At the time of accepting the deposit, the town directed its railroad investing committee, William A. Kent, Robert Davis, and Joseph Low, to borrow from the agent of the surplus revenue the town's allotment of the same, as it should become due, "for the payment of assessments on railroad shares;" and the agent was authorized to loan the money to the committee, upon certificate that it had been received for investment in Concord Railroad stock. At the following annual meeting in March, the committee reported that they had received from the agent the town's first instalment of the surplus revenue, amounting to four thousand two hundred eighty-seven dollars. It was with nine hundred dollars of this first instalment, that the partial payment of an assessment upon railroad shares, as already mentioned, was made; but it does not appear that any further drafts for such a purpose were afterwards made upon the three instalments. In 1840, however, was made the appropriation—before alluded to—in favor of the Asylum for the Insane, whereby the sum of nine thousand five hundred dollars[1] of the surplus revenue was secured to that institution. The same year "the poll tax of the town" was ordered to be paid from the surplus revenue,—or its "interest"; and a sum not exceeding five thousand dollars was also appropriated therefrom "to pay the debts of the town."[2] The auditors of 1841 reported nearly six thousand three hundred dollars of surplus revenue "available for other purposes," after deducting the asylum appropriation.[1] After 1841, when legislation authorized towns to make such disposition of the public money deposited with them as by a major vote they might determine, the surplus revenue, as a town fund, was placed in the hands of the committee having in charge the parsonage and school funds. Like these, it was largely loaned to the town on certificates of the selectmen. The available surplus revenue fund was reported in March, 1852, to be seven thousand nine hundred eighty-five dollars and thirty cents, principal and interest. In 1853, Asa Fowler, for "the committee having in charge the various funds belonging to the town of Concord," reported of the surplus revenue fund, as follows: "By a vote of the town passed March 13, 1852, the committee having this fund in charge were instructed to cancel the certificates of the fund. As this fund was peculiarly the property of the town, and at its disposal, the effect of this vote may well be considered to be the extinguishment of the fund, and the discharge of the town from indebtedness to the extent of its amount."[3]

The agricultural interests of Concord had not for many years

[1] Bouton's Concord, 427.
[2] *Ibid*, 428.
[3] Proceedings of Town Meeting, 1853, *pp.* 23-4.

lacked the stimulus to advancement afforded by organized effort. The Merrimack County Agricultural Society, organized about 1820, and holding its annual fairs in various towns, always found welcome reception in Concord. When, after thirty-nine years of existence, it was, in 1859, incorporated, Concord became its permanent home. That year the Duncklee ground at the south end of the city was fitted up for the society's first fair under incorporation, held on the last three days of September. This was a complete success, and encouraged the directors to take measures in December for purchasing a Fair Ground. They visited certain pine-covered grounds on the east side of the Merrimack, about a mile from the junction of Bridge street with Main, and resolved to purchase them for the contemplated purpose if three thousand dollars could be raised by subscription and life membership. Moses Humphrey was appointed at that time to solicit subscriptions. He thus collected eighteen hundred dollars. Nathaniel White, Moses Humphrey, and Joseph P. Stickney having been selected as trustees, bought of James Holton, of Massachusetts, on the 28th of March, 1860, thirty acres of land in the locality spoken of, at sixteen dollars per acre; and, a few days later, of Enos Blake and Isaac Emery, four adjoining acres for one hundred and twenty-five dollars. The land, the clearing of the same, the construction of the track, the fencing, and the erection of suitable buildings cost the society about thirty-two hundred dollars. The first fair was held there September 26, 27, and 28, 1861. Moses Humphrey had already been instructed to cause a deed, or lease, to be made, conveying the premises in perpetual trust to the city of Concord: to be held for the use of the society, and subject at all times to its occupation and control; it being also provided that the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society should have the use of the premises for its annual fairs without charge or expense; that the city of Concord should also have the use of the grounds for fairs and military and other purposes; and that, if at any time the Merrimack County Agricultural Society should be dissolved, or otherwise become inoperative, the city of Concord should retain its rights in the premises. The society, having held eight annual fairs, became inoperative; and the city of Concord, on the 16th of June, 1885, deeded, or leased, to the state of New Hampshire, for ninety-nine years, the aforesaid premises, for "military reviews, musters, and inspection," and for other public purposes. This was done with the consent of the County Society, whose last meeting had been held on the second day of July, 1883.[1]

The New Hampshire State Agricultural Society had held its first fair in Concord in October, 1850; finding accommodation in Depot

[1] From Statement of Moses Humphrey.

hall, in the railroad company's machine shop, and on the grounds east of the station.[1] Some of its most successful exhibitions—as that of 1857—took place on the "Duncklee ground."

Amid the varied events of those days in the life of Concord's increasing population, facts incident to inevitable mortality come within the range of recital. As it had been earlier, and would be later, the living neglected not the sacred duty of providing fit resting-places for the dead. In 1836 the town purchased of General Robert Davis a parcel of land for a burying-ground in the West Parish at a cost of one hundred and ninety-one dollars. The first interment therein was that of Orlando Brown, the well known taverner, who died on the 12th of December of that year.[2]

Six years later (1842) Josiah Stevens, Jr., Joseph Low, Robert Davis, Luther Roby, and William Restiaux were appointed to purchase so much land as might be necessary for a cemetery in connection with the one near the Old North church, and to fence and ornament the same. Five hundred dollars were appropriated. The next year (1843) the committee reported that they had expended for land one hundred twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents; for lumber, one hundred eight dollars and twenty-three cents; for stone posts, iron bolts, building fence, making road, and other labor and services, three hundred twenty-one dollars and ten cents—making in the whole five hundred fifty-six dollars and eighty-three cents. The committee added: "Your committee would state that they deem the quantity of land which they have purchased and enclosed with the old graveyard equal to the public wants for half a century; that the whole, with the exception of the front, is enclosed with a fence as durable as they could construct of stone, iron, and wood; that the front, until recently, has been occupied with sheds,[3] which have prevented your committee from fencing the same; that a part of the sheds have recently been removed, and consequently the graveyard is at this time entirely unprotected in front; and your committee sincerely hope that immediate measures will be taken to complete this work."

The town accepted the report, continued the committee in service, ordered removal of sheds, and appropriated an additional sum of one hundred fifty dollars to complete the fence. In 1844 the cemetery was laid out in lots for the use of families according to a plan drawn by Captain Benjamin Parker. The title to a lot could be conveyed to an individual by the cemetery committee at a price not exceeding ten dollars; the name of the individual being entered upon the num-

[1] Henry McFarland's "Personal Recollections," 127.
[2] Bouton's Concord, 424.
[3] See Horse Sheds, in note at close of chapter.

ber of the plan corresponding to his lot, with a certificate given him, and entered upon a special record by the town clerk.[1]

Other parts of the town were not neglected. In 1843—as mentioned in a previous chapter—the donation of land from Charles Smart for a burying-ground at the foot of Stickney hill was accepted. In 1847 four hundred dollars were appropriated for a new cemetery in East Concord, and for fencing the same. Land for the purpose was bought from the estate of Jeremiah Pecker, Jr.,[2] and Pine Grove cemetery had its beginning. At the annual meeting of 1848 the town appropriated three hundred dollars for enlarging and fencing the burying-ground at Millville; and the next year appointed Henry H. Brown, Nathaniel Rolfe, Eldad Tenney, Theodore F. Elliott, and E. F. Brockway a committee to lay out into lots that at Fisherville.[3]

During this period the rate of mortality occasionally rose above the moderate average in the health statistics of the town—one of the healthiest in New England. In 1844 the death list numbered one hundred thirteen, and included more than fifty children under ten years of age—victims of a virulent "summer complaint." In the "sickly" summer of 1849 a type of cholera morbus prevailed, resembling, in some cases, the Asiatic cholera. So much alarm was excited that, early in June, the selectmen, upon petition of prominent inhabitants, appointed Drs. Ezra Carter, Thomas Chadbourne, and Charles P. Gage to serve with Joseph Low and Asa Fowler as a board of health. Sanitary regulations were adopted. The board, upon examination of premises, ordered offensive and unwholesome matter of whatever description to be removed from places wherein accumulated; and recommended "strict temperance in regard to food and drink—limiting the diet to the most plain, simple, and easily digested articles; avoiding all crude vegetables and unripe fruit, much fresh animal food, large draughts of cold water, and, above all, ardent spirits in every form."[4] That year one hundred and fifty-eight deaths occurred in town. This was a larger number than had ever before occurred in one year, and would doubtless have been still larger but for the wise sanitary precautions taken.

The board of health just mentioned was the second instituted in Concord; the first being that of 1832, during the cholera alarm. The terrible pestilence that had swept over Europe the year before had now crossed the Atlantic into Canada; and Concord, situated on the direct line of travel between Canada and Boston, seemed especially exposed to its deadly visitation. Amid apprehensions of danger a

[1] Bouton's Concord, 428-9-30.
[2] *Ibid*, 465.
[3] *Ibid*, 465-6.
[4] *Ibid*, 416-17.

special town-meeting was held on the 9th of July, whereat the three selectmen—Richard Bradley, Joseph P. Stickney, and Laban Page—with six physicians—Thomas Chadbourne, Ezra Carter, Peter Renton, Elijah Colby, Samuel Morrill, Thomas Brown, and John T. Gilman Leach—were constituted a board of health. The board had authority—in the words of the vote—"to make all necessary provision and accommodations for sick strangers, and for the comfort and safety of our own citizens."[1] Also, five hundred dollars were appropriated to meet expenses. Fortunately, however, all this wise precaution was taken against what was not to happen; for the scourge of cholera did not fall within the boundaries of New Hampshire.

But as to another dreaded disease which had occasionally appeared in town in earlier days, an important precaution was taken—and one that was to become permanent in its application. In the months of August and September, 1835, four cases of smallpox occurred. The patients were isolated in a retired situation on the Bog road, two miles from the main village; and one of them, Abiel E. Thompson, died. The general alarm produced by this sporadic occurrence of the loathsome disease prompted the town to take effective measures for preventing its epidemic spread. At the next annual meeting, in March, 1836, a recent state law enacted for the prevention of smallpox was adopted, and Dr. Ezra Carter was appointed agent for vaccinating all the inhabitants of the town.[2]

In 1830 the population of the town was three thousand seven hundred two (3,702); in 1840, four thousand nine hundred three (4,903); in 1850, eight thousand five hundred eighty-four (8,584). To the increase of population Catholic-Irish immigration did not begin materially to contribute until after 1840. Before this, however, Richard Ronan, with his family, had dwelt in Concord for some years. He is supposed to have been the first Catholic-Irish resident in town. He died in 1840; and his remains were taken to Lowell for interment by Thomas Spellman, who was the only professed Catholic left living in Concord at that time. The sons of the latter, James and Henry, were the first children born of Catholic parents in Concord—the former in 1835; the latter in 1839.

About the year 1846 a strong tide of emigration began to flow from famine-stricken Ireland to the shores of America. The wave reached Concord. The immigrants found residence in the main village and in Fisherville. It is known that Martin Sherlock was the first Catholic-Irish to locate in the latter place; the date of his arrival being 1846, when the large mill was built. Between that date and

[1] Bouton's Concord, 394.
[2] *Ibid*, 424.
[3] Facts communicated by William J. Ahern.

1850, John Linehan,[1] Patrick Cody, Patrick Doyle, John Driscoll, and John Gahagan had come to Fisherville; and by 1854 such names as Pendergast, Keenan, Kelly, Dolan, O'Brien, O'Neill, Thornton, McArdle, Brennan, Maher, Kenny, Taylor, Barry, Griffin, Bolger, and Lawrence Gahagan had been added to the list of the Irish colony there.[2] Of the considerable number of immigrants located in the main village before 1852 were Martin Lawler, Patrick Dooning, Michael Arnold, Thomas McGrath, and John Gienty;[3] the last having become a resident in 1848, and worked at first upon a canal at Fisherville.[4]

A son of one of those Concord pioneers thus describes the toils, hardships, and intents of the Irish immigrants of those days:[5] "Their first employment was on the railroads, in the canals, and in every place where their muscles could be used to the best advantage. Wherever hard labor was required in the ditch, the cut, the mines, laying track, building roads, shoveling, and spike driving, the services of the Irish were in demand. Very often the work was of the hardest description, the hours long, and the pay small; but severe as the labor was, and long as the days were, and small as the wages might be, their wit or humor never left them. . . . The sacrifices made by those faithful pioneers God alone knows. Day and night their thoughts were constantly with the dear ones at home; and the aim of all was to work and save enough to bring them across that ocean which furnished graves for so many thousands."

Through such trials and efforts as just described many a family became reunited on the hither shore of the Atlantic; while other exiles of Erin came to dwell amid new and more propitious surroundings, and where honest labor received better wages than abject want or absolute destitution. In some places racial and religious prejudices wrought more or less to the disadvantage of an element of population that disturbed long-existing homogeneity; but in no American Protestant community was the Catholic-Irish stranger more kindly received and considerately treated than in Concord. The opportunities for worthy and successful living, the birthright of the American, were from the first accorded to the Irishman. Nor were these opportunities lost upon him. They were to prove replete with inspiring and elevating influences, whereby in the coming years his descendant would successfully compete as the skilled mechanic, the enterprising merchant, the able lawyer, or the excellent physician; whereby, too, the son would become worthily endowed with all the

[1] See An Early Irish Immigrant, in note at close of chapter.
[2] Facts communicated by John C. Linehan.
[3] See Meagher's Lecture, in note at close of chapter.
[4] Facts communicated by William J. Ahern.
[5] John C. Linehan in McClintock's New Hampshire, 641-2.

rights, privileges, and honors of true American manhood; the daughter, with all those of true American womanhood. And all the while would the law of religious tolerance permit Protestant and Catholic alike to cherish each his faith, but both to practice Christian charity.[1]

In 1847 Concord manifested a generous sympathy with the famished people of Ireland by aiding in their relief. At a meeting of citizens held on the 23d of February of that year a committee was appointed consisting of Joseph B. Walker, Nathan Stickney, George Minot, Joseph A. Gilmore, Stephen Brown, Ebenezer S. Towle, Mitchell Gilmore, Jr., and Samuel G. Berry, "to receive and transmit to Ireland such contributions of money, provisions, and clothing as" might "be made for those suffering from famine in that country." The committee issued notice two days later "that they" would "receive and transmit contributions for" that "purpose, made by the citizens of Concord and other towns, to Boston, free of expense, whence they" would "be transmitted, by the committees in Boston, to Ireland. Persons making donations in provisions or clothing" were "requested to forward them to the care of Gilmore & Clapp, in Concord, and donations in money to the care of Ebenezer S. Towle or George Minot, cashiers." The effort resulted in the following contributions of money: One thousand two hundred ninety-three dollars and two cents from Concord; five dollars and twenty-five cents from Pembroke; five dollars and sixty-two cents from Gilmanton; and fourteen dollars from the sixth school district of Canterbury—a total of one thousand three hundred seventeen dollars and eighty-nine cents. The citizens of Concord also gave one hundred bushels of grain, and those of Pembroke one hundred sixty-eight.[2] The contributions, transmitted to the New England committee in Boston, made up the valued amount of one hundred fifty-one thousand nine dollars and five cents. "Seven vessels,—among them two United States warships, the frigate *Macedonian* and the sloop-of-war *Jamestown*, granted by congress for that purpose,—bore these gifts to their destination," where "they were received with the warmest gratitude."[3]

Political subjects prominently occupied the public mind during the period under review. Concord, as the capital, focused as usual the political interest of New Hampshire. It was the convenient center where the party leaders of the state consulted; whither they summoned important conventions, and called together the people in extraordinary assemblies and celebrations. Here, too, the newspaper

[1] The spiritual care and culture of the new element of population are specially treated in the ecclesiastical chapter.

[2] Bouton's Concord, 480.

[3] George S. Hale in The Memorial History of Boston, Vol. IV, *p.* 667.

press caught the fire and vigor of leadership from the warm concentration of partisan influences.

The year 1830 was the second of Andrew Jackson's first presidential term, with the Democratic party supporting his administration and the National Republican party opposing it. The former was ascendant in the state, but not yet in its capital. That year the legislature of New Hampshire elected Isaac Hill to the senate of the United States. Thus Concord citizenship became represented for the second time in the upper house of congress; and thus, too, was rebuked the personal and partisan feeling of a small majority of the senate that had prevented the confirmation of Mr. Hill's appointment as second comptroller of the treasury.

The twelfth presidential election, in 1832, triumphantly retained General Jackson in the chief magistracy of the nation. Early in the summer of 1833 he visited some of the northern states, including New Hampshire. He closed his tour at Concord, where, with his suite, prominently comprising Martin Van Buren, vice-president, Lewis Cass, secretary of war, and Levi Woodbury, secretary of the navy, he arrived on Friday, the 28th of June, and remained over the Sabbath. His reception was, in all its features, civic, military, and social, most cordial, and all unmarred by partisan hostility or indifference. Nor did the unanimity of welcome—rivaling that accorded to Lafayette—result merely from a decent respect felt for the recipient's high office, but as well from a grateful sense of his courageous devotion to the Union. For within six months he had dealt State Rights Nullification a death blow, and had thus practically enforced his earlier and immortal toast of warning to Calhoun and other disunion malcontents: "Our Federal Union—It must be preserved."[1]

In March, 1833,—three months before the president's visit,—there had come a political overturn in Concord, wherein a Democratic majority of eighty-five replaced the National Republican majority of fifty-five given at the presidential election in November, 1832; the capital thus coming into party accord with the state in supporting the administration of Jackson.

In 1836 Isaac Hill resigned his seat in the United States senate to assume the governorship of the state—being the first citizen of Concord to hold this position. He was thrice chosen to the office; receiving at his first election more than three fourths, and at his second more than nine tenths, of all the votes cast for governor. At those two elections the Whigs—as the opponents of the state and national administration had called themselves since 1834—did not rally in combined force. But at the election of 1838 both parties

[1] See particulars of Jackson's visit in a special chapter; also, see The Precious Coin, in note at close of this chapter.

mustered in full strength, and with a reduced though decisive Democratic preponderance, as manifested in Governor Hill's three thousand majority—won in that political conflict of almost unexampled severity—and which had been for him a fiery furnace seven times heated. The result indicated what subsequent years verified, that upon the old issues between the two parties—bank and sub-treasury, tariff and internal improvements—the Democratic position of Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, and Isaac Hill was impregnably the stronger in New Hampshire.

But Concord did not go in that election as went the state. It went over to the Whig side, and there remained until 1840. In March of this fourteenth presidential year the town again became Democratic; and in the following November it cast five hundred and forty-five votes for Van Buren, against five hundred and twenty-three for Harrison. This preponderance of twenty-two at the ballot box was the town's contribution to the state's six thousand Democratic majority, given in face of a sweeping national defeat of the Democracy, and the election of Harrison and Tyler.

The capital had been the lively center of political interest during the exciting canvass. It had been, on the 17th of June, 1840, the scene of a mass Whig convention—a "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" pageant of Western device. It was a larger gathering than any that had hitherto convened in Concord for any purpose. The prevalence of high political excitement was evinced in the assembling of more than ten thousand people from far and near, without the facilities afforded two years later by the opening of railroad communication. The occasion was a successful display of party enthusiasm. It had its trundling log cabin and other symbolic paraphernalia in crowded procession, headed by the Concord "Tippecanoe Club," marching with shouts, music, and banners, through the town, and along School street to the eastern brow of Kent's, or Holt's, hill, where an immense mass meeting was held in the open air, beneath the pleasant June sky. There occurred the platform exercises, with Ichabod Bartlett, of Portsmouth, as president of the day, and Joseph Low, of Concord, one of the vice-presidents. Of the speakers, the chief was James Wilson of Keene, the gifted Whig orator who, in 1838 and 1839, had eloquently pleaded his party's cause throughout the state, but without gaining the governorship for which he was a candidate. As the exercises of the memorable day drew to a close, two sons of New Hampshire, yet young and comparatively unknown, spoke briefly. But no one in that listening crowd once thought what proud fame future high achievement would win for them: for Horace Greeley, the peerless journalist; for Henry Wilson, the able and honest

statesman, worthy of the first office in the Republic, and reaching the second.[1]

During the years 1842, '43, and '44 the Democratic party was divided into "Radicals" and "Conservatives" upon questions pertaining to railroads and other corporations. The Radicals held that a railroad, being a private corporation, could not be authorized to take land for its track without the consent of the owner, and that the personal liability of stockholders in any corporation should be commensurate with that of ordinary partnership. The Conservatives denied these positions, and declared that a railroad was public, like a turnpike, and that the Radical view was fatally hostile to the new and important railroad enterprises, and to the investment of capital in other business enterprises essential to the progress and prosperity of the state. These questions had been much discussed for two or three years in the legislature and elsewhere. But, on the 8th of January, 1842, at Concord, the attempt was made in a local Democratic convention to make assent to the Radical view a test of party faith. The attempt was opposed by Governor Hill, who found a considerable following. He had, in 1840, commenced the publication of a newspaper styled *Hill's New Hampshire Patriot*, which, in charge of himself and two sons, William Pickering and John McClary, now espoused the Conservative side of the pending controversy. On the Radical side stood the *New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette*, which, after having been for eleven years in charge of Cyrus Barton, was now in that of Henry H. Carroll and Nathaniel B. Baker.

At a tumultuous Democratic meeting held at the town hall on the 19th of February, the threatened split became an accomplished fact —the Radicals retiring from the hall, and the Conservatives remaining to complete their organization. Resolutions offered by Governor Hill were adopted; by one of which it was agreed to support John H. White for governor, instead of Henry Hubbard, nominated seven months before. In the next issue of *Hill's Patriot*, White's name appeared for Hubbard's at the head of the Democratic ticket—and a bitter fight was on.

The influence of the veteran leader was felt more or less in the state outside the capital. At the ensuing March election in Concord the Conservative vote for governor was three hundred and twenty-three to three hundred and one Radical; and, with four parties in the field, balloting for members of the general court resulted in no choice. Similar results befell in other places; and more towns that year were without representation than in any for-

[1] See minute account of the convention in a special chapter.

mer year since the adoption of the constitution. In the state the Conservative vote for governor was about six thousand; the Radical, nearly twenty-seven thousand. The struggle went on for two years more. In 1843 the first two days of the Concord town-meeting were spent in balloting for moderator; with the final result that Joseph Low, Whig, was elected over Franklin Pierce, Radical-Democrat. The Conservatives cast about two hundred sixty votes in Concord; the Radicals, upwards of three hundred fifty. In 1844 there were four tickets, as in the previous two years; and three ineffectual ballotings for moderator constituted the first day's work. On the first of these William Walker, Jr., Conservative, received one hundred forty-six votes; Charles H. Peaslee, Radical, three hundred fifty-eight; Joseph Low, Whig, two hundred ninety-six; Cyrus Robinson, Anti-Slavery, seventy-four. No opportunity having been given to vote for state and county officers, that vote was lost. The second day was taken up with three or more fruitless attempts to choose a moderator, each trial consuming more than two hours and a half. When, on the morning of the third day, Ezra Carter, a Democrat opposed to "radical tests," and receiving Whig support, was elected, it was too late to ballot for members of the general court; and so Concord, for the third successive year, had none. In consequence, Franklin Pierce, Richard Bradley, and William Low were appointed "to apply for leave to be heard in behalf of the town before the Legislature," at the November session on the subject of a new proportion of the public taxes.[1]

But new questions of national importance—including that of Slavery—arose, overshadowing those upon which the New Hampshire Democracy had been divided. Erelong now the feud was sufficiently healed to allow united action at the polls; and in 1847 the essential party union of the two *Patriots* resulted in their consolidation into one newspaper bearing the name of the older, and conducted by William Butterfield and John M. Hill. Of the respective views held so stiffly for years by Radicals and Conservatives, those of the latter substantially became early established in statute law.

Near the beginning of the fourth decade Northern anti-slavery agitation had begun in earnest. On the first day of January, 1831, William Lloyd Garrison issued the first number of his *Liberator*, a sheet fourteen inches by nine in size. Following the establishment of the American Anti-Slavery society, in 1833, such an organization was formed for New Hampshire with auxiliaries in counties and in towns, including Concord. By 1835 anti-slavery agitation

[1] Bouton's Concord, 331-2.

had become so widely prevalent that Henry Hubbard of New Hampshire—himself strongly anti-abolition—declared in the United States senate that slavery was becoming "the all-absorbing subject." Even in so conservative a community as that of Concord, many had been stirred to ponder the new doctrines of reform in their hearts, and a few openly to confess their faith as abolitionists—both men and women; for the Concord Female Anti-Slavery society existed. Early in that year *The Abolitionist* was added by D. D. Fisk and E. G. Eastman to the list of newspapers published in town, and four numbers were issued under that name. The publication of the paper was then taken up by Albe Cady, George Storrs, George Kent, and Amos Wood, with the name changed to *Herald of Freedom*, and with Joseph H. Kimball as editor.[1] That year, too, Nathaniel Peabody Rogers, of highly endowed and cultured intellect and of philanthropic, heroic heart, "made acquaintance with Garrison, and"—as Parker Pillsbury,[2] also a Concord abolitionist, has written—"soon placed himself at his side as the hated, hunted, persecuted champion of the American slave, as by this time Garrison was known to be. And from this time, too, Rogers was ever found the firm, unshaken, uncompromising friend and advocate of not only the anti-slavery enterprise, but of the causes of temperance, peace, rights of woman, abolition of the gallows, and other social and moral reforms." He relinquished the successful practice of the law, and in 1838, at the age of forty-four, removed from his native Plymouth to Concord. Here was his home for the remaining eight years of life, intensely devoted to his mission of reform, including brilliant service in the editorial chair of the *Herald of Freedom*—a service in which he easily approved himself the accomplished master of controversial journalism.

Intense opposition to anti-slavery effort and free speech was at length engendered, which manifested itself in various places with more or less of angry popular remonstrance, and sometimes with mob violence. Even in the quiet capital of New Hampshire occurred a scene of unusual excitement. In August a powerful anti-slavery address had been delivered in the Baptist church by George Thompson, lately a member of the English parliament, and a strong champion of emancipation in the British West Indies, whom Lord Brougham had pronounced to be the most eloquent man he ever heard. The opponents of abolition were aroused, and on the evening of the 3d of September held a large meeting at the court house, at which speeches were made and resolutions passed, the latter expressing "indignation and disgust at the introduction of foreign emissaries . . . traversing the country and assailing our institutions." "All riotous as-

[1] See Abolition Zeal, in note at close of chapter.
[2] In "Acts of the Anti-Slavery Apostles," 30-1.

semblies" and "violent proceedings" were, however, deprecated.[1] But Thompson, though really a friend of America and of American institutions, slavery excepted, had already been the object of so much baseless and bitter obloquy, not infrequently rounded by significant allusion to the coat of tar and feathers, that the thrust dealt him by the resolutions had a mischievous tendency. The next morning the abolitionists notified by handbill, a meeting to be held at the court house in the evening, at which George Thompson and John G. Whittier would be present, and "where the principles, views, and operations of the abolitionists would be explained and any questions answered."[1] Thereupon such excitement arose, threatening a popular tumult, that General Robert Davis, chairman of the board of selectmen, advised George Kent, a friend of Mr. Thompson, against holding the meeting, and ordered Constable Abraham Bean to lock the town hall. The sheriff of the county also saw to it that the court room, in the same building, was likewise secured.[2] Not apprised of these precautionary measures a crowd came, at evening, to the appointed place of meeting—to find the doors shut. Soon three approached—two of whom were John G. Whittier, the Quaker poet, and Joseph H. Kimball, editor of the *Herald of Freedom*, but the third was not George Thompson, as was supposed. They were received by such of the crowd as were on mischief bent, with insulting shouts, emphasized by handfuls of dirt and gravel.[2] The three, making haste to escape further violence, were hotly pursued up Washington street, down State, and to the house of William A. Kent, on Pleasant, when the pursuers found out that they had been upon the wrong scent—that, after all, Thompson was not one of the pursued. Off went the crowd westward, making for the home of George Kent, where the lecturer had been entertained, but before the unwelcome visitants could arrive the host had withdrawn with his hunted guest, leaving the house in charge of the invalid, but resolute, wife and hostess. General Davis had come upon the scene in time to meet the excited searchers with the information that he whom they sought could not be found. He assured them that Mr. Thompson would not attempt to lecture in town on anti-slavery, and, warning them that their assembling under such circumstances might be deemed riotous, he requested them to desist at once. They complied, and withdrew to parade an effigy of the "foreign emissary" through the streets, and afterwards to burn it in the state house yard, with display of fireworks and discharge of cannon.[3] Little thought they who were engaged in the disorderly scenes of that night,

[1] Bouton's Concord, 434.
[2] *Ibid*, 435.
[3] See further details of the affair in a special chapter.

or those who sympathized with them, that George Thompson would one day revisit the country out of which he had been ruthlessly persecuted, to be received everywhere with acclaim; and that the Concord of 1864 would avenge itself honorably—as it did—upon the Concord of 1835 by earnestly soliciting the presence of the gifted Englishman, and hearing gladly his voice of triumphant congratulation over Slavery dead, the Union saved, and America indeed the land of liberty.[1]

About 1840 the friends of anti-slavery became divided upon the course of future procedure—some preferring to continue the work of reform by exclusively moral agitation; others, to promote the cause by both moral and political means. The latter soon began to organize as a third political party. So sprung up the Liberty, or, by later designation, the Freesoil, party,—the nucleus of that greater one named the Republican, and destined to no third place in American politics.

One January day in 1841 a small anti-slavery convention was held in the ante-room of the court house in Concord. Scanty delegations were in attendance from Milford and some other towns. Concord was represented by Sylvester Dana and one or two others. At this meeting it was determined to support Daniel Hoit, of Sandwich, as candidate for governor, at the ensuing March election. Later, the first anti-slavery caucus in Concord met at the Merrimack House, and a ticket for town officers was nominated. The caucus was so small that there was truth as well as humor in the suggestion made on the occasion that each one present would be obliged to take a nomination, if there was to be a ticket. At the election, the governor vote in town showed twenty-eight scattering. This number included the first distinctively anti-slavery, or abolition, vote ever cast in Concord at a state election; and it contributed to the twelve hundred seventy-three votes cast in the state for Daniel Hoit. This third party gradually grew in numbers, casting, on the governor vote in 1842, in Concord, thirty-four votes; in 1843, thirty-seven; in 1845, one hundred twenty-four. In 1844 the vote for state and county officers was lost—two days having been spent in ineffectual attempts to choose a moderator; but, in November, at the fifteenth presidential election, the vote stood: for Polk, Democrat, 441; Clay, Whig, 296; Birney, Liberty, 114.

The March meeting of 1844 is especially noted for the success of the anti-slavery men in getting the subject uppermost in their thoughts before a Concord town-meeting for discussion, despite the opposition of both Whig and Democratic leaders. An article had

[1] See note, George Thompson in Concord in 1864, at close of chapter.

been inserted in the warrant, to the following purport: To see if the town will take measures disapproving of the course pursued by John R. Reding, Edmund Burke, and Moses Norris, in denying to the people the free enjoyment of the inalienable right of petition. The persons named were three New Hampshire members of congress who had supported the "gag," so-called, whereby all petitions, remonstrances, or memorials touching the topic of slavery were laid upon the table of the nation's house of representatives, without discussion, reference, or even reading. To this measure their colleague, John P. Hale, had refused his support.

When, in its order, the article was reached and read, comparatively few of the voters present were not in favor of ignoring the matter altogether; anti-slavery agitation being deemed by the average Whig or Democrat as out of place anywhere, town-meeting not excepted. To test the sense of the voters, John Whipple moved the dismissal of the article. But action thereon was not to be taken without discussion, which Cyrus Robinson, of East Concord, promptly opened on the anti-slavery side, and in which several warmly participated pro and con, until the motion was withdrawn by the mover. Franklin Pierce, recently a senator of the United States, renewed the motion, which, after discussion, was rejected by a hand vote of more than two thirds. It being manifest that a large majority of the more than seven hundred persons crowding the town hall would not have the article ignored, Sylvester Dana, a young lawyer of earnest anti-slavery convictions, offered three resolutions: 1st, in favor of the right of petition; 2d, expressing decided disapprobation of the conduct of Messrs. Reding, Burke, and Norris, as to the gag rule of the national house of representatives; 3d, enjoining upon them to co-operate with their colleague, John P. Hale, in supporting the right of petition. Thereupon arose the great discussion of the day, in which the resolutions were supported by the mover, and by Joseph Low and Nathaniel P. Rogers, and opposed by Franklin Pierce. Rogers, the moral-suasion abolitionist, the non-resistant and non-voting "come-outer," as nicknamed, having been sent for to champion the cause sacred to him, had come into town-meeting. He replied to Pierce's characteristically able and strenuous speech, with a logic so clear and merciless, with home thrusts so skilfully dealt, and with wit and sarcasm so keen, as to win the hearty sympathy and enthusiastic appreciation of his crowded listeners. Cool and smiling, he met the interruptions of his excited antagonist with effective retorts that repeatedly brought down the house. Once he and his sympathizers were accused of bringing a firebrand into the meeting, and thereby producing tumult and disorder, the accuser somewhat impatiently adding in gratuitous

excuse, "I feel no responsibility for this state of disorder; but I was led into it." Promptly came the calm, crisp reply of Rogers, "I am sorry that friend Pierce should consent to be led by anybody; he is capable of going alone," a reply fully appreciated by the wide-awake audience, and whereat the old town hall shook and resounded, as never before or afterwards, with demonstrations of applause. The main debate over, the first two resolutions were adopted by heavy majorities; but the third, trigged by proposed amendments and other dilatory motions with accompanying talk, was lost in the final adjournment of the tedious four days' town-meeting.

This incident of slavery agitation occurred in the last year of President Tyler's administration, a pet measure of which was the immediate annexation of Texas. This scheme, involving the extension of slavery, had, until recently, been opposed by both of the great parties in New Hampshire and throughout the North. But at length the Democratic party of the North so far committed itself to the measure as to help elect Polk to the presidency, doing so, however, with the prevalent idea that as many free states as slave states might be carved out of Texas—an idea by no means held by the Democracy of the South. With this idea, John P. Hale, who had resisted slavery dictation as to the right of petition, advocated Polk's election. But the project of annexation not having been allowed to await the inauguration of the president-elect, and having been presented to congress, in December, 1844, to be hurried through by joint resolution, Mr. Hale ineffectually tried to procure an amendatory declaration whereby Texas should be divided into two parts, in one of which slavery should be forever prohibited.[1] When, moreover, he witnessed the defeat of every movement looking to a division of that domain between freedom and slavery, he determined, now that the animus of the whole scheme was manifest, to oppose, to the uttermost, the annexation by congress of a foreign nation for the avowed purpose of extending and perpetuating slavery.[1] But the New Hampshire legislature, later in that December, instructed, by resolutions, the senators and representatives in congress to vote for the annexation of Texas. Within ten days Mr. Hale from his seat in congress, boldly met the legislative instruction with a letter to his constituents, in which he flatly refused compliance, exposing the true nature of the Texas scheme, and denouncing the reasons urged therefor as "eminently calculated to provoke the scorn of earth and the judgment of heaven." He had already been nominated for re-election to congress in March ensuing, but the Democratic leaders at home, being now in favor of Texas annexation on any terms, reassembled in haste the

[1] Address of Daniel Hall at the unveiling of the Hale Statue, Aug. 3, 1892.

state convention, which substituted another candidate upon the general ticket. An independent Democratic cleavage ensued. At the election in March, 1845, while the three other candidates on the Democratic congressional ticket were chosen, Mr. Hale's substitute was not. At three other trials made in the course of the year,—the last in March, 1846,—no choice of the fourth member was effected, leaving the New Hampshire delegation in the thirtieth congress permanently incomplete. In the state, Mr. Hale's vote constantly increased from seven thousand seven hundred eighty-eight to eleven thousand four hundred seventy-five; in Concord it averaged about two hundred fifty.

Though in March, 1846, anti-slavery strength was insufficient to elect its new champion to a seat in the lower house of congress, yet it prevented the choice of a Democratic governor, and of a Democratic quorum of the council and senate, while a house of representatives was elected, which could and did take, by coalition, the state government from Democratic hands. Of the official incumbents, under the new order of things, were George G. Fogg, secretary of state, James Peverly, state treasurer, both Independent Democrats, and Asa McFarland, Whig, state printer. Moreover, John P. Hale, the Independent Democratic member of the house from Dover, and promptly made its speaker, was six days later elected by the legislature to the senate of the United States, for six years from the 4th of March, 1847. Forthwith a cannon peal announced from Sand hill the fact that New Hampshire had been the first to elect a distinctively anti-slavery member of the national senate—an event most interesting and significant in that historic series of events which was to culminate in a Union cleansed of slavery.

Pending the result, Hale's canvasses had covered the state from the Cocheco to the Connecticut, and from Coös to Strawberry Bank. His most memorable effort in the long sharp conflict was made at Concord on the 5th of June, 1845; when and where, upon invitation of a few anti-slavery men, he addressed a great assemblage that filled to overflowing the Old North meeting-house. Members of the legislature just convened, and other persons from all parts of the state visiting the Capital for various purposes at that season, helped swell the throng, His audience comprised men of all parties, including not a few embittered against him for his independent action. Franklin Pierce was there—his recent friend, personal and political, but who had been active in thrusting him from the ticket, and was now bent upon his political annihilation. Though it was Hale's meeting, yet there was to be debate between the two rivals —foemen, each worthy of the other's steel. Without ceremony Hale

took the platform, erected for a recent Whig convention, and held it and his audience as well for two hours, while vindicating upon high moral grounds, logically and triumphantly, the course of action for which he was called in question. Interrupted by interrogatories not kindly propounded, he responded with imperturbable good humor and a ready effectiveness that won the gratified plaudits of his hearers. Doubtless, the eccentric John Virgin expressed—albeit in quaint phrase—the enthusiastic sympathy of many besides himself when, at the speaker's happy reply to one of those questions, he rose in a glee of excitement, and, leaning over from the gallery, exclaimed at the top of his shrill voice—"Give it to 'em, Jack; drive the poor vipers into their dens, and make 'em pull the hole in after them."[1]

Pierce followed, summoned to the platform by loud calls from the assemblage, while Hale, with "calm and beaming face"—as described by an eye-witness—took his seat in a near pew, directly in front, to listen to the reply of his brilliant antagonist. And to that reply, eloquent, adroit, personally severe and aggressive, he did listen throughout its hour of delivery, attentively, coolly, without a wince, and without a lisp of interruption. At the conclusion of Pierce's effort, eminently satisfactory to his friends—as Hale's had been to his—loud cries arose for Hale to rejoin. Standing upon the pew seat, and facing his eagerly listening audience, he briefly complied in words more impressively eloquent than any others heard that day—words that were the very cap-sheaf of effectual vindication for having refused to "bow down and worship Slavery." He had won the palm of enthusiastic admiration.[2]

Twenty-seven years later, Mr. Hale himself, while recalling in conversation some of the circumstances of the memorable occasion, and having mentioned among other facts that of being accompanied to the place of meeting by three friends, George G. Fogg, James Peverly, and Jefferson Noyes, said: "We walked along in silence; the gentlemen with me said nothing, and I said little to them. I was gloomy and despondent, but kept my thoughts to myself. As we turned around the corner of the old Fiske store, and I looked up and saw the crowd at the doors of the old church surging to get in, the people above and below hanging out of the windows, first a great weight of responsibility oppressed me, and in a moment more an inspiration came upon me as mysterious as the emotions of the new birth. I walked into the densely crowded house as calm and collected and self-assured as it was possible for a man to be. I felt that the only thing I then wanted—an opportunity—had come; and I soon gath-

[1] Recollections of Woodbridge Odlin in *Concord Monitor*, June 27, 1884.
[2] See further account of the meeting in a special chapter.

ered that great crowd into my arms and swayed it about as the gentle winds do the fields of ripening grain. That inspiration never for a moment left me. It followed me over the state during the ensuing campaign, into the senate of the United States, remained with me there, and subsided only when the proclamation of President Lincoln declared that in this land the sun should rise upon no bondman and set upon no slave."[1]

The Annexation of Texas, early in 1845, was followed by the opening hostilities of the War with Mexico, early in 1846. On the 13th of May of the latter year congress declared and President Polk proclaimed that "by the act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that government and the United States." Six days afterwards a battalion of five companies of infantry—to consist of three hundred eighty-nine men—was called for from New Hampshire. The call met with prompt and favorable response. In Concord the light infantry company largely tendered service as volunteers. Fire Engine Company No. 2 voted, "with only one nay," to offer the governor their services "for the war with Mexico, whenever needed." Three printers in the office of the *New Hampshire Patriot*—John C. Stowell, Ezra T. Pike, and Henry F. Carswell—stood ready to go to the distant scene of war. And thither they finally went; and, having done brave and honorable service, perished; the first two from wounds; the third from disease, after coming unscathed out of the fierce battles in the valley of Mexico. Soon, too, some twenty citizens of Concord volunteered by signing an agreement drawn up by the adjutant-general. Of this number was Franklin Pierce, who had recently declined the attorney-generalship of the United States, and who seemed inclined to persist in his expressed determination to allow nothing but the military service of his country to withdraw him from the pursuits of private life. With inherited tastes and zeal, this favorite party leader and brilliant lawyer now turned his earnest attention to military tactics and drill. As he had believed in Texas annexation, so he believed in the Mexican War, its natural sequel,—and would serve therein.

The first six months of the war had been occupied in General Taylor's successful operations in the vicinity of the Rio Grande, signalized by the victories of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, and the capture of Monterey. In this last achievement, accomplished on the 26th of September, 1846, Second Lieutenant Joseph H. Potter, of the regular United States Infantry—a West Point graduate of three years before, and a classmate of Ulysses S. Grant—participated, and was severely wounded. His gallant and meritorious conduct at

[1] See Proceedings at the unveiling of the Hale Statue, *p.* 170.

Monterey earned for the young officer—born in Concord twenty-five years before, the eldest son of Thomas D. Potter—promotion to a first lieutenancy; the first of a series of promotions by which he was to reach the grade of brigadier-general in the regular army of the United States.

When it was finally decided to adopt General Scott's plan of conquest, by marching upon the City of Mexico from Vera Cruz rather than from the scene of General Taylor's operations, congress provided for raising ten new regiments, enlisted for the war, and to be attached to the regulars. Of one of these, the Ninth, or New England regiment, Franklin Pierce was appointed colonel on the 16th of February, 1847, and on the 3d of the following March was advanced to be a brigadier-general in the United States army. Concord supplied its proportion of volunteers to the rolls of the Ninth regiment. Its men were also to be found in Colonel Caleb Cushing's Massachusetts regiment; one of these being Lieutenant Charles F. Low, afterwards of the Ninth.[1] In May, upon setting out for Mexico, the popular general was presented with a handsome sword by ladies of Concord, and by gentlemen, with a valuable horse.

General Pierce, at the head of his brigade of twenty-five hundred men, comprising the Ninth regiment and detachments from others, reached on the 7th of August the main body of Scott's army resting at Puebla. In the further advance upon the enemy's capital, with the consequent battles of Contreras and Churubusco, fought on the 19th and 20th of August, General Pierce and his brigade participated. While, on the afternoon of the 19th, they were advancing over "the rough volcanic grounds" of Contreras, "so full of fissures and chasms that the enemy considered them impassable,"[2] the general's horse, stepping into a cleft, fell with a broken leg, and heavily threw his rider, who received painful and severe injury. Urged by the surgeon to withdraw, the sufferer refused to do so, and mounting the horse of an officer mortally wounded, remained in the saddle till late into the night. At daylight he was again in the saddle; and though suffering intensely and advised by General Scott to leave the field, he persisted in accompanying his command in the operations against Churubusco. On the advance he was obliged to dismount in crossing a ditch or ravine. "Overcome by the pain of his injured knee, he sank to the ground, unable to proceed, but refused to be taken from the field, and remained under fire until the enemy were routed."[3] General Grant, who served through the Mexican War as a second lieutenant of regulars, has left this testimony in his "Per-

[1] See lists of Concord men in Mexican War, in note at close of chapter.
[2] Correspondence in Adjutant-General's Report, 1868, *p.* 350.
[3] Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. V, *p.* 8.

sonal Memoirs": [1] "General Franklin Pierce had joined the army in Mexico, at Puebla, a short time before the advance upon the capital commenced. He had consequently not been in any of the engagements of the war up to the battle of Contreras. By an unfortunate fall of his horse on the afternoon of the 19th he was painfully injured. The next day, when his brigade, with the other troops engaged on the same field, was ordered against the flank and rear of the enemy, . . . General Pierce attempted to accompany them. He was not sufficiently recovered to do so, and fainted. This circumstance gave rise to exceedingly unfair and unjust criticisms of him when he became a candidate for the presidency. Whatever General Pierce's qualifications for the presidency, he was a gentleman and a man of courage. I was not a supporter of him politically, but I knew him more intimately than I did any other of the volunteer generals."

General Pierce, having served as a peace commissioner in the ineffectual armistice that existed for about three weeks, or until the 7th of September, was, on resumption of hostilities, again at the head of his special command and other troops in the fierce battles of Molino del Rey and Chapultepec, where the enemy made the last desperate stand, and whence, on the 14th of September, 1847, the victorious American army entered in triumph the capital of Mexico, and the Mexican War was practically over.

General Pierce was welcomed home to Concord on the 27th of January, 1848, where he was greeted at the railroad station by an assemblage of three or four thousand. He addressed the people at Depot hall, and, in the evening, at a levee held in the state house, received the congratulations of his friends.[2]

The New Hampshire legislature, in recognition of his war services, voted him a sword; and on the afternoon of June 27, 1849, formal presentation of the elegant memento was made by Governor Dinsmoor, in the presence of the members of the legislature and many citizens assembled in front of the capitol. The ceremony, with its happy words of gift and acceptance, had one silent, unobtrusive, but attentive spectator; it was Nathaniel Hawthorne, who had come from his work upon "The Scarlet Letter"—which was to give him world-wide recognition as standing among the foremost of American authors—to grace with his sympathetic presence the occasion of honor to Franklin Pierce, his friend.

As a result of Texas annexation, Democratic ascendancy in New Hampshire was lost in 1846—as already seen; but with the Mexican War, the result of that annexation, in issue, that ascendancy was regained in 1847. The political field was closely contested, and Con-

[1] Vol. I, *pp.* 146-7.

[2] Bouton's Concord, 484.

cord was an important center of electioneering influences. Especially was this true of its partisan press. The columns of six regular newspapers—the two *New Hampshire Patriots*, the *Statesman*, the *Courier*, the *Granite Freeman*, the *Independent Democrat*,—and of three campaigners,—*The True Whig*, *The Rough and Ready*, and *The Tough and Steady*—poured the hot shot of controversial literature over the state. The war had the full Democratic support against the full Whig and Freesoil opposition. It was denounced as a war for the extension of slavery; but the charge was parried by Democratic concession to growing anti-slavery sentiment so far as to uphold the Wilmot Proviso, with its express declaration that no territory acquired from Mexico should be slave territory. This assurance, by allaying scruples as to slavery, helped to restore to the Democratic fold some who had gone into the independent movement of the year before, and to restrain others from breaking party ties. Moreover, accession came to Democratic strength through the partisan opposition—often bitter—manifested against the actually existing war with a foreign power, and tending to give aid and comfort to the enemy—an opposition that ran counter to the popular instinct of patriotism, and rendered effective the appeals of the Democratic press and orators against the "Mexican allies," as they chose to designate their party opponents. The aroused sentiment of country before party caused some renunciation of party ties that helped to ensure Democratic success in this contest. Thus, in one of the largest meetings of the campaign, held in the town hall of Concord on the evening of the 8th of February, 1847, presided over by Jonathan Eastman, a veteran of 1812, General Joseph Low, for nineteen years a leader in the National Republican and Whig party, voiced his renunciation in such decisive words as these: "I think it my duty to stand by the government in its present crisis, and now in this hour, when foes assail from without, and enemies attack at home, I shall be found with the party that supports the government. I take my stand on the side of my country; patriotism orders it, duty directs it." [1]

Democratic ascendancy in the government of the state having been restored as the result of the struggle was to be maintained for eight years, though troubled more or less by the slavery question, which, in some form, would never down until the institution itself should perish. Concord, which in 1846 had given on the governor vote a combined Whig and Freesoil majority of ten, with four scattering, and had elected two—one Democratic and one opposition—of the five or six members of the legislature to which it was entitled, did

[1] See A Subscription, in note at close of chapter.

not, now in the general reactionary movement of 1847, show a disposition to contribute to Democratic reascendency, giving as it did, ninety-five opposition majority on the state ticket, and electing six anti-Democratic fusion members of the general court. Of these was Asa Fowler, who also served as moderator of the town-meeting by appointment of the two Whig members of the board of selectmen—being the first and the last thus to serve under a short-lived law, passed at one session and repealed at the next. The bitter disappointment felt by the defeated party over the result of the town election, led to unexecuted threats of prosecuting the selectmen for unfair and illegal management of the check-list, and to sundry unsustained charges against the winning party, as to the "free use of money in buying up floodwood," "hiring poor Democrats to stay away from the polls," furnishing "Whig dinners at Hook's,"[1] et cetera. But some such unsatisfactory after-election solace had not been unusual or confined to one party before, as it certainly has not been since. The town, however, in this election, supplied a winning Democratic candidate in the first congressional contest under the district system,—General Charles H. Peaslee being elected representative to congress from the second of the four districts, and the first resident of Concord ever chosen to that position. In 1848 the town increased its anti-Democratic majority on the state vote to one hundred and twelve, and by coalescence the Whigs and Freesoilers secured six members of the legislature. In 1840, although, on the state vote Concord showed an opposition majority of forty, yet, from failure of effective coalition, five Democratic members of the general court were chosen. By 1850 the town had come to stand politically with the state, and contributed its sixty-six majority to the state's more than five thousand for Samuel Dinsmoor, Democratic candidate for governor. It also elected six Democratic members of the general court, one of whom was Nathaniel B. Baker, who became speaker of the house of representatives at the ensuing session of the legislature—being the second citizen of Concord to hold that office; the first having been Thomas W. Thompson, thirty-seven years before. The regular Democratic ticket for selectmen was also elected, notwithstanding a somewhat remarkable display of go-as-you-please spirit and of futile attempts of the opposition elements to coalesce with their variety of tickets; such as the Whig, the Freesoil, the People's, the Temperance, the California, and the Workingmen's. The number of selectmen elected —five instead of three—is the solitary repetition in the history of Concord, of an ancient precedent occurring in 1733, at the transition of the Plantation of Penacook into the Township of Rumford.

[1] *N. H. Patriot.*

In 1851, the third year of the Taylor-Fillmore administration,—placed in power by the Whig party at the sixteenth presidential election,—some political revulsion in state and town was wrought. For the question of slavery had not been effectually settled, as it was fondly hoped it would be, by the Compromise of 1850, acquiesced in as it was by both Whigs and Democrats. The stringent Fugitive Slave Law, which was one of the Compromise measures, was very repugnant to Northern sentiment. The Reverend John Atwood, who had early in 1851 received and accepted the unanimous Democratic nomination for governor upon a platform unqualifiedly endorsing the Compromise, ventured, a little later, to express somewhat confidentially his dislike of the fugitive slave law. The fact coming to the ears of the Democratic leaders, the candidate was called to account, and, after recantation and a subsequent disavowal thereof, was dropped by the convention, reassembled, which had recently nominated him, and Samuel Dinsmoor, serving his second term as governor, was substituted. At the ensuing election, the candidate, thus rejected by his party, was supported by the Freesoilers and some Democrats, and received twelve thousand votes. Governor Dinsmoor, being in a minority of more than three thousand on the popular vote, was chosen for his third term by the legislature. Concord participated in the political change, giving one hundred anti-Democratic majority on the governor vote. From failure of the opposition parties to coalesce, only one of the town's quota of seven representatives to the general court was elected. This was Nathaniel B. Baker, a Democratic candidate, who, through personal popularity, carried more than his party's strength, and who, thus elected, was chosen for the second time to the speakership in the house of representatives. Of the three selectmen, two were Whigs—one of whom, Nathan Stickney, son of William, the taverner, and grandson of Colonel Thomas, of the Revolution, was chosen now for the eighth and last time within eleven years.

At the March election of the following year, the Democratic vote for governor in the state rose from a minority of three thousand to a majority of twelve hundred, and Noah Martin was elected. In Concord, the Democratic minority on that vote was reduced to sixty-two. Six Whig and Freesoil members of the legislature were chosen, while the three selectmen were Democrats. One of the representatives was Nathaniel White, prominent in the business activities of his town, and so sincere and resolute an abolitionist that his home often afforded refuge to the hunted slave fleeing over the "underground railroad" to find freedom in Canada.

The year 1852 was that of the seventeenth presidential election.

In this, from the candidacy of a favorite citizen of New Hampshire and its capital for the chief office of the nation, extraordinary interest, political and personal, was felt in both state and town, with a consequent increase of Democratic strength. Early in the afternoon of Saturday, June 5, a telegram announced in Concord that the Baltimore convention had, on the forty-ninth ballot, nominated for the presidency of the United States General Franklin Pierce, by two hundred eighty-two of the two hundred ninety-three votes cast. The town was aroused to unwonted excitement. The bulletin board and telegraph office were eagerly sought, until a second despatch had confirmed the first. Then were run up, in glad haste, the stars and stripes, gayly to float on the fresh summer breeze. And now from Sand Hill began to be heard the cannon salute of two hundred eighty-two guns, to be continued into the late evening. Church bells rang out their merry accompaniment of inspiring peals. The townsmen of the personally popular nominee—many not of his political faith—thronged the streets, exchanging congratulations, or, at least, respectful and friendly comments. A Democratic meeting, hastily called together in Natural History hall, with the special purpose of arranging for an early mass convention, became forthwith almost such itself, and was obliged to adjourn to the state house grounds, where the enthusiastic multitude listened to words of congratulatory eloquence. Thus promptly did the home of Franklin Pierce help set the winning pace in the coming presidential contest.

During the ensuing five months, the Democratic party of the country reached its climax of relative numerical strength. It was a unit in the support of its presidential candidate. On the contrary, the Whig party did not find in General Scott the expected availability as a candidate; there being much lukewarmness and some outright defection. Indeed, the party was in decadence, and, after the present struggle, was never to engage in another, as a distinct national organization. The Freesoil party, with John P. Hale for its candidate, hopefully stood by its principles, though without expectation of gaining any place in the electoral college. The battle, fought under such conditions, and with the consequent advantage of electioneering zeal largely upon the Democratic side, naturally resulted in a great Democratic victory. Its presidential candidate received two hundred fifty-four of the two hundred ninety-six electoral votes of the thirty-one states, backed by one hundred seventy-five thousand popular majority. In New Hampshire, Pierce's majority over Scott and Hale was nearly seven thousand votes; in Concord, two hundred twenty-nine—a gain of two hundred ninety-one over the Democratic vote in March.

During the contest two illustrious leaders of the Whig party were removed by death: one, near the opening of the campaign, the other, near its close; Henry Clay, on the 29th of June, Daniel Webster, on the 24th of October. Special honors were paid in Concord to the memory of each, in the death-toll of the bells, in the solemn assembling of citizens without party distinction, and in speech and resolution duly exalting the character of the great statesmen. On each occasion, Franklin Pierce spoke with much feeling and power; and it was in the rounding of his tribute to the memory of Webster, that he uttered these words of solemn thrill: "How do mere earthly honors and distinctions fade amid a gloom like this! How political asperities are chastened—what a lesson to the living! What an admonition to personal malevolence, now awed and subdued, as the great heart of the nation throbs heavily at the portals of his grave!"

But the sealed future permitted not that he who thus spoke should foresee how heavily would throb his own heart in the anguish of bereavement, when, president-elect of the United States, he should shortly stand childless at the open grave of his beloved son, "Little Benny," suddenly, cruelly snatched from life by accidental death.[1]

The March town-meetings of 1851 and 1852—the general political results of which have been noted—passed upon amendments proposed by a convention held at the capitol, in Concord, to revise the state constitution. In this convention the town was represented by seven Democratic delegates: Franklin Pierce, Nathaniel G. Upham, Cyrus Barton, George Minot, Nathaniel Rolfe, Jonathan Eastman, and Moses Shute. General Pierce was made president of the convention. At the first session, commencing on the 3d of November, 1850, and continued, with recesses, until the 3d of the succeeding January, the constitution, for the revision of which the people of the state had allowed no attempt for nearly sixty years, was too radically handled in the adoption of fifteen amendments. All of these were rejected when submitted to the popular vote of the state at the next March election. The votes in Concord upon the fifteen propositions averaged thirteen negatives to one affirmative. The extremes were fifty-seven to one and four to one; the former, upon making state elections and legislative sessions biennial; the latter, upon the abolition of the property and religious tests. In view of this manifestation of the popular will, the convention, having reassembled in April, 1851, agreed upon three amendments: 1. To abolish the property qualification for office; 2. To abolish the religious test; 3. To empower the legislature to originate future constitutional amendments. All of these were rejected in Concord, in March, 1852: the first, by yeas, 304, nays, 341; the second, by yeas, 286, nays, 360; the third,

[1] See Death of "Little Benny," in note at close of chapter.

by yeas, 294, nays, 348. On the vote of the state, the first was the only one of the three that received the two-thirds majority requisite to adoption. Only so far did the people of New Hampshire permit, in 1852, the constitution of 1792 to be amended.

By the year 1849 the idea had become somewhat prevalent that a change of municipal government was desirable, since the interests of the growing town, becoming more and more varied and complex, could not be properly subserved by the legislation of the time-honored, but now unwieldy, town-meeting. In June of that year, the petition of Joseph Low and four hundred twenty other citizens was presented to the legislature, praying for a city charter—a draft of which was also introduced. A precedent existed in New Hampshire in the case of Manchester, which had already been under city government four years. In course of the session "An act to establish the City of Concord" became a law, to be effective when the charter should be adopted by a majority of voters present in town-meeting, and voting thereon by ballot. Portsmouth, the ancient colonial capital, received a city charter at the same session as did Concord, the modern capital of the state. The former at once adopted the new form of government; but the latter was nearly four years in doing so. From various causes—not the least of which was the apprehension of increased expense—much and persistent opposition was manifested, both in the main village and in the outlying portions of the town. In September, 1849, the charter was refused adoption by 183 yeas to 637 nays; and in May, 1851, by 139 to 589. These were results of special meetings, and upon votes far from full. The third trial was made at the regular March meeting of 1852—a meeting, which, like that of 1851, occupied six days. The balloting was preceded by an able discussion, in which Joseph Low, Asa Fowler, Nathaniel B. Baker, Thomas P. Treadwell, Jeremiah S. Noyes, Jacob A. Potter, Josiah Minot, and Samuel M. Wheeler favored the adoption of the charter; and Richard Bradley, Samuel Coffin, Franklin Pierce, Dudley S. Palmer, Abel Baker, and some others opposed it. The result of the ballot was four hundred fifty-eight votes for adoption to six hundred fourteen against. The negative preponderance, though obstinate, was decreasing; and in view of the serious and detrimental inconvenience of tediously protracted town-meetings, past and prospective, a committee was raised to draft a bill making provision for dividing the town into districts for the purposes of election, and to take measures to procure its passage at the next session of the legislature. But nothing was to come of this new movement, the purpose of which was amply and better met by the city charter in providing for the division of the town into seven wards.

On Tuesday, the 8th of March, 1853, occurred the New Hampshire state election, in which was still felt the Democratic impulse of the recent presidential result, and Governor Martin was re-elected by more than five thousand majority. The town-meeting in Concord commenced its three days' session in the old historic town hall. Upon its check-list were the names of twenty-two hundred thirty-four voters, sixteen hundred of whom were actually to vote. Without contest, Nathaniel B. Baker was chosen moderator. Two ballotings occupied the first day; one for state and county officers and a member of congress, the other for members of the general court. Each of the three parties—Democratic, Whig, and Freesoil—stood by its own ticket; the first showing, in test cases, a majority of nearly one hundred eighty. Its eight candidates for members of the general court were chosen. They were: Jeremiah S. Noyes, John H. George, John Sawyer, William H. Page, James Frye, James Moore, Henry P. Rolfe, and Benjamin F. Dow. On the second day, John P. Johnson as town clerk, and John C. Pillsbury, Atkinson Webster, and David Abbot, 2d, as selectmen, were elected, with, virtually, no contest. Other town officers were chosen as usual by confirming nominations made by a committee. These were twenty-eight highway surveyors, twenty-two constables, eight surveyors of stone, three auditors of town accounts, three fence-viewers, three cullers of staves, fifty-five surveyors of lumber, forty-four corders of wood, fifteen weighers of hay, seven sealers of leather, three sealers of weights, two pound keepers, one clerk of the market, and one hayward. It may be noticed that the field-drivers, hog-reeves, and tithing-men of earlier days had disappeared from the elective official list; and that, since 1834, collectors of taxes had been appointed by the selectmen. Certain appropriations were made, such as five thousand dollars for the support of schools the current year;[1] four thousand dollars for building and repairing highways and bridges, to be laid out in labor at ten cents per hour;[2] and ten thousand dollars to pay existing debts, and defray necessary charges and expenses the ensuing year—the same, with the sums received for tax on railroads and railroad stock, to be appropriated "as the interests of the town" might "require."[2]

The thirty-one articles of the warrant afforded many subjects for action and deliberation. But no other of them involved such possibilities of future advancement for Concord as did the twenty-third, expressed in the simple but suggestive words,—"To see if the town will vote to accept the City Charter granted by the Legislature of New Hampshire, June Session, 1849." Action upon this article was deferred, by special assignment, till nine o'clock of the morning of

[1] Proceedings of Town Meeting, 1853, *p.* 16. [2] *Ibid*, *p.* 11.

Thursday, March 10, the third day of the meeting. The ballot thereon commencing at the appointed time, showed, at its close, that eight hundred twenty-eight (828) votes had been cast in the affirmative to five hundred fifty (550) in the negative; and that thus by a satisfactory majority of a reasonably full vote the city charter had been accepted. This action being followed by an order "that the selectmen of the town proceed forthwith to organize a City Government," the last Concord town-meeting was dissolved. And so the behest of Progress that the town become a city, was at last obeyed.

Notes.

The Sunday-school. By the year 1825 the efficacy of the Sunday-school as a factor of religious progress had begun to be realized in Concord. Thereupon the claims of this important instrumentality for inculcating the knowledge of revealed scripture truth, and thus promoting the growth of the churches, were to receive ever-increasing recognition—as the treatment of the subject in the special ecclesiastical chapter will show.

Thespians. In 1844 the society had its printed by-laws with lists of officers and members. Its officers were: John Renton, M. D., president and stage manager; Charles W. Walker, vice-president; John C. Stowell, secretary and treasurer; George Renton, librarian; Harriman Couch, doorkeeper; Harriman Couch, John C. Stowell, Charles W. Walker, George Renton, Josiah H. Nelson, executive committee; William A. Hodgdon, leader of the choir. With these the membership included Frank S. and Charles H. West, Abiel Carter, S. L. F. Simpson, Samuel G. Nelson, Alfred L. Tubbs, Charles A. Robinson, George Kimball, Josiah Stevens, 3d, Lewis R. and A. R. Davis, A. H. Bailey, George S. Towle, Ezra T. Pike, Harrison G. Eastman, George H. Moore, George W. Pillsbury, George C. Pratt, Isaac A. Hill, and John Merrill; the ladies of the organization being the Misses Sarah C. Ayer, E. Bixby, Christie W. Renton, C. R. Baxter, A. Ingalls, A. Allison, Sarah A. and E. West, N. Hodgdon, and E. Merrill. All of these, save four, were, in the course of fifty-six years, to be numbered with the dead; the survivors in 1900 being William A. Hodgdon, Isaac A. Hiil, Harriman Couch, and Sarah A. West (by marriage, Mrs. White). *Isaac A. Hill's communication in Daily Patriot, July 31, 1900.*

Fire Department Reorganized. From 1807 to 1844 inclusive—thirty-eight years—the fire department consisted of firewards. These from the first five—Benjamin Kimball, Jr., Nathaniel Abbot, Sargent Rogers, Timothy Chandler, and Paul Rolfe—increased in number to thirty-three, in 1844, when the board was composed of Isaac

Eastman, William Restieaux, Moses Shute, Philip B. Grant, David Allison, Horatio G. Belknap, Jacob Carter, Frederick W. Urann, Enos Blake, Luther Roby, Ephraim Hutchins, Samuel Coffin, Joseph P. Stickney, George W. Brown, John Abbott, Charles Hutchins, Harry Houston, Nathaniel B. Baker, Theodore T. Abbott, William M. Carter, Benjamin Parker, Daniel A. Hill, James Woolson, Jonathan Sanborn, George H. H. Silsby, Cyrus Robinson, Oren Foster, John McDaniel, John M. Hill, Daniel Davis, Jr., Robert Eastman, Seth Eastman, and John Sawyer.

The firewards were selected from among the most energetic of the citizens of the town, and an old resident is authority for the statement that "the way they flourished their red staves at a fire, punching holes through partitions, while Tom Sargent, the old North bell-ringer, mounted the ridge pole and cut holes through the roof to let the water in from the tubs, was a caution to modern chief engineers and their assistants." *Communicated by Fred Leighton.*

The first board of engineers under the organization of 1845, as nominated by members of the fire companies and appointed by the selectmen, consisted of the following persons: Chief, Luther Roby; assistants, Arthur Fletcher, George H. H. Silsby, Caleb Parker, Daniel A. Hill, John Haines, John Abbott, Lowell Eastman, Harvey Rice, Benjamin Grover, James Moore, Shadrach Seavey, William Pecker, Henry H. Brown, Moses Shute, Benjamin F. Dunklee, Lewis Downing, Benjamin F. Dow, Stephen Brown.

Sufferers by Fires. The principal sufferers, being owners or occupants of the buildings burnt in the great fire of August 25, 1851, were: owners—Benjamin Grover; Abraham Prescott, Prescott & Brothers, manufacturers of musical instruments; Jane Dustin; Allison & Gault, druggists; Porter, Rolfe & Brown, hardware dealers; William Walker, Jr.; Edward H. Rollins, druggist; Mrs. Mary A. Stickney; occupants—John Gibson, of the Eagle Coffee House; Jacob Carter & Son, jewelers; C. W. Gardner; J. & C. Monroe, confectioners; Charles W. Harvey, merchant (dry goods); Nathaniel Evans, Jr., clothier; Page & Fay, dealers in crockery, etc.; Johnson & Dewey, merchants (dry goods); Moore & Cilley, hardware dealers; Charles E. Savory & Co., dealers in paints, etc.; Brown & Young, furniture dealers; G. Parker Lyon, publisher; Sylvester Dana, lawyer; Ephraim Eaton, do.; Benning W. Sanborn, bookseller; McFarland & Jenks, printers; James Prescott & Co., stablekeepers; George D. Abbott, painter; Fogg & Wiggin, printers; Dr. Timothy Haynes; David Winkley, merchant tailor; Henry A. & A. Herbert Bellows, lawyers; Peaslee & George, do.; Calvin Ainsworth, lawyer; James Peverly, merchant (dry goods, etc.); Tripp

& Osgood, printers; Gilbert Bullock, merchant (dry goods, etc.); Benjamin Gage, shoe dealer; Silas G. Sylvester, merchant (dry goods, etc.); Miss A. Hamlin; Reed & Stanley, jewelers; Norton & Crawford, booksellers.—EARLY in the morning of January 23, 1852, a fire broke out in a small wooden building on Free Bridge road, within a few feet of a range of wooden buildings on Main street, owned by Mrs. Mary Ann Stickney, to which it was communicated, destroying all. The occupants of the buildings consumed in this fire—the sequel to the greater one of five months before—were Daniel A. Hill, furniture dealer; David Symonds, harness-maker; Day & Emerson, marble workers; William Gilman, shoemaker; Eben Hall, tinware manufacturer; Joel C. Danforth, whip manufacturer; Moore & Jenkins, market keepers.

STREETS OF CONCORD IN 1834.

The names and limits of the streets of Concord, reported in June, 1834, by the committee mentioned in the text, and adopted by the town, were:

1. The street known by the name of Main Street shall retain its name, and shall extend from the head of the Londonderry Turnpike road northerly to Horse Shoe Pond, by the dwelling-house of the late Judge Walker.

2. The street west of Main Street, known by the name of *State Street*, shall retain its name, and shall extend from Pleasant Street northerly by the Burying Ground to Wood's brook, on the Boscawen road.

3. The street west of State Street, known by the name of High Street, shall hereafter be called *Green Street*, and shall extend from Pleasant Street northerly to Centre Street.

4. The street west of Green Street, recently laid out through land of George Kent, shall be called *Spring Street*, and shall extend from Pleasant Street northerly to Centre Street.

5. The plat of ground appropriated by George Kent, Esq., for a public square, containing about five acres, lying between Merrimack and Rumford Streets, shall be called *Rumford Square*.

6. The street west of Spring Street, and making the east line of Rumford Square, shall be called *Rumford Street*, and shall extend from Pleasant Street northerly to Centre Street.

7. The street west of Rumford Street, and making the west line of Rumford Square, shall be called *Merrimack Street*, and shall extend from Pleasant Street northerly to Centre Street.

8. The street running northerly from Centre Street through land partly of Mr. Odlin, shall be called *Union Street*, and shall extend from Centre Street northerly to Washington Street.

9. The street running southerly from Pleasant Street, by the dwelling-house of Samuel Fletcher, Esq., shall be called *South Street*, and shall extend from Pleasant Street southerly to Mr. Benjamin Wheeler's dwelling-house.

10. The street running south-easterly from Main Street, at the head of Londonderry Turnpike Road, to Concord Bridge, shall be called *Water Street*.

11. The street running southerly from Water Street, by the late Dea. Wilkins's dwelling-house, through the Eleven Lots, shall be called *Hall Street*, and shall extend from Water Street to the town line by Col. Carter's dwelling-house.

12. The street running westerly from Main street, at the head of Londonderry

Turnpike Road, shall be called *West Street*, and shall extend from Main Street westerly to South Street.

13. The street running westerly from Main Street through land of the late Mr. Richard Hazeltine, shall be called *Cross Street*, and shall extend from Main Street to South Street.

14. The street running westerly from Main Street, near Mr. Chas. Hoag's dwelling-house, through land of the late Mr. Thompson, shall be called *Thompson Street*, and shall extend from Main Street to South Street.

15. The street north of Thompson Street, through the same lot, shall be called *Fayette Street*, and shall extend from Main Street to South Street.

16. The street running westerly from Main Street by Mr. Asaph Evans's store, shall be called *Pleasant Street*, and shall extend from Main Street westerly to the junction of the roads by Mr. Stephen Lang's dwelling-house.

17. The street running westerly from Main Street, through the lot lately owned by Mr. Benjamin Gale, shall be called *Warren Street*, and shall extend from Main Street to State Street.

18. The street known by the name of *School Street* shall retain its name, and shall extend from Main Street westerly by the north side of Rumford Square to Merrimack Street.

19. The street running westerly from Main Street by the north side of the State House lot, shall be called *Park Street*, and shall extend from Main Street to State Street.

20. The street known by the name of *Centre Street* shall retain its name, and shall extend from Main Street westerly over Sand Hill until it intersects Washington Street.

21. The street running westerly from Main Street by Dr. Chadbourne's dwelling-house, shall be called *Montgomery Street*, and shall extend from Main Street to State Street.

22. The street running westerly from Main Street by the north side of the Court House, through land of Mr. John Stickney, shall be called *Court Street*, and shall extend from Main Street to State Street.

23. The street running westerly from Main Street, by Dr. Carter's dwelling-house, shall be called *Washington Street*, and shall extend from Main Street, crossing State Street and over the hill, until it intersects Centre Street.

24. The street running westerly from Main Street, south of Mr. Nathaniel Abbot's dwelling-house, shall be called *Pearl Street*, and shall extend from Main Street to State Street.

25. The street running westerly from Main Street, by the dwelling-house of Charles Walker, Esq., shall be called *Franklin Street*, and shall extend from Main Street to the angle of the old road on the hill where the Hospital once was.

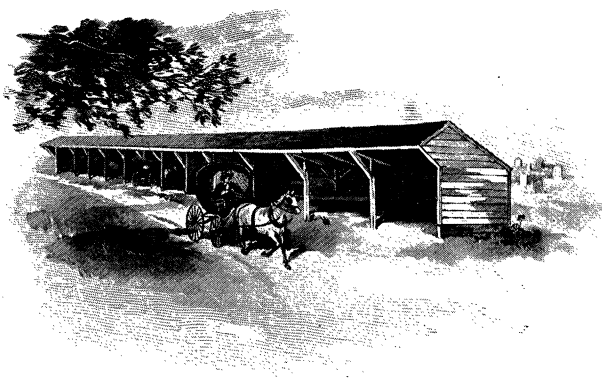
26. The street running westerly from Main Street, on the south side of the North Meeting-House lot to State Street, shall be known and called by the name of *Church Street*.

27. The street running westerly from Main Street at Horse Shoe Pond, shall be called *Penacook Street*, and shall extend from Main Street westerly by the dwelling-house of Richard Bradley, Esq., to the foot of the hill on the Little Pond road.

An Early Irish Immigrant. John Linehan was born in Macroom, County Cork, December 25, 1816. His father, grandfather, and undoubtedly generations before them, were millers and grain dealers in that town. He was an educated man. Business reverses obliged him to come to this country in 1847. He located in Fisherville shortly after his arrival, and made his home there until his death, July 7, 1897. His wife, Margaret Foley, with their eldest son, John C., and some others of a family finally numbering eight children, came over from Ireland in 1849.

Meagher's Lecture. The five named in the text acted as a committee of the Irishmen of Concord in securing a lecture from Thomas F. Meagher, the eloquent Irish exile, recently escaped from political banishment in Australia. The effort was listened to with admiration, at Depot hall, on Saturday evening, February 5, 1853, by one of the largest audiences ever assembled in Concord on a similar occasion. The president-elect, Franklin Pierce, was a delighted listener, and entertained the speaker as his guest on the following day. *Facts communicated by William J. Ahern.*

Horse Sheds. In 1831 a line of horse sheds in front of the burying-ground, on the town land, had been built under direction of the selectmen for members of the First Congregational society, by permission of the town, at a cost of twelve dollars each. In 1842, when the new meeting-house was built, a part of them were removed to the rear of the new house, and a part were sold to Richard Bradley.



Old Horse Sheds.

The Precious Coin. On the occasion of President Jackson's visit to Concord, two lads named for him—one, between five and six years old, the other, twelve—were presented to him at the Eagle Coffee House, where he stayed. The younger of the two boys was Isaac Andrew, the youngest son of Senator Isaac Hill, the president's confidential personal and political friend. The president, kindly saluting the boys, and lifting the younger upon his left arm, presented each with a new silver half dollar, having the Eagle on one side and Liberty on the other, and said: "I make you the same gift as I do to all my children—the eagle of your country. Here, my sons, is the eagle of your country, which during my life I have endeavored to honor and defend. Keep it in remembrance of me, and if ever it shall be assailed by a foreign or domestic foe, rally under its pinions and defend it to the last."

"I can see the old hero now," said Mr. Hill nearly sixty-eight years later, "as he stood holding me, while the tuft of hair, as I looked into his face, stood up on his high forehead as stiff as if it had been waxed. Those were imperialistic days and 'By-the-Eternal' had his arms around me then. I have carried that half dollar near my heart until, they say, it is worth only twenty-five cents, Mexican."

Abolition Zeal. Stephen S. Foster, an anti-slavery lecturer of Canterbury, in 1841-'42 attempted to speak without permission and without previous notice in three Concord churches. He entered the North church on Sunday, September 12, 1841, saying he had a message from God to deliver. Refusing to desist from speaking as requested by deacons of the church and others, he was escorted, without violence, by three young men, Lyman A. Walker, James M. Tarlton, and Charles W. Walker, down the broad aisle, to the front door, whence he departed. This is substantially the account of the affair as given by the Rev. Dr. Bouton, who was absent that day on an exchange. On another occasion Foster appeared, upon a like mission, at the Unitarian church, and was allowed to speak by the consent of the Rev. Mr. Tilden. On Sunday, June 12, 1842, he made his appearance at the South church. Mr. Henry McFarland in "Sixty Years in Concord and Elsewhere" says: "He (Foster) came to the morning service and took a seat near the pulpit, at the preacher's right. After the preliminary exercises, the pastor, Rev. Daniel James Noyes, arose to begin his sermon, but Mr. Foster stood up and began an address in regard to negro slavery. He was requested not to interrupt the usual services, but continued to speak. The organist, Dr. William D. Buck, overwhelmed his words with the notes of the organ, and he seemed to be disconcerted, but kept his feet with a half audible remark about drowning his voice. He was conducted to the door, in a rather dignified way, by two persons, one of whom was Col. Josiah Stevens, at that time Secretary of State for New Hampshire. In the afternoon Mr. Foster came again, and began his address as soon as the congregation was seated, but was put out with less dignity and more promptitude than before. I remember the buzz made by his feet, as he held them 'non-resistingly' together, and was slid along the central aisle toward the door in the grip of a stout teamster and the church sexton. No unnecessary force was used and no personal harm inflicted that I could see." Other churches in New Hampshire were visited by Foster in like manner and with like experience. By all but a few people he was regarded then as an enemy of the republic. Parker Pillsbury says: "Most of the leading abolitionists, Garrison, Phillips, and others, doubted the wisdom of Mr. Foster's course in thus entering Sunday congregations, but none who knew him intimately ever doubted his entire honesty."

George Thompson in Concord in 1864. In October, 1864, an invitation was extended to George Thompson, then on his second visit to this country, to address the citizens of Concord. The signers of the invitation,—Governor Joseph A. Gilmore, Mayor Benjamin F.

Gale, Edward H. Rollins, Nathaniel White, Asa McFarland, Amos Hadley, Asa Fowler, Sylvester Dana, John Kimball, Moses T. Willard, Lewis Downing, George Hutchins, Robert N. Corning, Woodbridge Odlin, and Arthur Fletcher,—said: "The incidents connected with your last public visit to Concord were such as to render it highly fitting that you should congratulate the citizens of Concord upon the assured triumph of Freedom over Slavery throughout the American continent." The invitation was accepted; and, on Wednesday evening, November 2, just pending the re-election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency, Mr. Thompson addressed an immense audience in Eagle hall. For nearly three hours he held his listeners entranced by the old-time power of his eloquence, glowing with all his old-time love for America—a love intensified, now that the Republic had really become "the land of the free."

Colonel Richard M. Johnson in Concord. On Friday, the 25th of October, 1843, Colonel Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky, vice-president of the United States in the administration of Martin Van Buren, and distinguished for military service in the War of 1812, visited Concord, in course of a New England tour. He did so at the invitation of citizens without distinction of party. He was royally received and entertained. A detailed account of the interesting occasion is given in a special chapter.

Concord Men in the Mexican War. Concord men who did service in the Mexican War were Franklin Pierce, brigadier-general; Charles F. Low, Jesse A. Gove, lieutenants in Ninth regiment; Joseph H. Potter, lieutenant in regular army. Upon the roll of Company "H," of the Ninth United States Infantry, recruited by Captain Daniel Batchelder, and commanded by Lieutenant George Bowers, as given in the Military History of New Hampshire (Adjutant-General's Report, 1868, *pp.* 335-6), stand the following Concord names: John C. Stowell, second sergeant; Ezra T. Pike, third sergeant; Thomas F. Davis, first corporal; Robert A. Brown, William Burns, William F. Bailey, Jeremiah E Curry, Michael Cochran, Samuel Davis, David Dunlap, Joseph Duso; Benjamin E. Porter, or Potter; Nahum G. Swett, Henry Stevens, Elijah Wallace.—OTHER Concord men who served in the war were: Levi K. Ball, Henry F. Carswell, Jonathan Chapman, James Davis, John G. Elliot, Sewell W. Fellows, Michael Freley, Joseph Huse, Calvin B. Leighton, James H. Lawrence, William M. Murphy, Phillips N. Perry, James Price, Alfred K. Speed, Joseph Whicher.

A Subscription. Another result of the meeting was a subscription of three hundred dollars, by seventy-three citizens, mostly of Concord, in aid of the New Hampshire men attached to the regiment of

volunteers in Massachusetts, in command of Colonel Caleb Cushing, and for which that commonwealth, in its hostility to the war, had made inadequate provision.

Death of "Little Benny." "Benjamin, the only son of General Franklin Pierce, was instantly killed on Thursday, January 6, 1853, by a terrible accident on the Boston & Maine Railroad, about one mile from Andover, Mass. In company with his parents he had just left the house of his uncle, John Aiken, Esq., of Andover, for Concord. The cars were suddenly thrown from the track, and precipitated down a rocky embankment of twenty feet or more. At the time of the occurrence the beautiful boy was standing near his parents, and when the cars went over, it was supposed he was thrown forward in such a manner as to fracture his skull and produce instant death. It is remarkable that he was the only one killed, although some were severely and many slightly injured. His remains were conveyed back to the house of Mr. Aiken, where funeral services were performed on the Monday following, the Reverend Henry E. Parker, of Concord, officiating. About sixty persons from Concord attended as sympathizing friends. Twelve lads, associates and schoolmates of "Little Benny," attended as pall-bearers. After the services at Andover, the remains were brought to Concord, and, followed by an immense procession from the depot to the ancient burying-ground, at the north end of the village, were deposited in the family enclosure, beside those of his brother Robert, who died November 14, 1843, aged 4 years and 2 months." Benjamin's age was eleven years and nine months. *Bouton's Concord, 495–'96.*

Obituary. Died, February 8, 1830, George Hough, Concord's first printer, aged seventy-three; Captain Richard Ayer, December 17, 1831, in his seventy-fifth year; February 25, 1834, at the age of one hundred years six months, Mrs. Elizabeth, widow of Joseph Haseltine, and fourth child of Nathaniel Abbot, one of the original proprietors of the town—a woman "remarkable for kindness of temper, vivacity of spirit, energy and tenacious memory" [*Bouton's Concord, 418*]; Charles Walker, July 29, 1834, aged sixty-eight, a son of Judge Walker; October 19, 1834, at the age of eighty-seven, Captain Jonathan Eastman, a Revolutionary veteran, son of Philip, and grandson of Captain Ebenezer Eastman; January 14, 1835, in his ninety-first year, Nathan Ballard, senior, a Revolutionary soldier; David George, ex-postmaster, April 21, 1838, aged seventy; John Farmer, historian, August 13, 1838, aged forty-nine; October 18, 1838, at the age of eighty, Captain John Eastman, son of Joseph, and grandson of Captain Ebenezer Eastman; Mrs. Elizabeth, widow of the Rev. Dr. McFarland, November 9, 1838, aged fifty-eight, a woman whose life

was a shining example of high Christian endeavor and accomplishment; April 1, 1840, at the age of eighty-four, Philbrick Bradley, a soldier at Bennington and Saratoga; April 7, 1840, at the age of seventy-five, Colonel William A. Kent, prominent in business and in town affairs, a member of the state senate for three years, and state treasurer for two; May 9, 1841, at the age of forty-nine, Miss Mary Clark, "a lady of uncommon gifts and acquirements . . . and especially interested in the anti-slavery cause" [*Bouton's Concord, 446*]; Philip Carrigain, March 15, 1842, aged seventy; August 12, 1843, at the age of seventy-one, Jeremiah Pecker,—adopted heir of Robert Eastman, childless son of Philip,—and a man who held important positions of trust and responsibility, especially on the committeeships for building the state house and the state prison addition, and for remodeling the town house for judicial purposes; August 20, 1844, Samuel Jackman, a Revolutionary soldier, aged ninety-six; August 4, 1846, Henry H. Carroll, editor of the *N. H. Patriot*, aged thirty-three; October 5, 1846, at the age of seventy-five, Stephen Ambrose, of East Concord, a leading merchant and citizen; February 13, 1847, at the age of eighty-seven, Thomas Haines, known as "Soldier Haines," from his Revolutionary experience, especially in the battle of Bemus Heights, in 1777, where a bullet passed through his cheeks, from side to side, nearly cutting off his tongue, and knocking out most of his teeth, leaving him to lie among the dead for more than forty-eight hours, and when restored, to bear the marks of mutilation till his death; May 9, 1847, William Low, ex-postmaster, aged seventy-seven; November 7, 1847, in his eighty-ninth year, Colonel John Carter, of the Revolutionary service, and a colonel in the War of 1812; May 19, 1848, in his ninetieth year, Captain Samuel Davis, a Revolutionary soldier; January 27, 1849, at the age of seventy-six, ex-Governor David L. Morril, a resident of Concord for eighteen years; March 22, 1851, at the age of sixty-three, ex-Governor Isaac Hill, so much of whose public life has been sketched in previous pages, and of whom it has been written that—"In all the private and social relations of life, he was kind and amiable, and as a son, a husband, a brother, and a father, has left a reputation honorable to himself, and a memory to be cherished in the grateful recollections of the numerous relatives to whom he was the best of friends and protectors"; September 8, 1852, John P. Gass, the noted taverner, aged fifty-eight.