immediate benefits to the compact part of the city, so that it was not deemed expedient—if just—to tax the whole city for lighting the streets of the part specially benefited. Hence, in 1857, under an amendment of the charter, a Gas Precinct, with definite bounds, embracing the compact part of the city, was established "for the erection, maintenance, and regulation of lamp-posts, and for supplying the same with gas, in streets and commons, for the purpose of lighting said precinct;"[1] the expense to be assessed upon the taxable inhabitants and property thereof as in case of building schoolhouses in school districts. In this was set a precedent for precinct legislation to which resort was to be had in other matters. Under this ordinance the committee on lighting the streets was instructed in November, 1857, to cause twenty-one lamps then standing, and which had been erected by individuals, to be lighted at the expense of the precinct. These were respectively located as follows: At the North End, near Francis A. Fiske's store; at the junction of Main street with Franklin, Washington, Fayette, Thompson, Thorndike, and Downing streets; at the junction of State street with Downing, Thorndike, Pleasant, Warren, School, Park, Centre, and Washington streets; at the junction of School street with Green, Spring, Rumford, and Merrimack streets; and at the corners of Pleasant and South, and of Warren and Green streets.

A few years later another forward step was taken when the city government provided steam "to man the brakes" for its faithful fire department. Fires involving more or less of actual or threatened loss were occurring with sufficient frequency to urge the adoption of improved means and methods for their extinguishment. On the 28th of December, 1856, Phenix hotel was destroyed. Three fires, especially notable, occurred in 1859, and consumed, on the 1st of February, the Concord Railroad passenger station, containing the offices of the Concord, Montreal, and Northern railroads, the telegraph office, and the commodious Depot hall—the famous scene of public gatherings, social, musical, literary, and political; on the 13th of June, the South Congregational church on the corner of Main and Pleasant streets, with other buildings near by, including the bakery of James S. Norris, and several shops and dwelling-houses; and, on the 10th of September, Odd Fellows' hall, with places of business or residence in its neighborhood, on and near the corner of Main and Warren streets. Each autumn month of 1861 had its disastrous conflagration. On the 10th of September the car houses of the Concord and Northern railroads were destroyed, with their valuable contents. On the 4th of October were consumed, at the southwest corner of

[1] Amended charter, June 27, 1857.

Main and Centre streets, the dwelling-house and office of Dr. Charles P. Gage, Day's Marble Works, and the Merrimack House. On the 14th of November the flames swept over a compactly occupied area at the junction of Main and School streets, and on the south side of the latter. Of the buildings destroyed were the establishment of James R. Hill,—then employing one hundred men in making harnesses for the state and national governments, and equipments for the New Hampshire regiments,—the dwelling-houses of Chase Hill and Benjamin Damon, the shoe store of Joseph French, and the office of the Concord Gas-Light company.

The disastrous conflagrations just mentioned—especially those of 1861—quickened movements for providing the fire department with additional means for effective service. On the 30th of November a committee that had, under previous appointment, been considering the urgent needs of the city as to adequate protection against fire, reported, by Moses Humphrey and John Kimball, to the city council, as follows: "Your committee believe that the introduction of the Steam Fire Engine should no longer be delayed, and that arrangements should be made at once to add one to the fire department of this city—to take the place of the hand engine now located on Warren Street." The report was accepted, and an ordinance was passed in December authorizing Mayor Humphrey and Chief Engineer True Osgood to obtain a steam fire engine. Accordingly, in the spring of 1862, the steamer "Gov. Hill" took its place in the fire department system of Concord—to be joined in due time by others of its kind; for though the innovation was at first opposed, yet its advantages became so apparent within a year, that, as Chief Engineer Osgood reported, the question was often asked, "Why not change the other two engines, and get another steamer?"

When Concord became a city it had two hundred miles of highway and twenty bridges, large and small, for the maintenance of all of which the sum of four thousand dollars was appropriated, as had annually been done for twenty years. "This allowance," as Mayor Low reminded the city council in 1854, "experience" had "shown to be altogether insufficient for that purpose;" and that, "consequently, in order to meet the deficiency, large sums" had "annually been drawn directly from the treasury." The desirableness of a larger appropriation was recognized; and, in a year or two, the annual highway tax reached nine thousand dollars. This increase came none too soon, nor did it prove extravagant. Mayor Abbott, in 1857, declared it to be hardly sufficient to keep the roads and bridges in the passable condition required by law. "The number of indictments found against the city for insufficient roads," said Mayor

Clement in 1855, "has been by far too large, and our predecessors have found this a fruitful source of anxiety and care." In March, two years later, Mayor Abbott said: "There were four indictments on four several roads the past year; each of these roads has been satisfactorily repaired. There is now an indictment, which is yet unsettled, on that part of the road leading from Main street to East Concord, between Wattanummon and Federal bridges."

How to expend to better advantage the more liberal appropriations was a question which found one answer in an ordinance passed in 1855, creating the office of superintendent of repairs of highways and bridges; for it was realized that the capable supervision of one "discreet and suitable person" in this important department of municipal administration could not fail of effecting beneficial results. Elected by the city council, and vested with all the powers and duties, and subject to all the liabilities of highway surveyors, this new officer was to collect all taxes assessed for the building and repairing of highways and bridges, whether in money or labor, and to expend them at such times and places as in his judgment the interest of the city might require. He was also to appoint subagents or surveyors, approved by the mayor and aldermen, for the thirty-one highway districts—except Nos. 9, 27, and 28—and prescribe their limits. The excepted districts—which embraced wards four, five, six, and a part of seven—were to be considered one district, and were to be under the immediate supervision of the superintendent himself.

The first superintendent of repairs of highways and bridges was Augustine C. Pierce, who served acceptably for one year. In 1856 the office was held by the mayor—an arrangement that was to be continued for many years, and until the one highway district which had been made to embrace the whole city was placed under the supervision of a new officer, styled commissioner of highways.

But liberal appropriations and their wise and honest application could not entirely ward off the plague of road indictments. Mayor Willard, in 1860, was constrained to say, in his second inaugural: "A road which was considered safe and convenient in good old common-sense times is indictable now. There is a morbid sensitiveness on this subject with many persons; and with such, it is smart to make complaints. It is very easy to find something at almost any point that is not exactly perfect." Then, again, vexatious road suits were, for a while, much in vogue, brought to recover damages for injuries alleged to have been occasioned by defects in public thoroughfares. Though these actions at law were largely actuated by mercenary motives, and grounded upon exaggerated or fictitious in-

juries, yet surprising verdicts—as characterized by Mayor Clement in 1855—were often found, whereby the city was outrageously mulcted. Mayor Willard struck at this abuse in 1859, when he said: "People nowadays think more about how much they can recover of the city in case of accident than they care about how they can pass a temporary defect with safety. . . . We have suffered severely from a morbid and extravagant construction of the law relative to streets and sidewalks." In speaking of this matter in 1861, Mayor Humphrey had this to say: "Large expenditures are annually required to keep our streets, highways, and bridges in repair, yet with all our expense for this purpose, suits are constantly brought against the city to recover heavy damages for alleged defects in highways. I would suggest whether it might not have a tendency to put a stop to the bringing of such actions, if each one brought—except in a clear case of neglect on the part of the city—should be promptly and vigorously contested in court."

In later years of the city, claims for damages for highway defects were to be made, but with less frequency, and rarely with the sheer selfishness which largely actuated those of this earlier period. It ought also to be added that the newspapers—especially the *Statesman* and the *Independent Democrat*—had vigorously opposed those vexatious road suits—so vigorously, indeed, as occasionally to be threatened with process for contempt of court. In the *Statesman* of October 23d, 1863, appeared the following bit of effective irony: "The most remarkable of modern curative powers is a jury verdict with damages assessed to the amount of a few thousand dollars. This paper has uniformly urged the belief that most of what are called road cases have their origin in nothing but a desire for pelf. We are half inclined to retract our opposition in view of the brilliant medical results of success in suits of this character. If we could publish certificates of the nimbleness of tongues once speechless, the agility of legs once paralyzed, the recovery from ailments seen and unseen which had been pronounced beyond the reach of surgery, all effected by trial by jury, the public would be amazed at the curative effect of a verdict with damages."

In the first year of the city an ordinance in relation to the width and construction of sidewalks was passed. It prescribed that the sidewalks on Main street should be eight feet wide; those on State street—or any other, three rods in width—six feet wide; and those on all streets less than three rods in width, four feet wide—the inclination of all from the outer edge not to exceed half an inch to the foot. They were to be laid true and even upon an established grade, and under the direction of the superintendent of streets. By an

ordinance passed six years later, the price of edge-stones, of whatever width or thickness, was fixed not to exceed twelve and a half cents per foot linear measure, and at a proportional rate for a portion of a foot. Six years later still—or in 1865—to encourage construction, the price per foot was increased to fifteen cents. All along from 1859 to 1867 ordinances were passed fixing the grade of sidewalks, including, at the last date, those of Fisherville or Penacook.

It may, also, here be noted that street sprinkling began to be practised in the summer of the city's first year. For, under a resolution adopted at a meeting of citizens held on the 18th of June, 1853, a subscription was raised for sprinkling Main street from Free Bridge road to Pleasant street. The sprinkler was soon in operation within the limits assigned, and so a beginning was made in a branch of street service which was to become of growing importance, as will hereafter be seen.

Peculiar interest attaches to Auburn street, laid out, constructed, and opened in 1860. The wooded eminence known as Prospect hill, with certain lands adjacent, had, in 1855 and 1856, come into the possession of John G. Hook. The purchaser, a convert in 1842 to the Miller or Advent faith, was already a preacher, having soon after conversion entered upon his remarkable evangelistic career of more than fifty years. But he neither then nor afterwards "preached for a living." With him, thrift followed industry and sagacity in secular callings and enterprises. His land purchase lay remotely to the westward of residential occupation at that time, but with characteristic enthusiasm he had calculated its advantages for such occupation. He opened through it eleven streets or avenues, and divided it into eligible house lots. Upon one of these he built his own home, and waited for neighbors to buy and occupy others. The West End, however, had not yet the charm for buyers and settlers which it was later to have. The proprietor, waiting for sales, realized the special necessity of facilitating the settlement of his neighborhood by opening a more direct route than that of existing thoroughfares, from the central portion of the city, over his hill, to Long pond; and, fortunately for him, many citizens were of like mind. The movement to that end, though finding considerable opposition, was at last successful, and in 1860 the city government laid out Auburn street from Little Pond road through the Stickney pasture to High street, and thence to Washington street in line with Centre. Being the lowest bidder, Mr. Hook promptly completed the construction.

The present and prospective importance of the new street suggested the appropriateness of opening it with formal celebration. This took place on Saturday, the 15th of September, 1860. Several

hundred citizens, including Mayor Willard with other members of the city government, and the petitioners for the street, moved in carriage procession, led by the Concord Cornet Band, from the Eagle hotel to and along Centre street to Auburn. Two large flags suspended across the new street drew from the procession hearty salutes, which were redoubled for the happy projector of the enterprise as he stood by the roadside to respond, hat in hand, to the honors paid him. Thence the march was continued to Little Pond road, along which it wound over highlands to the southern shore of Long pond. There the orator of the occasion, Lyman D. Stevens, made, from a rostrum supplied by "the rear end of a job wagon," a happy address. He was briefly followed by John H. George, Anson S. Marshall, and John G. Hook. The speaking was not post-prandial, for after it came a chowder, well relished, too, though "for it"—as a participant in the repast has testified—"the sea had done little, the pork barrel much."

The orator of the day, after tracing in his address the grand march of improvement which had, for the ten or fifteen preceding years, characterized the history of the city in many important particulars, including streets and highways, had said: "In these improvements of our highways we see indications of our progress in civilization. The opening, therefore, of this new and useful street is an achievement over which we may well rejoice. But let it not be thought that this is a victory which has been easily won. No fewer than five petitions were presented to the city council before Auburn street was laid out. . . . Permit me to allude to the enterprise out of which this street originated as a necessary consequence. Prospect hill, that beautiful eminence over which we passed on our way hither, was scarcely known to a large portion of the people of Concord six or seven years ago. It remained for our townsman, Mr. John Hook, first to perceive the marvelous beauty of the spot, and to come to the conclusion that at no distant day it would be sought for as one of the most desirable places of residence in the whole city. Without means, and I had almost said without friends—but I will not say that, for probity and industry always secure friends—he began to purchase the land. By careful management he succeeded in securing nearly the whole hill and other adjoining lands; and we may count it fortunate for us that Miller's prophecies of the Second Advent did not prove true, else we might suppose that our friend Hook, instead of participating with us in the festivities of this day, would have been speculating in corner lots in the New Jerusalem. . . . Some of our prominent citizens regarded the opening of this street with distrust and disapproval; but many others came up nobly to its support. . . . The work is now done, and as we can all attest, well done."

It may be recalled that the committee appointed by the town in 1842 to enlarge the Old Cemetery, reported the next year that an enlargement had been made, which it was believed would make that "graveyard equal to the public wants for half a century." But the increase in the number of the living—as told by the census—from four thousand nine hundred three in 1840 to eight thousand five hundred seventy-six in 1850, and to ten thousand eight hundred ninety-six in 1860, with the corresponding increase in the number of the dead, so far outstripped the calculations of the committee that within sixteen years it became necessary for the city to provide an additional burying-place. Earlier even, private enterprise had secured a burial plat alongside the old ground, and called it the "Minot Enclosure."

On the 26th of November, 1859, the city council authorized, by resolution, Shadrach Seavey, John C. Briggs, Josiah Minot, Caleb Parker, and Joseph B. Walker, to purchase of Francis N. Fiske, for the purposes of a cemetery, a tract of land upon and near Wood's brook, not exceeding thirty acres, and at a price not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. The land was purchased at once for forty-five hundred dollars; and on the 4th of February, 1860, an ordinance entrusted the Old Cemetery, and the ground thus purchased for a new cemetery, to the care of a cemetery committee of three, consisting of Joseph B. Walker, Enos Blake, and George B. Chandler, the term of one to expire each year. As early in the year as possible the committee made a careful survey of the newly purchased tract to ascertain its condition and capacities of improvement for the purposes to which it had been devoted, and proceeded at once to such operations as seemed necessary and desirable for the immediate occupancy of the grounds.[1]

The formal consecration of these grounds to their sacred purpose occurred with appropriate services on the 13th of July, 1860. An introductory statement made by Joseph B. Walker, of the cemetery committee, was followed by remarks of Mayor Willard. The prayer of invocation was offered by the Rev. Dr. Ebenezer E. Cummings; that of consecration by the Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Bouton. Scripture selections were read by the Reverend Henry E. Parker, and hymns, read by other clergymen of the city, were sung. The oration was delivered by William L. Foster. At the close of the consecration exercises, it was, on motion of Richard Bradley, decided by a vote of those present that the beautiful resting-place of the dead should be called Blossom Hill Cemetery.

During the first year the ground was surveyed and laid out by

[1] First Annual Report of Cemetery Committee for year ending Feb. 1, 1861.

John C. Briggs, "whose eminent ability as a civil engineer"—in the language of the committee—was "fully equalled by his skill and taste as a landscape gardener." The committee further reported at the end of the year that one hundred seventy lots had been laid out and accurately defined; that these had also been appraised at values varying from five to forty-five dollars each; that twenty of them had been sold at an average price of fifteen dollars and fifty-two cents; and that, in exception, one, very large and eligible, had brought one hundred twenty-three dollars and thirty-three cents.[1] It was also reported that about a mile and a half of carriage avenues had been constructed; that large quantities of brush and other litter had been removed from the forest land; and that such portions of the other ground as were not already in grass had been seeded down. The committee felt confident that at no very distant day, by a judicious expenditure of the receipts from the sale of lots, the first cost of the land and interest, with all expenses for improvements, might be paid and the citizens of Concord be possessed of one of the most accessible and beautiful cemeteries in the country.[1]

Attention was also paid to the Old Cemetery, the west portion of which had been regularly laid out into paths, avenues, and lots, sixteen years before, but which wore the general appearance of neglect, notwithstanding very many embellishments had been made upon individual lots.[1] Of the four hundred and thirty-five lots which had been laid out almost every one was claimed and occupied; but for three hundred and thirty nothing had been received by the city, and no deeds had been given.[1] The collection of the sums due was committed to the city treasurer, and was prosecuted with a good degree of success. Thereafter the historic ground, venerable with the associations of Penacook, Rumford, and Concord, was to receive more careful and systematic attention from the proper authorities; while, in 1863, the cemeteries in Wards 1, 2, 3, and 7 came under the direction of the city.

With the growth of Concord in the essentials of a progressive municipality, its post-office naturally grew in importance. The postmastership, though generally changing with each party change of the national administration, always found itself in hands worthy of the trust. The postmasters who served in the course of the half century from 1791 to 1841 have already been mentioned; those belonging to the succeeding quarter of a century may here be added. Robert Davis held the postmastership under the Tyler administration, and was succeeded, in 1845, by Joseph Robinson, who was Polk's appointee, and held the place till 1849. Ephraim Hutchins

[1] First Annual Report of Cemetery Committee for year ending Feb. 1, 1861.

was his successor, and was in office four years under the Taylor-Fillmore administration. In 1853 President Pierce appointed Jacob Carter to the postmastership, which he held during Pierce's administration and most of Buchanan's. Having resigned, he was succeeded for a few months by Benjamin Grover. Upon the accession of President Lincoln, Robert N. Corning became postmaster. He served during Lincoln's first term, through the few days of the second, and into that of Andrew Johnson, until his own death, when his widow assumed the responsibility of the office in behalf of the bondsmen, until the appointment of Moses T. Willard in 1868.

During the terms of Postmasters Davis and Robinson the location of the office was near the southeast corner of Main and Centre streets, on the west side of the former. Postmaster Hutchins changed the location to the old post-office building, which was situated on the northerly side of School street near its junction with Main, and had been occupied ten years by Postmaster William Low. This continued to be the home of the Concord post-office for about twelve years, till Postmaster Corning removed it across School street into the westward extension of State block, a fine structure of brick just erected by James R. Hill upon the ashes of the fire of 1861.

Old Post-office on Site of Board of Trade Building.

The city's first twelve years covered a period of the country's most important political history. During the first eight—from 1853 to 1861—Slavery was the one question in politics, which during the last four—from 1861 to 1865—was settled by the stern arbitrament of war. In the preceding chapter mention has been made of the sweeping Democratic victory won in New Hampshire and its capital at the March election of 1853, four days after the inauguration of Franklin Pierce. At that time the new administration had the unanimous support of its party; but within one year it began to lose that unanimity. One cause of the change was the support given by the president to the bill brought into congress in the winter of 1853-'54, for establishing the territories of Kansas and Nebraska in preparation for their admission as states, either slave or free. This measure annulled the Missouri Compromise of 1820, under which Missouri had been admitted as a slave state, but by which slavery had been forever prohibited in all the rest of the territory ceded by

France to the United States under the name of Louisiana, and lying north of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes north latitude.

While the Kansas-Nebraska bill was pending in congress, the people of the president's own state had opportunity partially to express their opinion upon this prominent measure of his administration. The result of the March election of 1854 was one of that kind of Democratic victories which sagacious members of the winning party were not particularly desirous of seeing repeated. Upon the total governor vote, one thousand larger than that of 1853, the Whig and Democratic parties each lost one thousand votes, while the Freesoil party, declaring steadfast opposition to the spread of slavery into the territories of the Union, gained three thousand. Nathaniel B. Baker, the popular Democratic candidate, was elected, though by a majority reduced to one third of that given for Governor Martin the year before. A safer test, however, of the change in popular feeling within the year was afforded in the result as to the house of representatives of the state legislature, wherein the Democratic majority of eighty-nine in 1853 was almost entirely swept away. In Concord the Democratic majority for governor was ninety—one half that of 1853; while of its ten members of the general court only two were Democrats instead of the eight of the preceding year.

Before the legislature met in June the Kansas-Nebraska bill had become a law. Though a Democratic organization of each branch was secured by a narrow majority,—that on the choice of speaker of the house being only two,—and though a Democratic secretary of state and state treasurer were re-elected, yet repeated attempts to choose a senator of the United States in place of Charles G. Atherton, deceased, came to nothing—the Administration-Democrats lacking the twelve or fifteen votes necessary to elect John S. Wells. Certain other Democrats—sometimes distinguished as the Old Guard —did not see fit to help elect the candidate of an administration to which they had become more or less averse, but preferred to contribute to a negative result by supporting for senator George W. Morrison, who had resisted in the lower house of congress the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. They also helped to make up the decisive majority of more than forty in the passage of resolutions long discussed in the house of representatives, denouncing the Kansas-Nebraska measure as "unnecessary, impolitic, a breach of faith with the North, dangerous and wrong." Meanwhile, too, a positive decision of some political significance had been reached in a sharp and protracted contest over the election of State Printer. For more than twenty-five successive years—1846 excepted—the public

printing had fallen to the *New Hampshire Patriot.* Now, however, that paper, Democratic and Administration, was cast aside for the *State Capital Reporter*, Democratic but not Administration; for the legislature, on the first day of July, 1854, elected Amos Hadley of the latter as state printer over William Butterfield of the former, by one hundred sixty-five votes to one hundred fifty-three, or a majority of twelve.

The American party, which found sure foothold in New Hampshire during the political year 1854–'55, served to strengthen opposition to the national administration—especially as to its recent prominent measure. Americanism, as it existed in New Hampshire, while asserting subordinately a policy as to foreigners and foreign influence too restrictive in some points, always opposed the fallacies of "popular sovereignty and congressional non-intervention," under which slavery veiled its evil designs. It is not strange, therefore, that men of the old parties, waiving scruples as to minor points, should have entered the new party in order that, under its efficient organization, they might to better advantage contend upon the main issue. Hence, the American party, nicknamed the Know-Nothing, having its secret councils—or confidential clubs—as influential centers of skilfully-directed political effort, attracted a membership counted by tens of thousands. This party, moreover, had the support of many who did not enter the inner circle of its secret organization, but who could stand with it in its position upon the paramount political question of the day.

By the second Tuesday of March, 1855, political interest had been thoroughly aroused in the popular mind by ordinary campaign appliances, superadded to the secret and still more effective movements of the new party. As one result, the then unprecedented total of nearly sixty-five thousand votes for governor was cast. To that total, the American party contributed, in round numbers, nearly thirty-three thousand; the Democratic party, twenty-seven thousand; the still-organized remnant of the Whig party, thirty-five hundred; a like remnant of the Freesoil party, thirteen hundred; and scattering, nearly two hundred. Thus Ralph Metcalf, the American candidate for governor, had a plurality of six thousand over Governor Baker, the Administration nominee for re-election; a plurality that, but for the deflection of some five thousand Whig and Freesoil votes to other anti-Democratic candidates, would have been a majority of nearly eleven thousand, instead of about one thousand over all, as it had to be counted. This anti-Democratic—substantially American—majority of more than ten thousand, as indicated by the governor vote, secured a sweeping anti-Democratic victory, whereby the

railroad commissioner, the entire council, three members of congress, eleven twelfths of the state senate, two thirds of the house of representatives, and three fourths of the county officers were of the American party.

Concord, which had been a lively and influential center of party movements in this contest, epitomized, as it were, the results of the state election in its own. Its governor vote, as distributed among the parties, stood: American, ten hundred ninety-four; Democratic, seven hundred seventy-four; Whig, one hundred twenty; Freesoil, fifty-four—making a result of four hundred ninety-four anti-Democratic majority. Since the majority of the Democratic party had been, in 1854, eighty-one, its loss within the year netted five hundred seventy-five. Concord, in every ward, was American. Hence, its municipal government was entirely American; hence, too, it contributed to the overwhelming American majority of the general court a full delegation of ten.

The American party in New Hampshire retained its distinctive organization until the March election of 1856. Latterly, however, the designation American-Republican had come somewhat into use in view of the maturing movement for creating a new party which should embrace in its membership all opposed to the extension of slavery, and which should bear the name Republican. The result of that election—the first of the eighteenth presidential year—came of a severe contest, in which the Democratic party fought desperately to regain ascendancy and to bring back the president's own state to the support of his administration. But it was more successful in reducing opposition majorities than in overcoming them, so that the American party achieved a victory practically as decisive as that of the year before. In the matter of the governorship, an anti-Democratic majority of twenty-five hundred was obtained, though Ralph Metcalf, the American candidate, was not elected by the people. But this result merely transferred the choice to a legislature safely American. In brief, the state government remained completely in the hands of the American-Republican party.

The city of Concord stood with especial steadfastness by the prevailing party, even making a gain of seventy-five votes for Governor Metcalf over the previous year's result. Ward 2 alone went over to the Democratic side. In Ward 4, than in which no severer struggle occurred anywhere in the state, American ascendancy was fully maintained. The ward had, in 1855, elected Edward H. Rollins to the general court; this year it re-elected him, and he became Concord's third occupant of the speaker's chair. Mr. Rollins had come to Concord as a young man, and worked as a clerk in a drug store, which

he subsequently bought. He early took an active interest in politics, and when the Republican party was organized became the first chairman of its state committee, a position to which he was several times re-elected. In those days political parties had no headquarters, as the term is now understood, and the work of organizing the Republican party in this state was largely done in the back office of Mr. Rollins's drug store, which stood on Main street just north of the Eagle hotel. Four years after Mr. Rollins's election as speaker, he was nominated and elected to congress, where he served for six years, which covered the entire Civil War period. He rendered great service to the state and its citizens during this period, and measured by the results accomplished, he was unquestionably the most influential member of the New Hampshire delegation in congress. After his retirement from congress he was made treasurer of the Union Pacific Railroad, a position which he held until his election in 1876 to the United States senate. In all political positions held by him, his industry, energy, and perseverance contributed materially to the welfare of the state he represented. It is doubtful if New Hampshire ever had a more useful representative in the national councils. He had a strong attachment to Concord, which for the greater part of his life was his home. His last service for the city was securing for it the handsome granite post-office building, which is a monument of his zeal for the interests of his native state.

The American party had now made its last appearance, under that name, upon the field of New Hampshire politics. It was ere long to be incorporated as a corps of a great political army under one national standard. On the 17th of June, 1856, delegates from all the free states, some of the slave states along the northern border, and several territories, including Kansas, met in Republican National Convention at Philadelphia. The New Hampshire delegation had been selected at a mass convention held at Concord on the 10th of June, upon an invitation addressed to "all, without regard to past political differences or divisions, who are opposed to the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, to the policy of the present administration, to the extension of slavery into the territories, in favor of the admission of Kansas as a free state, and of restoring the action of the federal government to the principles of the patriot fathers." The Concord member of the delegation was George G. Fogg, who also served as a secretary of the Philadelphia convention. Upon the accession of the Republican party to power in the nation, he was appointed minister to Switzerland by President Lincoln, and subsequently became United States senator to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Daniel Clark.

The National Convention nominated John C. Fremont and William L. Dayton to head the Republican ticket, and adopted a bold, unequivocal platform. In New Hampshire the American party gave ready adherence to ticket and platform, and became one with the Republican party.

The Democratic National Convention, held at Cincinnati during the first week in June, had nominated James Buchanan for president over competitors, including President Pierce, who was supported for re-nomination. John C. Breckenridge became the candidate for vice-president. The nominees were placed upon a platform recognizing the Kansas-Nebraska measure "as embodying the only sound and safe solution of the slavery question," thus making approval thereof, and acquiescence therein, a test of Democratic fealty. This action was ratified by a mass meeting of the Democracy of New Hampshire, held at Concord on the 17th of June—the day on which the Philadelphia convention assembled. The occasion was reckoned by the party in whose interests it was held as an auspicious opening of its campaign. On the evening of the next day, Concord was again astir over the news of Fremont's nomination. On the succeeding day, when the Philadelphia convention had closed its labors, one hundred guns helped to express the popular gratification; while, at a crowded meeting in Depot hall, Fremont Club No. 1 was formed, and the determination reached to hold at Concord, on the ensuing 4th of July, a grand ratification meeting of the Republican party of New Hampshire. That meeting was held upon the appointed day, with such emphatic success as to encourage its party with the hope—not to be disappointed—that the Granite State was sure for Fremont by five thousand majority. The predominant public opinion of the state and of its capital found expression in resolutions passed at a large meeting of citizens, convened in Phenix hall, on the evening of the last day of May, to voice indignant condemnation of Slavery's bludgeon assault upon Charles Sumner in the senate of the United States, as well as of its recent outrages in Kansas.

The course of events tended to intensify such views; for the practical working of the Kansas-Nebraska measure went from bad to worse. It became more and more difficult to defend the measure, and to recommend the policy pursued under it to the approval of the mind and conscience of the people. Appeals for charitable relief were made by the bona fide settlers of Kansas suffering from "border ruffian" outrages at the hands of pro-slavery intruders. Amid the din of the political contest, those appeals were heard in the Free North—and heeded. In Concord, early in October, a "Ladies' Kansas Aid Society" was established, for procuring supplies of clothing

and other necessaries for the relief of Free State emigrants, especially during the coming inclement season. Its membership embraced ladies from all the religious societies in the city. Within a month the officers of the society—Mrs. Richard Bradley, president; Mrs. J. A. Prescott, secretary; and Mrs. John C. Briggs, treasurer—reported contributions amounting to five hundred twenty-seven dollars, the greater part of which had already been forwarded to Kansas. "Although highly gratified with what had been done," added the report, "the ladies who have this enterprise at heart are not disposed to relax their efforts, while the destitution which first excited their sympathy continues to exist."

The club organization in this campaign was efficient. The Keystone and the Fremont clubs were the generators of political light and heat for their respective parties. There were many of these in the state, and at least five in Concord, four of which, including the "Young America" and the "Democratic," bore the name of Fremont. The members of this "Democratic Fremont" club, numbering about two hundred fifty, had voted for Franklin Pierce in 1852; and some of them had supported the administration party at later dates, even to the March election of 1856. For this and the other Fremont clubs of the city, Rumford hall became the headquarters under the name of Fremont Camp.

In New Hampshire, both parties hoped for victory in state and nation; and both, accordingly, put forth their best efforts. They flung their numerous banners to the breeze; and under these marched in procession of thousands—as, for instance, did the Republicans, on the 4th of July, and the Democrats, on the 5th of September, when respectively assembled at Concord, in mass convention. Sometimes, at evening, a brilliant pyrotechnic display in Railroad square rounded the exercises of the day. Torch-light processions were also much in evidence. Thus a large torch-light company was organized in Concord, "which went into most of the principal towns of southern New Hampshire hurrahing for Fremont."[1] Its greatest display occurred in Concord, on the evening of the 23d of October, though the national defeat of the Republican party in November was felt to be almost certain from the result of the recent state election in Pennsylvania, the pivotal state. In this bold, magnificent demonstration, the Republicans of Manchester, Nashua, and other places participated. The procession—under the chief-marshalship of John C. Briggs, with sixty marshals and assistants in charge of the Concord portion—"went over," as a participant[1] has written, "the principal streets, and then countermarched in alternate lines in State House park until that square was

[1] Henry McFarland's "Personal Recollections," 172.

full to overflowing, beside thousands of men to spare. There were illuminated decorations, torches, the light of which shone far up on the clouds, and the air was full of colored fire discharged from Roman candles."

President Pierce visited Concord on the second day of October, 1856. But the warmth, spontaneity, and unanimity of welcome which had characterized former presidential visits were somewhat lacking. Those visits, however, were not made at the heated climax of hot political contests, in which the policy of their respective administrations was the burning question at issue. The special features of this reception find minute delineation in another chapter.

In November occurred the presidential election, the national result of which was a Republican defeat; James Buchanan having received one hundred seventy-four electoral votes, and John C. Fremont one hundred fourteen. But in support of the Republican candidate New Hampshire, on a total vote of more than seventy-one thousand, including four hundred for Fillmore, chose the Republican electoral ticket by a majority of more than five thousand. To this majority, Concord contributed four hundred fifty-two—being two hundred twelve more than Pierce's majority in 1852. These results in state and town verify the assertion, that nowhere during the great political campaign had enthusiasm run higher for the "Pathfinder" and his cause; and that nowhere had the magnetic alliteration, "Fremont and Freedom," signified more than in New Hampshire and its capital.

Four months after the presidential campaign of 1856 New Hampshire had to fight another battle, the opening one in the great struggle which was to reach decision in November, 1860. Each party did its best: the Democratic, with the sanguine hope of at least dividing the field with the enemy; the Republican, with confident determination that would accept nothing but complete victory. The result, as the *New Hampshire Patriot* testified, on the morning after the second Tuesday of March, 1857, was "a complete, sweeping Black Republican triumph." The governor vote showed twenty-four hundred majority, while the majorities for the three members of congress aggregated four thousand. Such figures carried with them Republican predominance in the various departments of government, state, county, and town, where elections turned upon general political issues. It may here be summarily stated that, at the elections of 1858-'60, the average Republican majority on the governor vote was four thousand. The figures, however, rose five hundred higher in the re-election of William Haile in 1858, and in that of Ichabod Goodwin in 1860. Concord, during these four years, never gave less than four hundred Republican majority for the general ticket, and, in 1858, gave five

hundred lacking six, outdoing any other town or city in the state. From the nine of its ten members of the general court, whom it steadily contributed to the sixty or seventy Republican majority in the house of representatives, Napoleon B. Bryant was chosen speaker in 1858-'59, directly succeeding Edward H. Rollins, who had occupied the chair for two terms.

A few days before the March election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, already recognized as one of the great leaders of Republican thought and action in the land, appeared in Concord and addressed the people. His speech was a marvelous effort, of matchless grasp, of cogent logic, and of captivating eloquence, that, from beginning to end, held entranced his large audience, convened at short notice in Phenix hall, on that rainy afternoon of early March. The *New Hampshire Statesman* characterized it as "an argument against the system of Slavery, and in defense of the position of the Republican party, from the deductions of which no reasonable man could possibly escape." The *Independent Democrat* described it as "masterly and massive, sweeping away every refuge of modern Democracy as smoke is swept before the wind; and producing an effect which cannot but tell on the understanding and conscience of many Democrats who heard."

That masterpiece of political oratory was also a revelation of the clear moral insight and keen political sagacity of the really great and good statesman. Hence, when the orator had closed amid enthusiastic applause that had a heart in every cheer, more than one listener instinctively prophesied to his neighbor, "That man will be the next president of the United States."

Abraham Lincoln had just made his memorable appearance in Concord, when the first state election in the year of the nineteenth presidential campaign occurred. The result of that election has already been indicated, and was of a character to encourage Republican hopes everywhere, that as New Hampshire had gone in March so the country would go in November. Early subsequent events intensified those hopes to almost absolute assurance. The Republican National Convention met at Chicago on the 16th of May and organized; unanimously adopted on the 17th a platform unqualifiedly declaring opposition to the extension of slavery into territory then free; and on the 18th nominated Abraham Lincoln of Illinois for president, and Hannibal Hamlin of Maine for vice-president. The three days' work was received with joyful Republican satisfaction all over the North, nowhere with more than in New Hampshire. In Concord,—two of whose citizens, Edward H. Rollins, as a delegate at large, and George G. Fogg, as a member of the National Committee,

had been upon the ground, and active participants in the proceedings,—the news of the nomination of Abraham Lincoln, arriving on the 18th of May, rekindled the enthusiasm of the Fremont campaign, and "at sundown," as jubilantly expressed by one newspaper, "The big gun was brought out, and its hundred rousing utterances told the enthusiastic joy of the Republicans, and that their cartridges had not been damaged by long keeping, as not unlikely may be those prepared some time ago by our Democratic friends to be fired in honor of the nomination of Douglas at Charleston."

This playful allusion to damaged ammunition related to the suspended result of the Democratic National Convention, which, having met at Charleston, South Carolina, on the 23d of April, had failed, contrary to Northern expectations, of nominating Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois to the presidency. For that convention had split, the friends of Douglas insisting upon a platform favoring congressional non-intervention as to slavery in the territories, coupled with popular sovereignty, while his opponents stiffly insisted upon a platform of non-intervention without the principle of popular sovereignty, but with a worse—that of the Dred Scott Decision which involved the possible practical effect of making the whole country slave territory. At adjourned conventions held at Baltimore in June, the friends of Douglas nominated him for the presidency, while his opponents set up John C. Breckinridge for the same office. Of course, this party disruption, virtually ensuring Republican victory in the coming contest, could not but dampen Democratic enthusiasm. Yet in Concord, on the evening of the 27th of June, was held a plucky Douglas demonstration for the purpose of receiving the reports of the New Hampshire delegation in the Charleston and Baltimore conventions. A well-attended meeting convened in Rumford hall, at which Thomas P. Treadwell presided and made an opening speech. The assemblage then repaired to the stand outside the state house yard and in front of the Eagle hotel, to listen to other speaking. Guns and rockets were discharged, bonfires were lighted in Main street, and the Concord Band discoursed patriotic music. The delegation, of which Josiah Minot, of Concord, was one, related their convention experience to a large gathering of citizens of all parties. The speeches of Walter Harriman, of Warner, John H. George, of Concord, and George W. Stevens, of Laconia, were the other contributions to the eloquence of the occasion.

The next evening the city was again astir with a Republican demonstration, in which the Wide Awake clubs took the leading part. These had been organized in Wards 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6, within one month after Lincoln's nomination, and now, two hundred strong, uni-

formed and completely equipped for campaign service, they mustered, at central headquarters, in their first grand rally. Here, rallied with them another organization, bearing the suggestive name of "Rail-splitters," and already numbering more than a hundred men, who carried axes, mallets, and rails; while, also, appeared upon the scene, a delegation of sturdy Norcross log-drivers with huge pikes in hand. This literally wide-awake demonstration had as its prominent feature the torch-light procession,—a feature which had proved to be an inspiring attraction in the Fremont campaign. This earliest procession of the present campaign, having in its ranks more than five hundred men bearing torches, banners, and transparencies, and headed by the Concord and Fisherville Cornet bands, passed in a long march through the streets, amid cheering crowds of spectators, and between lines of residences and other buildings brilliantly illuminated. Its final halt was made at the Main street front of the state house yard, where, meanwhile, speaking had been going on, and was to be continued to a late hour, with Edward H. Rollins and Napoleon B. Bryant among the principal speakers.

This early and exclusively Concord demonstration was a fit harbinger of the grand New Hampshire rally that, four months later, would and did come off at the capital, when October the twenty-seventh foretold with absolute assurance the Republican triumph, which November the sixth would record. This final state demonstration in the presidential campaign had its attendance of six thousand, day and evening, including the Wide Awakes of Concord, Manchester, Portsmouth, Nashua, Lakeport, and Derry; the Railsplitters of Fisherville; and the mounted Lincoln Guard of Concord, uniformed and numbering two hundred. Among its speakers were Governor Goodwin of New Hampshire, Governor Andrew G. Curtin of Pennsylvania, and Anson Burlingame of Massachusetts. Its torch-light procession of fourteen hundred men marched to the music of eight well-trained bands, along a route brilliant with special illumination and elaborate decoration.

Among other electioneering demonstrations witnessed in Concord during the lively campaign was the visit of Stephen A. Douglas, one of the four presidential candidates. This occurred on the last day of July, and was an occasion for which his supporters had made due preparation, and from which they counted that considerable advantage might be gained. It proved to be a very creditable and enthusiastic reception of the distinguished visitor, though mostly local in character. Gala decorations, symbolic of welcome and respect, were not lacking. Unpartisan hospitality was also manifested in the profusion of flags that graced the scene. The candidate, as on that

bright afternoon he rode in cheerful procession from the station through Main, Washington, State, and School streets, passed beneath banners in goodly numbers, bearing his own name, as well as fourteen others inscribed with that of Lincoln, and two with that of Breckinridge. An attentive audience of two thousand, gathered in state house park, listened to his speech, the main feature of the day—a speech characteristically able and brilliant. Noteworthy and significant, in the light of early future events, was the speaker's generous reference to his Republican antagonist for the presidency, wherein he pronounced him both honest and able, and advised the Democratic party neither to berate nor underrate Abraham Lincoln, either as a man or a candidate. Was this in forecast of early results, in consequence of which Douglas defeated and Lincoln elected would stand together in defense of the Union? For the speaker was within a year of the end of life—a year which, before that end should come, would find him giving the new administration full support in suppressing rebellion. The occasion, though especially an incident of political history, had, withal, its pleasant significance as a social event, in the reception accorded, without party distinction, to the visitor and to his wife, the companion of his journey. In the evening, Mr. Douglas exchanged handshakes with citizens in the city hall, while Mrs. Douglas received the civilities of the ladies of Concord at the residence[1] of Oliver Sanborn, where the visitors were entertained during the night.

Concord had its four parties, the platforms of three of which—the Republican, the Douglas-Democratic, and the Breckinridge-Democratic—have already been described. The fourth, styled the Constitutional Union, but sometimes designated the Bell-Everett, from the names of its candidates, John Bell and Edward Everett, "recognized no political principle other than the constitution of the country, the union of the states, and the enforcement of the laws." Its followers were few. The Breckinridge-Democratic organization was also an unimportant political factor in New Hampshire. The tug of war had been between the Republicans and the Douglas-Democrats during the great contest that came to its decision at the polls on the 6th of November. New Hampshire chose five Lincoln electors by a majority of nearly nine thousand one hundred votes—or exactly nine thousand eighty-five. Her vote distributed among the four candidates stood: for Lincoln, 37,519; for Douglas, 25,881; for Breckinridge, 2,112; for Bell, 441. Concord gave Lincoln 1,408 votes; Douglas, 772; Breckinridge, 33; Bell, 13. The Republican majorities in state and city were respectively the largest ever hitherto won by any party.

[1] That of Henry Robinson in 1900.

This was the last presidential election in which the extension of slavery into free territory—including its nationalization—would be an issue for fair and peaceful decision at the ballot-box. Secession was now the method tried; and, during the last four months of Buchanan's administration, seven cotton states declared themselves out of the Union, and set up a new Confederacy with slavery for its corner-stone, and Jefferson Davis[1] for its president. During these months of suspense New Hampshire was engaged in the campaign of a state election to be decided on the 12th of March, 1861—a week after the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. The state convention of the Republican and Democratic parties had met in Concord on the same day—the 8th of January—and respectively nominated their gubernatorial candidates—Nathaniel S. Berry and George Stark. At noon, by resolution of the Republican convention, the bells in the city were rung, and a national salute was fired, especially in honor of the gallant and patriotic action of Major Robert Anderson, who, in view of the mischievous projects of the South, had, on the 26th of December, 1860, transferred his command from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. Later in the day a similar salute was fired under resolution adopted by the Democratic convention.

The election resulted in retaining complete Republican ascendancy in the state. Three members of congress—one of whom was Edward H. Rollins, the second citizen of Concord thus honored—were elected to support the newly inaugurated administration of Abraham Lincoln. Concord contributed to the state majority four hundred seventy-two. Indeed, the strong Union sentiment in Concord had not been misrepresented by the pastor of the North church in his sermon preached on Sabbath afternoon (January 6), and soon printed and circulated, wherein he urged obedience to the constitution and the laws, and cogently argued that coercion was the only effective remedy for disobedience and attempted secession.[2]

Notes.

Wards Defined. Under the charter and its amendments (exclusive of those constituting Wards Eight and Nine) Ward One embraced the territory comprised within School Districts numbered One, Two, and Twenty, except the farm of Jonathan B. Ferrin; Ward Two, the territory situate on the east side of Merrimack River, northerly of the centre of the highway leading from Free Bridge to North Pembroke; Ward Three, the territory comprised within School Districts

[1] See note, Jefferson Davis in Concord, at close of chapter.
[2] See Peace Commission in note at close of chapter.

numbered Three, Four, and Five, together with the John Alexander, Andrew Buswell, and Jonathan B. Ferrin farms; Ward Four, the territory comprised within School Districts numbered Six and Eleven, together with that portion of School District numbered Ten situate northerly of a line passing through the centre of Free Bridge Road to the centre of Main Street, thence northerly on the centre line of Main Street to a point opposite the centre of Centre Street, thence through the centre of Centre Street to the centre of Fruit Street, thence to the west line of School District numbered Six, and the homestead farm of Charles Fisk, in School District numbered Eight; Ward Five, the territory beginning at a point on the westerly bank of the Merrimack River, in the centre of Free Bridge Road, thence on the centre line of said road to the centre of Main street, thence northerly on the centre line of Main Street to a point opposite the centre of Centre Street, thence on the centre line of Centre Street to the centre of Fruit Street, thence on the centre line of Fruit Street to the centre of Pleasant Street, thence through the centre of Pleasant Street and across Main Street, and thence in a line at right angles to said Main Street at that point to Merrimack River, thence up said river to the centre of Free Bridge Road; Ward Six, the territory comprised between the south line of Ward Five and a line drawn from the centre of Washington street, at its intersection with Pleasant Street, through the centre of the road leading from Washington Street to the Bog Road, to its intersection with the Bog Road, thence through the centre of the Bog Road, and across South Street, through the centre of Downing Street, across Main Street, thence in a line due east to Merrimack River, thence up said river to the south line of Ward Five; Ward Seven, all the remaining territory of said city, not included in the other Wards.

The "County Building" and the Old Town and Court House. Near the old town house, at its southeasterly corner, had been erected, in 1844, by the county of Merrimack, a two-storied structure of brick with rough granite trimmings, and of dimensions forty-two by thirty-three feet. In materials and finish this "County Building," as it was named, was intended to be fire-proof. There the county records were kept in the offices of the clerk of the courts and the registers of deeds and probate. It disappeared in the early fifties, when the new city and county building was erected, having contributed its brick and stone to that edifice. The old town and court house, having given place to the new building, found location at a short distance south of Bridge street, near the track of the Northern Railroad, where it stood for more than thirty years, and until its destruction by fire in 1883. It may here be added that thirteen years earlier the same fate befell

the Old North church, the elder town house, at midnight of November 28, 1870.

Jefferson Davis in Concord. Jefferson Davis, secretary of war, accompanied by Professor Alexander Bache, of the coast survey, arrived in town on Saturday, August 20, 1853. Having dined at the Phenix, and taken a ride about town, Mr. Davis received calls from citizens at the Eagle. He afterwards left for the lakes and mountains on a brief tour. Those who had shaken hands and conversed with him at the informal reception, little thought then what a decade would bring forth, and that President Pierce's cabinet officer would be the president of a Confederacy arrayed in rebellion against the Union.

A Peace Commission. The state of Virginia recommended a conference of commissioners from the several states to meet in Washington on the 4th of February, 1861, to consider the condition of the country. Governor Goodwin requested Amos Tuck, Levi Chamberlain, and Asa Fowler to attend the proposed peace conference as commissioners for New Hampshire. Twenty states were represented—thirteen free and seven slave. Ex-President John Tyler presided. The conference was in session twenty-one days, but could agree upon no practicable plan for a peaceful settlement of the slavery question.