

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.

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## 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

apart, and fifteen feet put in, October 1st. It created some difficulty, because it removed people's pews further from the pulpit. James McFarland left the meeting, and went to Candia.

1802. The Presbyterian meeting-house was not finished, and the committee was instructed to finish it all but painting.

1803. The Presbyterian parish voted "to have the singing carried on in the singing pew all of the time." They probably had had congregational singing a part of the time. At a parish meeting, May 30th, the parish voted to give the Rev. Zaccheus Colby a call to settle, and voted three hundred dollars as an annual salary. Mr. Colby made a long communication, giving his views respecting baptizing the children of parents who had been baptized, but were not in full communion with the church, which was called the half-way covenant. (See Ecclesiastical and Religious History.) Mr. Colby had been the ordained minister at Pembroke, and was re-installed October 13th.

May 8th, there was a fall of six inches of snow. The peach trees were in blossom, and the grain and flax were up. Benaiah Spofford says that he went from Hawk to Haverhill in a sleigh the 9th day, but came home on bare ground.

The bell was broken, and there were a number of individuals who were taxed in two places, and a parish meeting was called December 5th. Josiah Hall, Joseph Hall, and Benjamin Hall, were taxed by the Presbyterian parish, and probably attended meeting there. The Congregational parish voted to relinquish Benjamin Hall's tax, and not the others. William Murray's and John Murray's taxes were relinquished, they procuring receipts that they had paid in Candia.

"Voted, to sell the old bell, and purchase a new one."

Henry Sweetser, Josiah Bradley, and Benjamin Brown, were chosen a committee "to transact said Business."

1804. At the annual town meeting, Henry Sweetser was chosen an agent to petition the General Court to have the line altered, and established in the following manner: "to begin at the S. W. corner of s<sup>d</sup> Chester, being a pitch pine No. 134; then on the east side of said lot No. 134, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division of the fang of the pond, so called; then dividing the waters so as to leave Great Island in Derryfield and Deerneck in Chester, to the south west bounds of lot No. 41, in said 4<sup>th</sup> Division; and on Northerly between it and No. 42, to the N. E. corner of s<sup>d</sup> 42; then about W. N. W., on the middle of the reserve between the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> ranges, until it comes to No. 102; thence to run N. 10 W. to the original head line of Chester; then on the said head line to the river." The alteration was not made.

The General Court passed an act December 30, 1803, requiring the several towns in the State to make surveys of their respective towns, and make plans and send to the Secretary's office, for the purpose of making a State map. At a meeting August 27, Stephen Chase, Joseph Blanchard and William White were chosen a committee to make the survey. The town lines, the principal roads, including two turnpikes, Massabesic pond and Exeter river, were surveyed, and a plan made by Esquire Chase, aided by his son Stephen Chase, Jr., which is now in the Secretary's office. The expense was: Joseph Blanchard, twelve days, \$18; William White, eleven days, \$14.67; Stephen Chase, thirty-six days, \$47.

The General Court made a contract with Philip Carrigain to get up the map, which after long delays was published, and a copy sent to each town. It was called "Carrigain's Map."

At the same meeting it was voted "That the selectmen be Impowered to build a stone pound on the main Road leading to Pembroke, on the N. E. corner of David Underhill's Land, he giving the same for s<sup>d</sup> use." The pound cost \$46.45.

The committee to procure a bell sent the old one to a Mr. Holbrook, of Brookfield, Mass., to be recast. His bill

was \$236.95; the whole expense, \$298.05. The bell was raised August 20th. At the same time a town clock was purchased of Mr. Holbrook by subscription, at a cost, I think, of one hundred dollars. The parish paid the expense of putting up a dial, &c., \$22.14. The clock proved a bad bargain, as it never went well, and a great deal of money was expended on it to little purpose.

John Emery and Stephen Heath shot a bear, and about the same time Capt. James Orr caught one in a trap,—the last killed in Chester. A little later B. P. Chase saw one. The late Judge Bell states that as late as 1810, as Col. Israel W. Kelley was riding on the river road in Goffstown, about a mile above the falls, he saw two girls very much frightened, who said they had seen a bear; when, looking up the bank in the direction they pointed out, he saw the bear. He walked his horse and guarded them to the next house. Probably this was the last in this region.

1805. Chester turnpike was built this year, and the bridge across the pond for the Londonderry turnpike.

The Presbyterian parish gave liberty to some individuals to build horse-sheds on the parish land. Hitherto the horses, some of them coming six miles, stood entirely exposed to the weather.

The singers had liberty to extend the singing pew.

There was a very unfortunate occurrence this year. December 12th, in the evening, several men who were at work on the Straits bridge started ostensibly to go to Peter Severance's to procure his cattle the next day. One by the name of Barnes arrived there long enough before the rest to have Mrs. Severance get up, dress herself, and draw a mug of cider for him, and he went to the door and threw it open against her two or three times. By this time, the rest of the party having arrived, Mr. Severance, suspecting that some violence was intended, fired his gun, the charge passing Barnes, who still stood in the door, and killed Benjamin Whittier, of Boscawen. At the February term, 1806, he was convicted of manslaughter, sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, and pay costs.

1806. The town voted to pay a bounty of twelve cents for killing crows. The question of having a work-house came up and was dismissed.

There was an act passed Dec. 28, 1805, authorizing towns to divide the towns into school districts. The town was divided into twenty districts, rather indefinitely bounded.

June 16, sun totally eclipsed four minutes and a half.

1807. There had been an act passed for furnishing soldiers with rations muster day. The bill this year amounted to \$63.25.

Great Britain and France were carrying on a most sanguine war, and were not at all disposed to respect the rights of neutrals, and American commerce suffered severely. The Americans enjoyed, notwithstanding all of their losses, a lucrative carrying trade, but the government, to protect their rights or to prevent further wrongs, laid an embargo on all foreign commerce. This entirely paralyzed all business in the sea-ports. As an illustration of its effects, Edward and Stark Ray had bought the Oswego mill, with some two hundred acres of land, covered with a heavy growth of pine timber; at this time they drew their lumber to Martin's Ferry, rafted it to Newburyport, and sold it for eight dollars per thousand, and the market was limited at that price.

1808. At a town meeting held Sept. 26, a committee, consisting of John Bell, John Folsom, Benjamin Brown, Henry Sweetser, Nathaniel Head, Joseph Blanchard, William Moore, Benjamin Eaton, John Wason, John Wilson, Amos Kent and Ebenezer Townsend, was chosen to consider the propriety of preparing a respectful petition to the President of the United States, praying him to suspend the operation of the laws laying an embargo on the ships and vessels of the United States so far as relates to Spain, Portugal and their respective colonies. The committee made a very long report that it would not be expedient, but useless, inasmuch as respectful petitions from a great num-

ber of large and populous towns had been presented to the President, praying to have the embargo suspended so far as relates to the countries against which we have no cause of complaint, and where we could have exchanged our provisions and lumber for articles of the first importance, &c.; the answers to these petitions have uniformly been of the same tenor, that while the causes for laying it still existed, the embargo must remain, &c. They vindicated themselves from the charge of want of patriotism and exhorted the people to gain and impart correct information on political subjects, &c.

June 27, there was a tornado which blew down the barn of Wells Chase while he and his grand-daughter Sarah Chase were in it milking. They escaped with little injury.

1809. Rev. Mr. Colby had a paralytic shock in the desk while reading the last hymn, in the summer of 1808, which disabled him from preaching. There was a parish meeting called Jan. 2, 1809, to which Mr. Colby made a communication, saying that if he were no better before March meeting he would resign his charge. At the annual meeting he asked a dismissal, which was granted.

There was a petition presented to the Congregational parish by certain individuals, for the privilege of having ministers of other denominations preach in the meeting-house when it would not interfere with Mr. Bradstreet's meetings. Liberty was granted for the admission of Methodists, Baptists and Freewill Baptists, but only of those that the committee, consisting of Rev. Mr. Bradstreet, Benjamin True and Nathan Knowles, should approve.

1810. There were individuals who once paid taxes to the Congregational parish who were inclined towards other denominations; and being dissatisfied with Mr. Bradstreet, they declined paying taxes. At the annual meeting there was a committee of twelve chosen to confer with Mr. Bradstreet to see on what condition he would dissolve the connection, and also confer with the disaffected members. They reported at the adjournment that Mr. Bradstreet's

terms were to pay the loss which he should experience in the sale of his real estate and the depreciation on his salary, which he supposed would amount to three thousand and eight hundred dollars. The committee thought few of the disaffected persons would willingly be members of the parish. Therefore they reported against a dissolution. Report accepted.

January 19 was the famous cold Friday. The day before was warm for winter, but about 4 o'clock there came up a squall and the wind blew a gale from the north-west, which blew down a great deal of timber. The house in which the writer now lives was moved on its foundation so that the north corner went to the bottom of the cellar. Stephen Chase's diary says, "Has not been so cold for forty years by three degrees."

1812. The spotted fever prevailed in Londonderry, which caused a great deal of alarm. A town-meeting was held April 18.

"Voted, that in case of the appearance of the spotted fever within the limits of the Town, the selectmen for the time being be authorized to procure experienced medical assistance at the expense of the Town."

It is not known that anybody in Chester had the disease at that time.

June 18, war was declared against Great Britain.

November 16, the Presbyterian parish voted to hire the Rev. Mr. Harlow for one year, and offered him two hundred dollars, a house and twelve cords of wood. Mr. Harlow supplied the desk three years.

1814. There was a petition presented to the legislature by James Otterson and fifteen others, praying to have a part of Chester, part of Dunbarton and a part of Allentown incorporated into a new town. There was an order of notice. May 30 the town voted that it might be set off.

There were men drafted at three several times to go to the defense of Portsmouth; one detachment in the summer; one draft was made August 26, for sixty days; another was made September 10, for ninety days. (See Military History.)

There was a town-meeting October 3. There was one article to authorize the selectmen, in case more men were called for, to hire them. Another article was to authorize the selectmen to furnish any detachment with powder and ball. Both were dismissed. It was voted that the town pay each soldier drafted since March such sum as will make up fourteen dollars per month, including what the government paid. The government paid eight dollars per month.

The dissatisfaction with Mr. Bradstreet continued and increased. Several individuals, including several members of the church, were taxed by the Presbyterian parish, and attended meeting there, and refused to pay for the support of Mr. Bradstreet. The parish held several meetings, and chose a committee to confer with Mr. Bradstreet and with the disaffected members. The committee reported that Mr. Bradstreet proposed that if on mature deliberation the parish determined to dissolve the connection he would leave their pecuniary matters to arbitration. The delinquent members were willing to belong to the parish if Mr. Bradstreet were dismissed. The committee reported against a dissolution, and against the collector making distress on the delinquents.

December 29, a Moral Society was formed, to discountenance profanity, Sabbath breaking and intemperance. It was on the moderate drinking basis. (See History of the Temperance Reform.)

1815. The treaty of peace was signed at Ghent, December 24, 1814. The news of peace came to Chester February 14. The President appointed April 13 as a day of public Thanksgiving, the same day that was appointed by the Governor as a day of fasting. The day was celebrated at Chester. A procession was formed near Benjamin Brown's, escorted by the Chester Light Infantry accompanied by martial music, and marched to the meeting-house where the Rev. Mr. Bradstreet delivered a discourse, which was printed, from the text, Psalms 120 : 7, "I am for peace,"



in which he recounted the causes of the war. The procession marched back and had a supper, toasts, etc.

September 23, there was a northeast storm. About eleven o'clock the wind veered to the south and blew a gale, blowing down buildings and uprooting large quantities of timber.

At the June session of the General Court, 1815, there was a petition of Jonathan Gillis, Isaac Huse and John Dwinnell, a committee in behalf of the town of Manchester, presented, praying for the exclusive right of catching alewives in Cohas brook. There was an order of notice to Chester, Londonderry, Bedford and Goffstown. I will relate the fate of the petition as related to me several years since by John Lane, Esq., who was the member from Candia at the time. Mr. Huse, who had the petition in charge, engaged some member who proved to be a wag to advocate his cause when it came up. The gentlemen referred the House to the member from Bedford (Mr. Chandler, I think) as a specimen of the Bedford people, large and athletic, being brought up on chestnuts and acorns; and as a contrast referred to Mr. Huse (who was a small man) as a specimen of Manchester people, who were brought up on whortleberries and lamprey eels, and were a diminutive race of men, not able to contend with Bedford people, and therefore ought to be protected. It created a laugh, and the prayer of the petition was refused.

1816. At the annual meeting, March, 1815, John Bell, John Folsom and B. Pike Chase were chosen a committee to consider and point out in what way the business of the town can be conducted so as to make a saving of time and money to the town, and to report. At the annual meeting, March, 1816, they reported, that for the three years past the expense of transacting the town business had been six hundred and nineteen dollars, or about two hundred and six dollars per year. They proposed to divide the town into three districts, and each selectman take the inventory in one district; have one assessor to make the taxes; one

overseer of the poor and treasurer. They make the following estimate of the expenses :

Selectmen's services, . . . . .	\$50 00
Assessor's, . . . . .	15 00
Overseer of poor's, . . . . .	15 00
Treasurer's, . . . . .	15 00
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Making in the whole, . . . . .	\$95 00

The report was accepted. We cannot show precisely what the saving was, but Joseph Blanchard charges as selectman, sixty dollars and ninety-nine cents; Benjamin Fitts, thirty-five dollars and thirty-six cents; Joseph Robinson, twenty-eight dollars and twenty-four cents. Henry Sweetser was chosen overseer of the poor, and charges his services and expenses of maintaining together, six hundred and eighteen dollars. Stephen Chase was chosen treasurer, but was also collector and had no extra bill. It was voted at this meeting that in the future two-thirds of the town meetings be held at the East meeting-house, and the other third at the West meeting-house.

The summer of 1816 was the coldest ever known by the "oldest inhabitant;" it was also very dry. I give a few extracts from a diary kept at the time: "May 15, froze hard enough in plowed land to bear a man; June 6, snow squalls; June 8, a squall of snow; June 10, frost last night; June 11, a heavy frost last night; killed a great deal of corn, — some of it entirely dead, and five-sixths of the apples killed. The 5th of June the thermometer was 88°; the 6th, at 40°; the 9th, at 37°. June 22, ice in James Wason's tan-yard; July 10, frost in low land; August 22, frost last night which killed a great deal of corn and potatoes; August 20, a squall of rain, but snow on the mountains at Goffstown."

It was so cold and dry that corn did not grow to ripen, and was killed early, so that very little was raised. Abraham Sargent, Jr., had removed from Randolph, Vt., on to his father's farm, and brought with him a very early kind of corn. He raised a crop of tolerably sound corn which he sold the next spring for four dollars per bushel

for seed, and it was a great favor to the farmers to obtain it at that price. There was a very short crop of hay. Wheat and rye were extremely good.

In consequence of the shortness of crops, stock was very low. My father sold a pair of four-years-old cattle for thirty-nine dollars.

The first elephant ever exhibited here was at Sweetser's tavern, May 17 of this year.

The troubles in the Congregational parish about Mr. Bradstreet continued, and it seems that an ecclesiastical council had been held that had recommended that if the pastor and church could not live together in peace, the pastor should ask a dismissal, which he had not done. The parish at their annual meeting chose a committee, consisting of William White, Peter Hall, Isaac Lane, Henry Sweetser, Rich<sup>d</sup> Dearborn, Jona. Emery, Stephen Hills, Perly Chase and Stephen Clay, 3d, "whose Duty it Shall be to take into Consideration all applications which may in any way Concern the Prudential affairs of the Parish not in any other way Provided for." A long communication was made by Richard Haseltine, Nathan Knowles, Benj. Haseltine, Ebenezer Townsend, Thomas Sargeant, John Emerson and Benja. Hills, Jr., church members. They complain that Mr. Bradstreet had not complied with the result of the Council, and violated his own engagements, and intimate that the church may be driven to unpleasant measures. They say that if the parish would join with the church in dismissing the pastor, most, if not all, who had left would return and endeavor to build up the parish, &c. At a meeting May 23, the parish "voted not to dismiss Mr. Bradstreet."

After the Rev. William Harlow's term had expired, the Presbyterian parish had three or four young men as candidates for settlement, but would not agree to settle any of them.

1817. The town did not realize the expected saving in the expenses, especially in the support of the poor. They voted to accept the accounts all but the charge of the overseer of the poor. The town chose Amos Kent, Stephen

Chase and John Folsom a committee to examine the accounts and report the most eligible mode of supporting the poor. The committee reported that the expense of supporting the poor had been unnecessarily large; and that there were too many officers, and recommended to have one selectman oversee the poor, another be treasurer, and another take care of the roads, &c. William Graham was chosen treasurer, Moses Haselton, overseer of the poor, and Jesse J. Underhill to superintend the highways. The selectmen's services were about fifty dollars each, and twenty dollars extra for overseeing the poor.

At a town meeting April 28, the selectmen were directed to prosecute all persons who may be guilty of a breach of the laws respecting retailing spirituous liquors. Retailers were not permitted by law to sell in less quantities than one pint, and that not to be drank on the premises. The law was entirely disregarded and liquor dealt out to tipplers by most of the retailers.

It was voted, that a sum be raised equal to one-half that shall be raised by subscription, for the encouragement of erecting a court-house here in the event of the courts of law being removed from Portsmouth. John Folsom, John Bell, Daniel French, Joseph Blanchard and Charles Goss were chosen a committee to wait on the honorable committee to locate the county buildings. John Folsom was chosen agent to attend the legislature on the subject of removing the courts.

The difficulties about Mr. Bradstreet continued. At a parish meeting a committee, consisting of Isaac Lane, Richard Dearborn, Noah Weeks, Samuel Shackford, Perly Chase, Peter Hall, Henry Sweetser, Abraham Sargeant and Jonathan Emery, was chosen to confer with the Rev. Mr. Bradstreet. They made a report at an adjournment, which was accepted. Five hundred dollars were borrowed from the parish fund and paid to Mr. Bradstreet, and the contract was ended.

In the fall of 1816, the Presbyterian committee procured the Rev. Clement Parker, a middle-aged man with a family,

as a candidate for settlement. The last day of December there was a parish meeting which gave him a call and offered him a salary of \$350 and \$100 settlement money. Mr. Parker was ordained.

Oct. 16, there was a brigade muster near N. Head, Esq.'s, at the upper end of the town. The town voted to give the non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, thirty-four cents each.

1818. Stephen Chase, John Bell and John Folsom, who had been chosen a committee to consider the expediency of erecting or purchasing a work-house for the use of the town, made report at the annual meeting that it was not expedient, which was accepted.

At the June session of the General Court there was a petition of Henry Moulton, and thirty others, inhabitants of Dunbarton, presented, praying that a part of Dunbarton and a part of Chester may be formed into a new town. Order of notice on Chester and Dunbarton. At the annual meeting March, 1819, the town gave their consent, but the prayer was not granted.

In the Presbyterian tax and account book, in the handwriting of Joseph Blanchard, Esq., is a copy of a communication addressed to the wardens, stating that for a number of years they had been members of the parish, but that the causes that induced them to join no longer continued, and asked not to be considered members. Dated March 4, 1818; signed Benjamin Eaton, Amos Kent, Benjamin Fitts, Thomas Sargent, Benjamin Kittridge, Rufus Kittridge, Lemuel W. Blake, Nathan Knowles, 3d, Ezekiel Blake, Joseph Robinson, Thomas Haselton, Joseph Long, Benjamin Wilson, John Wilson, William Moor, James Moor, Jr., Joseph Richardson, Jethro Sleeper, William Walker and Nathan Knowles, Jr. There is also a fraternal answer by Joseph Blanchard, Nathaniel W. Linn, Samuel Dinsmore, wardens. There is also a memorandum stating that they had paid in four years \$324.03.

At a meeting of the Congregational parish, May 4,

“Voted, To try the Persons Singly as they stand on the Petition to the wardens for admittance as members to join the Parish.

“Benj<sup>n</sup> Kittridge, Amos Kent, John Wilson, Will<sup>m</sup> Moore, James Moore, Jr., Joseph Richardson, Cyrus Moore, Benj<sup>n</sup> Eaton, Rufus Kittridge, John Emerson, Ezekiel Blake, Joseph Robinson, Edward S. Hills, Nathan Knowles, 3d, Benj<sup>n</sup> Wilson, Thos. Sargeant, Jethro Sleeper, Nathan Wilson, Joseph Long, Nathan Knowles, Jr.

“Voted, To Receive all of the above Persons as members of the above Parish.”

The Hon. Samuel Bell, Stephen Chase and Isaac Lane were chosen a committee “to make a certificate for the Rev<sup>d</sup> Nathan Bradstreet.” A Mr. Jewett was employed to preach.

1819. The Congregational parish voted to shingle and repair the meeting-house, and chose Benjamin Eaton committee to do it. It was partly done by subscription. An article to sell the ground for four floor pews in front of the pews last built was referred, the committee reported, and report was accepted.

The Rev. Clement Parker purchased the Paul Adams place (where Andrew Craige had made the second settlement at the Long Meadows), and being unable to meet the payments, the parish voted to purchase it for a parsonage, and Mr. Parker to allow rent equal to the interest of the purchase money, \$875.

May 28, Benjamin Pike Chase, James Wason and Robert Dinsmore were chosen ruling elders. The two first were ordained.

1820. At the June session of the General Court, Thomas W. Thompson and others petitioned to have a new county formed out of the northerly part of the counties of Rockingham and Hillsborough. At the annual town meeting, 1820, the sense of the voters was taken: “Against the subject matter, 157; for, 9.” It was voted that no swine be allowed to go at large in any part of the town.

The Congregational parish had voted to offer the Rev.

Joel R. Arnold five hundred dollars salary, and chose a committee "to call on the persons belonging to the parish, and see if they would unite in giving the Rev. Mr. Arnold an Invitation to settle with us." The parish had had so much trouble in getting rid of Mr. Bradstreet, they made a proviso that if either party was dissatisfied they might end the contract by giving six months' notice.

There was a parish meeting, February 19, 1820.

"Voted to adhere to the former vote, and confirm the Call to the Rev. Mr. Arnold."

The parish appointed the second Wednesday of March for the ordination.

1821. The mode of supporting the poor came up again, and John Folsom, Esq., Capt. William Graham and Capt. Samuel Aiken were chosen a committee to report upon the subject at the next annual town meeting.

At the June session of the General Court, 1821, Samuel Head and thirty-two others presented a petition, showing that they lived from ten to sixteen miles from the place of business and worship, &c. They pray that the lands and inhabitants of that part of Chester north of a line drawn from the northeast corner of Manchester to the southwest corner of Candia, may be set off with a part of Dunbarton, into a town. Order of notice to Chester and Dunbarton.

Another petition was presented by Nathl. Head and seventy-two others, inhabitants of the northwesterly part of Chester, the easterly part of Dunbarton and the easterly part of Goffstown, showing that they were from ten to sixteen miles from places established for transacting town business and holding public worship in said towns, &c. They pray that a portion of these towns may be incorporated into a town, &c. Order of notice to Chester, Goffstown and Dunbarton, to be heard the first Tuesday of the next session.

1822. At the annual meeting, March 12,

"Voted, that so much of the Town of Chester as lies

Northerly & westerly of the following line : viz., Beginning at a Stake & Stones at the South west corner of Candia, thence S. 29 Deg. West to the south head line of Lot No. 94, in the 4th division ; thence N. 70° West, across part of Lot No, 94 & 95 to the S. W. corner of said No. 95 ; thence Southerly on the Easterly line of lots No. 80, 71 & 60, to the S. E. corner of said No. 60 ; thence strait to a Stake and Stones, which is the Northeast corner of Manchester ; be set off & erected into a new Town, on condition that they take their proportion of the paupers of said Chester, pay their proportion of the debts Due by said Town, & receive their proportion of debts due the said Town."

This, with a portion of Dunbarton and Goffstown, was incorporated into a town by the name of Hooksett, July 2, 1822. Previous to this, the farthest inhabitants had to travel more than seventeen miles to Chester two-thirds of the time, to town meeting, and fourteen miles the other third, to the Long Meadows.

A very able and elaborate report of the committee chosen at the last annual meeting to take into consideration the subject of a change in the mode of supporting the poor belonging to the town of Chester, was received and adopted.

At a meeting, April 2, the town voted to purchase a farm for the poor. (See History of Pauperism.)

1824. There was an effort this year to have the courts removed from Portsmouth to Exeter. The sense of the voters in Chester was taken, and there were one hundred seventy-eight in favor, and none against.

Upon a settlement with Hooksett, \$173.42 was paid in full for all funds.

The Presbyterian parish chose Dr. Nathan Plummer and Samuel Dinsmore ruling elders. They were ordained.

1825. There was an effort this year to have the sessions of the courts removed from Exeter to Chester, and seven hundred dollars were appropriated towards erecting a court-house, provided the Legislature should by law direct the holding the courts, or any of them, at Chester.

There was a committee, consisting of John Folsom,



Samuel D. Bell and Daniel French, chosen, and one hundred dollars appropriated, "to aid persons in defining or regaining their rights, who have been, or may be, taken undue advantage of." The reason of this measure was that there were some men, of whom Rufus Wilson was the principal, who would buy up demands against poor people, institute suits, and by settling and taking notes for larger sums and then suing again, greatly oppressed them, and endangered their becoming paupers. Wilson was afterwards convicted of forgery for erasing a clause from a mortgage deed, which secured possession for a limited time to the mortgager, and he forfeited his recognizance and left the State, which broke up the gang.

A valuable large Bible for the desk had been donated by Capt. Moses C. Pillsbury, then warden of the New Hampshire state prison, and a vote of thanks was passed by the Presbyterian parish; also a vote of thanks to Joseph Blanchard, Esq., for the many services he had rendered the parish. There was a meeting of the Presbyterian parish July 13, when it was voted to dissolve the connection between the Rev. Clement Parker and the parish on the first day of March next.

1826. The law for dividing towns into school districts required that the territory should be divided, but the division heretofore had been of the inhabitants, and inhabitants had been changed from one district to another. At the annual meeting, John Folsom, Josiah Chase and John S. Brown were chosen a committee "to survey the town, and divide it into school districts." They divided the town into eighteen districts, and their report was accepted.

Two hearses for funeral purposes were purchased this year, for which \$225 were paid. Previous to this the dead had been carried on a bier on men's shoulders, to the grave. They were sometimes, in case of deep snows, carried on a sleigh. I have heard my grandfather say that he was one to carry John Craig to Londonderry, a distance of at least nine or ten miles. I helped, in 1817, to carry Lydia Dearborn to Chester, four miles and a half.

The Presbyterian parish hired Rev. Abel Manning at \$300, and the use of the parsonage. He supplied the desk until March, 1831.

There was a very long storm in August, injuring a great deal of hay and grain, and then a very heavy southerly rain, which caused a slide at the White Mountains.

1828. The bell was broken and a new one procured, raised May 29.

1829. An act was passed, June, 1821, to establish a literary fund by taxing the banks half of one per cent. of their circulation or capital stock, to be invested for the endowment of a college. By an act passed December 31, 1829, the fund was to be divided between the towns in proportion to their State tax, for the support of common schools. The selectmen of Chester received \$407. At the annual meeting it was

“Voted, that one-fourth part of the Literary Fund received by this town from the State Treasury, be annually distributed to the several school districts, in proportion to their respective valuations, for the support of schools for four years ensuing, and that the interest which shall have accrued on said fund at the time of such annual distribution be distributed in the same manner.”

A fire engine was purchased by individuals on Chester street. At a town meeting, held July 24, it was

“Voted to adopt the first fourteen sections of ‘an act entitled an act defining the powers and duties of firewards in certain cases.’”

Firewards were chosen.

At the annual meeting of the Congregational parish Samuel D. Bell, Jethro Sleeper and Samuel Aiken were chosen a committee to report by-laws for the government of this society at an adjourned meeting. At the adjournment, April 6, the committee reported a code containing sixteen sections. The first was that any person subscribing his name to the parish book should become a member, and liable to taxation. The fourteenth provided that any person who should become a member before the first day

of June, 1829, should be exempt from paying any higher tax than one dollar on the poll, and in that proportion on his estate. The report was accepted and adopted. Some persons signed the book after the first day of June and were not taxed, but claimed the right to vote. A meeting was called September 22, "to see if the parish will admit such persons to vote before the next annual meeting." The article was dismissed.

At a meeting September 22 it was

"Voted, that the contract between the Congregational parish in Chester and the Rev. Joel R. Arnold be dissolved at the expiration of six months from the time Mr. Arnold shall receive this vote."

At the annual meeting, 1830, a proviso was added to the by-laws, "that no person shall be allowed to vote in any matter coming before the parish, without the consent of the parish, until he shall become actually liable to pay a parish tax."

1830. At a meeting of the Congregational parish, August 2d, a committee of nine persons was chosen to present the parish book to persons for their signatures to the following, to become members of the parish, viz.: "The subscribers promise the Congregational parish in Chester that so long as they continue members of said parish they will pay all parish taxes assessed upon their polls and estates, provided the same does not exceed the rate of eighty-four cents upon the single poll, and in the same proportion upon their taxable property."

At an adjournment August 7, the parish invited the Rev. Jonathan Clement to become their minister on the following terms: "That the parish will pay him so long as he continues to be their minister the sum of five hundred dollars annually, and that he shall at all times have the right to put an end to said contract, giving six months' notice of his intention so to do, and that said parish shall in like manner have the right to put an end to said contract, giving six months' notice."

Mr. Clement accepted the call, and the second Wednesday of October was appointed for the ordination.

1831. August 20, Stephen Heath and Oliver Welch having been to Derry with a team, Welch for some cause struck Heath with a stake so as to cause his death. He was convicted of manslaughter and sent to the state prison, and in a few years was pardoned.

August 15, the Presbyterians voted to hire the Rev. Benjamin Sargent.

November 22, William M. Richardson and others formed the "Chester Musical Society" and assumed corporate powers.

1832. The representatives were instructed to use their efforts in the legislature to have the courts removed from Exeter to Chester.

1833. The Presbyterian parish voted to give a call to the Rev. Benjamin Sargent, and offer him the use of the parsonage and two hundred dollars. He was installed the last Wednesday in May.

1834. The town voted to purchase of Jonathan Dearborn half an acre of land for an addition to the burying-place, and pay one hundred and fifty dollars.

1836. A record of marriages and births had been kept in an unbound book from 1726 to about 1806, when a bound book was procured for the purpose. The old book was much worn and at the annual meeting, 1836, the town clerk was authorized to copy the old book into the new one. This was done in a good bold hand by Mrs. Tompkins, the town clerk's wife.

November 7, voted, ninety-two yeas, two nays, that it is expedient for the State to grant an appropriation to build an insane hospital. It was also voted to authorize the selectmen to cause the accounts of the town to be printed, which has since been done, I think, annually.

1837. There had accumulated in the treasury of the United States a large surplus of revenue beyond the liabilities of the government, which by act of Congress had been apportioned among the several States. At a town

meeting February 1, it was voted to receive it, and an agent was chosen to receive it and directed to loan enough to the town to pay their debts, and the residue to individuals, and the interest of the money to be divided equally among the several school districts.

1838. At a town meeting Aug. 28, the agent reported that he had of surplus revenue \$4,718.67.

The selectmen reported that when they came into office	
the town owed . . . . .	\$2724 06
Liabilities for roads, bridges, &c. . . . .	4933 66
	<hr/>
Total indebtedness . . . . .	\$7657 72

It was voted to appropriate all the surplus revenue and interest, excepting one year's interest to be added to the school money, to defray town charges.

1839. In the warning of the annual meeting of the Congregational parish for 1836 was an article "To see if the parish will consent to alter or repair or otherwise dispose of the meeting-house," and similar articles were in the warnings for 1837 and 1838, all of which were dismissed. This year was an article "To see if the Parish will alter the meeting-house, and choose a Committee to do the same, or to authorize John Picket, John W. Noyes, Nathaniel F. Emerson, and others, members of the Parish, to alter the meeting-house, provided they will give satisfactory bonds to the Parish." On motion of Henry F. French, Esq.,

"Voted, That the Parish authorize a Committee to alter the meeting house, provided they give a bond satisfactory to the Wardens of said Parish to indemnify said Parish against the expenses of said alteration; and complete said alteration by December 1, 1839, and pay over the amount received by them above the expenses of said alteration to the Parish; Yeas 34, Nays 17."

John Picket, Nathaniel F. Emerson, Thomas J. Melvin, John W. Noyes and Benjamin White were chosen for the said committee. John Lane of Candia, Nathaniel Parker of Derry, and Isaac Smith of Hampstead, were chosen to appraise the pews when the house is altered.

The noble structure built in 1773, which faced the southwest, with a steeple at the northwest end and a porch at the southeast end, was turned around, the spire cut away, the posts cut down, the whole interior altered, having only a singing gallery. It was finished into seventy-eight pews, which were appraised at from fifteen to eighty-five dollars each.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN CHESTER, REMODELED IN 1839.

1840. Seventy-five dollars were appropriated to purchase a grave-yard near the Methodist meeting-house.

Oct. 10, the Presbyterian parish voted to dissolve the contract with the Rev. Benjamin Sargent.

1843. This year was remarkable for the lateness of the spring. There was a great snow storm March 16, and sledding till about the middle of April. Pike Chase sledged down the Dearborn mill-pond April 21.

1844. By a statement of the treasurer, the town owed more than was due to it, \$4,300.25.

A motion was made at the meeting of the Congregational parish that it is expedient to dissolve the connection between the parish and Mr. Clement; negatived. Mr. Clement took a strong interest in the alteration of the meeting-house, and that and other things raised so strong an opposition that he gave notice, Dec. 1, to dissolve the contract after six months.

A town meeting was holden for the choice of electors Nov. 4. The Whig candidates, headed by Gen. Joseph Low, received one hundred votes; the Democratic, headed by William Badger, one hundred and seventy-one votes; the Abolition, by Jesse Woodbury, twenty-three votes. The Democrats prevailed in the State, and voted for James K. Polk, who was elected. The question was taken respecting the abolition of capital punishment: affirmative, thirty-one; negative, one hundred and twenty-two.

1845. The town voted to instruct the selectmen not to grant licenses to retail spirituous liquors.

A petition by John Clark and others having been presented to the Legislature in 1844 to have the town divided, the west part to be named "West Chester," and an order of notice having been served on the town, there was a committee, consisting of John White, Jacob Chase, David Currier, Stephen Palmer, Abel G. Quigg and James Brown, chosen to report a line for the division at an adjournment. The question was taken by ayes and noes, whether the meeting would consent to a division provided the committee should report a satisfactory line: ayes one hundred and forty-eight; noes eighty-three. There seem to have been two reports, and the one made by that part of the committee from the westerly part of the town was adopted: ayes two hundred and ten; noes fifty-nine.

There was a strong opposition from individuals in the west part, headed by Jesse Patten and Pike Chase, a remonstrance sent in and counsel employed before the committee, but the petitioners prevailed, and an act passed June 23, 1845, that all that part of Chester "lying westerly of the following lines, to wit: beginning on the line between Chester and Candia at a stake and stones in the reserve between lots numbered forty-three and fifty-two in the second division of lots in Chester; thence south seventeen degrees thirty minutes west, five hundred and sixty-two rods to a spruce tree marked; then south twenty-seven degrees west, two hundred and ninety-eight rods to a stake on the northerly side of the road leading from Jesse Wood's to Chester turnpike; thence south sixty-eight degrees east, seventy rods, to a stake on the northerly side of said road; thence south twenty-five degrees west, two hundred and eighty-seven rods, to a stone set in the ground, on the southerly line of the road leading from Concord, N. H., to Haverhill, Mass.; thence north seventy-one degrees west, twenty-four rods by the southerly line of said road to a stake and stones; thence south twenty-three degrees west, seven hundred and seventy-two rods, to the line between Chester and Derry;—be, and the same is hereby, severed from the town of Chester, and made a body politic and corporate by the name of Auburn." Samuel D. Bell of Manchester, Nathaniel Parker and William Choate of Derry, were named in the act to divide the property and debts. Auburn was to pay two dollars and twenty-six cents and Chester four dollars and two cents, of State tax.

The first meeting of Auburn was notified by John Clark, David Currier and Stephen Palmer, and holden July 28, and officers chosen at an adjournment.

1846. There had accumulated a surplus of revenue in the treasury of the United States, and Congress had passed an act for dividing it among the States, and the question was laid before the towns whether it should be received. Chester voted unanimously to receive it, and Auburn forty-six to seven to receive it.



The Congregational parish voted unanimously to give the Rev. Lauren Armsby a call, with a salary of five hundred dollars. The Congregational society in Auburn voted that it is expedient to sell the old meeting-house and appropriate the proceeds towards building a new house.

1847. The building of the new house was taken in thirty shares of fifty dollars each. The share-holders and society chose David Currier, Pike Chase and Graham Hall, building committee. Miles Burnham gave the land. J. W. Spofford took the contract of the wood-work and David Hall gave the bell. The house was raised October 5, 1847, and dedicated February, 1848.

1848. The question of a prohibitory liquor law having been submitted to a vote of the people, Chester voted: yes, ninety-six; no, 33. Auburn voted in the affirmative.

1850. A convention to revise the State constitution having been ordered, John White was chosen delegate by Chester and David Currier by Auburn.

The snow laid till April 20, and some drifts till the 26th. Froze hard the 24th and froze May 19.

1741. The Constitutional Convention having been held, and many alterations proposed, fifteen questions were submitted to the towns. In Chester the highest affirmative vote was twenty-four; the lowest, nine. In the negative the highest was one hundred ninety-eight; the lowest, one hundred eighty-two.

In Auburn the highest affirmative was thirty-seven; the lowest, eleven; the highest negative, one hundred and five; the lowest, one hundred and four. The whole work of the Convention was rejected by the State.

Chester voted, sixty-eight to forty, that it is expedient for the Legislature to pass a law exempting a homestead to the value of five hundred dollars, from attachment.

From September 8th to 13th was the warmest weather of the season; 15th and 16th, frost; 23d, the ground froze.

1852. April 15th, a severe snow-storm; 19th and 20th, a great rain, carrying off all the snow, and causing a great freshet, the water being over the bridges at Auburn Village, and up above the base of the great rock at the pond shore.

October 18th, a heavy thunder shower. There were several barns burnt by lightning.

1853. The Legislature had proposed the question of a new county, Manchester to be the shire town. Chester indefinitely postponed the article.

At a meeting of the town of Chester, July 19, adjourned to September 13, it was voted to erect a town-house two stories high, thirty by fifty feet, the upper story for a school-room, provided that \$500 be furnished by donation, and the expense to the town not to exceed \$1000. Passed, seventy-five to fifty-one.

1854. In 1854 the building was erected by a few individuals, at an expense of \$2500, including furniture. In 1855 the building and land were sold to the town of Chester for a town-house, for \$1250, reserving forever the second story for school purposes, to be under the control of the trustees of Chester Academy. A high school has been kept in it a portion of each year since that time.

The question of building a town-house has several times come before the town of Auburn, but has always been negatived.

The town of Auburn voted, seventy-one to thirty-seven, to instruct their representative, in case the famous Nebraska Bill, repealing the Missouri Compromise, should come before the next Legislature for approval or disapproval, to exert his influence against it.

Nathan Griffin and a Mr. Kendall had the small-pox.

May 7, ice froze an eighth of an inch. No rain from July 26th to September 1st.

1855. Chester appropriated \$200 to purchase a piece of land for a burying-ground, and a committee was chosen to purchase and lay out the same. Auburn appropriated

\$250 for a hearse and house at the burying-ground near the village.

February 6th, the thermometer 19° below; December 25, there was a cold rain, and there was no more rain till April 2, 1856.

1856. December 18th, thermometer 10° below; 19th, 8° below.

1857. January 12th, thermometer 19° below, and at night a very severe snow-storm; a gale, which did a great deal of damage to shipping. January 23d, 22° below; 24th, 20° below; 25th, 6° below; 26, 2° below at Auburn, and in many places it was from 30° to 40°, freezing the mercury. Portsmouth harbor froze over, which was never known before.

1858. The question of purchasing a county farm for the support of the poor was submitted to a popular vote. Chester, yeas, four; noes, ninety-four. Auburn, yeas, thirty-five; noes, forty-two.

1860. The question of a new county was again taken. Chester voted, yeas, thirteen; noes, two hundred sixty-six. Auburn voted, yeas, forty; noes, one hundred forty-seven.

1861. The question of a convention to revise the Constitution, to be limited in its compensation to travel and ten days' attendance, and in its action to diminish the number of representatives, to increase the number of senators, and to make provision for future amendments to the Constitution, was taken. Chester voted, yes, forty-six; no, fourteen. Auburn voted to dismiss the article.

Several town meetings were held about raising men for the army, the proceedings of which are given in the Military History. There is nothing more of much interest on the records.

The summer and fall of 1865 were remarkable for the drouth. There was no rain but some small showers till September 17. The Bald Hill in Manchester was burnt over, destroying large quantities of wood. The fire got

into the spruce swamp in Auburn, and burnt three weeks, burning out large trees by the roots. It remained comparatively dry through the winter and ensuing summer.

The spring of 1868 is remarkable for the quantity of foul weather and rain. May 8th, six inches of snow fell. From May 13th to 27th was a continued storm, with very little sunshine, and large quantities of rain fell, causing more than an ordinary spring freshet. There was little plowing and planting done before June.

At a town meeting, September 12, the town voted to instruct the selectmen to subscribe for two hundred shares in the Rochester and Nashua Railroad, and appropriated \$20,000.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### . HISTORY OF ROADS.

Most of the roads were cut out and traveled before they were formally laid out,—some of them on reserves, others across lots, and many of them are described in the returns as “where, or near where, the path now goes.”

The first travel from “Walnut Hill” was down the hill by the Jack place, and through Hall’s Village, and up by the Presbyterian meeting-house and the Rev. Mr. Wilson’s to the Derry road. In laying out Governor Shute’s home lot, the cross-road is called “the road to Haverhill.”

The first that is said in the records about laying out roads, was at a meeting, January 14th, 1729–30. It was voted to choose a committee “to View two Squeers of lotts, one that lays by John Boyd’s, & y<sup>e</sup> Squeer that m<sup>r</sup> Blunt’s Saw Mill is built on.” Blunt’s mill was probably below the tan-yard, and Boyd lived on lot No. 69, between John Hazelton’s and Edwin Hazelton’s. Ichabod Robie, Alexander Craig, Jonathan Blunt and Wm. Powel dissented.