

It was voted that the town should pay jurymen one shilling and sixpence per day, while attending the several courts. The town voted to raise one hundred and five pounds to repair highways.

There was an article in the warning "To see if the Town will Raise any thing by vote on Houses, as their is no Law for it without a vote of the town to tax them." Passed in the negative.

Dec. 27, Thomas Wells, having in some way interfered in some difficulty between John Tolford, son of Dea. William, and Betty Waddel, Tolford shot and killed him. March term, 1774, he was tried, plead insanity, and acquitted. He was so insane afterwards that he was kept in a cage about forty years.

CHAPTER VII.

FROM 1774 TO 1800.

In a warning for a meeting, to be held July 19, 1774, was this article: "To Chuse and Impower one or more persons in our behalf to meet at Exeter the Twenty-first Day of this Instant July, at ten of the Clock in the forenoon, To Joyn in the Choyes of Delegates for the Generell Congress, to be holden at Philadelphia the first Day of September 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 Libertes upon a Just and Solled foundation; and for the restoring of union and harmony Between the mother Country and the Colanies; and to Contribute our propotion of the Expence of Sending; that the Same may be Raised by Subscriptions or other wise, and if Convenient Sent by the person of our Town appoynted to Goe to Exeter. Our propotion is five pound Eighteen Shillings Lawfull money."

“ Voted, John Webster, Esq., moderator for said meeting.

“ Voted, That their Shall be Two men Chosen to meet at Exeter Tuesday next for the Ends mentioned in the warning of said meeting.

“ Voted, That John Webster, Esq^r, and Cap^t Robert Wilson Shall be the men.

“ Voted, that their Shall be Raised by a Rate upon the Inhabitents, as the Law Directs, the Sum of five pound Eighteen Shillings Lawfull money to Defray the Charge of the Deligates as mentioned in the warning.”

1775. In a warning for a meeting to be held January 23, 1775, were the following articles :

“ To See who the Town Will Chuse for Deputies in their Behalf to meet at Exeter on Wednesday, the 25th Day of this Instant January, for the Choyes of Delegates to Represent this Province at Such Intended Congress as is above mentioned ; and also to Impower Such Deputies when so meet to Chose a Committee of their Body to proportion the Sum Each Town ought to Pay Toward Sending Such Delegates.

“ To See if the Town will Vote to Pay the money that was our proportion to Pay for the Charge of Sending Delegates to the Continential Congress held at Pheledelfia Last September, 1774.

“ To see if the town Will appoynt a Committee to See that the agreement of the american Continential Congress be Strictly adheared to and faithfully Executed.”

“ Voted, John Webster, Esq., moderator for Said meeting.

“ Voted, That there Shall be sum men Sent as Deputies to meet at Exeter the 25th Day of this Instant January, To Chuse Delegates in order to Represent this province at the Intended Congress to be held at Phelidelfia the Tenth Day of may next, agreeable to the warning of Said meeting.

“ Voted, That John Webster, Esq^t, Capt. Rob^t Wilson, Cap^t Sam^l Robie, Deacon Forsaith, major French and Robert Calfe Shall be the men.

“ Voted, That the above Deputies, when meet, have power to Chuse a Committee out of their Body to proportion Each Town's part or portion what they ought to pay.

“ Voted, That what money was our proportion to Pay for Sending Delegates To the Congress held Last Septem-

ber, at Phelidelfia, Shall be Raised of the Town with the other Taxes.

“Voted, That a Committee be chosen to see that the agreement of the american Contenentell Congress Shall be Strictly adheard to and faithfully Executed.

“Voted, That Cap^t Dearborn, Amos Emerson, William White, Jacob Chase, John Patten, Simon Bailey, Pearson Richardson, Jethro Colby, Doctor ordway, Josiah Bradley, Robert Calfe, Leut. Hoit, John Hesseltine, Cap^t Wilson, Capt. Robie, Deacon Forsaith, Stephen merrill, John San. Dearbon, Abner Hills, Sam^{ll} Brown, William Sherley, John Lane, Jun^r., Jacob Hills, Thomas Sherley, Isaac Towl.”

This was called a committee of inspection or safety.

March 30th, 1775,

“Voted, That the Town Pay our proportion of the charge of Sending Delegates to the Continental Congress, to be held at Phelidelfia Next May, if Nescecry.

“Voted, That one Hundred and fifty pound L money be Raised for the Repare of Highways the present year, at the same Wages as Last year.”

“At a meeting of the Committee of Inspection held at Chester, at the house of John Webster, Esq^r, the 15th Day of march, 1775: They have Requested to Know the minds of the People of this Town whether they will Consider any thing at our Town meeting (Viz.), What Incouragement they will Give Voluntears that Will hold themselves in Rediness upon the Shortest notice to goe against our Enemies that Shall Presume to Invade us; and upon the Comitee's Request this meeting is called.

“Voted, John Webster, Esq^r, moderator for Said meeting.

“Voted, that this meeting Shall be adjourned Till Thursday, the 13th Day of April Next.”

“At a meeting of the freeholders of Town of Chester, held at the new meeting-house in Chester, the 13th Day of April, 1775, by adjournment from the 30th Day of march Last past, Now opened by the moderator, John Webster, Esq.:

“Voted, to Give Incouragement to a Number of men that will hold them Selves in Rediness if called for to Goe against any Enemy that Shall Presume to Invade us or our property.

“ Voted, To Raise fifty Good Effective able Bodyed men into the Town’s Servise, that Will Hold them Selves in Redyness if called for by the Town to Goe against any Enemy that Shall Come to Invade us or our Property.

“ Voted, to Give Six Spanish milld Dollers or Equele their unto pr month to fifty Good Effective men Each, and find them their Provision as Long as they are in the Town’s Servise ; They finding their own Guns.

“ Voted, That the Select men Shall Inlist the before mentioned fifty men and Say when they Shall march.

“ Voted, that their Shall be a muster master to View these men.

“ Voted, that Cap^t Sam^l Robie Shall be muster master.

“ Voted, That if any of these fifty men Shall Loose their Guns in an Ingagement the Town Shall Pay for them.

“ Voted, that the Select men Shall prise these fifty men’s Guns before they march.

“ Voted, that these fifty men have the Liberty to Chuse their officers in this Town.

“ Voted, that this meeting be adjourned till monday, the first Day of May next.”

May 1st, 1775,

“ Whereas their was a Vote pased at the Last meeting that there Should be fifty Effective able Bodyed men Inlisted into the Town’s Servise to be in Redyness upon the Shortest warning to Goe against our Enemies which may Invade us, Which Number appears to be full Large ; upon which it is Voted that Instead of the Said fifty men their Shall be thirty men Inlisted, which men shall have the Same Incouragement Paid them that the minnet men have in the Massachusets Bay.

“ Voted, That if the above Thirty men Shall Inlist and fit themselves they shall have a Reasonable allowance for their Extreordinary charge.

May 15, 1775,

“ Voted, To Chuse Two men to attend the Provential asociation or Congress to be held at Exeter the 17th Day of may Instant.

“ Voted, That Mr Stephen morss and Capt. Robert Willson Shall be the men, and that they have full Power, as set forth in the warning of Said meeting.”

In a warning for a meeting, to be held December 11, 1775, is the following article:—

“To Elect Two Persons having a Reall Estate of the Value Two Hundred pound Lawfull money in this Colloney To Represent Them in Generall Congress to be held at Exeter on the Twenty first Day of December Next at three of the Clock in the afternoon ; And to Impower such Representatives, for the term of one year from their first meeting, To Transact Such Business and Persue Such mesures as they shall or may Judge Nescecry for the Publick Good ; and, in Case there Should be a Recomendation from the Continental Congress that the Colony asume Government in any Peticuler forme which will Require a house of Representatives, that They Resolve them Selves into Such a house as the Contintel Congress Shall Recomend ; and it is Resolved that no person be allowed a Seat in Congress who Shall by him Self, or any other Person for him, Before said Choyce, Treat with Liquer any Ellectors with an apparent view of Gaining Their Votes, or afterwards on that account.”

Stephen Morse and Capt. Robert Wilson were chosen.

At a meeting, June 8,

“ Voted, that the Select men Drop the Graer [grammar] School for the present.

“ Voted, that the Town Will Secuere the Select men from any Cost, Charg or Damiage They may be Put too for not Providing a Grammer School for the present as the Law Directs. Jacob Chase Decents against the foregoing Vote.”

They reconsidered a vote for a highway tax, and directed the surveyors to repair the highways, as formerly.

The Presbyterians “voted that Mr. Wilson should preach nine months day about, and three months down here.”

The battle of Lexington was on the 19th of April, and when the report of it came to Chester, many of the men went to the headquarters of the army at Cambridge, and while they were absent reports spread in different places that the British, or “Redcoats,” as they were called, were somewhere in the neighborhood, killing all before them.

I will relate the circumstances of the alarm at what is now called Bunker Hill, in Auburn, as I have heard my grandparents and father relate them. There were five families within half a mile, and in four of them the men were gone to Cambridge. Beginning at the north, was

Capt. (afterwards Colonel) Stephen Dearborn. His family consisted of his wife, his son Richard, aged eleven, and two other lads. One of the lads, Thomas Wells, brought the word that the British were at Sandown, killing all the people. They turned the cows and calves together, and started to the next neighbor, Caleb Hall's. Here were Mrs. Hall and five children, the oldest eleven years, and the youngest eight months old. They started on to Moody Chase's. He had gone to visit his brother Jacob's wife, who was sick. His wife had three children. Next came Wells Chase (my grandfather). My grandmother, with her son B. Pike, fell into the mournful procession. Next came Nathaniel Woods. His wife had three children, the oldest perhaps four years old, and the youngest two weeks. They marched on towards Chester, directly towards the enemy. Somewhere on the road they met Moody Chase returning home, who contradicted the report, and they returned homeward, and kept garrison that night at the two Chases'. The wife of Joseph Calef, who lived on the main road near the corner, buried her pewter ware, to prevent the Redcoats from running it into bullets to kill her with. Hezekiah Underhill had a quantity of silver money, which he put into a stocking, and put it into the well. William Graham's family heard the report of muskets all night, but it proved in the morning to be a horse stamping on a plank floor.

I have heard it said there was much such an alarm at the "Branch;" and at Newbury the British had landed on Plumb Island. These were times that tried *women's* souls. Mrs. Healey, the mother of Hon. S. D. Bell's wife, said there was such an alarm at Hampton Falls, where she lived, and that she was old enough to remember it.

1776. At a meeting, held march 28, 1776, it was

"Voted, That Those men that went Down at the Battel at Concord, be Paid for what time they Stayed after the others came away, which was about Eight Days, at the Rate the other Proventals wages are."

July 9, 1776,

“Voted, That all those Thirty men that have or shall Inlist into the Servis of this present Expedition to Reinforce the army under Generell Sullivan, Shall be paid by the town as a bounty, over and above what the Colony promis^d to pay as a Bounty, the sum of Thirteen Dollers and Two thirds of a Doller each; and all those Persons that have or Shall Inlist into the present Servise, and have Don their proportionable part Towards Supporting the present warr for Said Colony before, they making that appear to the Select men or a Committee that Shall be chosen by the town, that then their part of this tax Shall be Repaid Back to them again.

“Voted, Capt. Henry moore, Nathan morss, Capt. John Underhill, Shall be a Committee to Joyn with the Select men to see that Justice be Don with Regard to the foregoing Vote.”

November 25, 1776,

“Voted, that the Charge of the present warr, So far as it Concerns us, Shall be paid by the Inhabitants in equal proportion as the other Town Charges are Paid.”

“Sept. 27, 1776, Nicholas Gilman, Treasurer and Receiver General, Requires of the town of Chester 56 pounds Lawfull money for the Currant year, and 26 for the charge of the late Congress and assembly, making 82 pounds.”

The Congregational parish

“Voted, To Give those Soldiers their Pole Rate to the parish, the province Gave.”

ASSOCIATION TEST.

Colony of New-Hampshire.

In Committee of Safety.

April 12th, 1776.

In order to cary the underwritten RESOLVE of the Hon'ble Continental CONGRESS into Execution, You are requested to desire all Males above Twenty One Years of Age (lunaticks, Idiots and Negroes excepted) to sign to the DECLARATION on this paper; and when so done, to make return hereof, together with the Name or Names of all who shall refuse to sign the same, to the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, or Committee of Safety of this Colony.

M. Weare, Chairman.

IN CONGRESS, March 14th, 1776.

RESOLVED, That it be recommended to the several *Assemblies*, Conventions and Councils, or Committees of Safety of the United Colonies, *immediately* to cause all Persons to be disarmed within their Respective Colonies, who are NOTORIOUSLY disaffected to the Cause of AMERICA, or who refuse to associate to defend by ARMS the United Colonies against any Hostile Attempts of the British Fleets and Armies.

(COPY.)

Extract from the Minutes.

Charles Thompson, Sec'y.

In Consequence of the above Resolution of the Hon. Continental CONGRESS, and to shew our Determination in joining our American Brethren in defending the Lives, Liberties and Property of the inhabitants of the UNITED COLONIES :

We, the *Subscribers*, do hereby solemnly engage and promise, that we will, to the utmost in our Power, at the Risque of our Lives and Fortunes, with ARMS, oppose the Hostile Proceedings of the British Fleets and Armies *against the United American Colonies* :

John Crawford,
William Lock,
Samuel Blunt,
William Tolford,
Daniel Greenough,
Robert McKinley,
Matthew Forsaith, Jr.,
Edward Robie,
Edward Robie,
Archibald MaKafee,
John Webster,
Nathan Morse,
Sam^l Emerson,
Henry Moore,
Stephen Morse,
Joseph Linn,
Daniel Webster,
Moses Hills,
Stephen Dearborn,
Jonathan Hall,
Adam Willson,
Stephen Lufkin,
Robt. Calfe,

James Rankin,
Anth^r Somb. Stickney,
Edmund Stickney,
David Wetherspoon,
Peter Aiken,
John Grimes,
Matthew Templeton,
William Underhill,
Joseph Dearborn,
David Crage,
John Underhill,
James Pearce,
William White,
Nathan Fitts,
James Dunlap,
Nathan Webster, Junior,
John Hasseltine,
Peter Dearborn,
Peter Hasseltine,
Nathaniel Blasdall,
Ebenezer Basford,
Benjamin True,
Sam^l Hasseltine,

Jasiel Harriman,
 Ebenezer Townsend,
 Nathaniel Glidden,
 Wilks West,
 Caleb Hall,
 Wells Chase,
 Moody Chase,
 Stephen Merrill,
 Alex Weatherspoon,
 Robert Craige,
 James Aiken,
 Bracket Towl,
 Anthony Towl,
 Benjamin Melvin,
 Parker Carr,
 Ezekiel Morse,
 David Currier,
 Robert Rowe,
 John Dearborn,
 Jethro Colby,
 William McMaster,
 Benjⁿ Hills,
 Samuel Hills,
 Ezekiel Worthen,
 John Shackford, Jur.,
 Aaron Townsend,
 Theod^r Shackford,
 Daniel Richardson,
 Moses Richardson,
 Isaac Forse,
 Isaac Forse, Jr.,
 Jonathan Forsaith,
 Thomas Wason,
 Rob^t Wilson,
 Will^m Wilson,
 James Wason,
 Charles Moore,
 Samuel Moore,
 David Fuller,
 Benjamin Hoyt,
 John Hoyt,
 Joseph McClellan,
 Stephen Marden,
 John Pain,
 Joseph Knowles,

Simon Bayley,
 Moses Underhill, Junior,
 Stephen Hills,
 Richard Haseltine,
 Jonathan Darbon,
 David Foss,
 Isaac Blasdel,
 Josiah Hall,
 Pearson Richardson,
 Samuel Kinsmand,
 Sam^l Wilson,
 John Knowles,
 John Knowles, Jun^r,
 Nathan Knowles,
 Joshua Prescott,
 Joseph Long,
 James Wilson,
 Nathan Webster,
 James Waddell,
 Amos Merrill,
 Josiah Bradley,
 Francis Towle,
 Jacob Hills,
 Thomas Haseltine,
 Benjamin Haseltine,
 Jabez Hoit,
 Benjamin Fuller,
 Samuel Jones,
 John Tolford,
 Hugh Tolford,
 John Robie,
 Gideon Rowell,
 John Coulby,
 Samuel Rowel,
 Samuel Forster,
 Henry Hall,
 Peter Hall,
 Sam^l Jacks,
 Simon Berry,
 Thomas
 John Willson,
 James Shirlee,
 Hugh Shirley,
 William Shirlee,
 Sam^l Robie,

Amos Pain,
 Nathan Norton,
 Samuel Brown,
 William Brown,
 William Gilchrist,
 Abraham Sargent,
 Wintrup Sargent,
 John Karr,
 William Mills,
 Robert Grahams,
 John Grimes,
 John Mills,
 Nath^l Sweetser,
 Samuel McFerson,
 Robert Dickey,
 Parker Morse,
 Josiah Morse,
 Edmund Sleeper,
 Joseph Morse,
 Joseph Blanchard,
 Abner Hills,
 Jabez French,
 Isaac Hills,
 James Randall,
 John Lain,
 Daniel Dolbeer,
 John Butterfield,
 John Lane, Jr.,
 Jonathan Norton,
 Joseph Norton,
 Jonathan Berry,
 Joseph Smith,
 John Sevi,
 Ellet Berry,
 Benja. Hills,
 David Richardson,
 Bradbury Carr,
 Joseph Carr,
 Charles Moore, Junor,
 Benj. Currier,
 John Quimby,
 Robert Gordon,

James Richardson,
 Ebenezer Dearborn,
 John Gross,
 Mark Carr,
 Thomas Fowler, junr.,
 James Wetherspoon,
 Daniel Wetherspoon,
 Mansfield McAfee,
 Samuel Aiken,
 Robert Patten,
 Samuel Crombey,
 William Miller,
 Hugh Miller,
 Thomas McMaster,
 William Gilchrist,
 David Dickey,
 Robert Dinsmore,
 Benjamin Pierce,
 Samuel Pierce,
 Barnard Bricket,
 Joseph Hills,
 David Underhill,
 Jonathan Emery,
 Hezekiah Underhill,
 Jonathan Underhill,
 Isaac Towle,
 John Orr,
 John Burley,
 Joseph Hall,
 Joseph Clark,
 Edward Presson,
 Cornelius Morgan,
 Samuel Worthen,
 Edmund Elliot,
 Paul Healey,
 Moses Underhill,
 Jacob Perley,
 James Hidden,
 Samuel Davis,
 William Brown,
 Francis Carr,
 Timothy Carr.

The following persons signed the Association Test in Candia. It was not returned to the Secretary's office, but was found among the papers of Nathaniel Emerson, Esq.:

William Baker,	Zebulon Winslow,
Thomas Dearborn,	Jesse Eaton,
James Eaton,	John Lane,
Ezekiel Knowles,	John Sargent,
Nath ^l Maxfield,	Thomas Patten,
Thomas Emery,	Henry Clark,
John Clay,	Zachariah Clifford,
Jonathan Pillsbury,	Benjamin Cass,
Nathaniel Emerson,	John Colby,
Walter Robie,	William Turner,
Moses Baker,	Robert Smart,
Benjamin Batchelder,	David Bean,
Samuel Dearborn,	Obadiah Smith,
Enoch Rowel,	James Miller,
Samuel Moores,	Benjamin Rowell,
Abr ^m Fitts,	Nath ^l Burpee,
Nicholas Smith,	Jeremiah Burpee,
Enoch Colby,	Nicholas French,
Nehemiah Brown,	Isaiah Rowe,
Samuel Worthen,	Stephen Palmer,
Sewell Brown,	John Sargent,
Stephen Palmer, Jr.,	Ephraim Eaton,
John Prescott,	Robert Wilson,
Richard Clough,	James Varnum,
Obededom Hall,	Samuel Buswell,
Benjamin Fellows,	John Clark,
Biley Smith,	Daniel Hall,
Jonathan Smith,	John Hills,
Joseph Palmer,	William Eaton,
Benjamin Hubbard,	Obadiah Hall,
Elijah True,	Moses Sargent,
Samuel Brown,	Thomas Anderson,
Jonathan Brown,	Ebenezer Eaton,
Aaron Brown,	Robert Wason,
Jethro Hill,	Paul Eaton,
Sherburne Rowe,	David Hill,
Joseph Fifield,	Samuel Towle,
Stephen Fifield,	John Robie,
Theophilus Clough,	Simon French,
Jonathan Hills,	Benaiah Colby,
Samuel Morrill,	Daniel Dolber,

William Hills,
 John Cammet,
 Elias Cammet,
 Samuel Clough,
 David Jewett,
 John Carr,
 James Prescottt,
 Jonathan Bagby,
 Amos Knowles,

John Moor,
 Hugh Meclellan,
 Jonathan Ring,
 Joshua Moore,
 Stephen Clark,
 John Clifford,
 Jonathan Cammet,
 Jacob Bagley.

At a meeting held April 14th, 1777,

“Voted, That a Committee of five men be chosen to agree with and hier if they can as soon as posibell so many Good men as Shall appear to be our proportion of men Demanded to Serve in the Continental Servis.

“Voted, Capt. John Underhill, Jacob Chase, Esq^r, Henry moore, Esq^r, Capt. Stephen Dearborn and Capt. Sam^l Robie to be the Committee.

“Voted, That whatsoever man or men the aforesaid Committee Shall agree with and Hier into the aforesaid Servis as our proportion of men, Whatsoever Said Committe Shall agree to pay them, the Select men Shall Hier money and pay as agreed upon by said Committee, and Shall Raise Said money by a tax upon the Inhabitants as the Other Town taxes are Raised; Alowing to those persons that have Don part of their proportion Toward Suporting the warr Sence the commencement of the Same; also allowing to those men that Have already Inlisted into the Continentel servise for the three years the Same Bounty and Encouragement as as these shall have ther is to be hired, Saving and Stoping out what they have already Received from perticuler men.”

May 26th, 1777,

“Voted, that the Select men Raise the whole of the money this year they have hired to pay those men that the Committee hired into the Continental Servise, agreeable to the vote of the Town.”

Dec. 2d, 1777,

“Voted, That the Report of the Committee that was Chosen to allow the Soldiers an Equality p^r month up to the three years men, for their Servise Done in the present war, be Excepted as they have Given it in.”

The committee agreed to allow the following :

Those that went to Cambrige in the year 1775, £ s. d.		
8 months,	0	6 0 per month.
Those that went to Cambrige of the militare,	0	6 0 per month.
Those that went to Portsmouth,	0	6 0 per month.
Those that went to Cambrige, and to New York after Leaving Cambrige,	0	10 0 per month.
Those that went to Cambrige and York, and then to Canade Twelve months after Leav- ing Cambrige,	0	15 0 per month.
Those that went to Ticontroge 5 months,	0	10 0 per month.
Those that went from portsmouth to Tye, after Leaving portsmouth,	0	10 0 per month.
Those that went to York with Leut. Sam ^l Hes- seltine and Lieut. Ezekiel Worthin,	0	6 0 per month.
	Sam ^l Robie, Jacob Chase, William White, Nathan Fitts,	} Committee.

1778. At the annual meeting March 27,

“ Voted, that there Shall be Raised this year for the Re-
pairing of the Highways, £90 : 0 : 0.

“ Voted, That their Shall be Seven men Chosen for a
Committee of Safety in this Town.

“ Voted, that Leut. Sam^l Hesseltine, Deacon Mathew
Forsaith, Henry moore, Esq^r, Capt. Sam^l Robie, Jethro
Colby, Isaac Blasdell, and Nathan morss, Shall be the
men.”

At a meeting held Feb. 5th, 1778,

“ Voted, Relating to the Thirteen artikels of confedera-
tion proposed to be Entred into by the thirteen united
States of america, they were all Carefully Read and Con-
sidered, and then Put to Vote and Voted that they be
Excepted and approved of.

“ Voted, That our Representatives be Desired and Di-
rected to propose that the assembly and Councill may
forme a plan or System of Government for this State, and
Send it through the state into the Severell Towns and par-
ishes, in order for their Perusal, Consideration, and excep-
tance.”

May 12th, 1778,

“ Voted, that their Shall be one person Chosen to Conv-
ene and meet in Convention at Concord, in this State of New-
hampshire, on the tenth Day of June Next, for the Sole

purpose of forming and Laying a permanent plan or System Governments for the future Happiness and well being of the Good people of this state.

“Voted, That Sam^l Emerson, Esq^r, shall be the person.”

March 26,

“Voted that the Widow mary Emerson be allowed and paid by the Town for her Husband, who Died on His way coming home out of the wars, as the other Solders were allowed and paid by the Town.”

Nov. 30th, 1778,

“Voted, That Leut. Sam^l Hesseltine and Robert Wilson, Esqs., Shall Represent the Town in the assembly to be held at Exeter on the Third Wednesday in December Next at three o'clock in the afternoon, With full Power for one year from their first meeting to Transact such Buisness and Persue Such mesurs as they Shall Judge Nescecry for the Publick Good.”

Col. Moses Dustin, who had had the small-pox, was home from the army, and employed the wife of Elijah Pillsbury to wash his clothes. She went to a brook back in the pasture, and Joseph Norton's wife happened to pass, and took the small-pox, and the whole family, including two Palmer girls, had it. Mr. Norton had then three children. Mrs. Norton and one of the Palmer girls died, and Mr. Norton lost one eye. Dr. Page's family also had the disease, and they purchased Merchant Blasdel's shop, and moved it into the south woods, on to the parsonage lot, and removed the family there. Two of Dr. Page's children died.

At a town meeting Nov. 30th, 1777,

“Voted, to pay for the shop that the Select men Removed (that belonged to Nathanel Blasdel), for Doctor Page's famely to have the Small pox in, and that it be left with the Select men to agree with said Blasdel how much to give for it, and Settle that matter with him.

“Voted to give mary Palmer her cost when she had the Small pox, Being foreteen pound, Eleven shillings, nine pence, two farthings.”

They voted against giving Mr. Norton anything for his expense.

There was a meeting of the Presbyterian parish, Dec. 8. In consequence of the high price of the necessaries of life, they voted to add — pounds to the Rev. John Wilson's salary.

“Voted, that the Town will send one man to Joyn in the Convention, to be held at Concord the 22d Day of Septemb^r Instant, in order to Regulate the price of things.

“Voted, that Jacob Chase, Esq^r, to be the man.”

Oct. 18, 1779,

“first Put to Vote whether to except and approve of the prices set by the Convention at Concord, and past in the affermetive.

“Voted, that messrs. Jabez Hoit, Capt. Underhill, Isaac Blasdel, Deacon Forsaith, Anthony Stickney, William Lock, Ephraim Fitts, Simon Bayley, and Robt^t Wilson, Esq^f, Shall be the Committee.”

November 29th, 1779,

“first Put to Vote to see if the Town will Except of the Report of the Comittee appoynted to Regulate prices for the Inhabitants of this Town, In this Town, and Voted that it be Excepted.

“Voted, that a Committee be Chosen to See that the foregoing prices be observed; and Voted that Jacob Chase, Esq^f, Deacon Forsaith and anthony stickney Shall be the Comittee.

“Voted, That any Person in this Town that Shall not comply with the prices Set by the Committee, but Shall Sell for more than the artikells are Set at, They Shall forfeit and pay the Value of the Thing so Sold To the Comittee; and on their Refusal to Pay that Sum, They Shall be advertised in the publick Prints as Innimecal to their Countrey.

“Voted, that the Comittee Shall Get the proceedings of this meeting printed in the Publick prints, at the Cost of the town.”

An act of the General Assembly for regulating prices, passed January 18th, 1777, has the following preamble :

“Whereas the exorbitant Prices of the Necessary and convenient Articles of Life, and also of Labour, within this State, at this Time of Distress (unless speedily and effectually remedied) will be attended with the most fatal and pernicious consequences.”

The act fixes among others the following prices :

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Wheat,	7	6	Sugar,	0	8
Rye,	4	6	Molasses,	3	4
Corn,	3	6	Salt,	10	0
Oats,	2	0	Coffee,	1	4
Peas,	8	0	Cotton,	3	8
Beans,	6	0	Flax,	1	0
Potatoes, in fall,	1	4	Wool,	2	0
Potatoes at any season,	2	0	Stockings pr. pair,	6	0
Cheese,	0	6	Flannel pr. yd.,	3	0
Butter,	0	10	Tow Cloth,	2	3
Pork, fr'm 100 to 140 lbs.,	0	4½	Coarse Linens,	4	0
Pork, fr'm 140 to 200 lbs.,	0	5	Cotton, or Cotton and linen,	3	8
Raw Hides,	0	3	Good N. E. bar iron,	40	0
Sole Leather,	1	6	Farming labor in summer,	3	4
West India Rum,	6	8	Mechanics to be in propor-		
N. England Rum,	3	10	tion, according to usage.		

An additional act was passed April 8th, 1777, raising the price of some articles in Portsmouth—rye, 5s., corn, 4s.—and towns were to choose a committee to regulate prices in proportion as such goods have heretofore borne, compared to Portsmouth.

The line between Chester and Raymond was settled this year. The Rev. Mr. Wilson died Feb. 1st of this year.

At the annual meeting, March 9th, Deacon Adam Wilson, Anthony Stickney and Maj. John Tolford were chosen a committee to hire preaching, and make provision for the ministers they shall hire. They voted to raise one hundred and twenty pounds.

At a meeting, August 9th, they voted to raise four hundred dollars more. They had no settled minister until Mr. Colby was settled in 1803, but depended upon temporary and stated supplies. They got up a subscription and had a meeting Dec. 7, and chose a new committee to expend the money.

At a meeting held Jan. 26, 1779,

“Voted, That those persons that are gon into the Continentel Servis for three years or Longer for this town, theyr famelyes Shall be Supplied with Such Nesticaries of

Life as they Need, agreeable to the Resolve of the Generell assembly."

April 5, 1779,

"Voted, That their Shall be a Committee of Safety chosen in this Town.

"Voted, That mathew Forsaith, Joseph Lynn, Capt. Benjamin Currier, Lt. John San. Dearbon, Lt. Jabez Hoit, to be the Comitte for that purpose."

April 19,

"Voted, That the Town will advance and Raise the Bounties to Hier the Solders for the Town's proportion as Demanded or Required by the Committee of Safety for the continent and State.

"Voted, That their Shall be a Committe of three men Chosen to Inlist Twelve men as Soldiers to Serve in the Continentel Servise During the war.

"Voted, That Robert Wilson, Esq., Insin William Litch and Capt. John Underhill to be the men.

"Voted, That the Select men Shall Hier money to Pay the Bounty allowed to the above Solders when Inlisted, and the muster master Shall muster them and Request the money to Pay said Bounties."

July 5,

"Voted, That Jacob Chase and William White, Esq., Shall be added to the former Committe in order to pro-cuer and make up our proportion of the Contentell Battelion according to the order of the Committe of Safety in April Last; and that the Committe be Impowered to procure and Get the men upon the Best Terms they can, and what they are obliged to Give more then the Continent and State have allowed as a bounty, the Town Shall Repay them.

"Voted, That the above mentioned Committe (viz.), Robert Wilson, Esq., Cap^t John Underhill, William Litch, Jacob Chase and William White, Esq^r, Shall procure and get five or six men for Solders to Goe to Road Island for six months upon the best terms they Can for the Town.

"Voted, That the above Committe Shall Call upon the Select men for what money they Shall Hier as Solders as aforesaid; and the Select men Shall Ingage to pay those men they Shall Hier or Raise, and pay the Same to them or their order."

August 11,

"Voted, That we are willing to Joyn with Portsmouth,

Exeter and other towns in this State for Redusing the prices of the Nesecerys of Life as Recomendend by them to us.

“Voted, That the town Except and approve of what the Committe and Select men Did withe Regard to Hiering two men as solders to Goe to Portsmouth.”

September 6,

“Voted, That Capt. Stephen Dearbon, Capt. David Witherspoon, Capt. Benj^a Currier, Shall be a Committe to Procure our propotion of what men is Sent for to Goe to Portsmouth as Solders upon as Reasonable terms as they can be Got.

“It was put to Vote Whether to Except and approve of the Plan or forme of Government as now Read in said meeting formed by the Convention at Concord: and 52 Voted to Receive and approve of it, and five voted against it.

1780. At a meeting held June 20, 1780, it was

“Voted, That a Committe be Chosen to Procure our proportion of men for this town to fill up the Battalion in the Continential army, till the Last Day of December next, being Eleven men.

“Voted, That Capt. Stephen Dearbon, Capt. David Wetherspoon, Capt. Benj^a Currier, Leut. Jabez Hoit and major William White to be the Committe to Procure s^d men:

“Voted, That the above Committe be Instructed and Desired to Procure the above Number of men to Serve as aforesaid at as Reasonable a Rate as they can; and what sum Soever the Said Committe Shall Ingage to Pay any man so Hiered, the Selectmen Shall furnish the Committe with money or Specie soficient to pay them; and Raise the Same of the town by way of assessment.”

At a meeting held July 5, 1780,

“Voted, That those Twenty men that is Required to make up our propotion of men Shall be Hired.

“Voted, To Chuse a Committe to Hire said men.

“Voted, That Capt. John Underhill, Jacob Chase, Esq^r, and maj^r William White be that Committe.

“Voted, That the Said Committe Shall Call upon the Select men, and they Shall Give theyr Securety to those men that they Shall Hier for what they shall agree with them for, and Pay them.”

At an adjourned meeting held July 10, 1780,

“ Voted, That what men the Committe Have Raised, be Excepted on the Terms the committe agreed with them for (Viz.), that they have 30 Bushels of Indian Corne p^r month, and 250 Dollers for three months, and in proportion for a Longer or a Shorter time.

“ Voted, That the Selectmen Proceed as they have Begun in Respect to Beef untill they have Compleated the Sum the Court Have Called on the Town for (Viz.), that they Ingage money Equal to Corn at three Shillings p^r Bushell for what they Purches.”

At a meeting in November,

“ Voted, That the Selectmen Shall make a Corn Rate on the Inhabitants, to Pay the Solders what Corn they have Ingaged to them.”

The Presbyterians voted to raise one thousand dollars to hire preaching, and to pay the ministers fifty dollars per day.

The winter of 1780 was remarkable for its severity. Coffin's history of Newbury and Chase's history of Haverhill both say that for “ forty days, thirty-one of which were in March, there was no perceptible thaw on the southerly side of any house.” It is my impression that it was in January instead of March that it did not thaw.

David Allen, Esq., of Salem, N. H., related to me, about forty years ago, the circumstances as they occurred there. He or his father owned a grist-mill, and the people wanted a path to get to it. It would snow one day and blow the next. They broke with oxen until the snow was so deep and the oxen so cross, that they gave it up and tried a single track, so that they could go to mill on horseback; but they had to give that up also, and carry their grists on their backs, traveling on snow-shoes.

The same year is also memorable for the “ dark day,” the 19th of May. The sun was seen at its rising, but was soon obscured by clouds and smoke, and it was so dark in the middle of the day that the fowls went to roost and candles were needed. It continued dark through the day and first part of the night.

1781. At a meeting held Jan. 29, 1781,

"Voted, That a Committe Shall be chosen to Procure our proportion of Solders for three years, or During the present warr.

"Voted, That the above Committe Consists of five men.

"Voted, Capt. underhill, Leut. Jabez Hoit, Rob^t Wilson, Esq., Capt. Stephen Dearbon and John Graham to be the Committe to Procure the Said men.

"Voted, That the above Committe be Desired to Procure their above proportion of men upon as Reasonable terms as they can for the Benefit of the Town; and that the Selectmen Hier money and pay what they Shall Ingage them; and as soon as Reasonable Raise ye money of the town according to Law, by way of assessment, as other town Charges are Raised."

At a meeting held March 5, 1781,

"Voted, That the Selectmen procuer in the best manner they can, and Deliver agreeable to the Court order, one third of the Beef called for by Congress for the year 1781, by the Last Day of march Instant (Vz.), 9206 pounds.

"Voted, To add four men as Committe men to joyn the Committe chosen to Inlist Continentell Solders.

"Voted, Joseph Lynn, Callab Hall, Cap^t Benj^a Currier and Cap^t Henry moore, for the Said Committe."

At a meeting held July 5,

"Voted, To Raise our proportion of Beef for the army.

"Voted, To make a Beef Tax.

"Voted, That the selectmen Shall Divide the Town into classes in order to Procure the above said Beef.

"Voted, That the Selectmen be Impowered to Set a value upon Beef, that any Delinquent class Should have provided, or any Individual belonging to any Class; and make assessments on them Soficient to purches Said Beef, and that one half of s^d beef be paid within three weeks, and the other half in Septembr next.

"Voted, That Leut. John San. Dearbon and pearson Richardson be added to the Committe for Procuring our cota of the Contentel Solders."

At a meeting July 30,

"Voted, That in order to Procure the three months men now Required, the Selectmen Shall Divide the Town into Classes according to their Poles and Estates, and make as many Classes as there is three months men Required

out of this Town; and that Every Class be obliged to procure one man for that Service; and if any Class, person, or persons in Said Class Shall Refuse or Neglect to pay his proportion towards Hieing or paying said man, the Selectmen Shall assess him Double his proportion for the Hier of said man; and he or they Shall be obliged to pay it."

At a meeting Nov. 1,

"Voted, That Jethro Colby Shall be a Collector to Colect and Gather what Corn is yet Due to the Town, and that the present Selectmen Shall Give the Said Colector a warrant to Colect Said Corn, or the Value thereof in money, as the Said Selectmen Shall Judge Right and just."

Capt. John Underhill and Robert Wilson, Esq., were chosen representatives to the General Assembly "To transact such Business, and Pursue such mesurs as they may Judge Necessary for the Publick Good, and Particularly to vote in the Choyce of Delegates for the Continental Congress."

Mr. Flagg acknowledges the receipt of eight thousand continental dollars in full of his salary the year past. The Presbyterians voted to raise four thousand dollars this year.

1782. January 8, 1782,

"It was Put to Vote to See if the Town Will Except of the plan of Government as it now Stands, and it was past universally in the Negative; 149 Voters being present.

"Voted, That Leut. Jabez Hoit Shall carry these Votes past with Regard to the plan of Government, with the Commite's proposed alterations and amendments, to Concord, and Deliver them to the president of the Convention to be held there the foarth Wednesday of Januar^y Instant.

"Voted, That six more persons be added to the former Committe to make any further Remarks or amendments on the plan of Government that they may Think Nesecery, and make return at the adjournment.

"Voted, Leut. Sam^l Hesseltine, Joseph Linn, Joseph Blanchard, Capt. Benja. Currier, Sam^l Emerson, Esq., and the Reve^d mr. Flagg be the men.

"Voted, That Jethro Colby be Cleared from Colecting the Corn that Remains Not Colected."

January 14,

"Voted, That a Committe be chosen to Take the minds

of Such Inhabitants of the Town as have not Voted in the meetings Respecting the Plan of Government.

“ Voted, That the Committee Consist of five persons.

“ Voted, That Lt William Lock, Theodor Shackford, Joseph Blanchard, Joseph Linn and Richard Hesseltine be the members of the Committee.

“ Voted, That Hezekiah Underhill and Sam^l Crumbie be Colectors to Colect the Remainder of the Corn tax which was Due for the year 1780.”

April 9,

“ In order to procure our Quota of men to fill up the Continentel army it is Voted, that the Select men class the Town into Seventeen classes Equal as they can according to poles and Estate ; and that Each Class Shall Procuer one man Each Class ; and Further Voted, that if any class, or any Peticular person in Said Class, Shall Refuse or unreasonably Neglect to pay his proportionable part of the charge Toward Hiering and paying Said man as afforesaid, the Select men Shall assess Such Class, or Such Peticular man in Said Class, Duble his proportion for Such Neglect. Said money Shall be paid by the 20th Day of may next.

“ Voted, That the Select men Shall pay for the Rum that will not be Received by the State as Soon as possable, and make the Best of the Rum the Town has now at Haverhill.”

The following was found among the papers of Col. Stephen Dearborn :

To Capt. Stephen Dearborn and Mr. Robert Rowe :—

Agreeably to an act of the General Court and a vote of the town, the following persons who are named, with the amount of their ratable estate, are to procure one able-bodied, effective man for the continental service three years, or during the war, to be ready to be mustered in, on or before the 10th day of May next, or pay the fine agreeable to law and vote of the town. You are desired to notify each one in this list to meet and prescribe such method as they shall think proper in order to procure said men.

Jabez Hoit, } Selectmen
Stephen Morse, } of
Joseph Blanchard, } Chester.

Chester, April 29, 1782.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
David Richardson	1	9	1	Barnard Bricket	2	1	4
Joseph Carr	3	6	10	John Clark	1	7	0
Ezekiel H. Kelly	0	10	00	Abraham Morse	0	12	0
Wid. Ann Carr	0	9	3	Capt. S. Dearborn	2	14	0
Lieut. John Lane	2	17	7	Caleb Hall	1	12	1
Jonathan Norton	2	10	11	Jonathan Emery	1	14	4
Simeon Norton	0	12	00	Samuel White	0	16	6
Joseph Norton	2	18	8	Anthony Stickney	0	3	0
Jonathan Berry	2	14	5	Moody Chase	1	18	9
Jeremiah Griffin	1	6	0	Wells Chase	2	2	8
Robert Rowe	1	16	2	Jeremiah Underhill	1	17	2
Samuel Murray	1	13	6	Nathaniel Wood	1	14	2

May 23, 1782,

“Voted, To Send Two men to the Convention.

“Voted, That Jacob Chase, Esq^r, and major William White Shall be members of the Convention to be held at Concord the first Tuesday of June Next, by adjournment, to frame a permanent Sistem of Government for the State of Newhamp.”

December 23,

“It was put to Vote to see if the Town will Except of the Report of the Committe appoynted by the Town to Revise the plan of Government; and it was Voted that said Report be Received and sent to the Convention at Concord, as their Reasons and objections why they will not Receive Said plan as it now Stands, by the N^o of 78 yeas and not one Nay.”

Jacob Hills refused to serve as constable, and paid his fine. Two others were chosen, and it was voted that they should have nothing for their service. They had the rates to collect.

The money last year was the old continental, at about its lowest point. This year it must have been upon a specie basis.

Capt. Pierson Richardson agreed to deliver twenty cords of wood to Mr. Flagg for \$28. The Presbyterians voted to raise \$150.

1783. At a meeting held May 15,

“Voted, that Leut. Jabez Hoit Shall Represent the Town as a member at the Convention to be held at Con-

cord on the first Tuesday of June Next, for the purpose of framing a permanent Plan of Government for the State of New Hampshire, in the place of Jacob Chase, Esq^r, who is Dismissed at his own Request."

May 26,

"Put to Vote whether to Except of the plan of Government as it Now Stands. past in the Negative by 127; one for it. Then it was put to Vote to See if they Will Except of it with the proposed amendments; And it Was Voted to Except of it when the proposed amendments were made to it."

August 28,

"Voted that the Last Peace published by the Last Convention held at Concord, Called the Alternative, Be Excepted by the Town: 65 Votes for it; Two against it."

There was "a great frost" August 10.

1784. Two important events transpired this year: Peace had been made with Great Britain, the independence of the United States being acknowledged and the army disbanded; and a constitution of State governments formed. The chief executive was a president, and Meshech Weare, of Hampton Falls, was nearly unanimously elected. The Council was to consist of a certain number from each county, and Rockingham was to have five.

The votes in Chester were nearly unanimous. Chester was entitled to one representative, and Capt. John Underhill was elected. Two hundred dollars were voted for schools. A committee of five was chosen to sell all the wood and timber on the school and parsonage lots. The Congregational parish "Voted to take up the two Hind Seats Each Side the Broad alley in order to Build four pews for the purpose of procuring a Bell." They chose a committee to build the pews, sell them at auction, and purchase a bell. The pews were built and sold and bell bought. See 1788.

May 28, in a drunken row at the raising of Hatter Underhill's barn, Sam. Blunt struck Matthew Templeton with a stone in the forehead, and broke in the skull. Dr. Kittredge was sent for, who removed the fractured bone

and replaced it with a piece of silver; it healed and he lived more than forty years afterwards.

1785. The Congregational parish, March 30,

“Put to Voate to See if the parrish would take up the Short Seats at the Right and Left hand of the Galery Doors in the meeting house and build two pews whear s^d Seats now air, and Sell the pews at Vandue and Let the money Be Laid out as the parrish shall think best, and past in the Affarmative.

“Voated to Leave it to the wardens to Sell the ground for the pews or to Build the pews and then Sell them at Vandue to the Highest Bidder, as they think Best.

“Voted, that the money which the pews Shall Fetch Shall be Laid out toards Colloring the meéting house.”

The Presbyterian parish chose a committee to settle with all wardens, collectors and committee-men who had the parish money, and to pursue it to final judgment and execution.

“Voted to raise thirty pounds to hire preaching, and chose Dea. Forsaith, Thomas McMaster and John Grimes to supply the pulpit.”

In a warning for a meeting April 19, is an Article “to See What Method the parish Will take Relating a petision By a number of parsons Belonging to Said parish, about Removing the Meeting house to a Senter to aComedate the Parish,” &c. John Crawford, John Grimes, Capt. Henry Moor, Benjamin Melvin, Col. William White, Capt. David Wetherspoon and Robert Grimes were chosen a committee to fix a place. They reported “to set the Meeting hous in at about Esqr. Chase’s Brook.” “the parish not Satisfied.” “Adjourned and continued the committee.” At the adjournment the committee reported “to set the meeting hous on Cap^t John Underhill’s land on the South Side of the Rode, as Near his old hous as we Can Conve- niently Set it as the Ground Will allow;” and it was “Voted that the Meeting house shall Set their.”

This year was remarkable for the quantity of snow, the hardness and lateness of going off. James Graham at the

Long Meadow died April 14. John Waddel, of Derry, came with horse and sleigh to the funeral across, over all fences in his way. It came on warm, the snow went off, and plowing was done the 25th.

October 12, a daughter of Moses McFarland had her arm torn off in a cider mill.

1786. The currency before the war had been bills of credit issued by the Colony, depreciated and called old tenor. During the war Congress had issued what was called Continental money in large quantities, which had been largely counterfeited and had depreciated, it is said, to one hundred and twenty to one, and had been by universal consent laid aside. There was little gold and silver and little foreign commerce, and we can hardly conceive the difficulties they experienced. There was a wide-spread dissatisfaction. As a specimen of the pecuniary condition of this time: My father, B. P. Chase, in November, 1785, purchased a tract of land of the proprietors, and to raise the money to pay for it, he made hogshead hoops shaved fit to set, and carted them to Newburyport and sold them for ten dollars per thousand; took his pay in New England rum, carted that to Chester, and sold it to the traders for the same he paid in Newburyport. Staves were sold six score to the hundred, and I think hoops were.

About September 20th a company of men, that may be called a mob, assembled at Exeter and demanded of the General Court to issue paper money. The Court put them off, and meanwhile called in the militia and dispersed them. A man by the name of Eaton, of Sandown, and one by the name of Morse, of Londonderry, were imprisoned.

In the warning for a town meeting, November 14, were articles: "To see if the Town will accept the plan the General Court have sent to the Several towns and places of this State for Emitting a paper Currency as it now stands," "To see if the Town will Vote to have Sum alterations made than what is set forth in Said plan." Both articles were voted in the negative.

This year was remarkable for the number of wolves. Stephen Chase says in his diary: "February 6, Hunting wolves; started seven; plentier than for fifteen years. Feb. 14, Shot a wolf. March 8, Mr. Brown killed a wolf." William Graham, Esq., told of his mother taking him to the door to hear the wolves howl, and that they came around the barn in the night after the sheep, but the barn happened to be shut up. Col. Thomas Wilson, who lived on the mountain in the upper part of Candia, related to me that one day in the spring his cattle were in the woods to browse. He heard a roaring among them, and ran to them, and a wolf had a young creature by the flank. He went up, put his hands on the creature's back and drew his foot back to kick the wolf, but the wolf let go his hold, gave a snarl and ran away.

March 28, the Presbyterian parish voted to build a meeting-house on the plan appointed by the committee. They chose Mr. Morse, Hugh Tolford, Thomas McMaster, Col. White, Samuel Sherley, Anthony Stickney, William Bell, John Grimes and Peter Aiken a committee, "To Consider the Bigness of the house and draw a draft of the Pues, and make Return as soon as may be."

April 24,

"The Comitys plan of the house and Pues is Excepted. V^d, that this former Comity is empowered to sell the Pues."

1787. Samuel Emerson, who had been town clerk since 1734, was chosen again this year, and John Emerson, his son, was chosen assistant clerk, and the hand-writing of the records changes.

1788. At a town meeting held January 1, Joseph Blanchard was chosen a "Delegate to set in a Convention that is to Be Holden at Exeter Court House on the second Wednesday of Febu^r next, for the Purpose of taking into Consideration the Purposed Constitution made by the Federal Convention the 17th of Sept^r, 1787, for the approbation or Disapprobation of the same when meet."

The first meeting to choose representatives to congress and electors of president and vice-president, under the Federal constitution, was held December 15. The committee had purchased a bell weighing about six hundred pounds. It was said to have been a first-rate one, having been heard at McFarland's tavern, a mile and a half this side of Haverhill, being more than fourteen miles as the road is traveled. It was raised the 12th day of June. A parish meeting was held June 26, at which it was "put to Vote to see if the parish would Except of the Bell as it hang, free of all Costs Except what the pews sold for ; past in the affirmative." They voted to be at the cost of ringing it Sunday, and other public days, and that others might ring it at their own expense at eight, twelve and nine o'clock on other days.

1789. The town voted to vendue the poor of the town to the lowest bidder.

1791. The town voted to sell all of their school lots. Joseph Blanchard, Esq., "was chosen to set in Convention to be holden at Concord, the first wednesday of Sept. next, for the purpose of Revising the Constitution."

February 17, 1791, an act was passed to give Jacob Green, Enoch Noyes, William Duncan and Daniel Livermore, their heirs and assigns, the exclusive right to build a bridge across Merrimack river, at any place one mile above or one mile below Isle Hooksett Falls, to be held as tenants in common and not as joint tenants.

1792. There was an article in the warning of the annual meeting, "To see if the town will Vote to Give their Consent that the General Court should annex the Northwesterly part of this town to Pembroke," &c. Jethro Colby, Jabez Hoit and John Porter were chosen a committee "at the expence of the petitioners, to Join with Pembroke Committee and see if it is expedient, &c., and report." There was no report.

The committee to sell the school lots made a return that

the whole amount of all the lots was £139 8s. 3d. Richard Dearborn purchased No. 67, 2 P., 2 D.

May 7th a meeting was held for accepting or rejecting the amendments proposed to the Constitution. The amendments were taken up separately, and almost unanimously adopted.

Mr. Flagg had become infirm, and unable to perform his ministerial duties, and two committees were sent to enter into arrangements with him. A vote was tried whether the parish would give him three-quarters of his salary during his life, but it did not pass.

May 30, 1793, voted to give Mr. Flagg thirty pounds and twelve cords of wood yearly during his life, he relinquishing his pastoral charge.

October 2, began to take toll at McGregore's bridge, the first bridge across Merrimack river.

October 27, Isaac Hill's negro had the small-pox.

1793. The revised (our present) constitution was ratified and in force. The senators were chosen by districts, the councilors by counties.

Joseph Blanchard, Stephen Chase and Stephen Dearborn were empowered to sell all the parsonage lots in Chester, reserving the proceeds of the hundred-acre lot to the Long Meadows, should they be incorporated into a parish before 1801. There was an attempt this year to unite the two parishes. The Congregational parish chose Stephen Chase, Esq., Capt. Benj. Currier, Capt. Simon Towle, Capt. Locke, and Josiah Flagg, Esq., a committee to try to agree with the other parish relating to settling a minister. In the warning for a meeting of the Presbyterian parish, March 12, 1793, was an article "To see if the parish will choose a committee to Joyn a committee of the Congregational Parish to confer and report the propriety of settling two ministers in said town to be paid by the town at large, or otherwise to make proposals of conditions for both Parishes to join together as one, and lay the same before said Parish at some future meeting."

Ensign Sherley, Esq. White, Samuel Sherley, Esq. Blanchard, and William Bell, were chosen a committee. There is nothing more on the Congregational records about it. The Presbyterians voted not to accept of the report, whatever it might have been.

At a meeting of the Congregational parish, May 30, it was voted to give Mr. Nathan Bradstreet a call ; to give him £75 yearly during Mr. Flagg's life, and a parsonage worth fifty-four dollars per annum, and after Mr. Flagg's decease, a salary of £90 as long as he should perform the work of the ministry. Jethro Colby, Jacob Hill, Amos Merrill, Stephen Merrill and David Hall entered their dissent against the vote. The parsonage was afterwards, at Mr. Bradstreet's request, exchanged for the money. The last Wednesday in October was appointed for the ordination. Esquire Flagg was to entertain the ministers free of cost, Edmond Webster was to provide for the delegates, and a room for the council.

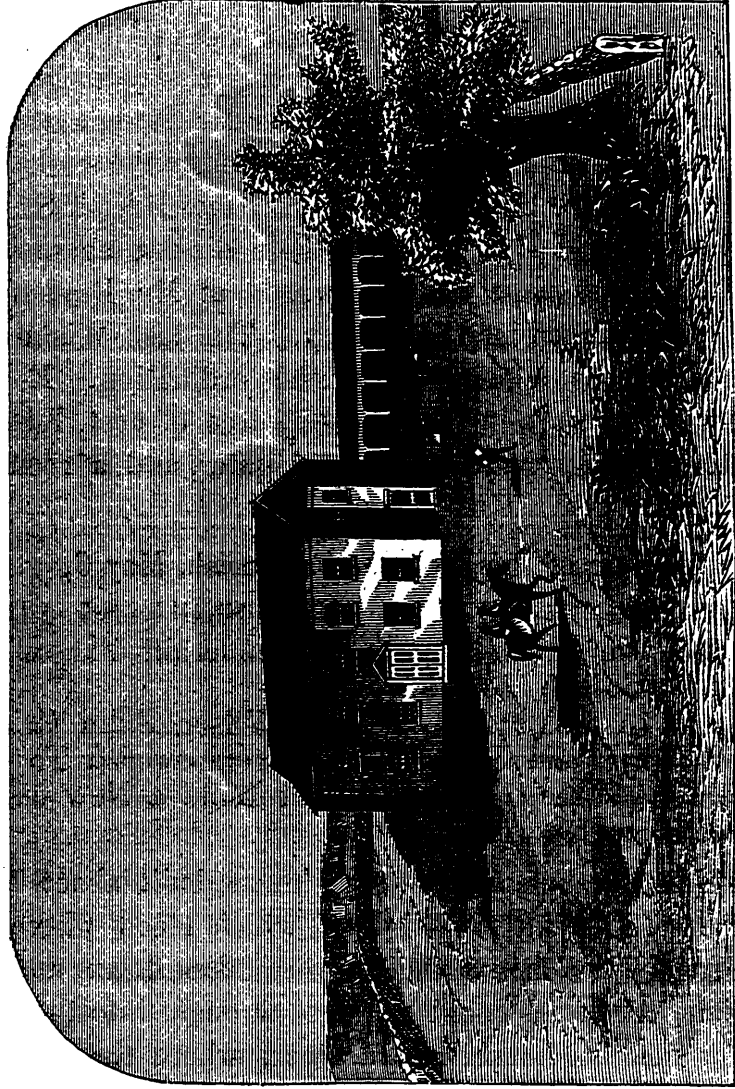
At a meeting of the Presbyterian parish, May 6,

“ Voted, that the old Meeting house Shall be taken Down and Set on the ‘Ground that Capt. Underhill Purposes to them, Near Joseph Calph’s.

“ Voted, that Will^m Bell, William Wilson, John Grimes, Hugh Tolford, and Joseph Lins, is empowered To take down these old meeting houses, and Build a New one, or Cause it to be Done.”

The first Presbyterian meeting-house, built about 1739, and the “Little meeting-house,” which stood where the Rev. Mr. Holmes' house stands, were taken down, and the materials, as far as could be, were wrought into the Long Meadow meeting-house, which stood where the burying-ground is, on No. 73, 2 P. 2 D. The new house was raised July 4th, and the pews were sold July 11th, 1793. Dedicated January 1st, 1794.

The Chester Social Library first opened June 9, 1793. It was incorporated in 1797.

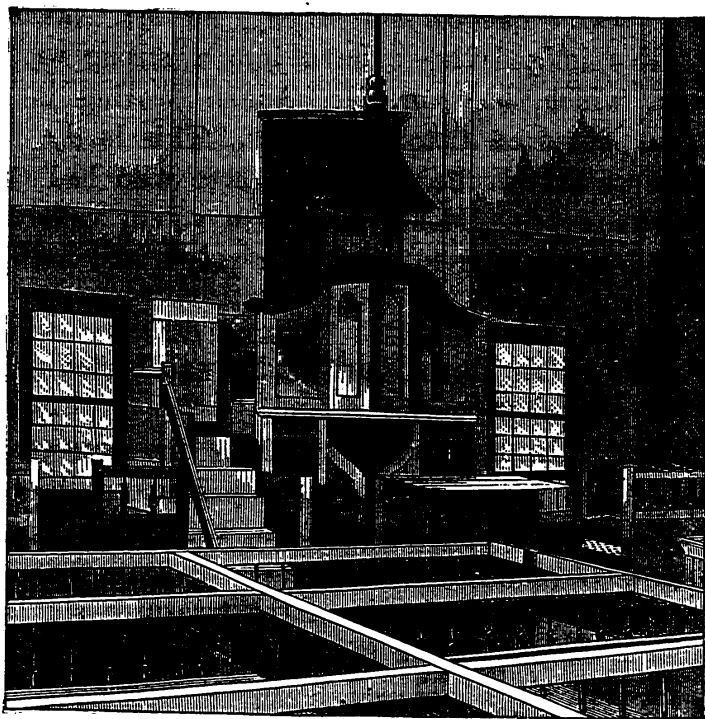


THE LONG-MEADOW MEETING-HOUSE, ERECTED 1793; ENLARGED 1807.

1794. The account of the committee to sell the parsonage lots was rendered. They sold for £249 8s. 9d. Expenses, £5 7s. 6d.; remains, £244 1s. 3d.

There was an article "to see if any encouragement should be given to raise our quota of 80,000 men that had been called for." Dismissed.

The Presbyterian parish chose William Mills, John Grimes, William Shirley, Joseph Blanchard, David Currier, James Wason and Benjamin Melvin, ruling elders. Joseph Blanchard, William Wilson and John Grimes accepted, and were ordained by the Rev. David Annan.



INSIDE VIEW OF LONG-MEADOW MEETING-HOUSE.

This year was remarkable for the forwardness of the season, and for the "great frost" the night of the 17th and morning of the 18th of May. Richard Melvin, Esq., recollects that when Esquire Blanchard moved his wife home, April 23d, the apple-trees were in blossom. The rye was headed and the flax up, but the apples and all were

killed by the frost. It is said that the canker worms, which had been very troublesome for years before, were greatly checked by the frost.

1795. The two parishes chose committees to make rules in regard to taxing, and changing from one parish to the other, which were adopted; but the document is too long to be copied. The Congregationalists refused to divide the parsonage money. They voted to take up seats, and have a singing pew built. November 19th, the Presbyterian parish voted to hire the Rev. David Annan two-thirds of the time for four years, and pay him two hundred dollars each year. The committee engaged Mr. Annan a house to live in, and they entered into a strong written obligation, which, however, Mr. Annan proving intemperate, was dissolved October 7, 1799. This is the first intimation we have in the records of those who had been employed to preach. Money had been voted, collectors chosen, and committees to supply the pulpit, and nothing further.

1796. May 18th, David Carr's wife was buried — the first in Long-Meadow burying-ground.

November 7, the town voted to divide the proceeds of the sale of the parsonage lots equally between the two parishes. It was done March 28th, 1797, each parish receiving £572 9s.

There remained in the hands of the treasurer six hundred dollars, the proceeds of the sale of the school lots.

Nov. 14, Rev. Mr. Flagg died.

1797. There was an attempt to build a new pound, or remove the old one, which stood near Ebenezer Townsend's barn. It was voted that it should remain there ten years, and to sell Mr. Townsend the land incumbered by his buildings.

June 14, 1786, there was a meeting-house raised in Raymond, at what was considered the centre of the town, near where David Page lived. October 18, 1797, it was moved to the present centre. It is the present town-house.

1798. Gov. Gilman in two or three years reviewed all the militia in the State. October 5th of this year, he reviewed the Seventeenth Regiment. The muster was on Benjamin Brown's (now Woodbury Martin's) field. Col. Stephen Dearborn commanded, and he killed an ox and gave a lunch of beef and bread to the regiment. It was said that the whole expense cost him one hundred dollars. They were late in forming the line and the Governor kept them and performed the firing after dark. There was a Col. Hubbard who made powder at King's Falls in Exeter, of which it was said that a cask of it caught fire, and more than half of it burned up before they could blow it out. Something of the kind was used on this occasion, and a stream of fire could be seen two yards from the muzzle of the gun when they fired.

1799. There was another attempt to have the upper end of the town annexed to Pembroke, and a hearing was to be had in June. There was an article in the warning of the annual meeting respecting it. It passed in the negative.

Josiah Flagg died April 25. The bell was broken while tolling for his funeral. There was a parish meeting called May 29, on the subject. It was voted to have a bell to weigh eight hundred pounds. Benjamin Brown, Isaac Hills and Edmund Webster were chosen a committee to procure it. They were to take the old bell and a subscription of \$27 that had been raised, and draw on the parish treasurer for the balance. Aug. 14, the bell was raised. The committee rendered their account Oct. 9, 1799. They paid Aaron Holbrook for casting and new metal, £23 12s.; paid for more metal in Boston, £12 15s. 10d.; other bills, so that it cost besides the old bell, £47 6s. 4d, when it was hung.

December 14, Gen. Washington died.

1800. "On Monday the tenth day of February, Anno Domini 1800, a number of the inhabitants of the town of Chester met at the lower meeting-house in said town, to determine on some suitable mode of paying respect to the memory of Gen. George Washington. After choosing

Joseph Blanchard, Esq., moderator of the meeting, and Amos Kent, Esq., clerk, the following resolves were unanimously passed :

“ 1st. That it be recommended to as many of the Inhabitants of Chester as convenient, to meet at or near the House of Mr. Benjamin Brown in said Chester on Saturday, the 22^d of this Ins^t. Feb^r., to pay a Tribute of Respect to the virtues of the late Deceased General George Washington.

2^d. That the Inhabitants when met form in Procession and march to the meeting-house, and that the Rev^d. M^r. Bradstreet be Requested to officiate on the occasion.

3^d. That the front of the gallery and Pulpit be mantled with Black.

4th. That Cap^t. Abraham Towle with his company of light Infantry, be requested to attend on the occasion as a Military Escort.

5th. That messrs. Benjamin Brown, Benj^a True, Ju^r, Ozias Silsby, Joseph Blanchard and Amos Kent, Esq^{rs}, be a committee to carry the foregoing Resolves into effect, and to make such other arrangements as they shall think suitable on the occasion.

“ The committee above named having met, unanimously agreed to recommend to the inhabitants of Chester, and of other towns who should think proper to attend on the occasion, to meet at the house of Mr. Benjamin Brown at ten of the clock in the forenoon of February 22, — each having a black crape on the lower part of the left arm. The committee also recommend to the keepers of shops and to the different mechanics, to shut sheir shops on the 22d of February, and to the different classes of citizens to abstain from labor on that day. On the morning of the 22d of February, a large concourse of people from Chester and the neighboring towns met as requested at the house of Mr. Benjamin Brown. At half-past eleven o'clock a procession was formed in the following order :

“ 1st. Music — Drum muffled and fifes trimmed with black.

2^d. Cap^t. Towle's company of Light Infantry, with arms reversed, as a military escort.

3^d. Committee of arrangements.

4th. Selectmen and town clerk.

5th. Chaplain and orator.

6th. Civil magistrates.

7th. Field officers.

8th. Capt. and subalterns of the Infantry and troop in their uniform with their side arms trimmed with black.

9th. Deacons, elders and wardens of churches.

10th. Musicians.

11th. Professional characters.

12th. Private citizens.

“The procession marched a slow march toward the meeting-house, the bell tolling, and the military escort moving with their arms reversed. On arriving at the meeting-house the military opened to the right and left, and rested on their arms until the procession had marched through. The solemnities were opened by a funeral anthem. A judicious prayer followed, a discourse, pertinent and well adapted to the occasion, delivered by the Rev. Mr. Bradstreet, and several pieces of music suited to the occasion were performed to general acceptance by the singers. After the services were over, the procession returned in the same order as they came, a quick march to the place where they first formed, when the militia opened to the right and left, the procession walked through and each one retired to his home.

“A solemn and decent deportment appeared in every class of citizens upon this occasion; the countenance of every one bespoke the most sincere and unaffected sorrow for the loss of a man who had rendered such signal and eminent service to his country.”

At the annual meeting, Benjamin Brown, Simon Towle and Stephen Chase were chosen a committee to consider the petition of Nathl. Head and others, praying to be annexed to Pembroke. They reported that they had been on the ground and heard the parties; that nearly one-half the residents of the territory were opposed to the measure; and that it would be a greater burden on Chester to maintain the road through Chester woods, and recommended that an agent be chosen to oppose it. Simon Towle, the representative, was chosen agent.

There was also a committee chosen, consisting of Joseph Blanchard, William White, Benjamin Brown, Amos Kent and Daniel French, to make report on the expediency of the revision of the Constitution. Joseph Blanchard, in behalf of the committee, made a report in favor of the measure.

I give some of his statistics and calculations that they may be compared with present expenditures. The Legislature then held two sessions.

Travel of 158 members to Concord	\$1500
11 days' attendance	3476
Travel to Exeter	1550
28 days' attendance	8840
	\$15366

They were in favor of reducing the members to as few as one hundred and twenty, and alter the time of sitting so as to have one session of twenty-five days only, and foot up:

Travel, about	\$1200
Pay of members	6000
	\$7200
Making a saving of	\$8096

This is but a specimen. The committee went through the whole expenditures of the State, and made so good a case that there were ninety-six votes in favor of a revision and none against it. But the Constitution, after sixty-seven years' further experience, remains unchanged.

CHAPTER VIII.

FROM 1801 TO 1868.

1801. The Presbyterians from the lower part of the town owned pews and attended meeting at the Long Meadows, more or less. Quite a number of families of English descent, as a matter of convenience, joined the Presbyterian parish, and they considered their meeting-house too small; and at a parish meeting, May 7th, the parish voted "to cut the meeting-house asunder and put in 15 feet." Joseph Blanchard, Esq., Mr. James Wason, and Mr. Paul Adams, were chosen a committee to build the addition and sell the pews. The house was cut in the middle, moved