CHAPTER X.

THE TOWN OF CONCORD.—EARLY EVENTS OF THE NEW CENTURY.—BECOMES THE CAPITAL OF THE STATE.—THE WAR OF 1812.—OTHER FACTS OF THE PERIOD.

1800–1816.

The population of the town of Concord was, in 1800, two thousand and fifty-two, being one thousand more than in 1775, and seventeen times larger than that of the plantation of Penacook, in 1730. Slow, sure, and steady had been the increase of population, not only amid the usual hardships of pioneer settlement, but amid the extraordinary perils and persecutions which have been set forth in previous narration.

The enumeration of the living in the course of those seventy years has been better preserved than that of the dead. The death record for forty-four years—from 1750 to 1792—is entirely wanting, and for most of the remainder of the period is scanty. But death had been garnering for more than two generations. Ever since 1730, the one burying-ground, near the meeting-house, had subserved its sacred purpose. Hither, according to ancient custom, the bier uplifted by its twelve bearers had, for many a year, been bringing from whatever home within the borders of the town, over whatever distance, and at whatever season, the beloved dead, here piously to be laid to rest. There had been few interments elsewhere. In 1792 Jonathan Stickney, a victim of smallpox, was buried in a secluded spot on his land, at the foot of Stickney hill, as subsequently were some other members of his family. This lot was, fifty years later, given by Charles Smart to the town "for a burying-ground,"[1] and accepted as such. By 1800 there had been two interments, one of which was that of Ezekiel Dimond, in a lot near Millville, given by Warren Bradley,[1] and later accepted by the town as a public burial place.

It was on the 5th of March, 1800, that the town established its second public cemetery, by voting that "the selectmen vendue the fencing of the burying yard on the east side of the river, and charge the expense to the town."[2] This inclosure was located—according to the record—"near Jeremiah Eastman's house," and was known as "The Fort Burying Ground." Filled with its hundreds of graves, and afterwards disused for years, it was to receive, near the end of

[1] Bouton's Concord, 312, 430.

[2] Town Records, 339.

the century of its establishment, becoming renovation and adornment, in especial honor of the thirteen heroes of the Revolution asleep beneath its turf, and, thus reconsecrated, was again to be committed to municipal keeping, as a precious historic trust.[1] The town having established its second public cemetery, made provision in 1804 for its third, by voting "to purchase" at Horse Hill, "one acre of land of David Carter, for a burying yard, and fence the same."[2] In such action, the municipality was but carrying out the earlier enlightened purpose of the plantation to provide fit resting-places for the dead—a purpose that was to count among its appropriate results cemeteries bearing the names of "Millville," "West Concord," "Pine Grove," "Woodlawn," and "Blossom Hill."

Meanwhile, in 1802, the meeting-house had been enlarged by Captain Richard Ayer and other enterprising parishioners, in consideration "of the addition of pew ground," and "without any expense to the town."[3] Those gentlemen gave bonds to execute the work according to a plan, proposed by a committee of seven, namely, Jacob Abbot, Richard Ayer, Paul Rolfe, William A. Kent, Benjamin Emery, Stephen Ambrose, and Abiel Virgin, and adopted in town-meeting,[4] on the 21st of December, 1801. The plan provided for a semi-circular addition "projecting thirty feet in front, and divided into seven angles."[5] The meeting-house thus enlarged was accepted by the town, on the 1st of March, 1803. It was now "the most spacious and commodious[6] edifice of its kind in the state," capable of seating "eight hundred persons on the floor and about four hundred in the gallery," and actually accommodating, "for many years," an average Sabbath "congregation of about seven hundred,"[6] the largest in New Hampshire.

But as yet the meeting-house had no bell, though its belfry had long been up, surmounted by tall spire and literal weathercock. As early as 1800 the town had voted "to accept of a bell, if one" could "be obtained by subscription, and cause the same to be rung at such time as the town" might think proper;[7] but it was not until 1809 that effective action was taken to supply the want. Then the selectmen were instructed "to mark out the ground of the two front seats on the floor of the meeting-house for pews, and sell the same at public vendue, the money arising from the sale to be appropriated towards purchasing a bell, when a sufficient sum in addition" should "be subscribed" to complete the purchase.[8] The auction sale of

[1] See Old Fort Cemetery, etc., in note at close of chapter.
[2] Town Records, 370.
[3] Dr. Bouton's Anniversary Sermon, 1830; Town Records, 350-1.
[4] *Ibid*, 351-2.
[5] *Ibid*, 352.
[6] Bouton's Concord, 325.
[7] Town Records, 340.
[8] *Ibid*, 426.

the four pews thus provided for brought a little more than three hundred dollars. With this sum duly swelled by contribution, the long desired bell was at last obtained, and at the March town-meeting of 1810 the vote was passed that it "be rung at seven o'clock in the morning, twelve at noon, and nine at night, except Sundays," on which the time of ringing was left to the direction of the selectmen.[1] It was further voted that "the ringing of the bell and the care of the meeting-house one year be set up to the lowest bidder, and that the person bidding off the same give bonds to the selectmen for the faithful performance"[1] of duty. Sherburne Wiggin, having bid twenty-five dollars, became the first sexton. This place was, for the next two years, disposed of at vendue, Benjamin Emery, Jr., being the successful bidder. Afterwards, a definite sum, varying from twenty to forty dollars, was annually appropriated to this service, under the appointment of the selectmen. In 1814 the town ordered, in addition to the daily ringing of the bell, its tolling "at all funerals, upon application to the sexton."[2] This practice was to be continued thirty-seven years, till in March, 1851, the following preamble and resolution, offered by Asa McFarland, were unanimously adopted by the town:

"WHEREAS the tolling of bells on funeral occasions is productive of no good, and may, in case of the illness of the living, result in evil; Therefore, *Resolved*, That the practice be discontinued here, as it has generally been in other populous places."

With the beginning of the century, the school began to outstrip the pulpit in annual appropriations for support; the sum voted to the former in 1800, being four hundred dollars, and to the latter, three hundred and fifty. Educational interest was further shown, the same year, in the appointment of a committee, consisting of the selectmen and "one man from each district where there" was "a school-house," to divide "the town into school-districts."[3] The addition of six members to the selectmen in the make-up of the committee denotes at least that number of so-called "districts"; while it may have been that two or three schools in the main village were not included in the selection of committeemen. Nothing practical seems to have resulted from this action. Indeed, it was not until 1805 that the state law was enacted, authorizing towns to lay out school districts. Accordingly, in April, 1807, another committee was appointed, similar to that of seven years before, but with an increased number of members to act with the selectmen, indicating the existence of at least seventeen localities, or districts, in which public schools were supported upon "orders drawn for school money annu-

[1] Town Records, 434. [2] *Ibid*, 466, 494. [3] *Ibid*, 339.

ally."[1] This committee, in the following May, with Ebenezer Duston as its chairman, and town clerk, John Odlin as its clerk, laid out the town into sixteen school districts, duly bounded and numbered.[2]

The general location of these was: No. 1. Horse Hill; 2. The Borough; 3 and 4. West Parish; 5. West of Long pond; 6. Little pond and Ballard's hill; 7. Hopkinton road, three miles from Main street; 8. Millville; 9. South end of Main street; 10. Middle Main street; 11. North end of Main street; 12. South part of East village; 13. The Mountain; 14. "Snaptown," northeast part of the town; 15. Oak Hill road to Loudon; 16. Garvin's Falls.[3] From these, by division, seven other districts were subsequently formed, as follows: From 8, Nos. 17 and 23, the first near Hopkinton line, the second near that of Bow; from 9, No. 18; from 12, Nos. 19 and 22, the latter on the Dark Plain towards Chichester; from 2, No. 20, in Fisherville, or Penacook.[4]

These twenty-three districts were permanent divisions of Concord's territory down to a recent period, and some of them yet exist. Here, too, it may be added in reminder and explanation of statements made in a previous chapter[5] concerning the Bow gores, that the district numbered sixteen belonged to the southern gore, which, in 1804, was severed by the general court from the modern town of Bow and annexed to Concord. This action had been asked for by the former town and opposed by the latter. Bow, in view of liabilities incident to the holding of the detached gores, including this wedge of land that lay across the Merrimack, and between that river and its confluent Soucook, was eager to yield possession; for already the town had been obliged to build a bridge over the Soucook, and was asking the legislature "to make a county charge" of the same.[6] Concord, on the other hand, did not desire the expansion of its territory over gores outside the original Rumford bounds which it wished to have restored, whereby would have been saved to it that triangular portion of its former domain, southeast of the Soucook, which was in 1804 set off to Pembroke.

In 1801, ten years after the regular establishment of the post-office in Concord, Charles, a son of Judge Timothy Walker, and a graduate of Harvard, who was then in the practice of the law, succeeded George Hough as postmaster, but did not serve long. His successor was David George, but, as there were a father and a son of that name, which of the two was the first to succeed Mr. Walker has been made a matter of doubt, though it was probably the son, sometimes desig-

[1] Town Records, 398.
[2] *Ibid*, 398-404.
[3] Bouton's Concord, 339-40.
[4] Bouton's Concord, 340.
[5] Chapter VII.
[6] Bow, in History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties, 279.

nated as "David George, Jr." At any rate, whether the father, who was a tailor residing just south of the burying-ground, ever served as postmaster or not, it is certain that the son, who was a hatter and had a shop on the east side of Main street,—nearly opposite its junction with the modern Church street,—served as such from 1806 to 1816. There, in a six by eight compartment of his shop, Mr. George kept the post-office, where, in the earlier years at least, a Concord mail might have found accommodation in one of the postmaster's "good-sized hats."[1] Indeed, the high rate of postage, increasing according to distance, from the minimum of ten cents a letter for the shortest transmission, tended to make "correspondence rare"—as another has said—"and mostly of imperative necessity; love-letters were few and far between."[1] Still, the little office, while meeting the wants of its locality, also had central importance in affording postal facilities for a wide circuit of towns, including Allenstown, Bow, Canterbury, Dunbarton, Henniker, Hopkinton, Loudon, New London, Northfield, Pembroke, Warner, Weare, and even others more remote.[2]

An important highway improvement was effected early in the first decade of the century. Hitherto, "the road from the meeting-house to Boscawen line" had been a very "crooked"[3] one. It had run from the main street through a valley south of the modern Fiske residence, and onward, near the Coffin house, to the modern Penacook street, and westward along that to a point beyond the Bradley premises, whence, turning sharply northward, it skirted "John Bradley's land, at the west end of his dwelling-house," also "George Arlin's lot," and came to Wood's brook, at the southeast base of Blossom Hill. From this point it had run, at various angles, to West Concord, with westward deflection to the elevated site of Henry Lovejoy's fort, and of the later residence of Levi Hutchins—premises destined to become public property appurtenant to the city waterworks. Thence the road had extended northeasterly for a considerable distance, and then, turning, had passed on northwesterly to the "Borough,"[4] and from there northeasterly again to the bridge over the Contoocook, within the limits of the modern Fisherville, or Penacook.

In 1804 the selectmen, Jonathan Wilkins, John West, and Amos Abbot, Jr., as instructed by the town, "laid out a highway four rods broad, beginning at a stake and stones near Benjamin Hannaford's house,[5] and running north forty-nine degrees west, one hundred and twenty rods to Wood's Brook bridge."[6] This almost direct line of

[1] Col. William Kent's Reminiscences, cited in McClintock's New Hampshire, 462.
[2] Bouton's Concord, 330.
[3] *Ibid*, 325.
[4] *Ibid*, 325–6.
[5] On what was to become North State street, and near the residence of V. C. Hastings, in 1900.
[6] Town Records, 375.

road, extended along the east side of the Bradley and Arlin premises, instead of the west; the old road being subsequently relinquished as entire or partial compensation to the owners of the land through which this part of the new highway was laid.[1] From the Wood's brook bridge the new thoroughfare took a comparatively straight and northerly course to and along Rattlesnake plain and through West Concord—without westward deflection to the Hutchins place—"to the bridge over Hoyt's Brook on Contoocook plain."[2] The divergence to the "Borough" seems to have been, for the present, retained, as also the former course thence to the Contoocook bridge at Penacook.

This terminal bridge of the straightened highway had been built in 1765 at the joint expense of Concord and Boscawen, although wholly within the latter town. It was located in a bend of the river east of the site of Captain John Chandler's tavern, erected in 1787, and known, in modern times, as Bonney's hotel, or the Penacook house. The Concord road, crossing the town line, reached the bridge located at a narrow gorge below the falls, whence the Boscawen road wound north and west to the left, over a steep hill, and by the tavern site just mentioned.[3]

By 1805 the bridge, forty years old, was becoming unsafe, and already the question of rebuilding it had been agitated and a new location suggested. In this connection a question of boundary arose. The language of the grants as to the line between the towns was confusing. In the original grant of Penacook (Concord) by Massachusetts in 1725, the north line west of the Merrimack was described as "commencing where Contoocook river falls into Merrimack river." The probable intent of this indefinite statement was that the line should run from the middle of the Contoocook's mouth; for when, in 1733, Massachusetts granted the plantation of Contoocook (Boscawen), its south line was described as "beginning at the middle of Contoocook river where it empties into the Merrimack, where it joins on Penacook plantation." But when Boscawen was incorporated as a town, by New Hampshire, in 1760, its south boundary was fixed to begin "at the southerly side of Contoocook river's mouth, where the same falls into Merrimack river." In this uncertainty of description, the selectmen of the two towns perambulated the line in 1797, and established its beginning "at a stake and stones on the southerly side of Contoocook river, nearly opposite the middle of the main branch where the same empties into the Merrimack."[4]

In 1805, pending the question whether the towns should co-operate "in building and supporting a bridge across Contoocook river," Con-

[1] Town Records, 382.
[2] *Ibid*, 376.
[3] Coffin's Boscawen, 92-3.
[4] Town Records, 306.

cord, on the 22d of March, chose a committee, consisting of John Bradley, Jonathan Wilkins, and Ebenezer Dustin, to consider the matter with a like committee of Boscawen, and to report upon the same.[1] The following report was agreed upon: "That the old spot where the bridge now stands shall be the place where a new bridge shall be built; and that the towns of Concord and Boscawen petition the General Court that the centre of the river Contoocook from the mouth be considered the line between said towns, until it reaches the present line crossing said river between said towns."[2] Boscawen accepted the entire report; but Concord, at a special meeting held on the 13th of May, accepted only so much of it as recommended the building and supporting of "one half of the bridge at the old place"; it also being voted "to raise two hundred and fifty dollars to carry into effect that part of the report."[3] The matter of petitioning the legislature to establish the line, as suggested in the report, not being approved by Concord, was left to be done by Boscawen alone, at the ensuing June session of the general court. At another special meeting, held on the 25th of the following November, the town declared that it was "not willing that the prayer of the petition preferred" by Boscawen "to set off a part" of that town, "lying on the southerly side of Contoocook river," and "annex" the same to Concord, "should be granted"; and it was ordered that William A. Kent, the representative, should have a copy of the vote.[4] The petition was not granted; but the bridge was rebuilt at the old place, and Concord paid half of the expense.

This, however, was not the last of the bridge controversy. Increase of travel and transportation demanded a straighter road on the north side of the river, and one that should avoid the steep hill beyond the Boscawen end of the bridge. This demand involved the erection of a bridge in a new place. In 1820 Concord had again offered to go halves with Boscawen in repairing, or rebuilding, the bridge at the old place; but in 1821 the court of sessions laid out a road from Chandler's tavern in Boscawen, on a direct southerly line across the Contoocook to the locality in Concord subsequently known as Washington square, on condition that Boscawen should give security to build and maintain one half of the bridge over the river. Boscawen gave bond to that effect in the handwriting of Ezekiel Webster, and of date, January 12, 1822. Inasmuch as the new location of the bridge was wholly within Concord, it was now Concord's turn to petition the general court "so to alter and establish the line between Concord and Boscawen that" it might "strike the centre of

[1] Town Records, 383.
[2] Coffin's Boscawen, 200.
[3] Town Records, 385.
[4] *Ibid*, 386-7.

Contoocook river at the place fixed upon to build a new bridge." But nothing more came of this petition than of Boscawen's, seventeen years before; and the bridge was built in 1823.

Boscawen stood by her bond for years, and until another dispute arose as to the boundary line—in special reference, this time, to a factory erected by the Fishers on the north side of the river. Both towns claimed the soil on which the factory stood; each appealing to the description of the boundary line in its charter, and Boscawen especially insisting upon the construction given in the perambulation of 1797.[1] As the towns themselves could come to no agreement, the selectmen of Concord, in 1837, petitioned the court of common pleas for the appointment of a committee "to examine and establish the line." The committee, consisting of John Porter, Thomas B. Merrill, and Henry B. Chase, finally had a hearing on the 9th of October, 1840, at the Chandler tavern, then known as Johnson's hotel. Concord had for counsel its own lawyer, Samuel Fletcher; Boscawen was represented by George W. Nesmith and Ichabod Bartlett. The committee confirmed the old line of 1797, with more definite description, and stone bounds were set up according to the decision, to mark the permanent settlement of the troublesome question.[2]

Boscawen refusing after this to contribute to the maintenance of "a bridge out of town," Concord brought suit upon the bond of 1822. The case went up to the superior court, with Franklin Pierce and Asa Fowler as counsel for Concord, and Ichabod Bartlett for Boscawen. In 1845 Judge Woods rendered the decision of the court in favor of Boscawen, on the ground that "the contract by which" the citizens of Boscawen "undertook to bind themselves to raise money for building the bridge was not founded upon such a consideration as to create a debt, and thus give the town a power to raise money."[3] Consequently, the entire burden of maintaining the bridge over the Contoocook, winding in and out between the contending towns, was left upon Concord.

The growing advantages of Concord, as a business and financial centre, received recognition in 1806, when the legislature made it the location of an incorporated bank, with "a capital of not less than twenty thousand dollars, nor more than two hundred thousand, in specie." The corporators, specially named in the charter, were men of means and influence, resident in Concord and neighboring towns; those of Concord being Timothy Walker, John Bradley, Robert Harris, Richard Ayer, and William A. Kent. There had been some delay in obtaining the charter, primarily occasioned by rivalry between Hopkinton and Concord. Two petitions were presented to the gen-

[1] Coffin's Boscawen, 199. [2] *Ibid*, 200. [3] *Ibid*, 647-8.

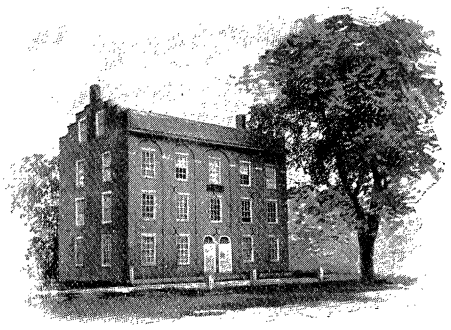
eral court, in 1805; one praying for a bank in Hopkinton, the other for one in Concord. On the 19th of December of that year the house committee on banks made a report, giving "liberty to the petitioners to unite, and bring in a bill for the establishment of a bank in Concord." [1] But by sixty-one yeas to seventy-nine nays the report was not accepted, and the petitioners had leave to withdraw. Five days later, however, this vote was reconsidered by eighty-six yeas to fifty-five nays; and, on the 27th of December, the bill brought in by the united petitioners, according to the terms of the bank committee's report, was passed by the house, but on the 30th was postponed by the senate till the next session. At this session, then, it was that, at last, the act of establishing a bank in Concord passed both branches of the legislature, and was approved by Governor John Langdon on the 17th of June, 1806.

In organizing under the charter, a controversy arose as to the location and management, which, intensified by rivalry between North End and South End interests, resulted in the opening of two banks; the "Upper" or "North End" and the "Lower" or "South End"; each claiming to be "The Concord Bank." Of the former, Timothy Walker and Samuel Sparhawk were the president and cashier; of the latter, Joseph Towne of Hopkinton and William A. Kent. For some time the rivals pestered each other not a little; the "Upper" making runs upon the "Lower" for the redemption of the bills of the latter in specie; the "Lower" instituting suits against the "Upper" for issuing bills contrary to law. It is related that one Nehemiah Jones, in the interest of the "South End" bank, brought an action against Timothy Walker, in more than a hundred counts covering all points at issue. But his counsel, Jeremiah Mason, the great lawyer of his day, perceiving at last "the difficulties of the subject," and desiring to bring about a settlement, effectually cooled the ardor of his client by signifying to him that "as he had got into gentlemen's company he must expect to pay a gentleman's price." When, finally, the "disagreeable competition" [2] and unprofitable litigation ceased, the two institutions, offspring of one legislative act, gaining each its share of public confidence, successfully prosecuted business to their twenty years' limitation. The "Upper" then obtained a new charter, and took the name of "The Merrimack County Bank"; while the "Lower" secured a modification and extension of the old charter, and retained the name of "The Concord Bank." The former prosperously performed its functions for forty years longer, and until the expiration of its third charter in 1866, when, in perfect solvency, it voluntarily closed its doors. The latter trans-

[1] House Journal, December session, 1805. [2] Bouton's Concord, 338.

acted business for fourteen years after receiving its second grant of corporate power, but in 1840 succumbed in bankruptcy to the financial stress of that period.[1]

Historic interest attaches to the places wherein these first two banks of Concord did business. The "Lower" bank erected, about the time of its opening, a brick building of two stories on the main street, opposite the Hutchins, or Phenix, premises. This was the first public edifice of brick reared in Concord; though the first residence of that material had been erected in 1804, at Millville, by Jacob Carter, the miller,—the builder little forecasting that it would within half a century become, by the enlightened giving of another owner, the nucleus of the famous educational establishment of "St. Paul's." The bank occupied the first floor of its building, while the Blazing Star lodge of Free and Accepted Masons found quarters on the second, which bore for years the name of "Masonic, or Masons', Hall." Later, with enlargements, the building was for a while to be owned and occupied by the First National bank of Concord; and later still, to be devoted to miscellaneous uses. The "Upper" bank having done business for twenty years in the former residence of Major Daniel Livermore, erected in 1827, upon southerly adjoining land, for its own and other uses, a three-storied, commodious edifice of brick—"somewhat ambitious for those times"—as it has been characterized—and "the pride of" the North End "portion of the town."[2] It was destined to answer well its earlier business purposes, and to subserve conveniently its later literary uses as the home of the New Hampshire Historical Society—once a tenant of its upper rooms, but becoming at length its sole owner and occupant.



The Merrimack County Bank.

And now the time came for the town to win, as the strongest assurance of future progress and importance, the prestige of being the Capital of the state. For a quarter of a century after 1782 the general court, though migratory, had held more sessions in Concord than in all other places taken together, including Exeter, Portsmouth, Hopkinton, Amherst, Dover, Charlestown, and Hanover. Indeed, the real competition for the coveted prize of permanent legislative session became, from considerations of requisite convenience and centrality, practically confined to a region in which Concord was the magnetic pole of attraction. Boscawen, Pembroke, and Salisbury

[1] Bouton's Concord, 338-9.

[2] Asa McFarland's Address before Board of Trade, Oct. 20, 1873, *p.* 8.

offered inducements, but the general court never sat in either of them. Hopkinton, in which several sessions had been held, became Concord's strongest competitor. In 1805 commenced the decisive contest. The legislature, having held its June session in Concord, convened in December at Portsmouth, in compliment to Governor Langdon. At this adjourned session Hopkinton was assigned as the place of meeting for the legislature in June, 1806. On the 18th of this June the house voted that the session for 1807 should be held at Salisbury, and a motion for reconsideration, made the same day, was defeated by sixty-three yeas to eighty-two nays. But the next day the vote came down from the senate with "Concord" substituted for "Salisbury." The house did not concur in the amendment, but by seventy-eight yeas to seventy nays, inserted "Hopkinton" for "Concord," and the vote thus re-amended was agreed to by the senate. The following year, 1807, on the 18th of June, a motion made in the house to hold the June session of 1808 at Salisbury, prevailed by eighty-three yeas to seventy-two nays, and though on the same day, the senate having non-concurred, another vote was passed by eighty-nine yeas to sixty-one nays to make "Hopkinton" the place of session, yet on the 19th the vote came down from the senate with "Concord" substituted, and in this amendment the house concurred. This concurrent action proved decisive as to the permanent location of the capital of New Hampshire. For the general court met in accordance therewith at Concord, in June, 1808, and no serious attempt was then made—or was afterwards to be made for more than half a century—to change the seat of the state government.

Though the recognition of Concord as the capital of the state had not been given by formal declaratory enactment—nor was so to be—yet it was to be decisively enforced by future legislative action; especially in the location of public buildings and institutions. The earliest instance of such recognition was the erection of the state prison, which was completed for use in 1812.[1] This structure, built of granite quarried from the southerly slope of Rattlesnake hill, was located upon two acres of land given by Joshua Abbot, and situated towards the northerly end of a public highway, three rods wide, regularly laid out in 1809-'10, from the Hopkinton, or "Milk,"[2] road—later Pleasant street—to the modern Franklin street.[3] This highway, designated almost from the first as State street, with another two rods wide, opened at the same time,—being the part of the later Washington street lying between State and Main streets,[4]—

[1] See special chapter on Institutions.
[2] Reminiscences of William Kent, cited in McClintock's New Hampshire, 461.
[3] Town Records, 428-9.
[4] *Ibid*, 437-8.

gave improved access to the prison site, then deemed "quite out of the way of business and population."[1] The land for the State street road was either absolutely given, or the title thereto cheerfully relinquished upon slight nominal award, by public-spirited owners along the route, such as Benjamin Gale, George Hough, Thomas G. Stevens, Josiah Rogers, William A. Kent, William Stickney, Simeon G. Hall, Ebenezer Dustin, Richard Ayer, Abel Hutchins, and Peter Robertson.[2] In this movement of highway opening, primarily stirred by the establishment of a state institution in Concord, was a prophecy of that well-ordered system of streets which should, in the coming years, develop itself.

Probably, from some sense of pride in the growing importance of the town, as well as certainly for the convenience of a majority of its inhabitants, a determination was manifested in 1810 to rid the main thoroughfare of an annoyance more rural than urban, when it was voted in town-meeting that, "for every swine found running at large, at any season in the main street between John Bradley's and John Colby's, the owner be liable to the same penalty—to be recovered in the same way—as for swine going at large unyoked and unrung in the season that the law requires them to be yoked and rung."[3] The next year "a penalty of twenty-five cents" was fixed "for each offence"; and in 1812 the prohibition was extended over the entire length of "road from Concord bridge to Boscawen bridge."[4] Four years later the ranging of swine from the first day of April to the first day of November was prohibited over an area extending from the Merrimack to a line half a mile west of the main street and its extension, between the line of Wood's brook bridge on the north, and the town line on the south; also over "the common within one mile of Federal bridge on the east side of the river."[5] This provision concerning swine was continued in force for some years. As early as 1807 sheep also had been restricted from running at large on Main street, between John Bradley's and John Colby's, from April to November;[6] and the next year a new wooden pound was built a few rods north of the meeting-house, but was afterwards removed to Pond hill, where it stood till 1826.[7] Indeed, the records show that the problem of effectively restraining the "lawless range"[8] of domestic animals was one obstinate of solution in those days.

During the first half of the period now under historical retrospect, the popular thought of the whole country was intent upon political

[1] Bouton's Concord, 343.
[2] *Ibid*, 341-2.
[3] Town Records, 434.
[4] *Ibid*, 444, 450.
[5] *Ibid*, 481.
[6] *Ibid*, 398.
[7] Bouton's Concord, 340; also see note at close of chapter.
[8] *Ibid*, 342.

questions—some of which were of international importance, and involved the ultimate appeal of war, and strong partisan feeling pervaded the public mind.

In 1800, the fourth presidential year, the Federal and Democratic-Republican parties stood in fierce array, with John Adams—serving his first term of the presidency—as the standard-bearer of the former, and Thomas Jefferson as that of the latter. Unwise legislation sanctioned by President Adams, though but slightly enforced, had, with other causes, tended to turn popular favor from him to Jefferson. But New Hampshire did not yield to the anti-Adams current; and, at the March election of that year, gave John Taylor Gilman, the Federal, or Adams, candidate for governor, ten thousand three hundred and sixty-two votes against six thousand and thirty-nine for his Democratic-Republican, or Jeffersonian, opponent, Timothy Walker of Concord. The latter, however, received in his own town one hundred and twenty-four votes against Gilman's one hundred and four. Without taking the sense of the people at the polls, the legislature, that year, chose presidential electors who supported Adams.

In 1801, the last year of Judge Walker's candidacy for the governorship, he received in Concord one hundred fifty-six votes, and John Langdon, another Republican, twenty-three against the divided Federal strength of forty-four votes for John T. Gilman, and thirty-seven for Timothy Farrar; a result showing Concord to have become strongly Republican. The state, however, was decidedly Federal; giving Walker five thousand two hundred forty-nine votes, and Gilman ten thousand eight hundred ninety-eight, with four hundred ninety-two scattering.

In 1802 the state remained Federal, and the town Republican; but in 1803 both town and state gave Federal majorities for governor. So, also, they did in 1804, the fifth presidential year, when on the second Tuesday of March[1]—the date just assigned by law for annual elections—Gilman, still the Federal candidate, was elected, though by only two hundred and ten majority. But in November, though the town gave thirty majority against the Republican electoral ticket which bore the name of Judge Walker, that ticket prevailed in the state, and New Hampshire thus contributed to the re-election of Thomas Jefferson.

During the first three years of Jefferson's second term the town and state were both Republican. In 1805 a complete Republican ascendency had been won in the executive and legislative departments of the state government, which was not readily to be broken.

[1] Town Records, 371, 373.

And here it may be noted in passing, that, among the personal official changes wrought by this political overturn, was the election of Philip Carrigain as secretary of state in place of Joseph Pearson, nineteen years incumbent. The new secretary was a native of Concord, thirty-three years of age, and a son of the physician whose name he bore. He had graduated from Dartmouth, and chosen the profession of the law. Never has there been in New Hampshire one holding the office of executive recorder more talented and versatile, more witty and genial, more gentlemanly in manners, and more artistic in tastes, than was Philip Carrigain, who, for four years, wielded his pen of dexterous chirography at the council board of Governor Langdon. He was loyal to Concord and to New Hampshire, and was the first to apply to the latter its popular and appropriate soubriquet, "The Granite State."[1] While in office he began, under the authority of the legislature, the preparation of the famous Map of his beloved state, which was to be published ten years later; and in aid of which Concord contributed Captain Edmund Leavitt's careful survey and map of the town.[2]

In the spring of 1808, the sixth presidential year, the Republican party won easily in both town and state, but in the subsequent elections of the year the federal party rallied, securing a delegation in congress, and electors to cast their votes for Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, and against James Madison, elected as Jefferson's successor. The Federal electors each received thirty-one majority in Concord. In 1809 Federal ascendency in the state government was regained, and with the help of Concord; Jeremiah Smith, chief justice of the superior court, being elected governor by a small majority over John Langdon. Concord cast two hundred and thirty-four votes for Smith, and one hundred and eighty-four for Langdon. The town having become Federal remained so for eleven years, or until 1819.

Within the first decade of the century, the newspapers of Concord began to be more distinctively political. Russell's *Republican Gazette* having been discontinued in 1803, and Hough's *Courier* two years later, William Hoit and Jesse C. Tuttle came in to occupy the vacant field of journalism. They commenced the *Concord Gazette* in July, 1806, but suspended its publication after a trial of seven months. The materials of its early outfit were scanty. They had been purchased of Dudley Leavitt of almanac fame, and brought from Gilmanton Corner to Concord, in a two-horse wagon, carrying also two men.[3] The publication of the *Gazette* was recommenced by Mr. Tuttle, in June, 1807, and was continued by him and others for

[1] See the Granite State in note at close of chapter.
[2] Town Records, 382.
[3] Asa McFarland, in an Address cited in a previous chapter.

twelve years. It was Federal in politics, had "some able writers, and, for a portion of the time, talented editors,"[1] one of whom was John Kelly, afterwards of Exeter. The circulation was considerable during some years of its existence. From "a wretched imitation of an eagle, so badly engraven that its groundwork was black as ink," which was its vignette for several years, it was nicknamed "the crow paper," and so was habitually called by its Concord contemporary of opposite politics.[2] This latter newspaper had come into existence on the 18th of October, 1808, and was named *The American Patriot.* William Hoit, Concord's veteran compositor, was its publisher, the literary labor upon the new journal being entrusted to an "Association of Gentlemen," of which one was Philip Carrigain, secretary of state. But soon its columns were not to depend upon any such "association"; an editor was to take charge of them who could help himself. Within six months, Isaac Hill, who had just completed his apprenticeship at printing in the office of the *Amherst Cabinet*, came into ownership of the paper, and issued, on the 18th of July, 1809, his first number, under its new name of *New Hampshire Patriot.* He was then a young man of only twenty-one years, but he soon breathed into the *Patriot* the breath of enduring and influential life, and made more fully realized than ever before in New Hampshire the efficacy of the newspaper in moulding and guiding the popular thought.

This master of political journalism had come to pursue his calling at the capital, on the persuasion of William Low, his friend and never-failing supporter. The latter and his neighbor, Benjamin Damon, had, in 1806, removed from Amherst to Concord, where, as partners, they engaged in painting and chair-making. Within the first decade of the century, the same migration was made by several other "active and enterprising young men"—as Peter Robertson, the baker; William Fisk, the shoemaker, resident many years at West Concord; Francis N. Fiske, the successful merchant of the "North End"; and somewhat later, after relief from war service, Joseph Low, younger brother of William, and capable man of affairs, both private and public. These seven constituted the "Amherst colony,"[3] as this valuable accession to the citizenship of Concord was often called.

During the years 1810 and 1811 the Republican idea was vigorously propagated throughout the country, and became generally prevalent, that though both France and England had wickedly violated the commercial rights of the United States, yet that the latter, by adding to other outrages, persistency in the barbarous practice of "impress-

[1] John Farmer, in Letters cited in a previous chapter.
[2] Asa McFarland, in Address already cited.
[3] Bouton's Concord, 677-8.