

COLUMBIA LIBRARIES OFFSITE



CU01644530

STRATFORD'S
250TH
ANNIVERSARY

1639—1889

975.2848 8482

Columbia University
in the City of New York

LIBRARY



STRATFORD'S

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

SETTLEMENT

OF THE

TOWN OF STRATFORD.

OCTOBER 3D, 1889.

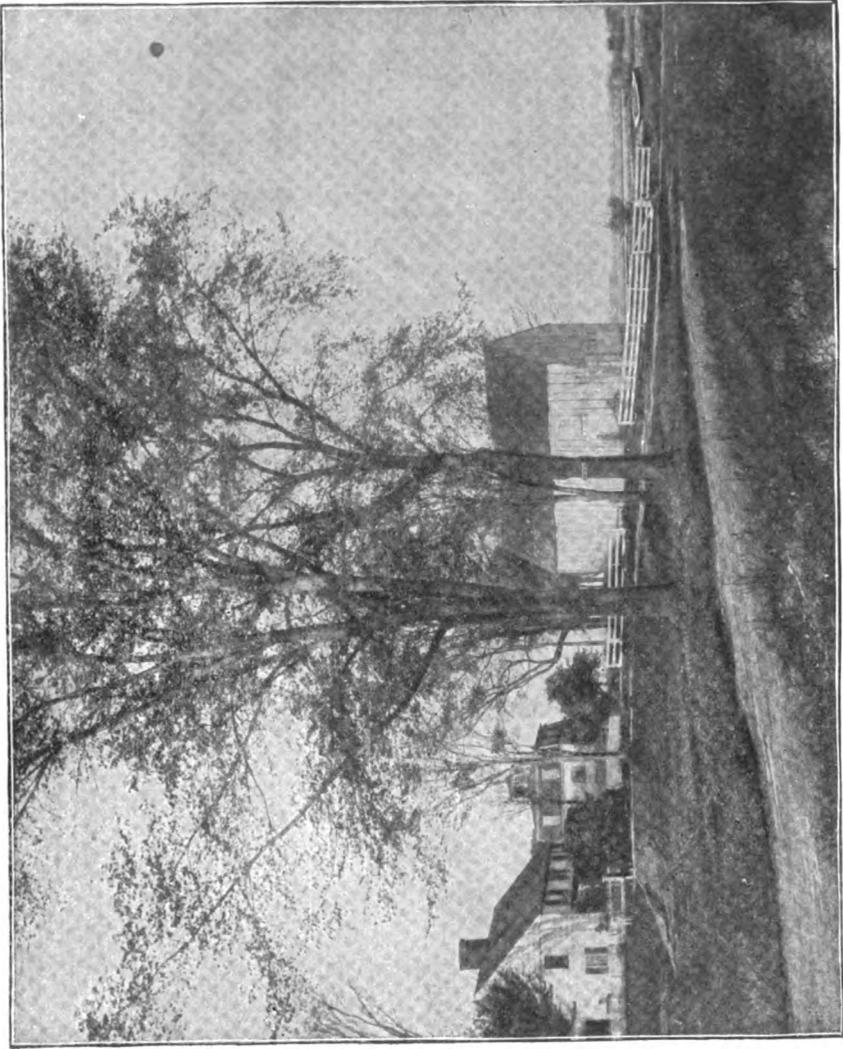
COMPILED BY DIRECTION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

1890.

875.25+8

St 82

101. m. 100
A.P. J. 1. 2/12



SANDY HOLLOW.
From a Photograph by F. C. BRACH, 1890.

"SANDY HOLLOW."

THE accompanying illustration represents the present appearance of the place where the first settlers established themselves in 1639. It is believed that the first settlers sailed from Wethersfield down the Connecticut River, thence along the Sound and up the Housatonic (then the Pootatuck), landing in an inlet which at that time formed an excellent harbor, at the place directly back of the barn in the illustration. This inlet, since called Mac's Harbor, is now nearly filled up and overgrown with sedge. The boat seen in the picture indicates the location of a stream that still remains, to show where the former inlet ran. The old barn stands on the site of the first "Meeting-house," erected directly after the settlement of the town, and torn down in 1684. The "Barrymore" house, to the left of the barn, is one of the oldest houses in the town, and tradition has it that some of the beams from the old "Meeting-house" mentioned above found their way into its frame. The exact date of the erection of the house cannot be given. The land upon which it stands was, in 1642, the property of Nicholas Knell, from whom "Knell's Island," the land seen across the river in the illustration, was named. The house of Rev. Adam Blakeman, the first minister, was on the corner opposite the barn, to the west. The site does not appear in the illustration.

PREFACE.

THE celebration of the 250th anniversary of the settlement of the Town of Stratford, on October 3d, 1889, gave so much pleasure to the residents of the town, and was so thoroughly successful, that there immediately arose a general desire to preserve in some suitable form a fitting memento of the occasion. Participating in this desire, and conscious of a public sentiment which called for some record of the proceedings, which should be available in every household, the General Committee of Arrangements appointed Messrs. Howard J. Curtis, Stiles Judson, Jr., Thomas B. Fairchild, Frederick C. Beach, Wilfred M. Peck, and Samuel T. Houghton, a Committee to compile and publish in book form a complete account of the events of the day so memorable in the town's history. Much time and care have been given to make the work attractive in appearance, as well as to present a correct statement of any events connected with the celebration. The illustrations are mostly from photographs taken by one of the Committee, Mr. F. C. Beach, for which service gratuitously performed, his associates take this opportunity of expressing their thanks. If, from these printed pages, and the pictures of old and easily recognized landmarks, the sons and daughters of Stratford who have gone thence into other homes; or those who still remain near old familiar places, catch some new appreciation of the attractions of this "Home, Sweet Home," of their childhood, the compilers will feel that they have not labored in vain.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE,	vi
THE STORY OF STRATFORD,	13
LIST OF HOUSE LOTS AND THEIR OWNERS—1654-1668,	24
ACTION OF THE TOWN,	27
WORK OF THE COMMITTEES,	28
PROGRAMME OF THE DAY,	31
EXERCISES OF THE MORNING,	45
ARRIVAL OF VISITORS,	46
FORMATION OF THE PARADE,	47
THE PARADE,	48
DEDICATION OF SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT,	50
ADDRESS OF REV. I. M. FOSTER,	52
THE COLLATION,	65
EXERCISES OF THE AFTERNOON,	65
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DAY,	68
ADDRESS OF BENJAMIN T. FAIRCHILD, ESQ.,	69
ADDRESS OF REV. GEORGE W. JUDSON,	72
ADDRESS OF HON. CURTIS THOMPSON,	79
THE HISTORICAL TABLEAUX,	91
THE LOAN EXHIBITION,	103
CATALOGUE OF THE LOAN EXHIBITION,	105
MARKING HISTORICAL PLACES,	125
THE VETERAN ASSOCIATION, AND ITS WORK,	129
REPORT OF THE TREASURER,	138
PRESS NOTICES,	139

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
SITE OF FIRST SETTLEMENT (SANDY HOLLOW),	iv
MAIN STREET,	12
SKETCH OF MAJOR ANDRE,	17
CHRIST CHURCH (1743),	19
PHELPS HOUSE,	19
STRATFORD ACADEMY,	20
MAP OF STRATFORD, 1824 (LINSLEY'S),	22
MAP OF STRATFORD, 1654 (SWAN'S),	23
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (1784),	24
INTERIOR OF SAME,	26
WALKER HOUSE,	32
DAYTON HOUSE,	40
METHODIST CHURCH,	44
THE PARADE,	48
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (1859)	56
CHRIST CHURCH (1857),	64
JUDSON HOUSE (1723),	72
ELM STREET,	80
PARADISE GREEN,	88
HOUSATONIC RIVER,	88
MOSES WHEELER'S TOMBSTONE,	98
FREEMAN CURTIS HOUSE,	104
THOMAS WELLS HOUSE,	124
SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT,	128



From Harper's Magazine.

MAIN STREET (LOOKING SOUTH FROM BROAD STREET),

From a Photograph by F. C. Brauer, in 1887, for Harper's Magazine.
By Permission of Harper & Brothers.

Copyright, 1896, by Harper & Brothers.

THE STORY OF STRATFORD.

THE precise date of the first settlement of Stratford cannot be definitely determined. Tradition, which has found its way into history, says that one family, that of William Judson, settled here as early as 1638. There can be no doubt, however, that some time during the summer, or in the early autumn, of 1639, a company from Wethersfield, under the leadership of Rev. Adam Blakeman, gained the distinction of First Settlers in Stratford.

The name at first given to the settlement was Pequannock; somewhat later it was called Cupheag, from the name of an Indian tribe displaced by the white planters. How it acquired the name Stratford, or just when the change of name occurred, is uncertain, but it is most likely that it was so called after "Stratford-on-Avon," though the tie (if any) connecting the two cannot now be ascertained. It is claimed, however, by the descendants of William Beardsley, one of the original settlers, that he came from Stratford-on-Avon, and that through his influence the settlement received the name of Stratford. According to Orcutt's History of Stratford, in June, 1640, and again in September of the same year, the settlement was designated as Cupheag upon the records of the General Court; but in April, 1643, it is called Stratford.

In Orcutt's History already referred to, is a very interesting statement concerning the acquisition of the land, and the consequent difficulties with adjoining neighbors on the eastern border.

The township originally consisted of a tract of land lying along the west bank of the Housatonic River—then called the Pootatuck—in length about twelve miles and in width about seven, the southern boundary being Long Island Sound, distant from the settlement about three miles.

New towns have from time to time been constituted out of parts of the original township, each in its turn claiming from the older settlement a large slice of territory; but the old town still lives.

The earliest settlers located in the neighborhood of "Sandy Hollow," clustering their dwellings near the Meeting-house; for our pious

forefathers thought it no sacrilege to use their house of worship as a place of refuge and defence in the case of attack by the Indians.

This Meeting-house stood on the site of the barn of the late Captain William Barrymore, and the first burial-ground was immediately around it. All traces of this first resting place of the dead in Stratford have disappeared; although, when a few years ago, a well was sunk in the neighborhood, human bones, probably those of some early settler, were disinterred.

Coincident with the settlement of the town was the organization of the Congregational Church of Stratford, with Rev. Adam Blakeman as pastor. This church celebrated its 250th anniversary a short time before the town celebration.

It is with some complacency, that the native Stratforders recount the fact that this church in Stratford had a bell with which to summon the godly to their devotions, while churches in other localities called their worshippers together by the beating of a drum, or the blowing of a horn.

Stratford also claims distinction in having had located here the first Episcopal church erected in the State of Connecticut, the parish of Christ Church having been organized in 1707, and the first church having been completed and opened for services on Christmas day, 1723.

A Methodist Episcopal church was also organized in May, 1790, it is said, by Jesse Lee, who then visited Stratford and formed a class, which was the nucleus of the present society.

The first dwelling in Stratford was probably on the south-west corner of "Academy Hill," where now stands the house of Mr. John Wheeler, formerly owned by Abner Judson. It is said that William Judson located his house on this spot as early as 1638.

"Academy Hill" was then known as "Watch House Hill," and around it, on the northern side, was a stockade for protection against the Indians.

In the selection of a site for their settlement, our fathers were exceedingly fortunate: for the location is certainly favorable to health and longevity. As evidence of this, it was stated only a few years ago, that there could be counted among the residents along Stratford Avenue, from the corner of Main Street down to "the shore," twenty-one persons over the age of seventy years.

Few country towns have undergone less change during their existence than Stratford. Almost primitive are many of its appointments. The old fashioned well sweep is not wholly extinct, and the recollection

of one, not the oldest inhabitant, recalls the stocks, in which unruly members of society were made fast.

The quiet streets of this pretty country town, shaded by elm trees, by whom or when planted no historian has discovered; devoid of that busy activity so noticeable in its neighbors adjoining on the east and on the west; the almost total absence of factories and mills, so generally found in places of like size; the comfort and independence of its inhabitants, dwelling most frequently in homes owned by the occupants, with but rarely a case of extreme destitution and want, "where the richest is poor and the poorest live in abundance;" almost realize the poetic vision of Acadia.

Let it not be inferred, however, that, because of a regard for the venerable, and a love for the antique, Stratford is behind the age, or is indifferent to progress. The education of her children has been a matter of much solicitude, and her common schools have always been far above the average. In 1812 a bequest of William Henderson made provision for the establishment of a fund "for the education of poor children in the town of Stratford." "Stratford Academy," situated on the hill to which it gave name, was founded in 1804 and acquired a reputation far and wide, as one of the best in the country; Yale College recognized the ability and learning there displayed, by conferring upon one of its late principals, Frederick Sedgwick, the degree of A. M. This is the more worthy of notice from the fact that Mr. Sedgwick, who was principal of the Academy for over twenty-five years, was not a college graduate.

In 1885, the common schools of Stratford were merged in one graded school, not a whit behind any similar institution elsewhere, making ample provision for the education of coming generations.

The post road from New York to Boston passed through Stratford, crossing the Housatonic River by a ferry, managed by Moses Wheeler, at a point near the present "Washington Bridge." The name "Ferry" still adheres to this locality. It was along this road that Washington in 1775 came from the westward, and at Benjamin's Tavern met Lafayette coming from the opposite direction.

Washington again passed through here in 1789; the identical chair in which the Father of his Country then sat, and the table from which he ate, "are they not with us to this day?"

As the town did not have any "liberty pole" on the occasion of this visit of Washington, the late Benjamin Fairchild, then a boy, climbed the tavern pole and rove halyards with which to hoist the national ensign in honor of the distinguished visitor.

Stratford does not boast herself of numerous mighty names among her sons, nor have many of them become celebrities; but many succeeding generations have kept the hearthstones of their fathers clean, while untold numbers have gone hence into the busy world seeking their fortunes with varying success, carrying with them the impress of an early training, and those sturdy, sterling qualities, which imparted to their children and children's children, have made the name of New England honored through all our country's length and breadth.

Among the most prominent names in Stratford history are:

GEN. DAVID WOOSTER, of Revolutionary fame, born in 1710.

WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D., born in 1727, for thirteen years President of Columbia College; one of the delegates to the Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, and well known in national politics at the period in which he lived.

COL. AARON BENJAMIN, born August 17, 1757. He is described in Orcutt's History as "a man of medium stature, but commanding presence; of large humanity, great purity of character, iron energy, and unyielding integrity and honor; who during the Revolutionary war was more than a hundred times under fire, and in the attack on Stony Point, as one of the forlorn hope, was the second man to enter the fort. His military mantle has fallen upon his grandson, Col. Samuel N. Benjamin, whose brilliant record in the War of the Rebellion is worthy of his grandsire."

CAPT. NEHEMIAH GORHAM, born Oct. 10, 1753. "He was an officer in the Army of the Revolution, and served faithfully through the war which established the independence of his country."

GEN. JOSEPH WALKER, born in 1756, "who entered the American Army in 1777, and served his country in the several grades from Captain to Major General."

HON. GIDEON TOMLINSON, born in 1780, Governor of the State of Connecticut from 1827 to 1830, and United States Senator from 1831 to 1837.

HON. DAVID PLANT, born in 1783, for four years Lieut. Governor of Connecticut, and Member of Congress from 1827 to 1829;

CAPT. D. PULASKI BENJAMIN, born in 1796, last survivor of the Dartmoor prisoners.

These are a few among those for whom distinction may be claimed in public life, but there have been many of those whose names and deeds are as household words among us, honored for their uprightness and integrity, who kept

" Along the cool sequestered vale of life,
The noiseless tenor of their way."

The names of her honored dead, among the rank and file in the armies of the Union during the late war are many, and are elsewhere recorded in this book.

It is much to be regretted that the list of those from Stratford who fought and died in the earlier wars of the nation, has not been preserved with exactness. There is no record of any battle nearer than Fairfield; but traces of an old redoubt near "Neck Bridge," prove that the townsmen were on the watch to protect their homes from the enemy



SKETCH OF MAJOR ANDRÉ.

From a photograph by F. C. Beach, the exact size of the original is made by Major André, October 1st, 1780, and given by him to Jared M. Tomlinson and presented August 5th, 1832, to Yale College, New Haven, Conn. The photograph believed to be the only one ever made from the original sketch, was obtained by permission of Timothy Dwight, LL. D., President of Yale University, October 16th, 1890, in the University Library.

The assistance given Mr. Beach by Mr. Addison Van Name, the Librarian, and Professor Franklin B. Dexter, the Secretary, is acknowledged with thanks.

in the fight for independence; and there is no doubt that her sons did their duty in the army and navy in all these wars. Indeed, the name of one of them, that of Jabez L. Tomlinson, is curiously interwoven with the tragic fate of Major Andre. The story of the capture, trial, and death of this lamented officer, whose zeal in the service of his king led him to an untimely and shameful end, is too well known to need repetition. Every incident connected with this sad event has peculiar interest, not only because of the magnitude of the scheme in which he was involved, but also by reason of the general commiseration for the unfortunate man, whose amiability, manliness, and courage, in the face of an ignominious death, won for him the respect and pity of his adversaries.

So contagious was this generous feeling, that even Washington, as if apprehensive that his judgment might receive a bias unfavorable to the cause of justice, were the prisoner accorded a private interview, purposely avoided meeting him; but while acknowledging the subtle charm of Andre's character and presence, nevertheless regarded him as an exceedingly dangerous person, and gave the following instructions to those having him in charge: "Major Andre, the prisoner under your guard, is not only an officer of distinction in the British Army, but a man of infinite art and address, who will leave no means unattempted to make his escape and avoid the ignominious death which awaits him. * * * * * You are therefore to keep two officers constantly in the room with him, with their swords drawn, whilst the other officers who are out of the room, are constantly to keep walking the entry, and round the sentries to see that they are on the alert."

It was in conformity with these instructions, that Tomlinson, acting as officer of the guard, was one of those appointed for this service on the day originally fixed for the execution. During the entire day Andre evinced the most remarkable self-possession and calmness and even indulged in his favorite accomplishment of drawing. With pen and ink he made a sketch of himself seated at a table; and this sketch, when completed, he gave to Tomlinson as a souvenir. This the latter kept for years, but it finally in some way escaped the custody of private hands and is now in the Library of Yale University. The excellent reproduction of the original sketch, on the opposite page, is from a photograph made by F. C. Beach, Esq., 1890. The old flint-lock musket which Tomlinson carried during the Revolution is religiously preserved in the family as an heir-loom of inestimable value.

That a place so picturesque as Stratford should be without its

historical romance, would be an absurdity inconceivable. Stratford had its romance—a romance assuming an international character.

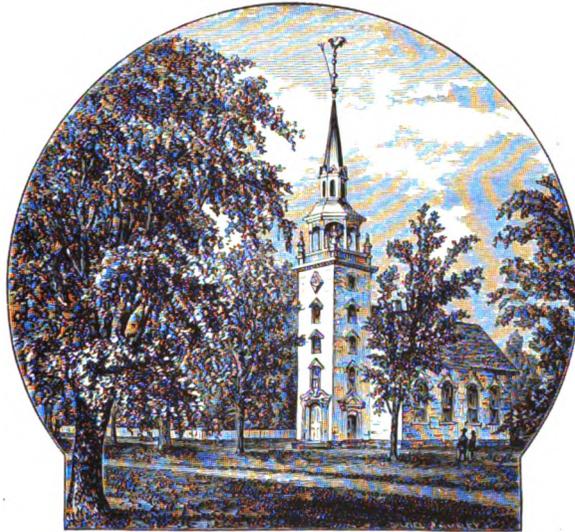
One day in the early fall of 1770, there came by stage-coach to Stratford, a young and prepossessing gentleman. Whether attracted by the natural beauty of the place, or from some strange freak of fancy, he lingered for a day or two at Benjamin's tavern, the only hostelry of the little town. On the corner now occupied by the Johnson mansion was the dwelling, and near by was the shop, of the village blacksmith, Samuel Folsom. The young traveler saw the daughter of this worthy man, a charming girl of sweet sixteen, with beautiful brown hair, blue eyes, and lovely face; and completely lost his heart. His stay in town was prolonged to seek her acquaintance, and win her love.

His manner toward the young lady, so different from that of her rustic admirers, did not fail to impress her youthful fancy; but his advances were met with disfavor by Mrs. Folsom, who regarded with suspicion the man about whose name and business lingered so much mystery as attached to our hero. To the daughter, as he told of his love he whispered his name, John Sterling; his rank, the son of a baronet in Edinburgh; and his business, simply traveling for pleasure and a knowledge of the world; at the same time enjoining secrecy on her part about all concerning himself.

Parental objection at length yielded to the young suitor's ardent pleadings; he wooed and won, and they were wed, and merrily rang the bells. For a brief season, however, the young wife had a most trying ordeal. The baronet sent peremptory orders to his son to return to the paternal roof. Like a dutiful son he obeyed; but circumstances were such that it was impossible for his wife at that time to accompany him. Then burst upon her the busy gossip of all the neighborhood; doubts were expressed as to the true character of the man she had married, his purposes, business, and the probability of her ever hearing from him again. Through it all the young wife kept her steadfast faith in his loyalty.

Soon came to New York, a ship especially fitted up for her accommodation, with men-servants and maids to wait upon her and bring her in state to her husband's home. On her arrival in Scotland, she was greeted with honors becoming the daughter of a noble house; nor has Stratford reason to be otherwise than proud of her daughter, Glorianna, Lady Sterling.

One sad page in the history of Stratford, points to the fact that our fathers were not wholly untainted with the superstition concerning



CHRIST CHURCH (EPISCOPAL).

(Erected 1743, taken down 1857.)

From "Lippincott's Magazine," by kind permission of the J. B. LIPPINCOTT Co.



THE PHELPS HOUSE.

(Scene of the "Stratford Knockings.")

From a Photograph made by F. C. BEACH, 1864, for "Lippincott's Magazine," by kind permission of the J. B. LIPPINCOTT Co.

witches and witchcraft, so prevalent in the colonies during part of the seventeenth century.

As one now passes along Broad Street towards the railroad station, it is difficult to realize that over this same ground passed the unhappy woman, Goody Bassett, condemned by a court of justice to suffer death for witchcraft. Struggling with the officers carrying her to the gallows, she tried to impede the march by seizing hold of a large boulder by the wayside. Tradition says that on this rock were peculiar marks, traces of the finger prints made by the wretched creature as she sought to retain her hold against the strong armed officers of the law.

Let the veil of charity be drawn over these scenes, for who can tell how the mistakes and foibles of this generation will be regarded in the greater learning of two hundred years hence.

An event of more recent date is of interest to believers in the supernatural. Stratford had its haunted house; no common nine-day wonder, accounted for by enormous rats and mischievous mice, but a genuine mystery replete with strange visions and hideous noises, agitating alike the ignorant and the learned and causing apprehension and dismay to those who sought an explanation in natural causes. In vain were all the efforts of the village pastor to detect fraud, or solve the mystery; prayers, singing, and reading of the Scriptures (the pious methods generally used in like cases) were of no avail to exorcise the ghostly visitant.

Circumstances favored the spread of the uncanny intelligence. The Fox family had just set the entire country in a furor by the startling theory of spiritualistic communications. The most intricate of these manifestations were immediately reproduced at the Phelps mansion. Rappings were heard all over the house, inside and out; the glass in a whole sash would be demolished at once, as by magic; musical instruments played by unseen hands gave the most dolorous music; the blood curdled at the conscious presence of the invisible, and the constant change of procedure kept the community in a high state of excitement. Letters from near and from far, asking information and offering suggestions, proved that the case was one of national notoriety. Strangers, to see for themselves, made pilgrimages hither, and the hack driver at the railroad station drove a flourishing business, and lost no opportunity of giving his passengers a full account of the latest developments. Of course, the incredulous found a solution in the existence of a young wife accustomed to the gaieties of the city and dissatisfied with the solemn stillness of Stratford, seeking to effect a change to a more congenial atmosphere;

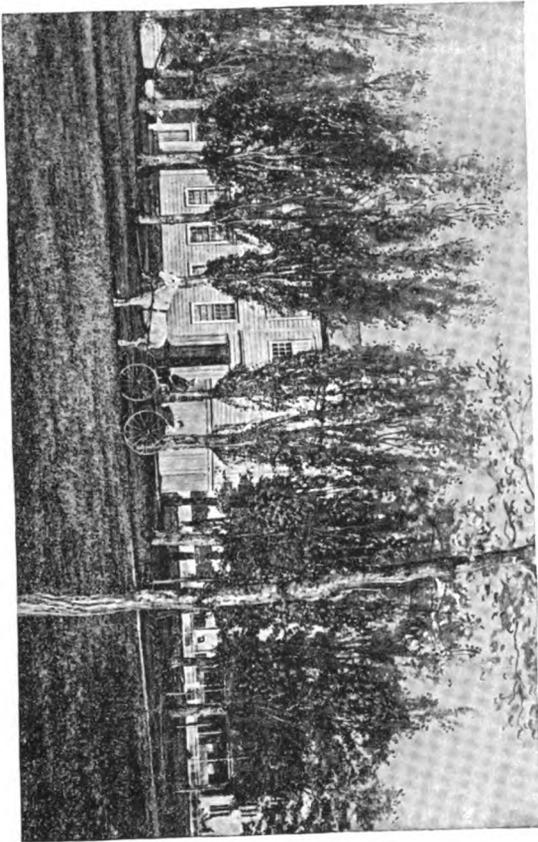
and aided in her efforts by a scheming daughter and precocious son, remarkably adapted to the work in hand. But who would believe in natural causes when the supernatural so readily explains all, and is withal so fascinating.

At all events, after the removal of the family, who were really more annoyed by curiosity seekers than by anything unearthly, the house resumed its wonted quiet, nor have any of its subsequent occupants given even a hint of any occurrence other than is usual in well-ordered households.

Probably the greatest excitement that the old town ever knew occurred in the old Academy. The story, briefly told, is as follows:

During the early days of the anti-slavery question, the agitation looking to the abolition of slavery in the United States was just as unpopular in Stratford as elsewhere; but, nevertheless, there were a few courageous souls in the town, who, undaunted by the popular prejudice, frequently met together to study the situation, form plans and adopt measures for the furtherance of the cause. And indeed it needed courage to espouse a cause which was regarded so unfavorably by the public. So bitter was the feeling against these reformers, that they were openly insulted without rebuke, designated as seditionists, and even threatened with personal violence. So far was this animosity allowed to develop, that one night at the close of a meeting of the abolitionists held at the house of Deacon Lewis Beers, an attack was actually made with rotten eggs, which were thrown with effect at those who attended the meeting. As several of the assailants had been recognized, they were afterwards arrested, and with the exception of the ringleader, who left the town and so escaped arrest, were brought before Justice of the Peace D. P. Judson. The court was held in the Academy, as the largest building available for the purpose; and almost every man in the town was present at the trial, which was of the most exciting character. The best legal talent that could be obtained, was procured by both parties. Ex-Governor Henry Dutton appeared for the prosecution, and Alanson Hamlin for the defence.

Even in the court-room threats were outspoken against the abolitionists and all who should show anything like sympathy with them or their cause, and public sentiment seemed to warrant even harsher measures for the suppression of the obnoxious doctrine; but notwithstanding the clamor, and in spite of severe personal criticism and the fact that the justice himself was not in sympathy with the aggrieved parties, Squire Judson promptly convicted the accused and sentenced



STRATFORD ACADEMY.
From a Photograph by F. C. BEACH, 1885.

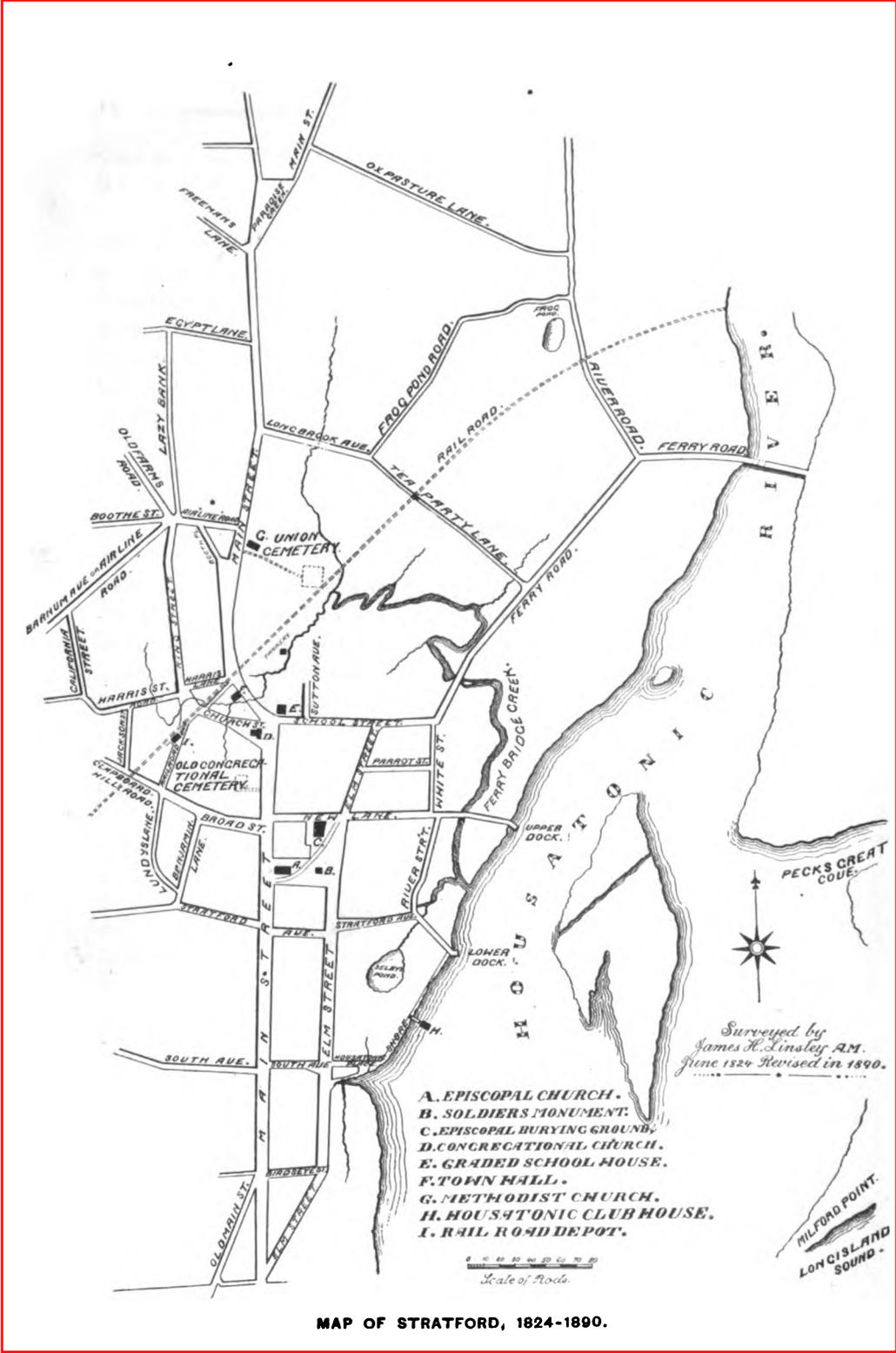
them each to pay a fine. Several prominent townsmen at once came forward and *gave their notes* for the aggregate amount of the fines. Of course these notes were never paid.

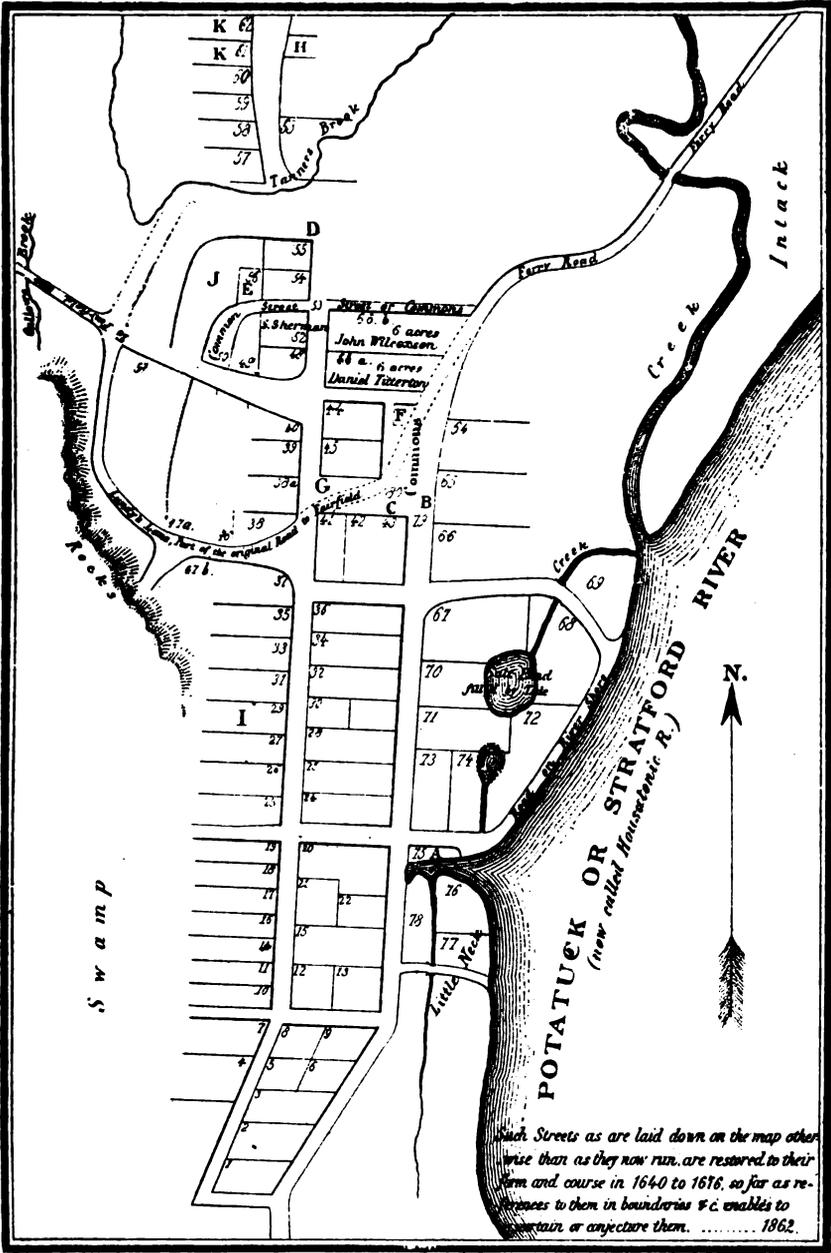
It is a remarkable coincidence that the Academy having been the silent, inanimate witness of the threats, imprecations and abuse so freely poured upon the friends of a despised race, should also afterward pass entirely under the control of that race, as only a few years since our colored brethren, the innocent causes of all this disturbance, with the liberal aid of Stratford people, purchased the Academy and moved it to Lundy's Lane, where it is now used by the colored Baptists as a house of worship. It is also affirmed that those most prominent in their bitter denunciation of the anti-slavery movement at the time of the trial before Squire Judson, afterwards became strong supporters of the administration which finally abolished slavery in the South.

As the beautiful Housatonic passing the town on its way to the sea, constantly seeks new channels and year after year forms new barriers and strengthens or removes older ones, so each succeeding generation takes a wider and more comprehensive view of life, as with the dawning light of an increasing civilization it comprehends the situation, adapting itself to the new, and discarding the old methods of thought and life. The trend is always the same, towards the open sea—purity, strength and freedom.

Since the first settlement of Stratford, eight generations have passed away. For each, varied only in detail, the same old story suffices: born, married, died. Each brought with it a fullness of love for the newly born, and the departing left behind it the shadow of a great sorrow.

Coming thus to the close of these long years, through which our fathers toiled, rejoiced and sorrowed, we cannot do otherwise than revere the memory of those who have gone before, and rejoice in the possession of the place where a kind Providence fixed their happy lot and ours.





Such Streets as are laid down on the map otherwise than as they now run, are restored to their form and course in 1640 to 1676, so far as references to them in boundaries &c. enables to ascertain or conjecture them. 1862.

MAP OF STRATFORD, 1640-1676.

Arranged, with Explanatory List, by Rev. BENJAMIN L. SWAN.

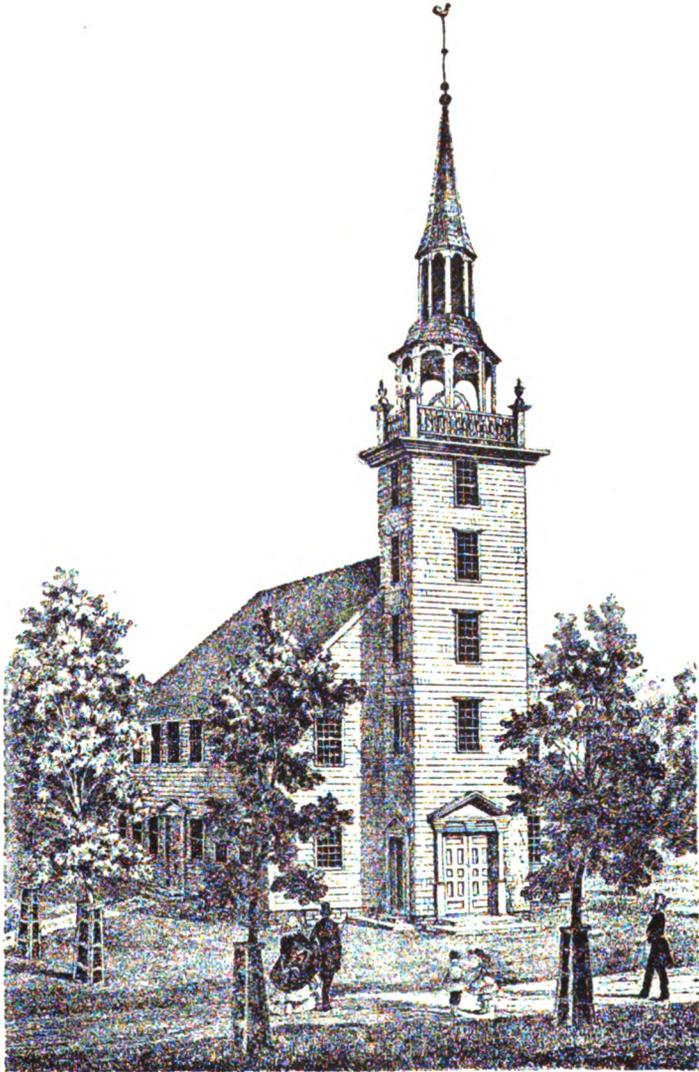
LIST OF
HOUSE LOTS AND THEIR OWNERS,

DURING THE EARLIEST YEARS OF STRATFORD HISTORY.

—♦♦—

THE ensuing list and assignment of lots in Stratford at the period of its earliest settlement, is taken from the Land Records between 1654 and about 1668. No entries earlier than the former date are found, and but few are taken subsequently to the latter. The lots are numbered arbitrarily, for reference on the map on preceding page.

1. John Birdseye, Jr.
2. John Birdseye, Sr. The eastern half was, in 1679, sold to Hezekiah Dickinson, ancestor of President Jonathan Dickinson, of Princeton College. H. Dickinson married a grand-daughter of Rev. Adam Blakeman.
3. Thomas (and then his son John) Sherwood.
4. Elizabeth Beardsley (widow of ————).
- 5 and 8. Jeremiah Judson.
6. John Minor.
7. William Burritt.
9. Nathaniel Porter.
10. David Mitchell; ancestor of the late Prof. Mitchell, of North Carolina.
11. John Hurd.
12. } 1st, Thomas Seabrook; then 12th, to John Birdseye, Jr.; and 13th, to Thomas Fair-
13. } child, Jr.
14. John Peacock, and then to his daughters, Mrs. Phebe Burgess and Mrs. Deborah (James) Clarke.
15. Henry Wakelyn, now written Wakelee.
16. Thomas Uffoot. The property is still in the family.
17. Robert Coe; afterward exchanged with Uffoot for a piece across the street, which Uffoot had bought, and where the Coes have ever since lived.
18. Samuel Sherman; then John Picket. Mr. Sherman seems to have afterward moved to the western part of Stratford (Pequonnock), and the Pickets were among the first settlers of Durham.
19. Philip Groves, the first and only ruling elder in Stratford Church.
20. Rev. Adam Blakeman, first minister of Stratford. His descendants are written Blake-man and Blackman. His only daughter, Mary, married Joshua Atwater, of New Haven, and Rev. Thomas Higginson, of Salem, Mass.
21. John Barlow, then John Hurd, then Uffoot, then Coe.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

(Erected 1784, taken down 1859.)

From Church Manual by permission of the First Ecclesiastical Society of Stratford.

22. Mr. Bryan bought of James Harwood (original owner) and sold to Rev. Adam Blakeman, who gave it to his son Joseph B. Through J. Harwood the Blakemans became acquainted with Joshua Scottow, merchant, of Boston, whose daughter, Rebecca, Benjamin Blakeman married.
23. Edward Higbee.
24. John Jenner; then John Wells; then Widow Elizabeth Curtis, who, with her two sons, William and John, originated that name in Stratford.
25. Arthur Bostwick.
26. Jeremiah Judson. His gravestone yet stands in Stratford.
27. Joshua Judson (brother of Jeremiah); then John Hurd.
28. Thomas Fairchild, Sr.
29. Richard Booth, whose land extended beyond the lots north, and ran northerly to the rocks.
30. Isaac Nichols, Sr., west side. Stiles Nichols, and then Caleb, east side.
31. Adam Hurd.
32. Francis Nichols; then Caleb Nichols.
33. Thomas Quenby; then Joshua Atwater; then Henry Tomlinson.
34. William Curtis; afterward, west end, Thomas Curtis, who subsequently went among the first settlers to Wallingford.
35. Adam Hurd's duplicate lot.
36. John Beach, ancestor of the Wallingford and Stratford name.
37. Joseph Hawley's original lot.
38. John Thompson.
- 38a. Francis Jecockes.
39. William Read; then, by exchange, Joseph Hawley.
40. William Crooker.
41. Joseph Judson. In 1640 William Judson, the father. The original stone house stood about four rods from the northeast corner.
42. Rev. Zachariah Walker's half of parsonage lot.
43. Rev. Israel Chauncy's half of parsonage lot.
44. Hugh Griffin; then John Wheeler.
45. Richard Harvey; then John Bostwick; then Congregational Society for parsonage.
46. Francis Hall.
47. } John Blakeman.
- 47a. }
48. A strip of low land, given to widow of Abraham Kimberly in 1680.
49. Daniel Sherman, son of Samuel, Sr.; then Ebenezer Sherman.
50. Common, or highway; now the west half of B. Fairchild's lot. It was originally the outlet of a short highway (coeval with the town settlement) that passed from Main Street round the low wet land, now W. A. Booth's lot, and led into the old mill road through No. 50, as above said. Of this road the present burial-ground lane is all that encroachments have left from Main Street to the burial-place, though its width, resurveyed and confirmed in 1738, is above *four rods*.
51. Land of Isaac Nichols.
52. House lot of Samuel Sherman, Jr. (now the Roswell Judson lot).
53. The eastern section of the street of which No. 50 was a portion.
54. John Beers; then Samuel Beers; then, after 1700, Burton, Prindle, Tomlinson, M' Ewen.
55. Nathaniel Foote; then Benjamin Lewis; then Congregational Parish, for Mr. Cutler; then Rev. Mr. Gold.
56. Burial-place.

57. Daniel Titterton, Jr.
58. Timothy Wilcoxson.
59. Jabez Harger, who went to Derby at its settlement, 1670.
60. John Hull, ancestor of Commodore Isaac; went to Derby 1670.
61. John Pickett; went to Durham.
62. Robert Lane; above him was John Cooke, bounded north by Faek Lane or Street.
63. John Young, who died April, 1661, and his lot went to John Rose; afterward Robert Walker.
64. Thomas Wells, above whom James Blakeman owned eight acres.
65. John Thompson, who lived on No. 38.
66. John Wells.
- 66a. Daniel Titterton, Sr.
- 66b. John Wilcoxson, Sr.
67. John Peat (sometimes spelt Peake).
68. Moses Wheeler; then, very soon, Richard Harvey; then his sons-in-law, Benjamin Peat and Thomas Hicks, of Long Island. Hicks' wife first married, in 1655, John Washborne. Thomas Hicks was ancestor of Elias Hicks, the Quaker.
69. Thomas Curtis, from his father, John (now Chatfield and Gorham lots).
70. William Wilcoxson, ancestor of all of that name, in and of Stratford.
71. William Beardslee, ancestor of all of that name, in and of Stratford.
72. John Brinsmade.
73. Nicholas Knell, whose wife was Governor Francis Newman's daughter.
74. Robert Rise; then Wheeler; then Richard Beach; then Rev. Israel Chauncy.
75. First church edifice and burial-ground.
76. Originally Uffoot's, who, in 1661, sold to Nicholas Gray, from Flushing, Long Island, who had a tide-mill where the lane or highway crosses Little Neck Creek.
77. Granted, in 1671, by town, to N. Gray, if he maintain his dam wide enough for a "passable cartway."
78. Jehiel Preston, 1662.
79. Site of the Second Church Edifice, from 1679 to 1743; Whitefield preached in it, October 26, 1740.
80. Site of the Third Church Edifice, from 1743 till burned by lightning in 1785.

-
- A. Site of First Church Edifice and burying-ground.
 - B. do. Second do. do. from 1679 to 1743. Whitefield preached in it, October 26, 1740.
 - C. do. Third Church Edifice, from 1743 till burned by lightning in 1785.
 - D. do. Fourth do. do. from 1786 to 1859.
 - do. Fifth do. do. erected in 1859.
 - E. Burial-place, opened 1678.
 - F. Site of First Episcopal Church Edifice in Connecticut, 1723, with its graveyard, which still occupies the spot.
 - G. Site of Second Episcopal Church Edifice, from 1744 to 1858.
 - do. present do. do. do. erected in 1858.
 - H. Methodist Episcopal Church.
 - I. Richard Booth's house-lot.
 - J. Joseph Booth's do.
 - K. John Booth's do.



INTERIOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

(1784-1859.)

From Rev. Sam'l Orcutt's "History of Stratford." By permission.
Sketched by R. W. BUNNELL, Esq., 1859.

ACTION OF THE TOWN.

At a Town Meeting, held September 22d, 1888, the idea of some commemoration of the two-hundred-and-fiftieth recurrence of the date of the settlement of the town was first brought to public attention, and, on motion of Mr. R. H. Russell, it was voted that

ANSON H. BLAKEMAN,	CHARLES B. CURTIS,
ALBERT WILCOXSON,	STILES JUDSON,
MORTON BEARDSLEE,	

be appointed a committee to take into consideration the advisability of suitably observing the two-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of this town, occurring in the year 1889, and if they deem it expedient, to bring the matter before the town at a meeting to be called for the purpose.

Later on, the demand for some observance of the anniversary being quite general, a special town meeting was called, and held on the 29th day of March, 1889, at which the matter was again considered, with the following result:

Voted, "That the two-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of this town be appropriately celebrated on Thursday, October 3d, 1889, and that a general committee of twenty-four be appointed to properly arrange for the same."

The committee was then appointed as follows:

STILES JUDSON, JR.,	BRUCE H. WELLER,
CHARLES B. CURTIS,	FREDERICK J. BEARDSLEY,
ANSON H. BLAKEMAN,	ALBERT WILCOXSON,
JOHN E. HOLMES,	STILES JUDSON,
LEWIS BEARDSLEY,	CHARLES WILCOXSON,
THOMAS B. FAIRCHILD,	SAMUEL W. BEARDSLEE,
JOHN W. THOMPSON,	WATSON H. SMITH,
RUFUS W. BUNNELL,	HENRY P. STAGG,
ROBERT H. RUSSELL,	J. HENRY BLAKEMAN,
GEORGE H. SPALL,	EUGENE MOREHOUSE,
WILLIAM B. BRISTOL,	WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD,
HENRY F. MEACHEN,	GEORGE H. TOMLINSON.

It was also voted, "That a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars be appropriated by the town, for the purpose of defraying the expense

of properly celebrating this anniversary of the settlement of the town, and the dedication of a 'Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument' on the same date."

WORK OF THE COMMITTEES.

The gentlemen constituting the General Committee of arrangements, subsequently added others to their number. They organized by the election of officers named below, and appointed, from time to time, the following committees, to attend to the details of the celebration :

	BADGES.
President, Stiles Judson, Jr.,	White
Grand Marshal, Col. Selah G. Blakeman,	Light Blue
Chief of Staff, Capt. Eugene Morehouse,	Orange
Assistant Marshals,	Red
Aides,	Dark Blue
Chief of Police, Sheriff Rob't L. Clarkson,	Light Blue
Police,	Dark Blue
Guests,	Pink

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

ROBERT H. RUSSELL,	STILES JUDSON,
FREDERICK J. BEARDSLEY,	ANSON H. BLAKEMAN,
ALBERT WILCOXSON,	SAMUEL W. BEARDSLEE,
HENRY P. STAGG,	HENRY F. MEACHEN,
THOMAS B. FAIRCHILD,	J. HENRY BLAKEMAN,
JOHN E. HOLMES,	CHARLES WILCOXSON,
LEWIS BEARDSLEY,	CHARLES B. CURTIS,
WILLIAM B. BRISTOL,	WATSON H. SMITH,
RUFUS W. BUNNELL,	JOHN W. THOMPSON,
BRUCE H. WELLER,	GEORGE H. TOMLINSON.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND INVITATIONS.—(Salmon Badge.)

HENRY P. STAGG,	HENRY F. MEACHEN,
RUFUS W. BUNNELL,	WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD,
EUGENE MOREHOUSE.	

COMMITTEE ON COLLATION.—(Green Badge.)

GEORGE H. SPALL,	LEWIS BEARDSLEY,
J. HENRY BLAKEMAN,	CHARLES WILCOXSON,
CHARLES B. CURTIS.	

COMMITTEE ON RECEPTION.—(Lilac Badge.)

DAVID P. RHOADES,	FREDERICK J. BEARDSLEY,
STILES JUDSON,	HOWARD J. CURTIS,
THOMAS B. FAIRCHILD,	HENRY P. STAGG,
WATSON H. SMITH,	JOHN W. THOMPSON,
ALBERT WILCOXSON,	EZRA WHITING.

COMMITTEE ON DECORATIONS.—(Yellow Badge.)

JOHN W. THOMPSON,	BRUCE H. WELLER,
JOHN E. HOLMES,	GEORGE H. TOMLINSON,
WILLIAM B. BRISTOL,	FREDERICK C. BEACH.

COMMITTEE ON FIREWORKS AND ILLUMINATIONS.—(Yellow Badge.)

JOHN W. THOMPSON,	GEORGE H. SPALL,
ANSON H. BLAKEMAN,	JOHN E. HOLMES,
WATSON H. SMITH.	

COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME OF THE DAY.—(Yellow Badge.)

ROBERT H. RUSSELL,	HENRY P. STAGG,
FREDERICK J. BEARDSLEY,	HOWARD J. CURTIS,
SAMUEL W. BEARDSLEE,	EUGENE MOREHOUSE,
ALBERT WILCOXSON,	SAMUEL T. HOUGHTON,
THOMAS B. FAIRCHILD,	FREDERICK S. BEARDSLEY.

PRESS COMMITTEE.—(Brown Badge.)

WILFRED M. PECK,	DAVID J. RHOADES,
FREDERICK LILLINGSTON,	WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD.

Each of these committees performed the work assigned it with fidelity and zeal. The Committee on Collation are particularly deserving of commendation for the neatness and fullness of the preparations made to feed the multitudes who thronged the town.

The largest tent that could be procured, capable of holding over one thousand people, was, by the courtesy of Asa Seymour Curtis, Esq., set up in his lot on Elm Street, near Stratford Avenue. In the rear of this large tent was a smaller one which was used as a kitchen and for the reception of the viands contributed by the towns-people to feed the visiting organizations and strangers in town. The supply of food was ample, and no one had occasion to go away hungry.

In addition to those fed at the tent, David P. Rhoades, Esq., Chairman of the Committee on Reception, entertained at his house, and without cost to the Committee, a large number of guests invited by the Town, including Col. Watson, and the entire staff of the 4th Regiment, C. N. G.

Mr. Thomas B. Fairchild, assisted by his sons, Messrs. Samuel W. and Benjamin T. Fairchild, of New York, gave a generous entertainment at his home to many of the prominent visitors and members of the press. The lady guests present, were Mrs. Joseph R. Hawley and Miss Horner, of Hartford; Mrs. William B. Wooster, Mrs. Sawyer, and Miss Bassett, of Birmingham; Mrs. S. W. Fairchild and Mrs. A. B. Tappen, of New York City; and Mrs. J. S. Caroli, of Bridgeport; among the gentlemen, were Gen. Samuel William Johnson, Judge A. B. Tappen, and Pierrepont Edwards Johnson, Esq., of New York; Gen. William B. Wooster, of Birmingham; Hon. David M. Read, Alfred C. Hobbs, Esq., Minor R. Knowlton, Esq., and Dr. J. S. Caroli, of Bridgeport; Nathan Baldwin, Esq., and Col. Henry A. Taylor, of Milford, and a number of other prominent persons from out of town.

Arrangements were made with the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company, to have flagmen posted, during the day and evening, at all the railroad crossings in town, to guard against accidents at these points. Additional accommodations were also promised in the way of increased train facilities, and a reduction of the regular fare was allowed from all points on the line of the road or any of its branches. The Railway Station was also handsomely decorated by the Company.

Some idea of the great number present during the day, may be gathered from the fact that the ticket agents of the Railroad Company, in Bridgeport and Stratford alone, sold 9,500 tickets.

A Bureau of Information, in charge of Mr. John W. Thompson, was established near the railroad station, and proved a great public convenience.

The General Committee having been sworn in as special police for the day, police headquarters were fixed at a convenient locality on Main Street; but it is worthy of note, that notwithstanding the immense number of visitors, there was no call for the services of the force during the celebration.

The following schedule was prepared by the Committee on Programme, which was carried out with exactness:

PROGRAMME.

1. Ringing of Church Bells and Salute of 42 Guns, at sunrise.
2. Parade at 10.45.

GENERAL ORDER No. 2.

The formation of the procession, on the occasion of the Celebration of the Two-Hundred-and-Fiftieth Anniversary of the Settlement of the Town of Stratford, and Dedication of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, will be as follows :

The First Division will form on Main Street, the right resting on Broad Street.

The Second Division will form on the north side of Broad Street, the right resting on Main Street.

The Third Division will form on New Lane, the right resting on Main Street.

The Fourth Division will form on the south side of Broad Street, the right resting on Main Street.

The procession will move promptly at 10.45 A. M.

Assistant Marshals will see that their divisions move promptly.

LINE OF MARCH.

The column will move from Johnson's corner, down Main Street, to Samuel E. Curtis's corner, thence east to Elm Street, up Elm Street to East Broadway, to King Street, to Air Line Road, thence east to Main Street, up Main Street to Paradise Green; countermarch down Main Street to north side of Episcopal Church, to place of formation in front of Grand Stand on Academy Hill.

The procession will move in the following order :

COL. SELAH G. BLAKEMAN, Grand Marshal.
EUGENE MOREHOUSE, Chief of Staff.

AIDS.

J. HENRY BLAKEMAN.
SILAS BURTON,
SAMUEL C. LEWIS.
GIDEON M. WAKELEE.
CHARLES H. WELLS,
LOUIS H. WELLS,
FRANK E. BLAKEMAN,
GEORGE W. COY,

FREDERICK S. BEARDSLEY.
CHARLES B. CURTIS,
GEORGE H. TOMLINSON,
DWIGHT E. WAKELEE,
GEORGE F. COOK,
HENRY F. MEACHEN,
WILLIAM WILLIAMSON,
WILLIAM A. STAGG.

STRATFORD'S CELEBRATION.

FIRST DIVISION.

Wheeler & Wilson Band.

Col. Thomas L. Watson and Staff.

4th Regiment, C. N. G.

Company F—Captain A. A. Betts, Norwalk.

Company B—Captain George W. Cornell, Bridgeport.

Company E—Captain James Sheridan, Bridgeport.

Company C—Captain W. F. Daniel, Stamford.

Company G—Captain Frank R. Nash, Danbury.

Company D—Captain Russell Frost, Norwalk.

Company K—Captain Eugene Morehouse, Stratford.

Company I—Captain Austin K. Deming, Winsted.

4th Machine Gun Platoon, Lieut. George P. Rand, Bridgeport.

State Officers and invited Guests in Carriages.

SECOND DIVISION.

Assistant Marshal, Col. HENRY HUSS.

AIDS.

WILLIAM E. DISBROW,

LIEUT. RICE,

JOHN C. MOREHOUSE,

C. M. MOSEMAN,

MAJOR L. N. MIDDLEBROOK.

Elias Howe, Jr., Post Band.

Elias Howe, Jr., Post No. 3, Bridgeport.

Veteran Association, Stratford.

Kellogg Post Drum Corps.

Kellogg Post, No. 26, Birmingham.

Admiral Foote Post, No. 17, New Haven.

Ansonia Drum Corps.

T. M. Redshaw Post, No. 75, Ansonia.

Henry C. Merwin Post, No. 52, New Haven.

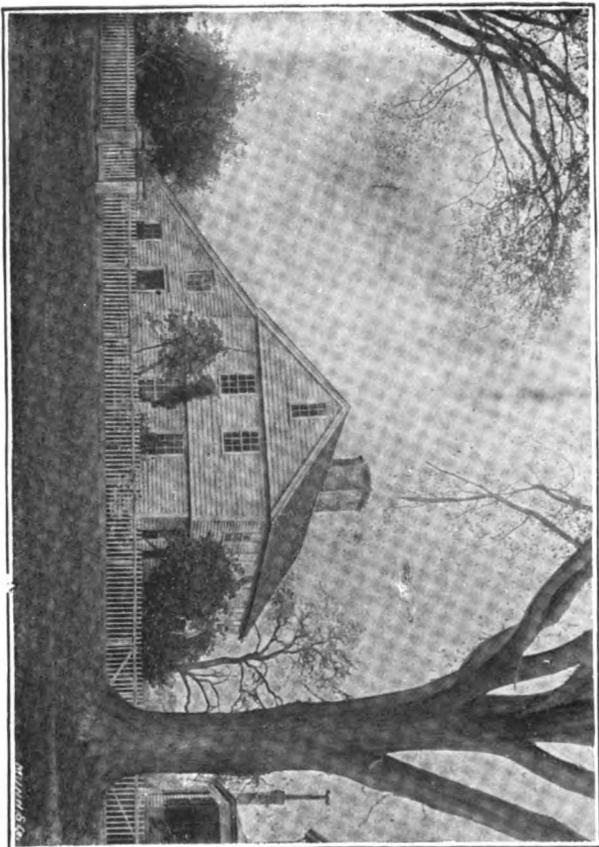
Gen. Von Steinwehr Post, No. 76, New Haven.

Echo Drum Corps, Milford.

George Van Horn Post, No. 39, Milford.

Harvey McDonough Post, No. 63, Westport.

Buckingham Post, No. 12, Norwalk.



THE WALKER HOUSE.

(Believed to have been erected before 1740.) From a Photograph by F. C. BRACE, 1890.

Nathan Hale Camp, No. 1, S. of V., New Haven.
 William H. Mallory Camp, No. 11, S. of V., Bridgeport.
 William B. Wooster Camp, No. 25, S. of V., Ansonia.
 Charles L. Russell Camp, No. 26, S. of V., Birmingham.

THIRD DIVISION.

Assistant Marshal, Capt. ALONZO GRAY.

AIDS.

WILLIAM H. BENJAMIN,	LEWIS F. JUDSON,
EDMUND C. WOOD,	WILLARD R. MILLER.

Maple Drum Corps.
 Mutual Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1, Stratford.
 Milford Cornet Band.
 Arctic Engine Company, No. 1, Milford.
 Americus Drum Corps.
 Hope Hose Company, No. 2, Norwalk.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Assistant Marshal, EDWIN F. HALL.

AIDS.

CHARLES E. STAGG,	WILLIAM E. WHEELER,
JOHN E. HOLMES,	FRANK L. CURTIS,
JOHN W. BEACH,	R. C. PEARSON.

Excelsior Martial Drum Corps.
 Oronoque Lodge, No. 90, I. O. O. F., Stratford.
 Uniformed Rank Knights of Pythias.
 Veteran Association, Co. K, 4th Regiment C. N. G.
 Cupheag Club.
 Citizens in Carriages.

Official: By order of

Col. S. G. BLAKEMAN, *Grand Marshal.*

EUGENE MOREHOUSE, *Chief of Staff.*

3. Salute of 13 Guns and Ringing of Church Bells, at 12 o'clock.
4. Exercises at Academy Hill.
 - (a.) Music by the Band.
 - (b.) Prayer, by Rev. Joel S. Ives.
 - (c.) Unveiling and Dedication of Monument, conducted by Wm. H. Pierpont, Commander Dept. of Conn., G. A. R.
 - (d.) Address by Rev. I. M. Foster.
 - (e.) Singing—"America," John R. Lattin, leader, with Band accompaniment.

"America."

My country! 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died!
Land of the Pilgrim's pride!
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee—
Land of the noble free—
Thy name—I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above!

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break—
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God! to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God! our King!

5. Collation.

AFTERNOON.—(Commencing at 3 o'clock.)

6. Music by the Band.
7. Prayer by Rev. Charles L. Pardee.
8. Address by Benjamin T. Fairchild, Esq.
9. Address by Rev. George W. Judson.
10. Music by the Band
11. Address by Hon. Curtis Thompson.
12. Address by Gen. Joseph R. Hawley.
13. Singing—"Auld Lang Syne," with Band accompaniment.

"Auld Lang Syne."

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
 And never brought to min' ?
 Should auld acquaintance be forgot
 And days o' auld lang syne ?

Chorus.—For auld lang syne, my dear,
 For auld lang syne,
 We'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
 For auld lang syne.

And here's a hand, my trusty fiere,
 And gie's a hand o' thine ;
 And we'll tak a right good willie waught
 For auld lang syne.

Chorus.—For auld lang syne, etc.

14. Artillery Salute and Ringing of Church Bells, at sunset.

EVENING.

15. Tableaux and Band Concert at 6.30 o'clock.

TABLEAUX.

The tableaux mentioned in the following programme will consist of representations of old time life and incidents connected with the early history of the town. The representations will be as follows :

1. **The arrival of the first settlers in 1639.**

The first settlers of Stratford consisted of seventeen families, as follows :

(Orcutt, Vol. I, p. 184.)

Number of Persons.

Rev. Adam Blakeman, his wife and six children	8
William Beardsley, his wife and four young children	6
William Wilcoxson, his wife and three young children	5

	<i>Number of Persons.</i>
Richard Harvey and his wife	2
Widow Elizabeth Curtiss and two sons (young men)	3
Thomas Fairchild and his young wife	2
Philip Grover and his wife	2
John Hurd, probably his wife and son	3
Richard Mills, his wife and son	3
William Judson, his wife and sons	5
Francis Nichols and three sons	4
John Peat, his wife and two children	4
Robert Seabrook	1
Thomas Sherwood, his wife and six children	8
William Crooker and wife	2
William Quenby, his wife and two children	4
Arthur Bostwick, wife and son	3

 56

2. Trading with the Indians.

3. Going to Church, two hundred and fifty years ago.

At a Town Meeting in 1689 it was voted as follows :

"Voted that the present Meeting House shall be fortified for use as a place of security for women and children in all times of danger."

4. Trial of Goody Bassett for witchcraft, in 1650.

Resolution passed by the General Court at Hartford, May, 1651 :

"The Governor, Mr. Cullick, and Mr. Clark are desired to goe down to Stratford to keep Courte upon the tryal of Goody Bassett for her life, and if the Governor cannot go, then Mr. Wells is to go in his room."—Colonial Records. Vol. I, p. 220.

"In a trial at New Haven one of the witnesses in the course of her testimony referred to a goodwife Bassett who had been condemned for witchcraft at Stratford, and another alluded to the confession of the witch at that place."—New Haven Colonial Records, Vol. II, p. 77-88. Orcutt. Vol. I, p. 147.

"The place of Goody Bassett's execution is pointed out by tradition, and would seem to be determined by the names 'Gallows Bridge' and 'Gallows Swamp,' used in the first volume of Stratford Records. The bridge was located on the old Mill Road where the railroad now crosses it."—Orcutt. Vol. I, p. 147-148.

5. Moses Wheeler's Ferry, 1653.

Resolution of the General Court at Hartford, May 18, 1648.

"The motion made by Mr. Ludlow concerning Moses Wheeler for keeping the ferry at Stratford, is referred to such as shall keep the next Court at Fairfield, both in behalf of the country and Town of Stratford."

The Ferry was established and on April 14, 1653, at Town Meeting at Stratford, it was voted. "In consideration that the passage to the ferry was stopped up, the town gave order to the townsmen to pull up the fence and make way for passengers where they had laid out the way formerly, and they promised to bear them out in that act."

Moses Wheeler, by tradition, is said to have been a man of great size and strength, able to lift a barrel of cider and drink from the bung-hole.

The first bridge built between Stratford and Milford was completed about 1813.

6. The Wolf Hunt of 1693.

At a Town Meeting held April 17, 1693, "voted that all persons ratable should be allowed for man and horse in this service of destroying wolves three shillings per day out of the town treasury."

"It was voted and agreed, that the next Thursday shall be the day to go upon this business of killing wolves, if the weather permit, or the next fair day; all persons to be ready by seven o'clock in the morning, upon the hill at the meeting-house, by the beat of the drum."

"Joseph Curtiss, residing near Old Farms, and others, went to Newtown to gather grain, and on their way home were attacked by the wolves so furiously that they threw their bags of grain from their horses and rode home at full speed, to save themselves and horses."—Orcutt, Vol. I, p. 289; Vol. II. p. 183.

7. The visit of Washington and LaFayette, during the Revolutionary War.

During the early years of the Revolutionary War, Washington and LaFayette passed through Stratford. * * * Alice Benjamin related, that while she was picking berries when a child on the banks of the Housatonic, near the ferry, she heard the cry that soldiers were crossing the river. When they landed she was requested to show General LaFayette to her father's (George Benjamin's) tavern. She walked from the ferry to the tavern beside LaFayette's horse, while the General told her of his children in France. When they reached the tavern she found Washington there. At the table she chanced to pass near Washington, who placed his hand upon her head and spoke to her most kindly.—Orcutt, Vol. I, p. 390.

8. The Wedding of Glorianna Folsom and John Sterling, in 1771.

In the year 1770, John Sterling, of Edinburg, Scotland, son of a Baronet, while traveling in America came to the town of Stratford. While stopping at the tavern he fell in love with Glorianna Folsom, the beautiful daughter of the village blacksmith. He prolonged his stay, indefinitely, in the town, and, after great family objection, was married to Glorianna in 1771. He was requested to return home by his father, but wrote back that he was married and could not return, and the usual remittance not arriving he taught school for several months. In 1772, upon the urgent request of his father, young Sterling returned home, leaving his young wife at Stratford. In the early part of 1773 Glorianna received word that she was to come to Scotland upon a certain ship, and that goods had been sent to New York for her outfit, and also servants to attend her. She was fitted out and went to Scotland, and in 1791 her husband became a Baronet. She sent a doll to the daughter of her sister, Anna, which is partly preserved to this day and may be seen at the "loan exhibition." A portion of the dress goods sent to her from Scotland is also preserved by the Misses Elizabeth and Maria Peck, of Stratford, whose grandmother was Glorianna's sister.—Orcutt, Vol. I, p. 449

BAND CONCERT. INTERSPERSING TABLEAUX.

PROGRAMME.

1. War Memories, *Beyer*
2. Overture—"Poet and Peasant," *Suppe*
3. Waltz—"Santiago," *Corbin*
4. Medley—"A Night in New York," *Brooks*
5. "The Mill in the Forest,"—Idylle, *Eilenberg*
6. Medley—"Razzle Dazzle," *Occa*
7. Ethiopia Jig, *Reeves*
8. Star Spangled Banner.

ILLUMINATION AND FIREWORKS.

16. Grand Illumination and Fireworks at 8 o'clock, under the direction of the Committee on Salutes and Fireworks.

1. Salute of Bomb Rockets.
2. Balloon Ascent—"The Educated Pig."
3. Balloon Ascent—"Jumbo."
4. Balloon Ascent—"Codfish."
5. Display of UnXLD Colored Rockets.—1-pounders.
6. Display of UnXLD Colored Rockets.—2-pounders.
7. Display of UnXLD Colored Floral Shells.
8. Umbrellas of Fire.
9. Floating Parachutes, with Changing Stars.
10. Display of UnXLD Fancy Exhibition Rockets—new effects.
11. UnXLD Volcanic Mines.
12. Set Piece—"The Tree of Liberty."
13. Rainbow Fountains.
14. UnXLD 12-inch Shells—"Jewelled Showers."
15. Battery Effect—"Electric Spreaders."
16. Display of Weeping Willow Rockets.
17. Display of Fancy Rockets—"Horn of Plenty."
18. Japanese Shells, 12-inch—"Oriental Varieties."
19. UnXLD Meteoric Balloon, with brilliant trail.
20. UnXLD Shell Display—"Prismatic Clouds."

Intermission and Grand Emerald Illumination of the surroundings.

21. Brilliant Crimson Illumination.

22. Display of Jewelled Streamer and Shooting Star Rockets.
23. Set Piece—"Sparkling Waterfall."
24. Display of Dragons and large Fancy Rockets.
25. Grand Display of Japanese Shells—"Eastern Splendor."
26. Grand Display of UnXLD Shells—Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds and Pearls.
27. Set Piece—"Galling Battery."
28. Fiery Whirlwinds.
29. Display of Twin Asteroids and Constellation Rockets.
30. Nest of Golden Serpents.
31. Set Piece—"Chinese Brilliant."
32. Grand Aerial Bouquet.
33. Fountains of Golden Spray.
34. Extra Large Floral Shells.
35. Set Piece—"Crystal Spray Fountain."
36. Display of Telescope and Prize Cometic Rockets.
37. Special Set Piece, representing the *Old Stratford Meeting-House*, as it stood on Watch-House Hill in 1785. A thunderstorm arises and lightning strikes the structure, which burns to the ground.
38. Grand UnXLD and Japanese Shell Display.
39. Special Set Piece—"1639—(STRATFORD)—1889."
40. Grand Simultaneous Flight of Colored Rockets, forming a vast Aerial Bouquet.

Grand Illumination of the principal streets by Japanese Lanterns, under the direction of the Committee on Decorations.

THE COMMITTEE ON SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Over a month before the celebration took place it became evident that the appropriation made by the town would be insufficient to meet the expense that must be incurred to carry out all the plans suggested by the General Committee.

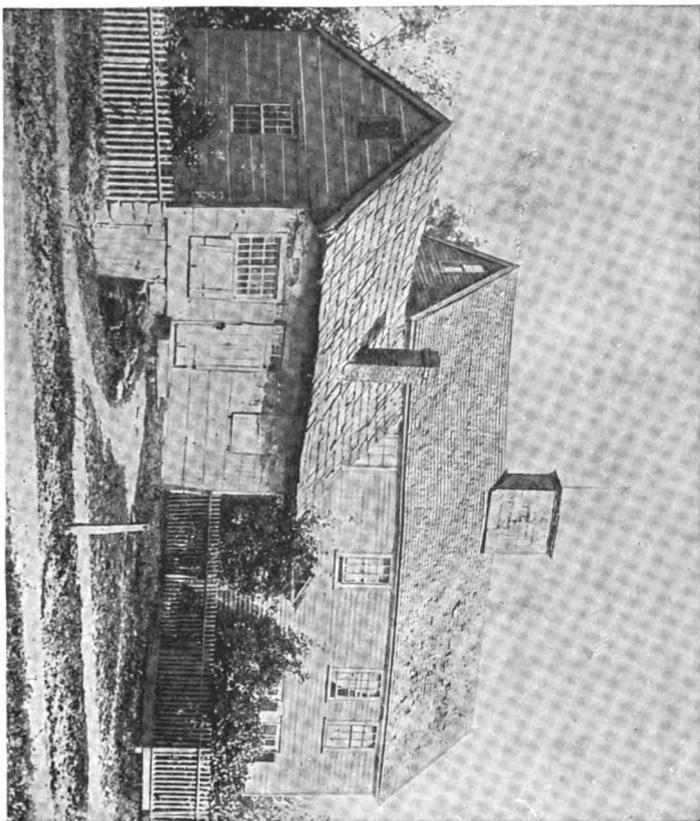
Accordingly, a special "Committee on Subscriptions" was appointed, as follows:

FREDERICK C. BEACH,	JOHN E. HOLMES,
GEORGE H. SPALL,	WATSON H. SMITH,
CHARLES B. CURTIS,	J. HENRY BLAKEMAN.

It was decided, if possible, to raise a fund of six hundred dollars by voluntary subscriptions, and the committee, through the patriotic

and liberal spirit which prevailed, soon had its wish realized, for before the celebration took place six hundred and fifty-two dollars had been subscribed. The following is a nearly complete list of the subscribers :

CHARLES A. GILBERT.	EDWARD L. WELLS.
ALFRED E. BEACH,	RUSSELL T. WHITING.
FREDERICK C. BEACH,	DAVID PENDLETON,
Mrs. LOUISA A. GILBERT.	ROBERT W. CURTIS,
BIRDSEYE BLAKEMAN,	WILLIAM WILLIAMSON,
Mrs. JESSE OLNEY,	JOHN HEENEY,
CHESTER RUSSELL,	WILLIAM MCGRATH.
SAMUEL WILLIAM JOHNSON,	PATRICK CALLAHAN,
ALEXANDER HAWLEY,	FRANK EDWARDS,
Mrs. GEORGE NICHOLS	JAMES HENEGHAN.
WILLIAM BARRYMORE,	BENJAMIN G. RYDER,
WILLIAM SHILSTON,	FRED'K W. WILCOXSON,
WILLIAM STEPHENS,	LORENZO B. BEERS,
Mrs. A. T. B. DEWITT.	CHARLES A. LOVELL,
HENRY J. LEWIS,	ASEL DREW,
BENJAMIN HOLMES,	GEO. F. LEWIS, M. D..
Gen'l JAMES L. CURTIS,	EDWIN F. HALL,
JOHN BENJAMIN,	EZRA WHITING.
Mrs. EZRA WHEELER,	WILLIAM HUGHES,
ARTHUR DE F. WHEELER.	WILLIAM STRONG,
JEFFERSON CLARK.	DAVID FITZGERALD,
SAMUEL T. HOUGHTON,	G. W. A. COLLARD, M. D..
WILLIAM H. BENJAMIN,	DAVID W. JUDSON,
Mrs. SUSAN C. WALKER,	WILLIAM HUBHELL.
ANSON H. BLAKEMAN.	Mrs. A. B. JUDD,
BENJAMIN BLAKEMAN,	JOHN O. M. PARK,
JOHN W. STERLING,	CHARLES H. CAREY,
JOHN V. WHEELER.	LUCIUS JUDSON,
CHARLES B. CURTIS.	FRED'K J. BEARDSLEY,
CURTIS THOMPSON,	DANIEL C. WOOD,
WATSON H. SMITH,	FRANCIS S. AVERY,
ELIZABETH LINSLEY.	FRED'K A. BENJAMIN,
Mrs. MARY C. LEAVITT,	CALVIN CURTIS,
WILLIAM N. ELY,	JOHN LALLY,
ROBERT L. CLARKSON.	JOHN W. COTTRELL,
SAMUEL E. CURTIS.	ELLIOTT J. PECK,
ALFRED BURRITT,	PRESTON H. HODGES,
ROBERT G. CURTIS,	JOHN BURRITT.
Mrs. LEWIS W. BURRITT,	CHARLES F. JUDSON.
NEHEMIAH O. GORHAM,	AUGUSTUS R. MARSHALL,
LEWIS COE,	JAMES PLUMB,
WILLIAM NASH,	Mrs. DANIEL HATCH,
L. M. HOPKINS,	LEWIS J. FAIRCHILD.



THE DAYTON HOUSE AND SHOP.
From a Photograph by A. B. BENJAMIN, 1884.

The expenses of the celebration absorbed six hundred dollars, leaving a balance of fifty-two dollars, which it was afterwards decided should be used towards defraying the cost of publishing a memorial of the celebration. The committee made its final report in October, 1889, and was then discharged.

THE COMMITTEE ON DECORATIONS.

The work assigned this committee included the decorating of the Town Hall, the Graded School building, and the Grand Stand. Residents along the line of march were requested to decorate their houses and beautify their lawns. All the public squares and lawns were carefully mowed and raked. Even at the early dawn of the day of the celebration many of the people could be seen at work tidying up their places, and before the procession began to move, nearly every house on the line of march was tastefully decorated. A few of the oldest houses had the date of their erection, combined with the figures "1889," displayed in large characters over their main entrances.

Captain William Barrymore greatly aided the committee in placing strings of flags, kindly loaned for the occasion by the U. S. Navy Department, on the two liberty poles near the public buildings. He was also active in decorating a few private residences.

The shipping in the river was also gayly decorated in bunting.

The transformation from old-time quietness to the bustle of the occasion was most effective. According to the opinion of the oldest inhabitants, the streets of Stratford never looked so clean and handsome as on that day.

Co-operating with the Committee on Decorations was a special "Committee on Arches," consisting of F. C. Beach, C. G. Gunther, and Rev. Charles L. Pardee. An arch of thirty-five feet span and eighteen feet high, designed by the committee, was erected across Main Street, nearly opposite the residence of Henry J. Lewis, about one hundred feet north of the Episcopal Church. It was tastefully trimmed with evergreens as a background, and decorated with flags, and shields bearing in gilt figures on their faces 1639—1889. Mrs. C. G. Gunther materially aided the committee in preparing these shields, while Mr. C. G. Gunther and Rev. Charles L. Pardee supervised and did most of the work of decorating the arch. The top of the arch was decorated with the Connecticut State colors, and very appropriately surmounted with a stuffed eagle, with wings gracefully out-stretched, which was kindly loaned for the occasion by C. A. Hayes, of Bridgeport.

On the right-hand side of the illustration entitled "The Military Parade," in the distance will be seen the general shape of the arch. It was so placed as to require the procession to pass under it twice.

An additional duty imposed upon the Committee on Decorations was the provision of illuminations for the streets after nightfall. **Main Street**, from the railroad to the corner of **Stratford Avenue**, was hung with Japanese lanterns, two upon each large elm-tree; lanterns were also hung upon all trees on **Church Street** leading to the railroad station, also through **Railroad Avenue** to **Broad Street**, through **Broad** to **Main Street**, and on **New Lane Street** from **Main Street** to **Elm Street**; also on the three rows of trees in **Elm Street** as far south as **Sandy Hollow**, and on all the trees around **Academy Hill**. Upon the monument were suspended numerous Japanese lanterns. The work of hanging and lighting such a large number of lanterns, estimated to have been over a thousand, was successfully accomplished.

THE COMMITTEE ON SALUTES, FIREWORKS, AND ILLUMINATIONS.

The obtaining of a suitable cannon for the firing of the morning, noon, and sunset salutes was one of the chief things this committee had to do. **Mr. John W. Thompson** and **Mr. Watson H. Smith**, of this committee, arranged with the Mayor of **New Haven** to secure the use of a cannon belonging to the State, kept at **New Haven** for similar purposes.

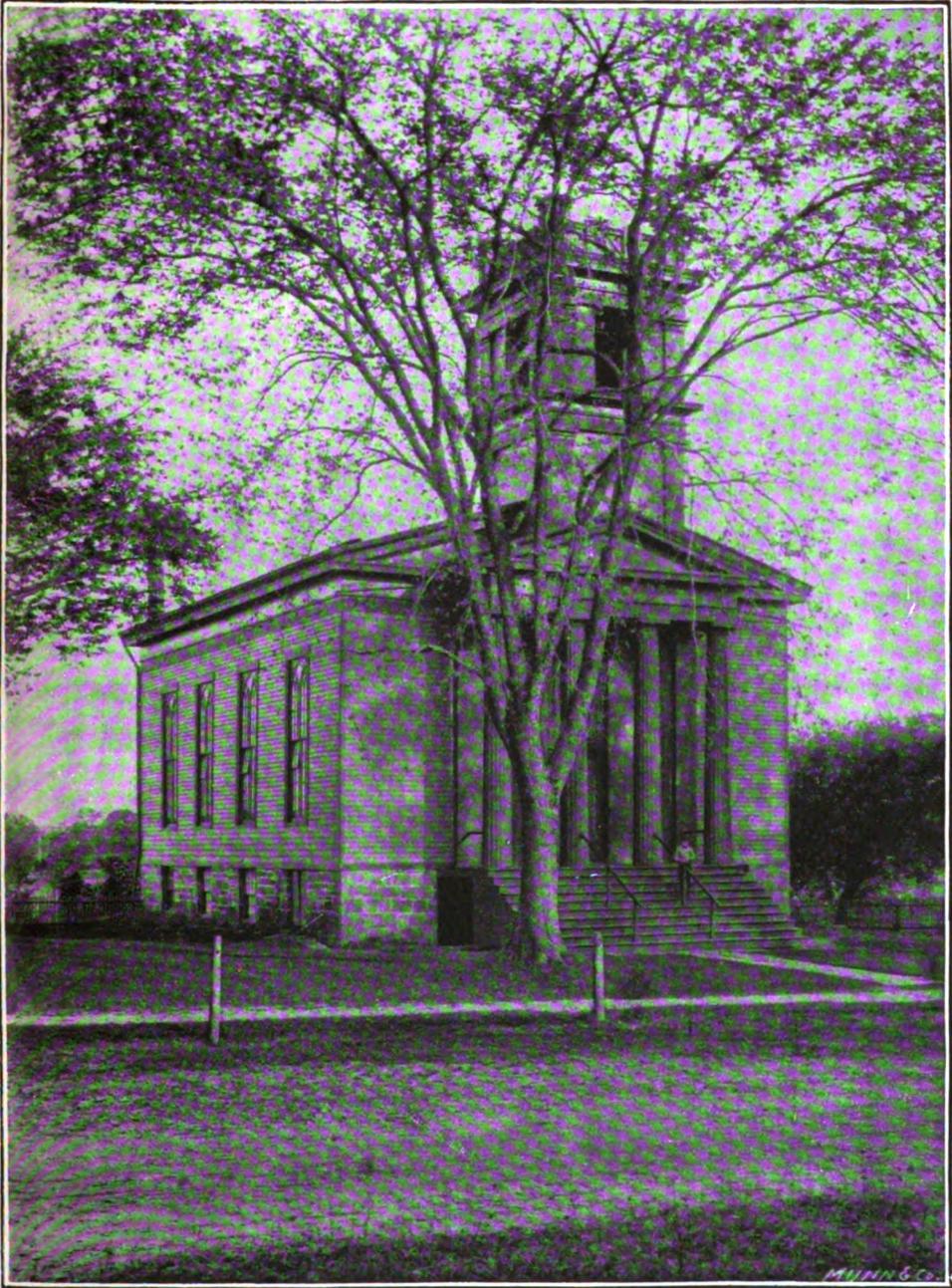
The cannon arrived the afternoon previous to "Celebration Day," and was located in position on **Academy Hill** the same evening by **Mr. John E. Holmes**. Soon after, the powder for the gun arrived from **New Haven**, having been brought over in a wagon. **Mr. Aaron Belden**, who for forty years has had charge of the State gun at **New Haven**, came with two assistants, to look after and help fire the cannon.

Early on the morning of the celebration day the gun was quickly planted in position, with its mouth towards the northwest. As the first light of the rising sun reflected from the gilded weather-cock on the spire of the Episcopal Church, the order to fire was given, and the lanyard was pulled by **Mr. Belden**, he thus having the honor of firing the first salute on that notable day. Subsequent salutes were fired in the morning, at noon, and at sunset by **Mr. John W. Thompson**. No accident happened to mar this feature of the celebration.

During the firing of the salutes, the bells of nearly all the churches were rung.

Another important work the committee had in charge was the selection of fireworks, the same not to cost over three hundred and fifty dollars, yet to be of sufficient variety to make a display which should suitably close the exercises of the day. A contract was awarded to the Unexcelled Fireworks Company, of New York, who sent skilled men to set up and fire them. The barn of Mr. Henry J. Lewis was kindly placed at the disposal of the committee for the storage and unpacking of the fireworks.

During the afternoon, the set pieces were placed in position on the north side of Academy Hill. The committee was assisted in the work by Messrs. Frederick C. Beach, James E. Hubbell and Bruce H. Weller.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

(Erected 1889.)

From a Photograph by F. C. BEACH, 1890.

EXERCISES OF THE MORNING.

When the early dawn of the morning of October 3d was ushered in with a clear sky, invigorating air, and every prospect of a perfect autumn day, the anxious misgivings entertained by those having the success of the long anticipated celebration at heart, as to the clemency of the weather, were turned into general rejoicing.

Nor was this circumstance of slight importance, for with the elaborate programme of the day, consisting of continuous out-door exercises, the labor and preparation of months would have been of little avail without the aid of a bright and joyous day in keeping with the occasion.

Especially did the Committee of Citizens, upon whose shoulders rested the responsibility of sustaining the old town's credit, experience a genuine sense of relief when the sun rose above the eastern horizon in all its splendor as if to assure the dwellers in this ancient town that all nature would smile upon their efforts to do honor to those founders of two hundred and fifty years ago.

The townspeople were early astir; those not assigned work in the preparations to be made for the big parade and the exercises of the day, having equally arduous duties to perform in the preparations universally made throughout the community to receive and entertain with old time hospitality the guests and visitors who were soon to throng the village.

The arrival of the visitors on that morning meant to some, more than a day of sight-seeing and entertainment, for their presence among us was to be the occasion of happy reunions in many a family from whose hearth-stone sons and daughters had gone forth to fight the battle of life in distant communities.

The first demonstration in the day's exercises, and marking the opening of the official programme, was the ringing of the church bells at sunrise, and a salute of forty-two guns, one for each State of the Union, fired from the rise of ground to be known in the future as

“Monument Hill.” As the morning advanced, the main street of the village became transformed from the quiet thoroughfare it was wont to be, into one of bustle and activity.

From all parts of the town the people wended their way to the centre of the village which became by common consent the rendezvous for the expectant crowds; but this early gathering of townspeople was to be only a small proportion of the day's assemblage, for with every incoming train hundreds of the interested and the curious poured into the town.

In addition to the miscellaneous crowd of sight-seers, the different military and civic organizations from neighboring towns arrived in rapid succession, until even the oldest inhabitant became bewildered at the numbers which the old town contained, and was forced to the concession that never before in her history had old Stratford acted the part of hostess to so many guests. **It is estimated that from 10,000 to 12,000 people were present, and the village was literally filled to overflowing.**

It was a joyous day, and the crowds on the streets were thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the occasion.

Although complete preparations had been made by Robert L. Clarkson, Sheriff of the County, assisted by his Deputies, to preserve the public peace and protect the property of citizens from the depredations usually attending an assemblage of such magnitude, no disturbances occurred and police interference happily became unnecessary. In addition to the shrievalty of the county, the town constables were on the alert, and a special constabulary of private citizens were sworn in, to aid the sheriff if it became necessary, in the maintenance of peace and order. The presence of this well organized police force together with the universal good nature exhibited by the constantly moving crowd, prevented the success of the occasion from being marred by any troublesome episode.

Long before the parade was formed, the points of interest within the town, which had previously been designated by small sign-boards, had been visited by the numerous throng.

The old houses placarded with the figures of the year in which they were built, some of the dates running as far back in the past as the year 1712; the broad streets lined with the grand old elms for which Stratford is famed; the handsomely adorned arch which had been constructed across Main Street near the Episcopal Church; the Soldiers' Monument on “Academy Hill,” draped with American flags and ready for the dedication ceremonies; the large collection at the Town Hall, of

old time relics, in itself one of the most interesting features of the day; the elaborate decorations on the public buildings and private residences, and the shipping in the harbor covered with flags and bunting; all came in for a generous share of interest and furnished entertainment to the visitors in the interim between their arrival and the formation of the procession.

The newspapers of New York, Bridgeport and New Haven, recognizing the public interest centered in the celebration of the founding of one of the oldest towns in the United States, sent their representatives to the scene. They were entertained by the Press Committee and escorted in the carriages placed at their disposal, around the village.

As the guests who had received special invitations from the Citizens' Committee, including the Lieutenant-Governor of the State and the public officials of sister towns, arrived at the depot, they were conducted by the Reception Committee to the residence of David P. Rhoades, Esq., to wait while the Marshal and his aids, early on duty, were busily engaged in assigning to the organizations their proper places in line.

The highway and common at the intersection of Broad and Main Streets, selected as the place of formation, was admirably adapted to the purpose, and by ten o'clock was the central point of interest. The uniformed bodies of men marching in different directions to the places assigned them; the bands of music and drum corps each claiming the ear of the appreciative spectators; the carriages of every description, from the old-fashioned gig in keeping with the memories of the day to the handsome vehicle of modern style, which thronged the side streets; all contributed to the picture of gayety presented.

Five divisions were made of the military and civic organizations present.

The First Division formed on Main Street, its right resting on Broad Street. The Second Division formed on the north side of Broad Street, its right resting on Main, and the Third on "New Lane," or East Broad Street, its right resting on Main.

Promptly at 10.45 A. M., the time previously decided upon, the procession moved.

It was estimated that there were two thousand men in line, and eighteen towns were represented by the various organizations participating. As they passed over the long line of march with military precision, the vast concourse of people lining the way on both sides evinced their interest and appreciation by cheers and applause.

Colonel Selah B. Blakeman acted as Grand Marshal, and the promptness and efficiency with which his task was accomplished demonstrated the wisdom of the selection.

The following named gentlemen assisted the Marshal in the performance of his duties, and contributed largely to the prompt carrying out of the arrangements for the parade and ensuring its success :

Captain EUGENE MOREHOUSE, *Chief of Staff.*

A I D S :

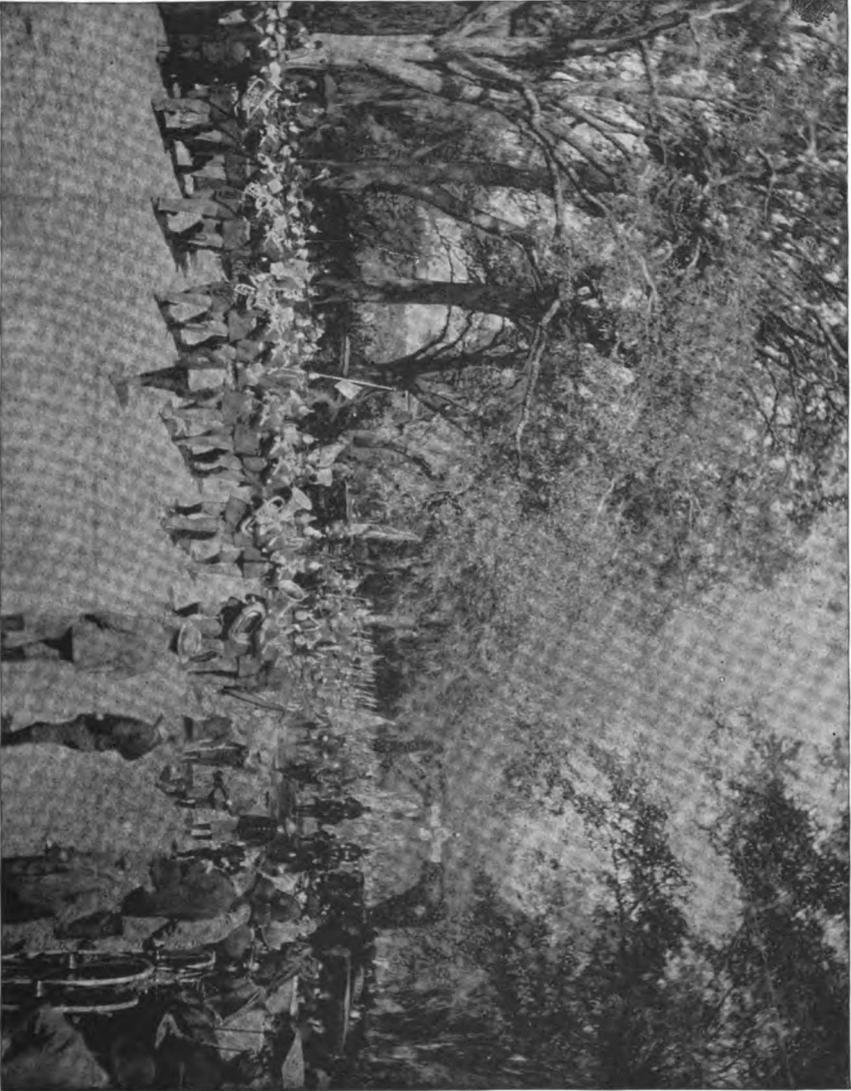
J. HENRY BLAKEMAN,	FREDERICK S. BEARDSLEY,
SILAS BURTON,	CHARLES B. CURTIS,
SAMUEL C. LEWIS,	GEORGE H. TOMLINSON,
GIDEON M. WAKELEE,	DWIGHT E. WAKELEE,
CHARLES H. WELLS,	GEORGE F. COOK,
LOUIS H. WELLS.	HENRY F. MEACHEN,
FRANK E. BLAKEMAN,	WILLIAM WILLIAMSON,
GEORGE W. COY.	WILLIAM A. STAGG.

The Fourth Regiment, Connecticut National Guard, under Colonel Thomas L. Watson, headed by the Wheeler & Wilson Band, led the procession in fine form, its military carriage and steady marching evoking continued applause along the line. Next came the carriages containing the citizens' committee, the orators of the day, and the invited guests.

Behind the procession of carriages marched the members of the Grand Army Posts, which constituted the Second Division. As these veterans, many of whom carried the scars of battle, marched along, and the spectators gazed into the faces of men who had fought the battles of the Republic, hats were raised and cheers went forth for the survivors of our civil war.

The Hook and Ladder and Fire Companies, composing the Third Division, made an excellent appearance, and in their neat costumes won the admiration of all.

The Fourth Division, embracing the civic societies which had turned out in honor of the occasion, also came in for their share of the interest manifested by Stratford's visitors. An interesting feature of the parade, in the Fourth Division, was the "Cupheag Club," of Stratford, a social organization composed of a number of the young men of the town. The members of the club were arrayed in fantastic garb, representing Indians, and on their ponies strongly suggested the manner of people that the early settlers both bartered and fought with. A large



THE MILITARY PARADE.

From a Photograph by F. C. BRACIL, October, 1889.

wigwam, on wheels, made realistic in its appearance by its covering of skins, was a part of the club's outfit.

The procession, passing under the handsomely decorated arch near the Episcopal Church, proceeded down Main Street and over the route indicated in the official programme. Never before had the village presented a more attractive appearance, and as the procession continued its way under the noble old elms bordering the line of march, and which still retained their summer foliage, passing the dwellings fashioned in the architecture of two centuries ago, and over the broad avenues of the village which are a source of pride to its people, the expressions of admiration for the beauty of the town were open and general.

After traversing Elm and King streets, the procession again turned into Main Street, and at the intersection of the "Air Line" road halted for a brief rest, while the peal of church bells and a salute of thirteen guns indicated that the hour of noon had arrived. Continuing onward to "Paradise Green," the northern terminus of the parade, and making the circuit of this beautiful plot of town common, the procession began its return march, the head of the column meeting the still advancing organizations at the lower or south end of the common, passing directly down Main Street to the front of the Grand Stand on Academy Hill, where the monument stood, draped with the national emblems which concealed it from view.

The troops formed a hollow square facing the monument, the Grand Army Posts and other organizations forming an interior line, nearer to the monument, but leaving a wide open space between the monument and the grand stand, which had been erected on the south side of the shaft, one hundred feet distant.

As soon as the divisions had been aligned in their places around the monument, and the guests had been seated on the platform, the dedicatory exercises began in the presence of an audience of more than two thousand people, gathered upon the hill.

After a selection by the band, the Rev. Joel S. Ives, the pastor of the Congregational Church in Stratford, offered the following prayer :

PRAYER.

O God of Nations, we invoke Thy favor. Thou hast been our fathers' God : Thou art the God of the children also. Through the centuries Thou hast blessed Thy people : bless us to-day

Thou God of Battles, hear our prayer. Thou dost lift up and cast down, according to the infinite counsels of eternity. For our prosperity as a nation we thank Thee; for Thy favor to this ancient commonwealth, for Thy guiding and protecting arm in this community, whose anniversary we celebrate to-day, for Thy fatherly solicitude toward all Thy children.

We would recount the good hand of the Lord with us in the dark days of war. We thank Thee for the holy men and women who, for conscience' sake, built their brave homes in this new land. We thank Thee for the foresight and courage which gave us independence, for the sacrifice and loyalty which preserved it: and we would invoke the richest of divine blessings upon this remnant of the grand army who maintained the honor of our flag, beseeching Thy favor for them and theirs. We are not unmindful of the broken ranks—of those who have fought the fight and finished their course. Command Thy blessing, we humbly pray, as we now dedicate this memorial, this monument built by loving hands, to the devotion, loyalty and sacrifice of those who gave their lives for the Nation's life.

Bless, we pray Thee, these representatives of the Connecticut National Guard and all who are in the divine presence, and may the virtues of the fathers and the loyalty of the "boys in blue" be an inspiration to braver lives and nobler deeds.

We invoke Thy blessing in all the exercises of the day. In Thy wisdom guide us. We thank Thee for all the hallowed memories awakened, and most earnestly beseech Thee that when the work of life is with each of us complete, we may find an abundant entrance into Thy presence and the rest of the Eternal Home, through riches of grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

At the close of this prayer, Mr. Henry P. Stagg, President of the Veteran Association, standing upon the mound at the foot of the monument, and addressing the President of the day upon the grand stand, presented the monument to the town in the following words:

Mr. President: In behalf of the Stratford Veteran Association, which I have on this occasion the honor to represent, I take pleasure in presenting to you, as the duly accredited representative of the town of Stratford, this monument. In vesting in the town this tribute to the memory of our fallen comrades, we know that we have selected a safe

custodian for that which is dear to the hearts of the survivors of our late war. May this monument, now the property of the citizens of this town, ever remain upon this historic ground, a perpetual memorial to those who fought for liberty and saved the Union.

Mr. Stiles Judson, Jr., President of the day, accepted the monument for the town, speaking as follows :

Sir: In the name and in behalf of the town of Stratford, I accept this Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument which you, in your official capacity, have just presented. In accepting it, allow me to express to you and your comrades the high appreciation which our towns-people feel for this splendid gift, which all are aware is the result of untiring effort and labor on the part of the Veteran Association of this town.

For many years our citizens have desired that there should be within our village some suitable memorial to those heroes who from this community responded to their country's call, and gave up their lives in defence of the Republic. To the end that this ambition might be gratified were your labors put forth, with the knowledge that your reward would be in the consciousness that the memory of those fallen dead would thereby be perpetuated, and in the unveiling of this shaft to-day in the presence of this gathering of people, you can justly feel that your efforts have been crowned with success. From this time, not only will this tribute of affection to your deceased comrades, standing on this beautiful rise of ground, be an adornment to our village, but it will be a visible and constant reminder to the generations to come of the sacrifices made by these fallen heroes, that the integrity of the Union might be preserved.

With peace and plenty about us and the nation again united and prosperous, let us not forget that the arm should always be nerved to action in support of principle; and though war be not waged, yet those same traits of character which were displayed upon the battlefield a quarter of a century ago, are to-day fully as necessary in the making up of sterling manhood and good citizenship.

God forbid that this nation should ever again witness a strife calling for the lives of her brave sons; yet their death for country and humanity was not in vain, for their deeds of valor shall ever live in the heart of every loyal citizen, whether their names are engraved upon enduring monuments or whether they lie in nameless and unmarked graves.

The erection of this memorial shall not be without its fruits, for it

will stand in the centre of this beautiful village as a silent exhortation to the youth of this town to keep alive the embers of patriotism, and to cherish that love of country which should glow with holy lustre in the breast of every American citizen.

Commander of the Department of Connecticut, Grand Army of the Republic, Sir, I have been authorized to invite you at this time to accept from the citizens of Stratford, at the hands of its accredited representatives, this memorial, and to request that it may be dedicated by you to the noble purpose for which it has been erected.

Upon the conclusion of the President's address, the veil which had concealed the monument from view was drawn aside by Misses Mary E. Wilcoxson and Georgiana Thompson, both daughters of veterans.

Immediately following the unveiling of the shaft, Gen. William H. Pierpont, of New Haven, Department Commander, G. A. R., and his staff of assistants were escorted from the Grand Stand to the monument, where the ceremonies of dedication were carried out with the impressive ritual of the Grand Army.

Upon the conclusion of these ceremonies, the President of the day introduced to the audience as the orator of the occasion the Rev. L. M. Foster, himself a veteran of the war, who, in the experiences of the battle-field and of Southern prisons, had demonstrated his loyalty to his country and his fitness to voice the sentiments and the memories of the survivors of the War of the Rebellion.

Mr. Foster spoke as follows :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades :

Twenty-four years have passed since the sound of battle died away on our shores, and our victorious armies were disbanded, and our brave boys returned to their homes and peaceful avocations. But as these years have come and gone, they have failed to erase from our memories the scenes through which we passed or to lessen our love for the principles for which we fought. Nor can we soon forget that the bones of our loved ones are bleaching upon more than a hundred battle-fields, and that all the rivers of the South have been reddened with their blood. Because these scenes are fresh in our memories, and the princi-

ples and facts too, are dear to our hearts, we gather to-day to unveil this monument which voices to us the loyal devotion of the men who fell in the defence of the right. And surely this is fitting, and not one, methinks, will hesitate to bring their offering or to present their tribute, when for a moment we consider the results secured to us by their valor.

It is to the valor of union arms that we to-day owe our continuance as a people; to union soldiers we are indebted for the opportunity to work out the future possibilities of this nation and to accomplish the purpose God had in view when he created us a people.

I believe that much more was involved in the late war than preserving intact the power of the Government. This was worth our mightiest effort. But in doing this, in sacrificing and struggling to preserve the structure our fathers reared, we did much more.

For eighty-five years we had been the spectacle of Autocracies, Aristocracies and Monarchies, and had been derided with the assertion that our power would be insufficient to cope with great trouble at home, but we would in the end go down as all other republics had done. The valor of our brave boys added the last proof, necessary to demonstrate the possibility and exemplify the success of self-government. For until we gave proof of its success, the monarchies of the old world had declared that such a government could not live; and to this assertion was there added the repeated attempts to establish a republic, but these attempts had failed.

The principles underlying the two forms of government, monarchy and democracy, have ever been in conflict. In the one, the king rules by supposed hereditary right, his claim to the throne being based on blood and descent; while in the other the only warrant of the governor is found in the consent of the governed. Monarchy regards the people as subjects of the king, who are ever to remain his subjects; while democracy asserts the manhood of the masses, and every man's right to individual liberty. Monarchy recognizes a few as born to rule; and all the rest to obey; democracy declares all men are born equal and each man has a voice in making the laws which all must obey.

These two principles have been at war, and have alternately overcome and succeeded each other.

Here and there in the world's history, republics have existed for a time, but only for a time, and passing away, monarchy ruled instead. And it must be confessed that the successive overthrow of the world's republics constituted a disheartening volume to the student of history

a hundred years ago. Whatever prosperity and success they might have temporarily achieved, the stern fact alone remained that they had all foundered and gone down; and this fact was regarded as having settled for ever the impracticability if not the impossibility of popular government; and the monarchs of the old world in consequence, a hundred years ago, pulled their crowns down tight upon their brows, and declared themselves "Kings by the grace of God," disclaiming to rule by the will of the people.

So much the greater honor to the brave men, who dared at the beginning of our history to pledge "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor," in another attempt at what had failed so signally and often before. The truth is that government by the people, had never before been fairly tested; and the supposed failures of this principle had therefore been only apparent, not real. It is easy to be deceived by names; what is called a republic in Europe is a very different thing from that which we call by the same name on this side of the Atlantic.

But every attempt and failure to establish a republic suggested the possibility of something better in the future. The old perished, but from its grave a grander form has risen.

A hundred years ago, a feeble people, we broke away from British tyranny, and the old State House bell in Philadelphia rang out "Liberty throughout all the land, and to all the inhabitants thereof;" and declaring to the world their belief that "all men are created equal; that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;" our fathers sought to establish a republic that should attend the funeral of all the monarchies upon the face of the earth.

It was a grand experiment they made, and it has now been tested by more than a hundred years, and the test has been a bloody one. We have been attacked by foreign foes, and have been united enough to repel them. We have marched into other countries and have been able to conquer them. But at last we were rent and torn by internal rebellion; enemies rose in our midst, which sought the overthrow of the Republic. To meet these enemies, did our fathers and sons and brothers march forth; to grapple with the strongest foe that has as yet attacked the life of the nation, did this grand army go forth. The eyes of all the world were on us. Kings and Emperors watched with interest the progress of the war, expecting, yea, even longing, to see us dismembered and destroyed, that they might echo to the world "democracy is a failure, we rule by Divine right."

But the cannon balls striking against Sumter's walls, echoed and re-echoed over the hills and through the valleys of the Northern States, calling from their quiet homes a hundred thousand noble men, who, meeting at Vicksburg, at Gettysburg, and in the Wilderness, at Petersburg, and Richmond, stood as the defence of the nation, and lifted higher and still higher our noble old flag, till floating in the azure blue all nations could see it, and all lands were impressed with the truth that we could govern ourselves.

Patriotism was not dead. Love of liberty had not departed. The spirit of our fathers had not forsaken us. We are their sons; and to preserve the heritage they had bequeathed to us, and to vindicate the power of democracy before the world, brave men suffered, fought and died. And what are the results? Were they successful; or did they die in vain? Nay, not so; for to-day this great republic stands before the world with her powers tested and developed, having forced the conclusion into the minds of all, that democracy is a thing of life. To-day her promise of life is better than at any former period of her history. Free from fetters and chains, we have entered upon the new century with renewed strength and vigor, with possibilities beyond conception. Its victories were to demonstrate the truth that men have the right and power to govern themselves; but the demonstrating to the world the power of democracy was not the sole object of the war. It was, indeed, a grand result, to bring the monarchs of the old world to the recognition of the fact that democracy meant life, vitality and power; it was indeed, an achievement of which we may be proud, to force the kingdoms of Europe to see that the American Republic was not a weak, driveling child, but a giant of whom they may well stand in awe. It was surely a glorious thing to give to the world the last proof necessary to exemplify the success of self-government; but, closely linked to these, was another result of equally great importance—indeed, of greater value.

By the valor of our comrades was it made possible for us to work out the mission God had in view in creating us a people.

As God is the author of individual life, so is He of national life; and as to men a mission is committed, a work to be wrought out, so is it with nations.

All the facts of our national history warrant the conclusion that we were created a people for the accomplishment of a special mission, and that purpose is not yet accomplished for all men. No grander mission was ever committed to any people than that which we hold in trust. Our purpose embraces the interests of all men for all time, and touches

not only the homes in America and the lives of our citizens, but home and life in every land. In the governments of the past, the interests of the common people were nothing, the government was everything, the individual but a subject, and the life, liberty and property of the subject were at the absolute disposal of those in power. The subject had no rights the government was bound to respect.

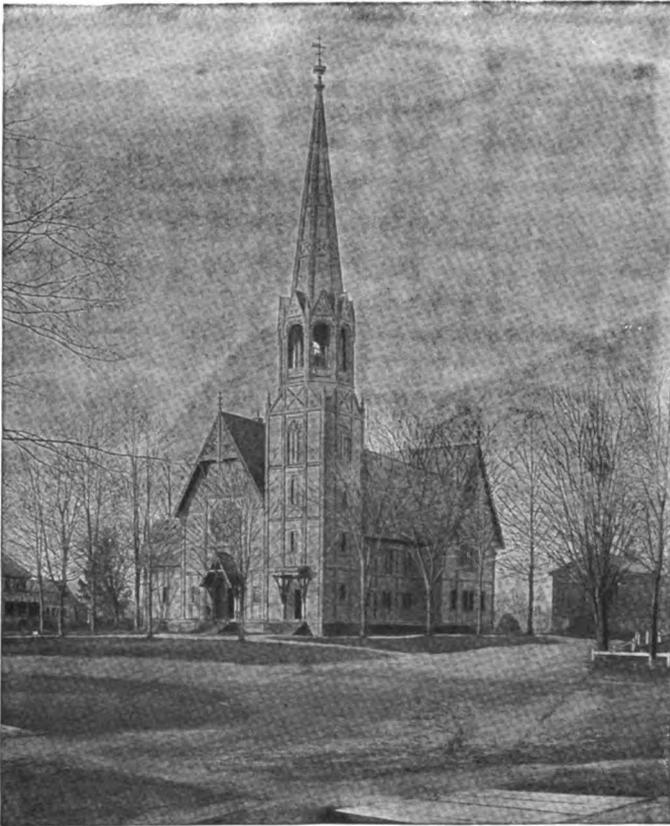
A heartless king taxed his kingdom to exhaustion to gratify his desires, or made war and conscripted his subjects to aggrandize his reign, while the laboring classes were compelled to serve the royal bidding without any other compensation than the coarse food which they ate. We were commissioned to reverse this unnatural order of things. It was reserved for us to establish the truth of individual liberty—to exalt and protect the individual man by the provisions and sanction of political law. It was for us to declare to the world that the government was for the people, and that the individual man was greater than the government, and that every man has a natural right to himself and to whatever by industry and skill he may be able to secure. It was reserved for us to exalt and crown as above the government, as above the country, individual humanity—to teach the world that man is to the government what the sun is to the universe—the centre and source of life and power. It was for us to lead in breaking kingly chains and monarchs' power.

The first great declaration of liberty made to any people was the Magna Charta of England in 1215. This was followed by the Petition of Right in 1689. But the third and great declaration of liberty was the Declaration of Independence in 1776 in America.

This was a new departure in the best and highest sense; the past had stepped toward it, but never reached it. There had been various forms of government—indeed, there had been limited republics, but individual man was not the central idea thereof.

The Magna Charta has been called "the keystone of English liberty." But that great instrument did not go far enough. It was at best but a concession from a political superior to his inferiors, and was not based upon the natural rights of man. Its design was to secure the rights and privileges of those who framed it, and hence was limited to themselves. It was intended mainly for the benefit of the nobles and land-holders of England.

So what is known as "A Petition of Right," a bill passed by Parliament four hundred years after the date of the Magna Charta, was a protest against the right of the crown to raise money without the con-



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

(Erected 1859.)

From a Photograph by F. C. BEACH, 1889.

By permission of the First Ecclesiastical Society of Stratford.

sent of Parliament, to billet soldiers on the people without their consent, and compel the people to make loans to the government by imprisonment. This was an advanced and illustrious step toward a better future, but fell far short of that goal of individual liberty to which we were commissioned to lead mankind. For we have taken a deeper, broader, grander view of human liberty, inasmuch as we recognize liberty as the common inheritance of each man—not the gift of a superior to an inferior, but as the natural right of a man, simply and solely because he is a man.

We have declared to the world that "all men are created equal," whether they are the born freemen of the north or the emancipated freedmen of the South. We have announced to the world the ultimate truth of human rights for all men and for all time.

You have heard during the last few years, now and then, whispered fears of a revolution in our government. Great excitement for a time has prevailed. Now and then an extra session of Congress has been called, and anxious ones have inquired, "What will be the result?" We have heard it said repeatedly during the past few years that "there is trouble and danger ahead." And so there is, but not along that line. A revolution in this country could not be justified, for the reason that there are no rights to be secured by revolution which we do not now possess; and also for the reason that our government is regulated by a constitution which is amendable by the express will of the people.

There has been a rebellion, there may be another, but if there is we will put it down as we did the last. To thus exalt individual man, to lift him from servitude to civil and political independence, is one great mission of our nation.

And this principle was involved in the war—to protect, to vindicate it our brave boys died. And our action as a people, in thus exalting individual man, has found an echo in the hearts of all who have sighed for liberty.

The power of our example is seen, not in the substitution of a republic for monarchies and aristocracies, but in the recognition of personal liberty, and the voice of the people in national legislation.

Look over the world to-day and note the changes that have occurred during the last fifty years. Italy, not fifteen years ago, was still in the gloom of the middle-ages. To-day Italy is a constitutional kingdom, with the legislative authority resting conjointly in the king and in the Parliament.

For ages Austria was the acknowledged champion of religious intolerance, but to-day she has one of the most liberal constitutions in continental Europe.

Germany, too, with a population of forty-five millions, has a constitutional government. If we turn to France, we shall find that the people who were true to us a hundred years ago, when struggling for liberty, have unfurled the banner of a republic. Cross the channel into England, there the right of suffrage has been extended by reducing the property qualification. Everywhere in the old world a parliament, composed of the representatives of the people, is demanded, and autocrats are heeding the popular voice.

Thus have we led the nations by our example, step by step towards the goal of civil liberty. This mission Providence committed to this republic.

Let us not forget, then, that in our four long years of war our soldiers suffered and died that we might finish our work. And how grand a work is this! A work that has engaged the attention and strength of heaven,—that of lifting up humanity.

It is a grand thing to be a man! Why, Mr. Chairman, I would rather be a man than an angel! Yes, I would. For of redeemed humanity God has said, "They shall rule forever, kings and priests" in the eternity to come. God has appeared to man in the past, but ever in human form. He appeared to the patriarchs and prophets, but he stood before them as a man. He came to redeem the world, but he took upon him our nature and our form. Ay, we approach the throne in the name of the man Christ Jesus. And the grandeur of our mission is that it is in the interest of common humanity.

But, my comrades and fellow-citizens, notwithstanding our victories in the past and the success we have already achieved, shall we be foiled or defeated in the future? If not, it behooves us to open our eyes to the dangers that threaten us, and to recognize the presence of enemies in our midst. The war is a thing of the past, and to-day we honor the memory of brave boys who died in the defence of right. But the principles for which they fought are not dead and can never die; and he who ignores them is not a true friend to the republic. And, alas! that there should be found in this beautiful land, purchased so dearly and preserved by struggle, any who would trample upon the issues of the war, or seek to blot out the principles written upon the pages of our history with blood.

Against the maintenance of a victory so dearly won, which this

monument commemorates, enemies are even now rising; they are in our midst, and their power is being felt. I am no alarmist. I would not fear a ghost or a shadow; but I would not be blind, nor would I have you to be blind to the dangers that threaten us.

No armed forces are arrayed against us. We are a united country, a united people; but, with all this, enemies are digging away at the foundations of the republic.

A love of freedom should manifest itself in a love of truth. Where truth, virtue, honesty are the corner-stones, there is strength. But, if in the character of the nation there should be developed a disregard of these, our foundations shall crumble, our power depart. It was not the strength of armies that overthrew ancient Babylon, but her iniquities.

It was not war that destroyed the Roman Empire, but her vices and her sins. And so we need not fear the armies of Europe, but fear and tremble only before the destroying power of vice. As surely as vice and iniquity ruin individual men, so surely will they destroy national life and power. Dishonor and dishonesty will as certainly work our destruction as armies of rebellion.

True freedom is the exaltation of virtue—ay, this is the life-blood of freedom. Destroy this, and life is gone. A spirit which manifests itself in Sabbath-breaking, in profanity, in intemperance, in dishonesty and gigantic frauds, will destroy the life and power of true government. A moral sentiment that permits vice to rule at the cost of truth, that winks at iniquity and laughs at deception, will as surely undermine our foundations and destroy our power as that God has spoken against sin. Our civil duties—ay, more, our patriotism—should bind us to the morals of God's law. Over and above all, God sits enthroned in power, ruling in justice and goodness, holding in his hands the destinies of the nations.

And to-day the danger that threatens us is a disregard of the moral law of God. Our duty as citizens is not completed when we have organized an army and vanquished a foe, but if we love our country, and would guard her interests, it is ours to defend her from the vices that destroy and the iniquities that ruin. Thus would I remind you, my comrades, of the duties before us, which if faithfully met, will lead us to the full accomplishment of our mission as a people. And under the influence of the memories of the past struggle, in the presence of this memorial of the brave and true, let us renew our allegiance to the government we love, and declare again our faith in the principles of

the Declaration of '76. And may there spring up in every heart a consciousness of responsibility to freedom, which shall bring forth our mightiest efforts to protect it in its growth and development, from the lakes to the gulf, and from sea to sea.

And just here Mr. Chairman, allow me to say a word touching the Grand Army of the Republic. It has been claimed that the organization composed of old soldiers, known as the Grand Army of the Republic, is kept together in the interest of men who might at some time desire to use it to secure position or to lead themselves to power, and that it seeks to keep alive the animosities of the past.

In the name of the thousands of soldiers who stood true in the day of battle, and who followed the old flag through danger to victory, I would deny this false charge. The Grand Army of the Republic knows no man, be he general, private soldier, or civilian, when that man turns his back against the flag of freedom, or the institutions of this grand republic. Having fought to preserve the nation's life, and having succeeded too, its only desire is to have guarded with eternal vigilance the liberties so dearly purchased.

Does any man say that the Grand Army of the Republic could be used for unlawful purposes? Cannot these men be trusted? I turn for my answer to Gettysburg, to Vicksburg, to Atlanta, to the Wilderness, to Petersburg and Richmond.

I see the prison walls of Andersonville looming up in the distance. And, Mr. Chairman it was my fortune to spend ten long months within those prison walls. Around me I see the squalid multitudes of starving, dying men. But see, the gates of the prison open, and a dozen rebel officers enter. In their hands they each carry a little book, and distributing themselves among the crowds of prisoners they say, "Boys, you are suffering and dying here. Let us put your names in this little book, and go out with us and take the oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy, and we will feed you well, and clothe you, and bring back health and strength." And the eyes of the prisoners snap fire, as spurning with contempt the offer they answer, "What! put our names to the wrong! take the oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy! turn our backs on the old flag and strike against it? Yes, this is a terrible place we are in; we are starving, but rather than take the oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy, or lift our hands against the Stars and Stripes, we will lie here and rot and die and be forgotten of humanity!" Can such men be trusted? And this is the material of which the Grand Army is composed, and such the principles that control it.

The Grand Army of the Republic stands to-day with its eyes turned not towards the past, but looking hopefully to the future, believing that before us is still a noble field of effort and of enterprise.

If the future history of the American Republic is to be one of prosperity and success, we of to-day must not be unmindful of the obligation resting upon us. We rejoice, as American citizens, in the protection which the nation affords us. On sea or on land, at home or abroad, where'er we go, as long as our glorious old flag is seen floating over us, we are sure that none will molest us. The strong arm of this mighty nation is ever around us to give us protection. We glory in the power and strength of our republic. Some years ago an American ship dropped anchor in a foreign harbor. One of the sailors asked permission of the captain to go ashore for a little time that he might view the country, and as the ship was to remain in the harbor for several days, permission was granted. The young man could not speak a word of the language, but thought he could make himself sufficiently understood to provide for his wants. He had been ashore scarcely twenty-four hours when he was arrested, charged with having committed a crime, the penalty of which was death. He sought in every way possible to make them understand and know that he was innocent; but no, they took him off to court, and despite his every effort to establish his innocence, the court declared him guilty and sentenced him to be shot on his coffin the following day. He was in deep trouble. An innocent man, alone in a foreign land, and a prisoner doomed to death! What shall he do? The happy thought strikes him, "I will send for the American Consul, possibly he can help me." By signs he makes his keeper understand what he wants, and the consul is sent for and is soon in his presence. Here is a man who can understand him. Into his ears he pours his trouble, and appeals to the consul to save him. The consul appeals to the authorities for a new trial, but it is refused. "No!" say they, "he has been accused of crime; he has been properly tried and convicted, and at the appointed time he must die!" The morning dawns and the hour for execution has arrived, and the poor sailor, accompanied by the consul, is led forth to die. The heart of the sailor is full of sorrow at the thought of dying a culprit's death in a foreign land. Arrived at the place of execution, the sailor is placed upon his coffin, while the guard that are to fire the fatal shot are drawn up in line before him. A few moments are allowed him in which to give his parting words to the consul, when the commander waves his hand to the consul to retire. For a moment he looks at the guard and then at

the sailor, then suddenly pulls from his coat an American flag, and wrapping it around the sailor turns defiantly to the guard, and bids them dare to fire a shot at that American flag. Not one dares to fire. "He who lifts that flag or dares to put a bullet into it," cries the consul, "will bring upon himself the strength and power of the American Government!" The boy was safe, none dared to do him harm. "Give him a new trial," demands the consul. A new trial was granted and he was acquitted. It was not the cloth that saved him, but, covered with that flag, he had around him the strength and power of the American Government. In this power you and I, my fellow citizens, rejoice to-day. But it remains for us to perpetuate this power by preserving sacredly the principles and institutions upon which the republic rests. The power is the fruit of the development of true and noble principles. So long as these shall remain undisturbed, so long shall the republic live.

Years ago, as an American statesman with some of his friends stood upon the lofty peaks of one of our mountains, he turned his ear towards the plain as though he heard a sound. "What do you hear?" said one of his friends. "Hear?" said he; "I hear the tramp of the coming millions."

To-day we stand upon the verge of a new century. Hark! what do we hear? The tramp of the coming millions; and to these must we give o'er the ship of state, with every timber sound, with sails all set, with every part complete. Onward must the republic move through the century just begun, securing still grander results than in the past. But that this be, it is demanded that we be men who dare stand firm for the right.

This, and this only, shall bring blessings and prosperity in the future, and preserve the power and glory of the nation.

A few years ago I stood at the entrance of Lincoln Park in Washington, looking at the beautiful monument of Lincoln. On a large pedestal in bronze stands Lincoln; before him is a stalwart African in the act of rising. Around the African's limbs are chains, but they are broken. On his wrists are fetters, but they are broken. In one hand Lincoln holds the unrolled emancipation proclamation, while with the other he is beckoning the African to rise to his feet. "Ah," said I to my friend, "what does that tell us?" Simply this: that in the years gone by, when the nation was carrying a load that was weighing it down, there were those who feared God more than men, who loved the truth and their fellow-men more than the voice of praise and popularity.

Struggling for the right, they sought the freedom of the enslaved. At last the day dawned when the truth should triumph; and Lincoln, that man who loved his country more than life; Lincoln, whose name is revered by all this nation; he whom the world has come to know as the saviour of his country, led the van, and, breaking the chains, unfurled the banner of freedom and justice to all.

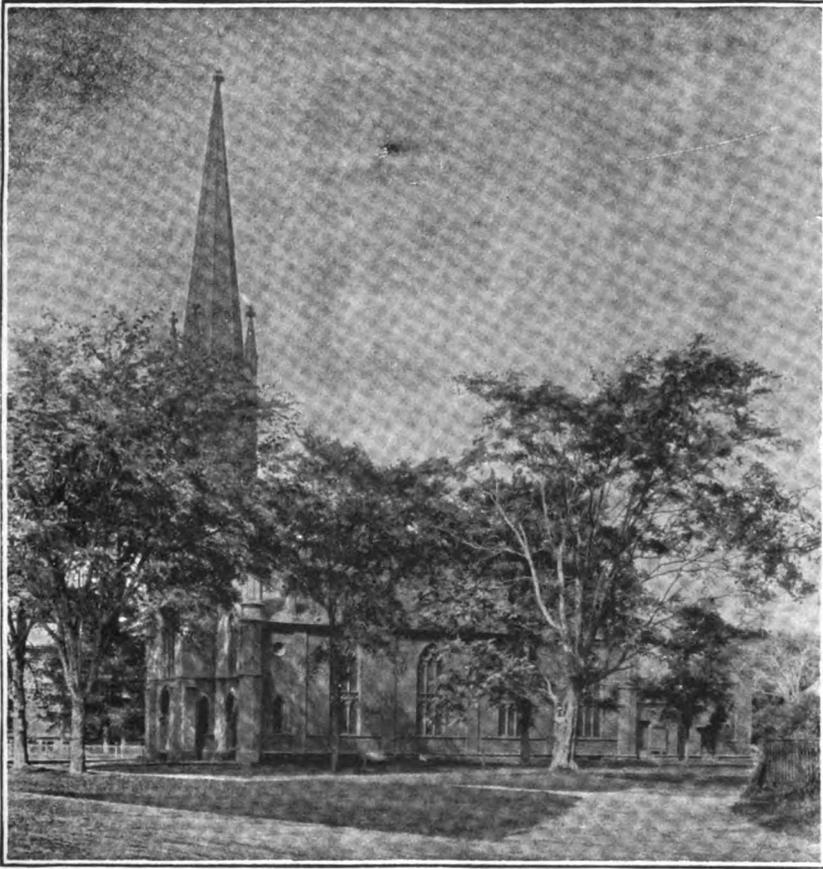
This spirit engendered in the hearts of the present generation, and adhered to by the citizens of our loved land, shall magnify our power and multiply our blessings. It is this that shall enable us to enjoy the liberties of our land; and it is this that will enable us to perpetuate and hand over to coming generations the institutions so loved and cherished by us all. God bless the right! and may the coming century unfold to this nation greater blessings and still grander achievements. Unfurl the flag, let its folds, the insignia of liberty, float out o'er the land. Grand old flag! may the stars of the firmament as soon be blotted out as the principles which thou hast nurtured and protected; and of the dead, whose memory we cherish, it may be said:

The patriots sleep in the land of their choice,
 In the robe of a martyr, all gory,
 And they heed not the tones of a world-waking voice
 That covers their ashes with glory.
 What reck they of riches? What care they for fame,
 Or a world decked in grandeur or beauty?
 If the marble shall speak that records their proud name,
 "They died at their post, doing duty?"

The pilot that stood at the helm of our bark,
 Unmoved by the tempest's commotion,
 Was swept from the deck in the storm and the dark,
 And sank in the depths of the ocean.
 But little he'll grieve for the life it has cost,
 If our banner shall still float in beauty,
 And emblaze on its folds of the pilot we've lost,
 "He died at his post, doing duty."

The warrior chieftain has sunk to his rest,
 The sod of the mountain his pillow;
 For his bed the broad earth has opened her breast.
 His dirge, the ocean's sad billow.
 As long as the ocean wave weeps on our shore,
 And our valleys bloom out in their beauty,
 So long will our country her heroes deplore
 Who fell at their post, doing duty.

The eloquence and force of the speaker captivated the audience at once, and throughout the whole of the address he was listened to with the closest attention. Hearty and appreciative cheers were given the speaker at its conclusion, and the morning's exercises were then brought to a close with the singing of "My Country, 'tis of thee," under the leadership of John R. Lattin, and accompanied by the Wheeler & Wilson band.



CHRIST CHURCH.

(Erected 1857.)

From a Photograph by F. C. BEACH, 1890.

EXERCISES OF THE AFTERNOON.

It was after two o'clock when the first part of the programme of the day was finished, and the agreeable duty of entertaining the guests and visitors was immediately entered upon. Lieutenant-Governor Merwin, the orators of the day, and other invited guests were taken in carriages to the residence of Mr. David P. Rhoades on King Street, where Colonel Watson and staff, of the 4th Connecticut Regiment, joined them, and all were most hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Rhoades. Meanwhile, the organizations which took part in the parade were marched down Elm Street to a large tent standing on a lot owned by Mr. Asa S. Curtis, on the west side of Elm Street, midway between "Watch House" Hill and Stratford Avenue. Here, under the care and guidance of the provident Collation Committee, they were abundantly provided with entertainment. Not only were the visiting organizations, whose presence so materially added to the success of the celebration, thus entertained, but as the invited guests passed from the tables and the tent, the general visitors, who had gathered in the town by thousands, and for whom the supplies provided by private parties were altogether insufficient, were gladly welcomed to the vacant places at the tables; and so, from the time that the tent was thrown open until nightfall, the tireless Collation Committee continued the work of entertainment. Even while the afternoon exercises were progressing, the good work went on at the tent. All who came, departed satisfied, and the repute of Stratford's people as bounteous hosts was maintained.

In addition to the preparations for entertainment thus publicly made and conducted, the possibilities of the day attracted many thrifty persons to erect tents and tables here and there about the centre of the town, where there could be procured for a modest sum the staple delicacies usually found on such occasions; while many far-sighted people who live back from the shore could be seen in their wagons and carriages enjoying the lunch which they had brought with them.

While the guests of the day and the public were thus being provided for, at almost every house in town the latch string was out and around tables bountifully spread groups of relatives and friends were enjoying the hospitality of our people.

That mid-day feast was a joyful hour in many a home. The charming weather, the gaily-decorated houses, the thronging crowds in the streets, the holiday air of the town, made the blood of the most sluggish nature stir. Gay talk and laughter, praise of the present occasion, happy reminiscence of the past, mingled in pleasant confusion in many homes. But the time for entertainment was all too short. The programme for the afternoon, which was more distinctively commemorative of the town's birth and history than were the exercises of the forenoon, was soon to begin. And so, after the lunch at Mr. Rhoades', the officers of the day, the invited guests and orators, escorted by the Marshal of the day and his aids, were again taken to the grand stand. As they passed down Main Street the scenes of the morning were renewed—the same crowds upon the streets moving toward "Academy Hill," the dwellings gaily decorated, the grand old elms ever graceful, the green lawns, all bespoke a rare occasion and Stratford at her best.

Upon the hill about the grand stand a large audience again assembled; it differed from the assembly of the morning, for the military and civic organizations were missing, as no attempt was made to keep the companies together after the collation, but many of the members of the organizations mingled with the audience, and their gay uniforms gave life and variety to the scene. The grand stand was soon filled, and the large audience gathered before it, while here and there upon the extended common small groups of people were to be seen passing to and fro either in the enjoyment of some companionship which the day had made possible, or more pleased to visit some old landmark than to join the thronging audience of the orators. It was a pleasant and inspiring sight to look over the broad common to see the packed grand stand, the large audience alive with interest and pleasure, the people in carriages crowding close upon those on foot, the visitors strolling on the common, and back of all the gaily-decorated dwellings skirting the hill, and making a fitting frame for so pleasant a picture.

The very location of the platform was an inspiration to the speakers, whose theme was the town's birth and history; the lawns that stretched before them, covered remnants of the foundation stones of two meeting-houses, where the fathers worshipped for a century before

the Revolution. And at the foot of the hill lay the old church-yard, in the midst of which once stood the first Episcopal church erected in Connecticut. Here also was the watch-house of the first settlers, from which came the name "Watch-house Hill," and across the northern brow of the hill the early settlers, to protect themselves from the Indians, built a stockade. On the common east of the old church-yard an English regiment had lain encamped through a long winter in Colonial days.

Amid such inspiring surroundings the historical addresses of the afternoon were made; that they were deeply interesting, and happily diversified, will appear from their perusal.

The exercises of the afternoon were opened by the Rev. Charles L. Pardee, of the Episcopal church in Stratford, with the following prayer:

O God, who art the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords; the almighty Ruler of nations, we adore and magnify Thy glorious name for all the great things which Thou hast done for us. We render Thee thanks for the goodly heritage which Thou hast given us; for the civil and religious privileges which we enjoy; and for all Thy favors from the beginning of our lives to this day. And we pray Thee that we may show forth our thankfulness for all these not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. Preserve, we beseech Thee, to our country the blessings of peace, and secure them to all the nations of the earth. May the kingdom of the Prince of Peace come in the hearts and lives of all men, that so our only strife may be who shall love Thee most and serve Thee best. We ask Thy blessing on all in municipal, legislative, judicial and executive authority, that they may discharge the duties of their several offices to the promotion of Thy glory, the interest of true religion and virtue, the peace, good order and welfare of this town, state and nation. Continue to prosper our institutions for the promotion of sound learning, the diffusion of virtuous education, and the advancement of Christian truth. Take from us an evil heart of unbelief, and shed the quickening influences of the Holy Spirit on all the people of this land. Save us from the guilt of abusing blessings and privileges, and of confusing liberty and license. Give us a just sense of all these Thy mercies, and may the blessings which, from the labor of others, we are reaping to-day, be so duly appreciated by us as that we may serve Thee faithfully in this life, in humility, holiness, and obedience, so that finally we lose not Thy eternal blessings; and to Thy name be all the honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Mr. Stiles Judson, Jr., the President of the day, then spoke the following words of welcome :

Fellow-citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen : The pleasant duty and privilege devolves upon me to extend a cordial greeting in the name of our towns-people to the guests who are with us to-day to participate in the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of the town of Stratford. It is with the most kindly feelings that we bid you welcome; our village has put on holiday attire to receive you, and the hospitality of her citizens you cannot over-tax on this pleasant reunion of old Stratford's sons and daughters.

If through the exercises of this day it becomes apparent to you that our people are proud of this old town, which two centuries and a half ago was founded on the shores of the Housatonic, near to the blue waters of the Sound, we ask you to look upon it as a pardonable pride; for in the beauty of our town, in the fact of her early settlement, in the men and women of sterling worth and character who have lived and died 'neath the old elms that shade our village and in the memories that cluster around us, we find just cause for the pride exhibited.

The scene of animation presented on the streets of the old town to-day is new and strange to her; the picture of restfulness and repose we are wont to see being more in accord with her existence and traditions. Her sons and daughters, though ever loyal to their birth-place, do not claim for her the activity or material growth witnessed in some of our sister towns.

The disturbing forces to be found within the cities are absent from us. The jar of commerce and the turbulency of politics strike no responsive chord among a people born to rural scenes. Yet, withal, the old town, during these many years, has not been idle, for not only has the weal of her own children been cared for, but she has laid the foundations of other communities.

She looks to the northward and beholds the town of Huntington nestled among the hills, and her affection goes out to this, her first-born. The towns of Trumbull and Monroe are connected with us by the same link of kinship, and these neighboring communities, through their representatives with us on this occasion, will bear witness that the family tie is made stronger to-day. She looks to the westward and beholds the city of Bridgeport, which is soon to become the first city of our Commonwealth. The smoke rising from its thousand factory-chimneys gives evidence of the activity and enterprise of the rugged New England character. Who shall say that much of its phenomenal growth and

prosperity is not due to the impress made on the body politic by those founders whose memory we honor by these anniversary exercises. Yet, though eclipsed in the shadow of Bridgeport's progress, we feel no twinge of jealousy, but only friendship and good-will. On the road to fortune and success the old town wishes her god-speed, for in the town of Bridgeport she recognizes her youngest born. It is, then, with special significance that the citizens of those towns join with us in giving expression to our fealty to the first settlers of Stratford.

But her influence and prestige extend over a wider field than this, for from the old home have gone forth many of her children to other communities and to distant climes, and their early associations have, in memory, been carried with them.

Many a family reunion will be held this day, and recollections revived by the sight of old familiar places, and when at the close of the day we "speed the parting guest," it will be with the belief that your sojourn with us, brief as it is, will have been the means of awakening a renewed interest and affection towards the old town.

Though the years, in passing, have left the marks of time on old Stratford's landscape, with her ancient dwellings standing as sentinels of the past; though the moss of centuries is thick upon the stones marking the resting-places of those early settlers who braved the perils of the wilderness in making this their abode, yet the mantle of age rests lightly upon her, and the frost of two hundred and fifty winters has failed to blight her beauty and freshness. Old Stratford is young again to-day in the spirit with which she welcomes you, and the joyousness of this occasion shall be to her as a life-giving spring from which she will draw long-continued life and happiness.

Mr. Benjamin T. Fairchild, one of Stratford's sons, and a descendant of one of the first settlers, was then introduced, and delivered the following address:

Stratford to-day enacts her part in the series of celebrations which have followed the course of the founders of New England from Plymouth to Connecticut. In many a fair and prosperous town and village the descendants of the Pilgrim and the Puritan have vied in extolling the valor and the virtues of their forefathers.

When we of Stratford come to-day to reckon up the debt which we owe to our ancestors, it is with hearts full of reverent joy and gratitude for the blessings and privileges which have descended to us.

Here on this historic and hallowed spot, to-day freshly consecrated, the place of the Watch House, the Church of Christ, and the School, the suggestive trio of the Puritan's environment, we come to fill our minds with the spirit and the scenes of long by-gone but never-to-be-forgotten days; to listen to stories which can never to us become twice-told or tedious tales. For, indeed, the genius of the poet and the painter still kindles at the story of the Pilgrim, and each generation finds in his life a new lesson and a fresh inspiration.

After two hundred and fifty years we come to-day to pay our loving and loyal tribute to the memory of those heroic men, who with sublime faith and fortitude, planted their homes on the shores of a new land and began those struggles for the rights of self-government which made their little communities the germs of free and independent commonwealths and fashioned the lines upon which were built the Constitution, and determined under God the destiny of a mighty republic. In this, the hour of exultation and congratulation, we are content to sound no higher key, to place no higher estimate upon these men than the verdict of mankind has already accorded them. "In all history," it is said, "there has been no instance of colonization so exclusively effected by picked and chosen men."

What was the character and the purpose of these colonists, what the influence which inspired and equipped them to overcome obstacles, to endure hardships before which expeditions with all the potent incentives of gain and conquest and adventure had repeatedly succumbed? It was a migration of men inspired as they believed by Divine guidance, who purposed in a new land to found a State where they might govern their lives according to the laws of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ as interpreted by their conscience.

If, in the light in which we now happily live, the religion of the Puritan seems sombre and stern, it was nevertheless the very force and fervor of this religion, united with an intense aspiration for individual liberty that made possible the civil and religious freedom which we now enjoy. A religion of such vital quality that it supported him through trials, struggles and vicissitudes without parallel in the history of a people. Under its guidance were developed wisdom and statesmanship of the highest order.

"For," said the greatest of English historians, "the Puritan brought to civil and military affairs a coolness of judgment and an immutability of purpose which some writers have thought inconsistent with religious zeal, but which were in fact the necessary effects of it." It was the

Puritan preacher who, in 1638, made the immortal declaration that "The choice of public magistrates belongs unto the people by God's own allowance," that "The foundation of authority is laid firstly in the free consent of the people," and thus formulated the "most important profession of political faith in our history." The first practical assertion of the principle which lies at the foundation of the American system.

Dissent brought the Pilgrim to Plymouth, and from Massachusetts to Connecticut. The Puritan's progress is the evolution of dissent. The pastor led his people as the shepherd his flock, and it may be said that each sheep betrayed a strong inclination to jump for himself.

Connecticut founded by dissenters from the theocratic system of Massachusetts, made the most rapid progress in civil and religious liberty; here developed the prototype of our commonwealths, here was the birthplace of American democracy. It is with pride to-day that we claim descent from the founders of this, one of the oldest plantations of the Connecticut colony. We know that the little company who here first set up their altar and their hearth-stones, and the settlers added unto them, were of the best type of its founders. The Church was the centre and the well-spring of the community and the Stratford divines were men of conspicuous learning, ability and influence. Two of them were called to the rectorship of Yale, and one, Dr. Johnson, to King's College.

Dr. Samuel Johnson exerted a wide and powerful influence in educational and ecclesiastical affairs. His son, William Samuel Johnson, was also President of Columbia College, and Stratford has the honor to have sent him as one of the three men chosen to represent Connecticut in the Federal Convention, and he was largely instrumental in moulding the Constitution upon the Connecticut form and principles. It is of no slight significance also, that here, scarce farther away than the "meeting-house" spire cast its shadow, was erected the first Episcopal Church in New England. This fair and beautiful town, so broadly and nobly planned, itself ever bears eloquent testimony to the liberality, taste and sagacity of its founders.

From this vantage ground where our forefathers, with musket and sword, kept watch and ward over the little plantation, a village now invites the eye as fair as the old home he loved so well, and to which in his long vigils he must in fancy oft have turned his wistful gaze across the sea.

What serene and benignant star presided at the birth of Stratford, that from the days when our fathers contended with the savage and

built their cabins in the clearing, no tales of massacre color her record and the sword and the torch have never devastated her homes?

That during all the century and more, which have witnessed the winning of a continent from ocean to ocean, whilst cities have multiplied around her and the railroad bears its "expresses" heedlessly by, the spell of peace and beauty still pervades and possesses her precincts, such as was only broken by the cheery sound of the coach-horn in the days when the stage rolled up to the door of Benjamin's Tavern.

With what measure of affection shall we, whose love to her is welded by so many sacred associations, regard this, the rarely beautiful village, which has been from generation to generation the home of our fathers?

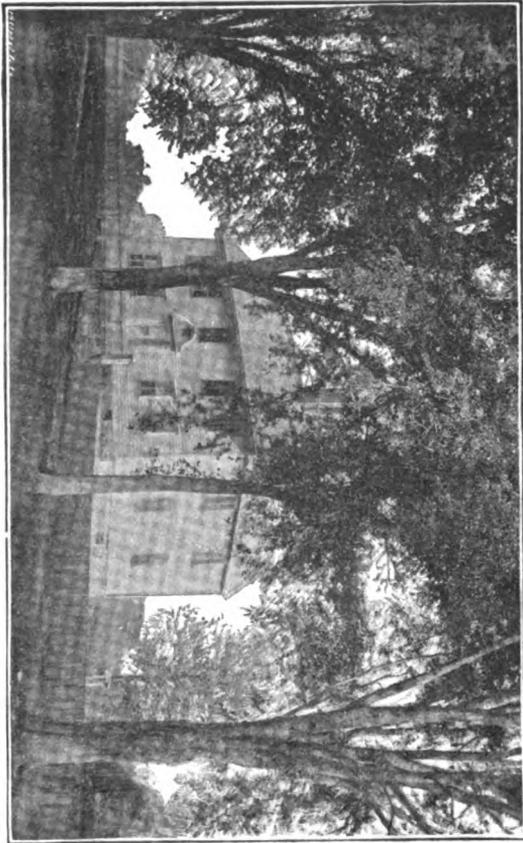
Stratford has known how to grow old beautifully. Athwart these broad greens at evening the lengthening shadows lie, and the stately elms bend over the long streets their spreading arches in vista more beautiful than Cathedral nave. May peace and prosperity ever dwell beneath their tranquil shade.

At the close of Mr. Fairchild's address the President introduced the Rev. George W. Judson, of Orange, Massachusetts; Mr. Judson is a descendant of one of the first settlers, and but recently ceased to reside in the town. In introducing Mr. Judson, the President referred to him as the orator of the Judson family. Mr. Judson spoke as follows:

Mr. President, Fellow-Townsmen, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The gentleman is mistaken. I am no orator, as (my cousin) Brutus is; but, as you know me all, a plain, blunt man, that loves old Stratford; and that they know full well who give me public leave to speak of her, for I have neither wit, nor words, action nor utterance, nor the power of speech to stir men's souls. I only speak right on, tell you what you yourselves do know, show you old Stratford's glory, and bid that speak for me. But were I Brutus, and Brutus Antony, there were an Antony should "make things hustle."

But, seriously, I esteem it a decided honor to be invited to take part in these anniversary exercises to-day—an honor which I take, however, as meant not so much for myself personally, as for the family name, which, together with the President of the day, I represent upon this occasion. For while through the two hundred and fifty years of Stratford's history the Judson family has not been especially conspicuous, it may be said, I think, that it has,



THE JUDSON HOUSE.

(Erected 1728.)

From a Photograph by E. A. Huswell, 1899.

in the main, always held an honored and respected place. And it is a matter for a Judson to feel just a little proud of to-day, that history and tradition agree that in all probability it was a Judson, one William Judson, who was the first white man to set his foot upon our historic soil with a view to settlement. History does not certainly tell us whether, when Judson came here in 1638, he came alone or with one Thomas Fairchild (the ancestor of him who has addressed us to-day), and one other, name unknown. But almost certainly Judson was here in 1638, a year before the first colony (of which he was one) came for settlement. Not any very great precedence, to be sure, but enough to feel just a little proud of to-day.

But do not think, fellow-townsmen, that I propose to take up your time to-day in fulsome eulogy of my ancestors, or of any one else's ancestors. It seems to me to be very poor taste to indulge in that way. For we, the descendants of these ancestors of ours, are what we are, as they were what they were. If they were good men and true, as many of them were, it is indeed proper for us to honestly recount their virtues, and to try to imitate their example. If they did not amount to much (and some of them did not), it is for us to do what we can to improve upon their example. In any event, it is poor taste for us to try and make out a case for all our sires of peculiar and unapproachable virtues. They possessed sterling and robust qualities of character, most of them; but the best of them were also men of like passions and like frailties with ourselves.

And I confess it did me good (clergyman though I am), while looking up the history of my own sires of so long ago, to find on record in the annals of the town two or three incidents in their careers which, though not exactly justifiable, nor by any means to be commended, yet serve to show that these sires of ours were men like ourselves, liable upon occasion to let their human nature lead them where they ought not to go. One of these incidents is recounted of Jeremiah or Joshua Judson—I forget which one—(which does not matter, since these were both good Biblical names), who was fined for selling cider to the Indians. Of course, it must have been good sweet cider.

And as showing that the boys of the olden time had some of the same perversity in them which seems to delight to lodge with boys in these degenerate days, we read also of two sons of the aforesaid Jeremiah or Joshua Judson who were sentenced to sit for a day in the stocks as a punishment for moonlight expeditions after "ye wholesome water-millions." This sentence was mercifully suspended on the ground

of that liking for the fruit which makes us all akin. And if it did not have too musty a flavor, I should be tempted to tell the story told of the brave Captain Judson in the Revolutionary War, when, as captain of the Stratford "Home Guard," he one night led his company against a supposed landing of the British at Lighthouse Point, and on his way to the point saw in the dim distance the cornstalks waving, when, thinking that the British were advancing, Captain Judson cries, "Halt! the British are upon us; scatter, boys, scatter!" (But for the account of this valorous deed see the History of Fairfield County, which so many of you have purchased, and which you so highly prize for its accuracy, fullness and cheapness.)

But I am here to-day to talk seriously for a little time; for this is a serious occasion, this gathering at a 250th Anniversary. Two hundred and fifty years is a good long while, and it is a serious thing for a town to reach such a ripe old age.

Think of it! Two hundred and fifty years ago, Charles the First was on the throne of England and Cromwell was just laying those plans which were to revolutionize his nation politically. Two hundred and fifty years ago, Louis XIII. sat on the throne of France and the continent of Europe was right in the middle of its thirty-years' war which was to change the whole complexion of its international relations and re-adjust its balance of power. Two hundred and fifty years ago, Shakespeare had but just died and his genius was as yet but half recognized; while John Milton that "fountain of English, pure and undefiled," had not yet written any of the works which gave him immortal fame. And as for the rest of that long list of names which have made our English literature what it is—the grandest of the world—very few of them had yet come from that great unknown which precedes birth with more literalness than it follows death. And turning to the realms of science and industry, hardly one of the great inventions and discoveries had yet been made which have since revolutionized these departments of human progress. And as for our own magnificent populous domain as we see it to-day, what was it then but a vast howling wilderness, save for a fringe of settlements on its eastern border, few and far between, whose inhabitants lived in constant terror of extermination by the native savages who from the great unknown interior were constantly making predatory excursions to the coast. . . .

But I wish to speak more directly to-day, what our good old age means for us as a town; what it has done for us; what its ripe experience suggests for the future. For one thing, our old age as a

town has given to us an individuality of our own. All our old towns have this; they have all lived long enough to have characteristics of their own. The new towns scattered up and down over our New England you will often find to be as alike as two chips, save for differences of situation and industry; but not so the old ones.

Who would ever confound Stratford and Milford? They each have an individuality of their own that is not likely soon to be destroyed, even though you have freed the bridge between the two towns from its ancient toll. Who ever confounded Milford and Stratford boys or girls? (though the Milford girls and Stratford boys seem to get taken by, if not for, each other). Why, there is an individuality even to the Stratford mosquito.

Have a care, then, for the projects of the Stratford Land Improvement Company, lest they exterminate, in their march of improvement, one of the most ancient and honored families of the place, a family whose deeds and prowess have made Stratford known, respected and feared, wherever her name has gone abroad! But seriously, again, there is something valuable in this old, staid respectable individuality of such towns as our own. It helps connect us with the past. It makes us feel that we have an interest in the doings of the olden time. It makes us look with keen scrutiny upon the new-fangled schemes which spring up on every side to improve the past by obliterating it. Let us, then, try to preserve this individuality, for it will become the more precious as the days go by.

Have a care, therefore, for the ambitions of our wide-awake daughter on our western border. We rejoice in her prosperity and rapid growth, for is she not our daughter? But we should not yet be ready to pull down the old homestead, or leave it for her more modern abode! Let us rather still keep the old place up! Let Bridgeport send over her children to visit or to board, but not yet to rule and lord it over the old home now that her ancient glory has departed. And as you thus keep one eye upon Bridgeport's real estate boomers and schemers, keep your other eye upon your own politicians, lest they for a share of the mess of pottage of city honors and city offices sell the birthright of our old town, never to be regained, though it be sought carefully and with tears.

Again, these old towns of which Stratford is one of the oldest in this Commonwealth have, through and because of their age, a kind of town or family honor, which their children always feel proud to uphold and sustain. We Americans naturally and justly do not think much of

a titled or blooded aristocracy, such as England and Germany possess, for the bad features of an aristocracy exceed the good ones. But for all that, there are good points in an aristocracy. For one thing, every poorest son of an aristocratic English or German family feels weighing upon him, as an incentive to a noble, honorable life, the family name and fame, and more than death he dreads to disgrace that family name. Now, one has something of this feeling as he goes out from one of these old towns. If I had gone away to my life work from the town of Squedunk, settled yesterday, or the day before, or last year, the reputation of the town I left would not amount to much as an incentive with me to a good work and an honorable life; but to go forth from old Stratford does mean something, as inciting one to live an honorable and useful life. A man holds up his head a little higher when he goes into the town clerk's office to be registered for the first time in his adopted town, when he can say, "I was born in Stratford," than he could when he must say "I was born in Squedunk." This is another reason why you ought not to let Bridgeport destroy our name and assume our life, because our family name and its honor is at stake. Not that Bridgeport has not a family name and honor of her own, but we want ours and not hers; and we want to transmit our own name and not another's to our children. Never in the lifetime of any of us may we come home to look for the old homestead in vain; to find in its place a monument or a public drinking fountain, inscribed: "Sacred to the memory of Old Mother Stratford, whose eldest daughter so crowded her by her growth that she gave up the old homestead and died in her daughter's embrace; to commemorate which graceful and timely departure the aforesaid daughter has affectionately erected this monument to her mother's memory." God forbid! Rather may the old mother still live, hale and hearty as of yore, to welcome her sons and daughters from afar when two hundred and fifty years more shall have rolled away, as she welcomes them to-day.

But there is another side to this matter of age as related to town life that I want to speak of before I close, by way of criticism and warning. While we revere our past, and live in the light of its experience, we must have a care not to worship the past, or think so much of the old age of our town as to forget to think of her future, or fail to adjust ourselves to the new conditions which confront us for the future. To meet this future we must go forward with something besides the ghost of a dead past in our memories, and a pride of past accomplishments in our thought.

May I be permitted, then, before I close, to humbly offer a few suggestions with regard to the future before our historic old town, and the way we should face the future as it emerges into the present.

Permit me a word, first, to the old residents. Don't be too-too-exclusively-exclusive. Don't be too afraid of new-comers to your midst. It is indeed a good thing to have had ancestors who early settled here in this old town; but it does not signify that new-comers may not have just as worthy ancestors as we, though they were not so fortunate as to settle here. The course of wisdom, then, is to cultivate the friendly and approachable, and not the critical and hostile, spirit towards the new-comers. Thus, instead of exciting their hostility you will win them over to an admiration of all that is worthy in our town life, and make them as true and loyal to Stratford in the future as you are now. Be as proud, then, of your own good name and of the good name of your ancestors as you will; but do not be so loftily conscious of your own assumed family superiority as to live in constant fear lest you should soil your hands by the clasp of brotherhood in ordinary social intercourse with those who do not chance to have so long a pedigree as you have! Such a sight were enough to make both gods and men laugh, if it were not so pitiful! Pitiful, as disclosing our own self-sufficiency. Pitiful, as revealing that lack of the genuine spirit of human brotherhood, which is worth infinitely more than connection lateral or relationship lineal. Above all, may God save us from that Pharisaic spirit which thank God that we are not as others are, especially that we are not as these unknown publicans are who do not even know who their great-great-grandfathers were, but who have nevertheless dared to come among us and even go up to the house of God with us.

I suggest, also, that the ripe experience of our old age ought to teach us in the future to have a care not to preserve too hostile a spirit towards labor, and especially toward manufacturing interests. It would indeed be a pleasant thing if this grand old Main Street of ours (as no doubt this street will), and a grand thing in some ways if all these other streets could be built up wholly for residential purposes, with residences, too, of the better class. But the ideal American community is not made up only of residents of the professional and what we call of the polite trades; it includes as well, what we more distinctively call the workers of society. Farmers, mechanics, craftsmen of every kind, our ideal American community must find a place for; and all of these it must try to assimilate into the organism that constitutes its industrial and social life. Instead of being then afraid of the establishing of manu-

factories we should welcome them—especially if they call for skilled American labor; and we should try to impress upon their operatives the stamp of our own ambition and culture and life. I say that is the ideal American community which finds an honored place in its organism for labor, of whatever kind it be, whether of hand or of brain, so it be honest; and which makes no invidious comparisons on account of the particular kind or compensation of the work by which an honest living is gained. For unless, gentlemen, unless we can do this—make all labor of hand or brain equally honorable in our estimate of social worth and privilege—there is a sad day before this nation. For on this rock of wealth and its ease, despising the labor which created it, on this rock has split many a social and industrial craft in the past; and this rock, if not kept clear of, is going to wreck many a seeming social and industrial prosperity of the future. Oh! I have been very grateful many a time in the past few years, when home-sickness for old Stratford has for a moment come over me, that my lot has been cast for the present in—if not so beautiful a town as my native place—yet in as truly American a town as exists, I believe, in all new England. A town where wealth puts on no supercilious airs, and where honest labor of every kind, if combined with an honest reputation, is the passport to every social privilege, church amenity, and political honor.

Don't be afraid, then, of doing your part in preserving the dignity of labor which is so essential to our best community and national life.

But a word more and I am done. And that word relates to the educational possibilities and duties ever enlarging before you. I well remember the struggle which began in this town, it must be twenty years ago, for the betterment of our educational interests by the establishment, in the place of our scattered ungraded schools, of the central graded school. The remembrance of the hot debates upon that matter in the school-houses and the Town Hall will ever remain in my memory as the most marvelous thing in the way of debate that I ever listened to, or ever heard of. You know how the early movement ingloriously failed, and how only when the old fighters were recruited by a younger generation success came, and the long hoped for graded school was built and equipped. Now you are resting on your well won laurels and enjoying the fruits of your victory. But, remember, that if Stratford is to continue her growth, there are new campaigns before you along the same line where you have already fought and won, and now is the time to begin to look forward to, and to plan for these campaigns. Let it be your proud boast, as your population shall multiply and your children

increase, to always keep apace of the demands which these make upon you for education ; so that the reputation of this town, now so well established in this once neglected respect, may be always sustained, growing, indeed, more lustrous as the years go by. And with your educational endeavor, let there go hand-in-hand that effort to promote temperance, morality and true religion, which, combined with education and culture, make a town not only a good place to live in, but as well a good place to go out from, to continue in other fields of service the good work begun at home.

All hail ! then, good old mother Stratford ! In all things good and true we wish thee well ! As years gone by have added to thy glory, so may the years to come increase thy fame. And still, while years and centuries roll, back to thy home may thy children's children come with loving hearts to ever wish thee well.

At the close of Mr. Judson's address the Hon. Curtis Thompson was introduced. Mr. Thompson is a descendant of one of the earliest settlers, and a native and former resident of the town. Mr. Thompson delivered the following address :

It gives me great pleasure to join the people of Stratford in this commemoration. Standing here, my memory calls up many scenes and events of my youth. Forty years ago, on this green, stood the old brick school-house, and where the Veterans' Monument now stands, stood the old Academy, with the poplar trees around it. The old school teachers; Peter P. Curtis, Hamilton Burton, Emily Stillson, Asa Seymour Curtis, Frederick Sedgwick, and others engaged in the great work of teaching, are all dear to my memory. They were not only intelligent and devoted instructors, but also kind and true friends. Our ministers have recently celebrated the 250th anniversary of the founding of the "First Ecclesiastical Society," and have deservedly praised the work of the talented and learned men of their calling, but the work of the school teachers and laymen has been quite as effective as that of the ministers, and let us not forget it to-day.

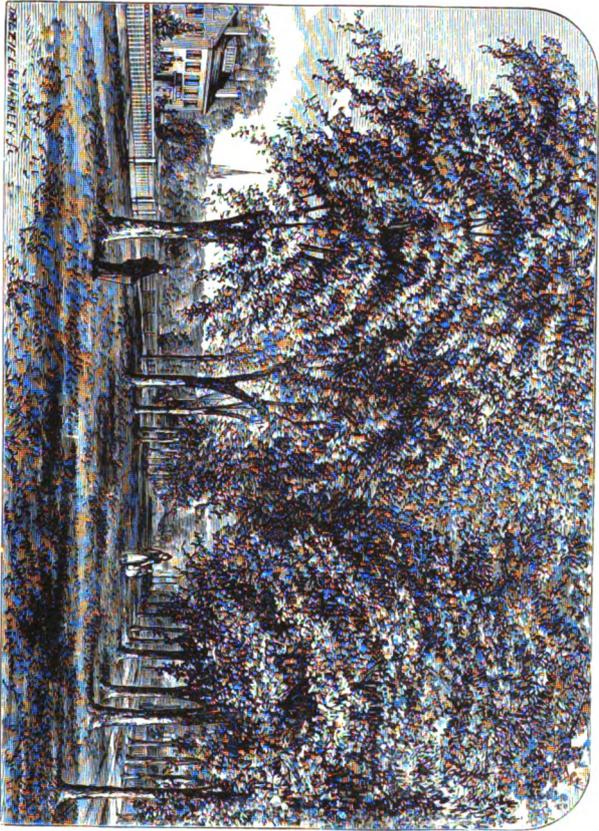
And the old Episcopal Church, built in 1743, was then standing. It had a beautiful glass chandelier, and old-fashioned high-back pews. On its steeple stood the same old weather-cock that stands upon the new church to-day, made, it is said, by Colonel John Benjamin, Jr., a goldsmith. Colonel Frazier's Highland Battalion, which was encamped on this common, in 1757-8, amused themselves, it is said, by shooting at it, piercing it many times.

Not since 1757 have there been here so many soldiers as we have seen to-day. Some of us can remember the only battle which ever occurred in this town. It was when Capt. John Mitchell's famous company, dressed and equipped as Indians, had a sham battle on this green ; some of the participants got so warmed up in the conflict, as to be dangerous and hurtful to the others.

We can also remember how in 1847, when Clark Bissell, of Norwalk, was elected Governor ; he was met and escorted by our military bands, through this town over this common, while he journeyed in state from Norwalk to the Capitol.

Then, where the children of the County Home now live, resided Governor Plant, as we were proud to call him. He was Lieutenant-Governor from 1823 to 1827, and Member of Congress from 1827 to 1829. His stately and dignified carriage and pleasing manners, as we often saw him on his favorite horse, won our youthful regard. Next west of Governor Plant's house, dwelt the Rev. William B. Weed, the Congregational minister, an odd, very able, learned and eloquent divine. Those who knew and heard him can never forget him.

Now, let me examine briefly the beginning of this town. It was settled under the auspices of the Connecticut Colony, which had on January 14, 1638-9, adopted a constitution which has become the pattern of the constitutions of all the States, and of the Republic itself. In that great work some of the pioneers of this town took part, and share in its credit, for some of them lived in Hartford and Wethersfield before they came to Stratford in 1639. It was about nineteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. For some years the English and the Dutch had been contending for Connecticut. In 1633 the famous Holmes sailed up the Connecticut River, by the Dutch fort, landing at Windsor, where he built his house and fortified it. In 1635 Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield were founded by emigrants from Massachusetts settlements, and strange enough they came here that they might enjoy a larger freedom in civil affairs than they were allowed there. If England was sifted to obtain the choice grain that planted Massachusetts, Massachusetts was again sifted to obtain the choice grain that planted Connecticut. The relation of these plantations in respect to government was not long in doubt, for they soon set up a court, so-called, for themselves, and assumed all the powers of sovereignty ; not only the ordinary powers of managing civil affairs, but also the extraordinary powers of making war and peace and contracting alliances with the Indian tribes. At the court held in 1636, their circumstances



ELM STREET (LOOKING NORTH).

From a Photograph made by F. C. BRACH, 1864, for "Lippincott's Magazine."
By kind permission of the J. B. LIPPINCOTT CO.

were such that it was judged necessary for every man to be a soldier, and in May, 1637, with much self-reliance, if not audacity, the court declared war against the powerful Pequots and raised an army of ninety men, under command of Captain John Mason, which took the field against the enemy, and after a great victory over the Pequots, in their strongholds east of the Thames, drove the remnant of the enemy to the west, where they secreted themselves in the great swamp now in the limits of Fairfield, and where they were again conquered and destroyed as a tribe. "Roger Ludlow, and some of the principal gentlemen of the river settlements," accompanied the army. They were probably the first Englishmen who had seen this beautiful territory. It was in June, and they were charmed with the situation, and spread most favorable reports of its features and prospects.

The gentlemen who settled New Haven arrived in Boston in the fall of 1637, and stimulated by these reports they sailed from Boston, and early in 1638 founded New Haven, which, with Milford and a few other towns, constituted a separate colony until 1662. The liberal ideas of Hooker, Ludlow and others, who founded the Connecticut Colony, were not pleasing to the New Haven Colony, which agreed with Massachusetts in allowing only church members to vote. The Connecticut principle was stated by the gifted Hooker, in his great sermon of March 31, 1638, "That the choice of public magistrates belongs unto the people by God's own allowance, who have the power also to set the bounds and limitations of the power and place unto which they call them." Let us rejoice that in the same year, 1639, from the same body of freemen who had the genius and will to frame the instrument which embodied these principles, came our fathers into this goodly land of Cupheag, and established for themselves and their successors a township where assuredly all these years those great principles of civil government have been preserved. I wish I could tell you something of the personal qualities, doings and lives of the pioneers. Whether they came here by land or water, we do not know. We know they were Puritans, most if not all of them having belonged to the Church of England. We know that in 1640 the Puritan emigration stopped, because they were kept busy at home; so that Stratford must have been settled mainly by the planters removing from other plantations of New England.

The pioneers of Milford had Tibbals, and those of Fairfield had Ludlow to lead them, but who led the pioneers of Stratford? We do not know, and infer that then as now they were all leaders and equals. It may not have been settled as quickly as Oklahoma has been, but the

conquest of the Pequots, and the claims of the Dutch led to a very rapid occupation of Stratford and Fairfield. Indeed it seems to be clear that they did not wait to buy the land from the Indians.

The Paugussett Indians living hereabouts were treated as allies of the Pequots, and conquered with them, and so the conquerors took these lands, "to maintain their rights that God by conquest had given to them." The quieting of the title of the Indians was legally secured by a decision of the Court in 1659, and morally secured by deeds from the Indians in 1671. The Patent from the General Court was issued in 1687, so as to perfect the title, and strengthen their position, against the claims of Sir Edmund Andros, who had been appointed governor and sought to deprive us of our charter rights. He claimed that "an Indian deed was no better than the scratch of a bear's paw."

Mr. Orcutt, who has examined this question recently, informs me that the southern half of the townships of Stratford and Fairfield was purchased from the Indians by the Connecticut Colony, and not by the plantations, nor any of their members; that the same was afterwards sold by the Colony to the plantations, and that the other parts of such townships were bought from the Indians, as may be seen by the deeds on record.

Owing to the loss of the early records of this plantation, it has been a difficult task to ascertain exactly the facts concerning the settlement of Stratford. To the Rev. Benjamin L. Swan, Rev. Samuel Orcutt, and Rowland B. Lacey, Esquire, we owe a debt of gratitude; their faithful work has produced results which will be of increasing interest and value as time rolls on.

Mr. Orcutt has given to us, in his valuable work, the following names as composing the honored heads of the first families of this plantation:

Rev. ADAM BLAKEMAN,	RICHARD HARVEY,
WILLIAM WILCOXSON,	THOMAS FAIRCHILD,
ELIZABETH CURTIS (widow),	JOHN HURD,
PHILIP GROVES,	WILLIAM JUDSON,
RICHARD MILLS,	JOHN PEAT,
FRANCIS NICHOLS,	THOMAS SHERWOOD,
ROBERT SEABROOK,	WILLIAM QUENBY,
WILLIAM CROOKER,	and
WILLIAM BEARDSLEY,	ARTHUR BOSTWICK,

who with their families numbered sixty-five persons.

I have heard it doubted whether any planters were here in 1639; but the General Court in that year sent Gov. John Haynes and Mr. Thomas Wells down to confer with the planters at Pequonnock, to give

them the oath of fidelity, make such free as they see fit, order them to send deputies to the General Court, and give them power to choose seven men from among themselves to decide differences; and they were further desired to speak with Mr. Prudden and that plantation, that the difference between them and Pequonnock Plantation may be peaceably decided. So there were planters here in 1639, and controversies too, probably growing out of the occupation or purchase of parts of the land by the rival colonies of New Haven and Connecticut, or by individual members of the same.

Our fathers were genuine Puritans; and, speaking of the Puritans generally, John Fisk says: "By 1600 the majority of the country gentlemen and of wealthy merchants in the towns had become Puritans, and the new views had made great headway in both universities, and at Cambridge had become dominant," and he further says that our fathers belonged "to that middle-class of self-governing, self-respecting yeomanry that has been the glory of free England and free America."

We have strong proof of the high character, culture and civilization of the first settlers of Stratford:

1st. In these old town records, which show how well versed in composition, writing, and knowledge they were. 2d. In the plan and layout of these wide, straight streets, and large commons, which show how public-spirited and far-seeing they were. 3d. Look at these wide thoroughfares, radiating from this location—north to Huntington, northwest to Trumbull, and west—the old King's highway—to Fairfield, and think how much they did to make this place like old Rome—all roads leading to it. 4th. In 1646 Stratford gave £6 14s. to maintain scholars at Cambridge, evincing wonderful zeal and self-sacrifice in behalf of learning, when the burdens of settling and protecting themselves had been well nigh too great to bear. 5th. **In the choice of a name, which, unlike Fairfield and Milford, has no local significance, and is suggestive, we believe, of their liberal and scholarly taste. It appears to have been first called Stratford in 1648.**

It is worthy of notice that the first institutions set up by our fathers were courts, so that all controversies could be promptly and legally disposed of. Our fathers believed in law and in liberty, or "liberty under law," and courts were necessary at the start.

Our fathers were *agitators*. Under that marvel of a constitution, of 1639, the General Courts met twice a year "to agitate the affairs of the Commonwealth;" they were vigilant, and did not content themselves with biennial sessions.

Brissot, an eminent Frenchman, in 1788, travelled in this country, and after his return he wrote a book of wonderful power and sagacity, from which I quote a few lines: "There is but one real power in government, and it is in referring it back to its source as often as possible that it is to be rendered beneficent; it becomes dangerous in proportion as it is distant from its source." He wrote also that "the Americans are destined to be the first people on earth, without being the *terror of others*, because of three principles: 1st. All power is elective; 2d. The legislature is frequently changed; 3d. The Executive has but little force."

Brissot's prophecy of the Americans becoming a great nation, without becoming a *terror to others*, has thus far been most happily fulfilled. I can conceive of no more perfect ideal of national power and grandeur, nor of one more opposite to that of other great nations of the past and of the present. Long may the United States hold fast, in theory and in practice, to this grand destiny, and show to all the world that not in armies and navies, but in righteousness and justice, lie the true foundations of national security, strength and influence.

Notice another thing; our first controversy was with Milford, which seemed to be unlike Stratford. Lambert, in his history of that town, says:

"There was no saddler in Milford during the first fifty years, and saddles being very scarce, sheep skins were used as a substitute. It was remarked by the Stratford people that if the devil should go into Milford in the shape of a lamb, they would skin him to get his hide for a saddle."

But I conceive the reason why we have been so distinct, to be the wide river; the "inconvenient ferry," as Brissot called it, and the expense of crossing it. The first motion for a ferry was made in 1653, "both in the behalf of the country and the town of Stratford," and Moses Wheeler was the first ferryman.

In 1800 the first bridge over the river was built. In this year, 1889, we rejoice that the legislature, thanks to the efforts of the Hon. Senator David M. Read, of Bridgeport, has made the bridge *free*, both on behalf of the county and of Stratford, and we will have closer relations with Milford hereafter.

Let me briefly refer to the changes made in the territorial limits of this formerly large township:

From 1639 to 1789—150 years—Stratford retained its original boundaries. During that period its history is the history of the five townships, now carved out of it. Huntington was set off in 1789; Trumbull in 1797; Bridgeport in 1821; and Monroe was set off from Hunt-

ington in 1823. West Stratford has been cut off, and added to Bridgeport this year. The policy of Stratford has thus far been to let them go in peace, and they have gone with her benedictions. Taking the five towns together as one, and they show a growth of population equal to any town in this State except New Haven, and in wealth they would stand third. But what will become of old Stratford if Bridgeport's growth goes on. Heaven forbid that her name shall become lost!

In 1784 the first five cities of this State were incorporated: New Haven, Hartford, Middletown, New London and Norwich; all carved out of the old towns, and bearing their names. Bridgeport was then unknown by name. It had been called Pequonnock and Newfield. In 1800 it was made a borough, in 1821 a town, and in 1836 it was made the sixth city of the State. Now, is it too much to ask that when its territory shall reach from Ash Creek to the Housatonic River, its name shall be changed from Bridgeport to Stratford?

My friend, Senator Read, who honors us by his presence, assures me that he will aid us in thus preserving the name of our beloved town, when the time for action shall come.

Mrs. Schenck, in her history of Fairfield, states that the "neck of land laying southeast of Golden Hill, near 'Greenlea,' or Sea Side Park, received the name of 'Wolves' Pit Plain,'" presumably owing to the abundance of prowling wolves which in those days were caught there in pits dug for that purpose. Too many pits now exist in the same area, but wolves are not caught in them.

Our history has been in the main a quiet one. The people must have been stirred up in 1651 by the trial and execution of Goody Bassett for witchcraft. This religious malady seized on many of the most notable men of that time. We are not proud of that event. Still, that first generation was above all an orderly and virtuous one in New England. Rev. Hugh Peters wrote, in 1660: "In seven years, among thousands there dwelling, I never saw any drunk, nor heard any oath, nor any begging, nor Sabbath broken." Lechford wrote: "Profane swearing, drunkenness and begging are but rare in the compass of this patent, through the circumspection of the magistrates and the providence of God, hitherto; the poor living by their labors and great wages proportionately better than the rich by their flocks, which, without exceeding great care quickly waste." And Cotton Mather called this "Utopia."

Perhaps Sabbath keeping was not always voluntary in those days. This case is cited by Lambert, at Milford: "In 1647 Wm. Blayden was

publicly and severely whipped for not attending meeting, although he plead that all the clothes he had were unfit to wear, being all wet through the preceding Saturday, as he had been abroad after cattle in the woods in a violent rain, and on Sunday had kept his bed." This is justified by Dr. Colton, who said: "If the worship be lawful (and they the judges), the compelling to come to it compelleth not to sin, but the sin is in the will that needs to be forced to Christian duty."

In 1672 Capt. John Minor and others seceded and founded Woodbury. This, for the time, with the two ministers on hand, caused discussion and heat. The establishment of the Episcopal church brought at first great discord into the community. But it proved a great blessing. In 1723, the Rev. Samuel Johnson came as its rector, who, with his distinguished son, Wm. Samuel Johnson, by their brilliant talents, scholarship and political abilities, added greatly to the fame of Stratford.

The Rev. Dr. E. E. Beardsley of New Haven, himself a worthy descendant of one of our earliest settlers, has admirably portrayed the lives and characters of these great and good men, who, with the Rev. James H. Linsley, are, so far as I know, the only Stratford residents whose lives have been published in book form.

The truth compels us to say that in the Revolutionary contests the people of Stratford were divided, although the resolutions of the town meeting had the true ring.

Gen. David Wooster was the great hero, while Gen. Joseph Walker, Col. John Benjamin, Col. Aaron Benjamin, Col. Samuel Whiting, Capt. Ebenezer Coe, Capt. Nehemiah Gorham, Capt. Beach Tomlinson, Capt. Stephen Middlebrook, Lieut. William Thompson, George Thompson, Zachariah Blakeman and others were conspicuous soldiers of that war. Permit me to give a few extracts from the books of noted men about Stratford. John Adams, in 1774, writes: "We stopped at Curtiss'. The people here say Boston is suffering from persecution; but now is the time for all the rest to be generous, and Boston people must be supported."

President Dwight, in 1798, writes: "Stratford is better built than either Fairfield or Norwalk. The inhabitants have long been agitated by religious and political controversies."

Samuel Peters, who married, in 1773, Mary, the daughter of Wm. Birdseye, of Stratford, wrote, in his history of this State: "Stratford is a beautiful place. The people are said to be the most polite of any in the Colony, owing to the singular moderation of the town in latterly admitting Europeans to settle among them. Many persons come also from the Islands and southern provinces for the benefit of their health."

The late Charles Hawley of Stamford, who was born in Huntington in 1792, and was Lieut.-Governor from 1838 to 1842, told me that Stratford was regarded as the leading point of business, culture and fashion, in the county, when he was a boy. And yet it is said that Elisha Mills, who was a delegate with Wm. Samuel Johnson to the State convention which adopted the U. S. Constitution, kept a store about 1780 in Huntington, "which was the largest in all the country round, and people came from Norwalk and other places on the sound to trade with him."

Old Stratford, as an agricultural and old-fashioned commercial place, held its own, but when the great West compelled Connecticut to turn to manufacturing and invention, Stratford fell behind. Mrs. Kirk truly says: "The village has never been stirred by those uneasy activities which overturn other New England towns," or if such an impulse has been felt, "Stratford has cast off its unruly suburbs with their enterprises, industries and ambitions."

Mrs. Kirk is the cultured daughter of Jesse Olney, author of "Olney's Geography." From this stand we can see the brick house where the celebrated man resided. He was State Comptroller from 1867 to 1869. She is the author of a brilliant article published in *Lippincott's Magazine* (July, 1879), entitled "Stratford on the Sound," in which, among other things, she charmingly describes the old postmaster, David Brooks, in his old post-office, receiving and distributing the mail; also the modern witchcraft, called "Stratford Knockings," which so greatly excited this community and State in 1850, not so much, however, as to cause any loss of life.

Stratford has retained in her life and manners most of the old-time customs; a marked equality and high average of moral and intellectual manhood; homes of comfort and peace, of plain living and deep thinking, in which few are very rich or very poor; and a people interested in public affairs. The people here practised civil service reform before it became the dogma of parties. From 1650 to 1835 there were only ten town clerks—leading citizens of the town—Joseph Hawley, Capt. John Minor, Lieut. Joseph Curtis, Deacon John Thompson, Robert Fairchild, Robert Walker, Aaron Benjamin, Elijah Ufford, Silas Burton and David Brooks. For fifty-two and a half years, between 1803 and 1857, David Brooks was postmaster.

In 1782, before any division of its original territory, Stratford was made a Probate District. Robert Fairchild was for many years its judge, and Robert Walker clerk. In 1840, after the towns of Huntington, Trumbull, Monroe and Bridgeport had been set off, the Probate District

of Bridgeport was formed of such towns, and the Stratford Probate Records, between 1782 and 1840, were removed to, and they are now kept in the vaults of the Bridgeport Probate Court. Stratford was again, in 1840, made a separate Probate District, with Honorable David Plant, ex-Lieut.-Governor, as judge. Matters of probate for Stratford people, between 1698 and 1782, are to be found in the Fairfield Probate Court; between 1666 and 1698, in the County Court or Probate Court of Fairfield, and prior to 1666 in the Records of Hartford, if anywhere.

Robert Walker and William Samuel Johnson were, I think, the only persons resident in this town who have been Superior Court judges of this State. **Stratford has had neither President nor Governor; but in the person of our honorable fellow-citizen, James Langdon Curtis, there has been a candidate for Governor of this State in 1884, and for President of the United States in 1888.**

Gideon Tomlinson, born here in 1780, removed to Fairfield, and was member of Congress, United States Senator, and Governor of this State.

The descendants of old Stratford families are widely scattered. Among them can be found many of distinction; our United States Senator, Joseph R. Hawley, is a descendant of Joseph Hawley, whose home lot was on the corner where the Leavitt house now stands; and the late Rev. Joseph P. Thompson, D.D., of New York, was a descendant, as I have also the honor to be, of John Thompson, whose home lot was on the opposite corner, where the Gorham house now stands. The late Governor John J. Bagley, of Michigan, was a descendant of Wm. Judson, of this place.

Almost everywhere will you find children of those whose ancestors dwelt in this grand old nursery.

This summer, at Stockbridge, I found a "Curtisville," and on inquiry ascertained that in 1750 three brothers, Abel, Isaac and Elnathan Curtis came there from Connecticut, "each of whom had a family of twelve children." They were the descendants of Elizabeth Curtis of this town. I saw also there a splendid mansion, owned by a descendant of our Rev. Adam Blakeman, whose home fronted the first church at "Sandy Hollow."

And there are many others who have won honor and renown by their lives and characters, who are proud to trace their lineage back to the ancient families of old Stratford. At this time I can only say that among them can be found those who bear the familiar names of Beach, Beardsley, Benjamin, Birdseye, Blakeman, Booth, Brooks, Burritt,



PARADISE GREEN.

From a Photograph made by F. C. BEACH, 1865, for "Lippincott's Magazine." By kind permission of the J. B. LIPPINCOTT Co.



HOUBATONIC RIVER (NEAR WHEELER'S MILL).

From a Photograph made by F. C. BEACH, 1865, for "Lippincott's Magazine." By kind permission of the J. B. LIPPINCOTT Co.

Burton, Chauncey, Coe, Curtis, Fairchild, Hawley, Hubbell, Hurd, Johnson, Judson, Lewis, McEwen, Minor, Nichols, Peck, Plant, Shelton, Sherman, Sterling, Stiles, Thompson, Tomlinson, Walker, Wells, Wetmore, Wheeler, Whiting, Wilcoxson and Wooster.

Many others are deserving of mention, such as the Rev. James H. Linsley, who lived on Elm Street. He was a learned and gifted man, noted for his varied talents, and remarkable for his scientific researches and works. Through him and his accomplished wife and daughters Stratford has derived much credit and many advantages:

Mr. Linsley was a pioneer in the temperance, and Deacon Lewis Beers in the anti-slavery cause, and each had to endure that martyrdom which a person receives for being in advance of his day and generation.

I may speak a word in behalf of those who in more recent days have become citizens of this town; without them this commemoration could hardly have taken place. They have become imbued with the spirit of true children of old Stratford.

What, indeed, do we not owe to these new names—the Russells, the Rhoades, the Clarksons, the Staggs, the Talbots, and others, who have so generously contributed time and substance to make this celebration such a grand and complete success.

But I must close, omitting much I should like to speak of. What is the real significance of this day's work? In calling to remembrance the doings of our fathers we honor them and ourselves. They found this place a wilderness, filled with savage beasts and men. They subdued and converted it into a paradise. But it was not for that they came hither. History teaches us that when liberty and law were triumphant in England, Englishmen ceased to emigrate; and that for one hundred and fifty years after 1640 there were but few accessions to New England. Our fathers came, and did their work here for liberty and law.

Read Kennan's story of Russia's treatment of her freedom-loving sons in Siberia, and learn what a hateful thing despotism is. The Stuarts were as bad as the Czars. Liberty and law have been preserved to us. Shall we preserve them intact? The insidious forces of despotism are constantly at work under new forms; but we can and must resist them.

The maxim "A people without morals may acquire liberty, but without morals they cannot preserve it," I believe is true; and, if so, a serious duty devolves upon us and our successors. Aided by the precepts and examples of our truly noble ancestry, we ought not to fail; but we cannot disguise the fact that of late certain forces have been

slowly working a change in the habits and morals of our people. We must not be deluded. Liberty without wisdom and virtue may be the greatest of evils. Human nature is alike everywhere. "It is a moral influence, which, with the blessing of God, has formed a state of society so eminently desirable. The same influence which has formed it is indispensable to its preservation."

Before the speaking was concluded the night was falling, and crowds were pouring into the town by rail and by carriage to witness the historical tableaux and the fireworks with which the celebration was to close.

THE HISTORICAL TABLEAUX.

Seldom is there seen a more charming picture than that presented by this usually quiet New England village at the close of that beautiful autumn day. The sight-seers still lingered, wandering about under the graceful elms, admiring the old houses, some of which had witnessed nearly all of the marvelous changes of these two hundred and fifty years; the incoming trains were constantly adding to the number of visitors those who were unable to be present during the day; the wide streets, across which lay the afternoon shadows, were still beautiful in their holiday attire of flags, bunting and chinese lanterns, ready for the illumination of the evening; clouds were gathering in the western sky, and upon them Mother Nature, as if to outdo her kindly spirit of the day, was painting a gorgeous sunset, resplendent in vermilion and gold; upon the broad piazzas of cheerful homes family groups in happy reunion were chatting of the olden days, and reviving pleasant recollections of life in dear old Stratford. But as night set in, "Academy Hill" became once more the centre of attraction for the crowds, for there was to be exhibited a somewhat unique feature of the day's celebration—the historical tableaux representing old-time life and incidents connected with the history of the town.

In authentic story and oft-repeated tradition the deeds of the early settlers, and of the fathers in the Revolution, have been handed down through the years until those of the present day have a very good knowledge of the general features of the most important events in our history, but of the no less interesting details of those events, very poor conceptions indeed. To cull from the splendid story of Stratford's past the most stirring and picturesque scenes; to make a special study of the leading characters in those events; to determine the costumes appropriate for each character, and to reproduce the whole picture in living tableau, on a large scale, in the open air, and under artificial lights, was, at once, a happy thought and a difficult undertaking.

Credit is due to Mr. Howard J. Curtis for first turning the attention of the General Committee to this feature of the celebration, and a large measure of praise belongs to those ladies and gentlemen who entered most heartily into the preparations for the tableaux. A liberal appropriation was made for meeting the necessary expenses of such an exhibition, and a Committee on Tableaux was formed, composed of Robert H. Russell and Wilfred M. Peck as stage managers, Mrs. Howard J. Curtis, Mrs. C. G. Gunther, and Mrs. Frederick H. Allen.

After careful research, eight tableaux were selected, covering the leading events in the history of the time, from 1639 when the hardy settlers first camped in the forest on the western bank of the river, called in Indian language Pootatuck, down to the time when, after the Revolution, the Colonies became an independent Republic.

Much study was required in the matter of costumes, characters, scenery and stage effects that the pictures might be true representations of the events as they actually occurred. Those called upon to represent the different characters in the scenes entered cheerfully into the spirit of the work, and after many rehearsals the tableaux were ready for presentation.

The exhibition was given in the evening between six and eight o'clock, on a large stage twenty-four feet wide and sixteen feet in depth, with a drop curtain in front and upright frames on the sides and rear for supporting the scenery, which was erected just south of the Episcopal church, at the foot of "Academy Hill," where the ground sloped gradually toward the stage, forming a natural amphitheatre for the large concourse of people to witness the tableaux.

The stage was effectively illuminated by calcium lights, under the direction of Mr. Frederick C. Beach. The scenery for the occasion was painted by Mr. Frederick Lillingston—one scene representing the front of the old Benjamin tavern, with the old-fashioned porch and swinging sign, and another an old-time kitchen, with its huge fireplace, high mantel and tall clock.

The audience which waited in front of the stage for nearly two hours, as the scenes were shifted and the tableaux arranged, was estimated at about eight thousand people, and they testified their appreciation of the entertainment not less by their patience in waiting for so long a time than by the generous applause which greeted each presentation of a picture.

Those who took part in the tableaux were as follows:

Mrs. FREDERICK H. ALLEN.	Miss ANNIE IVES.
Miss FLORENCE W. ALLEN.	Master JOEL IVES.
Miss EMMA G. ALLEN.	Mr. GEORGE T. JEWELL.
Mr. PRESTON H. ASPELL.	Mrs. GEORGE T. JEWELL.
Mr. FREDERICK S. BEARDSLEY.	Mr. JOHN E. JUDSON.
Mr. EDWARD M. WELLS.	Mr. SAMUEL C. LEWIS.
Mr. I. L. BELDEN.	Miss ALICE P. LILLINGSTON.
Miss GRACE BELDEN.	Mr. GEORGE MOREHOUSE.
Mr. ROBERT BLAKEMAN.	Mr. ELIOT W. PECK.
Mr. CHARLES W. BLAKESLEE.	Master EARL C. PECK.
Mrs. CHARLES W. BLAKESLEE.	Miss ELSIE A. POWERS.
Master CLAYTON BLAKESLEE.	Mr. DAVID L. RHOADES.
Mr. WILLIAM B. BRISTOL.	Miss LAURA RICHARDS.
Mr. STERLING BUNNELL.	Mr. WILLIAM H. ROGERS.
Mr. FRANK BUNNELL.	Mr. LEWIS H. RUSSELL.
Miss MARY J. BURNS.	Master MEIGS B. RUSSELL.
Miss KATHERINE BURNS.	Mr. JAMES U. SAMMIS.
Mr. BENJAMIN W. BYINGTON.	Mr. CHARLES E. STAGG.
Mrs. HOWARD J. CURTIS.	Mr. CHARLES K. STAGG.
Miss EMMA L. CURTIS.	Mr. WILLIAM H. STEVENS.
Mr. FRANK R. CURTIS.	Miss AMEY T. TAINTOR.
Mr. GEORGE A. FAIRCHILD.	Miss JULIA M. TAINTOR.
Mr. ROBERT B. FRENCH.	Miss D. WINIFRED TODD.
Mr. C. G. GUNTHER.	Miss SALLY D. WELLS.
Mrs. C. G. GUNTHER.	Miss M. LOUISE WOLFE.

Tableau I.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE SETTLERS.

History says the first settlers came from Wethersfield, Conn., but in what direction, or whether by land or water they reached their new home, even tradition is comparatively silent. The love of adventure, the spirit of pioneer enterprise, or, more probably, the desire to plant a new colony with institutions based upon their own peculiar ideas of social and religious freedom, lured the first seventeen families into the wilderness to occupy the Indian village of Cupheag,—“a place of shelter.”

Those seventeen families were as follows :

- Rev. ADAM BLAKEMAN, his wife and six children.
- WILLIAM BEARDSLEY, his wife and four young children.
- WILLIAM WILCOXSON, his wife and three young children.
- RICHARD HARVEY and his wife.
- Widow ELIZABETH CURTIS and two sons (young men).
- THOMAS FAIRCHILD and his wife.
- PHILIP GROVES (or GROVER) and his wife.
- JOHN HURD and probably his wife and son.

STRATFORD'S CELEBRATION.

RICHARD MILLS, his wife and son.

WILLIAM JUDSON, his wife and three sons.

FRANCIS NICHOLS and three sons.

JOHN PEAT, his wife and two children.

ROBERT SEABROOKE.

THOMAS SHERWOOD, his wife and six children.

WILLIAM CROOKER (or CROOKER) and his wife.

WILLIAM QUENBY, his wife and two children.

ARTHUR BOSTWICK, his wife and son.

In all, seventeen families, containing sixty-five souls.

When the curtain rose a camp in the woods was presented. In the foreground was a fire of rough logs, over which hung a huge kettle suspended from a rude tripod; grouped about the fire were women preparing the first repast; to the right another group were engaged in unpacking the baggage, taking from old chests and bundles cooking utensils, articles of camp furniture, guns, chairs, bedding, blankets, and such other articles as the settlers would naturally bring with them to their new home. The background of the picture consisted of trees of the forest, placed in various positions to imitate nature, while above these the scenery was arranged to represent the blue sky.

The posing of the characters, the simple costumes of the settlers, and the various articles of camp life displayed, formed a striking picture of what must have been a beautiful scene there "in the forest primeval" on the bank of the river two hundred and fifty years ago, and gave all present a vivid impression of life in the pioneer days of the colonies.

Tableau II.

TRADING WITH THE INDIANS.

This picture represented the settlers trading with the Indians. The pioneers of Stratford purchased from the natives their title to the soil, and all dealing with the red men was marked by a spirit of fairness somewhat unusual for those times. This friendly spirit was productive of mutual advantages, and the tableau represented a scene which must have been often enacted in those early days. The background of the picture was one of the rude log houses of our fathers; in the doorway stood women and children; in the foreground were the white men and Indians; to the right some of the settlers were weighing with a mammoth pair of steelyards a large bundle of skins, which the Indians had brought to exchange for such things as the settlers had to offer in trade; seated on the ground on the left was a group of red men watching the

proceedings with cautious eyes ; just behind the group stood the giant form of their chief, Okenuck—the bright costumes and painted cheeks of the Indians making a strong contrast with the sombre-colored clothes and pale faces of the white people.

Tableau III.

GOING TO CHURCH, TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

This tableau was a reproduction of a scene peculiar to early times, and illustrative of the spirit which moved the people of those days to face danger and even death "that they might worship the God they loved according to the dictates of their own consciences." The settlers knew that while their relations with the Indians were for the most part friendly, nevertheless the red men were fickle and treacherous, and that to enjoy the privilege of worshipping God in peace, they must watch as well as pray. As early as 1652 it was voted in town meeting "That the present meeting-house shall be fortified as a place of safety for women and children in all times of danger." The men carried their guns with them to and from the meeting, and, without doubt, from this watchfulness on the part of the men, came the custom, important in those times, of having the men occupy the end of the pew next to the aisle—a custom that lingers still in these days of peaceful worship.

The tableau represented the men, women, and children passing along a path close to the edge of a wood in winter ; in the background the evergreen trees were covered with the newly fallen snow, while the drifts were piled high on either side of the way. In the foreground were the sturdy settlers armed with flint-locks, ever watchful lest the wary red men might surprise them from some convenient ambush ; just behind this guard walked the aged minister and his wife, followed closely by women and children carrying foot-stoves, while in the rear was another force of armed settlers—the whole forming a beautiful and suggestive picture.

Tableau IV.

THE TRIAL OF GOODY BASSETT.

This tableau was given a prominent place on the programme. In dark and gloomy contrast this one sad picture stood out against all the bright and stirring scenes in the early years of Stratford. The children of our now peaceful village could hardly realize that this solemn picture had a rightful place among the rest in this beautiful gallery of views of the olden time ; their elders, too, would willingly have left it

out, were it not that tradition and history alike demanded a place for it if a truthful glimpse of those times was to be presented. In May, 1651, the General Court at Hartford passed the following resolution: "The Governor, Mr. Cullick, and Mr. Clarke, are desired to goe down to Stratford to keep Courte upon the tryal of Goody Bassett for her life, and if the Governor cannot goe, then Mr. Wells is to go in his room."—Col. Records, Vol. I., p. 220.

"The place of Goody Bassett's execution is pointed out by tradition, and would seem to be determined by the names 'Gallows Bridge' and 'Gallows Swamp,' used in the first volume of Stratford Records. The bridge was located on the 'Old Mill' road where the railroad now crosses it."—Orcutt, Vol I., p. 147.

The trial of the witch was selected for the representation upon the stage. In the centre of the background, upon an elevated platform, behind a long desk, were seated the Governor and his assistants composing the Court; to the right stood the haggard form of Goody Bassett between two officers of the law, her woe-begone expression indicating that she knew too well what would be her fate; standing beside her, with head resting upon the shoulder of the unfortunate woman, was a female form whom, tradition says, was the only friend Goody Bassett had in that bitter hour, and who clung to her in belief of her innocence even to the end; in front of the Court stood a female witness with uplifted hand taking the oath which was being administered by one of the Governor's assistants; to the left were the townsfolk, neighbors of Goody Bassett, who had crowded in to witness the downfall of the witch who had been the terror of their lives; some faces showing faint signs of sympathy for the prisoner, but more bearing expressions suggestive of the cruel taunting which the place forbade them to utter, and the still more cruel triumph so impatiently awaited by the crowd. Viewed from before the stage, under the mournful spell which seemed to fall upon the entire audience as the curtain rose, the picture was weird and solemn in the extreme, and was pronounced by many the finest tableau presented. The Governor at the trial was represented by Mr. William H. Stevens, and the witch by Miss Sallie D. Wells.

Tableau V.

MOSES WHEELER'S FERRY.

The history upon which this picture was based is very authentic. The ferry was for many years the only means of crossing the Housatonic

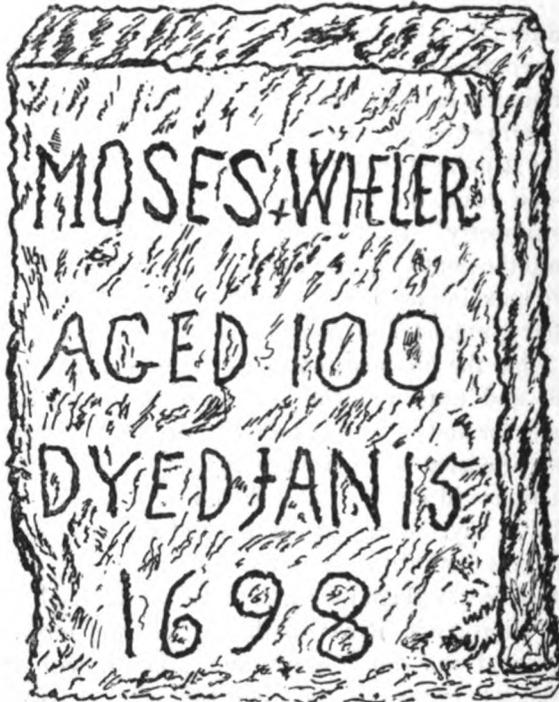
River at Stratford. The General Court at Hartford, May 18, 1648, voted as follows: "The motion made by Mr. Ludlow concerning Moses Wheeler for keeping a ferry at Stratford, is referred to such as shall keep the next court at Fairfield, both in behalf of the country and the town of Stratford." (Col. Records, Vol. I., p. 163.) The court at Fairfield gave a favorable order, and, as appears from the town records, the ferry was running as early as 1653. The inhabitants were to be "ferried over for one half-penny per person, and two pence for man and beast." The agreement stipulated that if Moses Wheeler should leave the ferry after twenty-one years, the town should pay him for his improvements and take the property. It also appears that the property subsequently came back into the control of the town, for, on October 31, 1687, it was voted in town meeting as follows: "That what land the town hath at or near the ferry, upland and meadow, now in the possession of Moses Wheeler, Sr., that the produce and benefit thereof shall henceforth forever be paid and improved for and towards the maintaining of a publique school for and in the town of Stratford." This seems to have been the first provision made by the town for the support of public school instruction. Moses Wheeler died at the age of one hundred years. Tradition says he was a man of great size and strength, able to lift a barrel of cider and drink from the bung-hole.

The picture on the stage presented what must have been a common scene on the Housatonic River in the days of the ferry. The background represented the shore, rocky and wooded, with the blue sky beyond. From a large rock on the right the ferry-boat was pushing off into the stream. The passengers, old and young, were dressed in the costume of the period, and were arranged in various attitudes. Some, gun in hand, were standing looking for a chance shot; others apparently were bent upon enjoying the quiet beauty of the scene or the novelty of the sail. The representation of the gently flowing water in the foreground added much to the natural effect of the picture, while the posing of the figures and the expressions of the faces suggested Dobell's famous painting of "From Shore to Shore."

" In Childhood's hour, with careless joy,
Upon the stream we glide;
With Youth's bright hopes we gayly speed
To reach the other side.

" Manhood looks forth with careful glance,
Time steady plies the oar,
While Old Age calmly waits to hear
The keel upon the shore."

The giant form of Moses Wheeler was well represented by William H. Stevens, standing in the stern, in the act of pushing the boat off into the stream.



TOMBSTONE OF MOSES WHEELER.

From a Pen and Ink Sketch made by Mr. T. B. FAIRCHILD, in 1886.

Tableau VI.

"THE WOLF HUNT."

The history upon which this tableau was based is as follows: "Wolves were a great annoyance to the people of Stratford until about 1725. Premiums of various amounts were offered by the town at different times in addition to the premiums offered by the Colony; yet the animals increased rather than diminished." At a town meeting held April 17, 1698, it was "voted that all persons ratable should be allowed for man and horse, in the service of destroying wolves, three shillings per day out of the town treasury."

"It was voted and agreed that the next Thursday shall be the day to go upon the business of killing wolves if the weather permit, or the next fair day; all persons to be ready by seven o'clock in the morning upon the hill at the meeting-house by the beat of the drum."—Orcutt, Vol. I., p. 289.

"Joseph Curtis, residing near 'Old Farms,' and others went to Newtown to gather grain, and on their way home were attacked by the wolves so furiously that they threw their bags of grain from their horses and rode home at full speed to save themselves and horses."—Orcutt, Vol. II., p. 183.

The tableau was a representation of the scene on Meeting-house Hill. In the foreground were the men and boys, dressed in various hunting costumes. Some were examining the old flint-locks, others filling the powder-horns and shot-bags, and others restraining the enthusiasm of the dogs that were to aid in the chase. The posing of the characters was full of animation, revealing the courage of the old-time hunter and the stirring heroism of even the boys and dogs, and gave a fine opportunity for a lively display of the accoutrements of the hunt two hundred years ago.

Tableau VII.

THE VISIT OF WASHINGTON AND LA FAYETTE.

During the early years of the Revolutionary War, Washington and La Fayette met and dined together at the Benjamin Tavern in Stratford. Alice Thompson, daughter of George Benjamin, the tavern-keeper, died in May, 1862, nearly ninety-eight years old. She often related the story that "on that occasion she and other girls were gathering berries on the banks of the Housatonic near the ferry, when suddenly a cry was heard that soldiers were crossing the river, and presently an officer with a number of others landed and asked the ferry-man to direct them to the tavern. He replied, "Yonder is the tavern-keeper's daughter;" and, calling Alice, bade her show General La Fayette the way to her father's house. She walked beside his horse on the way to the village, La Fayette talking to her in his charming broken English, telling her of his children, and asking her if she would not like to go to France with him and see them. On reaching home she found that Washington had arrived by the western road. Her mother, thus unexpectedly called upon to provide a dinner for two such distinguished guests, would have apologized for her fare, but was assured by Washington, that all he

wanted was simple food, and that what was good enough for her family was good enough for him. Mrs. Benjamin happened to have some potatoes, then a great rarity, and Alice obtained leave to place them upon the table. In doing this she stepped between Washington and La Fayette, when the former, placing his hand upon her head, turned her face towards him and asked her name, and, after some other questions, told her to be a good girl, and gave her his blessing.—Orcutt, Vol. I., pp. 389-90.

The picture of this noteworthy event, as represented upon the stage, had for a background the front of the old Benjamin Tavern. In the open door stood the tavern-keeper's wife, making her politest courtesy; near the steps stood the landlord, respectfully bowing a welcome to his distinguished guests. On the right were Washington and La Fayette in Continental costume, posing in all the splendid military bearing of the olden time. Behind them were the officers of their respective suites, while at the side of General Washington stood little Alice Benjamin, looking up into his face in childish wonderment. At the left were servant girls of the tavern, peeping from behind some shrubbery to catch a glimpse of the scene and its distinguished actors, the whole forming a life-like picture worthy of the event. Mr. John E. Judson represented the character of General Washington, and Mr. George A. Fairchild that of La Fayette, in this tableau, while the character of little Alice was taken by Julia Thompson, the ten-year-old great-granddaughter of the Alice Benjamin of history.

Tableau VIII.

THE WEDDING OF GLORIANNA FOLSOM.

The subject of the closing tableau was the Wedding of Glorianna Folsom, a revival of the crowning scene in the beautiful romance of Stratford. This tale has been told so often to the children about the hearthstone, so graphically described in Orcutt's History, and again so well repeated in the story of Stratford elsewhere in this book, that a brief rehearsal is all that is needed here to form the groundwork of the tableau. Stripped of much that tradition has added, the simple story runs that in the closing days of the autumn of 1770 there came to Stratford a stranger, wandering upon pleasant errands of his own. Charmed with the quiet beauty of the rural scene, and the still more enchanting beauty of the face and character of Glorianna Fol-

som, a sweet girl of sixteen summers, he lingered at the Benjamin Tavern until an acquaintance was formed which soon ripened into mutual love. The stranger was John Sterling, the son of a Scottish baronet. Against all opposition of the mother and the elder sister of Glorianna, young Sterling won his bride, the marriage taking place March 10, 1771, and being recorded by a simple entry in the records of Christ (Episcopal) Church, Stratford. After the wedding they remained in Stratford, young Sterling teaching school "in the old Pendleton house" for a year or more. In the autumn of 1772 the baronet wrote for his son to come home and bring his beautiful wife. Sterling departed alone, promising to send for his wife as soon as possible, but Dame Gossip at once made the prophecy that Glorianna would never more behold the young Scottish nobleman. However, in 1773 there came into the harbor of New York a ship, fitted for her special comfort, with a quantity of goods of elegant material, and with maid-servants to assist in the preparations for bearing Glorianna away to her future home in Scotland, where a magnificent reception awaited her. John Sterling, upon the death of his father in 1791, succeeded to the title of baronet, which he held till his death. The Lady of Sterling Castle, though so widely separated from her family in America, kept up a most cordial intercourse with them as long as she lived, sending several of her children to visit them. "In Playfair's Baronetage of Scotland it is stated that Sir John and Glorianna Sterling had nineteen children in the first eighteen years of their marriage. It is said by the descendants of her relatives here that she was the mother of twenty-two children. The Baronetage of Scotland shows that one of her sons succeeded to his father's title, and that one of her descendants held the title in 1879."—Orcutt, Vol. I., p. 451.

As a fitting representation of the romance the wedding was selected for the tableau. On the right of the picture were the bride and groom dressed in the costume of colonial time, standing before the aged minister who was pronouncing the words of the beautiful marriage ceremony of the Church of England; just behind them stood the father, mother, and elder sister, while the background of the scene was occupied by the wedding guests elegantly attired for the occasion; near the middle foreground were two little friends of the bride, boy and girl, he in velvet suit, with long, dark curls about his shoulders, she in white, with flowing golden hair, both looking up in wondering admiration into the faces of the beautiful bride and the stately groom. The applause which greeted the tableau called up the curtain several times,

and when it fell at last there lingered in the hearts of all a regret that the enchanting scene of beauty could not remain forever. The bride on this occasion was represented by Miss Emma L. Curtis, the groom by Mr. Frederick S. Beardsley, the minister by Mr. Elliott W. Peck, the father by Mr. James U. Sammis, the mother by Miss D. Winifred Todd, the sister by Mrs. James U. Sammis, and the two little friends, Master Earl C. Peck and Miss Grace Belden.

THE MINUET.

After the tableau of Glorianna's marriage the curtain rose again, displaying the guests at the wedding moving gracefully through the measures of the stately minuet to the music of the violin in the skilful hands of Mr. C. G. Gunther. This feature of the entertainment was under the direction of Miss Florence W. Allen, whose careful training enabled the young people to reproduce this old-time dance of our fathers and mothers with all the grace and dignity of a hundred years ago. Miss M. Louise Wolfe, in a beautiful costume once worn at the Court of Denmark, having for partner Mr. John E. Judson dressed in colonial style, led the minuet; Miss Florence W. Allen wearing a dress made for the ball given in honor of the opening of the Erie Canal, Miss Amy F. Taintor in a costume the fac-simile of the one worn by Glorianna, Miss Elsie A. Powers and Miss Alice P. Lillingston, appropriately dressed, and looking the "fair women" of the time they represented, were led with courtly dignity through the mazes of the dance by their respective gentlemen, Messrs. Preston H. Aspell, Benjamin W. Byington, Robert B. French, and William B. Bristol, who, in tinsel and gold and velvet, personated the "brave men" of those good old times.

As the dance drew to its close the lights gradually grew dim, and as the dancers made their final courtesies the growing darkness gently wrapt them round, and these living pictures of the days of long ago seemed to fade into a veiled and mystic past, leaving only their beautiful impressions upon the tablets of memory.

THE LOAN EXHIBITION.

It was late in the month of August preceding the date of the celebration, when the General Committee of Arrangements decided to make a Loan Exhibition of antique articles one of the features of the celebration.

The Committee then voted to appoint Howard J. Curtis a committee of one, to prepare a Loan Exhibition, to arrange some Historical Tableaux, and to mark places of historic interest in the town, with power to add to his committee, to select and employ such assistants as he might think desirable. The work of arranging the Historical Tableaux was placed in charge of a committee whose names are given in the article entitled "Historical Tableaux."

The following ladies kindly consented to take the responsibility of the preparation and management of the Loan Exhibition :

Mrs. GEORGE A. TALBOT,
Mrs. PRESTON H. HODGES,
Mrs. CORNELIA TUCKER,

Miss S. ELIZABETH JUDSON,
and
Miss SARAH RUSSELL.

They were assisted in a careful canvass of the town, in the preparation of the Town Hall, and in the collection and arrangement of the articles exhibited, by the following ladies and gentlemen :

HOBACE H. JUDSON,
EDWIN F. HALL,
WILLIAM B. COGSWELL,
RANSOM B. BURRITT,
Mrs. WILLIAM N. ELY,
Mrs. CHARLES C. WELLS,
Mrs. ANSON H. BLAKEMAN,
Mrs. ROBERT W. CURTIS,
Miss ALICE E. CURTIS,
Miss JENNIE P. SMITH,

Miss HELEN M. SAMMIS,
Miss AMEY TALBOT,
Miss CORNELIA BURRITT,
Miss ELIZABETH M. BURRITT,
Miss GEORGIANA WILCOXSON,
Miss ALICE JUDSON,
Miss MAY SMITH,
Miss MAY PECK,
Miss MAY CURTIS,
Mrs. HOWARD J. CURTIS.

The labor performed by these ladies and gentlemen in the preparation for this exhibition was very great. The canvass of the town, the

examination of the lists of articles brought in by the canvassers, the selection of those articles desired for exhibition, the preparation of a catalogue, the arrangement of the hall, so as to make the best display and still preserve the greatest possible amount of space for visitors, were tasks requiring skill, taste, good management, and great labor.

The catalogue of the exhibition, commenced on the third day preceding the celebration, was carried to a successful conclusion by Mrs. Preston H. Hodges, Miss Sarah Russell and Miss S. Elizabeth Judson; and it came to the exhibition hall, warm from the press, late on Wednesday evening.

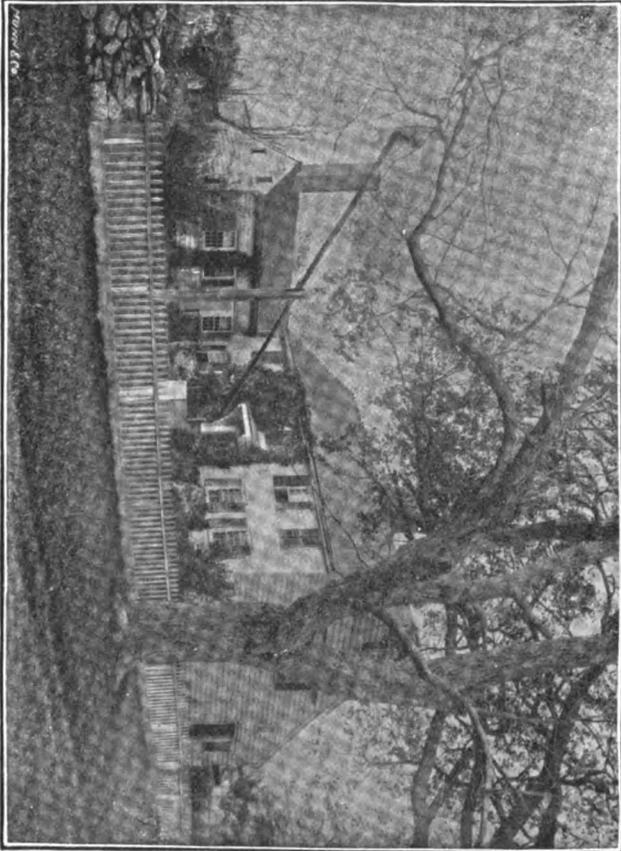
The exhibition was without doubt one of the most interesting and instructive parts of the celebration, and although the time for preparation was short, the exhibition could scarcely have been improved by more labor or longer preparation. All the antique articles were displayed that could be well arranged in the hall. The general effect was excellent, and it was in fact a large and complete exhibition of antiques. The exhibition was held in the Town Hall on the lower floor. Along the sides and across the end of the room a railing was placed about five feet from the wall, and within this railing were arranged the larger articles on exhibition, the old furniture including two choice old English sideboards; old farming implements; ancient musical instruments, and other antique articles of interest without number. On a long table within this rail was arranged a large and interesting exhibit of firearms and other articles of war and the hunt.

Upon the walls were hung old portraits of many former inhabitants of the town, and pieces of old tapestry and articles of clothing and bedding were also there displayed. Through the centre of the room tables were arranged in a long line, and upon these were placed, back to back, two rows of glass showcases.

Within these the smaller and more valuable articles on exhibition were placed; here could be found choice old China, rare pieces of ancient embroidery, jewelry, old books, and innumerable articles prized as relics and heirlooms in many families.

Mr. Lorenzo B. Beers and Mr. Robert W. Curtis prepared and exhibited a case of beautiful Indian relics from the rare collections made by them in the town and vicinity.

It would be impossible to give any adequate description of the interesting antiques exhibited. The reader must turn to the catalogue of the exhibition which follows this article, and from a study of it form a proper idea of the extent and character of the exhibition.



(Erected before 1713.)

THE FREEMAN CURTIS HOUSE.

From a Photograph by F. C. BRACE, 1890.

During the day of the celebration a visitors' book was kept at the Loan Exhibition, and while from the crowded condition of the room it was impossible to secure more than a portion of the visitors' names, about one thousand signatures were secured. This book is kept on file with the town records. For the benefit of the towns-people the exhibition was continued during the Friday afternoon and evening following the celebration. On Saturday morning a large party of workers went to the hall at eight o'clock, and at once began the task of distributing the articles to their proper owners, and with the aid of many horses and wagons the work was speedily accomplished. At twelve o'clock, noon, the last load left the hall and the Loan Exhibition was a thing of the past. The committee have yet to hear of a single article lost or badly injured. It is needless to say that the safe return of the articles to their owners gave a feeling of great relief to the committee in charge, yet it was with something akin to sadness that the work of closing the exhibition was completed. It had cost much labor, and had given much pleasure. It will be many days before the scattered integers of the exhibition will again be gathered together to entertain and instruct a host of visitors.

CATALOGUE OF LOAN EXHIBITION.

MRS. HENRY THOMPSON.

1. Coat-of-arms.
2. Silver candle snuffers and tray.
3. Chair of Mrs. John Thompson, used until her death in her 97th year.
4. Looking-glass 140 years old.
5. Small trunk of Delia Thompson.
6. Two blue China plates, Mrs. John Thompson.
7. Tea-table of Mary Beardsley, 1739.
8. Small milk pitcher of Mary Beardsley, 1739.
9. Chair of Mary Beardsley.
10. Silver candlesticks.

MRS. CHARLES D. CURTIS.

11. Grammar and history, of 1790, which belonged to Judson Curtis, father of C. D. Curtis.
12. Continental money, 06¼ cts., 10 cts., and \$30, bills of 1815.
13. An old paper, "National Intelligencer," containing an account of a robbery committed in Stratford at Benj. Ufford's store, which stood on the site where the Graded School building now stands.
14. Olive oil glasses, over 200 years old, belonging to Mrs. Judson Curtis.
15. Antique pitcher.
16. Large platter, blue and white China, with cake plate to match.

17. A small platter formerly, owned by Sophia Beardaley.
18. Two pistols; flint lock, 1765.
19. Picture of "Charter Oak" at Hartford.
20. Small plate.
21. Picture, "The Prayer at Valley Forge."
22. Gin glass.

MRS. JOHN O. M. PARK.

23. Wineglass.
24. Coffee-pot.
25. Wooden spoon.
26. Glass bottles.
27. Polly Howe's Chinese bandbox.
28. Cocosnut shell carved by American Indians.
29. Indian sandals.
30. White gauze veil.
31. Portmanteau.
32. Music-book, 1804.
33. Small basket.

MRS. BENJAMIN WELLS.

34. Pewter platter belonging to Rev. Nathan Birdseye.
35. Hymn-book from which he read the 72d psalm, when 100 years old, in the Congregational Church.

MRS. LEWIS H. RUSSELL.

36. Portrait of Asa Benjamin, date 1795.
37. Portrait of Hannah Plant Benjamin, 1795.
38. Portrait of Everard Benjamin, 1795.
39. Silk bed-quilt of H. P. Benjamin.
40. Wristlet worked by Clara Benjamin at the age of 76.
41. Teapot, milk cup, and plate, 1790.
42. Shoulder shawl of H. P. Benjamin.
43. Needle case of H. P. Benjamin.
44. Toast rack.
45. Dutch oven.
46. Portrait of Eliza Russell Tomlinson.
47. Miniature of Robert Morris Russell.
48. Miniature of Amelia Russell.
49. Bound volume of newspaper called "Genius of Liberty," printed by Henry P. Russell, father of L. H. Russell, 1806.
50. China bowl.

MRS. ELIZA T. FAIRCHILD.

51. Red cloak of Judge Robert Fairchild's mother, Martha Fairchild.
52. Chintz bed-quilt of Martha Fairchild, 1739.
53. Wineglasses of Martha Fairchild, 1739.
54. Punch bowl of Martha Fairchild, 1739.
55. Picture, "Birth of Christ," date, 1739.
56. Portrait of Dr. William T. Shelton.
57. Silver tobacco-box of Dr. William T. Shelton.

MRS. CHARLES P. BURRITT.

- 58. Mortar and pestle.
- 59. Wooden foot-stove.
- 60. Game board, 1782.
- 61. Pair of stays.

MRS. DENNIS COE.

- 62. Pewter plate, 150 years old.
- 63. Wooden bowl.

MRS. LEWIS COE.

- 64. Bed-quilt, 100 years old.
- 65. Bed-spread, 130 years old.

MISS SARAH A. COE.

- 66. Basket presented to Mrs. James Coe by Rev. Mr. Stebbins, Pastor of Congregational Church, 1784.

MRS. CHARLES B. SNIFFEN.

- 67. Sword belonging to Lieut. Abel Birdseye, 1747.
- 68. Cane belonging to William Birdseye.
- 69. Silver tankard.
- 70. Two pictures.

MISS JULIA PENDLETON.

- 71. Dressing-table.
- 72. Chair.

MISS ELIZABETH M. BURRITT.

- 73. Two miniatures.
- 74. Silver ear-rings.
- 75. Pink kid slippers, 100 years old.
- 76. Tinder-box; pewter tankard.
- 77. Sampler, 100 years old.
- 78. China.
- 79. Silver watch.
- 80. Books.

MRS. SUSAN A. BARRYMORE.

- 81. Brass warming-pan, with iron handles, 175 years old.
- 82. Iron andirons, 175 years old.
- 83. Bellows, 100 years old.
- 84. Mortar and pestle.
- 85. Mahogany courting chair, 100 years old.
- 86. High back chair, 100 years old.
- 87. Stand or work-table, 25 inches high.
- 88. Table.
- 89. Blue teapot.
- 90. Platter.
- 91. Picture of the Kings of England (engraved on wood), from William the Conqueror to George II.

CHARLES WILCOXSON.

- 92. Chair, 200 years old.
- 93. Pistols and sword.
- 94. Silver candlesticks.

ROBERT G. CURTIS.

- 95. Drinking-flask.
- 96. Powder-horn.
- 97. Pewter dish.
- 98. Pewter mug.
- 99. Churn.

ALBERT WILCOXSON.

- 100. Books.
- 101. Eye-glasses.
- 102. Chair.

LEWIS F. JUDSON.

- 103. Two plates.

SAMUEL W. BEARDSLEE.

- 104. Brass candlesticks.

ELI LEWIS.

- 105. Bed-quilt made by Mrs. Hepzibah Lewis Wooster, a daughter of Eli Lewis, 100 years old.
- 106. Silver spoon; sleeve buttons, said to be beryl, set in silver, made by Mier Miers, a Jew goldsmith, who lived on the hill in the rear of the Levi Curtis homestead.
- 107. Pillow of blue woolen, partly lined with home-made linen, formerly owned by Mrs. Elam Wooster, 100 years old.
- 108. Bible of Mrs. Naomi Walker Lewis, the daughter of James Walker and Jerusha Nichols, 1789.
- 109. Coat, seal brown, woolen, lined with home-made linen, formerly owned by the Eli Lewis who was born January 19th, 1742.
- 110. Chest for nine square bottles, about 150 years old. It was originally the property of Stiles Curtis, who married Rebecca Judson in 1730, the great-grandparents of the present owner.
- 111. Ancient gun, of English manufacture, made in 1741; supposed to have been the property of James Lewis, the great-grandfather of the present owner.
- 112. Toasting iron, supposed to be 125 years old, formerly owned by Mrs. Elam Wooster.
- 113. Willow-ware cup and saucer, formerly owned by Mrs. Elam Wooster.
- 114. Music book, the "Chorister's Companion," printed by T. & S. Green, 1782, for Simeon Jocelyn and Amos Doolittle, New Haven; formerly owned by Eli Walker Lewis.

MRS. CAROLINE THOMPSON.

- 115. Teapot.
- 116. Books.
- 117. Spectacles.
- 118. Snuffbox.
- 119. Ear-rings.
- 120. Vandyke collar.

MRS. SEYMOUR WELLS.

121. Chair.

MRS. ELLSWORTH WILCOX.

122. Teapot.

123. Nutmeg grater.

124. Chair.

125. Small stand.

126. Account book, 1773.

127. Spoon.

MRS. ALONZO GREY.

128. Knife, spoon and bowl.

129. Carved chair.

130. Coin, 1774.

MRS. DAVID W. JUDSON.

131. Bible, 1744.

132. Prayer book, 1812.

133. Samplers, 1767.

134. Samplers, 1810.

135. Samplers, 1819.

136. Blue plate.

137. Vinegar and oil bottle.

138. Tin sugar bowl.

139. Silver candlestick and snuffers.

140. Map of Stratford.

141. Breastpin.

142. Tea-set.

143. Teacup.

144. Teapot.

145. Brass candlestick.

146. Dress.

147. Comb.

148. Cape shawl.

149. Calash.

MRS. ABIGAIL TOMLINSON.

150. Home-made table-cloth, date 1760.

151. Linen bed-curtains.

152. Round table, formerly owned by General Walker.

153. Backgammon board.

154. Small plate, cup, saucer, and spoon, 130 years old.

155. Two plates, dark blue delf.

156. Two fruit dishes.

157. China, very old.

158. Candlesticks, formerly owned by J. H. Tomlinson.

159. Spoons.

160. Picture of Gov. Gideon Tomlinson.

161. Coffee-pot and teapot.

162. Castor.

163. Bed-spread.

- 164. Picture, "Washington crossing the Delaware."
- 165. Picture, "Battle of Lake Champlain."
- 166. Wedgwood pitcher, 1752.
- 167. Plate, pink and green.
- 168. Teapot and plate.
- 169. Sugar bowl.
- 170. Sugar bowl.
- 171. Milk pitcher.
- 172. Cups and saucers and custard cups.
- 173. Red cloak, 100 years old.
- 174. Two large spoons, 130 years old.
- 175. Silhouette.
- 176. Chair.
- 177. Table.
- 178. Military cap.
- 179. Spectacles.
- 180. Portrait of Gov. Gideon Tomlinson.
- 181. Gun which was used by the sentinel who guarded Major Andre before his execution.

FRANK E. BLAKEMAN.

- 182. Study chair of Rev. Nathan Birdseye.

J. HENRY BLAKEMAN.

- 183. Chair formerly owned by Mrs. Elihu Curtiss, and exhibited in the Crystal Palace in New York in 1854, reported to have been buried for preservation during the Revolutionary War; 125 years old at least.
- 184. Cavalry sabre, carried by present owner's grandfather, James Blakeman, during the Revolutionary War.
- 185. Six linen doilies, embroidered by the owner's mother, Mrs. James Blakeman, when 80 years old, the linen having been spun and woven by her when 18 years of age.

ANSON H. BLAKEMAN.

- 186. Cream pitcher.
- 187. Set of small teaspoons, formerly owned by Mrs. Ezra Birdseye; 120 years old.
- 188. Small blue plate, 100 years old.

MISS MYRA CURTIS.

- 189. Chair.
- 190. Mirror.
- 191. Four books.
- 192. China plate, cup and saucer.
- 193. Plaid cloak.
- 194. Collar.
- 195. Bed-spread.

MRS. PETER P. CURTIS.

- 196. Spoons and cream pitcher.
- 197. Round table and candle stand.
- 198. Pewter plates.
- 199. Bed-quilt; original owners, Phoebe Thompson and Wm. Beardsley; 200 years old.

MRS. FREDERICK A. BENJAMIN.

- 200. Facing of a military coat worn by Col. Aaron Benjamin, when Adjutant, in Revolutionary War.
- 201. Silver epaulette worn by Col. Benjamin in the war of 1812.
- 202. Two order books of Adjutant Aaron Benjamin of the Revolutionary army, in his own handwriting, transcribed and read to his regiment in 1779 and 1781; the open one showing Gen. Wayne's order for the attack on Stony Point, in which Adjutant Benjamin participated.
- 203. Two bills of Continental money, date 1778.
- 204. Dulcimer, date 1750.
- 205. A bell harp, date 1750.

MRS. GEORGE, BARTRAM.

- 206. A tray, over 100 years old.

MR. WILLIAM CURTIS.

- 207. "Connecticut Journal," 1789, with address of a Senator to President Washington.

MISS AUGUSTA WHEELER.

- 208. China plate, 108 years old; belonged to Col. Philo Lewis.
- 209. Counterpane, 100 years old; belonged to Miss Nancy Lewis.
- 210. Two-tined fork, silver handle; belonged to Miss Polly Howe.
- 211. Silver watch, over 100 years old; belonged to Captain Samuel Lewis.
- 212. A deed recorded by Joseph Curtiss, who was Town Clerk in Stratford for fifty successive years, 1677-1727.
- 213. Lace capes.

MRS. MOSES WHEELER.

- 214. Bead bag, knitted by Elizabeth Nichols Middlebrook, 1790.
- 215. China teapot, milk pitcher, and sugar bowl; belonged to Hannah Beach Nichols, 1761.

MRS. WILLIAM J. PECK.

- 216. Wine stand, from the Abner Judson house; 150 years old.
- 217. Book (1706) owned by Timothy Titherton, who married into Silas Hubbell's family, being the 5th generation removed from the present owner.
- 218. Two muslin caps, formerly owned by Mrs. Silas Hubbell, Sr.; 100 years old.
- 219. Antique looking-glass, formerly owned by Mrs. Silas Hubbell, Sr.; 100 years old.

MRS. ELIZA CHATFIELD.

- 220. Goblets, made from wood of the old Episcopal Church, erected 1743.

MISS MARY FAIRCHILD.

- 221. Old vase of great antiquity.

MRS. F. H. FELLOWS.

- 222. Picture of the Second Episcopal Church in Stratford (built 1743), framed with wood taken from the church when torn down.

STRATFORD'S CELEBRATION.

MRS. JOHN HARD.

223. Table and urn, made from wood of the old Episcopal Church.

MRS. SAMUEL T. HOUGHTON.

224. Fruit dish, used in the Houghton family over 100 years.
 225. Bottle, with wooden stopple, fitted with great ingenuity by a Continental soldier on the morning after the battle of Bunker Hill, and given by him as a souvenir to Samuel T. Houghton's great-grandmother, who had just furnished breakfast for the soldier and his comrade on the morning after that memorable fight.

MRS. SHELDON P. CURTIS.

226. Indian mortar and pestle.

MRS. SAMUEL L. BOOTH.

227. Tape loom.
 228. China sugar bowl, slop bowl, custard cup, and tea caddy.
 229. Plate with portrait of Lafayette.
 230. Wagon seat, first ever used in Stratford.
 231. Dressea, 150 years old.
 232. Portrait.
 233. Picture, woven in silk, of Sir Robert Peel.

MRS. SAMUEL A. PATTERSON.

234. Milk pitcher.

MRS. ORVILLE CURTIS.

235. Table-cloth, 250 years old, a Wells heirloom.

MRS. JULIUS E. THOMAS.

236. A plate.
 237. Ancient warrant for arrest.

MRS. MARY T. MALLETT

238. Carving; came over in the Mayflower.
 239. Mug, 100 years old.
 240. Silver snuffbox.
 241. Tumbler of painted glass.
 242. Silver sugar tongs and spoons.
 243. Syrup cup, and plate.
 244. Lantern.
 245. Old deeds; the most ancient, 1735.

MISS MARIA WILCOXSON.

246. China.
 247. Picture.
 248. Jewelry.

MRS. SUSAN T. WALKER.

- 249. Antique mitts.
- 250. Walker Bible.
- 251. Walker table.
- 252. Milk pitcher.
- 253. Bed curtain.
- 254. Gen. Joseph Walker's commission as Captain, 1777.

MRS. MUNSON CURTIS.

- 255. Old chair.
- 256. Engraving of Washington and family.

MRS. CHARLES P. BURRITT.

- 257. Old pair of breeches.
- 258. Picture in silk.
- 259. Sugar bowl.

MRS. HOWARD J. CURTIS.

- 260. Silver salver.
- 261. Smallest books known in the country.
- 262. Mother of pearl boxes, with lace.
- 263. Spoons.
- 264. Candlesticks and snuffers.

MR. JOSEPH CURTIS.

- 265. Autograph of Washington, on discharge of Connecticut soldiers.
- 266. Sewing silk shawl, and collar.

MISS SARAH PERRY.

- 267. Muslin cap, 100 years old.
- 268. Silver spoon, 80 years old, hammered from a silver dollar; it formerly belonged to the present owner's grandmother, Mrs. Sally Perry.

MRS. LEWIS BEARDSLEY.

- 269. Snuffers and tray.

MRS. JOHN H. SELLECK.

- 270. Old chair.

MRS. CHARLES GILBERT.

- 271. Table of Gen. Joseph Walker.
- 272. Sword.

MR. WILLIAM STRONG.

- 273. Second piano ever in Stratford.

MRS. DAVID P. JUDSON.

- 274. Old English oak cupboard, brought to Stratford in 1639 by William Judson.
- 275. English oak chest, with drawers, brought to Stratford in 1639 by William Judson.

276. Fruit or pickle dish, white stone-ware, salt glazed, Aaron Wood, Staffordshire, England, 1740-60.
277. Fulham jug, made at the pottery established by Dr. Dwight, who patented his discovery of "the mystery of transparent earthen-ware commonly known by the name of porcelain, China or Persian ware." This jug was sent, with other pieces, from England, by Lady Sterling (Glorianna Folsom, married March 10, 1771, in Stratford, Conn.) to her sister, Anna Folsom, who married Abram Tomlinson; given by her great-grand daughters, the Misses Peck, to the present owner, together with what remains of a doll, also sent by Lady Sterling.
278. Josiah Wedgwood plate, 1752.
279. Mayflower snuffbox, enamelled on copper, 1620.
280. Patch box, specimen of Bilston enamel, 1790.
281. First size teacup, 1750.
282. Plate Gen. David Wooster.
283. Delft-ware bowl and plate, 1700. (Dayton family.)
284. Pieces of oak beam taken from the building adjoining the Dayton homestead, erected in 1650; presented to the owner by the artist, Mrs. Lily Curtis Angell.
285. Gilt card basket. (Wiley family.)
286. Faith, Hope and Charity, 1730. (DeForest family.)
287. Admiral Pocock; William Pitt; Maria, from "Sterne's Sentimental Journey;" and Sweet Poll of Plymouth; Parson Wetmore's parlor pictures.
288. Delft-ware inkstand, Parson Wetmore's, Pastor Congregational Church, 1753-1780.
289. Newspapers, "The American Telegraph" (published when Bridgeport was Newfield, 1797).
290. "Connecticut Patriot," 1828.
291. "Connecticut Gazette," New London, 1786.
292. Latin book, used in Yale College, 1752.
293. Fairfield County Convention, W. H. Harrison, 1840.
294. Continental money; £5 note issued by the Colony of New York, 1758.

MR. ROBERT H. WETMORE.

295. Parson Wetmore's punch bowl.

MISS CELIA CURTIS.

296. Dressing-table, date 1764.
297. Curtis Bible, date 1599.
298. Fruit dish.

MRS. CHARLES C. WELLS.

299. Chair, exhibited in the Crystal Palace, New York, in 1854, 125 years old, formerly owned by Mrs. Elihu Curtis, of Oronoque.
300. Tray, formerly owned by Mrs. Ezra Birdseye.
301. Bible, 105 years old, containing the record of the death of Lieutenant Nathan Wells, who died May 20, 1776.
302. Manual of the first Continental Congress, held in Philadelphia, September 5, 1774.
303. Pewter tumblers; originally belonged to the family of Moses Wheeler.
304. Teapot; sugar bowl.
305. Cloak and bonnet.

MR. DAVID B. BOOTH.

- 306. Old account book, 1690.
- 307. Brass knocker.
- 308. Continental money, 5cts., 1777.

MRS. SAMUEL N. WELLS.

- 309. Cup and saucer and teapot.
- 310. Cap, 200 years old.
- 311. Two small spoons.

REV. COLLIS I. POTTER.

- 312. Tumbler, 130 years old; came from the present owner's great-grandmother, Mrs. Daniel Ford, of Litchfield, Ct.
- 313. Fan, 130 years old.

MISS JENNIE SHELTON.

- 314. Two Spanish silver dollars, found in the cellar of Dr. Shelton's residence.
- 315. Ancient needlework.
- 316. Sheets spun by Mrs. Caroline Shelton.

MRS. FREDERICK LILLINGSTON.

- 317. Ancient work-bag.

MRS. WILLIAM E. WHEELER.

- 318. One chair.
- 319. Tea caddy.
- 320. Shawl.

MISS SUSAN C. CURTIS.

- 321. Chair.
- 322. Plates.

MRS. C. G. GUNTHER.

- 323. Two old flags.
- 324. Wedding dress.

MRS. LAMSON VAN VOORHIS.

- 325. Old clock.

MRS. JOHN W. LATTIN.

- 326. Highdaddy, 130 years old; formerly owned by Jacob Baldwin.

MRS. WILSON FRENCH.

- 327. Warming-pan.
- 328. Spoon.
- 329. China cup.

MISS EMILY BOOTH.

- 330. Glass.

MRS. LEWIS BURRITT.

- 331. Miniature.

MRS. L. L. WOODING.

332. Dress.

MRS. S. C. DICKINSON.

333. Bible.

334. Pitcher.

MR. FREDERICK F. PERRY.

335. Silver dollar, 1782, formerly owned by William M. Perry.

336. Silver dollar, 1795, formerly owned by William M. Perry.

337. Silver dollar, 1800, formerly owned by William M. Perry.

338. Silver dollar, 1818, formerly owned by William M. Perry.

MRS. PHILIP C. LEWIS.

339. Tea-pot stand, over 100 years old, came from present owner's grandfather, Col. Philo Lewis.

340. Small dressing-table, over 100 years old, came from present owner's grandfather, Col. Philo Lewis.

341. Bead bag, 100 years old.

FROM THE "JOHNSON HOMESTEAD."

342. Basin and ewer, old Chinese, 150 years old.

343. Early brown Derby cup and saucer, 125 years old.

344. Embroidered white satin slippers and brocade dress, worn by Mrs. Samuel Johnson, about 1740.

345. Screen, worked about 1760.

346. Table, bought at the auction sale of the effects of the last Colonial-Governor of New York.

347. Autograph letters from Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, and General Washington.

348. Old laces, Venetian, Pomp.

349. Tea-pot, cups and saucers, old Chinese, the first importation to the colonies.

MISS MARY L. SNOWDEN.

350. Miniature side saddle, 100 years old, came to the present owner from her grandmother, Mrs. Robert Bogardus.

351. Opera glass, 100 years old, owned by same.

352. Tea spoon, buried in Trinity Church yard during the revolution.

353. Homer's Poems (Melmoth's edition).

354. Domestic Memories, dedicated to Mrs. General Washington in 1790.

355. Black velvet hat, and riding hat, worn by Mrs. N. H. Snowden

356. Flute used by Rev. S. F. Snowden, when a student in the Princeton College, 100 years ago.

MRS. GEORGE A. TALBOT.

357. Pictures of the twelve months, female figures, very old.

358. Two old engravings.

359. Dresses, nearly 100 years old.

360. Lace, slippers and embroidery, same period.

361. Chair, 150 years old.

362. Specimens of China, 200 years old.

- 363. Combs, 100 years old.
- 364. Small articles of jewelry.
- 365. Old silver.
- 366. Old tankard.
- 367. Toilet glass, 150 years old.
- 368. Arm chair, same date.
- 369. Carved fan.
- 370. Candlesticks.
- 371. Bronze mirror.

MRS. WILLIAM N. ELY.

- 372. Spinning wheel and flax spinner, used from 1790 to 1830.
- 373. Newspaper of 1780, with the account of the treachery of Benedict Arnold.
- 374. Pearl jewelry, worn by the owner's great-grandmother, Mrs. Thomas Olcott, who lived in Stratford 150 years ago.
- 375. Lace shawl, worn by the owner's grandmother, Mrs. Capt. Nehemiah Gorham; 125 years old.

MRS. JOHN W. STERLING.

- 376. Several numbers of "Connecticut Journal," 1775 and 1782.
- 377. Dr. Hezekiah Tomlinson's arm chair, 1770.
- 378. Wood engravings of battles of Concord and Lexington, by Paul Revere, first wood engraving done in America.
- 379. Silver bodkin used by Sarah Blackleach, about 1740.
- 380. Tomlinson coat of arms, brought to Stratford by Henry Tomlinson, 1657.
- 381. Solomon Plant's hymn-book, 1761.
- 382. Bed-curtain, 1790.
- 383. Picture, Washington driving the Chariot of Liberty.

MISS AMEY TALBOT.

- 384. Breastpin.
- 385. Ivory box.

MRS. A. E. ROWLAND.

- 386. Old tankard.
- 387. Coral and pearls over 100 years old.

MRS. E. M. CURTIS.

- 388. Silver pitcher, hidden from the British in the well at Harvey's farm.

MISS AMEY TAINTOR.

- 389. Carved comb, 100 years old.

MISS JULIA TAINTOR.

- 390. Knife and fork, period before the Revolution.

MRS. EMILY WHEELER.

- 391. China jar, very old.
- 392. Four delft plates.
- 393. Frying pan, originally owned by Moses Wheeler, 250 years old.

MISS CORNELIA I. CURTIS.

- 394. Book of Paintings, 80 years old.
- 395. Satin bag.
- 396. Two Silhouettes.
- 397. Doll, 86 years old.

MISS SELENE A. BROOKS.

- 398. Map of Stratford, 100 years old.
- 399. Map of Stratford, 66 years old.

MRS. ABRAHAM LEWIS.

- 400. Silver spoon, 163 years old.
- 401. Silver spoon, 144 years old.

MRS. C. M. BLAKEMAN.

- 402. Hatchel.
- 403. Sugar bowl.

MR. STILES JUDSON.

- 404. Old documents.
- 405. Fancy piece, or stint, worked by Mrs. Eliza Booth Peek when 10 years of age, 1810.
- 406. Small teapot, over 100 years of age.
- 407. Sugar bowl, 50 years old.

MRS. ROBERT H. RUSSELL.

- 408. Portrait of Nathaniel Lamson, Mrs. Russell's grandfather, date 1795, also his fob watch chain.
Sundries belonging to Mary, wife of Nathaniel Lamson and daughter of the Hon. Andrew Adams, and Mary, daughter Zachariah Fairchild, of Stratford, as follows :
- 409. Punch bowl.
- 410. Screen, embroidered by Mary Adams, in her 17th year, 1798.
- 411. Silver knitting sheath and needle case.
- 412. Pewter sugar bowl.
- 413. Foot stove.
- 414. Two wool-cards.
- 415. Fire pan.
- 416. Spinning wheel.
- 417. Silver bodice-pins, over 150 years old.
- 418. Two teaspoons, over 150 years old.
- 419. One cornelian ornament for fob watch chain.
- 420. Dress worked by Amanda Lamson in her 8th year.
- 421. Bead neck-lace of Amanda Lamson, made in her 16th year.
- 422. Spectacles, over 150 years old.
All the above articles were brought to Stratford by Mrs. Amanda Lamson Van Voorhis, in 1870.

MRS. SARAH T. DOUGHERTY.

- 423. Portrait of Dr. Hezekiah Judson.
- 424. Two Silhouettes, male and female heads.

MISS JULIA FAIRCHILD.

- 425. Portrait of Judge Robert Fairchild.
- 426. Chair belonging to Judge Robert Fairchild.
- 427. Letter from John Quincy Adams to Robert Fairchild.

MRS. PRESTON H. HODGES.

- 428. Cup and saucer, and chair, the wedding outfit of the present owner's grandmother, Helen Birdseye, who was married in 1784 to Thaddeus Birdseye, son of old Parson Birdseye, of Oronoque.

MRS. JANE S. DUNBAR.

- 429. Chairs, formerly of present owner's grandmother, Mrs. Alice Thompson.

MR. BENJAMIN T. FAIRCHILD.

- 430. Old English sideboard or cupboard, brought from England to this country by Robert Coe, of Ipswich, Suffolk, England, in the year 1634. He came in the ship Francis, John Cutting, Master, with seventy-five others; his son, Robert Coe, brought the cupboard to Stratford in the year 1640. It remained on the same premises, and in the possession of the Coe family, for seven generations until 1873.

MRS. ELBERT WELLS.

- 431. Key of Episcopal Church built in 1743.
- 432. Latin book used by Parson Birdseye when in Yale College. The book is dated 1729.
- 433. Baby's cap, hand-worked, over 100 years old.

MR. LORENZO B. BÈERS.

- 434. Old coins.
- 435. Powder-horn used in Revolutionary War.
- 436. Silver cake-basket and fruit dish, which belonged to Mr. A. D. Laing's mother in 1808.
- 437. Small brass kettle, 100 years old, formerly belonging to Mr. Laing's grandmother.
- 438. Pier-table with mirror, formerly belonging to A. D. Laing's mother.
- 439. Certificate, on parchment, of the marriage of A. D. Laing's father and mother, 1808.

MRS. A. T. B. DeWITT.

- 440. Pair of wine stands, formerly owned by Captain Samuel C. Nicoll.
- 441. Mustard spoon of Rebeckah Lewis, who married Dr. Joshua Poor in 1777, from which it dates.
- 442. Portrait of David Poor.

MR. WATSON H SMITH.

- 443. Antique pitcher.
- 444. Account book of the First Ecclesiastical Society.

MRS. HAMILTON BURTON.

- 445. Very old China plate.

MRS. HENRY WELLS.

- 446. Old fan, formerly owned by Elizabeth Wells, 150 years old.

MRS. FREEMAN L. CURTIS.

- 447. First music book of the Congregational Church.
- 448. Two ancient plows.
- 449. Bureau.
- 450. Portraits of Freeman Curtis and wife.
- 451. Teapot, platter, and plate.
- 452. Reel.
- 453. Small portrait of Stiles Curtis.

MRS. SUSAN T. WALKER.

- 454. Miniature of Mrs. Bigelow, sister of Gen. Jos. Walker.

MISS ELIZABETH LYON LINSLEY.

- 455. Harris' collection of voyages and travels; two volumes, illustrated; London, 1705. These two folio volumes were part of the library of Lord North, whose coat of arms is within each book. This is the Lord North, Baron North, and Baron Grey, who was Lieut.-General of Queen Anne's forces and served under the Duke of Marlborough in the Low Countries. The next owner was William Lyon, of New Haven, who was a distinguished collector and antiquarian; at his decease in 1830, his library descended to his son William, and later to his daughter Elizabeth Lyon and thence to the present owner his granddaughter. They were brought to Stratford in 1884.
- 456. Plan of Stratford, Connecticut, surveyed and delineated by the Rev. James H. Linsley.

MRS. ALBERT B. CURTIS.

- 457. Ancient fan, formerly owned by Mrs. Thomas Curtis, of Woodbury, 100 years old.
- 458. Old China plate, over 100 years old.

MR. ROBERT W. CURTIS.

- 459. King's arm, manufactured under George I., stored in the Tower of London; taken out by George III. for the use of the troops sent to America in the Revolutionary war.
- 460. Specimens of Indian relics.
- 461. Old table, hidden from the enemy in the "Great Swamp," Stratford, during the Revolution, bearing the marks of the stains plainly on the legs.
- 462. Hour glass; has been in the McEwen family since 1771.
- 463. Quadrant, over 100 years old.
- 464. Old bellows.
- 465. China teapot, creampot and sugar bowl, in the possession of the McEwen family for five generations.

MRS. CHARLES R. GORHAM.

- 466. Rocking chair, formerly used by Mrs. Mary Whippo, great aunt of the owner; 150 years old.

MISS ELIZABETH WHEELER.

- 467. Candle sticks and pewter porringer, formerly the property of Nancy Ufford, who married Dr. Ezra Curtis, and after his death, Mr. John Wells; 150 years old.

468. China cup, saucer and plate, belonged to Phoebe Curtis, who married Ezra Birdseye; at least 125 years old.
469. Tablespoon, belonged to Hannah Hawley, who married Captain Samuel Wheeler; 120 years old.
470. China teapot, belonged to Betsy Booth, wife of Capt. Daniel Booth; 150 years old.

MRS. FRANCES L. GRAY.

471. A huge wooden spoon used by the Indians to stir samp.
472. Old stone ink-stand, brought from England.

MR. JOSEPH CURTIS.

473. Ball ticket, 1814.
474. Dictionary, 1720.
475. Connecticut laws, 1784.

MR. WILFRED M. PECK.

476. Gen. Montgomery's mustard dish; 150 years old.

MR. HENRY G. WHEELER.

477. Four Staffordshire plates.

MRS. BENEDICT PECK.

478. Teapot.
479. Two cups and saucers.
480. Yeast bowl, all over 100 years old.

MR. NATHAN B. WELLS.

481. Quill wheel, 100 years old.
482. Swifts, 100 years old.
483. Carpenter's tools, formerly owned by Nathan Beach, 1780.
484. Tin candle-moulds.
485. Sign of St. John Lodge, No. 8, F. and A. M., 1792.

MRS. JEFFERSON CLARK.

486. Ancient spoons from Holland; York, England; Lincoln, England; and Stratford-on-Avon.

MR. LEWIS BEARDSLEY.

487. Andirons, shovel and tongs.
488. Large pistol.
489. Indian stone axe.

MR. SAMUEL W. BENJAMIN.

490. Quilt, corded and spun by Miss Eliza Southworth, and woven by Silas Burton, father of Hamilton Burton. The fringe was made by Miss Southworth in 1809.
491. Sampler, worked by Miss Southworth when 9 years old.

MRS. EDMUND DIKEMAN.

492. Sugar bowl and tumbler.
493. Mortar, very old.

STRATFORD'S CELEBRATION.

MRS. HENRY BOOTH.

494. Pitcher which came from England in ship Lucretia.

MRS. JOSEPH B. CURTIS, BRIDGEPORT.

495. Wedding suit of the father of the late Harry Curtis.

MR. CHESTER DORMAN.

496. Very old wood carving.
497. Newspaper printed after the death of Gen. Washington.

MR. MORTON BEARDSLEE.

498. Plate, 150 years old, owned by Abraham Beardslee.
499. Plate, 100 years old, owned by Abijah Beardslee.
500. Mug, milk pitcher, soup dish and coffee pot.

MRS. CHARLES MOORE.

501. History of the French Reformation, bought of Rainsford, a bookseller in London, and brought to Stratford by Rev. John Mitchell; two volumes, published in 1683. Each volume contains the number in the library, name and residence, and coat of arms of the Duke of Bedford.
502. Portraits from Holbein, of Henry VIII., Queen Catharine, Cranmer, Anne Boleyn, Cardinal Woolsey and Thomas Cromwell.
503. Fac-simile of the pen and ink sketch of Major André, drawn by him the day before his execution. It was procured in New Haven between the years 1832 and 1835, by Mr. Charles Moore, and brought to Stratford in 1856. The original was presented by Major André to Jabez L. Tomlinson, when acting as officer of the guard, and in whose presence the sketch was made. He said that it was drawn without the aid of a mirror. The original sketch was afterward (1832) presented to President Jeremiah Day, D.D., of Yale College.

MR. ASA S. CURTIS.

504. Flint-lock gun, carried in the battle of Ridgefield, Connecticut, by Henry Curtis, father of Elijah and Henry Curtis, of Stratford.
505. Set of knives and forks, brought to this country from the West Indies, previous to the year 1800, by Reuben Curtis, son of Thomas Curtis.
506. Saddle bags and Adjutant's staff. Pots and kettles.

MR. EZEKIEL CURTIS.

507. Very ancient chair.

MR. STEPHEN D. SMITH.

508. Ancient clock.

MR. SYLVANUS C. DICKINSON.

509. Silver tankard, 1782.
510. Spun flax, 100 years old.
511. "Connecticut Herald," 1815.

MR. NATHAN G. POND.

- 512. Old deed of land.
- 513. Original alarm sent along the coast to John Brooks, during the Revolutionary war.
- 514. Post-bag, Boston, 1744.

MR. ABIJAH MCEWEN.

- 515. Round hair trunk, very old, covered with figures formed by brass nails.
- 516. Books of Rev. William McEwen, written by him in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1600, and brought to this country.
- 517. Newspaper, printed in Danbury, Conn., December, 1793, containing a speech of Gen. Washington to the House of Representatives, also a message.
- 518. Parchment written in the reign of Charles I; it relates to freeing a slave in Connecticut.
- 519. Account book of John McEwen, sheep-skin cover, 1621-1726. One charge to Josiah (Josiah) Hawley, an ancestor of Gen. Joseph R. Hawley.
- 520. Cane, brought from Glasgow by John McEwen, the first one of the kind in this country; over 250 years old.
- 521. Glass tumbler, belonging to Gen. Joseph Walker, very old.
- 522. Key of the first Congregational Church, brought from England; weight three-quarters of a pound.
- 523. Lock of the same church, one foot in length, made of iron.
- 524. Wooden candlesticks, in height over fifteen inches, used in gallery of old Congregational Church.
- 525. Bass viol, used in Congregational Church over 30 years. Second one in use.
- 526. Pitcher used in Congregational Church; bought for and used by Rev. Wm. B. Weed.
- 527. Flask with leather case, dated 1755; brought from Scotland.
- 528. Rocker, formerly in Uffoot (Ufford) family; very ancient.

MISS JANETTE BOOTH.

- 529. Indian stone axe.
- 530. Old palms for hat-making.
- 531. Small wooden bowl.
- 532. Scarf of sewing silk.
- 533. Milk cup, sugar bowl, and decanter.
- 534. Spectacles.
- 535. Old spoon, cup and saucer.
- 536. Old chairs and tea table.
- 537. Punch tumblers.

MRS. ELVIRA MILLER.

- 538. Ancient necklace.
- 539. Old arm chair.

MISS J. E. HUNTER.

- 540. Silver fruit dish, formerly owned by Gen. Joseph Walker.

MRS. FREDERICK J. BEARDSLEY.

- 541. Three chairs, 150 years old.
- 542. Comb.
- 543. Teapot, representing bear.

- 544. Specimen of pink dinner set.
- 545. Specimen of blue dinner set.
- 546. Specimen of fine gilt tea set and other old China, 7 pieces.
- 547. Tete-e-tete set, three pieces.
- 548. Pewter plate.
- 549. Bullet mould, made and used during the Revolution.
- 550. Little round teapot, 200 years old.

MRS. EDWIN J. SPALL.

- 551. Badge worn by Chancellor Livingston.
- 552. Small articles of jewelry.

MRS. JOSEPH W. DUFOUR.

- 553. Two vases, over 100 years old.
- 554. Old pictures, over 100 years old.

MRS. FRANK R. SAMMIS.

- 555. Old arm chair, 200 years old.
- 556. Silver spoons, made in 1800 for the owner's great-grandmother, Polly French, as part of her wedding outfit.

MR. ALFRED BURRITT.

- 557. Pewter tankard, 175 years old.
 - 558. Silver spoon, 175 years old.
-



THE THOMAS WELLS HOUSE.

(Erected 1740-1745.)

From a Wood-cut furnished by NATHAN B. WELLS for Oront's "History of Stratford." By permission of the Author.

MARKING HISTORICAL PLACES.

While the town of Stratford has not been the scene of an historical event of national importance, there have transpired within its borders many events of great local interest, which show that the great movements of the country and world left their marks in this village, as elsewhere. Whoever has read the preceding pages of this book will recall that in the great wave of fanaticism and superstition which swept over New England in 1651 the little band of settlers at Stratford were swept off their feet, and Goody Bassett yielded to them her life, condemned for the *crime* of witchcraft; and so, also, when later a religious movement arose which was to break away from the regime of Congregationalism and establish a branch of the Established Church of England in Connecticut, Stratford was foremost in the movement, and to-day points with pride to the site of the first Episcopal Church in Connecticut. In the War of the Revolution, and in the struggle of 1812, Stratford was well represented; and in the later moral struggles for the abolition of slavery and the suppression of intemperance, the "story of Stratford," heretofore given in this volume, will show that the yeast of reform and anti-reform worked with great vigor in our quiet town. As to Stratford's part in the late Civil War, that is elsewhere fittingly portrayed.

In spite, then, of the good fortune of our ancestors in escaping the fate of Fairfield and Ridgefield in the Revolutionary War, which, however, left our town barren of historical events, the general Committee of Arrangements provided that places of historical interest should be marked in some appropriate way. In marking the various places selected, a list of which appears below, the following method was adopted: Small white tablets, about fourteen inches long by ten inches wide, were made, and upon these were neatly lettered the inscriptions appearing below, and the tablet was then fastened to a post set in the ground at the proper place.

The following is a list of places marked and the inscriptions used :

1. "Site of the First Meeting-House, 1639-1680."

This place, called "Sandy Hollow," was the centre of the first settlement. The first burial ground was back of the church.

This tablet was placed in front of the barn, known now as the "Barrymore" barn, on Elm Street.

2. "Site of the Second Meeting-House, 1680-1743, on Watch House Hill."

February 19, 1689, at town meeting, voted that the Meeting-House should be fortified as a place of security.

This tablet was placed on the hill some distance to the east of the Soldiers' Monument.

3. "Site of the Third Meeting-House, 1743-1785."

This house was struck by lightning and burned 1785. The Fourth Meeting-House stood on the site of the present Congregational Church. 1785-1858.

This tablet was placed on the hill a little way east of the Soldiers' Monument.

4. "Site of the First Episcopal Church in Connecticut, 1723-1743."

This burial ground, which was around the church, was opened in 1723. The stone steps of the old church may be seen in the burial yard.

This tablet was placed in the southern part of the old Episcopal church-yard.

5. "Site of the Second Episcopal Church, 1743-1858."

Said to have been the finest church in the Colony when built.

This tablet was placed on the common, north of the present Episcopal Church.

6. "Gallows Bridge."

The place where tradition says that Goody Bassett was hung for witchcraft in 1650.

This tablet was placed on the north side of the highway known as the "Old Stage Road," over Old Mill Hill, just west of the track of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

7. "The Palisades."

The early settlers built a row of palisades across the brow of this hill (Watch House Hill), running about one quarter of a mile west of the hill, thence south, enclosing the settlement.

This tablet was placed on the brow of the hill known formerly as Watch House Hill, and later as "Custody," "Meeting House," and Academy Hill.

8. "Site of the blacksmith shop of Samuel Folsom."

Samuel Folsom was the father of Glorianna Folsom, the heroine of Stratford's romance.

This tablet was placed in the extreme north-east corner of the Johnson Homestead.

9. "Grave of Governor Gideon Tomlinson."

Governor of Connecticut, 1827-1830.
United States Senator, 1831-1837.

10. "Johnson Vault."

Dr. Samuel Johnson, and his son, William Samuel Johnson, were buried here.

11. "Grave of Lieut. William Thompson."

He was shot, and mortally wounded, in the defence of Ridgefield, in 1777.

12. "Grave of Gen. Joseph Walker."

A gallant soldier in the Revolutionary War.

13. "Grave of Captain D. Pulaski Benjamin."

He was a prisoner of war at the famous Dartmoor Prison, in England, during the War of 1812.

14. "Grave of Col. Aaron Benjamin."

Who fought with great bravery in the Revolutionary War, and in the War of 1812 commanded the Post at New London.

15. "Judson Place."

This house was built in 1723. The original Judson House was stone. The foundations of this house were made from the stone of the old house.

This tablet was placed in the yard of the Abner Judson house, south of Watch House Hill.

16. "Site of the former residence of Dr. Samuel Johnson."

First rector of the Episcopal Church in Stratford, and President of King's College, in New York City, from 1754 to 1763.

And also of his son, William Samuel Johnson.

One of Connecticut's three representatives in the Convention which formed the United States Constitution; and, later, President of Columbia College, New York City, from 1787 to 1800.

This tablet was placed before the barn, on the Johnson Homestead, which faces Broad Street.

17. "The Walker House."

This house was the residence of Gen. Joseph Walker, who fought with distinguished bravery in the Revolutionary War, and later became a Major General.

This tablet was placed before the third house north of the railroad, on the east side of Main Street.

18. "Entrance to the oldest burial ground in the town."

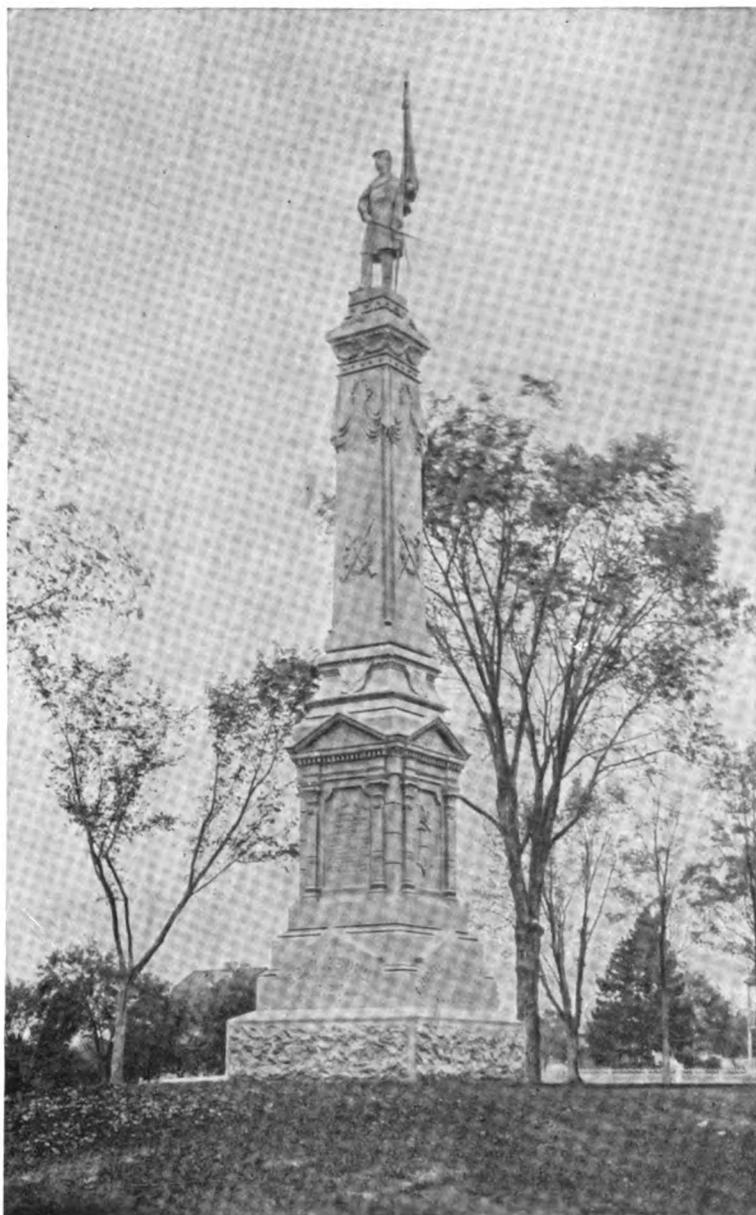
First used February, 1678.

This tablet was placed at the entrance to what is called the "Congregational" Burying Ground.

19. "The Wolf Pits."

The first settlers dug a large pit at this place to protect themselves from wolves.

This tablet was placed in the Congregational Burying Ground, in the depression directly back of the McEwen place.



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

From a Photograph made by E. O. HUBBELL, October, 1889.

THE VETERAN ASSOCIATION.

In the celebration of the town's quarto-millennial birthday, the interest created and success attained, were contributed to so largely by the organized efforts of the "Veteran Association" of the town, and the hearty co-operation individually of its members, that the authors of this work feel that this association is entitled to more than a passing recognition at their hands. The labor of love performed by its members, covering a long period of years, in raising the funds necessary to erect in the town a suitable memorial to our soldier and sailor dead, is so thoroughly appreciated by our townspeople as to justify a digression from the main purposes of this book to the extent of furnishing a brief sketch of the work of this organization.

For a number of years previous to the existence of the Stratford "Veteran Association" as such, the surviving veterans of the Civil War resident in the town, as also, might be added, the citizens generally, had evinced an earnest desire that there should be within the old town from whose borders had marched away many brave soldiers to aid the Republic in its days of peril, a visible and substantial tribute to those deceased comrades to whom the call to arms was also a call to lay down their lives in defense of the Union.

The means of attaining this end, and what should be the character of the memorial, became a general theme of conversation in the village until finally an organized movement was set on foot by the veterans to accomplish their purpose.

The first meeting of the resident veterans was held at the Town Hall, June 4, 1885, as the call stated, "for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization whose aim and object shall be to cement the bond of union between the veterans of the town, and to take the initial steps towards erecting a suitable monument to the memory of the deceased soldiers and sailors who represented the town in the rebellion, and for the transaction of such other business as may be necessary and proper to come before said meeting."

Twenty-seven veterans responded to this call, and a permanent organization was formed. Edward L. Woodin was elected President; William H. Curtis, Vice-President; L. Howard Russell, Secretary, and Asa S. Curtis, Treasurer.

Soon after this preliminary meeting had been held by the veterans a public meeting of citizens was called for the purpose of awakening a more general interest in the subject, and in order to give the townspeople an opportunity to participate in the advancement of the project.

The meeting was held at the Town Hall, June 16, 1885, the Hon. F. A. Benjamin presiding. After considerable discussion the meeting adjourned to July 9, when a Citizens "Monument Association" was formed, the object being to aid the veterans in accomplishing the result which they had at heart.

The plan adopted was to raise the required sum by subscriptions in the nature of membership fees for admission to the Monument Association. This mode of raising money, while resulting in a large number of subscriptions, did not prove satisfactory and was shortly afterwards abandoned. From this time on the committee having the matter in charge bent their energies in the direction of public entertainments of various kinds, but, notwithstanding the persistency of their efforts, at the end of the year 1887 one hundred dollars only had been realized.

However, fortune was soon to smile upon a worthy cause. About this time Company K, of the Fourth Regt. C. N. G., Stratford's military organization, moved from the second story of Masonic Hall, where its armory had previously been, to its new quarters in the third story, formerly occupied by the Masonic Lodge.

The company, in furnishing its new armory, having exceeded the appropriation allowed by the State, a necessity arose in this organization for the raising of funds with which to complete the work on the plan desired. Again was the old proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention," exemplified, for out of the joint needs of the Veteran Association and Company K was born the idea which was destined to meet with phenomenal success. It was resolved that a joint fair should be held by the organizations named, and committees to represent their respective interests and arrange the details of the matter were appointed, and at once entered upon their arduous duties.

The joint committee consisted of Henry P. Stagg, William E. Wheeler, John W. Thompson, Sylvanus C. Dickinson and Edgar Osborne, from the Veteran Association, and Capt. Eugene Morehouse,

William B. Bristol, Charles K. Stagg, George N. Morehouse and C. Edwin Dufour, from Company K. The ladies, ever ready in the advancement of any good work, were appealed to for aid, and their response was of a character to convince the most skeptical of their loyalty and zeal. Busy hands soon fashioned the intricate pieces of needlework without which the ideal and popular fair would be impossible, and before the day fixed upon for the beginning of the fair had arrived a bewildering array of articles of every description were placed at the disposal of the committee.

The preparatory work in the different departments having been completed, the fair was finally opened April 2, 1888. Everything seemed to combine to render the occasion an auspicious one, and those on whose shoulders rested the responsibility of the undertaking felt that they had been richly rewarded in the success which had so far crowned their labors.

Throughout the week of the fair, throngs of people came and went, and the numerous articles contributed found ready customers when exhibited for sale within the hall in which the fair was in progress.

On the first evening of the fair, Governor Lounsbury and staff attended, as did also Col. Watson and staff, of the Fourth Regiment. They were received and entertained by a committee appointed for the purpose, and upon entering the hall in which the fair was being held, and taking seats upon the platform temporarily constructed, were welcomed by Wilfred M. Peck, Principal of the Stratford Graded School, in a short address. Gov. Lounsbury, Gen. Pine, Col. Watson, and others of the visiting guests responded; they were then conducted around the hall to the different booths, in which all of Stratford's beauty was centred. The hall was elaborately but artistically decorated, and, with the gayly attired crowds of people passing to and fro, presented an enlivening spectacle.

The following is a list of the booths and the names of those in charge of them:

BOOTHS.

GEN. SEDGWICK.—Manager, Miss SARAH RUSSELL. Assistants, Miss F. B. RUSSELL, Miss HELEN U. SAMMIS, Miss JENNIE SMITH, Miss E. M. BURRITT, Miss WINIFRED TODD, Miss MAY CURTIS, Miss GEORGIE WILCOXSON.

GEN. PHIL KEARNEY.—Manager, Mrs. F. H. ALLEN. Assistants, Miss FLORENCE ALLEN, Miss ELSIE POWERS, Miss EDITH ALLEN, Miss EMMA ALLEN, Miss ALICE LILLINGSTON, Miss M. L. WOLFE, Miss VINNIE CHURCHILL.

- GEN. SHERIDAN.—Manager, Miss IDA BURRITT. Assistants, Miss BERTHA CLARK, Miss ALICE MAY WILCOXSON, Miss CARRIE TIBBALS, Miss LIZZIE CLARK, Miss JENNIE CLARK, Mrs. N. W. FARLEY.
- GEN. GRANT.—Manager, Mrs. FREDERICK LILLINGSTON. Assistants, Mrs. L. B. BEERS, Mrs. F. B. BEERS, Mrs. R. W. CURTIS, Miss GEORGIE THOMPSON, Miss NELA THOMPSON, Miss FLORENCE A. BEERS, Miss GRACE C. LILLINGSTON.
- GEN. J. R. HAWLEY.—Manager, Mrs. C. G. GUNTHER. Assistants, Mrs. C. A. IVES, Miss ELLA JACKSON, Miss ALICE CURTIS, Miss SUSAN C. CURTIS.
- LINCOLN.—Manager, Mrs. G. W. FAIRCHILD. Assistants, Mrs. FANNIE PECK, Mrs. F. R. SAMMIS, Miss MARY C. FAIRCHILD, Miss MARIA WILCOX, Miss HARRIET SMITH, Miss SADIE POWERS, Miss VINA SMITH, Miss SUSAN C. WILCOXSON.
- GEN. LOGAN.—Manager, Miss MARY A. DEVINE. Assistants, Mrs. W. A. STAGG, Miss H. LENA LOBDELL, Miss ELEANOR A. PECK, Miss GRACE BLAKEMAN, Miss MARY JUDSON, Miss HELENA D. COWLES, Miss JANE TUCKER.
- GEN. GARFIELD.—Manager, Mrs. MELVILLE J. CURTIS. Assistants, Mrs. H. F. MEACHAM, Mrs. A. B. GRAHAM, Mrs. S. A. PATTERSON, Mrs. J. W. BEACH, Mrs. E. R. WILCOX, Mrs. D. C. WOOD, Mrs. W. G. STURGES.
- ELIAS HOWE, JR.—Manager, Mrs. S. C. DICKINSON. Assistants, Mrs. CORNELIA A. TUCKER, Mrs. CHARLES E. STAGG.
- ADMIRAL FARRAGUT.—Manager, Mrs. LEWIS F. JUDSON. Assistants, Miss CARRIE PECK, Miss MAY PECK, Miss EMMA CURTIS, Miss ALICE CURTIS, Miss HELEN COE.
- ADMIRAL FOOTB.—Manager, DAVID L. RHODES. Assistants, "The Cupheag Club."
- FLORAL BOOTH.—Miss HELEN P. STAGG, Miss IDA ATWOOD, Miss MAY SMITH, Miss ANNIE OSBORN, Miss MILLY EVANS, Miss MARTHA BLAKEMAN.
- ART GALLERY.—Mrs. CALVIN CURTIS, Miss AMY TALBOT, FREDERICK LILLINGSTON, HOWARD B. MOORE.

Connected with the fair throughout its continuance was a refreshment department, presided over by the following ladies: Mrs. Wilson French, Mrs. Charles Blakeslee, Mrs. Robert H. Russell, Mrs. Francis S. Avery, Mrs. George H. Spall, Mrs. Charles E. Hubbell.

In the lower hall, Capt. Wilson French exhibited to the numerous visitors an interesting collection of war relics, contributed for the occasion by citizens of the town.

When the fair closed it was found that the result far exceeded the most sanguine expectations. The net proceeds of the fair amounted to \$2,417.82, of which \$200.00 went into the treasury of Company K, and the sum of \$2,217.82 to the Veteran Association.

This sum was further supplemented in various ways until the necessary amount was finally secured, and the desire to have within our village an enduring reminder of Stratford's defenders of the republic has been gratified.

The monument selected by the veterans, and subsequently presented to the town, is of Greek architecture. Its height is thirty-five feet and five inches, and at the base it is eight feet square. Upon the top of the monument stands a figure representing the color-sergeant in defence of the American flag. The figure is six and one-half feet in height, and it is nine feet to the point of the flag-staff. The base is of rough ashlar work, representing quarry faced granite. The plinth, or second base, bears upon the front the inscription, "Gettysburg and Antietam;" upon the right, "Lookout Mountain" and "Olustee;" upon the back, "Chancellorsville" and "Wilderness," and upon the left, "Fredericksburg" and "Fort Wayne."

The tablets are set between Grecian columns and beneath Grecian porticos. Upon the front is the inscription, "Dedicated to the memory of those who fought for liberty and saved the Union," and beneath this are the following lines:

" Yet loved ones have fallen, and still where they sleep
A sorrowing nation shall silently weep,
And spring's brightest flowers with gratitude strew
O'er those who once cherished the Red, White and Blue."

Upon the right tablet is the G. A. R. badge, and upon the left tablet the United States coat of arms. The back tablet bears the inscription, "Erected by the Stratford Veteran Association and its friends, October 3, 1889." Below this is inscribed the quotation, "The Union shall and must be preserved." Upon the front die cap is "1776;" the right, "1861-5;" the rear "1847," and the left, "1812," the dates of the Revolutionary, Civil, and Mexican wars, and the war of 1812. The raised tablet of the bottom shaft contains on the front the Tenth Corps badge; the right, the Wilson's Cavalry Corps badge; the back, Second Corps badge, and the left, the Nineteenth Corps badge.

The shaft of the monument bears upon the front the infantry emblem of crossed muskets. Upon the right face of the shaft is the cavalry emblem of crossed sabres; upon the back face is the artillery emblem of crossed cannon, ramrods, and upon the left, the naval emblem representing a capstan, anchor, and crossed capstan bars. These four emblems are surrounded by wreaths representing laurel and oak, and are in bas-relief. All of the emblems and corps badges are in relief, and the inscriptions are in bold raised letters.

The entire monument is cast from white bronze metal, its color being a light gray. It weighs about 485 pounds per cubic foot.

The following articles were deposited in a metal box underneath the monument:

Records of the Cupheag Club of Stratford; Records of the Veteran Association of Stratford; Records of Pequonock Lodge, I. O. O. F.; Records of St. John's Lodge, F. & A. M.; Records of Christ Church, Stratford; Records of M. E. Church, Stratford; Records of Congregational Church, Stratford; Records of Stratford Library; Records of Co. K, 4th Reg't C. N. G.; New York "World," containing an account of New York Centennial; Photographic views of Stratford; Newspapers of the day; Historical Address, by Joel S. Ives; Conn. Register and Manual, 1889; Orcutt's History of Stratford; Set of Silver Proof Coins from United States Mint.

To whom the credit for the success of the fair belongs is best told in the resolutions subsequently adopted by the Veteran Association:

Whereas, The Veteran Association of Stratford have completed and dedicated an elegant monument to the memory of their comrades who gave their lives that our country and nation might be perpetuated as one country with one flag and one destiny; it is hereby

Resolved, That we return our hearty thanks to those who so generously and heartily aided us in our great fair.

First. To the officers and men of Co. K, 4th Reg't C. N. G., who first proposed the fair and then so generously and willingly aided to carry it to a successful culmination.

Second. To the citizens of other towns who sympathized with and aided us by their donations of articles of value for the fair, enhancing its attractions in a large degree, and whose presence with open purse-strings was a substantial factor in the final success of this long to be remembered scheme.

Third. To the citizens of this town who so generally aided us in our patriotic endeavors to perpetuate the memory of our departed heroes, and whose partial reward comes when they point with pride to the noble shaft which now adorns "Monument Hill"—a lasting memorial to the memory of those brave men who sacrificed their lives for their country and liberty—the exceptions to the honored list of donors being so few that they only appear the more conspicuous.

"The fittest place for man to die is where he dies for man."

The location, and kind of monument to be erected, was finally decided upon at a meeting of the Veteran Association held at the Town Hall, April 19, 1889, when it was unanimously voted that it be built of white bronze by the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Conn., and located upon "Academy Hill."

The entire cost of the monument and the labor involved in preparing its site was \$3,700, a considerable portion of the work of rendering the ground suitable for its reception having been gratuitously performed by the willing hands of members of the Association.

The following are the names of the volunteers in the War of the Rebellion whose remains are buried in the Union and Putney Cemeteries in Stratford:

ABBOTT, WOOLSEY.....	Co. I, 6th Conn. Vols.
AUSTIN, WILLIAM M.....	Surgeon, U. S. A.
ANDREWS, JOHN M.....	Co. M, 1st Conn. Heavy Art.
BROOKS, BENJAMIN.....	23d N. Y. Vols.
BOOTH, JOHN R.....	Co. D, 17th Conn. Vols.
BURTON, HENRY.....	Co. C, 27th Conn. Vols.
BURTON, FRANK P.....	Co. D, 17th Conn. Vols.
BEARDSLEY, ISAAC.....	Co. D, 2d Conn. Heavy Art.
BLAKESLEE, HENRY M.....	Co. I, 6th Conn. Vols.
CLINTON, DEWITT F.....	Co. B, 1st Conn. Heavy Art.
CURTIS, WILLIAM H.....	Co. C, 17th Conn. Vols.
CURTIS, FRANCIS R.....	Co. A, 14th Conn. Vols.
CURTIS, HANFORD.....	Co. A, 14th Conn. Vols.
CURTIS, BENJAMIN.....	Co. A, 14th Conn. Vols.
COZIER, EDWARD.....	Co. A, 4th U. S. A.
CROFUT, STEPHEN C.....	Co. D, 17th Conn. Vols.
DIBBLE, EVERETT B.....	U. S. N.
DIBBLE, ELLIOTT B.....	2d Conn. Heavy Art.
DART, ANSON W.....	2d Light Battery.
EUERLE, GEORGE M.....	Co. I, 23d Conn. Vols.
EMERY, N. M.....	Co. A, 9th Conn. Vols.
HINE, CHARLES R.....	Co. A, 1st Conn. Cav.
JOHNSON, CHARLES A.....	Co. K, 2d Heavy Art.
JUDSON, FREDERICK M.....	Co. C, 12th Conn. Vols.
LEWIS, CHARLES B.....	Co. D, 17th Conn. Vols.
LEWIS, CURTIS.....	Co. H, 7th N. Y. Vols.
PECK, ROBERT C.....	Co. I, 6th Conn. Vols.
PECK, JAMES A.....	2d Light Battery.
PECK, LEWIS.....	Co. I, 133d N. Y. Vols.
POWERS, ALMON D.....	Co. I, 6th Conn. Vols.
QUIRE, HENRY T.....	Co. A, 15th N. Y. Heavy Art. and 11th Vet. Res. Corps.
RIGGS, JONATHAN.....	1st Light Battery.
ROBERTS, HENRY.....	2d Light Battery.
RUSSELL, A. BENJAMIN.....	U. S. N.
SLAWSON, DAVID A.....	Co. K, 9th Conn. Vols.
STRATTON, FREDERICK.....	Co. G, 20th Conn. Vols.
WOLFE, PETER.....	Co. B, 1st Conn. Vols.
WEITZEL, WILBUR A.....	Co. I, 33d N. J. Vols.
WHEELER, JOHN L.....	Co. D, 2d Conn. Heavy Art.

Veterans of the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865, resident in Stratford at the time of the erection of the monument and belonging to the Veteran Association or otherwise :

BEARDSLEY, JOHN B.....	Co. M, 1st Conn. Heavy Art.
BLAKEMAN, J. HENRY.....	Co. D, 17th Conn. Vols.
BLAKEMAN, SELAH G.....	Co. D, 17th Conn. Vols.
BUNNELL, RUFUS W.....	Co. I, 23d Conn. Vols.
BALDWIN, WILLIAM A.....	Co. B, 20th Conn. Vols.

CLARK, CHARLES H.....	Co. D, 17th Conn. Vols.
COZIER, BURR W.....	2d Light Battery.
COOK, THOMAS W.....	Co. G, 10th Conn. Vols.
CURTIS, CHARLES E.....	Co. M, 1st Conn. Heavy Art.
CURTIS, ASA S.....	Fife Major, 17th Conn. Vols.
DANIELS, EDWARD B.....	Co. D, 12th Conn. Vols.
DICKINSON, SYLVANUS C.....	1st Light Battery.
FRENCH, WILSON.....	Co. G, 17th Conn. Vols.
FREEMAN, EDWARD (colored).....	Co. I, 29th Conn. Vols.
FURNALD, GEORGE L.....	Co. H, 30th N. J. Vols.
GILBERT, CHARLES E.....	Co. H, 2d Conn. Heavy Art.
GRAY, ALONZO.....	Co. C, 2d Conn. Vols.
HINE, GEORGE A.....	Co. A, 2d Conn. Heavy Art.
HINE, GEORGE S.....	Co. F, 27th Conn. Vols.
HOPKINS, PETER.....	Co. K, 11th N. J. Vols.
HUBBELL, JAMES S.....	Co. D, 23d Conn. Vols.
JOHNSON, MATTHEW (colored).....	Co. K, 29th Ills. Vols.
MIDDLEBROOK, NATHAN B.....	2d Light Battery.
MOORE, JAMES.....	Co. G, 6th Conn. Vols..
NOBLE, EBENEZER.....	Co. I, 47th N. J. Vols.
OSBORNE, EDGAR.....	Co. K, 15th Mich. Vols.
PURDY, GEORGE H.....	Co. A, 29th Conn. Vols.
PLUMB, FREDERICK W.....	Co. I, 33d Wis. Vols.
RICHARDSON, GEORGE A.....	Co. C, 28th Conn. Vols.
ROBERTS, CHARLES F.....	2d Light Battery.
RUSSELL, LEWIS H.....	Co. B, 7th N. Y. Vols.
SANGER, DARIUS R.....	Co. I, 27th Mass. Vols.
SELLECK, JOHN H.....	Co. A, 3d Conn. Vols.
SPALL, GEORGE H.....	2d Light Battery.
SPRAGUE, ORVILLE.....	Co. I, 8th Conn. Vols.
STAGG, HENRY P.....	Co. A, 7th N. Y. Vols.
SINGLETON, WM. F. (colored).....	Co. B, 31st Conn. Vols.
STEPHENS, HENRY G.....	31st N. Y. Vols.
THOMAS, JULIUS E.....	Co. F, 4th Tenn. Vols.
THOMPSON, JOHN W.....	Co. E, 48th N. Y. Vols.
WHEELER, WILLIAM E.....	Co. F, 1st Conn. Cav.
WHITE, BOSTON (colored).....	Co. I, 29th Conn. Vols.
WHITE, CHAS. H. (colored).....	Co. K, 29th Conn. Vols.
WILLIAMS, JOHN L. (colored).....	Co. H, 29th Conn. Vols.
WILCOXSON, WILLIAM B.....	2d Light Battery.
Total.....	45

The officers of the Veteran Association at the time of the dedication of the monument were H. P. Stagg, President; William E. Wheeler, Secretary, and Asa S. Curtis, Treasurer.

Since the erection of the monument the Veteran Association and the community at large have suffered a loss in the deaths of William E. Wheeler and Capt. William Barrymore. Both were earnest workers in

carrying out the plans to secure a memorial to their deceased comrades, and greatly assisted in making the celebration a success.

Capt. Barrymore rendered conspicuous aid to his country during the dark days of the war while in the naval service of the Government, and at the time of his decease was a member of U. S. Grant Post, No. 327, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

One by one the surviving veterans of that great conflict for principle and good government are dropping in life's arena, and year by year some are summoned from Stratford to answer the last roll-call.

But though they pass away, causing, as they sink, scarcely a ripple on the ocean of humanity, their privations endured and sacrifices made will leave a lasting impression.

On the shafts erected in their honor by the hands of their surviving comrades shall be recorded the valor of our citizen soldiery, who fought that the integrity of the Union might be maintained, and their memory shall be perpetuated in the patriotic impulses of each succeeding generation.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS

Amount received from Town,	-	-	-	-	\$1,000 00
“ “ from Subscription Committee,					652 00
					\$1,652 00

EXPENDITURES.

Printing and Invitations,	-	-	-	-	\$147 70
Wheeler and Wilson Band,					121 60
Fire Works,					354 50
Decorations,					187 72
Arch,					25 00
Salutes,					71 55
Bureau of Information,					3 00
Subscription Committee's Expenses,					9 61
Press Representatives, Entertainment of					41 50
Grand Stand, and Tables,					85 00
Collation,					239 19
Tableaux,					114 28
Loan Exhibition,					78 03
Historical Places, Marking of					12 00
Reception Committee,					73 00
Police Sign,					1 00
Horse Hire,					15 00
J. J. McGahay, repairs to wagon injured,					6 50
Appropriation to Hook and Ladder Co.,					10 00
					\$1,596 18
Balance on hand,					55 82
					\$1,652 00

GEORGE H. SPALL,

Treasurer.

PRESS NOTICES.

"Hartford Courant" Editorial, October 4, 1889.

"Hartford congratulates Stratford on her very fitting, enthusiastic and successful celebration of her 250th birthday, and wishes her many happy returns. All the old towns of this good old Land of Steady Habits are so fortunate in their public history and family traditions that there should be no petty jealousies and rivalries,—only for a generous rivalry in good works, of which such a commemoration as Stratford engaged in yesterday is by no means the least. It is pleasant to think of the eager interest with which the accounts of it will be read in distant States by men and women of Stratford stock who have yet to make their first pious pilgrimage to the ancient home of their fathers."

Extracts from News Column of "Hartford Courant," of October 4, 1889.

It was a Boston *Herald* editorial writer that thought that the people were getting tired of celebrating anniversaries. If that gentleman had had occasion to take a train from New York to Bridgeport at almost any hour yesterday a single glance out the window as the train passed Stratford would have made him see the necessity of revising that opinion. If he had gone so far as to have stopped over an hour in the charming old town, he would not only have been glad to retract his hasty generalization, but would probably have been anxious to put himself on record as one impressed with the sincerity and enthusiasm with which old New England is ever ready proudly to recall her noble past.

The fickle skies put on their brightest smiles Thursday and the clear cool October day was in itself an assurance of a successful celebration. Crowds poured in all the morning from Bridgeport and New Haven and the intervening towns, and late afternoon still saw the trains loaded. Hundreds were coming and going at all hours and an estimate of the shifting crowds is very difficult. Eight thousand were probably on Stratford's streets when the parade was passing, and first and last many more must have counted themselves among the day's visitors. All the way through the day was a success. The procession was long and interesting, the dedication of the graceful shaft on Academy Hill was impressive and the address inspiring, the guests and visiting organizations were bountifully provided for, the afternoon's civic celebrations brought out good speeches and an interested audience, and ingenious tableaux and elaborate fireworks wound up the big jubilee.

The loan exhibition in the Town Hall would have set a relic hunter wild. It seemed as if everything was there that was ever used in olden times for household furniture or personal attire. The catalogue numbered 535 of them and there were hundreds of others unnumbered. The hall was packed with visitors.

The marking of various historical sites by small signs or tablets was a very thoughtful and helpful device. One ran up against them everywhere and learned a deal of interesting history in a very simple way.

The treatment of the press representatives was most courteous and generous. The committee did everything possible for their convenience.

The volunteer fire companies made a very pretty feature of the parade. The Cupheag Club, dressed and painted as Indians and mounted on ponies, added a "Wild West" flavor.

"New York Times" Editorial, October 3, 1889.

Stratford, in Connecticut, celebrates to-day the notable fact that she has arrived at the mature age of a quarter of a thousand years. What with her streets bedecked with

bunting and strung with gay-colored lanterns, tableaux in her most ancient houses and elsewhere, depicting life in the good old colony times, and scenery and Indian paraphernalia which will recall perilous days in the infancy of the town as well as the proud memories of Washington's visit, there will no doubt be great enjoyment, wind and weather permitting. Stratford, Guilford, Milford, and Madison are all Connecticut towns that were founded in the year 1639, and four Massachusetts towns have also been rejoicing lately in their two hundred and fiftieth anniversaries, so that the present year is quite rich in historical reminiscences for the southern part of New England. In those days Connecticut was in the wilderness, and was spoken of in Boston as "out west." Although the Dutch claimed the territory between the Hudson and the Connecticut, enterprising English pioneers pushed into the valley of the latter river and along the coast of Long Island Sound. If Stratford has carefully refrained from setting the Housatonic River on fire, she has yet done her full share among our more venerable towns for the glory and good of the country, and merits an enjoyable celebration of her birthday.

"New Haven Palladium" Editorial, October 4, 1889.

Stratford has had a brilliant demonstration in token of her vivid recollection of the settlement of that choice old town 250 years ago. It brought out its orators and its relics; and it almost makes one able to see clear back through this long vista of years when one reads of how they brought to light such mementoes of the past as a carving knife imported in the Mayflower, the key of the first church in Stratford (1640), an oaken sideboard made in England and brought to Stratford in 1640, a specimen of the first engraving done in America, by Paul Revere, who certainly carved his name and fame deep into history; the seat to the first wagon used in Stratford in 1650, showing that they walked several years before they began to ride; the table at which Washington ate when he visited Stratford in 1777, besides many other weird and interesting objects of tender memory.

"Hartford Post" Editorial, October 4, 1889.

The town of Stratford is the last of the Connecticut towns to celebrate a 250th anniversary this year. This it did yesterday, and there was a gathering of people of the old town that was notable for its size, and for the inspiration which prevailed. Although not so deeply connected with the religious life of the State as it was the fortune of Guilford to be, Stratford has always borne the honor of being one of the "staid old towns" of the State. And this is honor enough. It is from such towns as this that the little commonwealth has gathered much of its inspiration and its peaceful, industrious nature.

"Bridgeport Standard" Editorial, October 3, 1889.

HONOR TO OLD STRATFORD.

The celebration which is taking place in Stratford to-day marks an era in its history to which few towns in this country have attained, and stamps its venerable qualities with the sign of a proper recognition. Bridgeport, as one of the later children of this old town, has a legitimate interest in the celebration, and in all of the historic events which it commemorates, and it is therefore especially appropriate that one of Bridgeport's honored sons, by adoption, a native of Stratford, should deliver the oration which most particularly rehearses the motive and significance of the occasion. The oration of the Hon. Curtis Thompson, which will be found elsewhere, together with the other excellent literary and miscellaneous exercises, constitute a most admirable memorial of the occasion, and are worthy of the good name of the good old town, which has seldom failed when called upon in any worthy cause during its two hundred and fifty years of life. The hospitality of its citizens has become proverbial, and their very best endeavor to-day has been seconded by delegations from many other sections of the State, and the celebration, as a whole, has been eminently successful and satisfactory. All honor to old Stratford, all honor to her patriotic citizens who appreciate her wealth of years and worth of historic endowment; and the sons who have gone out from her in the past, but who to-day return to do her reverence, may well feel a thrill of pride in her green and honorable old age, and in the respect which it inspires. The proximity of Bridgeport makes it probable that when the two hundred

and fiftieth anniversary of that city shall be celebrated, the old town of Stratford may occupy a portion of the corporate limits, but her distinctive character can never be entirely lost, and her superior age and historic associations must always keep her apart, in a sense, from the more modern developments, however much she may be surrounded by them. Trumbull, Huntington and Monroe have, together with Bridgeport, reason to feel pride in the honored old age of their venerable mother; and when in the future they, too, may be absorbed in the ever-extending limits of our lusty young city, the old boundaries out of which they all originally sprung will be restored, and "Old Stratford" will be herself again, under such changed conditions as all things municipal and mundane are subject to on this continent, in the passing of the centuries.

Extracts from "Bridgeport Standard," October 3, 1889, News Column.

Stratford is in its glory to-day. It enters the second half of its third century of existence, and a vast company, perfect weather, and all other conditions needed for a successful celebration, combine to make this day very auspicious. The sun was greeted at its rising with a salute of forty-two guns from Academy Hill, and the ringing of all the village church bells, and its rays fell upon houses gaily decorated with bunting, and every dwelling a century or more old placarded with the figures of the year in which it is supposed to have been built. The scene, for beauty, with the aged elms still retaining their summer's foliage, was never excelled.

Incoming trains brought crowds of sightseers who swelled the throng to immense proportions. Chief of Staff Eugene Morehouse was early on duty, and as fast as the organizations arrived they were assigned to proper places in line. The blare of brass bands, the flying flags and the shining uniforms of the military just set the old town crazy with exuberance. The oldest inhabitant is now content to go to his grave possessing the knowledge that he has witnessed the supreme moment in the history of the town. As fast as the honored guests began to arrive they were taken in charge by the reception committee and conducted to Mr. David P. Rhoades' residence, which was superbly decorated with flags, bunting, emblems, and Chinese lanterns. Mr. Rhoades stood at the gate and personally received each guest. The department officers of the G. A. R., the orator of the day, and other distinguished guests were dined by Mr. Rhoades at one o'clock.

THE DECORATIONS.

Most of the houses along the line of march are decorated, and all the stores and public buildings. Much of this work was done by decorating companies, but private families have displayed a good deal of taste and ingenuity in adorning their own residences. It would be impossible to decide which was the handsomest among so many, but some attracted more comment than others, and were frequently cheered by the parade.

The High School, the Congregational Church, Cupheag Club House, and the Leavitt residence, corner of Main Street and Stratford Avenue, displayed a great variety of colors and designs. Sheriff Clarkson made a fine display of flags and bunting. Dr. Cogswell had a neat design. Henry F. Meachen showed some curios among the decorations of Riverview. Capt. Barrymore's, one of the oldest houses in town, was nearly hidden in flags, which represented all the colors used in the U. S. navy. F. C. Beach was artistic in his display. The old Pendleton House on Elm Street looked very modest and retiring behind immense flags and streamers. The Curtis residence, recently purchased of the Austin heirs, showed a wealth of decorations. Asa S. Curtis was as pronounced in decoration as in principles, and his house, overlooking the hill, was very beautiful. The handsome De Witt place made an elaborate display. The Fairchild and Dunbar residences showed the greatest number and variety of flags. All the nations and more, too, were represented. On upper Main Street the decorations were exceedingly handsome, and Paradise Green looked like paradise indeed. King Street was simply a mass of flags and streamers. The residences of Messrs. Ezra Whiting, Calvin Curtis, Stiles Hurd, Edgar Osborne, Charles Blakeslee and others were in becoming attire, and flags fluttered everywhere. Broad Street was in holiday garb and the dressing rich and beautiful, and people stopped to admire the residences of Postmaster G. H. Spall and Thomas B. Fairchild. The Housatonic Club House and the shipping in the harbor were covered with flags and bunting.

Carriages full of people thronged the side streets, and cheered on the veterans and firemen as they passed to their positions in line.

About 11 o'clock the parade started with Grand Marshal S. G. Blakeman in command.

The Fourth Regiment, under Col. T. L. Watson, headed by the Wheeler & Wilson Band, led the procession in fine form. Company K, of Stratford, getting a large share of applause from their numerous friends. The carriages containing the invited guests came next. The first carriage was occupied by Stiles Judson, Jr., President of the Day, and Lieut. Governor Merwin. Governor Bulkeley was unable to be present, as he is taking a trip to Canada with the First Regiment. The division of Grand Army veterans, headed by the G. A. R. Band of this city, came in for a large share of attention. Their trappings were not gaudy, but as men gazed into the faces of veterans who had fought for their country, their hats were raised in admiration and respect. The Grand Army boys were in fact the heroes of the occasion, and Post Elias Howe, Jr., of this city, turned out in larger numbers than any other in line. The firemen with their numerous drum corps made a good showing. A prominent feature of the parade was the appearance of the famous Cupheag Club of Stratford, the members of which were dressed as Indians and mounted on ponies. A large wigwam on wheels was a part of the club's outfit.

The Loan Exhibition of old and rare objects, which has been collected by the committee having charge of that part of the programme, has proven an exceedingly interesting feature of the day. The collection is very large, and contains articles of great value and of rare historic interest. One of the most suggestive articles exhibited is a plough loaned by Freeman L. Curtis, such as the farmers used one hundred and fifty years ago. Its hewn beam and wooden share are in strong contrast to the polished steel articles of the present day. Mr. Gunther loaned a flag of the original pattern, containing thirteen stars. A number of articles are shown here that were brought from England, and carefully preserved as heirlooms, or accidentally discovered and reclaimed by relic hunters. One such is a court cupboard of solid English oak, brought from England in the ship Francis, in 1640. Another sideboard of solid English oak, owned by Mrs. David P. Judson, was brought over in 1639 by the first Judson who came to Stratford.

From the Johnson homestead is shown a wedding slipper worn by Mrs. Samuel Johnson in 1726, a hand-made screen, worked one hundred and fifty years ago, and an old pair of spectacles. Near by are the holster pistols and spurs of Col. Ephraim Wilcoxson, a tablecloth one hundred and fifty years old, belonging to Mrs. Orville Curtis, a piano one hundred years old, the property of William Strong, candle moulds, and an old pillow.

The table at which Washington ate while stopping at Benjamin's Tavern, and General Montgomery's mustard dish, one hundred and fifty years old, loaned by Wilfred M. Peck, are interesting objects.

From Bridgeport "Morning News," October 4, 1889.

Stratford did herself proud yesterday. The long waited for day of the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of the town has come and gone, and the residents need well feel proud of the manner in which the quarto-millennial celebration was carried out. Nor is this all. On a beautiful green spot, on the crest of Academy Hill, stands a handsome monument, a tribute to the fallen brave.

The day opened with every indication that it would be a pleasant one, and this lifted a great load from the shoulders of the good people in that vicinity. At sunrise there was a salute of forty-two guns, followed by the ringing of church bells. This ushered in the line of exercises, which continued all day, ending with the beautiful tableaux and display of fireworks in the evening.

The whole town was a veritable bazaar of red, white, and blue bunting, flags, and Japanese lanterns. On each incoming train were hundreds of passengers to swell the number of those already in town, and those who had driven in by all manner of conveyances.

The parade moved at 11 o'clock, A. M., in the order, and composed of the companies and divisions, previously printed in the *News*. All along the line of march the procession was greeted with cheers, and remarks of applause were heard on all sides.

After the parade the unveiling and dedicatory exercises at the monument were carried out. Drawn up on either side of the monument were the veterans, in honor of whose fallen comrades the beautiful emblem has been erected. After a selection by the Wheeler & Wilson Band, and a prayer by Rev. Joel S. Ives, the flag which had veiled the monument was drawn away, and amid the cheers of the assembled thousands the tribute erected in commemoration of the deeds of a nation's fallen soldiers stood out clear and distinct against the blue sky. Misses Georgia Thompson and Mamie Wilcoxson, becomingly arrayed in red, white, and blue, drew the rope which gave the view of the monument.

Mr. H. P. Stagg, on behalf of the veterans, presented it to the town, and Stiles Judson, Jr., President of the Day, in a few well chosen remarks, made the speech of acceptance. The dedicatory exercises were under the direction of William H. Pierpont, of New Haven, Commander of the Department of Connecticut, G. A. R., and were according to the rules of that order.

Rev. I. M. Foster, of New York, followed with an address. Intensely pathetic at times, he awakened many memories in the minds of the veterans ranged near the platform from which he was speaking. Ever and anon some witty remark from the speaker, and the silence which prevailed while he was speaking, would be broken by applause.

After singing "America," the companies adjourned to the tents erected near by, where a collation was served.

At 6.30 o'clock the evening celebration began. By this time thousands of visitors had arrived, and the concert by the Wheeler & Wilson Band was listened to by a vast assemblage of spectators. The concert was followed by a number of tableaux, which were a most pleasing part of the day and evening programme. They were intended to represent incidents which actually took place during the early years of the settlement of the town. They were given on Academy Hill. The lights were nicely arranged, and everything passed off evenly, and so as to reflect much credit on the committee in charge of this part of the exercises. Perhaps the most elaborate was the one representing Gloriana Folsom's wedding, in which a number of Stratford young ladies, attired in very becoming though old-fashioned dresses, danced the minuet. The remainder, representing the coming of the settlers; trading with the Indians; crossing the ferry; trial of the witch; Washington and Lafayette; going to church, and the wolf hunt, were nicely arranged, and gave evidence of a great amount of research and preparation. Many of the articles used in the mimic representation of the scenes had figured before in the actual events.

The exhibition of relics at the Town Hall was a very elaborate one, and credit is due to the managers of this display for the careful manner in which all the curios were marked and placed so as to show to the best advantage. There were nearly 600 exhibits, furnished by about 100 contributors, and the display elicited hearty commendation.

The national colors were displayed everywhere in Stratford yesterday. Even the dogs wore blankets of red, white and blue.

The display of fireworks last evening at Academy Hill was very elaborate, and was witnessed by thousands, who showed their enthusiasm in various ways. Previous to the exhibition the Wheeler & Wilson orchestra rendered a concert, which was appreciated by all. The grand illumination commenced a few minutes after 8 o'clock by a salute of bomb rockets, followed by three balloon ascensions, which elicited hearty commendation. Among the set pieces were "The Tree of Liberty," "The Sparkling Waterfall," "The Gatling Battery," and a special set piece, "Stratford, 1639—1889." All these pieces were very elaborate and pleased all who witnessed them. The chief display was a special set piece, representing the old Stratford meeting-house as it stood on Watchhouse Hill in 1785. A thunder-storm arises and lightning strikes the structure, which burns to the ground. This piece was especially worthy of mention, and was the finest display of pyrotechnics during the evening. The large number present showed their appreciation of this set piece by loud and repeated cheers. The displays were too numerous to enumerate, but suffice it to say that everything on the programme was carried out in good shape.

The Consolidated Road were the recipients of many—, well, not thanks, for the accommodations afforded the visitors. During the afternoon nearly every train left hundreds behind, and in the evening the management of the road received the condemnation of all. A special train of twelve cars was made up about 9 o'clock and loaded within fifteen minutes. Notwithstanding this, the cars were left on the side track for fully three-quarters of an hour waiting to depart homewards. Several started home on foot, disgusted with the service of the road.

"Bridgeport Standard," October 4, 1889.

The afternoon and evening trains to Stratford yesterday swarmed with Bridgeporters, eager to see the old town celebrate. At 7 o'clock, when the curtain rose on the tableaux, Academy Hill was black with people. All around were strings of lanterns, which gave the scene a brilliant effect. A huge stage was erected at the foot of the hill, near the Episcopal Church. The crowd on the hill thus obtained an excellent view of the pictures of ancient life, which were accurately and beautifully portrayed. There were about forty persons engaged in the tableaux, all attired in costumes similar to those worn by the first

settlers two hundred and fifty years ago. Glorianna Folsom's wedding was presented in fine shape, and brought out repeated cheers. In this picture a number of Stratford's prettiest young ladies danced a minuet arrayed in dresses of ancient pattern. The trial of the witch; the wolf hunt; Washington and Lafayette; going to church; and numerous other character representations were all well done, and showed a vast amount of work and preparation.

During the progress of the tableaux the Wheeler & Wilson band rendered an artistic programme of music, which contained many popular selections of the day. Suddenly a rocket whizzed high into the air and terminated in a shower of colored balls of fire. Then another and another rose, shrieking ominously. Presently a huge fire balloon started off on a voyage to Milford. Three others were sent up, and they sailed on till they appeared to be fixed stars in the sky. Several fountains of fire commenced to play, and the sparks danced merrily up and seemed to be thrown out in big handfuls. Crowds of young men shouted "ah-h-h!" at each fresh exhibition, and well they might, for it was in some respects one of the prettiest and liveliest display of fireworks that ever took place in the State. Bombs, which sounded like the firing of cannon, and were thrown into the air almost out of sight, and then burst into fire, descending to the ground in a golden stream, were loudly applauded. Flat whizzing pin-wheels, sent for some distance into the air and making a noise like an express train off the track, caused much amusement. The crowning point was reached when the set-piece representing the old Stratford meeting-house struck by lightning was fired off. The outline of the church as it blazed forth in colored fire was declared to be a perfect representation by those who had seen pictures of the building. The firing of the set-piece containing the word Stratford closed the celebration.

Then commenced the rush for the trains. The scene at the depot surprised everybody. All wanted to go home at the same time. The regular train arrived and left with men hanging on by their heels, but the crowd did not seem at all diminished. Extra trains were sent for and speedily filled. They were obliged to run slow in order to give the conductors time to collect the tickets. Finally all the tired Bridgeport people reached home safely, well pleased with the celebration, its triumphs and its discomforts.

It is estimated that there were 10,000 people in Stratford yesterday. The number registered on the Loan Collection book was altogether nearly 1,000.

Among the distinguished guests in Stratford yesterday were Gen. Samuel W. Johnson, Pierrepont Edwards Johnson, Hon. A. B. Tappen, of New York; Mrs. Joseph R. Hawley and sister, Lieut.-Governor Merwin, Senator Read, ex-Mayor Fones, and others.

Bridgeport "Evening Farmer," October 3, 1889.

The day of Stratford's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary dawned clear and bright, to the delight of the residents of the ancient town, who had for weeks anticipated the event, which was expected to surpass any previous celebration that had occurred in the place. The air was cool and bracing, and taken altogether it was a perfect day for the celebration. At early dawn the old town awoke from its quietude, and people were bustling about to complete the arrangements for carrying out the programme of the day. Early trains brought numbers of visitors; with each incoming train there arrived guests—men in uniform, bands of music, drum corps, and G. A. R. veterans. The streets were alive with people; national airs and martial music resounded from all portions of the town; nearly every man wore a bright colored badge fastened to the lapel of his coat, and the women were attired in gala costume. At sunrise a salute of forty-two guns was fired, and the church bells rung out a merry peal.

The decorations are universal, and surpass all previous displays and private expectations. Every private residence along the line of march is gayly decked with red, white, and blue bunting, and flags float from the windows. The decorations of some of the private residences are elaborate, while every public building is in gala attire. The residence of David P. Rhoades, near the depot, is handsomely dressed, the national colors, tastefully arranged, being displayed from every available portion of the building. The Sterling homestead, a handsome stone residence on Main Street, is the centre of another fine display. Among other buildings profusely decorated are the Town Hall, the Graded School building, W. M. Peck's residence, Congregational and Episcopal Churches, and H. J. Lewis' residence. The house occupied by Judge Robert H. Russell, on Main Street, was built in 1773, and over the front door is the date. Near the Episcopal Church, extending across Main Street, is an arch of evergreen, bearing on the sides the dates, 1639 and 1889, and from the

centre is suspended a large flag. Across Broad Street are several streamers of flags. Two large flags float in the breeze from the pinnacle of the two flag-poles on Main Street, and from each pole, extending to adjoining buildings, are strings of flags of various nations.

A feature of the celebration is the Loan Exhibition of relics in the Town Hall, and the room has been crowded with sight-seers all day. Each article on exhibition is numbered, and a catalogue of the exhibition is furnished which explains the peculiar point of interest of everything in the hall. Large crowds from Bridgeport are arriving on every train, and it is estimated that at least 15,000 people are in the town.

Governor Bulkeley and staff, and General Joseph R. Hawley, who were expected to be present, were unable to come. Both Governor Bulkeley and General Hawley are in Montreal with the First Regiment C. N. G. General Hawley in some way confused the dates of the celebration and of the trip to Montreal, and accepted an invitation to be present, but subsequently sent notice that he could not come. Lieut. Governor Merwin, of New Haven, arrived shortly after ten o'clock.

The evening features of the Stratford celebration were quite as successful as the earlier parts of the programme. None of the recent celebrations by any of the towns of the State have had as extensive a programme as that carried out in Stratford, and the latter's novelty in many respects augmented its interest. The late afternoon trains yesterday, and the early evening trains, carried immense crowds from this city and vicinity, while nearly all the residents of Milford visited their neighbors across the river to ascertain if they could equal Milford's celebration. They found that, in extensiveness and in crowds, the occasion far surpassed Milford's recent efforts. Between six and seven o'clock an immense crowd had gathered at the depot in this city, and the trains were crowded, even to the lowest step of the platforms. Such a crowd has never before been seen in the old town. Every street was a mass of shifting people. At 6.30 o'clock last evening over 10,000 people gathered on Academy Hill to witness the tableaux and fireworks, and to hear the band concert. The triple attractions went off smoothly and grandly. The tableaux reflected great credit to the ladies of Stratford, who worked faithfully to make them a success. In costuming, grouping, ancient accessories of various kinds, and impressiveness of effect, there was left nothing to be desired. The selections played by the Wheeler & Wilson Band elicited applause, and the display of fireworks was grand.

The hospitality shown by Stratford residents to guests could not have been more universal and generous. Mr. David P. Rhoades, whose elegant residence was one of the most brilliantly illuminated last evening, entertained a large number of guests, including all the members of the press. David L. Rhoades and Wilfred M. Peck, of the press committee, were active in making it agreeable for all the visiting newspaper men, showing them all the places of interest in the old town. At the press headquarters was served a collation, and at the quarters of the Cupheag Club a lavish entertainment was also provided. Sheriff Clarkson had as guests a number of court officials and his deputy sheriffs.

A number of pickpockets worked successfully in the big crowds and at the depot late last night while several thousand people were awaiting trains. Aaron Belden, of New Haven, was robbed of a pocket-book containing eight dollars, at the depot. The thief snatched the money from Belden as he was buying a ticket. A man named G. H. Swan, who lives on Pembroke Street, in this city, was robbed of a valuable gold watch. Swan missed his watch while standing near the grand stand, listening to the exercises on Academy Hill. His chain was hanging from his vest. Detective Frank Taylor and special officer Wilson, of this city, were on duty at the Loan Exhibition, and prevented several suspicious looking men from pilfering in the Town Hall building.

Upwards of 10,000 were carried to Stratford yesterday over the Consolidated Road and, all things considered, the service was very well performed. Not that there was not a great deal of discomfort from crowding, and that many of the trains could not take on all the waiting passengers, but altogether most people were accommodated, and the transportation of the great throng did not result in a single accident. Such trouble as there was arose from the fact that the railroad officials did not give Stratford credit for the power of attracting a multitude, and consequently made very inadequate provisions for the rush. In place of the hundreds they had provided for there were thousands, and the large additional facilities which the situation called for had to be furnished off-hand. Only one special train from each way was arranged. A dozen or more were run from this city as the need of them became apparent, but most of these during all day did not carry anything like their full capacity, because, through lack of time to be advertised, the public did not know of them. To furnish such extra cars as could be pressed into service kept Station Agent Hunt on the hustle. He obtained permission from headquarters to have several express trains,

including the White Mountain and the through Naugatuck trains, stop at Stratford, and thus helped relieve the pressure. It was further relieved by detaching from through down trains every car that was not occupied. Nevertheless there was considerable crowding, many of the trains leaving this city with people packed on the platforms and in the aisles like swarming bees. Fortunately, the run was so short that the ordeal of standing was not prolonged.

Tickets for Stratford ran out at the office here as early as eight o'clock in the morning, and after that Naugatuck Junction tickets were used. The trains of from twelve to eighteen cars had two conductors aboard, but they had time to punch only a small part of the tickets. In the evening special trains were kept running steadily between this city and Stratford, and about eleven o'clock the last of the homeward-bound crowd had been delivered at the depot here.

Bridgeport "Evening Post," October 3, 1889.

Fortune smiles on old Stratford to-day, for if those who have the celebration and dedication of the soldiers' monument in charge had been given the privilege of selecting such a day as desired they could not have chosen better or decided upon weather that would have been more favorable in every respect.

It is the greatest day for Stratford that the present residents of that ancient town have ever known, and it is safe to say that none of them will ever again know such a day there.

The people of the old town were astir early and, of course, the first thought was "the weather, what is the day going to be?" When they looked out and saw the prospect they were delighted and those religiously inclined gave utterance to their thanks in a manner somewhat different from the way many others expressed their pleasure.

At sunrise the church bells were rung and there was also a salute of 42 guns, one for each State. These ceremonies completed, preparations for the big events of the day, which were to come later, began to be made. They were the final preparations, however, for about all preparations that could be made beforehand were completed before the sun went down last night and there remained but very little to be done.

Last night the town was full of visitors, many of whom had come from a long distance to be present at the first of the celebration exercises. The early trains this morning brought more and from all directions by every known method of conveyance, except electricity, they came and came until the town was full to overflowing. There were old and young, of all classes and conditions in life, and the utmost good nature prevailed on all sides. The expression on many a countenance might be interpreted as reading "Stratford is having a celebration to-day. I am here and expect to do my part towards enjoying it myself and making it as pleasant as possible for others."

With such a spirit prevailing how could the occasion fail of being a success. In all such events much depends upon the way the people feel towards them. If they realize what they mean and calmly consider that the events are not alone those of the day, but that they extend back over periods of centuries and commemorate deeds of statesmanship and valor, and also are to have an influence for good on the present and future, then does the celebration become a success, because it has a meaning which can be comprehended by all who have arrived at that age when they are able to judge, think and act for themselves. This comprehension seems to be uppermost in Stratford to-day and it is good for the people of that place and good for their visitors.

At the Town Hall there is a very large collection of relics loaned by the residents of Stratford.

The town is decorated in a most elaborate manner. All of the historic houses are appropriately decorated and marked with dates of their building in large figures. The residence of David P. Rhoades, the headquarters of distinguished guests, was noticeable for the elegant display.

It would be an impossible task to describe all of the places decorated, for the humblest to the finest dwelling were all noticeable and all had something to show in honor of the great day.

About 1,200 members of the various organizations participated in the procession and all made an excellent appearance. The members of the Cupheag Club made the best appearance of any organization in line. They were dressed in Indian costume and rode on horseback. On a float drawn by four horses was a wigwam and canoe. The Cupheags also attracted attention by their Indian yells.

It is estimated that there are at least 15,000 people in the old town to-day and most of the visitors will remain to-night to see the fireworks and tableaux, which will be a grand display.

Bridgeport, Hartford, Newtown, Norwalk and New Haven papers were represented by reporters.

The press committee had a room on the second floor of the Town Hall building for reporters. After the parade, Chairman Peck invited the pencil pushers to the room in which was a long table filled with eatables and two large bowls, one at each end.

Newtown "Bee," October 4, 1889.

Old Stratford's 250th birthday was brightly beautiful overhead and gloriously celebrated by citizen and guest. Fully 10,000 people crowded into the village by rail and private conveyance, vastly different from the little company of seventeen families that accompanied Rev. Adam Blakeman there from Wethersfield in 1639 and settled about their first church in Sandy Hollow. But, great as was the throng of Thursday, it could not overtax the royal hospitality of generous citizens and was easily handled and accommodated in wide, shady streets and upon Academy Hill, in the midst of which stands the new soldiers' monument. The only flaw in the programme was that Stratford should have tried to crowd two such important events as the quarto-millennial of its history and an enduring tribute to its patriot dead into one brief day. Each was worthy of a day and celebration all its own.

Never was village gayer with flags and bunting, every house, with hardly an exception, making a brave exhibition of red, white and blue. Spots of historical moment were indicated by small signs giving brief particulars. The quadruple procession, Col. Selah G. Blakeman, marshal, started about 11 o'clock, and was a half hour in passing a given point. Col. Watson and his Fourth Regiment boys led the van, escorted by the Wheeler & Wilson band, and followed by Lieut.-Gov. Merwin and other distinguished guests in carriages. The second division included the Grand Army veterans, fast growing grizzled and gray, and the younger "Sons of Veterans." The suits of several of the drum corps were very fine. The firemen were next in line, followed by a company of uniformed Stratford boys, drawing a miniature fire engine of ancient pattern. The fourth division was composed of Odd Fellows and other organizations, with the Cupheag Club rigged out as savage red men.

Arriving at Academy Hill, Stiles Judson, Jr., presided as master of ceremonies on the stand put up south of the monument. Rev. Mr. Ives led in prayer, after which the monument, presented by H. P. Stagg and accepted by Mr. Judson, was turned over to Commander W. H. Pierpont, of the State Department of the Grand Army, whose crutches were eloquent tributes to patriotic service. Commander Pierpont and his associate department officers formally dedicated the monument according to the prescribed ritual, and then Rev. I. M. Foster, of New York, gave the most eloquent address of the day. He pictured the success of the Union cause as a vindication to the world, especially the Old World monarchs, that Democracy had passed through the severest trial and stood the test.

The security of the individual man and of the common people had been unalterably established, but the victory won must be preserved. Virtue is the life blood of freedom, while vice ruins any nation; and it is along this line that our enemies are now to be met and battled with. Frequent applause greeted the speaker, and his stories brought down the house.

The Grand Army boys were given their innings first, and held the field until 3 o'clock, the hour set for the other part of the twin celebration, the 250th birthday; the quarto-millennial was postponed until the hungry crowds could be fed, which gave Bridgeport papers a chance to sell reports of the speeches on the streets of the city before they were delivered in Stratford.

It was about 4 o'clock when the afternoon programme began. Rev. C. L. Pardee offered prayer, and B. T. Fairchild, a New York wholesale merchant, and Rev. G. W. Judson, of Orange, Mass., spoke for their native Stratford. The historical address par excellence was given by Curtis Thompson, Bridgeport's attorney, whose early home was in Stratford. His oration extolled the sturdy virtues of the Puritan, with its especial development in the goodly land of Cupheag, from which have been set off Huntington in 1789, Trumbull in 1797, Bridgeport in 1821, which also gobbled up West Stratford this year, Monroe being set off from Huntington in 1828. Stratford belonged to the Connecticut,

not the New Haven colony, and its land was taken from the Indians by Connecticut as a trophy of the successful Pequot war. Many in the past have testified to the charms of Stratford, which is still a happy village, with "a marked equality and high average of moral and intellectual manhood; homes of comfort and peace, of plain living and deep thinking, in which few are very rich or very poor, and a people interested in public affairs." Gen. Hawley was unable to be present, although his name was placed on the programme.

The tableaux in the evening were in charge of Principal Peck and R. H. Russell, Esq., and were shown near the Episcopal Church. There were eight of them, all founded on the early history of the town. The arrival of Rev. Adam Blakeman and his flock of sixty-five persons was the subject of the first; then they were shown trading with the Indians, and going to church with gun and foot-stove. The trial of Goody Bassett, Stratford's witch, was the subject of the fourth tableaux. Moses Wheeler's ferry across the Housatonic River came next, and then the wolf hunt of 1693, at which time the town paid three shillings a day for man and horse to hunt them. The visit of Washington and Lafayette to Stratford illustrated the Revolutionary period, and the marriage of Gloriana Folsom, beautiful daughter of Stratford's blacksmith, who captured the heart of a Scot and became Lady Sterling. Many of the costumes were prepared with great attention to detail, and made a beautiful effect. There were forty numbers on the fireworks programme, and these, with the general use of Japanese lanterns about the streets, painted the town red for a fact.

The Loan Exhibition on the lower floor of the Town Hall was rich in interest to the historian and antiquarian. Here were shown, around the sides of the hall and in glass cases in its centre, portraits and paintings of "ye olden time," silverware, a piano 100 years old, the spinning and flax wheels, the table at which Washington ate at Benjamin's tavern, the sideboard of solid English oak brought from England by the Judson family in 1639, a wooden plow owned by Freeman L. Curtis, a carving knife that came over in the Mayflower, and ever so many more. It was a very complete and exceedingly interesting display, and drew forth warm words of praise from the throngs who crowded to see it.

"New Haven Journal and Courier," October 4, 1889.

Another of the old Continental towns celebrated its two hundred and fiftieth birthday yesterday. It was Stratford. The old town was dressed in the gayest attire which it has been in for many a year to mark the notable event; and to say that the natives of Stratford were proud of their town and the way in which it welcomed its thousands of guests is to say but very little. Flags were flying from numbers of flag-poles, and as the incoming trains wheeled into the town with their heavy burdens, the visitors beheld a mass of bunting, flags, and decorations of all kinds upon every hand. The weather was delightfully pleasant, and everything promised happily for the old town's celebration and dedication of her bran-new soldiers' and sailors' monument. Every train was crowded, and the number of people who visited the town during the day is placed as high as 15,000.

The streets about the new monument near the centre of the town were thronged with promenaders. The monument itself stood veiled in the stars and stripes. The old Judson homestead opposite, probably the oldest in Stratford, as it dates back to 1723, was gaily adorned. The Leavitt homestead was a mass of red, white and blue. The Town Hall, Congregational Church, School building, and Post-Office were prettily decorated. Nearly all of the private residences were likewise adorned. Among those most noticeable were the residences of David P. Rhoades, where Lieut.-Governor S. E. Merwin was entertained; Henry J. Lewis, Esq.; Mr. Bunnell, of Lambert & Bunnell, Bridgeport; Judge Russell; Hon. Frederick A. Benjamin; Perry homestead, 1759; an old house, 1717. Deputy Sheriff Charles B. Curtis' residence was buried in patriotic colors.

By the time the procession was ready to start at half-past ten the streets were a moving throng of spectators. The paraders marched through the town and reached the monument about one o'clock.

There were nearly 1,500 paraders in line. A salute of thirteen guns was fired at noon. Immediately after the arrival of the parade at Academy Hill, the exercises of unveiling the monument began. The troops formed a hollow square, with the Grand Army in the centre. The Wheeler & Wilson band played a selection, Rev. Joel S. Ives offered prayer, and H. P. Staggs, Esq., presented the monument to the town.

The flag which veiled the monument was then drawn aside by Miss Georgiana Thomp-

son and Miss Mary E. Wilcoxson. The impressive services of the dedication were then conducted by General William H. Pierrepont, Commander of Department of Connecticut, G. A. R.

Rev. I. M. Foster, of New York (late of New Haven), delivered the address.

Mr. Foster's address was at times very eloquent and inspiring, and aroused much enthusiasm. He also interspersed several well-told and amusing anecdotes that illustrated his point very effectively, and were received with a big outburst of applause and merriment from the large concourse of people present. He spoke vigorously over half an hour, and closely held the attention of his audience.

The exercises closed with the hymn "America," the Wheeler & Wilson band accompanying. An elaborate collation was then given the visitors in a large tent a short distance from the speaker's stand, and at three o'clock the afternoon programme began. Rev. Charles L. Pardee, of Christ Church, Stratford, offered prayer, and Stiles Judson, Jr., President of the day, made an address of welcome.

B. T. Fairchild, Esq., of New York, spoke of the character and purpose of the early colonists, who grounded their work so well.

Rev. G. W. Judson, of Orange, Mass., followed with a short address. The remarks of Curtis Thompson, Esq., were extended and full of interest. He gave a good review of Stratford's history.

General Joseph R. Hawley was to be the next speaker, but he was not present, and Lieutenant-Governor Merwin spoke briefly. He congratulated the old town upon its happy anniversary and upon the elegant tribute to the soldier and sailor dead which now stands upon Academy Hill.

After the exercises were over, the crowds that lingered in the town scattered here and there. Every train was bringing hundreds of visitors to swell the throng, and the evening display was made the most beautiful and brilliant event of the celebration. Nearly every house in the town was hung and lighted with Chinese lanterns. All sorts of novel devices were used to make everything pretty and attractive. At half-past six o'clock the programme began by a band concert. Between the pieces rendered was given a series of interesting and remarkable tableaux. They consisted of representations of old-time life and incidents connected with the early history of the town. They illustrated the arrival of the first settlers in 1639; trading with the Indians; going to church 250 years ago; trial of Goody Bassett for witchcraft in 1650; Moses Wheeler's ferry, 1653; the wolf hunt of 1693; the visit of Washington and Lafayette during the revolutionary war; the wedding of Glorianna Folsom to John Sterling in 1771.

At 8 o'clock there was a brilliant display of fireworks. The crowds gathered about the brightly-lighted park and watched the display with great interest. Forty pieces were exhibited. The prettiest of these were the balloon ascensions, "Sparkling Waterfall," "The Tree of Liberty," "Gatling Battery," "Chinese Brilliant," "Old Stratford Meeting-house as it stood on Watch House Hill in 1785," in which a thunder storm arose and lightning struck the structure, which was quickly in flames. The closing piece was inscribed, "1639—Stratford—1889." Over it was sent a simultaneous flight of colored rockets, forming a vast aerial bouquet. This ended old Stratford's two hundred and fiftieth birthday celebration and the dedication of her soldiers' and sailors' monument. The crowds then flocked to the trains, and the depot presented a scene of crowding and hurrying which beggars description.

JOTTINGS.

The Admiral Foote Post, G. A. R., delegation of New Haven, numbering twenty men, rode in a large carryall in the procession. The route was estimated at about four miles in length. Mr. Dickinson, janitor at the post-office, was in charge of the delegation. All report a fine time and much satisfaction with the trip and celebration. All the visiting delegations commended the collation, which was ample and inviting.

Henry C. Merwin Post, G. A. R., delegation of New Haven, was under the command of Commander Thomas E. Twitchell.

Among the New Haven people at the celebration other than those in line were Capt. Charles H. Townshend; Mr. Fairchild, the coal dealer, and wife; Mr. Joseph B. Manville,

the carriage manufacturer, and wife; Lyman M. Law, Mrs. Toes and daughter, Sexton Smith, of Center Church; H. H. Peck, the bookseller, and brother, and a few others.

Lieut.-Governor Merwin was much pleased with the celebration, and highly commended the public spirit manifested by old Stratford's people.

The depot ticket office at Stratford never had a bigger rush of business than that of yesterday in the memory of the oldest inhabitants.

The fakirs and peddlers had a harvest time, and one energetic street peddler sold many watches and chains at twenty-five cents for the chain, and the watch thrown in free. He sold a number to New Haven Grand Army men, who brought them home to give the children.

Before closing, mention should be made of the exhibit in the Town Hall, where was an elaborate display of relics of olden times which had been loaned by residents of the town. It was crowded with sightseers all through the day. Many of the visitors registered their names in a book for that purpose, and many hundreds of signatures were obtained.

