

FACTS

RELATING TO THE EARLY

HISTORY OF CHESTER, N. H.,

FROM THE SETTLEMENT IN 1720, UNTIL THE FORMATION OF THE
STATE CONSTITUTION IN THE YEAR 1784.

COLLECTED BY CHARLES BELL.

MDCCCLI.

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NOTE—BY THE EDITOR.

Dr. CHARLES BELL, the author of the following History of Chester,—his native Town—died in Concord, N. H., of pulmonary consumption, February 29, 1856, aged 22½ years. On the Sabbath after his decease, the Rev. Dr. Bouton, in a funeral discourse, thus spake of him :

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“Dr. CHARLES BELL, son of the late Hon. SAMUEL BELL, of Chester, dying at the early age of 22½ years, possessed qualities of mind and heart which rendered him a fit model for young men just entering on the stage of social and public life. Naturally of a serene, amiable and obliging temper, he sought to promote the happiness of all who were about him. His mind, of a high order, was improved by study from early childhood. His acquisitions in general knowledge, in literature and science, and more especially in the studies of his profession, distinguished him among the young men of his age, and gave large promise of usefulness, and success in the professional career which he had auspiciously begun.

Though of genial social qualities, gifted in conversation, he yet wasted no time in amusements and festivities which could neither improve his mind nor his heart ; rather he looked on such things as unworthy of a being pressed with responsibilities and acting for immortality. Doct. Bell possessed a large religious reverence—respect for all things sacred—for the word of God, the worship of his house, the Sabbath and institutions of religion : on these subjects no levity ever marked his conversation or deportment. At an early age, while a member of Brown University, in Providence, R. I., he was personally the subject of these spiritual influences and exercises that are usual antecedents of a new life ; and ever after he seemed to live in the fear and love of God, and to be governed by the principles and precepts of Christianity.

But 'death loves a shining mark!' and it early marked him for its victim! 'The days of his youth were shortened.' That pale, serene, thoughtful, intelligent face we shall see no more! Our hopes of his rising and permanent distinction are blasted! yet he lived not in vain. Subject to pulmonary disease, his death was sudden. His mortal remains were conveyed to his native Town, to be interred among his honored kindred and friends. His spirit, we trust, is associated with 'the spirits of the just made perfect;' while his example lives—worthy of the imitation of all the youth who knew him, or to whom his name and virtues shall become known."

It is a striking proof of the mental activity, capacity and good judgment of the author, that the materials for this History were collected, arranged and composed by him, when he was only eighteen years of age. Yet the history will be found accurate and reliable. It has been submitted to the mature judgment and received the approval of the Hon. SAMUEL D. BELL, of Manchester, N. H., by whose liberality the work is now published.

This History, first published in the 7th Volume of Collections of the N. H. Historical Society, is now published in its present form for more general distribution.

N. BOUTON, *Editor.*

Concord, June, 1863.

FACTS RELATING TO CHESTER.

1719. In the summer of the year 1719, a Society was formed, principally by inhabitants of Hampton, Haverhill, Newbury and Portsmouth, "for settling the Chestnutt Country," of which the first meeting recorded, and probably the first holden, was in the open forest, within the limits of the present town of Chester, and most likely on Walnut Hill. This meeting was on the 15th of October of the same year.

A petition had already been preferred to the government (Sept. 24th,) by Clement Hughes, praying for the grant of a township, and stating that "sundry persons from the Province of Massachusetts Bay" were about to petition for the same land. Mr. Hughes and his company demanded the preference, "having been at a vast expense of blood and treasure to maintain the same against the enemy." This was the usual reason given why preference should be shown to any particular company. It is very unlikely that any "blood" or "treasure" was expended, at that time, on account of the tract. This petition was not granted, as it did not include the Governor and his Council among the Proprietors. At this meeting it was decided that the Society should not exceed ninety individuals, and this number being then incomplete, such persons were to be admitted as should be thought proper by a committee of seven, chosen each year to assume the management of all the Society's affairs, to call meetings as often as should be thought necessary, and "to act in all other matters that they should think proper for the good of the whole Society."

Ichabod Robie, Jacob Stanyan, Caleb Towle, Joseph Tilton and Michael Whidden, all of Hampton, were chosen to lay out the home lots of 20 acres each, in which all privileges of streams were reserved for the use of the Society. Thomas Leavitt and two others, whose names are unknown, were placed on the land to maintain possession whilst a grant could be obtained.

The second meeting of the Society was holden at Hampton, Dec. 20th.

The difficulties which preceded Lovewell's war had just begun, and at the above meeting it was provided that, in case of a war, before the three years, to which time they proposed to limit the settlement, should expire, the same length of time should be allowed after the conclusion of a peace. The home-lots having been laid out, the Proprietors, to the number of eighty eight, drew their lots respectively, and not long after, the number having been increased, contrary to their first intention, to 127, the remainder drew.

1720. In the following March the Society voted to withdraw the first petition, then pending, and "when there should be a convenient season," to prefer another. This second petition was also drawn up by Clement Hughes, and presented the 24th of May following; it was kept suspended until Aug. 26th, when a grant was made "provided that they did not infringe on, or interfere with, any former grant, possessions, or properties," and a committee of Proprietors appointed to procure the land laid out. This grant conveyed a tract of country comprising 100 sq. miles to the Society.

In return for this favor they voted to present his Excellency, the Governor, with a farm of 500 acres, which was laid out "as near the centre of the town as possible without incommoding their own house lots." Gov. Shute's farm began, at its southern limit, near the house of Elijah Hall, and extended on that road, then known as "Penacook path," as far as where Jacob Chase lives, then it spread towards the Northeast nearly as far as Raymond line.

It does not appear with certainty whether any Indian title was ever possessed by the Society, but it is probable that there was not, or some record would remain of the purchase; among the accounts, however, presented by Mr. Hughes, who acted in the capacity of their Secretary, is charged five shillings "for a copy of an Indian deed."

As a fence had been built, in the first instance, round the Southern part of the tract, but little difficulty was experienced from trespassers; there were, however, certain "Haverhill people"

who were troublesome during the first year of the grant, and Proprietors were hired to "go and oppose them." Several lawsuits grew out of this opposition. Perhaps these were the same individuals who troubled the Londonderry people this same year; they claimed the lands of Nutfield by virtue of an Indian deed of about twenty years standing, from one John, an obscure sachem.

A path had been made from Haverhill, and also from Kingston, at the time the home lots were laid out, and in March, (1720,) it was voted that the former should be made passable for carts at the expense of the Haverhill proprietors. This path passed over Walnut Hill very nearly where the road now goes, and so down into Hall's Village. At the same time the Society voted that the bridge over Exeter river on the Kingston road, should be made passable for carts.

Immediately after the grant (in August, 1720,) of the township, (thenceforth known as *Cheshire*,) the settlement was commenced by 24 individuals, mostly from Hampton and Haverhill. The first settlement was on Walnut Hill and in Hall's Village. These settlers were, by vote of the Society, and to encourage further emigration, allowed ten shillings each, annually, for the first three years. The names of these 24 are given, with such other particulars as I have been able to gather in relation to them.

They built, at first, loghouses on their respective lots, and it was not until 1732 that a frame house was put up. This was erected by Capt. Samuel Ingalls, and was standing on the spot where he built it, until within a few years. It was occupied by Thomas Niles, and stood where Humphrey Niles now lives. The frame was of hewn white oak, and in a good state of preservation in 1845. The dimensions of the house were about 25 by 40 feet; so that it was called "the great house," for many years after its erection.

Soon afterwards some of the others followed the example, and built framed houses, several of which are now standing.

1721. At a meeting of the proprietors, holden at Hampton, in January of the following year, the first mill privileges, together with ten acres of land on each side of the stream, were granted to Col. Packer, Col. Weare, Caleb Towle and Samuel Ingalls. These privileges were designated as "the upper and lower falls on the *great brook*." The conditions of the grant were, that they

should erect a saw mill or mills at the upper falls, and have the same in condition to cut boards within twelve months, to saw what logs the proprietors would need for their buildings at halves, and to furnish boards to any person desiring them, at the rate of thirty shillings a thousand, delivered at the mill. Thirty shillings of the currency at that time is about two dollars of our money.

This saw mill was built on the spot where the Hazelton saw mill now stands.

The grantees were to give a bond of £50 to the committee that they would perform the conditions of the grant, and in case of the refusal of any one of them to do this, his share was to be offered to some other individual.

The settlement being now fairly commenced, the expediency of establishing a church and a school began to be considered, and it was resolved that as soon as thirty free-holders should be settled, a minister of the gospel should be maintained; as soon as fifty families should be settled, there should be a meeting house built by the whole proprietary. A few days afterwards, it was voted that "whereas the number of proprietors was considerable," "and no provision was yet made for a schoolmaster," the next proprietor who should forfeit his lot, according to the rules of the Society, by not paying his share of the common expenses, it should be appropriated for a school. This resolve appears to have been for some time neglected, and indeed no house was erected for this purpose for more than twenty years from this date.

A vote was also passed to lay out 100 acres of additional land to each full proprietor, which was not carried into effect, and the following year it was voted that they should contain 200 acres. They were not laid out, however, until 1728, when the first half of the division was completed and called "The Old Hundreds." These lots included almost all of the present town of Raymond.

At this time the difficulties with the Indians began to increase, and a war commenced, which induced seven of the twenty-four families of settlers to return to the older towns for safety. The following are their names: Amos Cass, George Pierce, William Daniel, Ephraim Guile, Robert Ford, Rev. Mr. Simms, Nathan Webster. But one person joined the settlement in 1722 and 1723; this was Reuben Sanborn, of Hampton.

1722. The charter of the town being now prepared, it was signed, together with three others, on the 8th of May of the ensuing year, and was the last official act performed by Gov. Shute in New Hampshire.

This charter was given in the name of King George of Great Britain, France and Ireland, defender of the Faith, &c., and granted (with the reservation "as far as in us lies,") a tract, differing considerably in shape and size from the former grant, and containing over 120 square miles. The name conferred by the charter was CHESTER.

1723. The first meeting under this charter was holden March 28, 1723, when after choosing town-officers, consisting of a clerk, three selectmen, three lot-layers, and a constable to collect the rates, the proprietors voted that additional lots of 50 acres each, should be laid out of the common lands. This was done three years afterwards, all meadow land of one acre or more being reserved. The additional lots were laid out principally near the home-lots.

The selectmen were directed to make application to the next Court of Quarter Sessions to have a highway to Kingston. The Selectmen were empowered to eject all trespassers on the land included by the charter, until December, when a committee was chosen expressly for this purpose.

Those proprietors who were in debt were now warned that, unless their full proportions were paid by the 15th of June, their rights would be forfeited.

1724. The first appearance of the hostile Indians in New Hampshire was at Dover, in the spring of this year, where they killed one individual, and took three prisoners. But little injury was experienced from them until the next spring, when they appeared at Oyster River, at Kingston, and on Tuesday, the 2d of June, at Chester, where five of them took prisoners Lieut. Thomas Smith and John Carr, as they were out hunting deer, and carried them about thirty miles to the northward. There they halted—bound their prisoners, and lay down to sleep; the prisoners escaped in the night, and after three days arrived safe at a garrison in Londonderry.

Smith was one of the first settlers, and lived in a house which stood where Capt. Pickett lived. Carr was only about 15 years old at the time of his capture. His home was then, and for many years afterwards, in a log house which stood on the brow of the hill back of the house where John Hall lives. He died Oct. 22, 1783, at the age of 73.

It is said that they were surprised while watching a deer from a large flat rock, lately blasted out, which was on the lane afterwards laid out for a highway, and known as "the Haverhill road;" it is now untravelled, and leads from Josiah Morse's to the Halls' village road. The rock was on the west side of the road, about 80 rods from Morse's house. The Indians never did much mischief in Chester after this.

On the last of March, a meeting of the Society was holden in Chester, at the house of Capt. Samuel Ingalls, and complaints being made that many trees were unlawfully taken from the undivided lands, a committee was appointed to inspect all the timber of the town, and to prosecute any trespassers.

1725. On the 25th of March of the next year, it was voted, (on account probably of the capture of Smith and Carr in 1724,) to appropriate the sum of £20, "to hire two souldiers to guard them four months next ensuing." Where these "souldiers" were stationed, is uncertain. They might have been at Smith's house, where Capt. Pickett lived, or more probably at a garrison which stood on the spot where Cowdry's hut is, and which was the principal garrison in those times.

1726. In December an end was put to the Indian war by a treaty which was ratified the next spring. The news of this peace arriving in Great Britain induced many people to emigrate, and numerous companies from the northern part of Ireland took up their residence in and about Londonderry, which had been settled by previous emigrations from the same vicinity; among these were several families who came to Chester. These emigrants afterwards formed the Presbyterian church in Chester.

There was a mutual dislike between the Irish settlers and the "Yankees." No intermarriage took place between the two parties for many years, and at last, when it did occur, it was deprecated by all as an untoward event. The first mention of "the

poor of the town" occurs this year, and the money forfeited by the unlawful cutting of the proprietor's wood was appropriated to their support. This fine was 40 shillings for every tree.

1727. All the grass growing on the meadows had been esteemed common property, and a regulation was made this year, that if any one should cut his proportion before the last day of July, he should be made to pay to the Selectmen 20 shillings for every day he should so offend, to be appropriated to the support of the poor. The reason of this regulation was, perhaps, to allow the seeds to ripen and fall off before the grass was cut.

1728. The next year the meadows were laid out, in small parcels, to the proprietors. The three-camp-meadow was laid out into twelve rights.

This year the question was agitated whether a meeting house should not be built, and it was decided (by universal consent at least,) that there should be, and at a meeting held Nov. 12th, it was voted that "the stateing y^e place for y^e meeting house" be left in consideration until the March meeting. According to traditionary accounts, there was considerable debate whether to build it in Hall's village or at the centre, where it now stands. The minister's lot was at the centre, but the graveyard was in Hall's village.

1729. Nothing further was done on this subject until the following March, when it was decided that "y^e place called y^e centre" should be the place for the meeting house.

At a meeting Oct. 7th, after voting to pay Mr. John Tucke, who had been preaching in Chester, "30 shillings per Sabbath for fourteen Sabbaths last past," Capt. Samuel Ingalls and Ensign Jacob Sargent were appointed a committee "to look out for a suitable orthodox good man," in view of his settlement at Chester. It was voted also that the meeting house should be "fifty foot in length, and thirty-five foot wide, and twenty foot post," "to be furnished completely, both inside and outside, to y^e turning of y^e key, and set upon the place appointed and before voted." In June of the next year, however, the width of the future meeting house was increased by vote to 38 feet. Dr. Edmund Tappan, of Hampton, Sam^l Ingalls and Nathan^l Healey, of Chester

were appointed a committee to agree with the carpenters about its erection, and forty shillings were assessed on each full proprietor towards its completion. It had been voted, in June, that Mr. John Tucke, of Hampton, was "chosen to settle with y^e inhabitants of Chester in y^e work of y^e ministry," and that for five years £120 should be raised, annually, for the support of the ministry, by the proprietors and inhabitants, according to their settlement, and afterwards, as the law directs. Capt. S. Ingalls, Dr. Tappan and Mr. Wilson were to wait on Mr. Tucke, and invite him to the work of the ministry, which they did, and received the following reply :

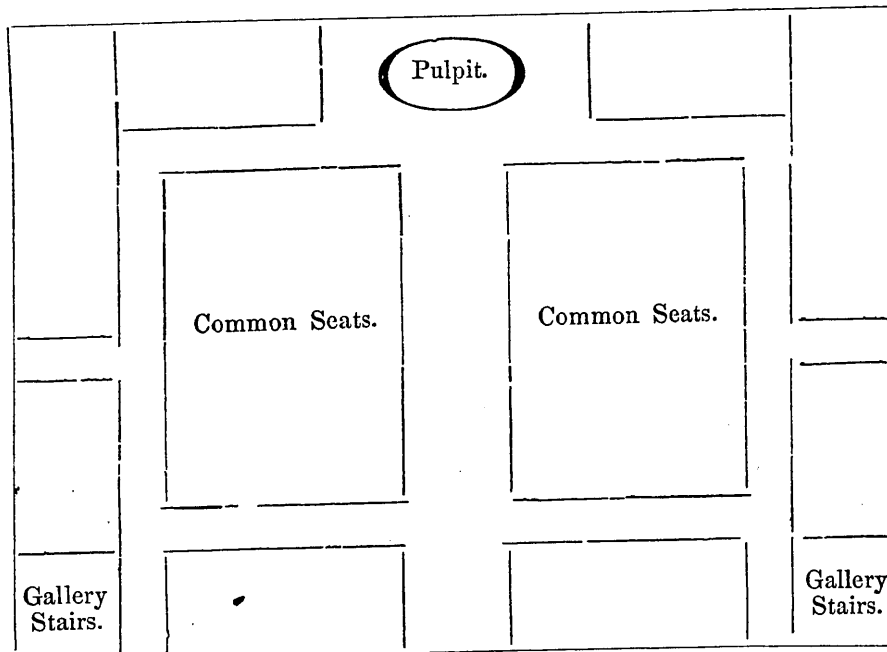
"To y^e propr^s of y^e town of Chester, this day met at Capt. Wingate's, in Hampton:"

Gentlemen: Whereas you wth y^e freeholders of y^e town of Chester Did, sometime ago, Invite me to y^e work of y^e ministry in Chester, now these are to signifie that, for Weighty Reasons, I decline settling there. I wish you a happy settlement in God's good time.

This from your Hum^{ble} Serv^t,

JON. TUCKE.

This letter was dated at Hampton, Oct. 7, 1729.



FIRST CHURCH IN CHESTER BUILT IN 1730-31.

(Plan of the body) 50 feet by 38 in dimensions.

Drawn from B. P. Chase's description.

1730. In January of the following year, Rev. Moses Hale was chosen to settle at Chester in the ministry, and he was to receive from the town treasury £120, current money, (\$156,80, or as silver 20s per oz., 133,28. This latter is probably the way it was reckoned,) annually, as long as he remained their minister. A committee was chosen "to treat with him, & to acquaint him with what y^e town hath done, and to invite him into the work of y^e ministry in Chester." They received his answer, which was favorable, and reported to the town.

In relation to his salary it was soon after voted that 20s should be assessed on each full proprietor's share, making in all £127, which might be paid either in money or labor. This at silver 17 sh. pr. ounce—\$166,95, (or at 20s per. oz., \$141,90.)

In July, a committee was appointed to deliver the minister's lot, joining on Gov. Wentworth's home lot, "with all its divisions and priuelidges" to Rev. Moses Hale, as soon as he should become qualified to receive it, "and in case he shall dew any work, or be at any charge for benefiting said land, and by the Providence of God, shall faile of being a selected minister, and not qualified to reseue s^d lott; in that case whatever Mr. Hale shall have layed out upon it, shall be repaid."

It was this year voted to give encouragement to John Aiken to build a grist-mill at the middle falls of "the great brook." This was the first grist-mill in town, and stood down behind John Hazelton's house. The remains of the dam are still visible. Mr. Aiken lived in a house which stood where Mr. Reed lives.

1731. The Committee for building the meeting house having agreed with Peter and Thomas Cochran, of Londonderry, to build it, they went about it immediately, and by the following March it was so nearly finished that the town meeting was held in it on the 25th.

This meeting house stood a few rods south of the present house, near where the guide post is, and faced the southwest.*

In May, at a meeting of the town, it was voted to raise the sum of £230 towards finishing the meeting house, and £30 for preparations for Mr. Hale's ordination.

On the first of September, a meeting was called expressly to

* *Tradition*—B. P. Chase remembers the house.

take steps in regard to the ordination ; and Rev. Mr. Brown, of Haverhill, Rev. Mr. Phillips, and Rev. Mr. Barnard, of Andover, were chosen a committee " to gather and settle a church in Chester, and ordain the Rev. Mr. Hale ;" also, Ensign Jacob Sargent, Deac. Ebenezer Dearborn, Enoch Colby, Capt. Samuel Ingalls and Samuel Emerson, Esq., were a committee " to take care for the provision of the ordination." The ordination of Mr. Hale took place October 20th, though no record of it exists on the town books.

Early this year, on petition of several families living near Walnut Hill, a road was laid out from Mr. Emerson's to Mr. Robinson's " for conveniency to go to meeting, and general benefit of the town." This road was two rods wide, and run a short distance further to the eastward than the present road, where a foot-path existed before it.

1732. As the settlements extended, the inhabitants began to feel the need of a road to connect the two parishes, consequently in Sept. 1732, it was voted that " a horse or cart path " should be made from the meeting house to the North parish ; this was called " Penacook path," and was afterwards laid out into the present highway to Auburn.

1733. A considerable number of the inhabitants of Chester, at the time of Mr. Hale's settlement, were Presbyterians, and more of them continuing to move into town, they became dissatisfied with him ; in addition to this, his health was feeble, and he was often unable to discharge his duties as a minister, hence in September, 1733, Lieut. Ebenezer Dearborn, Mr. Nathan Webster, and Capt. Samuel Ingalls were directed " to agree with and hire a minister to preach a quarter of a year " to them. This was probably done, but who was obtained is not known ; perhaps it was the Timothy White, who was invited to become their pastor a year or two afterwards. The first mention of a burying place occurs this year, and the spot is specified as containing 18 rods, and situated near " three camp meadow." This was the first burying place in town, and was immediately opposite where the " Copp's house " stands, in Hall's Village, and only two or three rods from the road. The graves were discernable until within twelve or fifteen years ; they were marked by round stones

at the head and foot, but none bore inscriptions. The land is now smooth, having been cultivated for several years. About fifteen persons were buried in this place, the last of whom was Jonathan Goodhue, who was accidentally killed by the falling of a tree, about the year 1740.

1734. The non-residents objected to paying their proportion of the expenses, and this year Mr. John Calfe was empowered, together with Dr. Rogers, to address the General Court, at the next session, in order to compel them to pay "a penny an acre" for what land they hold, until they shall perform settlement according to the true intent of the charter.

The dissatisfaction of the people towards Mr. Hale increasing, and his health continuing poor, he made certain proposals, Feb. 6th, in relation to resigning his charge; whereupon a meeting was holden, on the first Wednesday of June, at the house of Deac. Dearborn, to consider upon them. It was thought best to agree to them, and (June 27th,) Deac. Dearborn and John Calfe were appointed to wait on the minister, and urge a Council for dissolving the pastoral relation between him and the church in Chester. An ecclesiastical council was accordingly held at Salisbury, on the 13th of August, consisting of the Elders and messengers of all the churches in the neighborhood, which agreed on the following:

"Being regularly assembled by virtue of letters, sent from the church of Chester to the aforesaid churches, to advise and direct the said church of Chester what may be most proper for them to do under their present difficult circumstances, by reason of the Rev. Mr. Moses Hale, their pastor, being wholly disenabled from serving them in the work of the ministry; and having made due inquiry into the case and circumstances of the said minister and people, we find that the said Mr. Hale having done little or no service among them, and being, by the Providence of God, brought under great disorder of body and distraction of mind, and for a time 'berived' of his reason and understanding, and thereby rendered incapable of discharging the work of the ministry among them, and so remaining without any present appearance or prospect of being restored to his ministry; and therefore we judge and determine that it is the wisdom and duty of the church and peo-

ple of Chester to proceed, in regular steps, to call and settle a gospel minister among them, so that they may no longer be destitute of the word and ordinances of Christ; and would also advise and direct the said church and people of Chester that, besides allowing the said Mr. Hale the town right which accrued to him upon settlement, and what also was then given him to encourage his settlement, they should not forget their obligations to be ready to contribute to his support and relief, according to their power and ability. So commending them to the God of Grace and Peace, we subscribe your brethren in Christ,

CALEB CUSHING, *Mod'r.*

JOHN ODLIN, *Scribe.*

In the name and behalf of the Council."

At a meeting holden a day or two after the foregoing, it was voted that the first Wednesday in September should be observed "as a day of fasting and prayer for advice for another minister," and a committee consisting of five individuals was appointed to receive the advice of the ministers in regard to the subject. The determination of the Council was accepted by the Proprietors, and it was voted, that after three Sabbaths from that time, (September 1st,) the pulpit should be supplied three months at the public charge. The names of Tho^s Smith, John Smith, Robert Mills, Wm. Carswell, Robert Gilchrist, Andrew Craig, Tho^s Colwell, Alex. Craig, Patrick Melvin, and Robert Boys are entered as protesting against the above vote, declaring themselves "not of that communion, having hired a minister themselves." Hence it appears that the Presbyterian Society was formed this year, and that a minister was already hired—probably Mr. John Wilson, who was the same year ordained by them. Their meetings were of course held at private houses, as they had yet no church.

1735. Mr. Hale being now dismissed, and being creditor for considerable amount of arrears, the town was constrained to apply, in June, by a brief, to the neighboring towns for aid. This was not granted, for in 1740 the arrears were still unpaid, and portions of the undivided lands were sold to discharge the debt.

The question was now discussed who should be chosen for the next minister, and at a meeting holden Nov. 6th, it was voted that the Rev. Timothy White should be the person, and his salary

should be £120 per annum. Deac. Ebenezer Dearborn, Nathan Webster and John Calfe were appointed to acquaint him with his call. Who Mr. White was, does not appear, and he declined the invitation. On this attempt to settle another minister, the Presbyterians, to the number of 31, presented a protest, in the following language :

“ *Chester, November ye 6, 1735.*

We, the under-subscribers Proprietors and inhabitants of the town of Chester aforesaid, do enter our protest or dissent against any charges or costs that shall or may arise by calling, settling or ordaining any other minister, in this town, than the minister which we have already called, settled and ordained, viz: the Rev. Mr. John Wilson, according to the rules of the Presbyterian church, particularly the church of Scotland; and we also insist upon the benefit of the proviso made in the act of the Province law relating to the maintenance and supply of the ministers within this province.”

Hitherto the business of the town and of the Proprietary had all been transacted at the regular town meetings, but in Oct. of this year, it was voted that the Proprietor's Clerk be empowered to warn meetings for the present, at the request of twenty or more of the Proprietors of the undivided land in Chester, “ they setting forth the occasion of the same, and the time when, and where, and for the warning of said meeting it shall be accounted sufficient to have notifications posted up, one at Chester, one at Portsmouth, one at Hampton, one at Newbury, and one at Haverhill, at some public place, fourteen days before said meeting, and the present petitioners for every meeting shall be at the charge of setting up the notification of the said meeting.”

This year Mr. John Calfe made proposals to build a fulling mill at “ Massabesic brook,” (now called “ Oswego brook,”) and his proposals being accepted by the town, he proceeded to build his mill. It stood near where Nathan Griffin now lives, and was torn down about sixty years ago. It went by the name of “ the old fulling mill.” In May of this year, (1735,) the throat distemper (technically called *Cynanche maligna*,) made its appearance, for the first time, at Kingston. It continued to spread through that town and the neighboring towns, but did not reach

Chester until October.* This disease attacked children principally, of whom twenty-one, under the age of ten years, were carried off, in Chester, within less than nine months; who they were I have been unable to ascertain. The summer of 1735, when the sickness began, was unusually wet and cold, and easterly winds greatly prevailed. More than one thousand persons are estimated to have died in the Province of New Hampshire of this distemper. The physicians of Boston held a consultation in 1736, and published their opinion that it proceeded entirely from "some occult quality in the air." In 1754-5 it made its appearance again, and a third time about 1784, and several individuals suffered from it.

The whole population of Chester at this time was probably not over 300 or 350. This calculation is made from the proportions of the deaths in other towns.

1736. On the 23^d of June, 1736, the town voted that Rev. Mr. Ebenezer Flagg should be the minister of the town of Chester, and that he should be paid £120 annually, "as silver at 20 shillings an ounce," during his ministry at Chester. At this meeting still another protest was presented, signed by forty-nine members of the Presbyterian Society, declaring the meeting illegal, and objecting to the settlement of Mr. Flagg. After his settlement, which occurred probably in September, many of them refused payment of taxes for his support, whereupon the collector was ordered to commit the delinquents to jail, which order he carried into effect on the persons of Maj. John Tolford and Deac. James Campbell, and took them to Exeter jail. On their release they commenced an action of false imprisonment, and recovered damages. This led to the act which was passed in 1740 incorporating the two Societies separate.†

1737. The year 1737 is noted for the building of "a log pound, 30 ft. square, six feet high, with a good gate, and a lock and key." The spot where it was to be, was "a little south of John Boyd's house." Probably John Boyd lived in a house which used to stand nearly where Alfred Dearborn's shop is, and which was afterwards occupied by Sampson Underhill. The pound was a little above Mr. Lane's house, and was demolished seventy or eighty years ago.

* Belknap's History of New Hampshire.

† Farmer's N. H. Gaz.

This year the first school was established in Chester by virtue of the following votes, passed April 7th: "Voted, to Rais thirty Pounds to Hier a schoolmaster this present year." "Voted, the Select men shall remove the said scoolmaster to the seurall Parts of the town as shall be conuenant." No account of the master or of where the school was kept can be obtained.

The Cochrans were still the town's creditors for building the meeting house, and the most convenient way was taken, in 1737, to discharge the debt, viz: by sale of public lands.

The lines of the town were now, for the first time "run and perambulated," by Capt. Samuel Ingalls, Jacob Sargent and Samuel Emerson, Esq.; they were paid ten shillings a day, i. e. about seventy-five cts. In August, 1737, Chester was favored with a visit from Gov. Belcher. An account of this tour was published in the papers of the day, and concluded thus: "His Excellency was much pleased with the fine soil of Chester, the extraordinary improvements at Derry, and the mighty fall at Skeag."*

1738. In 1738 the sum of £20, (about \$40,) was raised for the support of a school, and £5 "to add to the town's stock of ammunition."

1739. The Presbyterians had hitherto held their meetings in private houses, or in barns, but their number being now considerable, they began to aspire to a church; the subject was introduced at a meeting held April 4, 1739, where it was voted to assess £240 on themselves, "towards building a meeting-house for the Rev. Mr. John Wilson." The house was finished the same year, and stood on a part of one half an acre of land, given to the Society for this purpose and for a burying place, by Mr. Wilson. It was on the west side of the "Haverhill road," and its dimensions were about 35 by 40 feet.† The graves are in a very dilapidated condition. After the death of Mr. Wilson, the church was without a settled minister twenty-four years; it was then removed to the North Parish and rebuilt with considerable additions. It was lately taken down and destroyed, a new one having been built in its stead.

The ill-will between the two Societies had increased to such an

* Belknap's History.

† I have the deed.—C. B.

extent that this year two constables were chosen, one an orthodox, the other a Presbyterian, and also Mr. John McMurphy was empowered "to prefer a petition to the General Court, to obtain an explanation of the Charter." This was the immediate cause of the incorporation of the two societies.

In May a privilege was granted to John McMurphy "to build a grist mill" at 'Massabesic River,' below the 'great fall,' within two years, "provided said McMurphy shall not stop or impede the course of the fish up the said river, but shall and will leave, contrive, and make sufficient passage for that purpose." This mill was on what is now called "Cohass brook," and "Webster's mills" now occupy the same spot. From this and similar provisos, it appears that the alewives, which came up into Massabesic, were one source of support to the settlers.

1740. In April, 1740, the town voted, for the first time, that a school should be maintained throughout the year, "partly by schoolmasters, and partly by schooldames, as the Selectmen shall judge best for the town."

On the imprisonment of Tolford and Campbell, in 1736, a suit was commenced by their Society which resulted finally in a decision in their favor, and the following record appears on the town book: "Whereas at the settling of the Rev. Mr. Ebenezer Flagg in the work of the ministry at Chester, a number of the inhabitants entered their dissents, alleging that they were of a different persuasion, Presbyterians, according to the Kirk of Scotland, and supposed the law freed them from paying, they applied themselves to the General Court where the law was explained in their favor, the Rev. Mr. John Wilson being their minister, and they having paid Mr. Wilson distinct from the rest of the town, separate from Mr. Flagg's hearers; but now it happens that the 5th article inserted in the warning for the present meeting is to settle a salary upon the Rev. Mr. John Wilson, the moderator not thinking this meeting proper for that affair—they insisting to have something done upon it, the rest of the town being first withdrawn from Mr. Wilson's hearers, the moderator addressed himself to them in the following manner: 'If it be your minds that the Rev. Mr. John Wilson, minister of the Presbyterians, should have one hundred pounds money for his salary for the year ensuing, to be paid by

the Presbyterians, his hearers, manifest it by holding up your hands ; ' they that are of the contrary mind, manifest it by the same sign.' Passed in the affirmative, by Mr. Wilson's hearers."

Aug. 7th, the long-wished act was passed incorporating the Societies.

The first Parish meeting of the Orthodox Society was holden Sept. 10th, and adjourned to the 17th, when Benj. Hills, James Varnum and Eliphaz Sanborn were chosen wardens, and Paul Smith, collector. The Congregational church is always specified as "y^e old meeting house," in distinction from the new one.

1741. In March, 1741, the proposal was first made to build a school-house ; it was to be at "y^e centre," but it was not built for some years.

1742. Hitherto the dead had been buried in the burying place, already referred to, at "Three Camp Meadow," but this year the Selectmen were authorized to obtain an acre of land, by exchange, from Jonathan Blunt, "so as to accommodate a decent burying place at the corner of his lot, by the meeting house ;" which however was not done for several years, for in 1745, a vote appears again to the same effect ; and again 1749, he was paid £60 old tenor for the same piece.

There appears to be considerable uncertainty as to the time of the first burials there ; one stone bears the date 1737 without any inscription ; another 1744, so it is pretty certain that the place was used, for that purpose, before it was purchased by the town. That part of the present grave-yard next to the main road, is the oldest, and it is said that the west corner of the old burying place is now traversed by the road which turns towards Raymond, and that some of the early graves were outside of the present wall at that part of the yard. The first person buried in this place was Sampson Underhill ; he came to Chester from Ipswich, Mass., in 1726 or 7, and lived for a time during the last of his life near where Mr. Quigg lives, and perhaps, too, near where Alfred Dearborn's shop stands. He died probably about the year 1735, and his grave is still remembered ; it is near the entrance.

Deac. Campbell, Thomas Wells and Joshua Prescott were appointed a committee to prevent the killing of deer "contrary to

the law in that case made and provided ;” afterwards these officers were regularly chosen by the town, and called “Deer inspectors.”

1743. In March, 1743, the following vote was passed : “Whosoever shall kill a full grown woulfe in this town, shall have twenty shillings Paid him by the town, old tennour, and ten shilling for a woulfe’s whelp.” This law was reënacted from year to year, and under it bounties were paid to the following persons : To John Robie, for a wolf’s head, (1746,) to Daniel McNeal, for ditto, (1747,) John Senter, ditto, (1748,) John Stark, (afterwards Maj. Gen.) ditto, (1749,) Ithamer Berry, for nine wolf’s whelps, (1750,) Ithamer Berry, for ditto, (1751,) Ellet Berry, for wolf’s head, (1753,) Abraham Berry, ditto, (1754,) John Webster, Joseph Richardson, Sam^l Hill and Amos Emerson, each for ditto, (1765.) Many other wolves were doubtless killed besides these ; they must have been quite common at that time.

The Parish passed a vote in April, that the “three windows in the gallery over each door, and the two long windows on the back-side” of the meeting house should “be wholly taken out, and done up with boards and clapboards,” also, “if any person had a pew in the meeting house and there was no window against it, he have liberty to make one, he maintaining the same.”

Mr. Flagg’s salary was paid this year by £30 bills of credit, old tenor.

1744. January 24th, 1744, at a meeting holden, it appears, expressly for the purpose, Mr. Benjamin Hills was chosen “to represent the town in General Assembly ;” accordingly he made a journey to Portsmouth for that purpose, but was refused admittance, as the town had not petitioned for leave to send a representative. He returned home, and the following vote, passed two years afterwards, forms the sequel of the story. “Put to vote whether to allow Mr. Benj. Hills anything for his journey to Pourtsmouth in order to represent the town in General Assembly.” “Passed in the *Negative*.”

1745. March 29th, 1745, the town voted “to build school housen,” and a committee was appointed “to divide the town into several parts in order to accommodate them.” This they did, and

made, it appears, four districts of it, which are now pretty nearly represented (1) by the "centre" district. The first school house in this district was built a little south of Richard Morse's shop. (2.) In the "Webster district" the first school house was near the Southern corner of John Sanborn's field, opposite Mr. Webster's house; it is said by persons now living who remember it in '75, that it was about twelve feet square. (3.) In the "Walnut Hill district" the first school house was not very far from opposite Wm. Hazelton's house, though somewhat further to the Northward. (4.) The other school house was in that part of the town called "Long meadows," and was probably not far from where the present school house is. These were all built in 1745.

(This year the French war broke out, and soon after, one Buntten was shot by the Indians, near where "Head's tavern" is, in Hooksett. He was a Pelham man, and was on his way to Penacook.)

There were several families of Penacook Indians who resided within the limits of Chester; ten or twelve of them made their home on the large island in the west bay of Massabesic Pond. The vestiges of their wigwams are very evident at the present day. They lived near the west shore of the island, and the places of their tents are denoted by round cavities, perhaps twenty feet across, and two feet deep. The island is overgrown with a heavy growth of wood; others lived on what is called "the island," in Three Camp Meadow, which took its name from this circumstance; a few more lived on "Clark's meadow" near where Couch's saw-mill stands, and others still in Raymond. They were very harmless people, and friendly to the settlers.

1746. In 1746, Mr. Flagg's salary had increased, as it appears, to £240, old tenor.

1747. In 1747, Maj John Tolford and Capt. Thomas Wells were empowered by the town to prefer a petition to the Governor and Council, "in order to stop and save any man from being sent out of the town into the service; and further, when there may be a convenient opportunity, regularly to proceed to have a suitable number of men put and kept in the service in our town." The petition was not granted, and Majors Rogers and Stark aug-

mented the number of their "rangers" considerably, by additions from Chester. The only persons who served in this war that I have been able to ascertain were Capt. David Webster, and two sons of Samuel Emerson, one of whom died at Crown point, the other at Albany.*

Among the curious entries on the town accounts, is charged as follows: "Unto William Turner, for making y^e stocks, £3." It was customary to have the stocks stand near the meeting house, and this was probably the case with ours.

1748. There was considerable dissatisfaction in regard to the schools, and in 1748 Thomas Wells and several others presented a petition to the town, praying that a committee might be appointed to petition the Quarter or General Sessions for their aid and assistance, "for the better regulation of schooling." At a special meeting holden Sept. 1, it was voted that the prayer of the petition be heard, and accordingly the Sessions were requested to regulate these affairs.

An attempt had been made once or twice since Mr. Hills' unsuccessful journey to Portsmouth, to petition for liberty to send a representative, but the town appears to have been so offended and disgusted at the proceedings of the Assembly in regard to Mr. Hills, that it invariably refused to petition; but this year the Sheriff of the Province sent a warrant, commanding them to "elect and choose" one man to represent the town in General Assembly. A meeting was accordingly holden Dec. 2d, and Capt. Abel Morse was chosen for this purpose.

1749. In 1749, Mr. Flagg acknowledges the receipt of £355, in full for his salary that year, and in the latter part of the same year, at the request of thirteen parishioners, a parish meeting was called "to consider whether Mr. Flagg shall have fifteen or twenty cord of merchantable firewood, or money sufficient to purchase the same, during the whole time he carries on in the ministry." It was voted that he should, though once or twice before it had been decided differently.

In 1749 the French war ended, and the inhabitants of Chester, as well as of other towns, felt considerable relief. Several garri-

* N. H. Hist. Coll.

sons had been maintained, which were as follows : one near where Joseph Webster lives, of which the owner's name is lost ; one on the spot where Cowdry's hut is, said to have been kept by Francis Towle ; one where Capt. Pickett's house is, kept by Lt. Thomas Smith ; the Tolford house, still standing on Walnut Hill, was kept as a garrison by Maj. John Tolford ; one near where Melvin's store stands. There are several other buildings now standing, which are said to have been used for garrisons, but it is not likely that they were so numerous as the addition of these to the list would make appear. They are the following : the house where Frank Morse lives in Hall's Village, or one which stood on the same spot ; the house occupied by Asa Wilson, said to have been used as a garrison in his grandfather's time ; the house where Abel Morse lived, now used as a shed by Mr. Couch. These may all have been used as garrisons for a short time, but were not considered as such.

1750. After the close of the war they were all relinquished.

1751. In March the town voted to set off a parish "taking in the land not incorporated into a township by Amoskeag" and a part of Londonderry. In the following September, this with other tracts was incorporated as Derryfield, which name it sustained until 1810, when it was changed to Manchester.

1752. The small pox broke out in town in the spring of 1752, in the family of Thomas Grier ; the expenses of the sickness were discharged by the town.

1753. The Presbyterians of Chester had settled mostly in the extreme southern part of the town, and in the North parish ; hence it became necessary for their convenience to divide the Society, and Mr. Wilson preached alternately two weeks at home, and the third at the North Parish ; but in March of the next year it was proposed to divide it again for some reason, which called forth a remonstrance, signed by seventeen individuals, asserting that "if the Parish was divided a second time it would ruin it." It was not however done.

1754. In September of the following year a meeting was called to see whether the Parish would "consider the Rev. Mr.

Flagg and make him an addition to his stated salary," which was not permitted.

1755. The same proposition was urged the next year with the same result.

This year (1755,) Sam^l Emerson, Esq., was chosen representative.

1758. By 1758 the town had grown quite liberal in regard to schooling, the amount raised being £600, from which nine schools were kept, three of them by "school-dames."

"One good and lawful man" was chosen "to serve as grand juror at his Majesty's superior court of Judicature to be holden at Pourtsmouth." It was not for some time after this time that town officers were allowed any pay for their services.

1762. In March, 1762, the present town of Candia was set off as a distinct Parish, and in December of the ensuing year incorporated under its present name. The name of *Candia* was given to it by Gov. Wentworth, who was once a prisoner on an island of the same name in the Mediterranean Sea.

The first settler in Candia was William Turner, who moved there in 1748; he was there alone until 1755, when John Sargent and several others joined him.

1763. January 12, 1763, Freetown was set off, and in May, 1765, incorporated by the name of *Raymond*; an unsuccessful attempt at this had been made in 1761.

A curious vote is recorded this year, but which, it appears, was never carried into effect, viz: "Voted that a workhouse be built, or provided by the selectmen, to put and keep those persons in, that (are) idle, poor, disorderly, and lazy, and will not work, and to provide a master to take care of all such persons as shall be committed to said house, that they may be kept to work, and be proceeded with as the law directs." No mention is made of this, afterwards, in this connection, in the town books. It was probably the first poor house maintained by the town, and if so, was *procured* instead of *built*, i. e., the poor were bid off to the lowest bidder.

1767. By the estimate made in 1767, and which is probably nearly correct, the population of Chester was 1189—that of the State being 52,700.

1768. In 1768 the town sustained a diminution of numbers by the emigration of several families to the town afterwards incorporated as New Chester, from the fact that most of the first settlers were from Chester. It is now Hill. The town was granted Sept. 14, 1753, to eighty-seven proprietors, who held their first meeting at Chester.

At this time the wages for labor on the highways was regulated by vote, and was two shillings a day for a man, and the same for oxen.

1772. In the spring of 1772 the proposal was made to the Parish to build a new meeting house, and (March 25,) it was voted to build one within two years from that date, “sixty feet long, and forty five ft. wide, and a suitable height.” This house was built about fifteen rods North of the old one, on the same spot that the present one now occupies.

1774. It was finished early in 1774, and the first meeting was holden in it on the 18th of May. The town meeting of March 31st was in the old meeting house, which was soon afterwards taken down, and now no traces remain of the place where it stood. The new building still stands, though almost entirely remodeled. About this time the first open opposition was made to the measures of Great Britain. In May the House of Representatives, conformably to the proceedings of the Assemblies in the other colonies, appointed a committee of correspondence, whereupon the Governor dissolved the Assembly, hoping to dissolve the committee also. But they met again, and wrote letters to all the towns in the Province, requesting them to send deputies to hold a convention at Exeter, to choose delegates to a General Congress. The meeting for this purpose was holden in Chester, July 19th, when John Webster, Esq., and Capt. Robert Wilson were “chosen and empowered to meet at Exeter the 21st of this instant, July, at 10 of the clock in forenoon, to join in the choice of delegates for the General Congress, to be holden at Philadelphia, the first day of Sept. next, to devise and consider what

measures will be most advisable to be taken, in order to effect the desired end, for the establishment of our rights and liberties on a just and settled foundation, and for the restoring of union and harmony between the mother country and the colonies, and to contribute our proportion of the expenses of sending; that the same may be raised by subscription or otherwise, and if convenient sent by the persons of our town appointed to go to Exeter. Our proportion is £5-18s, lawful money." This money was raised by a rate on the inhabitants.

Eighty five deputies met at Exeter, and delegated two of their number to attend the proposed General Congress.

1775. In January, 1775, in accordance with the recommendation of the provincial committee of Nov. 4, John Webster, Esq., Capt. Rob^t Wilson, Capt. Sam^l Robie, Deac. Matthew Forsaith, Major French and Robert Calfe were chosen as deputies to meet at Exeter again on the 25th, for choice of delegates to the Congress of May 10th.

At the same meeting, Capt. Dearborn, Amos Emerson, Wm. White, Jacob Chase, Jno. Patten, Simon Bailey, Pearson Richardson, Jethro Colby, Dr. Jno. Ordway, Josiah Bradley, Robert Calfe, Lt. Hoit, Jno. Hazelton, Capt. Wilson, Capt. Robie, Deac. Forsaith, Stephen Morrill, John S. Dearborn, Abner Hills, Samuel Brown, Wm. Shirley, and Jno. Lane, Jr., Jacob Hills, Tho^s Shirley and Isaac Towle were appointed a committee of inspection "to see that the agreement of the American Continental Congress shall be strictly adhered to."

(April 13.) It was "voted to give encouragement to a number of men that will hold themselves in readiness, if called for by the town, to go against any enemy that shall presume to invade us or our property;" it was hence voted to raise "50 good effective able-bodied men into the town service" for that end. These men were to have "six Spanish milled dollars, or equal thereunto," per month, and be found in provision as long as they were in the town's service. They furnished their own guns, which were appraised before they marched by Capt. Samuel Robie, the muster master, so that if any were lost the town might pay for them. Each man was obliged to show "one pound of powder, twenty bullets, and a quantity of flints." This company was enlisted by

the Selectmen, and chose its own officers. The number was reduced by a subsequent vote to thirty. About this time the battles of Lexington and Concord occurred, and twenty-four of the minute men marched immediately to these towns to contribute their aid.

(May 17.) A third Congress was convened at Exeter, usually designated as the "first provincial Congress." Stephen Morse was the delegate from Chester. This year considerable was said about maintaining a grammar school, but so much opposition was experienced that it was, at length, relinquished.

Another Congress was holden at Exeter for the formation of a temporary government, the 21st of Dec., at which Stephen Morse and Capt. Robert Wilson attended from this town. Their instructions were as follows: that "in case there shall be a recommendation from the Continental Congress that this colony assume government in any particular form, which will require a House of Representatives, that they resolve themselves into such a House as the Continental Congress shall recommend; and no person shall be allowed a seat in Congress who shall, by himself, or any other person for him, before said choice, treat with liquor, any electors with an apparent view of gaining their votes; or afterwards, on that account."

The officers of this temporary constitution were twelve persons, called the Council, of whom seven composed a quorum, in addition to the House of Representatives. No act was valid unless passed by both branches of the Legislature.

1776. In the spring of the next year thirty men were enlisted to help reinforce the army under Gen. Sullivan; they were allowed \$13,66 each, as a bounty over and above what the county paid.

1777. In March, 1777, Lt. Samuel Hazelton, Dea. Matthew Forsaith, Henry Moore, Esq., Capt. Samuel Robie, Jethro Colby, Isaac Blaisdell, and Nathan Morse were chosen a committee of safety. In August the battle of Bennington took place, in which were several individuals from Chester, one of whom, Lt. Elliott, was severely wounded by a ball from the gun of an Indian, concealed behind the roots of a prostrate tree.

1778. The small pox appeared in Chester again in 1778, in the family Dr. Page. He contracted the disease at the hospital in Exeter. The town purchased a shop of Nathaniel Blaisdell and removed it into the parsonage, where the family remained until the selectmen judged it expedient for them to return to their home again. Two of his children died and were buried in the parsonage.

This year a singing school was kept at Col. Webster's by Mr. Kimball, of Bradford. He afterwards married Col. Webster's daughter.

At a town-meeting, Feb. 6, 1778, the articles of confederation were read and approved, and the representatives were instructed to propose that the Assembly and Council might form a plan of government for the State, and send it to the several towns and parishes for their acceptance. In May, Samuel Emerson, Esq., was chosen to meet in Convention at Concord, as a delegate, to form and lay a permanent plan or system of government "for the future happiness and well-being of the good people of this State." A system of government was accordingly drawn up and sent to the towns, but was rejected on account of the inadequacy of its provisions.

1779. The families of those who entered the service for three years or longer, were maintained, or at least aided, by the town, as appears by a vote to that effect, and by the returns of the town expenses. This year the burying place, by vote, was fenced anew "with good posts and boards in the reasonablest and best manner," but the vote was afterwards modified so as to have "a good stone wall" on the front side. This wall is there yet. In August, Portsmouth, Exeter, and other town united in recommending to the smaller towns to aid in reducing the prices of the necessaries of life; a meeting was holden at Chester and they signified their approbation of the measure. In accordance with this design a convention was holden at Concord, Sept. 22, to which Jacob Chase was delegated from this town. They passed a series of resolutions which had little or no effect. A committee was chosen, however, in Chester, to see that the prices were observed, and if any person did not comply with them, but should sell any article for more than the established price, he should forfeit the

value of the article so sold, and on his refusal to pay that sum, they were instructed "to advertize him in the public prints as inimical to his country."

1780. In 1780, the sum of £1200 (\$155.00,) was raised for schooling.

The men enlisted this year were paid in corn, at 30 bushels a month, raised by a corn rate on the inhabitants.

1781. In the spring of 1781, Chester was ordered by the General Court to deliver up its share of beef, 9206 pounds, for the use of the army; this was also raised by a rate on the inhabitants, the town being divided into classes. There was considerable difficulty in collecting this beef; they probably wanted it to eat themselves. More men were required for the service, and the town was divided into districts by the selectmen, each of which was obliged to hire one soldier, "and if any district, or person in any district should refuse or neglect to pay the required proportion, he or they should be assessed double, and be compelled to pay it." No money was raised for schools this year.

1782. The convention for framing the constitution still continued to discuss different systems, and in September sent out a second plan to which the towns were requested distinctly to state their objections, and return them at a fixed time. Accordingly at a meeting, Jan. 1, 1782, the plan was read, and Anthony Stickney, Dea. Forsaith, Col. Webster, Jacob Chase, Esq., Stephen Morse, Lt. Jabez Hoit, Maj. Henry Moore, Isaac Blaisdell and Maj. William White were chosen "to take it under consideration and make any remarks upon the particular articles therein contained that are not agreeable to their thoughts and sentiments, and make return to the meeting at the adjournment," a week from that day. The committee reported their objections and it was rejected by an universal vote, 149 voters being present. Six more persons were added to the committee of amendment, viz: Lieut. Sam^l Hazelton, Joseph Lynn, Joseph Blanchard, Capt. Benj. Currier, Samuel Emerson, Esq., and Rev. Ebenezer Flagg. The objections of the towns were so many that it was necessary to send out still another plan, in which the mode of representation was changed—every incorporated township containing one hundred and fifty

rateable polls, having the privilege of sending one representative. This plan was generally approved by the towns, although Chester still rejected it.

1783. In April, 1783, the State voted to revive and continue the old form of government until June 10, 1784, when the new form should be adopted. This was done, the new system being introduced at Concord by religious ceremonies, which have been since repeated at each annual election.

The schooling was left with the selectmen this year "to do as they shall judge right and just," but they declined acting, and nothing was done.

In April the town was classed a second time to procure seventeen men for the service.

1784. This year the war was ended, and in March, 1784, the first President of New Hampshire was chosen. Meshech Weare was the choice of Chester, with but one dissenting vote; this was for Jno. Sullivan. \$200,00 was raised for schooling this year.

FINIS.

Some idea of the character of the early settlers of Chester may be gathered from the following extracts; most of the settlers were from Hampton and Londonderry.

"The first settlers of Hampton were puritans, many of them from Norfolk, one of the strongholds of Puritanism. The motives by which they were influenced in coming to this country were similar to those which influenced the Pilgrims who came over in the Mayflower."

"The settlers of Londonderry were a peculiarly industrious and frugal yet public spirited people, and proved a valuable acquisition to the Province into which they had removed, contributing very considerably to its benefit by their arts and their industry."