

November 14, 1794, Stephen Chase, who had been chosen in the place of Robert Wilson, deceased, and Samuel Underhill in the place of John Underhill, advertised all the undivided land belonging to the proprietors at auction, which was sold to Stephen Chase, Esq., for one pound seventeen shillings.

March 16, 1795, they adjusted their accounts, and had a balance of £2 17 8, which was divided between William White, Stephen Chase, John S. Dearborn, Samuel Wilson and Thomas Shirley, representing one right each, and John Emerson, representing eight and a half rights.

Thus ended the affairs of the Proprietors of Chester.

CHAPTER VI.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CHESTER FROM 1737 TO 1773.

1737. At an adjournment of the annual meeting April 7, 1737,

“Voted, That their shall be a sufficient Pound built with Loggs thirty foot square, Six foot High, with two posts, a good gate, and a Lock and Key, and set on the Left hand of the way a Little to the southward of John Boid’s, and Completely finished by the first Day of July next.

“Voted, That their Shall be five Pounds Raised to pay for building a Pound agreeable to the foregoing Vote.

“Voted, That Capt. Ingalls Shall build a pound for five Pounds and finish the same as hath been before mentioned.”

There had been a vote passed in 1735 to build a pound, and Jonathan Blunt in 1733 was chosen pound-keeper, but probably without any pound.

John Boid lived between where John Haselton and Edwin Haselton now live. The first road laid out in town was through John Boid’s lot toward the meeting-house. In 1748 the road was laid out from there, “Beginning at the

bridge by the Pound where the Highway is laid out across James Boid's home Lott originally," and extending southerly to Ephraim Haselton's. This fixes the location of the pound.

"Voted, That their shall be fiveteen Pound Raised to Purches a town Stock of ammunition for the town's use."

1738. The Presbyterian parish records commence this year.

"Jun. y^e 19, 1738, at a meeting held at Liftenant Thomas Smith's of mr. wilson's Congregation, Capt. Samuel Ingalls chosen moderator; James Quenton Chosen Clerk.

"1. Voted, Ther meeting hous is to be seet on mr. Wilson's lot over against mr. wilam Powel's hous.

"2. Voted, That s^d meeting hous shall Builded 38 foot long & 33 foot wide with a 20 foot post.

"3. Voted, Capt. Samuel Ingalls & John Tolford & wiliam wilson, Lift. thomas smith & John Kar shall be y^e Comitee to oversee the building of s^d meeting hous."

William Powel lived on lot No. 14, at the southwest end, and the meeting-house stood southwest across the way on No. 119, which Mr. Wilson purchased in 1735.

Sept. 18, 1744,

"Voted, John Moor, John Tolford & Andrew Craig a Comity to take a deed from y^e Rev. mr. John wilson of the land wher y^e meeting hous stands, or half an acre in all, for a burying place of y^e s^d Congregation."

The town this year voted to raise five pounds to add to the town's stock of ammunition.

1739. At an adjourned town meeting held April 4,

"Voted, to Rais Sixty Pounds to pay for the Supplies in the ministry we have had in time past, and for mending the glass of the meeting house, and for other necessary uses.

"Voted, that two hundred and forty Pounds be Raised on the Presbyterian inhabitants towards building a meeting house for the Rev^d mr. John Wilson."

At the Presbyterian parish meeting Jan. 3, 1739,

"1. voted, that Capt. samuel Ingalls, mr. James Campbell & John Aiken, Chosen a [committee] to sess mr. wil-

son's Celery for this present year; likewise to sess y^e money for building the meeting hous, for the first hundred pound.

"2. voted, y^t John Moor & John Shirlee & John Smith & Robert mils & Andrew Crage, Chosen for a Comite to Chus a workman with the undertakers of the work of s^d meeting hous; & likewise to give security to y^e undertakers for y^e money for Building s^d hous, providing y^e Congregation Give security to them for s^d money; & likewise to take security of the undertakers for their performance."

1740. In the warning for the annual town meeting March 27, 1740, is an article (6) "To take Effectual means and methods to prevent the killing of fish as they Come into massabesick Pond, any more than what is for family support," &c. There is no action on it recorded.

At an adjournment of the meeting April 8th, it is recorded,

"Whereas at the Settling of the Rev^d mr. Ebenezer Flagg in the work of the ministry at Chester a number of Inhabitants Entered their desents, alledging that they were of a different Persuasion, — Presbyterians according to the Kirk of Scotland, — and supposed the Law freed them from Paying; they applyed themselves to the general Court where the Law was explained in their favour, the Rev^d mr. John Wilson being their minister, and they have Paid mr. Wilson distinct from the Rest of the towne, separate from mr. Flagg's herers. But now it happens that the fifth article inserted in the warning for the Present meeting is to Settle a Sallery upon the Rev^d mr. John Wilson; the moderator not thinking this meeting Proper for that affair, they insisting to Have Sumthing done upon it, the Rest of the town being first withdrawn from mr. wilson's Herers the moderator adress himself to them in the following manner: If it be your minds that the Rev^d mr. John Wilson, minister of the Presbyterians, shall have one Hundred Pounds money for his sallery for the year Ensuing, to be Paid by the presbyterians his herers, manifest it by holding up your hands; they that are of a Contrary mind, manifest it by the same Signe.

"Passed in the affirmative by mr. Wilson's Hearers."

The following act was passed by the General Assembly Aug. 7, 1740, constituting two parishes, which quieted the controversy :

Province of } Anno Regni Regis Georgii Secundi, mag-
New Hampsh^r. } næ Britainæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ,
Decimo Quarto.

PROVINCE SEAL. An act of inable the Two Congregations in the Town of
Chester in the Province of New Hampshire to raise
money to pay their Respective Ministers' Salary, &c.

Whereas the Inhabitants of the Town of Chester in the Province of New Hanp^{sh}r have represented to this Court that they labour under great difficulties with Respect to raising their Ministers' Salary and collecting the same, and have petitioned the Court for Relief :

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Govern^r, Council and Representatives convened in General Assembly, and by the authority of the Same, That Each Congregation in Said Town be and hereby is authoriz^d and impow^{er}d to Act Separate and Distinct from each other as to Parrish affairs, and that Each Respective Congregation be and hereby is authorized and Impow^{er}d to Raise Money to pay their Respective Ministers' Salary, for the defraying the charges of Building and Repairing their Respective Meeting houses and other Parrish charges, and to chuse Wardens in each Congregation to assess the Persons and estates of Each Congregation as shall be rais^d by them Respectively for the ends & purposes afores^d; And to Chuse Collectors to Collect the Same, which collectors Shall have the Same power and Authority as Constables in this Province by Law have to gather or Collect Rates; and that Such Wardens Chosen as aforesaid be and hereby are authorized and Impow^rd to give a warrant to Such Collectors as fully and Amply to all intents and purposes as Selectmen are authorised and impow^{er}d to do.

And that John Calfe, Ephraim Hazeltine and Enoch Colby be and hereby are authorised and impow^{er}d to call the first meeting for y^e Congregationall Parish, And Capt. Sam^l Ingalls, John Tolford and John Carr to call the first meeting for the Presbeterian Parrish, and the said Congregations shall have power to Chuse all officers necessary to manage & Transact Parrish affairs, as other Parishes have or ought by Law to have within this Province.

Aug. 7th, 1740. Read three times in the House of Representatives and Passed to be enacted.

Andrew Wiggins, Speaker.

Eadem Die. Read three times at the Council Board, and Voted a concurrence.

Richard Waldron, Sec.

Same day I assent to y^e foregoing Bill.

J. Belcher.

Coppy Ex.

Theodore Atkinson, Sec^r.

The Congregational records commence with a copy of the act. A warning to call the first meeting, dated August 27th, 1740, the meeting to be held on the second Wednesday in September, is signed by John Calfe, Enoch Colby and Ephraim Hazeltine. John Calfe was chosen moderator, and adjourned to the 17th. At the adjourned meeting, John Calfe was chosen clerk; Benj. Hills, James Varnum and Eliphaz Sanborn, wardens, and Paul Smith, collector.

At a parish meeting, November 7, 1740, a committee was chosen to repair the meeting-house (but not to glaze it), and to sweep the meeting-house and buy a burying-cloth.

1741. At the annual town meeting, the last Thursday in March, "John Tolford and James Varnum were chosen Invoice men, to take the Invoice of the heads & estates of the Whole town." They took and returned to the Secretary's office an inventory of the town. Chester had not hitherto paid any province tax, but a new proportion was now made, and Chester was required to pay. This inventory is given under the head of "Rates or Taxes."

At the annual meeting of the Congregational parish, March 25, 1741, it was

"Voted, that the "Rev^{ed} Mr. Flag's Salary shall be raised one third part on the poll if there be no law to the contrary."

Cattle above one year old, and horses above two years old, were to be rated, "if there be no law to the contrary."

A committee was chosen to "underpin the meeting-house, mend y^e glass, Doors, and Seats, &c., as need Shall require."

The Presbyterian parish meeting, March 10, 1741, is said to have been the first according to law, though called by the wardens, and not by the persons named in the law. One hundred pounds is voted to Mr. Wilson, and that one-half be raised on the poll, and the other half on the estate.

"Voted y^t John Tolford's money which he laid out at y^e Law be laid on this parish by Rat, which is £18 4s. 8d.

"Voted y^t 5 pounds shall be laid on this parish by way of rate, to defray y^e Charge of a debate y^t hapned between John mill, Sener, & this parish."

1742. At the annual meeting, March 25, the selectmen were empowered to exchange a piece of land with Jonathan Blunt, so as to accommodate a decent burying-place, and let him have a part of the ten-rod way by his house. They did not make the exchange. They began to bury on the ten-rod way behind the meeting-house. It is the uniform tradition that Sampson Underhill was the first person buried there, his estate being appraised in May, 1732. Many years since I was shown a grave, as his, just inside the wall, opposite the meeting-house. The town sold Jabez French five rods of the ten-rod way, and there were graves further north-west, which fell in the road as now fenced.

March 10, 1742, the Presbyterians "Voted 1000 of Joyces & 1000 of boards for the gallery," and two years later appropriated £20 for the gallery, "and that John Tolford shall do the work."

1743. March 31, The town voted "to Purchis a Book to Record births, marriages and deaths in."

"Voted, That Whosoever shall Kill a grown Wolfe in this town this year shall have twenty shillings Paid him by the town, old tennour, and ten shillings for a Woulfe's whelp."

The Congregational parish, in consideration of the dep-

reciation of money, voted to give Mr. Flagg thirty pounds old tenor in addition to his salary.

“ Voted, That Samuel Emerson, Deacon Dearborn, John Calfe, Jacob Sargent and John Robie shall be a Committe to sell to the highest bidder belonging to this Parish all the places for Pews in this meeting house,” &c.

“ Voted, that three windows In the Galleries Over Each Door and the two long windows on the back side shall be wholly taken out and Don up with Bords and Claboards.

“ Voted, That messrs. Jacob Sargent, Benja. Hills and Enoch Colby Shall be a Committe to take Care of, and Dispose of all the old Ledd and Glass that is In the meeting house, as well as they Can for the advantage of the Parrish, and take care and Glase the meeting house with new Sashes and Glass; and Do any thing Elce to said meeting house that they shall Judge to be for the benefit and advantage of the Parish, and make, Do and Complete Said work by the Last day of September next, and make return to the Parish for their recompence.”

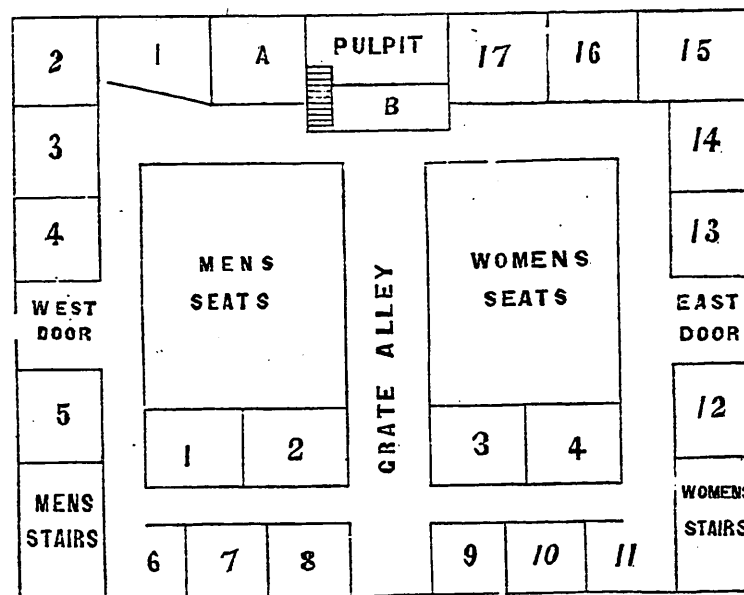
The glass was the diamond glass, similar in form to that of the Episcopal and Catholic churches in Manchester. There was a wooden sash outside and lead between the panes inside. It was now glazed with square glass. Whether the space in the meeting-house which was now to be sold for pews was ever seated, does not appear, and we have no certain knowledge of how it was seated. But in the new meeting-house the depth of two pews on each side of the broad aisle, from in front of the deacons' seat (which was in front of the pulpit) back half way to the front door, was seated with long seats made of plank and high backs. These were “common seats.” In 1784 two of these seats on each side of the aisle were taken out and the space made into pews, which were sold for the purchase of a bell. The last of those seats were removed in 1820. Probably the old house was seated in this manner, and the gallery too; the west end for men and the east end for women. April 21, 1743, the committee proceeded to sell the ground for seventeen pews, which are so recorded and dimensions given that, with the aid of the diagram in Dr. Bell's history, I give a ground plan of the old house.

March 28, 1753,

“Voted, That the hind seats upon Each side of the *Grate alley* that goes from the south Dore to the Pulpit be taken away, and that there shall be prevelidges for Building four pews, two on each side of the alley,” &c.

It was sold March 28, 1754. November 7, 1753,

“Voted, that if any Number of young persons in this parish, Sufishant to fill any seat on the Back Side of the seats in the Galleries, Shall agree to Build them into pews, they shall have Liberty to do it.”



A GROUND PLAN OF THE OLD MEETING-HOUSE AS SEATED IN 1754, WHEN THE GROUND OR THE "SECOND TIER" OF PEWS WAS SOLD.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Minister's pew. | 9. Sylvanus Smith. |
| B. Deacons' seat. | 10. John Robie. |
| 1. James Varnum. | 11. Sam. Robie. |
| 2. Francis Towle. | 12. Peter Dearborn. |
| 3. Jacob Sargent. | 13. Anthony Towle. |
| 4. Winthrop Sargent. | 14. Jonathan Blunt. |
| 5. Henry Hall. | 15. Lt. Eben Dearborn. |
| 6. Abraham Bachelder. | 16. Samuel Emerson. |
| 7. John Calfe. | 17. Dea. Eben Dearborn. |
| 8. Ben. Hills. | |

THE SECOND TIER, SOLD 1754.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nathan Webster. | 3. Jona. Moulton. |
| 2. Sylvanus Smith. | 4. Sylvanus Smith. |

1744. In 1741 an inventory of the heads and ratable estates had been taken and sent to the Secretary's office, and a new proportion of taxes made, in which Chester is called upon to pay rates to the province, and with our ideas of taxation and representation we might infer that Chester should be represented as a matter of right, but such were not the ideas then. There was a continual contest between the prerogative of the crown and the rights of the people. The crown called assemblies as a mere favor or grace. The Governor, as the representative of the crown, claimed the right to send writs of election for representatives to such towns as he chose, which, almost as a matter of course, would be to such as he supposed would favor the prerogatives of the crown. A writ was sent to Chester and a meeting called to be held January 21, 1744, "To make Choyce of a man to Represent the said town in General assembly." Mr. Benjamin Hills was chosen. Mr. Hills appeared at Portsmouth the 24th, and I copy from the printed journal the proceedings in the case at full length:

A JOURNAL

Of the House of Representatives, at a General Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New-Hampshire in New England; Begun and held at Portsmouth, in said Province, on Thursday the 24th Day of January, Anno Domini 1744.

At Twelve of the Clock in the Forenoon were present in the Court House the Representatives of Portsmouth, Hampton, New Castle, Rye, Exeter, New Market, Greenland, Stretham and Newington, in all 14 Members; Besides Five Gentlemen who said they came to represent some Places that never sent any Representatives to this Court before. After One o'clock, all the above members withdrew, hearing nothing from His Excellency the Governour or Council. At three of the Clock met again, and were present at the same Place all the above Representatives, and also the Representatives of the Towns of Dover, Durham and Kingston, 19 in number.

All these Members waited till Five, and then the Secretary came and told them that his Excellency the Govern-

our sent him to tell them that he had adjourned the General Court till To-morrow, Eleven o'clock; That the Sheriff had but just returned the Precept, and the Council were adjourned. Upon which it was tho' proper to send Nathaniel Rogers, Esq., and Major Ebenezer Stevens, to inform his Excellency how many Members had been waiting, and how long; Who returned, and informed that his Excellency told them that the Sheriff had but just returned the Precept, and that he did send the Secretary to adjourn the General Court till To-morrow, Eleven o'Clock.

Friday, January 25th.

Met at Eleven o'clock, all but the Representative of Durham. Mr. Secretary Atkinson came to the House and said, That his Excellency sent him to see if the House were together; And immediately after the Hon. Theodore Atkinson, Richard Wibird and Samuel Smith, Esqs., came down from the Council Board, and acquainted the House that they were appointed by his Excellency the Governour to administer to the Members present the Oaths appointed instead of the Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance, and see them subscribe the Declaration: Which being done, they withdrew. And besides the above-mentioned Members, the Oaths were administered to Col. Benjamin Rolfe, of Rumford; Mr. Henry Saunders, of Methuen and Dracut District; Mr. Joseph Jewell, of South-Hampton; Mr. Benjamin Hills, of Chester; Capt. Nicholas White, of Haverhill District;—Places that never were entitled by the House or General Court to send a Representative to sit in the General Assembly of this Province. Soon after the administration of the Oaths, &c., the Secretary came down and told the House that his Excellency required the House to choose a Speaker, and present him. Upon which one of the Members observed that there were several Persons present more than used to be in former Assemblies, viz: Col. Benjamin Rolfe, Mr. Henry Saunders, Mr. Joseph Jewell, Mr. Benjamin Hills, and Capt. Nicholas White, from the above-mentioned Places; Who being asked how they came there, answered, That the Places from whence they came were required by the high Sheriff's Writ to choose and send Representatives to attend and serve in this Court; and that agreeable thereto, they were chosen and sent. Whereupon a Motion was made, and unanimously agreed, to send Col. Peter Gilman and Nathaniel Rogers, Esq., to his Excellency the Governour, with the following written Message, Viz.:

May it please your Excellency:—

The House having received a verbal Message from your Excellency, by Mr. Secretary Atkinson, requiring them to choose a Speaker; And observing that five Gentlemen, viz., Col. Benjamin Rolfe, Capt. Nicholas White, Mr. Joseph Jewell, Mr. Benjamin Hills and Mr. Henry Saunders, appear among them as Members of the House, who, upon Enquiry, are found to come from Rumford, Haverhil District, South Hampton, Chester, and Methuen and Dracut District,—Places which have no Power, by any Law or Usage of this Province, that we know of, to send any Person to represent them at this Court,—therefore pray, that (before they proceed to the Choice of a Speaker) your Excellency would be pleased to inform them by what Means those Places are authorized to send Members to this Court.

Mr. Secretary Atkinson came down and said that he was directed by his Excellency to acquaint the Members (in answer to their Message) That the Members Enquired after were called here by the King's Writ, which was issued by the Advice of the Council. And soon after Mr. Secretary Atkinson came and told the House that his Excellency had adjourned the General Court till four of the Clock in the Afternoon.

The House met according to Adjournment, and present as before. While they were preparing another written Message to send to his Excellency, Mr. Secretary and Mr. Solley came and told the House that his Excellency required them immediately to choose a Speaker. But before they had Time to choose a Speaker, or send the Message which was preparing, Mr. Secretary came and adjourn^d the House till To-morrow, ten of the Clock.

Saturday, ten o'Clock, Jan. 26th, 1744.

Met according to Adjournment, and after some Debate the Question was put, Whether the five Gentlemen, viz., Col. Rolfe, &c., from Rumford, &c., should have a Voice in the choice of a Speaker. It pass^d in the Negative by a great Majority, only two Members (viz., Greenland and Newington) voting in the Affirmative, and two others not being clear did not vote at all. Then the House proceeded to take a list of the Members' Names, which are as follows:

Portsmouth — Nathaniel Rogers, Esq., Eleazer Russell, Esq., Mr. Henry Sherburne, Jun.

Dover — Thomas Millet, Esq., Capt. John Winget, Thomas Wallingsford, Esq.

Hampton Falls — Samuel Palmer, Esq., Mr. Joseph Phillbrook, Mr. Meshech Weare.

Exeter — Col. Peter Gilman, Mr. Zebulon Gideons.
 New Castle — William Frost, Esq.
 Kingston — Maj. Ebenezer Stevens.
 Stratham — Moses Leavitt, Esq.
 Newington — George Walton, Esq.
 Rye — Mr. Jonathan Lock.
 Greenland — Clement March, Esq.
 Durham — Capt. Jonathan Thompson.
 Newmarket — Capt. Israel Gillman.

The House proceeded to bring in their Votes for a Speaker, which being examin^d it appear^d that the Hon. Nathaniel Rogers, Esq., was chosen Speaker of the House by a Majority of Votes, and was accordingly conducted to the Chair.

Then the House proceeded to make choice of a Clerk, and Mr. Henry Sherburne was chosen, Nemine Contradicente, to be Clerk of this House, till another should be chosen and sworn in his Room. And the Oath proper to said Office was administered to him by Ebenezer Stevens, Esq.

Voted, That Major Ebenezer Stevens, Col. Peter Gillman, Capt. John Wingett, and Mr. Henry Sherburne, jun., be a Committee to wait on his Excellency, and inform him that the House had made choice of Nathanael Rogers, Esq., to be their Speaker, which Message they delivered; And Mr. Secretary Atkinson and Richard Wibird, Esq., came down and told the House that his Excellency sent them to enquire Whether all the Members that were qualified voted in the Choice of a Speaker. Upon which

Voted, That William Frost, Esq., and Mr. Henry Sherburne, jun., go up with the following Message to his Excellency, viz.:

May it please your Excellency:—

In answer to your Excellency's Message by Mr. Secretary and Mr. Wibird, all the Members which represent the Towns and Parishes which heretofore used to send Representatives to sit in the General Assembly of this Province voted in the choice of a Speaker, and none other.

Mr. Secretary and Mr. Wibird soon came down with the following Message:

Before his Excellency can approve or disapprove of the choice of a Speaker, he desires to know why those members were excluded from a Vote in the Choice of a Speaker.

The House immediately sent up Mr. Sherburne and Mr. Gideons, with the following verbal Answer :

If your Excellency means; in your Message by Mr. Secretary and Mr. Wibird, the Persons which told the House they came from Rumford, Haverhill District, Methuen and Dracut District, South Hampton and Chester, the Reason why they were excluded in the choice of a Speaker was because the House do not know any Law or Usage of this Province by which those Places are entitled to the Privilege of sending Members to represent them in this Court.

Mr. Secretary Atkinson came down with the following Message from his Excellency :

His Excellency sent me to acquaint the House that the Members were called in by the King's Writ, agreeable to former Practice; That his Excellency knows of no other way; That if the House knew of any other Precedent of their being called in any other way, his Excellency desired they would acquaint him, that the public business may not be hindered.

Upon which the following Message was immediately voted, and sent up by Mr. Sherburne and Mr. Wingett.

May it please your Excellency:—

The House in the short Time they had to search, find upon their Records, in the Year 1714, a Vote, entitleing the Town of Kingston to send a Member to sit in this Court. In the Year 1726, a Vote, that a Precept should go to the Town of New-Castle requiring them to choose a Representative for Rye. In the Year 1732, '3, a Petition from the Parish of Greenland, praying the Privilege of having a Representative, which was granted. By all which it appears to the House, that no Town or Parish (not before priviledged) ought to have a Writ sent them to choose a Representative, without a Vote of this House, or Act of the General Assembly.

Voted, That Capt. Israel Gillman, Mr. Meshech Weare and Mr. Jonathan Lock be a Committee to go to Mr. James Jaffery, the late Clerk of the House of Representatives, and demand of him all the Books, Records and Files that belong to this House, and bring them directly to this House.

Mr. Secretary Atkinson came down and told the House that his Excellency had adjourned the General Court to Monday next twelve of the Clock; That his Excellency will furnish himself with Precedents, and desires the House will do the same.

Monday, Jan. 28th 1744.

Some of the Members being present, Richard Wibird, Esq., came to the House, and by Order of the Governor, adjourn'd the General Court to four of the Clock in the Afternoon.

Four o'Clock. Met according to adjournment; And Richard Wibird, Esq., came into the House, and said 'Twas his Excellency's Order that the General Court should be adjourned 'till To-Morrow half an Hour past Ten.

Tuesday, Jan. 29th, 1744.

Met according to Adjournment. Present, all but Mr. Stevens. And sent up Mr. Weare and Mr. Gideons to inform his Excellency that there was a House.

Mr. Wibird came down and told the House That his Excellency desired to know if there was any Law of the Province supporting the setting aside any Members, called in by the King's Write, from voting in the Choice of a Speaker.

The House immediately sent up the following Message by Clement March, Esq., and William Frost, Esq. :

May it please your Excellency:—

On your Excellency's desiring us to produce some Precedents of the Right's being in the House or General Court, to grant the Privilege to any Towns or Parishes of sending Representatives to sit in the General Assembly, we Informed your Excellency that we found in the Records of the House, that in the year 1714 a Vote was passed in the House, entitling the Town of Kingston to the Privilege of sending a Member to sit in this Court; In the Year 1726, a Vote that a Precept should go to the Town of New-Castle, to choose a Representative for Rye; In the Year 1732, a Petition from the Parish of Greenland, praying the Privilege of having a Representative, which was granted. Since which, on further Examination, we find, that in the Year 1725 a Vote was passed and concurr'd above, desiring his Honour the Governour to send a Precept to Londonderry, requiring them to send a Person duly qualified to represent them in this Court.

And for further Instances of the Power's being in the General Assembly, we would refer your Excellency to several Acts in the Secretary's Office, by which New-Market and Durham were entitled to the Privilege of sending Members to sit in the General Assembly; and also to the Acts by which Brentwood, Epping, &c.. were incorporated into Parishes, which plainly infer the Right to be in the General Court.

And therefore, that such as are called in from Places that are not privileged by the General Court, ought not to vote in this House in the Choice of a Speaker. But the House ought to exclude them as much as if they came from another Province.

Soon after this Mr. Wibird and Col. Downing came to the House and read the following Message from his Excellency, and carried the Paper they read it out of away again, viz.:

In the present Situation of Affairs in Respect to the War, his Excellency thinks it for His Majesty's immediate Service not to

enter further into the Dispute with the Members called by the King's Writ, and qualified as the King commands, touching the rejecting the Votes of several Members in the choice of a Speaker, which he esteems invading the Prerogative of the Crown, and therefore submits it till his Majesty's Pleasure shall be known thereon.

His Excellency therefore, that no further Delay in the Publick Affairs may happen, approves of the choice of Nathanael Rogers, Esq., for their Speaker, and Commands the Attendance of the House of Representatives in the Council Chamber.

The territory which was claimed by Haverhill and Amesbury, which was north of the province line, as run and settled in 1741, was called the "Haverhill district," and included Hampstead, Atkinson, Plaistow and Newton. That taken from Methuen and Dracut was called the "Methuen and Dracut district," and included Salem and Pelham. Rumford was old Pennacook, modern Concord and Bow.

The Governor laid the case before the King and received the following instructions :

BY THE LORDS JUSTICES.

Gower, P. S.
Bedford,
Montagu,
Pembroke.

Additional instruction to Benning Wentworth, Esq., his majesty's governor and commander in chief, in and over the province of New-Hampshire, in New England in America, or to the commander in chief of the said province for the time being.

[Seal]

Given at Whitehall, the 30th day of June, 1748, in the 22d year of his majesty's reign.

Whereas it hath been represented to his majesty, That you, having in his majesty's name, and by virtue of your commission, issued a writ to the sheriff of the province under your government, commanding him to make out precepts, directed to the selectmen of certain towns, parishes and districts therein mentioned, for the election of fit persons qualified in law to represent them in the general assembly, appointed to be held at Portsmouth, within the said province, on the 24th day of January, 1744-5; by which writ the towns of South Hampton and Chester, and the districts of Haverhill, and of Methuen and Dracut, and the district of Rumford, were impowered to choose repre-

sentatives as aforesaid; the said general assembly did refuse to admit the persons duly elected to represent the said towns and districts to sit and vote in the choice of speaker: And whereas the right of sending representatives to the said assembly was founded originally on the commissions and instructions given by the crown to the respective governors of the province of New-Hampshire, and his majesty may therefore lawfully extend the privilege of sending representatives to such new towns as his majesty shall judge worthy thereof:

It is therefore his majesty's will and pleasure, and you are hereby directed and required to dissolve the assembly of the province under your government as soon as conveniently may be, and when another is called, to issue his majesty's writ to the sheriff of the said province, commanding him to make out precepts directed to the selectmen of the towns of South-Hampton and Chester, the districts of Haverhill and of Methuen and Dracut, and the district of Rumford, requiring them to cause the freeholders of the said towns and districts to assemble to elect fit persons to represent the said towns and districts in general assembly, in manner following, viz.: One for the town of South-Hampton, one for the town of Chester, one for the district of Haverhill, one for the district of Methuen and Dracut, and one for the district of Rumford: AND it is his majesty's further will and pleasure, that you do support the rights of such representative, when chose; and that you do likewise signify his majesty's pleasure herein to the members of the said general assembly. [Douglass' Summary, Vol. 2, p. 35.]

1745. The town was this year divided into school districts. (See History of Schools and School-houses.)

"Voted, that the town's stock of ammunition shall be Kept and taken Care of by Messrs. Jonathan Blunt, John Robie and William Tolford as a Committe."

1746. At the annual town meeting March 27,

"Put to Vote whether to Petition for an assembly man; Past in the Negative."

"Put to Vote whether to set off a parish in that part of the town Called Harrytown; past in the negative."

The ungranted land between Chester and the river above Londonderry was called Harrytown.

Rev. Mr. Flagg receipts for £240 pounds, old tenor, in full for his salary.

1747. At the annual town meeting, March 26,

“ Voted, that the whole of this meeting shall be Carried on by hand vote.”

The Congregationalists voted Mr. Flagg twenty-five pounds, old tenor, to purchase firewood, giving every person the privilege of paying his part in wood at twenty-five shillings a cord, if delivered in season. The Presbyterians voted one hundred and forty pounds to Mr. Wilson; “also To build a Session house 18 feet in length, 16 feet in width and 7 feet post,” and chose John Moor and John Aiken a committee “to see what way will be most proper to build it.”

“ Voted y^t the people at the long meadows is not to have any sermon up ther till furdur orders.”

By an act passed in 1701 a penalty was inflicted for profane swearing, of sitting in the stocks not exceeding two hours, and for a second offence not exceeding three hours; for drunkenness to sit in the stocks three hours. Theft might in some cases be punished by whipping, not exceeding twenty stripes. The stocks and whipping were legal penalties, by an act passed in 1791, and in force in 1815. So the stocks and whipping-post were a part of the police of the town, and would naturally be erected near the meeting-house. In the selectmen's account for 1747 is, “ Paid unto William Turner, for making the stocks, £3 00 0.” The guide-post at the Centre has, within my recollection, had staples and rings in it as a whipping-post.

1748. A leaf is lost from the town records, containing the warrant and a part of the proceedings of the annual meeting.

“ Relating to the third artikell In the warning of Said meeting, Put to Vote whether to Set of [off] a Parish at the Southwest Corner of the town, agreeable to Petition, or not; past In the ” [not said how, but probably in the negative].

They voted not to petition for the privilege to send a representative.

“Voted, That Capt. John Tolford and Capt. Thomas Wells be Impowered to Prefer a Petition to the Governor and Council, In order to Stop and Save any men from being Sent out of town Into the Service ; and further, when their may be a Convenient opportunity Regularly to Proceed, to have a Suitable number of men Put and kept in the Service In our own town.”

There seems to have been more fear of the Indians this year than in any other. There were several garrisons kept in town. The house now occupied by Benjamin Hills still has the port-holes through the boarding. Lieut. Thomas Smith's, Maj. Tolford's, Abel Morse's and others, tradition says, were used for that purpose. Mr. John Butterfield said that they used to go from there (the Lane district) to town to garrison. The old Gault house in Hooksett was a garrison. There was a man killed by the Indians near Head's mill in Hooksett this year.

The three following petitions to the captains of Chester were from different parts of the town, and accompanied the petition of Messrs. Tolford and Wells to the General Assembly :

To the honorable Captins of Chester, Greeting :—

Whereas there is a Considerable number of families scattered in the wilderness in the out skirts of Chester, some lives four miles and a half, some three and a half ; We are so scattered that we think we are very unfit to live as we dund, nevertheless we would be willing to imatat something of the spirit of the people of zebulan an naptlem who joperded there lives on the high place of the field ; and whereaś we have a velue for our loss liberties, we Earnestly beg that your honours would look upon us in our Distress, and help with some suldiars, a certain number ; we are not willing to arm, yourselfs Knowing our surcumstances and how it is with us. believes you will help us this way now, then we with prudence could arm, and in so doing your poor fellows will ever pray. if no help

comes we must leve our houses and homs and go lik scattered sheep.

James Basford,
David McCluer,
Joshua Prescott,
Jabez French,

Jonas Clay,
John Clay,
David McClure,
Jacob Basford.

To the honorable Capts. of Chester, greeting:—

Whereas we y^e subscribers live remote from the town, and for some years past have been obliged to leave our places for want of a sufficient number of men to Keep a garrison, which has been greatly to our damage, and we being desirous to live here if we can have three or four men to help surport a garrison. We remain yours to serve.

Thomas Carly,
Zachariah Butterfield,
Stephen Webster,
Alerson [Aaron] Butterfield,

Philip Grifen,
Allet Bery, [Berry]
Joshua Hall.

To the Captins of Chester:—

we the subscribers earnestly Request your aid and assistance in petitioning the General Court for some help, yourselfs knowing how we are Scattered and how far a Distance from the Meeting House, some 7, some 8, some 9 miles from it. Gentlemen, we are your humble servants,

William Allet,
Walter McFarlan,
William Gimel, [Gambel,]

William McClinto,
Nathneal Boyd,
Micheal McClinto.

To his Excellency Benning Wentworth, Esq., Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of New Hampshire; the Honorable his Majesty's Council and House of Representatives in General assembly convened, the Tenth day of May, 1748: .

The petition of John Tolford and Thomas Wells of Chester, in the Province of New Hampshire, in behalf of the inhabitants of s^d Chester, most humbly shews, that the s^d town of Chester exposed to the Indian Enemy, and finding of the Dwelling houses in s^d Town so exposed that unless there be more men to defend them than the Town itself can afford they will unavoidably be obliged to leave them and their lands also; that thereby the Enemy will

gain an advantage and the Frontier be bro't nearer the Center; That Sundry Persons who live in the out Skirts of said Town have prey'd for help, as by their respective Petitions hereunto annexed and herewith presented may more fully appear. Wherefore your Petitioners most humbly pray Your Excellency and Honors to allow such a number of men for the Defence and protection of s^d Town as in your great wisdom shall be tho't reasonable.

John Tolford,
Tho^s Wells.

In Council May 11, 1748, read and sent Down to the Hon^{ble} House.

The^o Atkinson, Secretary.

It does not appear that any soldiers were granted.

The Presbyterians "Voted, two hundred pounds old tenor of yearly Celery to y^e Revt. mr. John wilson as long as he Dispenses y^e Duty of a presbyterian minister amongst us." The money used was bills of credit issued by the province, and it depreciated in value, hence there is in both parishes a continual fixing of the minister's salary. June 29, they

"Voted, that y^e Long meadow people shall have their proportionable share of the Gospel according to their payment.

"Voted, y^t the preaching is to Be held at andrew Crag howes. [Andrew Craig lived at what was the Presbyterian parsonage, where John Ray now lives.]

"Voted that their meting howes is to be Builded at y^e Crotch of the Road between andrew mcfarlands & peney Cooke Road on peney Cooke Road. [Where the Congregational house now stands; but it was built where the Rev. Mr. Holmes' house stands, the opposite side of the main road.]

"Ther was a vot tried if the parish would refund the money y^t the long meadow pepole laid out to Build this meeting howes, But y^t vote did not Cary.

"Lift. Thomas Craig, John Shirla, wilam Gilcrist, Each of them Enters their protests against mr. wilsons preaching up at the long meadow, likewise against settling two hundred pounds Celery to the rever^t mr. John wilson; likewise adem dickey Enters his protest against mr. wilsons going up to the long meadow to preach ther."

The Presbyterians who then lived at the Long Meadow had helped build the Presbyterian meeting-house, and had thus far gone there to meeting; but now that they were to have preaching a part of the time, and were about to build a new meeting-house, they wanted their money refunded.

“The Little Meeting House,” as it was called, was probably built by subscription, as there is no mention of building it on the records. The first that there is any intimation that there is one is in a warning for a meeting, February, 1754, at their “first meeting house.”

1749. A town meeting was called, to be holden January 2d, “in obedience to a precept Directed to us by the Sheriff of Said Province, to elect and choose one man to represent this town in General Assembly.” Capt. Abel Morse was chosen. The House had not ordered the writ issued, but the Governor, as before.

“Capt. John Tolford and Matthew Forsaith Desents against the Elegallness of this meeting.” But Mr. Morse was promptly at his post, for in the House, January 4, a “Message from His Excellency to enquire whether all the members that were returned had taken the oath, particularly Abel Morse, of Chester.”

The Governor disapproved of the choice of a Speaker, and the question arose whether Mr. Morse should vote.

Jan. 17th, the Governor directs that the members from the new towns have a vote. Mr. Morse had his seat. Chester had been taxed some five years, and not represented.

At the annual meeting, March 30,

“Voted, that the Selectmen, or major part of them, shall be a Committee to Sell off from all the ten Rod Highways at any time, near the old meeting house, as they shall think fit and Proper, without Infringing any nearer Said house than the fences now stand and are already made, nor to make Said Highway Less than five Rods wide; and so purches a Burying place from mr. Jonathan Blunt for Said town, and to build a Pound.”

There had been several attempts to exchange land with Mr. Blunt, but without success. But now they sell the land and purchase a burying-place. At the annual meeting, March, 1751,

“ Voted, that messrs. Jonathan Blunt, John Robie, and Capt. Abel morss, Shall be a Committee to fence the Burying place with Bords as they Shall Judg Suitable and Hansom.”

Mr. Flagg acknowledges the receipt of three hundred fifty-five pounds, old tenor, in full of salary and wood.

John Mills, Archibald Dunlap and William Kilchrist, former collectors of the Presbyterian parish, were in arrears, and a committee was chosen to look them up, and “ proceed according to law.”

“ Voted, that the present wardens is to rais as much money as they see needful to defray law charges.”

John McMurphy lived in Londonderry, but was a proprietor in Chester, and a large landholder. He signed the Presbyterian petition in 1737, as being aggrieved in being taxed for the support of Mr. Flagg. The Presbyterians taxed him for the support of Mr. Wilson.

Mr. McMurphy complained to the Court of Sessions by petition, saying that he lived in Londonderry, and ought not to be taxed in Chester. Entered September term, 1746. An order of notice was served on the selectmen of Chester, who not being parties, the Presbyterian parish was notified. The case was heard, September, 1748, and a verdict given for the parish. The complainant appealed, and the judgment in the court below was reversed, and therefore Mr. McMurphy was released from taxation.

1750. In the warning for the annual town meeting, March 29, is an article, “ To see if the town will appoint, Chuse and Impower a Committee to Sue, Receive and Recover of the Last year’s Selectmen the town Booke Called the Selectmen’s Booke ; and also what money they have which belongs to said town of Chester : To prosecute them

to final Judgment and Execution." Put to vote, and passed in the negative. The book is lost.

The Congregationalists voted Mr. Flagg twenty cords of wood yearly during the whole of his ministry, or money equivalent.

1751. In the warning for the annual town meeting, March 28th, is an article, "To see if the town will vote that a Certain parcel of Land Laying at the south west corner of the town, Containing four miles and a half in length and about two miles and three Quarters in wedth, beginning at the South East corner of the 134th Lott in the fourth Division, and Running north four miles and a half to the north East corner of the 71st Lott in Said Division, then went north west to the head Line of the town,—may be adjoined to a part of Londonderry and the Lands about ammoskeag not Incorporated into a parrish, or otherwise as the town shall then think and Judge Best."

"Relating to the Second artikell in the warning,

"Voted, that the Land may be Set off as a parrish upon the following Conditions (viz.): That any Person that has any Land fall within Said Tract never pay any Taxes for the same until they make Settlement upon the Same; and that this Vote shall be of none Effect unless they obtain a Grant of the Governor and Council to be Incorporated into a Parrish, taking in Land not Incorporated into a township by amoskeeg and part of Londonderry, as is Set forth in a plan presented in meeting this day.

"Capt. John Tolford, Archibald Dunlap, William Crawford, Robert Wilson, Decents against the foregoing Vote, because it Cutts of part of the Parrish alreedy set of by the General Court, and further Cutts them of from a Priveledge to their own land."

The territory was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly, September 3, 1751, into a township by the name of Derryfield. It will be seen that the following boundaries do not correspond with the vote of the town:

"Beginning at a Pitch Pine Tree Standing upon the w n line between Chester and Londonderry, marked (134), being the bound of one of the Sixty acre Lotts in said

Chester, being the South East corner of said Lott; Thence running South into the Township of Londonderry one hundred and sixty rods to a stake and stones; thence running West to Londonderry North & South Line; thence running upon Londonderry Line to the head line of Litchfield to a stake & stones; thence running upon the head line of Litchfield to the Bank of merrimack river; thence running up said river as the river runs Eight miles to a stake & stones Standing upon the Bank of the said river; thence running East South East one mile and three Quarters through Land not Granted to any Town untill it comes to Chester Line; thence running Two miles and a half and fifty Two Rods on the Same Course into the township of Chester to a Stake & Stones; thence running South four miles & a half to the bound first mentioned."

There is a tract between Chester line and the river, extending above this tract to Martin's Ferry, since annexed to Derryfield.

John McMurphy was to call the first meeting, which was done, and held at the house of John Hall, September 23, 1751. John Hall was one of the most active men in town; was paid £251, old tenor, for time and expenses in procuring the charter. He was the first town clerk, and his records are a literary curiosity, as may be seen by the return of some roads in this work. Also

"Voted, to Rase 24 pounds, old tenor, to be rased to paye fore Preeching for this present year."

The members of the Presbyterian parish lived from Walnut hill to Dea. William Leatch's and John Orr's at Massabesic pond, a distance of nine miles. They had voted in 1747 to have Mr. Wilson preach at the "Long Meadow," a part of the time; but there seems to have been some uneasiness, and an effort was made to move the meeting-house to a more central location. At the annual meeting March 12, 1751,

"Voted, Capt. John Tolford, Hugh Crome, Thomas Crag, William Leatch & James Quenton a Comite to Examin and try to find out a Convenient place to move the meeting house to."

At a meeting June 27th,

"Voted, y^e meeting howes is to be moved to a proper senter.

"Voted, no money to be Raised to move the meeting howes.

"Voted, the proprietors is not willing to give up their Rights of the meeting hows, Because those that has lately Come into the parish is not willing to give any more towards y^e moving of said meeting house than those that Build it.

"Voted, mr. Wilson is not to preach any more at y^e long meadow.

"Voted, No Comitte Chosen.

"Voted, The parish Except of the Comitte's report for the senter Between Capt. John Tolford & Wilam Leatch's for to set the meeting howes."

1752. It appears that the small pox was in town this year.

"It was voted to pay £5 5s. old tenor for taking care of Thomas Grear's family."

1753. The Congregational parish March 28, 1753,

"Voted, That the hind Seat upon Each Side of the Grate alley that goes from the South Dore to the Pulpit Shall be taken away, and that thair Shall be preveledges for Building four Pues, two upon Each Side of Said alley. Each Pue Shall be four feet and Eight Inches wide and as Long as halfe the Seat; the Platforme for Said Pues Shall be but eight Inches high from the meeting house flore.

"Voted, Capt. abel morss, John Robie, nathan webster, Shall be a Committee to Sell to the highest Bider Belonging to Said Parish the Preveledges that was voted for Bulding four Pues in the old meeting house, and that the vandugh Shall be on the fust wensday in april next, at three of the clock in the afternoon, at the old meting house."

November, 1753,

"Voted, That the money that the Last (pewes) was Sold for Shall be put to the parish youse to Defray charges this present year.

"Voted, That if any Number of young persons in this parish Sufichant to fill any Seat on the Back Side of the Seats in the Galleries Shall agree to Buld them into pews, they have the Liberty to do it."

An attempt is made this year to divide the Presbyterian parish. An article was inserted in the warning for the annual town meeting to see if the town would vote to set off a parish, including nearly the same territory as the present town of Auburn, which was voted. Seventeen Presbyterians protested against it because it would ruin the parish. It did not come to a head until 1771. The Presbyterians chose William Tolford, Andrew Jack and Samuel Aiken a committee "To see Dissatisfaction of some people in the Parish." The same committee was to "Build one pair of Stairs against the fall sacrament."

Their collectors were in arrears, and one of the articles in the warning was, "The Collectors from John Mills to this present time are to meet at Capt. John Tolford's the Eighteenth Day of September next, to make up their accounts with the Comity upon their Perile."

1754. A parish meeting was called Oct. 8th, to make an addition to Mr. Flagg's salary, but the parish refused to do it. The Presbyterians voted to add forty pounds old tenor to Mr. Wilson's salary.

1755. The Congregational parish at a special meeting voted to pay the collector eighteen pence old tenor for gathering the rates (on the pound.) The Presbyterians voted to raise twenty pounds to repair their meeting-house.

This year was noted for the most violent earthquake ever known in North America. It occurred Nov. 18th at about 4 o'clock A. M., and lasted four minutes and a half. In Boston about one hundred chimneys were leveled to the roofs of the houses, and about fifteen hundred were injured.

1756. Mr. Flagg's salary was raised to £640 old tenor, including wood. The Presbyterians voted to raise £200 to repair the meeting-house.

1757. Mr. Flagg's salary was £800, and £60 for wood. The Presbyterians voted to raise £100 old tenor to build a pulpit.

1758. In the warning for the annual town meeting was an article "To see if the town will pay the Damage of flowing the Land Round Massabesick pond, so called, by Capt. Alexander McMurphy's mill." "Past in the negative."

The Presbyterian parish "voted one hundred pounds old tenor Be Raised to Repair the long meadow meeting house."

The town was called upon for jurors, and Jonathan Blunt was chosen grand juror, and Jacob Chase petit juror, to the May term of the Superior Court. These were the first called for. Lieut. Thomas Heseltine and Mr. Zephaniah French were chosen petit jurors to the Inferior Court of Common Pleas at the September term. "Insin" Enoch Colby was chosen grand juror, and Capt. Thomas Wells, petit juror, at the November term of the Superior Court. The selectmen have a charge "to making a staff for Constable Bean £1 5," old tenor.

1759. There were articles in the warning for the annual town meeting, to see if the inhabitants should be required to return an inventory to the selectmen, and whether they would doom tradesmen and shop-keepers. Passed in the negative.

The Presbyterian parish voted Mr. Wilson six hundred pounds, old tenor, salary, and voted money to repair the meeting-houses.

1760. Mr. Flagg acknowledges the receipt of £1060 in full of salary and wood the year past, and the parish voted £1200 the year ensuing.

The Presbyterian parish voted to add £50, old tenor, to Mr. Wilson's salary, and to raise £300, old tenor, for finishing the two meeting-houses.

They "Voted to major John Tolford six foot in length, five and a half in width, of ground in their old meeting-house on the right hand of the south Door."

"Voted, The meeting house is to Be seated with long seats."

1761. Samuel Dudley, who lived in Raymond, was chosen surveyor of highways in 1760, and he built a bridge near Raymond Centre across the Lamprey river. The selectmen refused to pay him and he sued them.

In the warning for the annual meeting was an article to "To See if the Town will Chuse a Committee To Defend a Case or Cases Now Depending at Law Between Sam^l Dudley, Plaintiff, and this Town, Defendants, or to act and Do what may then be thought Proper and Needful."

The old selectmen, who were sued, were made agents and attorneys with power to prosecute the suit "to final judgment and execution." Dudley recovered.

There is also an article "To See if the Town will Vote that the North Parish Shall be Set off by the authority as set forth in a Petition to the Selectmen by messrs. Jethro Batchelder, Daniel Lane, Benjamin Smith and others." "Past in the negative."

1762. At the annual meeting March 25, 1762,

"Voted, That the following Tract of Land may be Incorporated into a Parrish, being about five miles and a Half in length, and about four miles in width. Bounding Northerly on Nottingham Line, Easterly on the old Hundred acre Lotts, so called, Southerly on the Long meadow Parrish, so called, as that is voted alrely, and westerly on the forty acre Lotts."

The Long Meadow parish, as voted in 1753, was from Londonderry line to the northwest corner of the 43d lot, then west-northwest to Tower-Hill, and then to the corner of Derryfield.

(For the petition for Candia, see a sketch of the history in this work.)

1763. At a meeting Jan 26, 1763,

"Voted, That that part of the Town of Chester Called the North parrish, or Freetown, as much as was laid out in Parrish forme, Shall be set of as a Town or Parrish."

This includes the Old Hundreds or North Division.

March 31,

"Voted, That it be Left with the Selectmen to Inquire

into and See how much is justly Due the North Parrish, so Called, for their proportion of the school money Raised in this Town for three years past ; and if they have not had their share, they Deliver the same to them, Provided they Lay out the same for schooling among themselves ; and also all the other parts of the Town that have not had their proportion of the schooling, nor money as above mentioned, shall be Considered and have their proportion on the same Condition.

“ Voted, That a work house be Built or Provided by the Selectmen To Putt and keep those Persons in that Idle, Pocer, Disorderly and Lasey, and will not work ; and to provide a master to Take Care of all such Persons as shall be Committed to said house, that they may be Kept to work and be Proceeded with as the Law Directs.”

Probably this was never carried into execution.

1764. It was “ voted that James Fullerton’s Rates be given him for the year past. The Congregational parish also abated their tax against him. He lived in Raymond. “ It was on account of his house being burnt.”

John Robie, Nathan Webster and Andrew Jack were chosen a committee to settle about highways in Raymond and make return. They made return March 6, 1766.

“ This day agreed upon by us the Subscribers, being Chosen by the Town of Chester and Parrish of Raymond as Committees to settle the Debates about the Highways and all things that was Debatebell from the Beginning of the world to this Day : viz., that Raymond is to have all the Reserves that is left in that Parrish for Highways to convert them to that use, and to Pay all Demands made and to be made for Highways in Said Parrish ; and Likewise that the Parrish of Raymond is to Have their proportion of money that was in Bank when they were Incorporated as a Parrish. as Witness our hands. The line between Chester and Raymond is Excepted.

“ John Cram, Ezekel Lane, John Robie, Nathan Webster, ”	}	Committee for Chester and Raymond.”
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“ Voted, That the Parrish of Candia shall have the Priviledge to Dispose of all the Common Land left for

highways within the said Parrish as they see Cause as fully as the Town authority to do, on Condition that the Said Parrish shall Pay all the Demands for the Highways already Laid out in Said Parrish, and Lay out and Support all for the future; and that the selectmen of Chester take Security of the selectmen of Candia for their Performing the above mentioned."

1765. "Voted, That the Parrish of Candia shall Have their proportion of the money that was in Bank when they were Incorporated by the Court act Into a Parrish."

There were votes passed by the Congregational parish respecting seating the meeting-house, and the singers sitting together, for which, see the Ecclesiastical History.

The Presbyterians voted to fence their graveyard.

1766. The town voted that the parish of Candia should have their proportion of the money that was in bank when incorporated.

Standard weights and measures were obtained this year at a cost of £6.

Mr. Flagg's salary, wood and all, was £60 lawful money.

Samuel and Daniel Martin's taxes abated. They lived at Martin's Ferry.

Appended to the warning for the Presbyterian parish meeting was, "The Parish is desired to Consider what they will do In Regard to some Person to take Care to swep the meeting-house and shut the Doors for time to come." Mr. Wilson's salary was to continue to be £800, old tenor, or £40 lawful money. Mr. Wilson was to preach at the Long Meadows, as formerly.

"Voted, that william White, Junior, John Moors, James mills, Robert mills, Thomas White, James Graham, mark Karr, Hugh Shirlee, James Grims at the long meadow, John mac farland, moses mac farland, Daniel witherspoon, Alexander witherspoon, Joshua moors, Jonathan moors, David wilson, Joseph Dunlap, James Dunlap, Charles moors, Robert fursyth, John wilson, william Shirley, John frain, is to have Liberty to Build Saits or Pews In the Gallery Beginning at the north Corner, & from thence all along the west Eend next the wall, Clear a Cross to the south west Corner, from thence along the south side next

the wall as far as the Post that goes up from the south East Corner of major Tolford's Pew."

1767. There is nothing of note on the records this year.

1768. In the warning for the annual meeting of the Congregational parish was an article "to See if the parish will Grant moses marshal and the other Petitioners thair Request in this article (viz.), to See if the parish will vote that the meeting house Doors Shall be opened to any orthodox minister to Preach in the Pulpit when Providentially passing thro' the town, and Desired by a number of Peopel to preach, or when Sent for by a number of Persons to Preach when it Does not Interfere upon y^e Rev^d mr. Flagg's Stated Exercise." Passed in the negative.

1769. Up to this time the province had not been divided into counties, but the records were kept and all the courts were held at Portsmouth. There was quite an exciting discussion on the subject, in which the old contest between the prerogatives of the crown and the rights of the people came up. August 21, 1767, the House resolved to divide the province into four counties, and establish courts. The Council said two counties were enough, and that it was the prerogative of the King's Governor to establish courts. Each house proposed lines of division which the other negatived. The King was appealed to, and he gave leave to have the House pass a bill subject to his revision, and recommended five counties, which was finally agreed to. Then there was a contest about the places of holding the courts, Portsmouth claiming all in this county, and Exeter claiming a part; and there was a dispute in Hillsborough county between Amherst and Merrimack. There was a petition with seventy-six signatures, sent from Chester just before the passage of the bill, praying to be annexed to Hillsborough county, which the House was inclined to grant, but the Council rejected. There was a like petition from Londonderry, and some other towns. Finally April 27, 1769, a bill passed, though the counties were not organized until 1771.

“Voted, that the wages of Labour on the Highways shall be two shillings per day.”

The Congregational parish at their annual meeting, March 28th,

“Voted to Buld a new meeting house by the parish within two years from the Date of this meeting.

“Voted to Build a meeting house sixty feet long and forty-five feet wide, and a suitable height, and that it be built by the pews, so far as they shall go.

“Voted, that there shall be a Committee to Sell Said pews within a convenient time, Sold for Bords, Shingle, timber, Labour, or any article that is wanting for Said meeting house, at cash price.”

John Webster, Esq., Jabez French, Saml. Emerson, Esq., Saml. Robie, and Jabez Hoyt, were chosen to sell the pews and build the house.

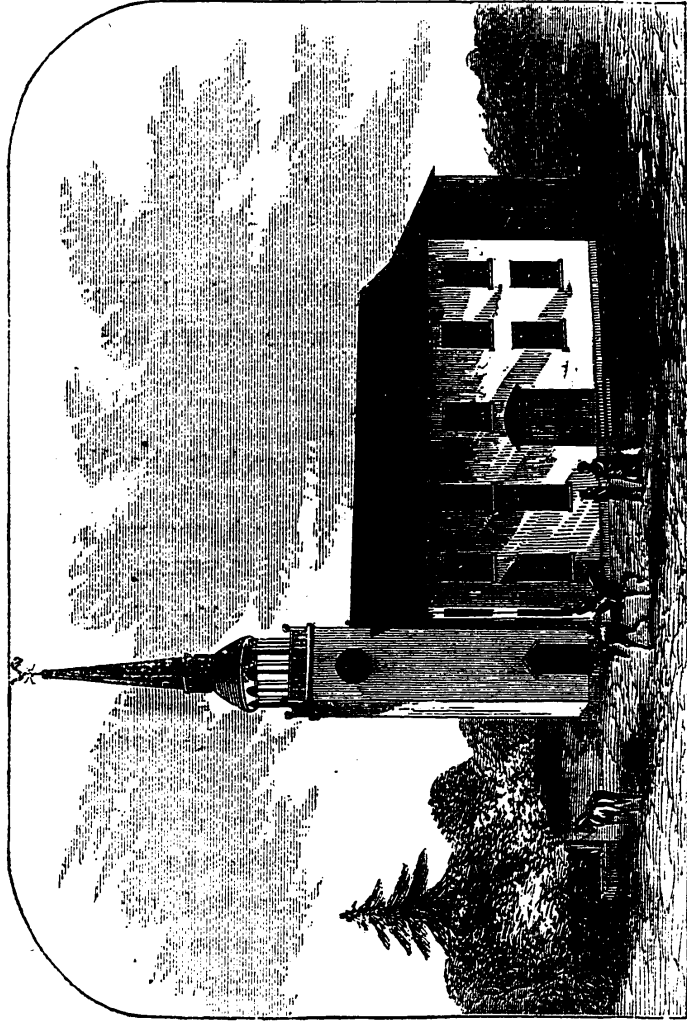
At a meeting, October 16th,

“Voted, to build a steple and porch to the New meeting house, agreeable to the Plan.

“Voted, to Set the New meeting house upon the Land that the Rev^d mr. Flagg gave for that youse.”

The house was built on land which Mr. Flagg bought of Gov. Wentworth — his home lot. The deed is recorded, Lib. 124, fol. 120, dated Oct. 15, 1772, and conveys twenty-four square rods of land. The house faced the southwest, the posts twenty-eight feet, I think, the steeple at the northwest end some fifteen feet above the roof, and and a spire, with a weather-vane in the form of a gilt rooster, being more than one hundred feet high. The windows were forty panes, seven-by-nine glass.

It was heavily timbered, and of first-rate materials, and the work done in a thorough and workmanlike manner. Over the pulpit was a sounding-board. In front of the pulpit was a pew called the elders' seat, and in front of that the deacons' pew, the occupants facing the congregation. On each side of the broad alley from the deacons' pew, about half the width of the house, were seats some fifteen feet long, made of plank, which were common or free seats. The remainder was built into pews about six



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-HOUSE, BUILT IN 1773, RECONSTRUCTED IN 1839.

feet square, and as high as a man's shoulders while sitting on the seat. The pews were panel-work, with a row of turned balusters about eight inches long near the top. Three sides of the pews were seated, so that the congregation faced, sat sideways and back to the minister. The seats turned up for convenience of standing during prayers. At the close of the prayer there was quite a refreshing clatter by the falling of these seats. Nobody at that day thought of sitting during prayers, excepting some very infirm old woman, and she would arise before the amen was pronounced. In the gallery there was a tier of pews all around the walls of the house on three sides, and one pew in the front of the gallery at each end on the back side of the house. There was one pew at each end of the southwest side of the door, for a negro pew, which was not ornamented by balusters. The remainder of the gallery was seated with long common seats. The northwest end was for the men, the southeast end was for the women.

There were on the ground floor forty-four pews, which sold for, £607 15s. The highest was bought by Col. John Webster for £30; the next by Abner Hills, for £25 16s. Col. Webster bought four pews. In the gallery were twenty-two pews, which sold for £100 14s.

The house was a noble structure, and did credit to the parish, the committee and the workmen.

At a parish meeting, March 30, 1774,

“Voted to accept of the Committee's accompt that was to build the New Meeting house.

“Voted, that the Rev^d Mr. Eben^r Flagg shall preach in the New meeting house for the future.

“Voted, that the Rev^d Mr. Eben^r Flagg shall preach in the New Meeting house the Next Sabbath Day.”

A petition was preferred to the General Court by John Patten and others, showing,

“That the Subscribers Being in Number the greatest Part of a District or Parish Commonly Called the Long Meadows, and that by a Vote of the Town at there Anuel Meet-

ing in the Month of March, A. D. 1753, Voted of for a Parish By Certain Limited Bounds More Clearly Set forth in Said Vote, the Cobby of Which Being Ready to Be Produced, Humbly Prayeth that Your Excellency & Honors would be Pleased to Confirm & Establish Said Vote & Bounds, and Grant Unto us all Parish Priviledges, with full Power to Hier a Gospel Minister to Preach Unto us, or to Settle & Ordain one over us for the Better Conveniency of our attending the Public Worship of God; and your Petitioners as in Duty Bound will Ever Pray.

John Patten,
Nath^l Linn,
Robert Craig,
John Orr,
Samuel Dinsmer,
Wells Chase,
Barnaid Bricket,
Stephen Dearborn,
Nathaniel Wood,
Joseph Calfe,
Samuel Blunt,

Mansfield McDoffy,

✓ Daniel Witharspoon,
Anthony Stickney,
✓ Robert Witharspoon,
David White,
William Letch,
Moses Underhill,
Sam^l Aiken,
Rob^t Calf,
Hugh Crombie,
Thomas Sharley,
James Sharley,
Samuel Sharley,
Wm. Brown, Junior,

Joseph Linne,
Caleb Hall,
Moody Chase,
Moses Hills,
✓ David Witharspoon,
Peter Aiken,
✓ James Witherspoon,
Thomas Fowler,
Thomas Fowler, Junior,
Hugh Mc affee,
Nath^l Presby,
his
James + Horn,
mark.
Benja. Pierce,
Sam Pierce,
Robert McKinley,
Stephen Morel,
William McMaster,
Robert Gilcrest,
Joseph Dearborn,
Moses McFarland,
William Grimes,
John Grimes,
Adam Willson,
James Grimes."

"In Council Dec. 19, 1771. The foregoing Petition was read and ordered to be sent down to the Hon^{ble} Assembly.

Geo. King, Dep. Sec."

There was an order of notice upon this petition. Objections were made as follows :

It is answered by Andrew Jack, Henry Moore & Robert Wilson, in behalf of the Presbyterian Parish, That the Petitioners joined with the rest of s^d Parish in the Choice of Rev. John Wilson for their minister, & voted him a certain yearly salary ; and have been, and still are, satisfied with his life and Doctrines, but for other Reasons desire to be set off as a distinct Parish, altho they are convinced that it is their duty to perform their contract with Said minister, and did at a legal meeting held in Chester, mutually agree with the rest of s^d Parishioners in the lower End of the Parish to have one half the Preaching for nine months yearly, from the last day of March to the first day of December, during the time the said minister was able to preach, and the remainder of his Preaching should be to the People of the lower end of said Parish ; and that the said Petitioners pay the sum of twenty pounds lawful money Yearly during the ministry of said John Wilson, and collect their part of the money themselves ; and the Parishioners at the lower End of said Parish Then agreed with the Petitioners to pay s^d Minister Twenty five pounds like money Yearly during said Term, and collect the same themselves.

Now, we in behalf of the lower End of said Parish have no objection to the prayer of said Petition being granted, so far as respects their being set off as a distinct parish, provided they continue to fulfil their agreement before mentioned by paying s^d minister duly, the said sum by them agreed to pay him.

But inasmuch as the lower end of the Parish is utterly incapable of maintaining a minister *themselves*, they pray that the said Petitioners may not be freed from paying the sum aforesaid agreeable to their before ment^d contract.

May 21, 1772.

Jan. 7, 1773, another petition was preferred by twenty-nine of the former petitioners in which they repeat the *prayer of their former petition.*

March 11, 1773, a counter petition, of which the following is an abstract, was preferred, showing that they had formerly signed a petition, and that at a late public meeting of the inhabitants of that part of the town voted almost

unanimously that the former petition should lie dormant; that it would not relieve them of their present troubles; that, instead of having the gospel preached twice a month, they should not have it at all; that the former petition was clandestinely propagated among the inhabitants by designing men. Therefore, they supplicate that the General Court will view the former petition as propagated by a few persons to gratify their own humor, &c. Signed by

James Sharlay,
John mcfarland,
James Litch,
Mansfield mcaffé,
John Craford,
Moses Underhill,
John Orr,
William Vance,
Matthew Templeton,
Robert Craig,
Robert McKinly,
Stephen Merrill,
Stephen Derben,
Moody Chase,
Nathaniel wood,
Joseph Derben,
Moses Hills,
David Underhill,
David Cunningham,

Sam^l Blunt,
William Craig,
John Craig,
Thomas Sharley,
Jermia Coner,
David Dinsmore,
Arthur Dinsmore,
Robert Dinsmore,
Thos. mcmaster,
Thos. McMaster, Jr.
Wm. McMaster,
David Dickey,
Aaron Rollings,
William Gilchrist,
William Miller,
James Miller,
Michael Gordon,
Andrew McFarland,
James McFarland.

In the House of Representatives May 13, 1773, this petition was heard, considered and dismissed.

The following are the proceedings of the Presbyterian parish in regard to the division of the parish. In a warning for a meeting of the Presbyterian parish, April 16, 1772, was an article "To Se if the Parish Will Chuse a Committe, one part From the Lower End of the Parish, and another part From the Uper End, to Endeavor to Settle that the Parish May be one as formerly. That If this Comitte Dos not agree, to Se if the Perish Will Chuse a Committe To Opose the Petition latly caried into the General Cort, and to Act and Doe What They May think Best for the Benefit of the Perish."

“Voted, That thair Should be five men Chose as a Committe to settle the Parish.

“Mathew Forsaith, Thomas McMaster, Robert Wilson, Henry Moor, Joseph Lin,	}	Committe For the Prisbetailren Parish.”
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“MEMMERANDOM

“Agread Upon By the Subscribers Chosen as A Committe for the Prisbetailren Perish in Chester, Part from the Lower End of the Town and part from the Long meadows, So Caled; Viz., that the Long meadows part, So Caled, is to have the one half of the Preaching for Nine Months from the First of March to the First of December, During the time that the Reverand John Wilson is Abel to Preach, and the Remainder to the Lower End of the town; and that the Long Medows Party is to pay the Sume of twenty pound Lawfull Money Yearly, During the Reverand John Wilson’s Minisstrey, and Colect That part of the Money themselves, and the Lower End of the town to Pay twenty five pound and Colect thair own Money themselves.

“Chester, Aprile the 20th, 1772.

“N. B., Each Party Bound in Bonds to Perform the above a Greemint, or aply to the Generil Cort to Estabelish The agreement according to the above Themselves.

“Mathew Forsaith, Thomas McMaster, Robert Wilson, Henry Moor, Joseph Lin,	}	Committee For the Prisbetailren Parish.”
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1773. The town “Voted that their shall be a sufficient Pound Built, and that the pound be set on the south side of the Highway Near Dustin’s shop.” Col. Moses Dustin, afterwards of Candia, was a blacksmith; probably his shop was somewhere to the south of the meeting-house.

“Voted, That the Pound shall be at Least Thirty feet in Length, and Twenty four feet in width, and Seven feet High; the Sils and posts to be white oake, Hued Six by Eight, or Eight by Six; the Rails to be Chesnut, Hued four by five; and the plates of yellow pine, Hued 6 by 8; Braced at Each Corner from the sils to the Plates, and a good gate to it.”

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."