CHAPTER XV.

THE CITY OF CONCORD.—AFTER THE WAR.—IMPORTANT MEANS ADOPTED WHEREBY THE GENERAL ADVANTAGE OF THE COMMUNITY WAS SUBSERVED.

1865–1880.

Concord had reason to rejoice not only over the national result, but over an important local one, whereby its prestige and advantage as the capital of the state were maintained. It had saved the state house from removal to Manchester, though at an expense enhanced by the financial conditions of war. But this event has been fully treated in a special chapter, and requires here only passing mention. There was reason, also, to be thankful that the material progress of the city had not been seriously retarded by the war. Said Mayor Abbott, in his inaugural in 1866,—"Our city, while promptly furnishing her full proportion of men and money, has suffered financially but little, comparatively, from the ravages of war. The agricultural and manufacturing interests have received slight, if any, check; and but for those who will never cease to mourn their friends fallen in battle, and but for our heavy taxation, we might, in looking over our thriving, prosperous city, with the new buildings being erected, and other indications of thrift, almost doubt that a terrific conflict had been raging in our borders."

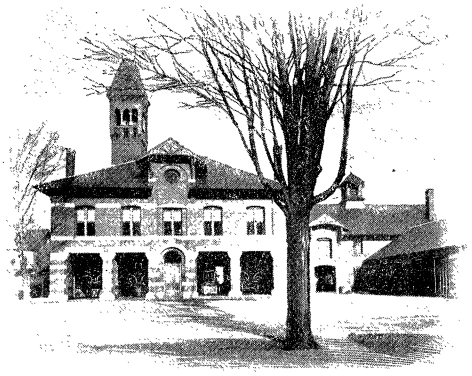
Narration, in resuming the topics of peace, first names, for the sake of clearness, the mayors of the city and their dates of service, during the period of fifteen years, the events of which are now to be sketched. They were: John Abbott, 1866–'67; Lyman D. Stevens, 1868–'69; Abraham G. Jones, 1870–'71; John Kimball, 1872–'75; George A. Pillsbury, 1876–'77; Horace A. Brown, 1878–'80—serving, by the change to the biennial system, two years and eight months.

It will be recollected that in 1862 the first steam fire engine—the "Gov. Hill"—was obtained for the fire department. Four years later, upon a proposition of the board of engineers and a recommendation of the mayor, the purchase of another—the "Kearsarge,"—was ordered. This was accompanied by a reorganization of the department, with a reduction of its working force, and decrease in its expenditures; leaving the citizens of the fire precinct—or compact part of the city—to rely upon the steamers and hydrants for

protection against fire. On the 16th of October, 1867, the ordinance of reorganization was passed. It provided that the fire department should consist of a chief engineer, seven (subsequently for some years, eight) assistant engineers; with engine men, hose men, and hook-and-ladder men, to be divided into companies. The two steamers were to have twelve men each, including an engineer; the Eagle Hose company was to have twelve; of the two Hydrant and Hose companies, Nos. 1 and 2, the first was to have twenty-four men, the second, twelve; the Hook and Ladder company, twenty-four; of the engine companies outside the precinct, "Pioneer," in Ward 1, was to have not less than forty, nor more than fifty, men; "Old Fort," in Ward 2, and "Cataract," in Ward 3, not less than twenty-five, nor more than thirty-five, each. Under this system the first board of engineers consisted of Abel B. Holt, chief; John D. Teel, John M. Hill, Alonzo Downing, Joseph S. Merrill, Chandler Eastman, James Frye, and David A. Brown, assistants. The number of men employed under the old ordinance was three hundred fifty-three; and the amount of their pay, each man receiving twenty-five cents for an hour of service, was indefinite, being dependent upon the frequency of fires and alarms and their time of continuance. The slightest alarm frequently cost the city one hundred dollars. Under the new system the number of men became one hundred ninety-five, not varying much for years. Their compensation was a fixed annual sum not affected by length of service—an arrangement proving more economical than the old. After obtaining the second steamer, and under the ordinance of 1867, the hand companies in the precinct left the service, "sundering," as Chief Engineer Holt reported, "the pleasant ties cemented by an association of many years, with no expression of ill-feeling, but in a manner reflecting the highest credit upon themselves, personally, and upon their organizations."

After more than ten years' agitation as to locating and building a central fire station, one was so far completed as to be occupied on the 25th of November, 1875. On the 30th of May, 1874, a committee of the city council was appointed to purchase land adjoining the old No. 4 engine house on the north side of Warren street, between State and Green streets, where the steam fire engines had been kept for several years. The city council had appropriated ten thousand dollars, but the committee obtained, at a total cost of seven thousand seven hundred forty-seven dollars and fifty-two cents, the Warren street lot, comprising, with that of No. 4, other adjacent lots. It was about one hundred twenty-five feet in length on Warren street by ninety-eight and a half feet in width, with projection on the northwest corner for a tower twelve by nineteen and a half feet. After

some ineffectual opposition by citizens to the location, the city council, on the 3d of April, 1875, appropriated thirty thousand dollars for the erection of buildings for the Central Fire Station on the Warren street lot, and appointed Mayor John Kimball, James L. Mason, and Henry Churchill, as a building committee. Within seven months the station was ready for occupancy. The main building was sixty-two feet in length, fifty-two in width, and two stories in height, with a tower on the northwest corner twelve feet square and ninety feet high. A two-storied barn adjoined the east end, fifty-seven by thirty-six feet, with a one-storied shed at right angles southward, of dimensions twenty-six by forty-six feet. All the buildings were of brick, as were those of the "Alert" and "Good Will" hose companies recently erected,—the former on Washington street, and the latter on the corner of Cross (afterwards Concord) and State streets,—and all well adapted to the wants of the department. In 1880, during the administration of Mayor Brown, an important need, long felt, was supplied, when, at the expense of five thousand dollars, the Gamewell Fire Alarm apparatus was purchased and put in operation, whereby—at first, in its four districts with their twenty-one alarm boxes—through the subtle electric touch, the location of fires was to be instantaneously and exactly indicated.



Central Fire Station.

During the period now under review, the highways, streets, and bridges felt the touch of improvement. The repairs of highways necessarily became more and more exacting and expensive, till it was found that systematic and economical effort in that direction required the abolishing of old highway district lines and constituting the whole territory of the city one highway district, to be in charge of an officer known as commissioner of highways and elected annually by the city council. This was done in 1878, and Mayor Brown became, by election, the first commissioner.

Concrete pavement for sidewalks and street crossings was introduced in 1867, in the administration of Mayor Abbott; and the next year his successor, Mayor Stevens, recommended the macadamizing of streets. Increasing amounts of concrete sidewalk were laid in 1868 and 1869; and Mayor Jones reported an unprecedented amount for each of the years 1870 and 1871. Mayor Brown reported

five thousand seven hundred thirty square yards of concrete sidewalk laid in 1878; two thousand feet of edgestone set; thirteen hundred thirty-five square yards of granite pavement put down on Main street; and fourteen hundred square yards of cobble paving laid in the gutters of various streets.[1] In caring for the streets, the sprinkling of those most frequented was not neglected, and in 1873, after the introduction of Long pond water, private subscriptions for street sprinkling, offset by expenditures for city teams, water, apparatus, and minor items, began to be annually reported by the superintendent of highways.

Bridges demanded large appropriations for repair and rebuilding. When the ice freshet of March, 1865, destroyed Horse Hill bridge on the Contoocook, and damaged more or less seriously the four bridges on the Merrimack, the first was rebuilt and the others repaired within a few months. When, in April, 1873, another freshet swept away Federal bridge, not only was a new bridge built, under the efficient agency of Mayor Kimball, within a year, but at the liberal expense of twenty-seven thousand dollars, the old structure of wood was replaced by one of iron—the first in Concord. In an earlier chapter, mention was made of the erection of the bridge over the Contoocook, at Fisherville, in 1823. This was succeeded by a new one in 1849, which remained in use about twenty-five years. The structure becoming somewhat the worse for wear and out of date, the city council, on the 31st of May, 1873, appropriated twelve thousand dollars for building another, and in October authorized Mayor Kimball to contract for a wrought iron bridge, which was completed on the 6th of November, 1874, at a cost of a little more than seventeen thousand dollars. The next day, the bridge was formally opened to use, by the city council, invited guests, and many citizens from the city and neighboring towns. It was to answer, to a good degree, for nearly twenty-five years, the purpose of its erection, but was finally to be superseded, in 1898, by a safer structure. About 1874, Sewall's Falls bridge was rebuilt for the second time, under an appropriation of fourteen thousand five hundred dollars.

The subject of Sewerage began in 1868 seriously to engage public thought. Mayor Lyman D. Stevens made the first official and practical recommendation upon this important matter. In that year he brought the subject of providing a proper system of removing the surplus water and refuse matter from that portion of the city comprised within the limits of the gas precinct to the attention of the city council, and urged immediate action. At once, on the 6th of June, 1868, in approval of the mayor's views, suitable provision was made

[1] Twenty-sixth Annual City Report, *p.* 28.

for a survey of the streets preliminary to the purpose of drainage. James A. Weston, of Manchester, a civil engineer, was put in charge of the survey. The engineer's report, accompanied by a plan embracing the territory to be drained, and profiles of the streets, showing size and grade of sewers, was adopted by the city council, and printed for examination by citizens.

At the commencement of his second official year Mayor Stevens did not fail to call the immediate and most serious attention of the city council to the subject of sewerage. "There is," declared he, "no part of the administration of civil affairs more important to the welfare of the city or the health and comfort of its inhabitants. And yet no subject is approached through more neglect and opposition than this. There is not a European or American city whose history does not show that serious evils have resulted from the neglect to provide complete and systematic sewerage. . . . The question now presents itself, Shall this new system of sewerage be commenced? I say commenced, because our financial situation would not allow us to do more than to begin this great improvement, the present year." There was, outside the city council, considerable opposition to the movement, for popular ideas of sanitation were somewhat crude, and fears of expense were exaggerated. But the work was soon begun, and, during the year, there were laid nearly thirty-seven hundred feet of brick sewer, of larger or smaller dimensions, as parts of the main sewer from Merrimack river through Freight street to Main, thence up Main to Capitol street, and up Warren street to the brook or ditch between Green and Spring streets.[1] The net cost of this work was nearly thirteen thousand one hundred dollars. Thus was started, in charge of Lyman R. Fellows, and under the engineering of Charles A. Lund, the work of a systematic, effectual drainage, with brick and cement to supersede the temporary, inefficient plank-ditching hitherto in use. For a short time after the introduction of sewerage, the attempt was made to exact an entrance fee, proportioned to the frontage of premises upon the sewer. But people naturally objected to being taxed for sewer construction, and then paying such a fee. Accordingly, the exaction was withdrawn. Years later, however, persons living along the line of a public sewer were required to drain their premises into it.

The system went on with varying expenditure, upon annual—occasionally special—appropriations by the city council; the minimum being one thousand dollars in 1872, and the maximum more than fifty thousand, in 1876. In the latter year—during the administration of Mayor Pillsbury—nearly nine miles of sewer were laid within

[1] Seventeenth Annual City Report, *p.* 80.

a sewerage precinct established in 1873, with the same boundaries as those of the gas precinct. The introduction of Long pond water greatly stimulated sewer construction; and the former was decidedly promoted by the latter. By 1880 the precinct had been nearly permeated by the system's invisible contributors to the convenience and health of the people.

The question of providing a proper Water supply for the compactly occupied portion of Concord waited long for a satisfactory answer. Wells were early, and to some extent late, the means of supply. In 1829, the springs at the base of Sand Hill were thought of as sources of supply, and William and Joseph Low, Jacob B. Moore, Stephen Brown, and others were incorporated as the "Concord Aqueduct Association," with a capital of two thousand dollars, and empowered to take water from them, and deliver it to customers at such price as they deemed expedient. What, if anything, this association accomplished is not known; but not a great while later, Amariah Pierce was supplying customers through an aqueduct of white-pine logs, twelve feet in length and six or eight inches in diameter, bored with a pod-auger. In 1849, Nathan Call obtained for himself and others a charter for the "Torrent Aqueduct Association," with a capital of twenty thousand dollars, and did business under it successfully. The conduct of the enterprise then came into the hands of James R. Hill, who finally sold his interest to Nathaniel White. After the death of Henry M. Robinson, who had begun to supply water from the locality afterwards to be known as White park, and from other sources, Mr. White purchased the rights of the heirs therein; and made strong efforts in the Fifties and Sixties towards meeting the increasing demand for water. Down to the year 1859,—it may here be remarked,—the municipal fire department depended upon reservoirs only for its water supply,—too often scanty and uncertain; but, that year, the city organized and incorporated, as a portion of its fire department, the Concord Railroad and Hose Company, No. 1, for the purpose of operating the hydrants and hose connected with the Merrimack river, and belonging to the railroad corporation as a part of the means which it had independently provided, at an expense of ten thousand dollars, for its own protection against fire.

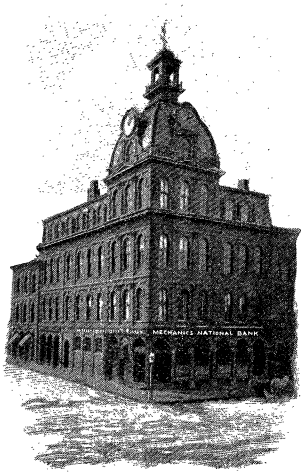
On the 16th of December, 1859, a committee, previously appointed by the city council, and consisting of Joseph B. Walker, John Abbott, and Benjamin Grover, to inquire as to the feasibility and cost of abundantly supplying the compact part of the city with water, for fire and other purposes, reported that the population was then supplied in part from wells, and in part by aqueduct companies,

the two principal of which were the Torrent Aqueduct Association, and that of Nathaniel White; that these furnished with water some six hundred families and the hotels, besides supplying large amounts to public buildings, stores, shops, stables, and the Old Cemetery; and that there were several others of more limited capacities, each supplying from one or two to forty families. As to the fountain of supply, the committee gave the preference to Long pond; and estimated the cost of the introduction and distribution of the water therefrom, at one hundred seventy-two thousand four hundred seventy-five dollars and thirty-five cents. The cost of execution seemed to the committee the most serious objection to the immediate accomplishment of the project. Eleven years later, on the 30th of July, 1870, in the administration of Mayor Jones, the city council, realizing that the supply of water furnished in the compact part of the city was insufficient in quantity, and much of it so impure as to be wholly unfit for use, appointed a committee of seventeen consisting of Lyman D. Stevens, David A. Warde, Benjamin S. Warren, Jesse P. Bancroft, Abraham G. Jones, Asa McFarland, James S. Norris, Josiah Minot, Nathaniel White, Daniel Holden, James N. Lauder, Edward A. Abbott, John Kimball, John M. Hill, Benjamin A. Kimball, Moses Humphrey, and Benning W. Sanborn, to report the most proper course to be taken to secure the early introduction of an adequate supply of pure, fresh water from Long pond. The citizens of Concord were becoming thoroughly convinced that the safety, health, prosperity, and growth of the city absolutely demanded a greater and better supply of water than it then had, as they expressed themselves in resolution, at a full meeting in Eagle hall, on the evening of October 1, 1870. On the 29th of the same month, the committee of seventeen reported in favor of Long pond as the source of supply; by reason of the remarkable purity and softness of its water; its sufficiency to afford a constant and abundant supply; its elevation great enough to force the water over all the buildings, except a small number on the highest points, and into most of those; and the comparative ease with which the water could be conducted by aqueduct over the three and a half miles from the outlet of the pond to the state house.

The committee found that nothing hindered the immediate beginning of the work but the failure to make any satisfactory arrangement with the owners of the mills at West Concord, whereby might be secured the right to divert, for the purpose of the aqueduct, a part of the water hitherto used exclusively by the mills. Hence, active operations had to await state legislation. The committee accordingly reported the recommendation that measures be taken on

behalf of the city to obtain the necessary legislation, and that in the meantime plans and details be prepared ready for the work when the proper time came for commencing it. The recommendation was referred to Josiah Minot, Benjamin A. Kimball, John M. Hill, and David A. Warde, who, on the 10th of August, 1871, reported that the necessary legislative action had been procured. They also submitted an ordinance placing the management of the city water-works in a board of commissioners, to consist of six citizens and the mayor *ex officio*. After strenuous opposition and long discussion in both branches of the city council, the ordinance passed on the 30th of December, 1871. The mayor and aldermen, in January, 1872, appointed as the first board of water commissioners, John M. Hill, Benjamin A. Kimball, Josiah Minot, David A. Warde, Benjamin S. Warren, and Edward L. Knowlton; Mayor Jones serving *ex officio* till March, and thenceforward Mayor Kimball. James A. Weston, who engineered the sewerage system, was appointed chief engineer, and Charles C. Lund, assistant. The dispute with the owners of the water-power having been settled by referees in the unexpectedly large award of sixty thousand dollars, the city obtained the right to draw three hundred sixty-five million gallons yearly from the pond. The city purchased the stock of the Torrent Aqueduct association and the water rights of Nathaniel White for twenty thousand dollars; and paid for other water rights and for land damages, the sum of twenty-one thousand three hundred thirty-four dollars. The American Gas and Water Pipe company, of New Jersey, contracted to construct the main line from Long pond to the northerly end of Main street, and all the distribution pipes therefrom through the main portion of the city, and to set gates, hydrants, and other appendages, for the sum of one hundred forty-three thousand eight hundred eighty-two dollars. Within eight months after the contractors commenced work, water was, on the 14th of January, 1873, admitted into the pipes from the pond. By the last day of that year, twenty miles of piping had been laid and were in use. Under the act of June 30, 1871, authorizing the establishment of water-works, a water precinct was established having the same boundaries and containing the same territory as the gas precinct. On the 1st of January, 1875, the board of water commissioners thought it proper that the construction account should be closed at the amount of three hundred fifty thousand dollars, and that the indebtedness for the works, which had not already been provided for by the issue of bonds, should be likewise funded. And thus it was that the quiet waters of Lake Penacook began to be utilized in multiform benefits to the city.[1]

[1] See Analysis of Long Pond Water, in note at close of chapter.



Board of Trade Building.

By October of the year 1873—the year of the first abundant inflow of "pure sweet water"—the subscription of members of the Board of Trade, recently organized, had erected on the eligible corner of Main and School streets a stately business edifice, handsome without and pleasant within, with its convenient illuminated clock in sightly tower, and its mellow bell of steel,—the latter, the generous individual gift of George A. Pillsbury. Though that building was long to outlive the organization under whose auspices it was erected and whose name it bore, yet, in any just appreciation, it should stand as a monument of an honorable attempt "to promote the prosperity of Concord."[1]

Attention to the subjects of Public Health and the prevention of disease was specially awakened in connection with the introduction of sewerage and the new water supply. Concord, however, from the beginning of its city government had had its health officers. About the year 1866, Dr. Granville P. Conn began to advocate sanitary improvement, and so far gained the ear of the city council that an ordinance was passed providing for a house-to-house inspection,—the first in the state, if not in the United States,—this measure having been the more readily adopted in view of the ravages of cholera in Europe. Hygienic considerations were thenceforward, year after year, impressed upon the people in annual reports of city physicians and health officers—especially in the Seventies—until the city came to be laudably progressive in the matter of sanitation, and more and more ready to adopt scientific means and methods for warding off disease and death.

The historic glance may now be turned from topics especially pertaining to the material progress and physical well-being of the city to others of importance, but having less direct reference thereto. The beginning and early growth of the City Library have been recorded in a previous chapter. The city appropriation of three hundred dollars for this institution was continued for four years, or until 1867, when, the burden of war being somewhat lightened, it became five hundred. This continued till 1876, when, in accordance with a suggestion of the trustees, the library was removed to the board of trade building, after having had its home in the city hall building for nineteen years. In its new rooms, its six thousand seven hundred volumes found a more convenient situation. The city appropriation was doubled to one thousand dollars, and the library was kept open every afternoon

[1] See Board of Trade Festival, in note at close of chapter.

and evening—Sunday excepted—for the exchange of books, and its privileges were extended to persons residing out of town upon the annual payment of one dollar each. The next year the reference library was assigned a separate room, while the adjacent reading-room of the Young Men's Christian association became available for the patrons of the library. It had received, in 1863, a legacy of one thousand dollars from Gardiner P. Lyon, a publisher and statistician; and in 1870 another of the same amount from the estate of ex-President Pierce.

With the means of intellectual improvement thus and otherwise maintained, there were also opportunities for the cultivation of fraternal benevolence in addition to those already afforded by Masons and Odd Fellows. It was sought to teach practically the lesson of the friendship of Damon and Pythias, as told in history and sung in poetry, through the ritual of a secret fraternal order instituted at Washington in 1864, and styled "The Knights of Pythias." According to its declaration of principles, this organization is "intended solely to disseminate the great principles of Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence. Nothing of a sectarian or political character is permitted within its portals. Toleration in religion, obedience to law, and loyalty to government are its cardinal principles."

On the 18th of November, 1870, a Lodge was instituted in Concord as Concord Lodge, No. 8, Knights of Pythias. The ceremonies of institution took place in an upper room of the Cyrus Hill block, known as Memorial hall, and occupied by the Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. These ceremonies were performed by Grand Chancellor Stillman S. Davis, assisted by Joseph L. Dow as Grand Recording and Corresponding Scribe and other Grand Lodge officers, and in the presence of visiting brothers from Manchester and Nashua. The fifteen charter members thus initiated and organized were: Curtis White, L. K. Peacock, A. H. Morrison, W. H. Buntin, D. E. Howard, J. W. Saul, Moses Ladd, E. N. Doyen, A. W. Smith, J. B. Colby, J. L. Green, J. S. Merrill, C. H. Peacock, W. A. Webster, and F. H. Newman. Officers were at once elected and installed.

During the year 1871 thirty-six members were added. In January, 1872, the quarters to be permanently occupied by the Lodge as Pythian hall—then known as Central hall—were leased, and possession taken, with a public dedication held on the evening of Washington's birthday. The hall was much the worse for wear, and the furniture the plainest of the plain. As for paraphernalia, the members had only the things they could not get along without, and many of these made by the members themselves were rather crude. The membership was only fifty-eight, and the exchequer was low. "But

the members," writes the historian[1] of the Lodge, "were active, earnest, and full of faith. They gave of their time and of their money; they labored with their hands, and furnished most of the material for arranging the Castle Hall as we now have it." By such efforts and from the proceeds of a fair and of two presentations of the play of "Damon and Pythias," the Lodge could show a hall that the grand chancellor, in 1876, pronounced "an honor to the Order." From the first, the meetings were held on Wednesday evenings, and have been reported as rarely missed for thirty years. Section No. 11 of the endowment rank, composed mostly of members of the Concord Lodge, was instituted on the 7th of December, 1877, and had paid, up to the year 1900, the sum of nineteen thousand dollars to the families of deceased members. At the latter date, too, the active membership of the Lodge was one hundred thirty-three.[2]

During most of the time in which were occurring the events since the war, thus far narrated, one day each year was specially observed throughout the North as sacred to the memory of those who had served in the military defense of their country—an observance arising from the formation of a national fraternal order of Union veterans under the name of "Grand Army of the Republic." In 1866 the idea of establishing the Order was suggested and urged by Major Benjamin F. Stevenson, of Illinois, and under his supervision its ritual was prepared and its first Post immediately instituted at Decatur, in that state. Other Posts were speedily established throughout Illinois and other states, and Departments organized, so that, on the 20th of November of the same year, the first national convention or Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held at Indianapolis, which was attended by representatives from ten states and the District of Columbia. During the year 1867 the Order spread rapidly, and state, county, and town organizations were formed.

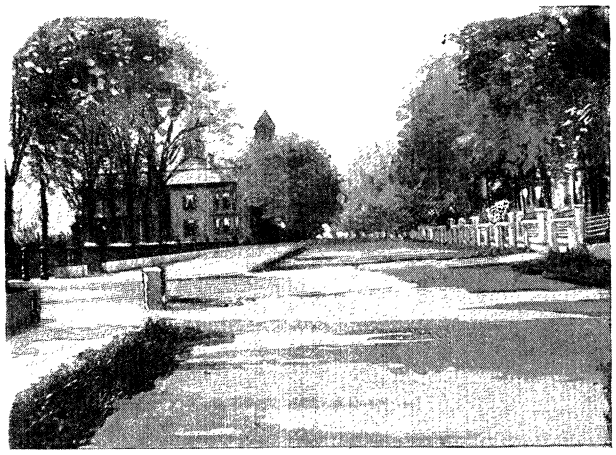
In 1868 a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic was established at Concord—the second in the state, and bearing the name of its honored hero and martyr, Edward E. Sturtevant. Early that year, General John A. Logan had been chosen commander-in-chief. To him belongs the honor of first designating a day on which the Grand Army should observe the beautiful ceremony of decorating, with flowers and otherwise, the graves of the Union dead. He appointed the 30th of May, 1868, as the day for that purpose. The Concord Post readily proceeded to comply with the order of the commander-in-chief. Mayor Stevens, on May the 29th, made proclamation in the following appropriate terms: "The Grand Army of the Republic having extended to the people of Concord an earnest invitation to

[1] Frank J. Pillsbury.

[2] See Connected K. of P. Organizations, in note at close of chapter.

unite with them to-morrow in offering a floral tribute to the memory of the Union soldiers who died in defense of Liberty and the Government, it seems highly proper that it should be accepted; I therefore recommend that on to-morrow the citizens of Concord close their places of business from two to four o'clock in the afternoon, and participate in the ceremonies at Eagle Hall and at the Cemeteries, and thus aid in the inauguration of a custom which should be observed while we continue to enjoy the blessings secured to us by the achievements of the heroic dead."

On the morrow came the first Memorial Day, and with it due manifestation of popular interest and sympathy. As recommended, business was suspended for two hours in the afternoon. Eagle hall, fitly decorated, and which earlier had received in profusion bouquets and wreaths tastefully arranged by young ladies of Concord, now received the people in goodly numbers to participate in the first regular exercises of the day. Pupils of the high school and of the grammar schools, with their teachers, and Benjamin B. Davis, who led their singing, were among those in attendance. The comrades of the Post, headed by their commander, Colonel James E. Larkin, were the last to enter the hall, and were received with acclaim. Each carried a wreath or bouquet, and wore upon the left arm crape bound by a knot of red, white, and blue.



State Street, rear of State House—1880.

The exercises were opened with prayer by the Post chaplain, the Reverend James F. Lovering, followed by "America," sung by the school pupils and the audience. Having read General Logan's order, Commander Larkin called upon Mayor Stevens to address the meeting, who did so, and also read with effect Lincoln's classic speech at Gettysburg. These exercises were the introduction of the day's programme, of which the decoration of graves was the conclusion. A line of march in procession was taken to the burying grounds. The grave of Lieutenant Charles A. Walker, one of the first victims of the war, was the first to be decorated with flowers and marked with flag. At seven other graves in the Old North cem-

etery, and at ten in Blossom Hill, the same ceremony was performed. To the nameless graves of seven soldiers in the latter cemetery like honors were paid. The solemn service of decoration having been completed, a dirge sung by the school children, and the benediction pronounced by the grand chaplain, closed the first observance of Memorial Day in Concord.

Only the graves of those who had served in the recent Civil War then received such decoration; but later those of others who had served in any of their country's wars were to receive the like token of grateful remembrance. Within eleven years two other Posts of the Grand Army were established within the city limits: W. I. Brown, No. 31, at Fisherville, or Penacook, in 1877, and Davis Post, No. 44, at West Concord, in 1879. About the year 1880 the city council appropriated one hundred fifty dollars, distributed to the three posts, towards defraying the expenses of Decoration Day. The appropriation gradually increased to four hundred dollars, as it stood in 1900.

In 1870 the "Ancient Order of Hibernians," and the "St. Patrick's Benevolent Society" were organized; the latter to answer its humane purpose for twenty-five years; the former to find itself, at the end of the century, prosperous, and giving promise of an indefinite future of usefulness. For the Irish element of population had been growing in numbers and importance for twenty years or more, and was furthering, as it would continue to further, the progress of Concord. Nor should it be forgotten that it had readily supplied its quota of good men and true to serve their adopted country in the late Civil War. In connection with the mention of Irish mutual-benefit societies, the fact should not be overlooked that the later and smaller element of French immigration had, as early as 1868, its permanent and useful "French-Canadian Association."

It may be well here to add, in their chronologic order, certain detached facts arising under topics more fully treated in previous narration, and to note others not hitherto mentioned, but treated in a special chapter. In 1868 a new feature was added to the Pauper system, in the appointment of an overseer of the poor in Wards 3, 4, 5, and 6, to supply upon application provisions, fuel, rent, and other necessities to needy persons not at the Poor Farm, and who, with a little timely aid thus rendered, might never be there. Charles F. Stewart, city clerk, was the first overseer, and so remained for many years, until succeeded by Joseph A. Cochran, his successor in the city clerkship. The same year (1868) a structure of wood was erected, at a cost of two hundred dollars, in connection with the poor house, for a house of correction. It was subsequently destroyed

by fire. As early as 1869 the committee on the city farm suggested "the impropriety of sentencing criminals to the present house of correction;" adding, "that the honest poor should be compelled to labor and associate with such criminals, we believe to be unjust and unnecessary."

In 1873 the limits of Blossom Hill cemetery were enlarged by the purchase of twenty-three acres of additional land for a little more than three thousand five hundred dollars. Long pond water was introduced into the cemetery the same year. In 1874 the Catholics purchased, as a site for Calvary cemetery, land adjoining Blossom Hill on the north.

The restraints of the prohibitory law and the efforts of moral suasion continued in these days to co-operate in promoting the cause of temperance and sobriety. Lecturers were in the field; the columns of newspapers were open to appeals; the reports of city marshals and of the police court contained reminders and warnings—all of which tended to keep public attention awake to the evils of intemperance. Organized effort was continued and enlarged. The St. John's Catholic Temperance Society, with branch at Fisherville, was formed, and, under the discreet and earnest Christian guidance of Father John E. Barry, accomplished noble results. It is stated as a fact that for some years there were only three Catholics in Fisherville who were not total abstainers from the use of intoxicants. In 1873 the women of Concord were moved by the impulse of reform then sweeping the country to try the effect of concerted action against intemperance in their own vicinity. Correspondence was held with ladies in other places relative to forming temperance leagues, and finally a call was issued for a woman's temperance convention to be held at Eagle hall, in Concord, on the 11th of November, 1874. The call—sent out on postals—was signed by three Concord ladies, as follows: "Mrs. N. White, Mrs. J. H. Gallinger, Mrs. Elisha Adams, Committee." Nearly one hundred women responded to the call, and the result of the meeting was the formation of the New Hampshire Woman's Temperance League, with Mrs. Nathaniel White of Concord for its first president. Three years later the name was changed to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, to be in harmony with the national organization. The W. C. T. U. was to grow till in 1900 there should be reported one hundred fifteen local "Unions," with a membership of eight thousand two hundred three, being the largest, in proportion to population, of any state in the country.

In 1868 the charge of the Concord Post-office was given Dr. Moses T. Willard, who retained it till 1870. Colonel James E.

Larkin succeeded him, holding the postmastership four years, or until 1874. By reappointment, Dr. Willard became in turn his successor for three years, or until 1877, when, by reason of his failing health and ensuing death, the office again fell to Colonel Larkin. The second term of the latter continued four years, or from 1877 to 1881. Between those dates the post-office was removed from the location on School street, which it had occupied since 1863, to White's Opera House block, recently erected upon the site of the historic American House. The removal occasioned considerable excitement, and wordy warfare in which the old rivalry between the North End and the South End seemed for a while to flame anew.

Amateur theatricals had all along been a favorite form of literary recreation in Concord. In the Sixties a histrionic club existed. In 1874 the Concord Young People's Union was organized—at first under the special auspices of the Universalist society—and flourished for several years. Among those prominent "upon the boards" during the existence of this organization and of the Concord Art Club that grew out of it, were Nathaniel C. Nelson, Frank Cressy, Charles N. Towle, Miss Belle Larkin, and Mrs. Belle Marshall Locke. Miss Maude Dixon, who afterwards became the wife of Salvini, the younger, sometimes appeared upon the stage. Among the many dramas acceptably presented were "Ingomar," "The Octoroon," "The Lady of Lyons," and "Damon and Pythias." The popularity of such theatricals, usually given in Eagle hall, was a prime inducement for Nathaniel White to provide an opera house.

The receptions, respectively, of President Grant, in 1869, and President Hayes, in 1877, as well as Concord's celebration of Independence Day, in 1876, having been fully described in a special chapter, need to be given here merely their chronologic place.

Concord, before the national Centennial of 1876, fitly commemorated, on the 17th of June, 1875, her third semi-centennial, one hundred fifty years having elapsed since her original township grant in 1725. The day was celebrated by a musical entertainment given by the Concord Choral Union, and a public dinner; but especially by the discourse of the Rev. Dr. Bouton, who, upon invitation of the city council and the board of trade, addressed the people assembled in city hall upon the subject of the moral, social, and civil progress of Concord during the last fifty years. This discourse was the last of the venerable author's many contributions—and one of the most valuable—to the history of his beloved town.

When the centennial year came Concord made observance of it, not only in its own home celebration of a century of national independence and progress, but in contributing to the display of the

grand "exhibition of American and foreign arts, products, and manufactures," held at Philadelphia. The exhibits of Concord made especially in the departments of education, agriculture, and manufactures, though not numerous, were highly creditable, and secured an honorable share of awards. Interest in the Philadelphia exposition had been increased through the efforts of Miss Elizabeth S. Stevens, of Concord, a member of the Woman's Centennial Committee for New Hampshire, who raised, in her own city, in the winter of 1875–'76, more than six hundred dollars towards the erection of the Woman's Pavilion. In this beautiful structure were exhibited the results of woman's taste, skill, and industry, and as to which the testimony has been borne, that "it contained the fullest representation of woman's genius and skill ever made in one collection."

First Centennial Home for the Aged.

In course of the same centennial year Christian benevolence founded in Concord a home for the aged. The thought of such an institution first shaped itself into action when, in January, 1876, a contribution of one hundred ten dollars to the Concord Female Charitable Society was set aside as the beginning of a fund for the proposed home. In the following February a large meeting of the women of Concord was held, and a society organized to promote the desired purpose. The officers of this pioneer organization were: President, Mrs. Nathaniel Bouton; recording secretary, Mrs. William H. Bartlett; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Charles C. Pearson; treasurer, Mrs. William M. Chase. The draft of a constitution was presented by Mrs. Nathaniel White, committees were designated, and an advisory board of gentlemen was selected. A charter having been obtained from the legislature in June, 1876, incorporating "The New Hampshire Centennial Home for the Aged,"—an institution for the support and maintenance of aged people of both sexes,—the society, in July, accepted the act of

Present Centennial Home for the Aged.

incorporation, organized under it, and adopted a constitution. The former officers of the society were re-elected, and fifteen trustees—ten men and five women—were chosen. On the first day of January, 1879, the Home was opened upon premises—at first hired but subsequently purchased—eligibly located on Pleasant street. Two years later the permanent fund reached more than eighteen thousand dollars, through the generous gift of ten thousand dollars contributed thereto by Mrs. Nathaniel White in memory of her husband. Within twenty-five years the little fund of one hundred ten dollars was to be increased to ninety-seven thousand, a more commodious residence erected, and sixty-four aged ones enrolled as permanent dwellers in a happy home.

As during the Civil War the Republican and Democratic parties in the North had been arrayed against each other, so were they during the era of Reconstruction. The thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments of the constitution were of Republican initiation, adoption, and ratification against Democratic opposition. The same was substantially true of other measures adopted to enforce those amendments in their purpose of securing to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States" the unabridged "privileges and immunities of citizens," as well as of maintaining "the validity of the public debt," and upholding the financial honor of the nation against any form of repudiation. Herein were involved the vital and absorbing issues that divided parties during the period extending from 1865 to 1880.

New Hampshire met these issues as they rose, and helped to forward their settlement in accordance with the views of the Republican majority of the country. She was the second state of twenty-seven to ratify the Fourteenth Constitutional Amendment; doing so by the Republican vote of her legislature in the early summer of 1865. In four successive presidential elections she cast an average majority of four thousand for the four successful tickets headed respectively by the names of Grant, Hayes, and Garfield. To that majority Concord steadily contributed an average of one tenth, or four hundred; while the number of voters gradually increased from twenty-four hundred to thirty-five hundred. With the exception of the two detached years, 1871 and 1874, the state government was, throughout the period, in full Republican control. Nor did the circumstances under which that control was then broken denote any vital change of popular sentiment as to the great national issues of the day.

In 1870 the Temperance party appeared at the polls, and cast for its gubernatorial ticket eleven hundred thirty-five votes. Thence-

forward for the remaining ten years of the period its vote appeared in the election returns with fluctuations reaching the maximum of twenty-five hundred in 1874, and contributing that year to the brief anti-Republican ascendancy in the state government. Pending the resumption of specie payments the shorter-lived Greenback party arose. In November, 1878, at the first biennial election, when the Temperance party cast its minimum of ninety-one votes, this later organization cast its maximum of sixty-four hundred, drawing heavily upon Democratic strength. Greenbackism could not long survive the successful operation of the Resumption Act, which went into effect in 1879; its strength falling at the next election to five hundred, in its rapid decline to zero. But all the while Concord was little moved by side issues in politics. Its line of party division was not wont to veer much from that which separated the two leading parties; and in contests, national, state, and municipal, Republican strength was steadily predominant.

The attempt made in 1850 to secure amendment of the state constitution was virtually fruitless—as recorded in a previous chapter—but now another more successful was made in 1876. On the 6th of January of this year, a constitutional convention of three hundred seventy delegates assembled at the state house. To this number Concord contributed the following fifteen: John S. Brown, Daniel W. Fox, John L. Tallant, Abijah Hollis, Ai B. Thompson, Jacob H. Gallinger, Benjamin E. Badger, Jonathan E. Sargent, John Kimball, William E. Chandler, Joseph Wentworth, Benjamin A. Kimball, Lewis Downing, William W. Critchett, Isaac W. Hammond. During a session of ten days thirteen amendments were agreed upon for submission to the people at the March election of 1877. These, numbered in order, were: 1. Omitting the word "Protestant" in the Bill of Rights; 2. Authorizing "the trial of causes in which the value in controversy does not exceed one hundred dollars, and title to real estate is not concerned, without the intervention of a jury;" 3. Establishing "the biennial election of governor, councillors, members of the senate and house of representatives, and biennial sessions of the legislature;" 4. Basing the house of representatives "upon population;" 5. Constituting "a senate of twenty-four members;" 6. Providing for "the election by the people of registers of probate, solicitors, and sheriffs;" 7. "Abolishing the religious test as a qualification for office;" 8. Prohibiting "towns or cities to loan or give their money or credit to corporations;" 9. "Changing the time for holding the State election from March to November;" 10. Providing "that appeals from a justice of the peace may be tried by some other court without the intervention of a jury;" 11. Increasing "the

jurisdiction of justices of the peace to one hundred dollars;" 12. "Prohibiting the removal of officers for political reasons;" 13. "Prohibiting money raised by taxation from being applied to the support of schools or institutions of any religious sect or denomination."

Eleven of these propositions were accepted by more than two thirds of the legal voters of the state present in annual town-meeting, and voting thereupon. The first—providing for the omission of the word "Protestant" in the Bill of Rights—and the twelfth—prohibiting the removal of officers for political reasons—were rejected. Concord, however, approved of both, but disapproved of the third, which authorized biennial elections in certain cases. Thus, not till after the lapse of eighty-five years did the people of New Hampshire consent to any material change of the revered constitution of 1792.[1]

NOTES.

Analysis of Long Pond Water. In 1872, S. Dana Hayes, state assayer of Massachusetts, analyzed Long pond water, and found it to contain 1.80 per cent. of total impurities, mineral and organic, compared with the percentages of fourteen other water supplies of prominent places, as follows: Boston, Cochituate lake, 3.20; Charlestown, Mystic lake, 5.68; Lowell, Merrimack river, 1.94; Manchester, Massabesic lake, 2.82; Lynn, Flax pond, 4.08; New Bedford, Acushnet river, 3.18; Fall river, Watuppa pond, 1.80; Springfield, Chicopee river, 2.70; Providence, Pawtuxet river, 2.57; New York, Croton river, 4.98; Philadelphia, Schuylkill river, 3.50; Chicago, Lake Michigan, 6.68; Paris, France, Seine river, 8.83; London, England, Thames river, 16.38.

Board of Trade Festival. The occupation of new rooms in the new Board of Trade building was made the occasion for a social gathering of the members of the board, with their ladies and invited guests, on the evening of October 20, 1873. The music was supplied by Blaisdell & Ingalls's band, and a choir of nine male voices; an opening address was made by Lyman D. Stevens, president of the board, and the principal one by Asa McFarland, followed by a poem entitled "Concord," by Mrs. Abba Goold Woolson. After the exercises in Board of Trade hall, the company repaired to the Eagle hotel, where a banquet was served. With post-prandial sentiments and responses the happy occasion closed at midnight.

In the course of his historical address Mr. McFarland said: "But while speaking of this edifice as one which arose under the auspices of the board of trade, I should be chargeable with a serious omission

[1] See Concord Men in Official Positions, in note at close of chapter.

were it not stated that it is doubtful if the purpose of erecting a beautiful, commanding, and substantial edifice for business purposes, in place of a structure that had become a conspicuous blemish, would have been successful but for the earnest and persistent labor of Isaac A. Hill. It is not impossible but the enterprise would have been successful in the hands of some other one of our fellow-citizens, but I entertain the belief that most of the business men of the city would have thrown by the subscription paper before they had explored half the ground. For this edifice, and the costly and reliable clock in its tower, our people are especially indebted to Mr. Hill."

Connected K. of P. Organizations. In addition to the organizations mentioned in the text, others were instituted in the course of years, so that the following existed in 1900: Kearsarge Lodge, No. 48; Pillsbury Company, No. 3, U. R. K. of P., instituted in 1877; Supreme Lodge, Pythian Sisterhood; Grand Lodge, Pythian Sisterhood; Young Assembly, Pythian Sisterhood, No. 1.

Concord Men in Official Positions. In course of the period under review in the text, the following citizens of Concord held official position: William E. Chandler, first assistant secretary of the treasury for two years, 1865–'67; George G. Fogg, recent minister to Switzerland, U. S. senator from August, 1866, to March, 1867; Edward H. Rollins, serving his third term in the house of representatives of the thirty-ninth congress, 1865–'67, and as U. S. senator from March, 1877; Onslow Stearns, governor, in 1869, '70; Moses Humphrey, councillor, for the same years; Lyman D. Stevens, presidential elector, at the second election of General Grant, in 1872; John Y. Mugridge (1868, '69), David A. Warde (1872, '73), George E. Todd (1874 and 1876), Jacob H. Gallinger (1878, '79), members of the state senate, and all save the third serving as presidents of that body; Asa Fowler in 1872, Charles P. Sanborn in 1875 and 1876, speakers of the house of representatives; Nathan W. Gove, 1870, William Butterfield, 1874, Ai B. Thompson, 1877 (date of first election), secretaries of state; Peter Sanborn, 1857–'71, state treasurer; Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Bouton, 1866–'77, state historian; Granville P. Conn, 1877, '79, railroad commissioner; Amos Hadley, 1867–'69, state superintendent of public instruction.

Concord, from Cupola of Court House.