited citizen, always ready to forward any good project. He was a subscriber to the fund to build a town house, he paid liberally towards a bell on the old meeting-house, he gave land to make State street, he served as secretary of the "Society for Discountenancing Vice and Immorality," he was one of the school committee, he was president of the Concord Mechanics association, and a leader in the musical society, one of the social features of early Concord. Besides being the first printer and editor, Mr. Hough was Concord's first postmaster, his commission bearing date of 1792. He was in the legislatures of 1815-'16.

The Herald, as his newspaper was popularly called, continued in existence up to 1805, though it changed its name more than once. The circulation, distributed by post-riders, whose quaint calls for arrears appear very amusing, was confined principally to this section of the state, owing to the brisk competition below Concord, and to sparseness of population to the north. On the 4th of January, 1819, Mr. Hough brought out the first number of the *Concord Observer*. This was purely a religious weekly, and has the distinction of being the first of its kind published in New Hampshire. The life of this paper was not long, for in April, 1822, Mr. Hough sold it to John W. Shephard, who at once changed its name to the *New Hampshire Repository*, though retaining its religious features.

The new owner was a Gilmanton man who had recently come to Concord to enter an untried business. His printing office was in a little room over the store on the site of the present Masonic Temple, and later in Stickney's new block then situated opposite the state house.

Printing was not brisk with Mr. Shephard,—three to five persons comprised the entire force, and he had a hard struggle to keep along. In 1826 the *Repository* was sold and it disappeared, merged in a weekly known as *The New England Observer*, published at Keene. Mr. Hough's last newspaper connection was with the *Concord Register*, owned by George Kimball, which he continued to edit until his death, February 8, 1830. His funeral was largely attended, and his grave, marked by an old-fashioned entablature, may be seen near the south line of the old burying-ground.

A newspaper, like a ship, may with its name changed undergo a variety of vicissitudes before its course is finally run, and so the *Concord Observer*, founded by Mr. Hough, passing into the hands of Mr. Shephard as the *New Hampshire Repository* in 1822, then changing owners a few years later and going to Portsmouth, then to Portland and finally returning to Concord in 1831. Edmund S. Chadwick and ex-Governor David L. Morril now became its proprietors; but in three years the latter sold his interest to Charles H. Little, who, with Mr. Chadwick, had charge until 1835, when Mr. Little died and his share was sold to Reverend David Kimball. A few months after this Mr. Chadwick retired, and the property became known in 1839 as the *Christian Panoply*. On January 1, 1841, the paper appeared under a new title, that of *Congregational Journal*. Its owners at that time were David Kimball and Henry Wood, both Congregational clergymen, who conducted it as a religious publication. But change, however, was not done with it, for it passed through a succession of owners, among them being Reverend Benjamin P. Stone and Benning W. Sanborn. Finally, in December, 1862, Concord saw the last of the much-buffeted journal, for at that date it ceased to exist, and its subscription list was transferred to *The Congregationalist and Boston Recorder*.

Not long after Mr. Hough began business a rival publication called *The Mirrour* was started by Elijah Russell, a former printer in the *Herald* office. This was in 1792, the first number appearing in October of that year. The paper was printed near Hannaford's tavern at the North end. In size it was not unlike the *Herald*, being thirteen inches by seven and a half, and containing four pages. Moses Davis became a partner about 1795, when the *Mirrour* was made larger, its contents more carefully selected, and the price ad-

vanced to five shillings a year. Produce was common money in those days, and with that and barter generally the new firm managed to get along for several years. Mr. Russell seems to have been a man of enterprise, for he published, concurrently with *The Mirrour*, another paper called the *New Star*. This was miscellaneous and literary in its make-up, and was issued weekly. In size it was sixteen octavo pages, well printed and rather attractive in appearance. Mr. Russell, a few years before, in June, 1793, began a publication known as *The New Hampshire Magazine* or the *Monthly Repository of Useful Information*, which was without doubt the first magazine published in New Hampshire. This venture was not a success, nor is it surprising, considering the novelty of the project and the scant revenue attending it. The first number appeared in June and the last number in November. The editor is said to have been Reverend Martin Ruter of Canterbury. This short-lived magazine was a small octavo in form and contained sixty-four pages. In 1799 both the *Mirrour* and the *New Star* ceased publication.

The early newspapers were much alike in make-up and contents. Editorials were rare, their place being taken by signed communications setting forth the political issues of the day. Sharp, spicy, and bitter, they often elicited stinging replies. The influence of Roman history was shown in the names accompanying the communications. A file of the *Herald* discloses nearly as many proper names as Plutarch contains, for its columns glisten with Plato, Brutus, Cato, Junius, and similar nomenclature. Controversies seemed to be popular, and a subject once espoused was likely to last until the readers showed impatience. Tender rills of poetry trickled over the old newspapers; incipient bards saw their lines in print and were rejoiced. Still another feature was the space given to correspondents, and the queer things that filled it.

To modern eyes no part of the century-ago newspapers affords more interest and curious delight than the running advertisements. In a degree not wholly appreciated, one sees in them the various incidents and characteristics of the time, and interprets the thoughts and peculiar ideas of the people. Business and social customs are reflected as in a mirror, making clear the every-day doings of old Concord.

The ancient newspapers show also the coarseness pervading the age, for not only was there a rancor of expression but a plainness of suggestion no longer to be found in the press. In contrast to these objectionable features appear advertisements of religious works and doctrinal tracts, such as Addison's "Evidences," Baxter's "Call," Harvey's "Meditations," Graves's "Sacraments," Watts's "Sermons,"

and "The Seraphical Young Shepherd." Side by side were notices more secular, like Carver's "Travels," Bell's "Surgery," "Spectator," Milton's works, "Robinson Crusoe," while in comical conjunction were "Devil on Sticks," "Roderick Random," and Paine's "Age of Reason." Such, then, was largely the intellectual food of Concord people during the early years of the last century.

The first party newspaper published at Concord was the *Republican Gazette*, which made its appearance under the proprietorship of Elijah Russell in 1801, and lived about two years. Jefferson's election was the signal for journalistic rivalry, and before many years Concord was to become a fertile field for editorial partisanship.

In 1806 William Hoit, a well-known printer, persuaded that Concord ought to support a newspaper,—for at that time there was none in town,—began the publication of a small and unpretentious sheet styled the *Concord Gazette*, but the undertaking perished with the issue of its thirty-seventh number. This was in June. Undaunted by his experience and reinforced by a partner, Mr. Hoit again set forth on the sea of journalism a year later, with substantially the same newspaper as before. It was still known as the *Concord Gazette*. After a few weeks, Mr. Hoit disposed of his interest to his partner, Jesse C. Tuttle, who had learned his trade under the direction of George Hough. Mr. Tuttle seems to have been a person of wit and humor, respecting whom many good anecdotes were related.

The first number of the new *Gazette* contained a notice offering the paper "to post-riders who take a number weekly at a price which will afford them a handsome profit," and that inducement or some other seemed for a while to stimulate its circulation, as the paper was enlarged in 1809, and again four years later when it appeared with a spread-eagle wood cut bearing the motto "*E Pluribus Unum*." Mr. Tuttle used to relate that the printing materials of the *Gazette* were purchased of Dudley Leavitt, who had printed a newspaper and almanac at Gilmanton Corner, and were conveyed from there to Concord in a two-horse wagon without spilling a single type. The *Gazette* also furnished a theme of reminiscence for Mr. Hoit, who late in life was fond of telling how the engraving of the spread eagle was so badly done as to look like a crow and to give the name of that bird to the newspaper, and this he followed by another story telling of the dissolution of the partnership between him and Mr. Tuttle. According to Mr. Hoit the dispute arose over the capitalization of certain words taken from the foreign despatches and copied in the paper. Mr. Hoit had written that "The army of Napoleon was in jeopardy," whereat Mr. Tuttle corrected it by putting a capital J on jeopardy, claiming that as it was the name of a town it should be so

lettered. One thing led to another, when Mr. Hoit having informed his partner that "he was so green that he would be calling a cow pasture a cow minister," the firm forthwith ended.

The *Gazette*, under the direction of Mr. Tuttle, lived several years. Printed on the rough paper of the period, the *Gazette* is an interesting sight to modern eyes. The shape of the paper was oblong, measuring about twenty inches by ten, and folio in plan. The four pages contained six columns each. Following the custom of the time, these columns were picturesquely diverse in their contents. The original communications signed by "Videx" or "Publius," berating the Madison administration for cowardice and want of patriotism, stand out prominently; then come several columns devoted to news by mail, and to foreign items taken from exchanges. Poetry, also, had generous space, while the editorial, mingled with short comments on public affairs, both state and national, was conspicuous. Quaint were the advertisements. In large letters was set forth the "20000 dollar" lottery established for the benefit of Harvard college, with whole, half, and quarter tickets for sale at the store of William Kent, and italicised is the injunction that "adventurers would do well to make instant application." Another singular advertisement was one offering *one cent reward* for the return of an indentured apprentice of tall size and light complexion. One of the longest advertisements called attention to the merits of Rogers' Vegetable Pulmonic Detergent for colds, coughs, and consumption, bottles of which could be bought at the *Gazette* office. Then the post-rider had his space wherein to remind delinquents that they must make good their engagements with the printers, "who bear the burden and heat of the day in order to supply the public with news untainted with scandal," followed by the suggestion that "those whom this coat fits are desired to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly."

The *Gazette* was Federal in politics, and for several years exerted considerable influence through the communications of strong and versatile contributors. In 1815 Mr. Tuttle disposed of his interest to W. S. Spear. The successor managed the business under the firm of Thayer & Spear until 1819, when the publication ceased.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hoit entered into a business arrangement with certain Jeffersonian leaders, which introduced a new paper to the community called *The American Patriot*. This was the last of Mr. Hoit's ventures, and a few months later the paper passed into the hands of a man destined to become one of the great newspaper editors of the age,—Isaac Hill.

The political situation in 1809 furnished abundant reason why a strictly partisan newspaper should be established at Concord; and,

moreover, the business prospects of such an undertaking were, considering the abandoned condition of journalism in and around the town, singularly promising. Some of the Republican leaders were willing, not only to advise, but to make substantial contributions to such an organ, thus adding a strong inducement for the right editor. The man was found in young Isaac Hill, who had just reached his majority, and at the same time had completed a seven years' apprenticeship in the office of the *Amherst Cabinet*. Mr. Hill came to Concord, conferred with the leaders, looked over the ground, and within a fortnight entered upon that remarkable career which was to make him a senator in congress, a governor of New Hampshire, and one of the leaders of the Democratic party. Mr. Hill was born in a part of old Cambridge, now Somerville, April 6th, 1788. Toil and self-sacrifice were his early lot, his schooling was limited, and at the age of fourteen he began his apprenticeship in Amherst. On April 18th, 1809, was issued, under his editorship, the first number of the *New Hampshire Patriot*. This number, designated "No. One, new series, whole No. 27," contained four pages, with four columns to the page, and measured eleven inches by seventeen. An extract from Madison —"Indulging no passions which trespass on the rights of others, it shall be our true glory to cultivate peace by observing justice"— constituted its motto.

The first page contained a few advertisements, one announcing the new firm of Low & Damon, corner of School street; then followed a long list of letters remaining in David George's post-office, and directed to persons living in neighboring towns. In another column was a speech by Senator Giles of Virginia. Then came mention of foreign intelligence, auction sales, and judicial notices; but scarcely a line was devoted to anything like local news. The brisk young editor also presented his salutatory to the public, setting forth the purpose of the paper, and suggesting his own political creed. Three hundred dollars represented Mr. Hill's investment, which embraced a time-worn Ramage press, with a font of type to match. The work of the office was done by the editor, his brother Walter, and one apprentice; and among them they turned off job printing, set the type, ran the press, solicited advertisements and wrote them, addressed the wrappers, and delivered the papers to the village subscribers.

For a few months the scene of these labors was in a building on the site of what is to-day the Abbot House on South Main street, but a removal was soon made to the lot now occupied by the Governor Hill block. There, in a two-story structure, the *Patriot* had its home for nearly twenty years. About that time, the need of a book-store became apparent, so Mr. Hill opened such a store in the new

quarters. Establishing his presses and editorial room on the upper floor, he gave the ground floor to the new enterprise and called it the Franklin Book Store. Meanwhile, with an eye to the future, the editor-bookseller bought the land north of his office, and built upon it a dwelling-house, setting it back two rods from the street, and there he began his married life in 1814.

Concord, in 1809, contained nearly twenty-four hundred inhabitants, of whom scarcely a third lived in the main village. In a business point of view, the town was of growing importance; public attention was beginning to be directed towards it, and it had already practically become the capital of the state. The situation of Concord, favorable as it was, was soon to be made more so by the opening of the Middlesex canal and the establishment of numerous stage lines. The influence of a citizen like Isaac Hill was certain to benefit the community. Nervously energetic, tireless and persistent, he entered heartily into the material development of his adopted town, becoming a leader in its business and social features, spending freely of his own means and encouraging others to spend and help by his stimulating example. Starting his paper with six hundred subscribers, he saw the list increase month by month, until its circulation embraced every locality in the state. With the enlargement of his newspaper he sought other paths of activity, so that in less than ten years from the day he arrived he was a foremost leader in the public and private interests of Concord.

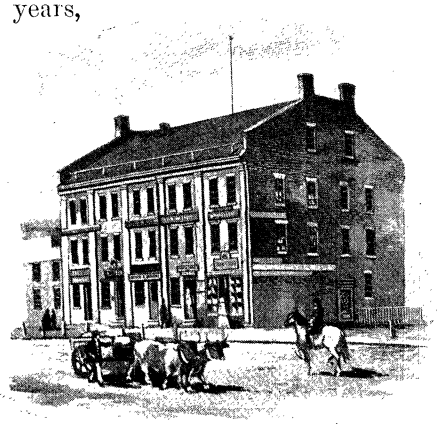
The War of 1812 afforded a great opportunity for Mr. Hill, and made his newspaper not only the mouthpiece of the administration, but one of the leading journals in New England. So sharp and hard-hitting were his editorials that the *Patriot* increased greatly in circulation and importance, and actually shaped for many years the Republican-Democratic policy.

It was only natural that public offices should accompany such conspicuous ability, therefore party honors began to be bestowed on the intrepid editor. In 1819 he was clerk of the senate; in 1822, 1823, 1824, and 1827 he was a state senator; in 1829 he was named as second comptroller of the treasury by President Jackson, whose intimate friend he was, but the senate rejected the nomination. The following year he was chosen a senator in congress, and in 1836, 1837, and 1838 he was governor of New Hampshire.

To carry on the growing business of the newspaper, Mr. Hill associated with him his brother, Walter R. Hill, who remained from 1811 to 1815, when a brother-in-law, Jacob B. Moore, became interested, his connection with the paper extending from 1819 to 1823. Prosperity continuing to attend the *Patriot*, a larger and more convenient

building became necessary. Accordingly, in 1826, a large three-story brick block was built at the southeast corner of the old state house yard, which was to be the home of the paper and of the "Franklin Book Store" for many years.

In its day this block was one of the sights of the town, because of its imposing size and citified aspect. Although the block remained in the possession of Mr. Hill for twenty years, he disposed of his interest in the *Patriot* and in the book-store in 1829. The *Patriot* passed into the hands of his brother, Horatio Hill, and Cyrus Barton, while the book-store was conducted under the name of Horatio Hill & Co.



Franklin Book-store and N. H. Patriot Office.

Horatio Hill was an energetic man of affairs, who, after leaving Concord in the forties, soon made his home in Chicago, where he achieved success. Mr. Hill is best remembered in Concord from his connection with the famous book-store and his successful advocacy of the charter for the Concord Railroad.

Cyrus Barton was a practical printer and hard-working editor all his days. Born in Croydon, he attended the town schools, and began while in his teens an apprenticeship in the office of the *Vermont Republican* at Windsor. In 1823 he went to Claremont, where he started the short-lived *Spectator*, only to discover that Claremont politics were not favorable to the undertaking. Newport, however, offered a more promising field, so Mr. Barton moved his newspaper to that village, remaining there until his connection with the *Patriot* in 1829. From the day Mr. Barton came to Concord to live, to the day of his death, a quarter of a century later, he was prominent in the affairs of the town and a leader in Democratic politics. After Horatio Hill's retirement in 1834, Mr. Barton carried on the *Patriot* alone until 1840, when Henry H. Carroll became his partner. A year later another change took place, when Mr. Barton sold his interest to Nathaniel B. Baker.

In the legislative sessions of 1833–'34, Mr. Barton was a senator from the old Concord district, No. Four, and in 1842 he was a member of Governor Hubbard's council. This appears to be the extent of Mr. Barton's office-holding, but he was, notwithstanding, an active and influential party man. He evinced much interest in the charter contests preceding the city organization, and in return therefor, at the first city election, 1853, he was chosen a member of the common

council from Ward five, and was its president. In the state councils of the short-lived "American party" Mr. Barton took a conspicuous part, thereby separating himself from the Democrats, with whom he had long been a leader. He now, 1855, became exceedingly active with pen and voice, and bitterly denounced President Pierce and the Democracy and particularly the *Patriot.* He entered into the state campaign of that year with unwonted energy, speaking in various places and arousing enthusiasm.

On the 17th of February he met Walter Harriman in joint debate at Loudon. The hall was crowded. Mr. Harriman had spoken for an hour, when Mr. Barton rose to occupy his part of the afternoon. He soon became greatly excited, and assailed his former associates with vehemence, when suddenly reeling, with an unfinished sentence on his lips, he dropped lifeless into the arms of Mr. Harriman.

The growth of Concord in population and material prosperity, together with its increasing prominence politically, invited the establishment of a rival newspaper to the *Patriot.* Consequently, in 1823, Concord saw the beginning of the present *Statesman.* This was due to the enterprise of Luther Roby, a native of Amherst, who became its first printer and publisher. The first number of the *Statesman* appeared on the 6th of January, 1823, under the editorship of Amos A. Parker, who six months later became its owner. For the next two decades the history of the *Statesman* was as follows: On the 17th of October, 1825, Mr. Parker transferred the subscription list of his paper to George Kimball, then the editor of the *Concord Register*, who, merging both papers into one, continued the publication under the title of *The New Hampshire Statesman and Concord Register.* In December of that year, Thomas G. Wells, owner of the *Amherst Herald*, bought an interest in the consolidated papers, and added his list to the enterprise. In January, 1826, Mr. Wells sold his interest to Asa McFarland and Moses G. Atwood, the firm then being Kimball, McFarland & Atwood. In July Mr. Kimball disposed of his share to George Kent, and a year after, on the withdrawal of Mr. Atwood, the paper became the property of Kent & McFarland, continuing as such until the 31st of May, 1831, when still another paper, the *New Hampshire Journal*, was taken into the concern. The united papers were now issued as *The New Hampshire Statesman and State Journal*, Asa McFarland and George W. Ela having assumed the proprietorship. January 1st, 1834, Mr. McFarland retired from the business, leaving Mr. Ela the sole owner.

The immediate results of this *Statesman-Journal* consolidation were described by Mr. McFarland as follows: "The united paper was enlarged and its contents somewhat increased; but its circulation

was not augmented to such a degree as to meet the expectations of those who brought about the union. A large hand-press was purchased, which was so hard to work as to cause the workmen to grumble, the anticipated subscription list turned out very unsubstantial and discontinuances were lamentably frequent. At this time the forms of the paper were conveyed to a power press then located in a room connected with Breed's tan-yard, on State street near the First Baptist church. However, the paper held its own and managed to exist. The circulation began to mend, until there were twenty-five hundred subscribers, who paid from a dollar and a quarter to a dollar and a half, the post-riders taking their profit at all over a dollar, which was the price paid by them for the paper."

In 1838 John W. Flanders became a partner, retaining his interest until 1840, when his share passed into the hands of Mr. Ela. From August, 1841, to May, 1842, the publishers were George W. and Jacob H. Ela, then Augustus C. Blodgett appeared as partner, and in rapid succession came the names of John P. Osgood, Frank S. West, and A. C. Blodgett as connected with the paper. Finally, in July, 1844, the property passed to George O. Odlin, John C. Wilson, and John R. Osgood, under the style of George O. Odlin & Co.

In July, 1851, the *Statesman* gained reputation and stability by passing into the possession of Asa McFarland and George E. Jenks, who, with Henry McFarland, who was a partner from 1858 to 1871, controlled its destiny until it became the property of the Republican Press association in 1871.

In Asa McFarland's "Outline of Biography and Recollection" is an interesting side light on the negotiations whereby he became a part owner of the *Statesman* in 1826: "In February I received a note from Thomas G. Wells, inviting me to call upon him. I am not able to give all the particulars, but this is certain, that in connection with Moses G. Atwood, the half share owned by Mr. Wells was bought by Mr. Atwood and myself for one thousand dollars. It is hardly necessary to say that this transaction small as was the sum of money invested could not be held in light regard by me. I was in only my twenty-third year, and Mr. Atwood was my junior. The other half of the *Statesman* was nominally owned by George Kimball, a gentleman who had no knowledge of the printing business, and, although with the advantage of what is styled a liberal education, not a desirable partner, for he was indolent, without aptitude for business, and an incessant snuff taker." After describing the persons connected with the office, Mr. McFarland continues: "The apartment in which the *Statesman* was printed was very low studded, exceedingly warm in summer and cold in winter. Room was made

for the 'friskets' of two hand presses by constructing a recess in the ceiling overhead. A room in the second story was the editorial apartment, where the accounts were also kept."

The home of the *Statesman* was in those days in the Farley building, an unsightly wooden structure standing on the lot occupied at the present time by Merchants' Exchange block, next south of the New Eagle. For the third story and the business office below it was paid an annual rental of one hundred dollars. Mr. McFarland was connected with the *Statesman* in all for more than thirty years, and was its editor most of that time.

An interesting picture of the printing-office of that period has been left by John C. Moore, himself one of the veterans of the press, whose life continued to times very recent. "The type in the *Patriot* office consisted of few varieties, and nearly everything was coarse, clumsy, and uncouth. The Ramage press was then the best in use; it compelled the pressman to move the bed twice and to take two impressions on one side of a demy sheet of twenty by twenty-four inches, and the same for the other side. The inking apparatus consisted of a board say fifteen inches square, upon which the ink was spread, and two balls (about ten inches in diameter made of well-trodden sheep's pelt stuffed with wool), which required considerable strength to handle, offered the means of distributing the ink when taken from the table, which was done by vigorously beating them together with a sort of rolling movement, turning them a little at a time, so as to make the ink cover the entire surface, and so as to beat the press-form so perfectly that neither '*monks*' nor '*friars*' should appear on the printed sheet. About two hundred and fifty sheets were thus printed on one side in an hour, one man working the press and another the balls, and changing places every hour. For press-work the pay of a journeyman was twelve and a half cents a token, say two hundred and fifty sheets." In those good old days of the Hoits and Hills and Tuttles sixteen smart hours often made up a day's work.

September 11th, 1826, Concord saw the first number of the *New Hampshire Journal*. Its publisher was Henry E. Moore, and its editor Jacob B. Moore, one of the most accomplished literary men in the state. This paper started under favorable conditions, and before long its circulation was the largest of any in town. It so happened that its opening number arrested wide attention by a vivid description of an event so tragic and terrible as to become of absorbing interest throughout the country. It was the great slide at the Willey house. Editor Moore, who was traveling among the White Mountains at the time, was an eye-witness of the devastation and loss of life. In fact, he and his party narrowly escaped destruction in the

engulfing flood, having barely time to seek safety from the rapid waters of the Saco as they rushed through the Notch. An article of that description, written by one on the spot, was a rare event in those days, and looked upon as an achievement almost miraculous. An occurrence so wonderful and impressive set forth in glowing words was indeed a feature well calculated to stimulate circulation and win subscribers. And this the Willey house article seemed for a while to do. But, notwithstanding so favorable an introduction, the paper was not long maintained. Various reasons were ascribed regarding the matter, but the result was the merging of the *Journal* in the columns of the *Statesman* in 1831. It was near the close of its career that Richard Bartlett, a Concord lawyer, became connected with the *Journal* as editor.

Jacob B. Moore was one of the prominent citizens of Concord during the early years of the nineteenth century. He was born in Andover, October 31st, 1797, and learned the printer's trade in the office of the *Patriot*. He was more than a printer, he was distinctively an editor and literary man, and also a bookseller. His tastes were historical, and he gave to the public many articles and publications on local and state annals. He and John Farmer published the "New Hampshire Historical Collections," while he alone wrote or compiled various works, among which were "Annals of Concord," 1824; "Laws of Trade," 1840; and "Memoirs of American Governors," 1846. This work, left uncompleted, was intended to embrace all the prerevolutionary governors. Mr. Moore was sheriff of Merrimack county 1829–'33.

Leaving Concord Mr. Moore resided in New York city, where he edited (1839) the *New York Whig*. Afterwards he lived in Washington as clerk in a department. Finally taking up his residence in California, Mr. Moore became postmaster of San Francisco, 1849–'53. He died at Bellows Falls, Vt., September 1st, 1853.

During the ten years from 1828 to 1838 Concord saw the beginning and end of several newspaper ventures. There were *The Times Mirror*, *The Spirit of the Republican Press*, *Concord Advertiser*, and *The Olive Branch*. Not one of these enterprises attained more than a year or two of publicity when it passed into oblivion. The first of these papers, *The Times Mirror*, began existence in 1828 under the editorship of Hugh Moore, an Amherst printer and a man of considerable ability. The following year brought the last issue of the paper. Dudley S. Palmer figured more or less conspicuously in the journalism of those days, through the publication of various newspapers or periodicals devoted to social and political reforms. Colonel Palmer, as he was called,—his title being derived from service on the staffs

of Governors Pierce and Bell,—was connected at one time with *The Patriot*, *The Courier*, and the temperance sheets known as *Truth's Defender*, *Plain Dealer*, and *Voice of the Masses*. He was also correspondent for the *Boston Traveller*, the *New York Tribune* and other leading journals. He served as deputy secretary of state, succeeding to the secretaryship in 1827, holding the office several years. He died in Newbury, Vt., in 1886.

The Concord Semi-Weekly Advertiser made its appearance in 1831. Henry E. Moore, one of the well-known family of printers, was its manager during its existence of scarcely ninety days. Mr. Moore, however, deserves passing mention, for it was owing to his enterprise that a collection of church music and musical publications called the "Northern Harp," "The Musical Catechism," "The National Choir," and "The Merrimack Collection of Instrumental Music," were published and printed in Concord as early as the thirties.

The Olive Branch, a four-page quarto weekly, made its appearance in January, 1832. The owner and editor was Jacob Perkins. The price was one dollar if paid in advance. The motto, somewhat out of proportion to the subscription, read as follows: "Peace is our watchword, usefulness our aim—pledged to no party, by no sect enslaved." The office whence issued this candidate for public favor was over the "Green Store," at the northeast corner of the old state house yard. The paper was well made up and ably edited, first by Mr. Perkins, then by John LeBosquet, a practical printer. In spite of the suggestive vignette decorating its first page—a dove perched on a sunshiny limb, bearing in her beak an olive branch—this paper disappeared from circulation long before its first summer was half spent.

If relationship among newspapers could be traced as in the human family, there might be found an affinity between a certain paper first issued in Concord during the thirties and the *Statesman* of to-day. The baptismal name of the former publication was *The New Hampshire Courier*, and its sponsors were Dudley S. Palmer and Woodbridge Odlin. The date of the first number was December 14th, 1832. Some changes in the management and name took place August 8th, 1834, when Mr. Chadwick became a partner. The name of the paper was changed to *The Courier and Inquirer*. This continued to be the name as long as the publication survived, or until May, 1842, when the end came. But, in October, 1844, the publication was revived by Augustus C. Blodgett, formerly connected with the *Statesman*, and under the direction of its new owner the paper was kept alive for several years. In January, 1846, Mr. Blodgett united his paper with the fortunes of the *Concord Gazette*, recently started by Charles F.

Low, and maintained its publication up to the time when the paper lost its identity in the columns of the *Independent Democrat*, May 6th, 1847. It will be seen subsequently that this last paper, after a valiant service in behalf of freedom and free territories, became itself lost in the consolidation out of which grew the *Independent Statesman* of the present day.

Woodbridge Odlin, whose connection with newspapers has been noted, was a native of Concord, his birth occurring March 19th, 1810. The house in which he was born stood on Main street nearly opposite the city hall, and occupied a site almost identical with that of the house in which he died nearly eighty-seven years later. Learning the printer's trade with Luther Roby, Mr. Odlin worked in Boston for a time, returning to Concord while still a young man. Giving up the newspaper business after a few years' experience, he engaged in the grocery and West India trade, and continued in it for nearly a quarter of a century. His store on Main street, where now stands Chase's block, was widely known as a temperance store, for its proprietor, notwithstanding the custom of the time, resolutely refused to sell spirituous liquors. This was in 1838, when dram selling was a prime source of income to all grocers, and dram drinking was commonly regarded as among the indispensable conditions of every-day life. From 1855 to 1860 Mr. Odlin held the office of city treasurer, his only elective office, and from 1862 to 1872 he was assistant assessor of internal revenue. When the First National bank was started Mr. Odlin became its first cashier. After retiring from business Mr. Odlin lived a quiet life, interesting himself in public matters and keeping in touch with all things of a local nature. Of sprightly disposition and cheery manner, possessed of sparkling humor, Mr. Odlin passed on to old age a familiar and welcome personality. He died February 22d, 1898.

Another publication appeared during the thirties called *Star in the East*. It was a denominational paper under the direction of the Universalists, well edited and neatly printed. The year of its birth was 1834. The editor was John G. Adams, while James R. Adams and Perkins Kimball looked after the management. It was in the office of this paper that Hayes & Kimball printed and sent forth a controversial journal attacking the dogmas of Roman Catholicism. Its name was *Priestcraft Exposed*, and the publication continued from 1833–'36.

The same year that saw the beginning of *Star of the East* saw also a modest publication whose youthful editors were to achieve distinction,—one as governor, the other as supreme court judge. It was August 1st, 1834, that the postmaster found a new publication to

distribute, and on looking at the title page saw that it was the *Literary Gazette*, Moody Currier and Asa Fowler, editors. Associated with the editors in the conduct of the *Gazette* was a young man named Cyrus P. Bradley. In the estimation of his contemporaries Mr. Bradley had in him the making of a literary man of rare accomplishments and promise. Born in Canterbury in 1818, he was graduated at Dartmouth in 1837. His high scholarship attracted the attention of his comrades, and he justified their opinions. Historical studies interested him deeply, and, young as he was, he began to be known for accurate and valuable researches. He wrote much for the newspapers, generally on subjects of a biographical and historical nature, and in 1835 he completed an authoritative life of Isaac Hill. This little book, published by John F. Brown at the Franklin bookstore, is the best biography of Governor Hill, and shows clearly the extent of the loss suffered by social and literary Concord in the untimely death of Mr. Bradley, July 6th, 1838, at the age of twenty years.

During the decade of 1830–'40 Concord saw the rise and fall of several newspaper publications whose inception and reception were not favorable to a long life. The anti-slavery agitation was not without its effect during this period, and Concord was more than once the scene of active labors connected with the cause. January 24th, 1835, an anti-slavery weekly, called *The Abolitionist*, was started by David D. Fisk and E. G. Eastman. A month later its name was changed to *The Herald of Freedom*, and as such it continued for some time, drawing to its conduct and management such well-known citizens as Albe Cady, George Kent, Amos Wood, and others. But the genius of them all was Nathaniel P. Rogers, who in 1838 succeeded to the editorship of the *Herald*. For six years he remained in charge of its utterances, and gave to the paper a wide circulation and a first-rate reputation among publications of that character. He was an extreme radical, an uncompromising enemy to every kind of human wrong, and withal a man of lofty and courageous convictions. He spared no person however prominent, nor any organization or institution however powerful, nor did sacred objects swerve him from his course. Bold, clear, and incisive, his editorials went straight as an arrow's flight, and winged with truth. Such a man was bound to be heard, and he was heard and quoted in the newspapers of his day. Save possibly William Lloyd Garrison, Rogers was the greatest newspaper champion of anti-slavery in the United States. But his bright and sensitive mind, polished by learning and cultivation, was capable of dealing with subjects other than anti-slavery, and he wrote much on literary and social topics, commanding meanwhile wide admiration.

Under the pen name of "Old Man of the Mountain," he contributed a series of delightful anti-Texas articles to the *New York Tribune*, which introduced him to a large and appreciative number of readers. He was a genius whose torch, though brilliant, burned quickly, for he died at Concord, October, 16th, 1846, and was buried in the old cemetery. A year later a volume was published containing many of his best articles, with an appreciative preface by John Pierpont.

About 1832 the Baptist denomination published a weekly in Concord called the *New Hampshire Baptist Register*, continuing it until 1846, when its fortunes were united with the *Christian Reflector* of Boston. For a while David D. Fisk was its printer and Reverend William Taylor its editor.

The temperance movement took a strong hold in Concord, and during the forties several newspapers were started for the purposes of reform. One of these, called *White Mountain Torrent*, a small monthly publication, was begun in 1843 by John R. French, at No. 2 Low's block. This being a moral suasion paper, its motto was "No weapon but truth, no law but the law of love." The terms were reasonable, fifty cents a year. The size, however, while by no means imposing, twelve inches by nine, was large enough to receive frequent contributions from men so distinguished as John G. Whittier, John Pierpont, Nathaniel P. Rogers, Moses A. Cartland, and George Kent. The first publisher, John R. French, afterwards became well known in public life as sergeant-at-arms of the United States senate. The *Torrent* changed habitation more than once, for it was domiciled in Manchester, Portsmouth, and twice in Concord. In 1846 the paper was merged in the *Massachusetts Temperance Standard*, a Boston publication.

A year later another temperance paper saw the light, but its career was brief and without local interest. It was the *Temperance Banner*, issued monthly. The owner of the paper was the state society for promotion of temperance, who conducted it through a board of editors. The paper appealed to Democrats to remain Democrats but to be temperance Democrats, and in like manner it appealed to the Whigs. It was claimed that the monthly circulation of this paper, in 1848, had reached the number of twelve thousand.

After the *Patriot* and *Statesman* Concord's strongest and most important newspaper was the *Independent Democrat*. This paper was founded in 1845, and continued with vigor and influence until it lost its identity in the consolidation with the *Monitor* and subsequently with the *Statesman*. Its identity, however, is not wholly lost, for the name *Independent Statesman* is still a familiar one in the newspaper world. The birthplace of the paper was Manchester where

May 8th, 1845, Robert C. Wetmore issued the first number. A few weeks subsequently the paper was moved to Concord, where it began to attract attention and comment because of its utterances. Its appearance was contemporaneous with the Texas question, and the secession of John P. Hale from the ranks of the Democracy. It was not long before the people began to take notice of the sharp and pungent editorials of the paper, and to enquire respecting the author of them. The author, they found, was George G. Fogg, a lawyer by profession, who was then living in Concord as secretary of state, to which office he had been elected by the coalition legislature of 1846. In May, 1847, the *New Hampshire Courier*, owned by A. C. Blodgett, and the *Granite Freeman*, owned by J. E. Hood of Manchester, were united with the *Democrat*, and the publication appeared as *Independent Democrat and Freeman.*

In July of that year Mr. Fogg bought an interest and became thenceforth the power in the editors' room. Started as a Free-soil weekly, the paper kept resolutely to its course until it became an acknowledged factor in the changing ara of politics. Fearless in the conduct of his paper, and unyielding in the advocacy of Free-soil principles, Mr. Fogg was soon looked upon as one of the leading editors in the country. In 1849 Augustus H. Wiggin, a practical printer, became part owner with Mr. Fogg, and so continued several years. In 1857 the *State Capital Reporter*, begun five years before by Cyrus Barton, but which had now passed into the ownership of Amos Hadley, was merged with the *Independent Democrat*, which thereafter bore the names of Fogg & Hadley as editors and publishers.

George G. Fogg, who in his day ranked high among newspaper editors, was a native of Meredith, where he was born May 26th, 1813. Graduating at Dartmouth in the class of 1839, and studying law, he was admitted to the bar and began practice in Gilmanton. He was one of the earliest Free-soilers in the state, and he soon became a leader in the councils of the party. In 1846 the coalition legislature, composed of Whigs and Free-soilers, elected him secretary of state, his tenure lasting but one year. He was a delegate to the famous Buffalo Free-soil convention of 1848, also to the Pittsburg convention of 1852, and subsequently becoming a Republican, he was a member of the national conventions of 1856 and 1860. His vigorous espousal of Republican principles gave him prominence, while his pungent editorials made the *Independent Democrat* one of the best-known papers in New England. From 1856 to 1864 Mr. Fogg was a member of the Republican National committee, and some time its secretary, thus giving him national prominence, which,

added to his advocacy of Abraham Lincoln in the Chicago convention, gained for him, in 1861, the appointment of minister to Switzerland. Meanwhile, he had held the office of state reporter from 1855 to 1859. On the termination of his foreign mission, Governor Smyth appointed him, in 1866, United States senator to fill out the unexpired term of Daniel Clark. Mr. Fogg continued nominally or actively his editorship of the *Democrat* until that property was merged into the corporation owned by the Republican Press association. Mr. Fogg was interested in educational and historical matters, being a trustee of Bates college and an active member of the New Hampshire Historical society. Purchasing the Sanborn house opposite the city hall, now the residence of Henry Robinson, Mr. Fogg, after his return from Europe, passed there the remainder of his days. His death occurred October 5th, 1881.

The beginnings of the *Patriot* have been noticed and its career traced up to the departure of Isaac Hill for Washington in 1829, when he disposed of his interest to others. The paper then went into the possession of Horatio Hill and Cyrus Barton, who remained partners until 1834, when Mr. Hill retired from the firm, leaving Mr. Barton sole owner. Henry H. Carroll became a partner in 1840, and soon afterwards Nathaniel B. Baker bought the remainder of Mr. Barton's interest, the firm then becoming Carroll & Baker. Mr. Carroll was a graduate of Dartmouth, and a man of cultivation and ability, who gave excellent promise of distinction in journalism, but a sudden and fatal sickness caused his death in August, 1846, at the age of thirty-three years. The *Patriot* now passed into the hands of George Minot as administrator of Mr. Carroll's estate, and from him to William Butterfield, who was editing the *Nashua Gazette*. There were at that time two weekly papers called the *Patriot*, whose brisk rivalries were not conducive to the welfare of either. The other *Patriot*, the property of Isaac Hill and his sons, William P. and John M., owed its establishment to various personal and party reasons.

Governor Hill, after retirement from public office in 1839, began publishing an agricultural monthly called *The Farmer's Monthly Visitor*, which soon gained a large and paying list of subscribers. In the meanwhile there arose in certain parts of New Hampshire a sentiment favorable to starting a political newspaper under the direction of Isaac Hill himself, and the outcome of that sentiment was the issue in August, 1840, of *Hill's New Hampshire Patriot*. For seven years this well-edited and successful paper held its own, exerting wide influence, increasing its patronage, and making itself a political power. It is historically interesting to know that the management of this paper also gave to the people of Concord their first

daily newspaper in 1840. The prospectus announced the issue of a daily during the June session of the legislature, which was to cost two cents a copy, and furthermore that the proceedings of the house and senate were to be reported by Governor Hill personally.

Enterprise like that did not escape the attention of the other *Patriot*, therefore in June, 1841, Barton & Carroll began the publication of a daily (save Friday and Saturday), neatly made up in folio, measuring twelve by eight and a half inches. This publication, enlarged during its career, was continued until the union of the rival *Patriots* in 1847, and for several years thereafter by the new firm of Butterfield & Hill.

There was a *Daily Statesman* during sessions of the legislature about as early as there was a *Daily Patriot*. The *Statesman* endeavored to give verbatim reports of legislative proceedings, and had in its service at various times such distinguished reporters as Charles W. Slack and J. M. W. Yerrington of Boston, Charles B. Collar of Washington, and George Vernon Marsh of London, England.

William Butterfield, who now appears as a Concord editor, was a native of Goffstown, his birthday being September 18th, 1815. Graduating from Dartmouth in 1836, he studied law and began practice in Ohio. Returning to New Hampshire, he opened an office in Gilmanton, but he soon gave up his profession, and entered the newspaper field, first in Lowell, then in Nashua, coming to Concord in 1846. Until his death Mr. Butterfield was a citizen of Concord, esteemed by his townsmen and beloved by his friends. Some years alone, and at other times with a partner, he conducted and edited the *Patriot* until the property passed into the possession of Edwin C. Bailey and George G. Bailey in 1873. During the Democratic ascendency in the state, following the election of 1874, Mr. Butterfield became secretary of state for two years. His death occurred at Concord in 1884.

After disposing of his interest in the *Patriot*, Cyrus Barton was not long in starting another newspaper, so in January, 1852, Concord saw the first number of a semi-weekly publication called *State Capital Reporter*.

Amos Hadley became connected with this paper early in 1853, and soon after a weekly edition took the place of the semi-weekly experiment, and continued as long as the publication lived. Mr. Barton dying in 1855, Mr. Hadley carried on the paper until it was merged in the *Independent Democrat* in 1857.

Concord has been the birthplace, and, in many instances, the burial-place as well, of several undertakings in the newspaper business that have now all but passed from living memory. Many of these ventures were the offspring of some reform, and upon the spread and

stability of such movements their lives depended. Temperance, labor, social subjects, revival-religion, and anti-slavery were prolific in raising up organs to proclaim their respective tenets. The first of these causes was remarkable for its short-lived newspaper crop. As an editor puts it, "Every little while some one discovers that temperance lacks an organ, and issues an address inviting all the sons and daughters of sobriety to subscribe for a new temperance paper just started, and which directly fails for want of support. These papers seem born to die very young, or sell out at a great sacrifice." Besides the special newspapers mentioned already, there were others that claimed a Concord birthright, yet of them all scarcely one survived a twelvemonth.

In 1842 John R. French printed and George Kent edited a little paper called the *Locomotive*, whose running powers waned with its first quarter's moon; then there was the *Crusader of Reform*, devoted to temperance and issued by the state society. Prominent in its list of contributors was Reverend Augustus Woodbury. This paper was identified with Concord for a short period, about 1850, and was soon after united with the *Phenix*, a similar publication. Shortly after this Reverend Daniel Lancaster edited the *Northern Indicator*.

In June, 1856, a weekly paper called *Democratic Standard* made its appearance. The publisher was John B. Palmer, who with several brothers, all practical printers, did the mechanical work connected with its publication. Although the career of this paper was a brief one, it lived long enough to achieve a historic distinction that bids fair to survive many years. No paper published in Concord was more vehement in its opinions or so bitter in expressing them. The *Standard* was a radical and uncompromising advocate of pro-Southern political views, which grew more and more exasperating with the progress of secession. Nor did its conduct change with the beginning of rebellion; if possible its utterances became more deeply offensive to the Union sentiments of the people as the war went on. Finally, in August, 1861, an offended populace saw with composure the destruction of the *Standard* by a mob of infuriated soldiers who assaulted its office, destroyed the type, smashed the presses, and flung the cases and furniture into Main street, where they were consumed by fire.

To the political importance of Concord and its selection as the place for party headquarters may be ascribed the rise of a short-lived and special journalism known as campaign papers. They were of varying usefulness and duration, and of all sizes and appearances. A few were merely single sheets, some were folded, while others reached the dignity of numbered pages.

The complete enumeration of all such publications is impossible, for in some instances the first issue had no successor. However, in the list of campaign literature of Concord have been the following: In 1829 Dudley S. Palmer sent forth from the *Patriot* office a small publication called *Spirit of the Republican Press.* In 1835 Mr. Dickey presented to the public *The Concord Patriot*, and within the same year appeared *The Transcript.* One of the best known campaign publications was the *Advocate of Democracy*, edited by Joseph Kidder, and printed by John M. Hill, in the office of *Hill's New Hampshire Patriot.* It began in January, 1843, and lasted until after the March elections. Its direct mission was to expose a branch of a political party called the "new test politicians," whose code of action was deemed very corrupt and demoralizing. Then appeared *The True Whig*, in 1847, another of Dudley S. Palmer's ventures, and the following year came *The Wilmot Proviso*, with Frank S. Barr in charge.

The Taylor-Cass campaign of 1848 introduced a party paper entitled *Rough and Ready*, under the management of True Osgood, and as a counterpoise appeared soon after *Tough and Steady.* In the fifties Charles L. Wheeler published the *Concord Tribune*, and Edward E. Sturtevant along in 1855 printed *Voice of the Stockholders.* The name of this man is deeply chiseled on the annals of Concord. He was Concord's first enlisted soldier in the Civil War, and as recruiting officer he enrolled the first volunteers for the great conflict. He was born in Keene, August 7th, 1826. Learning the printer's trade in his native town, he worked in various places, including Concord. A roving disposition led him beyond the Potomac as far as Richmond, where he lived for a time. Returning to Concord, he soon became recognized as an active and useful man in the community. In 1855 he became a member of the police force, and was soon known for his pluck and daring. Somehow he got the nickname "Captain Crane," which stuck to him during his civilian life. In the militia of the period he took a leading part, becoming captain of a Concord company, and gaining a reputation for discipline and drill.

The annals of printers and printing would be incomplete unless mention is made of a secret and fugitive publication that darted into publicity from most unlooked-for quarters and at most unexpected periods, causing widespread apprehension among some people and great merriment among others. Who did it nobody knew, who printed it nobody could tell, yet there it was—a living, biting thing with brains and teeth. The name of this feared yet welcomed visitor was *The Owl.* The name was suggestive, for the habits of the bird were carefully imitated by its namesake. Its great eyes scanned the town

seeking foibles and gossip, prying into family secrets, laying bare human weaknesses, and sparing neither high nor low in its rounds of inspection. Names were called or thinly disguised, for spades were spades in the columns of *The Owl*. To discover the editors or the printers was impossible, for the squibs and comments showed plainly different authorship, while the type was evidently contributed from half the fonts in town. Moreover, the manner of distribution was in keeping with the rest, for it was during the silent watches of some black night that mischievous hands scattered copies of *The Owl* along the doorsteps and back stoops. The next morning the staid old town was full of wonder at the daring performance; and while many found amusement in its perusal, others who were victims of its savage satire nursed their wrath and longed for revenge. If money could have found out the offenders, much money would have been cheerfully paid, but so securely was the secret kept that there was no turning state's evidence. Suspicion alone was all that was ever found against *The Owl* attacks, and even that was likely to shift with each new issue. One thing, however, was certain, *The Owl* was the production of many brains and many hands. In a number of *The Owl*, Saturday, August 12th, 1848, an excerpt from its editorial illustrates its mission: "Why, the very stones in the streets would soon cry to heaven for vengeance if this great purifier of the moral atmosphere—'the bird of the night,' did not make his appearance. And we now say to the miserable counterfeits of humanity who walk in iniquity, Beware! Beware!! Neither your silks and satins, nor your fine broadcloths and pompous airs can save you. Our omniscient eye is upon you, and you might as well undertake to hold a live lamper-eel by the tail, as to attempt to escape the castigation which your misdeeds so richly merit." The *Owl* had no stated periods of publication. It came as the spirit of fun and mischief moved its authors, sometimes several issues a year, again only one, and some years passed without a single appearance. Since the fifties this lampooning night bird has existed only in the memories of Concord's oldest inhabitants.

Aside from the dailies issued during the legislative sessions, there were published in Concord in 1860 these newspapers: *New Hampshire Patriot*, *New Hampshire Statesman*, *Independent Democrat*, *Congregational Journal*, and *Democratic Standard*.

These properties remained in the hands of the same owners as in 1855 and 1856. The *Patriot*, edited by William Butterfield, was printed in Sanborn's block, which at that time stood partly across what is now Capitol street; the *Statesman*, owned and edited by Asa McFarland and George E. Jenks, had undergone some severe expe-

riences since the formation of the partnership in 1851. Scarcely had the forty-five hundred dollars agreed upon as the price of the paper been arranged and the property moved to the printing-office of Mr. McFarland in Stickney's block, when Concord was visited by a devastating conflagration such as even the fire-stricken inhabitants had never before experienced. In August, 1851, occurred "the great fire," which, starting in a wooden building in the rear of what is now the New Hampshire Savings bank, swept with increasing fury both north and south until it laid in ruins all the east side of Main street from Low's block (Woodward's) to Stickney's block opposite Park street. The *Statesman* plant was practically destroyed, yet with splendid courage Mr. McFarland took the earliest train for Boston, where he set about buying presses and printing material for another start. Fortunately, it happened that among the few things saved were the forms of that week's *Statesman*, which were at once removed to the *Patriot* office and the paper published on time. In the meanwhile, a long one-story building was erected back of Low's block, which was occupied by the *Statesman*. This continued to be the home of the paper until January, 1855, when Phenix block was completed, and another move was made. In these new quarters business increased year by year, so that in 1867, the "*Statesman* building," corner of Main and Depot streets, was built and occupied.

The Independent Democrat (1860), under the management of Amos Hadley,—as Mr. Fogg was giving his time to political matters and was on the eve of going to his diplomatic post in Switzerland,—was printed and published in apartments in Merchant's exchange. This block had been the home of the *Democrat* for several years, and continued to be up to the time of its consolidation with the *Monitor*.

The Congregational Journal did not have a building of its own, but was printed on the presses of the *Statesman* and the *Patriot*.

The Democratic Standard, edited by Edmund Burke of Newport, and printed and published by John B. Palmer and his brothers, occupied rooms in the third story of Low's block, and was (1860) approaching its sudden and violent end at the hands of a mob.

In 1862 a daily, called the *Legislative Reporter*, was begun and its periodical publication continued until succeeded by the permanent dailies subsequently established. This paper was the joint property of the several newspaper proprietors,—William Butterfield of the *Patriot*, McFarland & Jenks of the *Statesman*, and Fogg & Hadley of the *Independent Democrat*.

The decade beginning in 1860 is distinguished in the annals of Concord newspapers by the introduction of permanent dailies. The pioneer daily was the *Monitor*. The need of a daily paper becoming

urgent, a business arrangement was made with Cogswell & Sturtevant, job printers, to print and publish an evening daily, and on the 23d of May, 1864, the first number appeared. The backers of the undertaking were a party of Concord men, headed by Governor Joseph A. Gilmore. The sum of four thousand dollars was subscribed, an editor engaged, and the paper started. The editor was William S. Robinson, a journalist of Massachusetts, whose pen name, "Warrington," was widely known. The paper received telegraphic news, an especial feature being war intelligence and letters from New Hampshire soldiers.

At the June session in 1864, J. M. W. Yerrington, one of the most accomplished stenographers living, who had formerly been employed by the *Statesman*, was engaged to report the legislative proceedings. Inaugurated thus favorably, the enterprise soon encountered troubles. The financial promises were not kept, dissensions arose, the editor left, the promoters held back, the guaranty to the printers remained unpaid, and at last, as part payment, the property was made over to Cogswell & Sturtevant in August, 1865. J. Henry Gilmore then became the editor, and Mr. Cogswell did the local work. Also connected with the early years of the *Monitor* as writers were George A. Marden and William B. Smart. The office and press-rooms were at first in Rumford block, and afterwards in Durgin's block.

In January, 1867, a radical change was made whereby the *Monitor* was strengthened and given new life. The *Monitor* interests were united with the *Independent Democrat* under the firm name of "The Independent Press Association." The members of the new company were George G. Fogg, Amos Hadley, Parsons B. Cogswell, and George H. Sturtevant. The "weekly *Monitor*," which had been running for upwards of a year, was now discontinued. In a few months Mr. Hadley retired, Samuel C. Eastman taking his interest. In 1870 Mr. Sturtevant sold his share to John W. Odlin, and with these changes and an enlargement of the *Monitor*, the concern went on until the formation of the Republican Press association.

The Republican Press association was formed in the summer of 1871, its purpose being to acquire the *Statesman*, the *Independent Democrat*, the *Daily Monitor*, and the two printing establishments from which these papers were issued, and so terminate a rivalry between those establishments which had been somewhat bitter and unprofitable. The project was brought to a conclusion without much difficulty, and the consolidated business was housed in the Statesman building, now occupied by the First National bank. Prominent Republicans about the state became stockholders in the enlarged enterprise, but the chief owners were Concord men. Among them

were Edward H. Rollins, William E. Chandler, George G. Fogg, Henry McFarland, Parsons B. Cogswell, Rossiter Johnson, George E. Jenks, Onslow Stearns, and Nathaniel White. N. G. Ordway, of Warner, was the largest out-of-town investor. Rossiter Johnson was the first editor. After him came William E. Stevens, and later James O. Lyford, Edward N. Pearson, and George H. Moses, who is the editor at the present time.

Of the newspaper men connected with the *Monitor* and its subsequent history Parsons B. Cogswell was one of the most prominent. He was born in Henniker, January 22, 1828. He went to the common schools, and was for a while a student at Clinton Grove academy, Weare, then under the principalship of Moses A. Cartland, a well-known public man and a radical abolitionist. The influence of this association became very marked in the opinions and attitude of Mr. Cogswell respecting the reforms of the period, for he became strongly attached to anti-slavery tenets and temperance. Coming to Concord in November, 1847, he began an apprenticeship in the printing-office of the *Independent Democrat*. Two years later he began work in the *Patriot* composing-room, remaining there until 1852, when he became a book compositor in the establishment of Tripp & Osgood. For several years, or until the founding of the daily *Monitor*, Mr. Cogswell worked at his trade, sometimes in company with others, once with Abraham G. Jones, and sometimes alone. Soon after the *Monitor* started he quit type-setting forever, and henceforth gave his entire time as local reporter and finally as local editor of that publication, continuing in almost constant and uninterrupted service until he became mayor of the city in 1893. Mr. Cogswell, while manifesting an active interest in politics, was not an active politician, nor was he attracted by office-holding. One of the earliest members of the Republican party, he remained in full accord with that organization as long as he lived. He was elected to the legislatures of 1872–'73, and was public printer for the years 1881–'85. He served also as auditor of printers' accounts, and was for several years one of the trustees of the state library. Mr. Cogswell had a wide acquaintance among Concord people; no citizen was better known or more sincerely esteemed. His long connection with the *Monitor* made him a familiar figure on all occasions, and his gentle disposition and agreeable manners made him a most welcome one.

He was a hard worker, taking but brief vacations until late in life, yet no man was fonder of sight-seeing and the experiences of travel. Traveling for a year in Europe he gave to the public a book called "Glints from Over the Water," published in 1881. On the consolidation of the *Statesman*, *Monitor*, and *Independent Democrat*, from

which the Republican Press association was formed, Mr. Cogswell became a large owner of the new shares, and at the same time retained his position as local editor. On the formation of Union school district, in 1859, he was chosen one of the nine members of the board of education, and by successive re-elections he remained on the board until his death, thus comprising the longest term on record. For several years he was president of that body. Nominated by his party for mayor he received a large majority at the election in November, 1892, his term of office beginning the following January. Mr. Cogswell was interested in all measures tending to improve Concord, and as mayor he did his best to serve public ends. For many years a member of the Historical society, and its secretary for several years, Mr. Cogswell evinced deep interest in the work of the society and its purposes. His death occurred October 28th, 1895.

In the eighties the control of the Republican Press association passed to William E. Chandler, who had bought more than a majority of its stock. Mr. Chandler exercised an active management of its affairs, together with a direction of the *Statesman* and *Monitor*, until July, 1898, when he disposed of his interest, which at that time was very large, to his son, William D. Chandler, and George H. Moses. The new owners then moved the newspaper plant from the *Statesman* building on Depot street to the Colonial block on South Main street, where the first issue took place July 5th.

In January, 1868, the *Patriot* began the publication of a daily edition that has continued to the present time. At the same time John M. Hill again became actively connected with the *Patriot*, and assumed a large part in its management. Mr. Hill, with ex-President Pierce and Josiah Minot, had bought a half interest in the property, while William Butterfield retained the other half and directed its editorial columns. Changes, however, were made in the ownership during the next five years, and in February, 1873, Edwin C. Bailey, of Boston, became sole proprietor of the paper. Following this change, the active editor for a long period was John C. Moore, a witty and accomplished newspaper man, a Scotchman by birth, but for many years a resident of Massachusetts, while the local desk was occupied by Allan H. Robinson. As with the *Statesman*, so with the *Patriot*, fire invaded its premises, entailing loss and inconvenience; for in April, 1864, Sanborn's old block was nearly destroyed, compelling the paper to seek for a while other quarters. In 1865 Sanborn's present block, considerably narrowed in width because of Capitol street, was completed and partly occupied by the *Patriot*, the composing and the press rooms taking the upper stories while the editorial and the business departments were in apartments at the

rear of the second floor. The *Patriot*, owing to several reasons, approached a low ebb in its affairs during Mr. Bailey's proprietorship,—so low, indeed, that in October, 1877, the paper ceased to be issued as a daily. The *Patriot*, meanwhile, had been moved to Bailey's block, now Smith's block, at the corner of Main and Depot streets.

Difference of opinion respecting questions of railroad management and general corporate influence, aggravated by personal animosity among influential members of the Democratic party, resulted in the starting of a new Democratic weekly paper in the summer of 1868. Charles C. Pearson & Co. were the publishers, and the paper was called *The People*. Its distinguishing principles, as announced in the prospectus, were the maintenance of the people's rights and hostility to bosses, rings, cliques, and railroad influence in party matters.

Associated with Mr. Pearson in the proprietorship were his father, John H. Pearson, who was really the moving spirit in the enterprise, Edward L. Knowlton, John L. Tallant of Concord, and Lewis C. Pattee of Lebanon. The business management was in the hands of Charles C. Pearson. Henry H. Metcalf, who had begun journalistic work as editor of the *White Mountain Republic* at Littleton the year before, was called to the editorship, and the mechanical department was placed in charge of William H. Gilmore, a practical newspaper man of large experience. An agricultural column was a feature of the new paper, of which Mr. Gilmore also had charge.

The People was a large eight-column folio, clearly printed, and presented a very attractive appearance. It had a popular feature in a state news department arranged by counties, and was the first paper in the state to adopt that system. Beginning with a subscription of three thousand names, the list increased rapidly, so that within a few years *The People* had a larger circulation in the state than any other paper, and exercised a strong influence in political matters.

Mr. Metcalf remained as editor until the spring of 1872, when he returned to Littleton, having purchased the *Republic*. Subsequently John C. Moore, John T. Hulme, and James O. Lyford were in editorial charge for different periods, Mr. Lyford's service extending from 1877 to 1879. In 1882 Mr. Metcalf was recalled to the editorial chair and continued under changing business managements for a period of ten years.

For several years, beginning with the summer of 1870 and concluding with 1878, a daily edition of *The People* was issued during the sessions of the legislature. In October, 1879, the proprietors of *The People* purchased the *Patriot* from Edwin C. Bailey and merged it with their own publication under the name of *The People and New Hampshire Patriot*, which was subsequently changed to *People and*

Patriot. December 1st, 1879, a daily edition was issued and continued until September, 1881, when it was suspended, though appearing again during the legislative session of 1883, from June until September.

Upon the death of Charles C. Pearson (March 13th, 1883) the paper passed into the hands of his administrators, John H. Pearson and Lewis C. Pattee, by whom the publication was continued until April, 1885, when it was sold to The Democratic Press company, an association of representatve Democrats of the state, who continued the weekly and revived the daily, both of which have been continued to the present time. Eliphalet S. Nutter was the president of the corporation, Henry H. Metcalf, editor, and Franklin P. Kellom, business manager. This arrangement continued until the spring of 1892, when Stilson Hutchins of Washington, D. C., secured control of a majority of the stock and took charge of the establishment. John H. Oberly, also of Washington, was for some time manager and editor. Then the paper passed into the hands of George F. Willey, who conducted it for a brief period, when Mr. Hutchins again resumed control. In 1899 and 1900 Harry B. Metcalf was in editorial charge. Late in the latter year Mr. Hutchins sold his interest to Arthur P. DeCamp of St. Louis, Mo., now of Brookline, Mass. For a time Allan H. Robinson was in editorial charge. He was succeeded by Michael Meehan, who is now manager and editor.

For nearly three decades Concord has been represented in the world of magazine literature by the *Granite Monthly.* The founder of this publication was Henry H. Metcalf. Mr. Metcalf conceived the idea that a magazine primarily devoted to New Hampshire history and biography ought to find a good field among the people of the state; accordingly he carried out his idea by publishing the first number at Dover, where he was residing, in April, 1877. Two years later, owing to the publisher's change of residence, the *Granite Monthly* became a Concord publication.

In January, 1880, the *Monthly* was purchased by John N. McClintock, who conducted it for twelve years, when it passed into the ownership of Mr. Metcalf and Allan H. Robinson. Under the management of its new proprietors the magazine gained in popularity and became a feature in the literary life of the city. Mr. Metcalf continued as editor until January, 1894, when the Republican Press association acquired the property. The change proved beneficial: the magazine appeared in new form, and especial attention was given to the picture department. In July, 1898, another change was made owing to the dissolution of the Republican Press association, and the monthly passed to the Rumford Printing company.