

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF HINGHAM,

PLYMOUTH COUNTY,

MASSACHUSETTS.



BY SOLOMON LINCOLN, JR.



HINGHAM:

.....

CALEB GILL, JR. AND FARMER AND BROWN.

1827.

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PREFACE.



My design in the compilation of the following pages, has been to collect such facts relating to the settlement, subsequent history, and present state of the town of Hingham, as appeared to be worthy of preservation. The consideration that many of these facts were preserved only by tradition, or recorded in the decaying leaves of public and private records, rendered it desirable that an opportunity should be embraced to preserve them in a more durable form. Nearly two centuries have elapsed since this town was settled, and no full sketch of its history has ever been published. I have been desirous of noticing such individuals as have been distinguished in public or private life, and especially those of whom only traditionary information is preserved—and that fast fading from the memory of our aged fathers. It has been my endeavour to be scrupulously correct; but it will not be remarkable, if some errors in deciphering ancient manuscripts and in copying our town records (some portions of which have become almost illegible,) should have escaped me.

There may be much of this history, which, to some readers, will appear uninteresting, and perhaps some portions of it may be thought too trifling and unimportant to be given to the public. The consideration that we search with avidity for almost any facts which are rendered interesting solely on account of their antiquity, and that “the trifles of the present age become matters of weight with future generations,” is a sufficient reason for the introduction of facts of this description.

18 Jan 05 Libbie B. Ue

While engaged in collecting the materials, I have been indebted to many gentlemen in this and other towns, for the readiness with which they have attended to my inquiries for information, and for the kindness with which they have loaned to me valuable manuscripts which have been of essential service to me in endeavouring to illustrate the early history of the town. I feel under particular obligations to Hon. JAMES SAVAGE, for the politeness with which he has furnished information from the public records in Boston, and for the loan of the manuscripts of the late JAMES OTIS LINCOLN ; and to JOTHAM LINCOLN, Esq. Town Clerk of Hingham, for his unwearied patience in furnishing whatever I have desired from the town records. Other gentlemen, to whom I am indebted for much genealogical and traditionary information, will, I hope, find a sufficient acknowledgement of their kindness in the notes.

Influenced by no other motive but that of wishing to preserve for the gratification of the inhabitants of Hingham, whatever is worthy of preservation in the history of the town, or in the character of individuals, I trust that any imperfections will be regarded with candour ; and shall think myself richly compensated for the time which I have devoted to the subject, if my readers can find any thing in the result of my labours, productive of instruction or amusement.

S. LINCOLN, JR.

HINGHAM, December 1st, 1827.

J. S. Brown

HISTORY OF HINGHAM.



HINGHAM, a Post Town, in the County of Plymouth, Massachusetts, has the Bay, North,—Cohasset, East,—Scituate and Abington, South, and Weymouth, West. The greatest extent of the town from North to South, is seven miles and three quarters, and from East to West, about five miles—containing 13,775 square acres. The original limits of Hingham embraced the present town of Cohasset, which was set off and incorporated April 26, 1770. Until March 26, 1793, Hingham formed a part of Suffolk County ; at that time, it was annexed to the new County of Norfolk. By an act of the Legislature, passed June 20, 1793, repealing the former act, so far as it related to Hingham and Hull, Hingham again became a part of the County of Suffolk ; and by an act passed June 18th, 1803, Hingham was annexed to the County of Plymouth, of which it now forms a part. The distance from Hingham to Plymouth is 26 miles, and from Hingham to Boston, about 14 miles by land, and between 12 and 13 by water.

SURFACE, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS, &c. A considerable portion of this town is of an uneven surface. The north-

ern section of the settlement, is principally in a valley, between continued elevations of land, generally of easy ascent, but sometimes abrupt and rocky. Leaving the northerly section, and following the main road to Plymouth, we ascend to a higher and level tract of land, called the "Lower Plain." Leaving the "Lower Plain," we soon ascend again to high and level land, called "Glad Tidings Plain;" still higher and farther south, is "Liberty Plain." In the north part of the town, near the sea shore, there are several beautiful eminences, which afford excellent views of the metropolis of the State and its environs, of Boston Harbour, and of the adjacent country. The highest elevation of land is at Prospect Hill, in the southerly part of the town; and the next highest is at Turkey Hill, in the easterly part. Baker's,* Otis's,† Squirrel and Pleasant Hills, in the north part of the town, command extensive and delightful prospects. The land at Hockley Fields, and in the western part of the town, has a beautifully undulating surface.

The soil, is in many parts of the town, rich and productive. North of the main road from Hingham Bridge at the Back River, to Cohasset, (except at the eastern part,) the soil is uncommonly fertile, and produces abundant crops of grass, grain and vegetables, with the application of comparatively little labour. There is also, excellent land in the north-easterly part of the town, and upon the Plains; in the south-westerly and westerly parts the soil is lighter, and best calculated for grazing. In the southerly and easterly sections, there are extensive tracts of valuable woodland abounding with the pine, the oak, the

* Baker's Hill derives its name from Nicholas and Nathaniel Baker who settled at its foot.

† Otis's Hill takes its name from John Otis, one of the first settlers of the town. Its original name was Weary-all Hill, on account of the abruptness of its ascent on the south side.

maple and the walnut. There are many enterprising and good farmers, whose skill and industry are richly rewarded. Considerable attention is paid to the cultivation of fruit trees, but the productions of the soil are not sufficient to supply the wants of the inhabitants.

Mechanical and mercantile pursuits have of late, attracted more attention than agriculture. In 1820, the number of persons engaged in agriculture, was 279, and in commerce and manufactures 540.

STREAMS AND POND. The only considerable collection of fresh water is *Accord Pond*, in the south part of the town. It is situated partly in Hingham, Abington, and Scituate. The principal stream of water which flows through the town, originates from this pond—it is called *Wear River*.* A small brook which flows from the west part of the town, and empties into the Mill Pond at the Harbour, it is said, attracted the attention of the first inhabitants and induced them to settle in the valley through which it flows. *Weymouth Back River*, a navigable stream, separates Hingham from Weymouth. A bridge was thrown across this stream, in 1812, by the Hingham and Quincy Bridge and Turnpike Corporation.

ISLANDS. Within the limits of Hingham, there are five small islands, viz. : Bumkin, Chandler's (sometimes called Langley's,) Ragged, Sailor's (sometimes called Sarah's,) and Button island. Bumkin island, the largest and most valuable, is situated without the harbour, the others are within the harbour.

MANUFACTURES, TRADE AND COMMERCE. There are in Hingham, two manufactories of woollens—three grist mills—one furnace for the casting of hollow and other

* Wear River takes its name from the fact that a *wear* was erected in this river to take alewives. The town authorized Thomas Loring, Clement Bates, Nicholas Jacob, and Joseph Andrews to erect a *wear* for that purpose, in 1637.

iron ware,—one brass foundry—several tanneries—one rope-walk—salt works—one saw-mill—a printing office—book store—and an extensive manufactory of umbrellas, &c.* In addition to these, there is the usual variety of mechanics to be found in most towns of a similar size, viz. : iron smiths, silver smiths, wheelwrights, plough-makers, pump and block makers, sail makers, coopers, book-binders, cabinet and chair makers, saddle, harness and trunk makers, hat manufacturers, a clock maker, bakers, &c.

There is also, a large number of traders in English, American and West India goods.

There is but one Hotel, which is near the centre of the North Village. At the Harbour is a Ship Yard, in which one or more vessels are annually built.†

The shipping of the place is mostly employed in the cod and mackerel fishery,‡ and in the lumber trade and other coastwise navigation. There are four convenient Packets, which ply regularly between Hingham and Boston, for the transportation of passengers and goods.

* In the “Hingham Umbrella Manufactory,” there are made annually, about 25,000 umbrellas and parasols. The number of persons employed is from 35 to 40. Mr. Benjamin S. Williams, superintendant.

† William Pitts had liberty from the selectmen to build ships and other vessels at Konohasset (Cohasset) in 1675 ; and J. Blane in 1693 had permission “to build a vessel or two near the mill.”—*Town Records.*

‡ Since the year 1815, there has been the number of *one hundred and fifty-nine thousand, seven hundred and thirty-five* barrels of mackerel packed in this town. The year 1817 is not included in the estimate ; the number of barrels packed in that year not being known. These mackerel were all assorted into Nos. 1, 2, and 3—and the same Nos. are usually carried to the same markets each year. Nos. 1 are principally taken to Philadelphia—2 to the Southern States, and 3 to the West India Islands.

There are about forty sail of vessels owned in this place, chiefly employed in this business ; and their trips are from one to six weeks, as the weather and their *fortunes* may be. The vessels average

POPULATION. In 1765, Hingham (including Cohasset) contained a population of 2467 souls. In 1800, the population of Hingham alone was 2112, viz. : Males 951 ; Females 1121 ; Coloured people 40. In 1810 the whole population was 2382. The following is a view of the census of 1820 :

Males under 10 yrs.	378	Females	367
10 to 16 "	218		195
16 " 26 "	256		258
26 " 45 "	293		339
45 and upwards	225		333
	<hr/>		
	1370		1492
			<hr/>
			1370
			2862
Foreigners not naturalized,			10
Engaged in agriculture,			279
" " commerce,			153
" " manufactures,			387
Coloured people of both sexes,			45
First Parish,	1511	R. Polls	403
Second "	552	" "	154
Third Society,	602	" "	129
Others,	197	" "	64
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total,	2862		750
Census in 1810,	2382		
	<hr/>		
Gain in 10 years,	480.		

from six to ten hands each. The following table will show the number of sail, and the amount of barrels packed each year.

	No. sail,	No. bbls.		No. sail.	No. bbls.
1815,	14	3615	\ 1822,	36	18631
1816,	20	6139	\ 1823,	38	14802
1818,	25	6642	\ 1824,	41	24457
1819,	30	11480	\ 1825,	43	31109
1820,	30	13431	\ 1826,	46	18554
1821,	27	10875	\		

The quantity of salt used in *striking* and *packing* the above mentioned number of barrels of mackerel, was 199,667 bushels.—*Hingham Gazette*, Feb. 9, 1827.

The present number of qualified voters is about 550 ; and of families, 600. The town is undoubtedly as flourishing as it has been at any former period, and if the increase of population since 1820, has been in the same ratio, as for the 10 years previous, the present population of the town would amount to 3200 souls.

The actual number of polls assessed, was, in 1815, 514 ; in 1820, 547, and in 1826, 628.

MILITIA. There are in Hingham, three standing companies of militia, commanded by Capt. Charles Shute, Capt. Joshua Humphrey, and Capt. Alfred C. Hersey. There is also an excellent corps of Riflemen, called the Hingham Rifle Company. This company received its charter in 1812. The commanders of the company have been the following gentlemen, viz. :

Capt. Duncan M. B. Thaxter,* (resigned.)

Capt. Jairus Sprague, (resigned.)

Capt. Laban Hersey, Jr. (promoted.)

Capt. Charles Lane, (promoted.)

The present officers are Lieutenant, James Stephenson, Jr. Ensign, Benjamin Thomas, Jr. ; the office of Captain being vacant on account of the promotion of Capt. Lane to the office of Major.

FIRE ENGINES, &c. There are in this town four Engines for its security against fires. Fifteen men are attached to each engine. The companies are supplied with fire hooks, ladders, &c. &c.

A considerable number of the citizens have formed a Society for mutual relief in case of fires.

INSURANCE COMPANY. The Hingham Mutual Fire Insurance Company was incorporated March 4, 1826,

* Capt. Thaxter, was a liberal, intelligent, enterprising, and valuable citizen. He died Feb. 4, 1822, and was interred with masonic and military honours.

for the purpose of Mutual Insurance against losses by fire. It is now in successful operation.

The present officers of the company are the following, viz. :

Jotham Lincoln, President,
David Whiton, Treasurer,
David Harding, Secretary,

Directors, Elijah D. Wild, Thomas Loud, John Beal, Benjamin Thomas, Moses Sprague, Jr. and Ezekiel Fearing.

SOCIETY OF MUTUAL AID, &c. The *Society of Mutual Aid* was formed by a large number of gentlemen, for the purpose of assisting each other in the recovery of *any property* that may be stolen from a member of the society—and for the detection of thieves. The society has a fund, for the promotion of the objects of its institution. The officers are a clerk, and a standing committee. The present clerk is Mr. David Andrews.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. The Hingham Agricultural Society was formed in March, 1814. The society has a small library of books relating to agricultural subjects. The present officers are as follows, viz. :

Solomon Jones, President,
James Stephenson, Vice President,
John Beal, Secretary,
Benjamin Andrews, Treasurer.

LODGE. Old Colony Lodge of Free Masons, was chartered A. L. 5792, Dec. 9. Its original location was at Hanover. It was removed to Hingham A. L. 5807. This Lodge is in a flourishing state. The members have a small library of valuable books. The officers chosen in December last, were as follows, viz. :

Fearing Loring, Master,
Charles Fearing, Senior Warden,

Charles Gill, Junior Warden,
 Elijah Lincoln, Treasurer,
 David Harding, Secretary,
 Asa Fuller, Marshal,
 Benjamin Studley, Senior Deacon,
 John Lane, Junior Deacon,
 Hezekiah Lincoln, Senior Steward,
 Henry Hapgood, Junior Steward.

NEWSPAPER. The only newspaper ever published in Hingham, is the *Hingham Gazette*. It was established in January of the present year. The publishers are *Jedidiah Farmer* and *Simon Brown*.

DEBATING SOCIETY. This institution was formed in 1823, by those young men of Hingham, who were attached to the political principles of the distinguished patriot and statesman, Thomas Jefferson, for the purpose of acquiring "general and political information." The society holds monthly meetings for the discussion of questions proposed by the government of the society. The members celebrate the anniversary of its institution on the Fourth of March, by a public address. Addresses to the members of the society are delivered every quarter. The government of the society consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Standing Committee. The Presidents of the Society have been, Messrs. David Harding, Jacob H. Loud, and Albert Fearing. The present officers are, as follows, viz. :

President, John Kingman,

Vice President, Caleb Gill, Jr.

Treasurer, John Leavitt, Jr.

Secretary, Solomon Lincoln, Jr.

Standing Committee, Elijah Lincoln, Ebed Ripley, and Enoch Whiting. The number of members is about 80.

LIBRARIES. There are in Hingham four Social Libra-

ries owned by proprietors, one masonic, a circulating library, and a small one belonging to the agricultural society. They contain an aggregate of about 1800 volumes.

The First Social Library was formed in 1771, and contains between three and four hundred volumes of valuable books, chiefly Histories, Biographies, Travels, &c.

The Second Social Library was formed in 1773, as the preamble to the constitution of the proprietors, expresses, "for the promotion of Knowledge, Religion and Virtue, the three grand ornaments of human nature."

The Social Library of the Third Parish, recently formed, contains about 350 volumes of valuable books of History, Biography, Morality, and Fiction.

The Circulating Library owned by Mr. Caleb Gill, Jr. contains upwards of 500 volumes, principally new and interesting publications. These in addition to several valuable private libraries, afford great facilities for the acquisition of learning, to those who have any inclination for literary improvement. The favourable influence which such institutions exert over the best interests of the community can scarcely be estimated. A love of letters is frequently excited by these means of improvement, of which every individual can avail himself. The tone of manners is improved—talents cherished—and information extended in every class of the community.

POOR. Ample provision is made by the town for the relief of the poor. A spacious Alms House was erected in 1817, at an expense of upwards of four thousand dollars. The greatest part of the expense of building this house was defrayed from the proceeds of the sale of lands belonging to the town. The number of poor persons supported in the Alms House, is about 40. In addition to these, others out of the house, are relieved, who are not

entirely dependant on the town for support. Beside the income arising from the labour of those in the Alms House, the average sum of money expended for the support of the poor is about \$1200.

TOWN EXPENSES. The amount of money raised by tax, to defray the annual expenses, has been for several years previous to the present year, \$4,000. For 1827, the amount raised was increased to \$4,500. The town has also an income of considerable amount from other sources, such as the labour of the poor and from real estate. The Poor and School Fund, also, affords a considerable income, which is appropriated to the maintenance of Schools, and the support of the Poor. This fund was derived from the sale of lands which were granted to the town in 1780. The amount of money in this fund, was, on the first of January last, \$3926,19 ; and the amount of notes bearing interest at four per cent. and payable in a limited time, was \$3005,53, making an available fund of nearly seven thousand dollars.

The amount of money paid to teachers of schools annually, is nearly \$1800—for the support of the poor, \$1200.

In addition to the money raised, another tax is annually assessed, by a vote of the town, for the repair of Highways, Bridges, &c. to be paid in labour. This tax in 1825, exceeded \$1700 ; in 1826, it was \$1232,84, and for the present year it is \$1301,78.

EDUCATION. The inhabitants of Hingham, were, at a very early date, attentive to the interests of education. The value of Free Schools, “those invaluable political and moral institutions,—our own blessing, and the glory of our fathers,” appears to have been fully understood and properly appreciated by them. That they have been liberally supported in Hingham for a great length of time,

is highly honourable to the character of the town ; and without the fear of subjecting himself to the charge of undue partiality to the place of his nativity, the author is free to express the opinion that the effects of good education may be discovered in the general intelligence of the citizens, and that they have been particularly conspicuous in the character of those, who, aided by the advantages of an education obtained in our common schools, have risen to elevated stations in society, and conferred honour upon the place of their nativity. The number of persons, natives of the town, who have received the advantages of a collegiate education, is large ; and unquestionably, in many instances, the first impulse towards the attainment of it, was received in our free schools. Schools for private instruction have, also, for many years, been numerous and liberally patronized. For the prosecution of the studies preparatory to a collegiate education, the munificent endowment of an academy, by Mrs. Derby, affords every facility, at a trifling expense.

Some account of the establishment of Derby Academy, may not be uninteresting to the citizens. MRS. SARAH DERBY,* by a Deed of Lease and Release, executed Oct. 21, 1784, conveyed to the persons therein named, as Trustees, the piece of land on which the Academy now stands,—with the buildings then standing thereon,—the rents and profits of which were to be appropriated, by the trustees, for the maintenance of a school in the North Parish, in Hingham, for the instruction of the youth, in such arts, languages and sciences as are therein particularly mentioned, &c.

The Trustees obtained an act of incorporation, Nov.

* Mrs. Derby's maiden name was Langley. She married Dr. Ezekiel Hersey, and after his decease, Mr. Derby of Salem. She survived her husband, and died June 17, 1790, aged 76.

11, 1784, establishing a school, called in honour of its founder, **DERBY SCHOOL**. The first board of Trustees was composed of the following gentlemen, viz. :

Rev. Ebenezer Gay, D. D. of Hingham,
 “ Daniel Shute, D. D. of Hingham,
 Col. John Thaxter, of Hingham,
 Hon. Benjamin Lincoln, of Hingham,
 “ Cotton Tufts, of Weymouth,
 “ Richard Cranch, of Braintree,
 “ William Cushing, of Scituate,
 “ Nathan Cushing, of Scituate,
 John Thaxter, Esq. of Haverhill, and
 Benjamin Lincoln, Esq. of Boston.

By an act of the Legislature, passed June 19, 1797, the *Derby School* was erected into an Academy by the name of **DERBY ACADEMY**.

By the Deed of Lease and Release, the school was required to be maintained and supported, for the instruction of all such males as should be admitted therein, “ *in the Latin, Greek, English, and French languages, and in the sciences of Mathematics and Geography.*” And all such females as should be admitted therein, “ *in writing, and in the English and French languages, arithmetic, and the art of needlework in general.*” Immediately after Mrs. Derby’s decease, the Trustees were required “to elect and appoint a Preceptor for the said school, skilled in the art of writing, in the sciences aforesaid, and in the Latin, Greek, and English languages, and the sciences of mathematics, and geography ;” and also “a sensible and discreet woman skilled in the art of needle-work, whose business it shall be to instruct therein, the females that shall be admitted.”

The pupils to be admitted were, “such males of the North Parish, from twelve years old and upwards, whose

parents, guardians, or patrons may desire the same. And at any age under twelve years, when any male is intended for an admission to Harvard College, at the discretion of the Trustees."

The Trustees were authorized to send, each, two scholars to the school, one of each sex, of the ages and descriptions before mentioned.

Male pupils from the South Parish, intended for Harvard College are to be admitted under twelve years of age, and such others of the same Parish "as desire to be instructed in the art of surveying, navigation, and their attendant branches of the mathematics, at the request of parents, guardians or patrons." Each pupil is required to furnish a proportional share of fire-wood, under the direction of the Trustees. "And no person except such as is above mentioned and described, shall on any pretence be even admitted to the said school, unless the number of female scholars in the said school be less than thirty, or the number of males be less than forty, in either of which cases the said Trustees, their survivors or successors may admit such a number as shall increase the number of female scholars to thirty, and the number of male to forty, *preference forever to be given to such poor orphans whose guardians or patrons shall request their admittance.*"

In case it became necessary to rebuild the house, it was required to be situated central to the North Parish, as near as may be.

An annual lecture by "some able minister of the gospel" is to be delivered in the North Parish, for which he is to receive the sum of six pounds. In case of the decease of a Trustee, the survivors are authorized to fill the vacancy, and not more than four of the Trustees can be residents of Hingham.

By her Will, Mrs. Derby bequeathed to the Trustees, £2500 in Massachusetts State notes, the interest thereof to be by them appropriated for the use of the Preceptor ; and £700 in silver, the interest of which, to be by them appropriated for the use of the Preceptress for the time being. She also directed that her clock and portrait should be placed in the school ; and after making other legacies, created the Trustees residuary legatees of all her estate real and personal. She also expressed her desire that Abner Lincoln should be appointed Preceptor of the school as soon as opened.

In the Codicil to her Will, there was a provision inserted, that if the Trustees should neglect at any time, for the space of two years together, to apply the rents, and income of the funds to the purposes for which they were intended, they were to become the property of the President and Fellows of Harvard College, in trust, the interest thereof to be appropriated for the support of the Professor of Anatomy and Physic. She also expressed in this Codicil, her wish for the Trustees to relinquish the privilege of sending two scholars each.

I have thus enumerated the most important provisions of the Deed, Will and Codicil, that they may be fully understood by the people of Hingham, and that the liberality of the benevolent founder of the Academy may be properly appreciated.

The munificent grants and bequests of Mrs. Derby, constituted a very respectable fund, which was increased by the Legislature, by an act passed June 18, 1803, granting to the Trustees a half township of land in Maine, to be disposed of by them for the interest and benefit of the institution.

The available funds of the Academy exclusive of the building for the schools, amount at the present time, to

\$24,500. The present large and commodious edifice for the use of the schools, &c. was erected in 1818.

The following named gentlemen have been the Preceptors of the School and Academy since its establishment. Abner Lincoln, Esq. was the first ; he was appointed by the request of Mrs. Derby herself, as well as on account of his peculiarly excellent qualifications as a teacher and estimable character as a man. He filled the office from 1791 to July 1805, when he resigned the situation. His successor was Rev. Andrews Norton, now-Professor of Sacred Literature, in the University at Cambridge. He continued in the office but a short time. He was succeeded by Mr. James Day, who remained one year, when Mr. Samuel Merrill was appointed. In 1808, Rev. Daniel Kimball accepted the appointment of Preceptor and continued in the office until 1826, when Mr. Increase S. Smith, the present Preceptor was appointed.

The Preceptress is Miss Susan Waterman, and the Assistant Preceptress, Miss Elizabeth C. Norton.

The present number of scholars is 78 ; 33 males and 45 females.

The present Board of Trustees is composed of the following gentlemen, viz. :

Rev. John Allyn, D. D. of Duxbury,
 “ Peter Whitney, of Quincy,
 “ N. B. Whitney, of Hingham,
 “ Jacob Flint, of Cohasset,
 Dr. Levi Lincoln, of Hingham,
 Hon. James Savage, of Boston,
 Martin Lincoln, Esq. of Hingham,
 Dr. Cushing Otis, of Scituate,
 “ Robert Thaxter, of Dorchester,
 Rev. Charles Brooks, of Hingham,
 Ezra W. Sampson, Esq. of Braintree.

My information respecting the public schools,* is principally derived from the Chairman of the School Committee of 1826. The statement for this year, corresponds very nearly, with the existing facts, the arrangement of the schools, not having been materially altered for the present year. In 1826, the whole number of public schools was thirteen, five male and eight female. Three of the male schools are kept, each, during the whole year, and two of them for six months each; the female schools for six months each.

The number of youth in Hingham, between the ages of 4 and 16, is 879.

In 1827, October, the number of scholars on the lists of the eight female schools, was 334, and on the three summer male schools, 204.

In 1826, the amount of money paid for salaries to school teachers, was \$1740.

The number of scholars attending private schools, was in 1826, 150, and the amount paid for private tuition, was \$898.

* The earliest date, at which a public school was established in Hingham, cannot be ascertained. The earliest notice of the erection of a school house is found in the Selectmens' First Book of Records, which appears to have been in the year 1668. In 1670, Mr. Henry Smith contracted with the selectmen, "to teach and instruct, until the year be expired, in Latin, Greek and English, writing and arithmetic, such youths of the inhabitants of Hingham," as should be sent to their school. His salary was fixed at £24, to be paid quarterly, in wheat, rye, barley, peas and Indian corn, at current prices. In 1673, James Bates, Senior, was paid "for keeping school." In 1674, Joseph Andrews and James Bates received compensation as school masters. In 1677, James Bates made a written agreement with the selectmen to teach "Latin, English, writing and arithmetic," for one year for £20 sterling. In 1679, Matthew Hawke was paid by the town, for teaching a school. In 1685, Mr. Thomas Palmer contracted with the selectmen, to teach Latin, Greek, English, writing and arithmetic for £20; £10 in money, and £10 in corn. In 1687, Mr. Samuel Shepard was

The salary of the preceptor of the academy, is \$700 per year, and that of the preceptress \$300 ; the assistant preceptress receives \$150 per year.

These expenditures are exclusive of those for books, fuel, rents, repairs, &c. &c. There is also one private seminary (Misses Cushings') for young ladies, the expenses of which are not embraced in this statement, the scholars who attend it being principally from other towns.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY. The first church in Hingham, was formed in September, 1635, and is ranked by Mr. Savage (in his note on the early churches in Massachusetts, in Winthrop, vol. i. p. 95) as the twelfth that was formed in Massachusetts proper. Rev. Peter Ho-

employed as a teacher of Latin, &c. with a salary of £25 in corn. In 1690, Mr. Richard Henschman was a teacher. In 1694, Mr. Joseph Estabrook, Jr. contracted to teach Latin, Greek, &c. for £22 per year, one half to be paid in money, and the other in corn. Mr. Estabrook continued until 1696, when Mr. Jedidiah Andrews (afterwards a minister at Philadelphia) was employed for a salary of £30 in money. Mr. Estabrook was again employed in 1700, and continued until 1705, Aug. 20, when Mr. John Odlin was engaged ; but he remained for only a short time. Mr. Joseph Marsh (the same probably, who was afterwards the minister of Quincy), was employed in 1706 and 1707. After him, Mr. Daniel Lewis, who subsequently settled in the ministry at Pembroke, taught the school for several years. This note is already too long, and I give merely the names of a few other teachers. 1712-13, Mr. Jonathan Cushing ; 1713-14, Mr. Cushing and Mr. John Norton, Jr. From April, 1714, to 1717, Mr. Job Cushing, afterwards the minister of Shrewsbury. 1718, Mr. Allen, Mr. Cornelius Nye and Mr. Adam Cushing. Mr. Nye taught a school in the north part of the town, from 1718 to 1745, with the exception only of two or three years. Perhaps previously, and during that time, other schools were established in other parts of the town. The south part of the town and the east precinct drew their proportion of money from the treasury, and appropriated it for the support of schools as they thought proper. Mr. Isaac Lincoln, was a teacher of the school in the north part of the town for a long series of years. He died April 19, 1760, aged 59. From the foregoing list, it appears that well educated teachers were early employed in this town, to instruct the youth. They were generally men of liberal education.

bart of Hingham, England, with his family, arrived at Charlestown in June, 1635, where his father's family had arrived before him.* Several of his friends from Hingham, England, and others† had already settled in this town. It is said (on the authority of Mather) that he declined the invitations of several towns to become their minister; preferring to join the new settlement at Bare Cove, (which on the second of September, 1635, received the name of Hingham) and here he gathered the first church. Mr. Hobart and twenty-nine others drew for house lots on the 18th of Sept. 1635, but at what time he actually settled here it is impossible, and perhaps not material, to ascertain with perfect accuracy. Nor can we discover from any record at what particular time the first house of worship was erected. It was a small building, surrounded with a palisadoe for the protection of the worshippers against any attack by the Indians. Its situation was very near the spot on which the post office now stands, opposite the academy.

We have reason to suppose from the rapid increase of the number of settlers in the course of the four or five first years of the settlement of the town, that the church soon became respectable in point of numbers and otherwise prosperous and flourishing. In the year 1638, Mr.

* "1633, Edmond Hobart, senior, came from Hingham, in Norfolk, (Eng.) with his wife, and his son Joshua, and his daughters Rebecca and Sarah, and their servant Henery Gibbs, into New England, and settled first at Charlestown, and after the said Edmond Hobart and his son Joshua and Henery Gibbs settled in this town of Hingham."—*Manuscript of Daniel Cushing, 3d town clerk of Hingham.*

† "1633, Ralph Smith, Nicholas Jacob, and his cousin Thomas Lincoln, (weaver), from Hingham, and Thomas Hobart, from Windham, came from thence and settled in this Hingham.—*Cushing's MSS.*

Robert Peck, a preacher of the gospel in Hingham, England, arrived in this country, and settled in Hingham.* He was ordained *teacher* of the church November 28th of that year. The people of Hingham were thus early blessed with the labours of two clergymen, the duty of one being to instruct the people in doctrine, and that of the other confined generally, to exhortation. But as remarked by Mather, "the good people of Hingham, did rejoice in this light (only) for a season." Mr. Peck, at the solicitation of his friends in England, returned to them in 1641,† and there remained a minister of the gospel. The first notice which can be found of the appointment of deacons, was in the year 1640. On the 29th of January of that year, Henry Smith and Ralph Woodward were chosen deacons, and they were ordained on the 2d of February following.‡

It does not appear that the harmony of the church or the prosperity of the town was interrupted until the year 1644, when the unfortunate occurrence of the military difficulties§ caused a serious injury to both. The prominent part which Mr. Hobart took in this unpleasant controversy, rendered him less popular at home, and obnoxious to the government. His friends, however, were much the most numerous and influential party in the church, and his conduct in relation to the minority, although it gave rise to some jealousy, and in a few instances to strong dislike, does not appear to have diminished the attachment which a majority of the citizens had uniformly exhibited towards him. From the severe and burthensome fines and expenses to which he was subjected in consequence

* Cushing's MSS.

† Hobart's Diary and Cushing's MSS.

‡ Hobart's Diary.

§ A full account of these difficulties may be found under the head of Civil History, in a subsequent part of this work.

of his zeal for popular rights, he appears to have been relieved by the liberality of the people of his charge.

His salary in 1648 was three score and ten pounds. It was the same for the two subsequent years. In 1651, the town voted that "Mr. Hobart should have five score pounds a year, for two years, for his maintenance and towards building of him a house." "Five score pounds" appears to have been his regular salary for many years afterwards.*

Nothing particularly worthy of mention occurred in the affairs of the church, until within about two months before the decease of Mr. Hobart, when his declining strength and inability to discharge the pastoral duties, rendered it necessary to ordain a successor. The person selected was Rev. John Norton. He was ordained pastor of the church Nov. 27, 1678. Mr. Hobart assisted in the services on the occasion. Mr. Norton was educated at Harvard University, where he graduated in 1671. He was a nephew to Mr. Norton, the Minister of Boston. The decease of the venerable Hobart took place January 20, 1678-9, in the 75th year of his age and 53d of his ministry; nine years of which he spent in Hingham, England. He was an indefatigable student, and his acquirements were various and extensive. "He was much admired (says Mather) for well studied sermons," and the remark is a just one, if we can judge from the manuscript copies of a few of them which are now preserved. Independent in his own feelings, vigour and strength were the characteristics of his discourses. They possess more of exhortation than of doctrine, and were calculated to produce the most salutary moral effects.†

* His salary was generally paid in rye, Indian corn, wheat, &c.

† A more particular account of Mr. Hobart's family may be found in a note at the end of the volume.

The successor of Mr. Hobart was of a more mild and conciliating spirit, with probably less extensive acquirements ; but distinguished for his amiable character, fervent piety, and zeal for the promotion of true religion. He laboured in the ministry nearly thirty-eight years, and died on the third of October, 1716, in the 66th year of his age.

It was during the ministry of Mr. Norton, that the town voted to erect a new meeting-house ; but as this subject produced considerable excitement, and as the proceedings in relation to it are blended in some measure with the civil history of the town, I have reserved an account of it for that department of this work.

After the decease of Mr. Norton, about twenty months elapsed before his successor was ordained. During that time candidates were heard, and on the 11th of February, 1716-17, the inhabitants concurred with the church, and “did then by a *major vote* carried in by papers with one hundred and five hands, chuse Mr. Samuel Fisk, of Braintree, to be the minister of said Hingham.”* Mr. Fisk, it appears, did not accept this invitation of the inhabitants of Hingham to become their minister, and for what reason it is not known ; perhaps, however, the vote in his favour might not have been unanimous, and this idea is supported by tradition.

On the 28th of March, 1717, the town voted to “grant unto a minister for a yearly salary one hundred and ten pounds in money, and a settlement of £200 to be paid in Province bills of credit, or in such money as usually passeth between man and man.”

On the 9th of Sept. 1717, “The Church and Congregation voted and chose Mr. Thomas Prince to take the

*Town Records.

office of a pastor over the church of Christ and Congregation in Hingham."* Mr. Prince, also, declined the acceptance of this invitation. After Mr. Prince, Mr. EBENEZER GAY preached as a candidate, and on the 30th December, 1717, the church and congregation by their unanimous votes, gave him an invitation to become their pastor. Mr. Gay signified his acceptance of this harmonious call, which proved to be one of the most fortunate and happy events in the history of the church. He was ordained June 11, 1718.† The talents, learning, and liberal views of this eminent divine, were a rich blessing to the people of his charge, and have justly given him rank as "one of the greatest and most valuable men of his time."‡ He lived in the ministry for the remarkably long period of sixty-eight years, nine months, and a few days; and died March 18, 1787, in the ninety-first year of his age.§ At his interment a discourse was delivered by Rev. Dr. Shute. An extract from that discourse, will show the opinions entertained of him, by an enlightened and liberal contemporary :

"But no encomium of mine (says Dr. Shute) can elevate your ideas of his amiable and excellent character, both as a christian, and as a minister of the gospel. You and your fathers, *are witnesses how holily and justly and unblamably he behaved himself; and with what diligence and fidelity he discharged the duties of the ministerial office. Nor were his abilities, exerted in promoting the interest*

* Town Records.

† "Mr. Belcher preached from 2d Tim. iv. 5, "*Make full proof of thy ministry.*" Mr. Danforth gave the Charge, Mr. Eells the Right Hand of Fellowship. With those Mr. Pickman and Mr. Niles laid on hands."—*Gay's Record.*

‡ This was the opinion expressed by Dr. Chauncy respecting Dr. Gay.

§ Dr. Gay was born at Dedham, Aug. 26, 1696.

of the Redeemer's kingdom, unknown to others ;—his light was so illustrious, that his praise is in all the churches. For learning—for liberality—candour, and strength of mind, he was distinguished and celebrated, by the judicious and candid. A particular and exact delineation of his character, however, is not pretended ; to draw which would require a pen equal to his own. True greatness needs no laboured panegyric.

But yet the pensive mind, habituated to esteem and veneration by a long uninterrupted course of friendship, will follow him beyond the grave, into the regions of immortality, and please itself in contemplating him as removed from all the imperfections incident to humanity, in this mortal state,—from the labours of mental pursuits,—from all doubts in points of speculation, *here seen through a glass darkly*,—from the debility and lassitude, which time, by the constitution of Heaven, produces in the human frame, and as *now* engaged in the service of his Maker, with unceasing ardour, and rejoicing before him, in the vigour of perpetual youth.

While we drop the friendly and sympathetick tear over the remains of your dear and venerable pastor, and contemplate his better part as having left this dark abode for the realms of eternal day ; we must wish to *die the death of the righteous, and that our last end may be like his.*”*

* The following obituary notice of Dr. Gay, was published March 30, 1787, and as every thing relating to this distinguished man is interesting, it is here inserted :—

“ The Reverend Ebenezer Gay, D. D. Pastor of the First Church in Hingham, departed this life March 18th, 1787, in the 91st year of his age, and 69th of his ministry. To give a good man his deserved character, is not only justice to the dead, but charity to the living ; for while they *mark the perfect man, and behold the upright*, impressed with the amiableness of his virtues, they may be induced to imitate them, *and their end be peace.* This purpose, it is hoped, may be answered by a faint portrait of the Doctor's.

Dr. Gay retained his mental faculties in a remarkable degree of vigour to the very close of life. Of this, his justly celebrated sermon, entitled the *Old Man's Calendar*

“ He had his education at Harvard College, he made distinguished proficiency in the knowledge of the classics, and various other sciences, and received his first degree in 1714. His inclination early led him to the study of divinity ; and soon after he had received his second degree, he began to preach, and was ordained to the work of the ministry in Hingham, June 11, 1718. The duties of his office engrossed his whole attention ; and making the Bible the rule of his faith he studied that sacred book with great diligence, and soon became mighty in the scriptures : in consequence of which he was led to a juster view of the plan of divine grace in the gospel, and to sentiments more liberal and candid, than were common in that day. His compositions were judicious—evidently the result of intense thought and application—calculated to give his hearers a knowledge of the method of reconciliation through the Mediator, and impress upon their minds a sense of moral obligation. The doctrines which he preached to others were enforced by his own example : his people are witnesses how holily, how justly, and unblamably he behaved himself among them. To them he readily afforded assistance in times of distress ; and upon all occasions discovered, that their temporal as well as eternal interest lay near his heart. His heart and his doors were always open to his friends ; and by his hospitality he secured the affectionate regard of all who visited his house.

“ By his inoffensive and condescending conduct, he manifested the pacific disposition of his heart, and rendered his unwearied exertions to promote peace and good order more effectual. In ecclesiastical councils (to which he was formerly often invited) his wisdom and benevolence were conspicuous, and gave him great advantage in composing differences, and healing divisions subsisting in churches.

“ Though his conversation abroad might seem reserved, yet in private, among his friends, it was free, instructive and edifying ; the salutary effects of which have been sensibly felt by his brethren in the ministry ; and his kind, parental treatment will ever be acknowledged by them. His prayers were rational and devout, and well adapted to the various occasions of life. Enthusiasm and superstition formed no part of his religious character. In his christian warfare, he did not entangle himself with the affairs of this life, but his conversation was in heaven. In times of sickness, and in the near views of dissolution, he appeared to have composure and resignation of mind, and hopes of full immortality.

which was delivered Aug. 26, 1781, from Joshua xiv. 10, is full evidence. This excellent production was re-printed in England, translated into the Dutch language and published in Holland, and several editions of it have been published in this country.*

“ His prudent and obliging conduct rendered him amiable and beloved as a neighbour. His tender feelings for the distressed induced him to afford relief to the poor according to his ability. His beneficent actions indicated the practical sense he had of his Lord’s own words—‘ It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ The serenity of his mind, and evenness of his temper, under the infirmities of advanced years, made him agreeable to his friends, and continued to the last the happiness which had so long subsisted in his family ; in which he always presided with great tenderness and dignity. A reflection on the indulgence of Heaven in the long enjoyment of so affectionate and worthy a parent, and the hopeful prospect of his happiness beyond the grave, must inspire them with gratitude, and lead them into a cordial acquiescence in the painful separation.

“ The uncommon vigour of his mental powers, at that time of life, is evident from a printed sermon which he preached on the day when he completed the 85th year of his age. The University at Cambridge voluntarily conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, in 1785, as an expression of their sense of his great merit.

“ It was his greatest dread, he often said to his friends, to live beyond his usefulness : and it is remarkable, that by the continuance of his bodily and mental abilities, he was able to persevere in the ways of well-doing—to maintain the post assigned him, and go through all the duties of his office, to the very close of life.

“ His death was sudden. On Lord’s day morning he rose well as usual ; while preparing for the pulpit, he was arrested by the harbinger of death, and, within an hour after, calmly resigned his useful life ; and, like David of old, after he had served his generation, by the will of God fell on sleep.

“ Through the long course of his ministry, he was greatly respected by his people : which is evident, not only by their attention to him while living, but by their kind offices at his interment.

“ Thus lived and died that great and good man, the Reverend Doctor GAY, who now rests from his labours, and his works, we trust, follow him, in the ample rewards of grace and glory.”—*Mass. Gazette.*

* Of the sermons of Dr. Gay which have been published, the following is a list, viz :—One delivered at the ordination of the Rev. Joseph Green of Barnstable, 1725 ; two lecture sermons in Hing-

It is worthy of remark that for the space of more than a century and a half, the first parish was destitute of a settled minister for only twenty months.

The number of baptisms recorded by Dr. Gay, during his ministry, was 2801 ; the number of deaths (including some belonging to Hingham who died in other places) 1349 ; and the number of couples married by him was 665.

The successor of Dr. Gay, and the fourth minister of the first parish, was Rev. Henry Ware, D. D. of Sherburne, the present Hollis Professor of Divinity in Harvard University. He was educated at that University, and graduated in 1785. He was ordained over the church and congregation in Hingham Oct. 24, 1787.* In consequence of an invitation to the Professorship at Cambridge, Mr. Ware requested a dismissal from the parish, and the connexion was accordingly dissolved. Dr. Ware delivered his valedictory discourse May 5, 1805. During his ministry the number of persons baptized by him was 615, the number of marriages 185, and of deaths 489.

After the dissolution of Dr. Ware's connexion with the

ham, 1728 ; a sermon before the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company, 1728 ; a lecture in Hingham, on occasion of the arrival of His Excellency J. Belcher, Esq. to this government, 1730 ; a sermon before several military companies in Hingham, 1738 ; a sermon delivered at Suffield at the ordination of Rev. Ebenezer Gay, Jr. 1741-2 ; sermon at the funeral of Rev. J. Hancock, Braintree, 1744 ; an election sermon, 1745 ; sermon at the annual convention in Boston, 1746 ; sermon in Boston at the ordination of Rev. J. Mayhew, 1747 ; in Scituate, at the ordination of Rev. J. Dorby, 1751 ; in Keene, at the instalment of Rev. Ezra Carpenter, 1753 ; in Yarmouth, at the instalment of Rev. Grindall Rawson, 1755 ; Dudleian lecture, 1759 ; at the decease of Rev. Dr. Mayhew, in Boston, 1766 ; in Hingham, at the ordination of Rev. Caleb Gannett over a church in Nova Scotia, 1768 ; Thanksgiving Sermon, Hingham, 1770 ; Old Man's Calendar, Hingham, 1781.

* The sermon on this occasion was delivered by Rev. T. Hilliard, of Cambridge ; charge by Rev. J. Brown, of Cohasset ; and the right hand of fellowship was presented by Rev. Mr. Shute of Hingham.

First Parish, several candidates were heard, and of those, Rev. Joseph Richardson, the present pastor, was preferred by a majority of the Parish. He accordingly received an invitation to settle here in the ministry.

The invitation was accepted, and Mr. Richardson was ordained, July 2, 1806.* It is proper to mention that the members of the parish were not unanimous in extending this invitation to Mr. Richardson. The cause of this disaffection, and of the eventual separation of the opposers of the settlement of Mr. Richardson from the parish, and of their formation of a new society, are yet so fresh in the memory of most of those who will peruse these pages, that it is unnecessary for me to attempt to describe them, even if I had such an inclination. Besides, a detail of all the circumstances relating to this unpleasant controversy, would require too much space to be inserted in this work, and would answer no purpose, except as a record of my own opinion, which I certainly have no disposition to obtrude upon the public. The principal object of this history is to preserve *facts* and not *opinions* ; and I cannot persuade myself that it is incumbent on me, or desirable in any point of view, to describe the jealousies, the prejudices, or the unwise actions of the living, and especially those of which full accounts have been published to the world. If any one, however, has any relish for controversies of this description, or any disposition to refresh his memory with the accounts of this second "sad, unbrotherly contention" in Hingham, in which the clergy were involved, he may find all the details in two pamphlets published soon after its occurrence.

* The Sermon on this occasion was delivered by the late Dr. Bentley, of Salem ; the Charge by Rev. Mr. Barker, of Middleborough ; and the Right Hand of Fellowship was presented by Rev. Mr. Briggs, of Plympton.

To those who wish to read a *Vindication* of the proceedings of the First Parish, in the settlement of Mr. Richardson, I recommend a perusal of the letters of the late Dr. Bentley, of Salem, and of Rev. Mr. Norton, late of Weymouth, together with the other papers and statements published under the sanction of the names of the committees of the first church and parish. Those who are desirous of reading an opposite statement, will find the views of the opposers of Mr. Richardson's settlement, presented in a *Narrative* containing statements, letters, &c. with a reply to the vindication by a committee of the opposers; the whole collected and published by the late Dr. Thaxter.

I have thus given a sketch of the history of the First Church and Parish in Hingham, from 1635 to the present time, and in order to preserve the distinctness of the narration, I have omitted to notice the organization of the other churches during that period. There was, indeed, but one church in Hingham until the year 1721, when the Second Church was organized at Cohasset, or as it was then called Conohasset.*

Of the preliminary proceedings relating to the formation of the East Precinct, and of the subsequent establishment of a church at Conohasset, I shall now present a sketch, with some account of the clergy of the place.

In 1713, May 14, the proprietors of the undivided lands in Hingham gave their consent to the inhabitants of Conohasset, to erect a meeting house "on that land called the Plain."

At a town meeting held on the 7th day of March, 1714-15, the inhabitants of Conohasset "desired the town that they would be pleased to give their consent that they

* This name is sometimes written Conohasset, Conahasset, Conyhasset, and sometimes Konohasset, in our old records. "It signifies Fishing Promontory."—*Flint*. The town was incorporated by the name of Cohasset.

might be made a precinct, or that they might be allowed something out of the town treasury to help to maintain the worship of God amongst them, or that they might be abated that which they pay to the minister to maintain the worship of God at the *Town* : and the vote of the town passed in the *negative* concerning all the forementioned particulars.”*

It is rather remarkable that a petition so reasonable should have been rejected. The inhabitants of Conohasset then presented their case to the General Court, but the inhabitants of Hingham persisted in opposing their petition and a committee was chosen “to give answer to it,” at the General Court in June, 1715.

In July 1715, the town voted to remit to the inhabitants of Conohasset, their ministerial taxes, on the condition that they provide an *orthodox* minister among themselves, provided they *cheerfully* accept of the same.” To this the inhabitants of Conohasset replied “that they could not cheerfully accept thereof.”

In September following, the town voted to reimburse to the inhabitants of Conohasset, or to those that should afterwards inhabit in the first and second divisions of Conohasset uplands, and in the 2d part of the 3d division, all their ministerial and school taxes, so long as they should maintain an *orthodox* minister among themselves. This vote does not appear to have been satisfactory ; perhaps the condition was exceptionable. On the 12th of March, 1715-16, the town voted to remit to the inhabitants of Conohasset their ministerial and school taxes for that year, without any condition. This vote was not satisfactory. In November, 1716, a committee was chosen by the town to oppose the petition of the inhabitants of

* Town Records.

Conohasset before the General Court, and again, in February 1716-17, an unsuccessful motion was made in town meeting, to agree with the inhabitants of Conohasset about a precinct.

In May, 1717, a committee was appointed by the town to meet the committee of the General Court, chosen to view the "lands and dwellings of the inhabitants of Conohasset, to see if it be convenient to make them a precinct." It was probably soon after this time, that the inhabitants of Conohasset obtained the privileges for which they had so long contended.*

Having erected their house of worship, and obtained the privileges of a parish, the inhabitants of Conohasset soon made arrangements for the settlement of a minister. Mr. Nehemiah Hobart, a grandson of Rev. Peter Hobart, the first minister of Hingham, preached to them as a candidate from July 13, 1721, to December 13th of that year, when he was ordained, the church having been organized on the day previous.† The character of Mr. Hobart may be concisely described in the words of Mr. Flint. "His character, which I early obtained from aged persons, who knew it, and from some of his writings which I have in my possession, appears to have been that of a tru-

* In the excellent century discourses of Rev. Jacob Flint, the present minister of Cohasset, it is stated that the inhabitants of Conohasset obtained the privilege of a parish in 1715, by a petition to General Court. This statement cannot be reconciled with the votes abovementioned, taken from the town records. This discrepancy of dates is not, however, very material.

† I give these statements on the authority of Rev. Nehemiah Hobart's journal, carefully copied by the late James O. Lincoln, Esq. whose perseverance and correctness in collecting information concerning the early history of this town cannot be too much commended. At the ordination of Mr. Hobart, Rev. Daniel Lewis of Pembroke delivered the sermon; Rev. Mr. Pitcher of Scituate the charge, and Rev. Mr. Whitman of Hull gave the right hand of fellowship; Rev. Mr. Gay of Hingham made the introductory prayer.

ly devout, enlightened and liberal divine. He had talents as a preacher, and virtues as a christian, which would have rendered him instructive and acceptable, in a learned and more numerous society. His worth was not much known abroad, but was justly and highly appreciated by his early instructor, neighbour, and constant friend, the excellent Gay." Mr. Hobart died May 31, 1740, in the 44th year of his age,* and in the 19th of his ministry. The first deacon of the church in Conohasset was John Jacob, the second Joseph Bates, and the third Lazarus Beal.†

After the decease of Mr. Hobart, several candidates were employed by the parish, and of those Mr. John Fowle of Charlestown was preferred.‡ He received an invitation to become the pastor of the church and society. This invitation was not extended to Mr. Fowle, by the unanimous consent of the parish. His opposers yielded however, to the wishes of the majority, and he was ordained Dec. 31, 1741.§ Mr. Fowle was a well educated and talented clergyman. He was graduated at Harvard University in 1732. He is said however to have possessed a very troublesome nervous temperament, "which rendered him unequal in his performances, and at times quite peevish and irregular." His physical infirmity rendered his opposers more numerous, and his pastoral relation was dissolved in the fifth year of his ministry.

At this period, the first house of worship was too small for the accommodation of the society, which had increased

* Mr. Hobart was born April 27, 1697.

† Hobart's Journal.

‡ Mr. Flint's century discourses, whence I have derived many of the subsequent statements relating to Conohasset.

§ At this ordination Rev. William Smith of Weymouth began with prayer; Rev. Hull Abbot of Charlestown delivered the sermon; Rev. Nathaniel Eells of Scituate gave the charge, and Rev. Ebenezer Gay of Hingham presented the right hand of fellowship.—*Mr. Fowle's Journal.*

in numbers and wealth. The erection of a new house was commenced near the time of Mr. Fowle's dismissal, and it was completed in the course of the next year. This building was 60 feet in length and 45 in breadth. It was the same which is now standing. Before the completion of this house, several candidates were heard by the parish, and of those Mr. John Brown was preferred. He received an invitation to become their minister which was extended to him with great unanimity. He was ordained Sept. 2, 1747.*

Mr. Brown was a native of Haverhill. He received his education at Harvard University, where he was graduated in 1741. He was a man of genius, learning and wit. His sentiments were liberal, and his discourses indicated a correct taste and sound judgment. He was an active, zealous and efficient friend to the rights of his country; and by precept and example, he supported the principles which were maintained by the patriots of the American Revolution. He died in the 67th year of his age, and in the 45th of his ministry. It was during the ministry of Mr. Brown, that the east precinct in Hingham was set off and incorporated as a town by the name of Cohasset. I here leave the account of the ecclesiastical affairs of the place, having introduced so much of it as comes properly within the ecclesiastical history of Hingham.

The third church which was formed within the original limits of Hingham, was the same which is now styled the Second Church in Hingham, on account of the incorporation of Cohasset as a new town.† Of this church the first

* The services on this occasion were, introductory prayer by Rev. Wm. Smith of Weymouth; sermon by Rev. Ward Cotton; charge by Rev. Nathl. Eells; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Josiah Cotton; concluding prayer by Rev. Sheajashub Bourn of Scituate.

† The meeting-house of the second congregational parish was raised June 22, 1742. The Parish was set off March 25, 1745.

pastor was Rev. Daniel Shute, D. D. He was ordained Dec. 10, 1746. Dr. Shute was a native of Malden ; he was born July 19, 1722. He was educated at Harvard University and graduated in 1743. He was a truly eminent divine. He possessed a strong discriminating mind and great weight and respectability of character. His excellent acquaintance with human nature ; his literary acquirements, and the liberality of his political and religious sentiments, gave him great influence over the minds of men. His colloquial powers were fine, and his conversation always interesting and instructive. His discourses were sensible, practical and impressive. During the American Revolution, he advocated the cause of his country with zeal and earnestness. He was elected by his fellow citizens a member of the convention which formed the constitution of Massachusetts, and of that which adopted the constitution of the United States.*

He laboured in the ministry for a great length of time, but on account of a failure in his sight, he quitted his public labours in March, 1799 ; from which time he retained his pastoral relation until his decease, but voluntarily relinquished his salary. Rev. Nicholas Bowes Whitney, the present pastor of the church and society, was ordained his colleague Jan. 1, 1800.† Dr. Shute died Aug. 30, 1802, in the 81st year of his age and in the 56th of his ministry.‡

* His remarks in the latter convention, on the subject of a religious test, are worthy of a perusal : they may be found in a volume of debates on the federal constitution.

† At Mr. Whitney's ordination the sermon was delivered by Rev. Phineas Whitney of Shirley ; the charge by Rev. David Barnes, D. D. of Scituate, and the right hand of fellowship was presented by Rev. Mr. Ware, then pastor of the first church in Hingham.

‡ The following is an extract from a well written obituary notice of Dr. Shute, which appeared in the public papers a few days after his decease.

I have already spoken of the circumstances which gave rise to the formation of the present Third Congregational Church and Society in Hingham. This Society was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature, February 27, 1807 ; the church was organized, and assumed the name of the Third Church in Hingham, June 16, 1807. On the succeeding day, their present meeting house was dedicated to the worship of God, and their first minister,

“By the great strength of mind and clearness of perception, with which the God of Nature had distinguished him, cultivated by study and improved by accurate scholarship, he became eminent in his profession for public performances, which combined good sense, sound judgment, and extent of thought, with perspicuity of style, and a correct taste.

A firm believer in the Gospel, he had talents to give it an able support ; and the same clearness of intellect, liberality of mind, and patience of investigation, which gave him a rational view of its doctrines and principles, enabled him also to explain them with clearness, and inculcate them with success. Nor was it only by his public labours he endeavoured to promote the cause of religion ; he gave it also the support of an exemplary life. Liberal but not loose in his sentiments, he was equally displeased with that austerity, which covers religion with a perpetual gloom, and with that licentiousness, which strips her of her fairest ornaments. His religious opinions he formed with deliberation and adopted with caution ; but when once adopted, they were not lightly abandoned. He adhered to them tenaciously, and maintained them with firmness, till further light, to which his mind was always open, produced a different conviction.

In social life, though he suffered himself on no occasion to lose sight of his character as a clergymen, his natural cheerfulness and happy talent for pleasant and instructive conversation endeared him to his friends, and rendered him a pleasing guest to all who enjoyed his acquaintance ; for he knew how to support the decorum of a Christian Minister, and at the same time to display the affability and ease of an agreeable companion. He possessed, in a degree that few possess it, the talent of accommodating himself to persons of every age and description ; so that his society was always acceptable to the aged by his seriousness and gravity, to the learned by his talents, information and good sense, and to the young by the cheerfulness and pleasantry, with which he never failed to season conversation, and convey useful instruction.”

Of the productions of his pen, there have been published an artillery election sermon, 1767 ; an election sermon, 1768 ; and a sermon on the death of Dr. Gay, 1787.

Rev. Henry Colman, was ordained.* Mr. Colman was educated at Dartmouth College. He continued the pastor of the Church and Society until 1820. His pastoral relation was dissolved, March 14th of that year, at his request, and by the consent of the society.

Rev. Charles Brooks, the present minister of the Third Society, succeeded Mr. Colman in the pastoral office. He was ordained January 17, 1821.† I have thus given a sketch of the history of the congregational societies in this town, to the time of the settlement of their present ministers; with their present state, the inhabitants are sufficiently acquainted, without the aid of any further description.

Of the nine ministers, who have been settled over the three congregational societies in Hingham, four only are dead, viz. : Messrs. Hobart, Norton, Gay and Shute. The aggregate number of years, which the four spent in the ministry, in this place, exceeds two centuries; averaging over fifty years to each. It may be remarked of them, that their talents, learning, and long continued and faithful services, have had the most favourable effects on the welfare of the town. They preserved for a long series of years, the utmost harmony in the churches, unanimity among the people, and a steady and liberal support to the institutions of religion.

There is also at the present time, a remarkable degree of unanimity in the religious opinions of the people. The ministers of the three societies do not differ in their

* On this occasion Rev. Henry Ware, D. D. delivered the sermon; Rev. Dr. Lathrop of Boston the charge; and Rev. Mr. Whitney of Hingham gave the right hand of fellowship.

† At the ordination of Mr. Brooks, the sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. Ware of Cambridge; the charge by Rev. Dr. Harris of Dorchester; and the right hand of fellowship was presented by Rev. Mr. Francis of Watertown.

religious views, and are of the denomination called Unitarians. There are, however, some of other denominations in the town. An Universalist society has recently been formed, but they have no stated preacher. There are some Baptists, and a few Episcopalians ; the former have stated, and the latter occasional preaching. There are also some of the Methodist persuasion.

CIVIL HISTORY. Previously to giving an account of the civil history of the town, I thought that some information respecting the origin, names and families of the first settlers, might be acceptable to most readers, although to some, the few pages which I devote to this purpose, will appear dry and uninteresting. The unfortunate loss of the town's first "great book of records," deprives me of one source of information, concerning the early proceedings of the town, in relation to civil affairs ; but the preservation of the "smaller book of records," (imperfect as it is for many years,) the records of grants of land, the diary of the first minister, and the private papers of Daniel Cushing, Esq. to which I have before referred, enable me to present a pretty full account of the individuals who were the first settlers of Hingham. The original name of the place was Bare, or Bear Cove.* The exact date at which any individual came here to reside, cannot be ascertained. Among the papers of Mr. Cushing, there is a "list of the names of such persons as came out of the town of Hingham, and towns adjacent, in the county of Norfolk, in the Kingdom of England, into New England and settled in Hingham." From this list, we are led to believe there were inhabitants here as early as

* "Perhaps (says the editor of Winthrop) it sometimes was thought a natural resort of bears ; perhaps, sometimes the appearance of the cove at low water, regulated the letters used to express the same sound."

1633, and among them Ralph Smith, Nicholas Jacob with his family, Thomas Lincoln, weaver, Edmund Hobart and his wife, from Hingham, and Thomas Hobart with his family, from Windham,* in Norfolk, England.—During the same year, Theophilus Cushing, Edmund Hobart, senior, Joshua Hobart, and Henry Gibbs, all of Hingham, England, came to this country. Cushing lived some years at Mr. Haines's farm, and subsequently removed to Hingham.† The others settled at Charlestown, and in 1635 removed to this place. In 1634, there were other settlers here, and among them Thomas Chubbuck ; Bare Cove was assessed in that year.‡ In 1635, at the May court, Joseph Andrews was sworn as constable of the place. There was a considerable increase of the number of settlers, and in that year grants of lands were made to upwards of fifty individuals, of which a record is preserved. It was in June of that year that Rev. Peter Hobart arrived at Charlestown,§ and soon after, settled in this place.

I here subjoin the names of those who settled or received grants of land here, in the respective years mentioned. Possibly there may be some names omitted, which have escaped my observation, and those of others inserted to whom lands were granted, but who never settled here. The list is as perfect, however, as long, careful and patient examination of public and private records can make it. The names of those of whose families

* Now called Wymondham.

† Theophilus Cushing died here in March, 1678-9, aged about 100 years.

‡ The assessment was as follows : Boston, Dorchester and Newton each £80 ; Roxbury £70 ; Watertown £60 ; Sagus and Ipswich each £50 ; Salem and Charlestown each £45 ; Medford £26 ; Wessagusset £10 ; Bare Cove £4.

§ See page 22.

there are lineal descendants, or collateral branches in Hingham, at the present time, are distinguished by small capitals ; and the names of those who removed to other places are in italics ; those whose names are extinct here, or of whom there are no descendants in this town, are in the common letter.

In 1635, in addition to those before mentioned, (viz. : JOSEPH ANDREWS,* Thomas Chubbuck, Henry Gibbs, EDMUND HOBART,† sen., EDMUND HOBART, Jr., JOSHUA HOBART, Rev. PETER HOBART, THOMAS HOBART, NICHOLAS JACOB, THOMAS LINCOLN, weaver, Ralph Smith,) were *Jonas Austin*,‡ *Nicholas Baker*,§ CLEMENT BATES, Richard Betscome, Benjamin Bozworth, William Buckland, *James Cade*,|| Anthony Cooper, John Cutler,¶ John Farrow, Daniel Fop, JARVICE GOULD, WM. HERSEY,** Nicholas

* The first town clerk of Hingham.

† It may be remarked that this name has been written differently ; generally, however, either Hobart or Hubbard. Mr. Hobart the first minister usually wrote it Hobart, although the record of his father's death is, "father Hubbard died."

‡ The name of Jonas Austin afterwards appears in Taunton.

§ Nicholas Baker twice a delegate from Hingham to the General Court, afterwards removed to Scituate, where he was settled as pastor of the church. Mather speaks of him as "honest Nicholas Baker ; who, though he had but a private education, yet being a pious and zealous man, or, as Dr. Arrowsmith expresses it, so good a logician that he could offer up to God a reasonable service ; so good an arithmetician that he could wisely number his days ; and so good an orator that he persuaded himself to be a good christian ; and, being also one of good natural parts, especially of a strong memory, was chosen pastor of the church there ; and in the pastoral charge of that church he continued about eighteen years." He died August 22, 1678.

|| James Cade's name appears in Yarmouth in 1640.

¶ Cushing's MSS. date his arrival in 1637. He had a grant of land in 1635.

** This name is written in various ways ; often in our early records Hersie ; sometimes Harsie : frequently Hearsey ; but of late years Hersey. It is, I believe, a name of French origin. Among the surnames of the noblemen and gentlemen who went over to England with William the Conqueror, was that of Hersy.

Hodsdin, Thos. Johnson,* ANDREW LANE, *Wm. Large*,† THOMAS LORING, *George Ludkin*,‡ Jeremy Morse, William Nolton, JOHN OTIS§, David Phippeny, John Palmer, John Porter, Henry Rust, John Smart, *Francis Smith*, (*or Smyth*,||) *John Strong*¶, Henry Tuttil,** William Walton,†† THOMAS ANDREWS, William Arnall, George Bacon, Nathaniel Baker, Thomas Collier, GEORGE LANE, GEORGE MARSH, Abraham Martin,‡‡ Nathaniel Peck, Richard Osborn, Thomas Wakely, THOMAS GILL, Richard Ibrook, *William Cockerum*,§§ William Cockerill, JOHN FEARING,|||. John Tucker.

* A person by the name of Johnson formerly kept a tavern in a building situated on the spot where the dwelling-house of Mr. Benjamin S. Williams now stands. It was known by the name of the Pine Tree Tavern, from the circumstance that a very large pine tree stood in its front. This family removed to Stoughton.

† William Large removed to Provincetown, C. C.

‡ George Ludkin died at Braintree, February 20, 1648.

§ John Otis, the common ancestor of the distinguished civilians, patriots and orators of that name in this country. There are branches of his family in Scituate, Barnstable, Boston and in other places. This name in our old records is written variously: Otis, Oates, Otties, and Oattis.

|| Francis Smith removed to Taunton.

¶ John Strong removed to Taunton, from thence to Northampton. He was probably the ancestor of the families of that name in that town and vicinity.

** Tuttil, according to Cushing's MSS. came over in 1637. His grants of land were in 1635.

†† Walton's Cove derives its name from a person of this name.

‡‡ Martin's Well, or as it was sometimes called, Abraham's Well, derives its name from this person.

§§ Cockerum probably returned to England. "October 3, 1642, brother Cockram sailed for England."—*Hobart's Diary*.

||| John Fearing came from Cambridge, England. The arrival of a person by this name is dated in Cushing's MSS., 1638. It may be observed that in a few instances, according to Cushing's MSS., the persons to whom grants of land were made did not arrive here until after the date of their grants. This may have been the fact, but there were evidently many more settlers here before 1640 than are mentioned in these manuscripts. He mentions but four families that came over in 1635. Unquestionably a much larger number accom-

In 1636, JOHN BEAL,* senior, Anthony Eames,† THOMAS HAMMOND, Joseph Hull,‡ RICHARD JONES, Nicholas Lobdin, Richard Langer, JOHN LEAVITT,§ *Thomas Lincoln*, Jr., miller,|| THOMAS LINCOLN, cooper,|| Adam Mott,

panied Mr. Hobart. It is possible, however, that the trifling discrepancies in the dates of the arrival of some of the settlers may be reconciled by the supposition that there were in some instances two or more persons of the same name ; indeed, we know that four persons of the same christian and surname, (Thomas Lincoln) came into this town within a few years after its first settlement.

* " 1638, John Beale, shoemaker, with his wife and five sons and three daughters and two servants, came from Old Hingham and settled in New Hingham."—*Cushing's MSS.*

† Anthony Eames was a deputy in 1637, 1638 and 1643 ; frequently a town officer, and involved in the military difficulties in 1644, 1645, &c.

‡ Joseph Hull, a deputy from Hingham in September, 1638, and in March after. One of the commissioners to end small causes, in the same year.

§ The family tradition concerning John Leavitt is, that he was an indented apprentice in England, and that he absconded from his master and came to this country when nineteen years of age, and settled first at Roxbury and afterwards in Hingham. If this tradition is correct he must have arrived in this country before the year 1628, as he died November 20, 1691, aged 83. He received a grant of land in this town in 1636. His homestead was in Leavitt-street, (recently so named) on both sides of the river, and is now principally owned by the descendants of his sons Israel and Josiah. He was a deacon of the church. In his will, executed November 30, 1689, and proved January 27, 1691-2, he mentions his sons Samuel, Israel, Moses, Josiah, Nehemiah, and the widow of his son John ; also, his daughters Mary, Sarah, Hannah and Abigail. Israel had a son John ; he died July 29, 1749. John, son of this John, died April 13, 1797, aged 86. The late Mr. Jacob Leavitt was a son of this last mentioned John ; he died January 7, 1826 ; he possessed good natural abilities and a sound judgment ; he was a valuable citizen ; he filled many public offices, and was a zealous whig of the revolution. Mr. Joshua Leavitt who died May 12, 1825, aged 92, and who filled the office of town treasurer for thirty years with so much acceptance, was a descendant of Josiah Leavitt, son of the first John above mentioned.

|| For an account of the Lincolns, see note in a subsequent part of this work.

* The MINISTER of Weymouth, etc

Thomas Minard, John Parker, George Russell, WILLIAM SPRAGUE,* George Strange, Thomas Underwood, Samuel Ward, Ralph Woodward,† John Winchester, William Walker.

In 1637, THOMAS BARNES, Josiah Cobbit, *Thomas Chaffe*,‡ *Thomas Clapp*,§ William Carlslye, (or Carsly,) *Thomas Dimock*,|| Vinton Dreuce, Thomas Hett, Thomas Joshlin, Aaron Ludkin, John Morricks, THOMAS NICHOLS, Thomas Paynter, Edmund Pitts,¶ Joseph Phippeny, Thomas Shave, Ralph Smith, Thomas Turner, JOHN TOWER, Joseph Underwood, William Ludkin,** *Jonathan Bozworth*.††

In 1638, there was a considerable increase of the number of settlers. Among them were, Mr. *Robert Peck*, (see page 23,) *Joseph Peck*‡‡, *Edward Gilman*,§§ John Foul-

* William Sprague, with his brothers Richard and Ralph, arrived at Naumkeag (Salem,) in 1628 or 29; from thence they removed to Mishawum (Charlestown,) and from thence William removed to Hingham; his house lot was on the south side of Pleasant-street. He had several sons; among them, Anthony, William and John. This William removed to Rhode Island. Anthony the eldest son had a numerous family; he lived and died in a house situated near that in which Mr. Samuel Gilbert now resides, at the place called "Over the River." Josiah Sprague was one of Anthony's sons; Isaac was one of Josiah's six sons; he purchased the place now owned by Joshua Sprague, his grandson, on which stands one of the oldest dwelling-houses in Hingham.

† Ralph Woodward, one of the first deacons of the church—see 23d page.

‡ Thomas Chaffe removed to Swanzey.

§ Thomas Clapp removed to Scituate.

|| Thomas Dimock removed to Barnstable.

¶ Edmund Pitts, according to Cushing's MSS., came over in 1639, with his brother, Leonard Pitts and Adam Foulsham. His grant of land was in 1637.

** William Ludkin was from Norwich, England.

†† Jonathan Bozworth removed to Swanzey.

‡‡ Mr. Joseph Peck removed to Rehoboth, where he died, Dec. 22, 1663.

§§ Edward Gilman removed to New Hampshire.

sham, Henry Chamberlin, Stephen Gates, George Knights, *Thomas Cooper*,* MATTHEW CUSHING,† JOHN BEAL, Jr., Francis James, Philip James, James Buck, *Stephen Payne*,‡ William Pitts, Edward Michell, *John Sutton*,§ STEPHEN LINCOLN.||

Samuel Parker, THOMAS LINCOLN,¶ Jeremiah Moore, *Mr. Henry Smith*,** *Bozoan Allen*,†† MATTHEW HAWKE,‡‡ WILLIAM RIPLEY.§§ All of those preceding, who came to

* Thomas Cooper removed to Rehoboth.

† A memorandum of a descendant of Matthew Cushing mentions the date of his arrival at Boston, August 10, 1638. The name of his wife was Nazareth Pitcher. Their children, whose names follow, came with them to this country, viz. : Daniel, Jeremiah, Matthew, Deborah, and John. Matthew Cushing, senior, died September 30, 1660, aged about 72 years. He was probably the ancestor of all of the name in this country. His son John removed to Scituate, where he was a selectman in 1676, a deputy, and afterwards, about the year 1690, an assistant. His son and grandson were judges of the Supreme Court of this State, and the latter, (Hon. William Cushing,) of the Supreme Court of the United States.

‡ Stephen Payne removed to Rehoboth, where he died in 1677.

§ One of the same name removed to Rehoboth. He came from Attleborough, England. One of the same name was among the first inhabitants of Conohasset, perhaps a son of the eldest John.

|| See note on the Lincoln families, in the last part of this work.

¶ Thomas Lincoln, the husbandman.

** Mr. Henry Smith's name appears afterwards in Rehoboth.

†† Bozoan Allen, "the very good friend" of Mr. Hobart, the first minister, came from Lynn, England. He was often a deputy, a military officer and an influential citizen of Hingham. He was very active in the military difficulties in 1644, 1645, &c. He removed to Boston, where he died September 14, 1652.

‡‡ Matthew Hawke was the second town clerk of Hingham. He was from Cambridge, England.

§§ In a brief genealogy of the family of William Ripley, collected by one of his descendants, it is stated, that he "accompanied Mr. Hobart in the new settlement." If by this it is meant that he came to this country with Mr. Hobart, or that he was here before 1638, I am inclined to believe the statement is erroneous. The grant of land to William Ripley is in 1638, and in the list of settlers prepared by Mr. Cushing, there is the following memorandum : "1638, William Ripley and his wife and two sons and two daughters, came from Old Hingham and settled in New Hingham." His

this country in 1638, took passage in the ship *Diligent* of Ipswich, John Martin, master.* In addition to these the following named persons received grants of land in the year 1638, viz: John Buck, John Benson, THOMAS JONES,† Thomas Lawrence, John Stephens, JOHN STODDER,‡ Widow MARTHA WILDER,§ THOMAS THAXTER.||

In 1639, Anthony Hilliard and John Prince received

name is by him embraced, as above stated, in the list of those who took passage in the ship *Diligent* of Ipswich. He was admitted a freeman, May 18, 1642. He died in July, 1656. His two sons were John and Abraham. John married a daughter of Rev. Peter Hobart. John had six sons, viz.: John, Joshua, Jeremiah, Josiah, Peter, and Hezekiah. Of these, John and Peter died in this town. Joshua removed to Haddam, Connecticut. Jeremiah to Kingston, Massachusetts. Josiah to Weymouth. Hezekiah died in Connecticut in 1691. Peter had three sons, Peter, Nehemiah, and Ezra. Nehemiah removed to Plymouth. Peter remained in Hingham. He had two sons, Noah and Nehemiah. Noah removed to Barre. Nehemiah remained in Hingham. His wife was a daughter of Rev. Nehemiah Hobart, of Cohasset. Mr. Nehemiah Ripley, now living, is one of his sons.

* Cushing's MSS.

† This name is frequently written Joanes in the old records.

‡ This name is sometimes written as above, and frequently Stoddard.

§ For an account of the Wilder family, see note at the end of the volume.

|| Thomas Thaxter, the common ancestor of all of the name in this town and vicinity. The name of his wife was Elizabeth. He died in 1654, his wife surviving him. His sons who lived to manhood were John and Samuel. John had twelve children. He died March, 1686-7. His widow was married to Daniel Cushing, Esq. Three of the daughters of John, married Cushings. One of his sons was Col. Samuel Thaxter, a magistrate, delegate to the General Court, an assistant and otherwise distinguished in public trusts. He had four children, Elizabeth, John, Samuel, and Sarah. Elizabeth was married to Capt. John Norton, son of Rev. John Norton, and afterwards to Col. Benjamin Lincoln, father of the late Gen. Lincoln of the revolutionary army. Samuel H. U. 1714, married Sarah Marshall of Boston, and after her decease, Mary Hawke, daughter of James Hawke. She survived him and was afterwards married to Rev. John Hancock of Braintree, father of Hon. John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress. Maj. Samuel Thaxter, the son of Samuel and Sarah H. U. 1743, was one of the very few who

grants of land. The name of Hewett (Huet*) and Liford, are mentioned in Hobart's Diary, in that year, and in the Diary the following names are first found in the respective years mentioned: in 1646, BURR,† in 1647, JAMES WHITON; in 1649, JOHN LAZELL, SAMUEL STOWELL; in 1653, GARNETT‡ and CANTERBURY.§

The number of persons who came over in the ship Diligent, of Ipswich, in the year 1638, and settled in

escaped the massacre at Fort William Henry. Maj. Thaxter had a numerous family, among whom were the late Dr. Thomas Thaxter, Dr. Gridley Thaxter, of Abington, (still living,) Samuel, &c. The late Capt. Duncan M. B. Thaxter was a son of Samuel. John, the eldest son of Col. Samuel Thaxter, married Grace Stockbridge, of Pembroke. His son, Col. John Thaxter, H. U. 1741, was a delegate in 1772. John Thaxter, Esq. of Haverhill was a son of Col. John Thaxter. Dea. Joseph Thaxter was a brother of Col. John Thaxter, and father of the late Rev. Joseph Thaxter, minister of Edgartown, and a Chaplain of the army of the Revolution.

David Thaxter was the only son of the eldest Samuel who lived to manhood. He married Alice Chubbuck. He had but one son, David, who died in 1791, aged 83. Several of his children are yet living.

* The following singular account of the cure of one of this name, of a distempered imagination is extracted from the History of New England. Mass. His. Col. New Series, vol. 6, p. 442.

“1642. One Huet's wife, of Hingham, having been long in a sad, melancholy distemper, near to frenzy, and having formerly, in the year 1637, attempted to drown her child, did now again take her child of three years old, and stripping it of its clothes, threw it into the creek, but it scrambling out of the water and mud, came to the mother, who took it another time and threw it so far into the creek that it could not possibly get out; yet by good providence, a young man that accidentally passed by took it up. The mother conceived she had sinned the sin against the Holy Ghost. She was afterwards proceeded with by church council, and by that means was brought off from those satanic delusions; and after the manifestations of repentance, was received into the church again, being brought to a sound mind.”

† Simon Burr, the first of the name of Burr in this town, came from Dorchester, and was related to Rev. Jonathan Burr an early minister in that town.

* Garnett now written Gardner.

† Canterbury extinct as a surname. The Barnes families are descendants from Cornelius Canterbury.

Hingham, was 133. All that came before were 42, making in all 175. The whole number that came out of Norfolk (chiefly from Hingham, and its vicinity) from 1633 to 1639, and settled in this Hingham, was 206.* This statement on the authority of the third town clerk of Hingham, must be reconciled with the fact, that there was a much larger number of settlers here in 1639, than would appear from his estimate. They undoubtedly came in from other places, and I am inclined to believe that there may be some omissions in Mr. Cushing's list. It may be remarked here, that many of the names mentioned in the previous pages are now scattered in various parts of the country. Many of the first settlers removed to other places during the militia difficulties which occurred within a few years after the settlement of the town; and a considerable number had previously obtained lands at Rehoboth.†

The earliest record to be found of the proceedings of the town in relation to the disposition of the lands, is in 1635. In June of that year grants were made to a considerable number of individuals, and on the 18th of September as has been before stated, thirty of the inhabitants drew for house lots, and received grants of other lands for the purposes of pasture, tillage, &c.

* Cushing's MSS.

† Among the towns of which a considerable number of inhabitants originated in Hingham, are Rehoboth, Wareham, Cummington, Dennysville and Perry, (Maine.) A few removed to Swanzey, Duxbury, Scituate, Barnstable, Lancaster, &c. &c. and a large number to Boston.

The following names appear in Lancaster in 1654, viz: Stephen Gates, senior, James Whiting or Witton, John Towers and Thomas Joslin. Persons of the same names had previously received grants of land in Hingham, and actually settled here. The Pecks of Rehoboth, Fearings of Wareham, Clapps and Otises of Scituate, Dimocks and Otises of Barnstable, Lincolns of Taunton, New Bedford, Dennysville and Perry, (Me.) &c. &c. originated here.

It was in July, 1635, that a plantation was erected here,* and on the 2d of September following that, the town was incorporated by the name of Hingham,† from which it appears that there are but eleven towns in this State and but one in the county of Plymouth, older than Hingham. I cannot ascertain satisfactorily when the first meeting for civil purposes was held. It is stated by Mr. Flint in his century discourses, to have been on the 18th of September, 1635. There is as much evidence in our town records and in those of Cushing's MSS. which I have examined, that the first town meeting was held in June of that year, as in September. The statements in the same discourses, that the inhabitants of Hingham arrived in 1635, and that they obtained deeds of land from the natives to form the town previously to holding the first town meeting, are unquestionably erroneous, being at variance with our town records, Cushing's MSS. and the Indian deed itself.‡

The house lots drawn on the 18th of September, 1635, were situated on the "*Town street*," the same which is now called North street. During that year the settlement was extended to "*Broad Cove street*," recently named Lincoln Street. In the year following, house lots were granted in the street now called South street and in the northerly part of "*Bachelor street*," now Main street.§

* "By this establishment or erection of a plantation, we must not understand that settlements were then first made at the spot, but that a municipal government was permitted there, or that the place was allowed to have deputies in the General Court."—*Winthrop's Journal*, v. 1, p. 163; note by Mr. Savage.

† So named on account of the origin of the pastor and most of the people from the town of that name in Norfolk, England.

‡ Daniel Cushing was the third town clerk of Hingham, and not the second as supposed by Mr. Flint.

§ "September 18th, 1635.—It is agreed upon that every man

Some idea of the relative wealth of several towns in 1635, may be estimated from the following apportionment of the public rate for that year. Newton and Dorchester were assessed each £26 5 ; Boston £25 10 ; Salem £16 ; Hingham £6 ; Weymouth £4 ; &c. In 1637, the number of men furnished by this town to make up the number of 160 to prosecute the war against the Pequods, was 6 ; Boston furnished 26, Salem 18, Weymouth 5, Medford 3, Marblehead 3. The assessment upon this town at the General Court in August following, was £8 10 ; the least, except that of Weymouth, which was £6 16. Property and population appear to have been unequally distributed and often fluctuating. In 1637, we find the first record of the choice of a town clerk. Joseph Andrews was chosen, and in 1638, the first record of the choice of assessors.*

that is admitted to be a townsman, and has lots granted him, shall bear charges both to Church and Commonwealth, proportionably to his ability ; and in case he shall sell his lots, he shall first tender them to the town, and in case the town shall refuse to give what it shall be worth, or find a chapman to buy them, then it shall be lawful for him to sell them, always provided that it be an *honest* man that shall be placed into the said lots."—*Town Records*.

* They were Edmund Hobart, Anthony Eames, Thomas Hammond, Nicholas Jacob, Henry Rust, Joseph Andrews.

The following curious order passed to enforce attendance at public meetings :

“ 14th May, 1637.—It is likewise agreed upon by a joint consent and general vote of the freemen, that ~~wh~~ whosoever shall absent himself from any meeting appointed and shall have lawful warning of it, or shall otherwise come to the knowledge of the same meeting without special occasion approved of by the assembly or the major part of the freemen then assembled ; and further, it is likewise agreed upon that when assembled and be come together to agitate and determine of any business concerning the common good of Church or Commonwealth, not one shall depart until the assembly be broken up or without leave, upon the payment of every such defect, *one peck of Indian corn*, as well for the not staying with the assembly being there assembled as for the not coming, having lawful warning or otherwise [having] knowledge of it.) And likewise it is agreed upon, that every such fine or fines shall be levied by the

From the year 1638 until 1641, the imperfect records of the town contain nothing of particular interest. On the 9th of April of the latter year, the town passed an order fixing the wages of labourers and the prices of commodities.* In 1643, June 12, Anthony Eames, Samuel Ward and Bozoan Allen had leave from the town to set up a corn mill near the cove, on the condition that they paid any damage caused by flowage, &c.† This mill was undoubtedly erected before the year 1645, as we find recorded in November of that year, that Gowan Wilson was removed by the town from the office of miller.

constable, and shall be carefully kept to the use of the town as hereafter shall be thought fit to employ it, and from the day of the date hereof it shall stand in force, unless it be found to be prejudicial and repealed.

* The following is a copy of the order referred to : "It is ordered and agreed upon by a joint consent, that the prices of labourer's wages and commodities within this town should be affixed as follows: Upon every commodity as well as upon labourer's wages should be abated *three* pence upon the *shilling* of what has been formerly taken.

	s.	d.
Common labourers a day	1	6
For mowing a day	2	0
Carpenters a day	1	10
A team with 3 yoke of oxen and one man, a day	7	00
with 2 yoke, a mare and a man	7	00
2 yoke and one man	6	00
1 yoke, a mare and a man	5	4

and they are to work eight hours a day.

Taylor and shoemakers are to abate three pence on the shilling of what they took before for a day's work.—Butter the lb. *5d.*

Wheelwrights are to abate three pence on the shilling and to charge 2 shillings a day."

In 1641 the following persons were chosen to make a rate, viz : Thomas Cop, Edward Gilman, John Oatis, John Porter, Bozoan Allen, and Joseph Andrews.

† In a note to Winthrop's Journal, vol. ii. p. 294, it is stated that Thomas Joy, a carpenter, (who was employed to obtain subscribers to Dr. Child's celebrated petition to government) removed from Boston to Hingham, where "he built and owned the town mill." His removal to Hingham was probably in 1646. It would seem that the mill was built before his removal to Hingham ; yet being a car-

It appears, that at an early date, there was a controversy respecting a portion of the lands embraced within the limits of Nantasket, or Nantascot. The inhabitants of Hingham claimed, and endeavoured to maintain a title to them, as in July, 1643, we find the following record, viz. : “ There is chosen by the town, Joseph Peck, Bozoan Allen, Anthony Eames, and Joshua Hubbard, to go to the next court to make the best improvement of the evidence the town have for the property of Nantascot, and to answer the suit that now depends, &c.”

In the records of the General Court, (vol. ii. p. 35,) there is recorded the following peremptory decision on this subject, in September, 1643. “ The former grant to Nantascot was again voted and confirmed, and Hingham were willed to forbear troubling the Court any more about Nantascot.”

penter he might have been employed to build it. On a loose paper among the manuscripts of Daniel Cushing, I find a sketch of a conveyance of a mill with a recital as follows : “ Whereas Thomas Joy, heretofore of the town of Boston, and late inhabitant of the town of Hingham, &c. carpenter, deceased, did in his life time some years before his death make a feoffment of a grist mill standing in the town cove at Hingham aforesaid, with some houses, lands and meadows lying, &c. (which he the said Joy purchased of Bozone Allen,) to his father-in-law John Gallop of Boston, seaman, &c. &c.” This evidence led me to suppose the impression of the author of the note in Winthrop to be erroneous, viz. : “ that Joy *built* and owned the town mill.” My supposition was that the first mill was built by those who had liberty from the town, and that it was originally owned by them and sold to Joy. In answer to some inquiries made to the author of the note referred to, relating to the evidence of the fact that Joy built the first mill, I have been furnished with the following statement and extracts from the Registry of Deeds for Suffolk County. Although relating merely to a corn mill, they may be amusing to some readers. He writes as follows :—“ In Vol. ii. of our Registry of deeds p. 77 Thos. Joy, of Boston, carpenter, conveys to Richard Church of Charlestown, carpenter, “ the one half or moiety of all that corn mill standing and being at Hingham in New England, and half the foundation of a saw mill adjoining to

Previously to the difficulties of 1644, we have reason to suppose that the town was flourishing and prosperous. The situation was eligible—the facilities for fishing, and for intercourse with other towns by water, contributed to enrich it. In 1654, it is described by Johnson, in his *Wonder Working Providence*, in the following manner, viz. : “ A place nothing inferiour to their Neighbours for scituation, and the people have much profited themselves by transporting Timber, Planke and Mast for shipping to the town of Boston, as also ceder and Pine-board to supply the wants of other townes, and also to remote parts, even as far as Barbadoes. They want not for fish for themselves and others also. This towne consisted of about sixty families, the forme is somewhat intricate to describe, by reason of the Seas wasting crookes where it beats upon a mouldering shore, yet have they compleat

it, with half the dam, wharf-head and stream whereon the said mills do stand, called the town's cove, with one half or moiety of the lot of land lying thereunto, containing four or six acres of land, be it more or less, which formerly were the lands of Abraham Martyn,” &c. &c. this was 4 February 1653. It appears in a later page of the same volume, p. 83 that previously, scil. 24 January 1653 Joy had leased by indenture to Church for 21 years the same moiety. After the record of the indenture is this curious memorandum. “ It is agreed betwixt the said parties, that they shall as soon as the corn mill is finished to grind, they shall within six days next after set upon the framing and finishing the saw mill.” Next follows, “ A testimony, in reference to the present covenant, Nathaniel Sowther, aged about 62 years, deposeth and saith, that about the 24 January 1653 this deponent engrossed a pair of indentures made betwixt Thomas Joy and Richard Church for the moiety of the mill at Hingham with other things for the term of one and twenty years, but the said term was not to begin until the mill and dam was finished that she might be able to grind corn, and therefore there was a blank left to put in the date and to commence from the day that the said mill was set on work and grind corn; notwithstanding the said indentures were sealed and acknowledged before the Governor with mutual consent to put in the date after the mill was set on work. Taken upon oath this 19 of Octor. 1654.” The indenture is recorded *with the blank.*”

streetes in some places. The people joynd in Church covenant in this place, were much about an hundred soules, but have been lessened by a sad unbrotherly contention, which fell out among them wasting them every way, continued already for seven yeares space, to the great grief of all other Churches," &c. It is this "sad, unbrotherly contention" which first attracts our attention in the early history of Hingham. It is to be regretted, that most of the contemporary writers of the time when these difficulties arose, should have been of that class which disapproved of the proceedings of a majority of the citizens of the town, and that no statement by those opposed to them in opinion, has been preserved ; because by comparing opposite statements we should perhaps view the conduct of our ancestors, (then considered unjustifiable and disorderly,) as the result of principles more consonant to the spirit of the present age, than to the feelings of men at the time when they lived.

I am aware, however, that there is justice in the remark of the learned editor of Winthrop, when speaking of Governor Winthrop's account of these affairs, he says, "an unusual fairness for a party whose feelings had been so much engaged in the controversy is here shown by our author." These difficulties originated among the members of the military company, gradually enlisted the feelings of the whole town, arrested the attention of the church, were taken cognizance of by the neighbouring churches, and at last required the interposition of the government. A sketch of the rise, progress and termination of these difficulties may not be uninteresting ; illustrating, as it will, the principles of our fathers, and giving some indication of the spirit and asperity of controversies, when the prejudices of religion and of politics were un-

fortunately blended together. Winthrop, in his journal, vol. ii. p. 221, introduces the subject as follows :

“ 1645. This court fell out a troublesome business which took up much time. The town of Hingham, having one Emes their lieutenant seven or eight years, had lately chosen him to be their captain, and had presented him to the standing council for allowance ; but before it was accomplished the greater part of the town took some light occasion of offence against him, and chose one Allen to be their captain, and presented him to the magistrates (in the time of the last general court) to be allowed. But the magistrates, considering the injury that would hereby accrue to Emes, (who had been their chief commander so many years, and had deserved well in his place, and that Allen had no other skill, but what he learned from Emes,) refused to allow of Allen, but willed both sides to return home, and every officer to keep his place, until the court should take further order. Upon their return home, the messengers, who came for Allen, called a private meeting of those of their own party, and told them truly what answer they received from the magistrates, and soon after they appointed a training day, (without their lieutenant's knowledge,) and being assembled, the lieutenant hearing of it came to them, and would have exercised them as he was wont to do, but those of the other party refused to follow him, except he would show them some order for it. He told them of the magistrates' order about it : the others replied that authority had advised him to go home and lay down his place honourably. Another asked, what the magistrates had to do with them ? Another, that it was but three or four of the magistrates, and if they had been all there, it had been nothing, for Mr. Allen had brought more for

them from the deputies, than the lieutenant had from the magistrates. Another of them professeth he will die at the sword's point, if he might not have the choice of his own officers. Another (viz. the clerk of the band) stands up above the people, and requires them to vote, whether they would bear them out in what was past and what was to come. This being assented unto, and the tumult continuing, one of the officers (he who had told them that authority had advised the lieutenant to go home and lay down his place) required Allen to take the captain's place ; but he not then accepting it, they put it to vote, whether he should be their captain. The vote passing for it, he then told the company, it was now past question, and thereupon Allen accepted it, and exercised the company two or three days, only about a third part of them followed the lieutenant. He, having denied in the open field, that authority had advised him to lay down his place, and putting (in some sort) the lie upon those who had so reported, was the next Lord's day called to answer it before the church, and he standing to maintain what he had said, five witnesses were produced to convince him. Some of them affirmed the words, the others explained their meaning to be, that one magistrate had so advised him. He denied both. Whereupon the pastor, one Mr. Hubbert, (brother to three of the principal in this sedition,) was very forward to have excommunicated the lieutenant presently, but, upon some opposition, it was put off to the next day. Thereupon the lieutenant and some three or four more of the chief men of the town informed four of the next magistrates of these proceedings, who forthwith met at Boston about it, (viz. the deputy governor, the serjeant major general, the secretary, and Mr. Hibbins.) These, considering the case, sent warrant to the constable to attach some of the principal offenders

(viz. three of the Hubbards and two more) to appear before them at Boston, to find sureties for their appearance at the next court &c. Upon the day they came to Boston, but their said brother the minister came before them, and fell to expostulate with the said magistrates about the said cause, complaining against the complainants, as tale-bearers &c. taking it very disdainfully that his brethren should be sent for by a constable, with other high speeches, which were so provoking, as some of the magistrates told him, that, were it not for respect to his ministry, they would commit him. When his brethren and the rest were come in, the matters of the information were laid to their charge, which they denied for the most part. So they were bound over (each for other) to the next court of assistants. After this five others were sent for by summons (these were only for speaking untruths of the magistrates in the church.) They came before the deputy governour, when he was alone, and demanded the cause of their sending for, and to know their accusers. The deputy told them so much of the cause as he could remember, and referred them to the secretary for a copy, and for their accusers he told them they knew both the men and the matter, neither was a judge bound to let a criminal offender know his accusers before the day of trial, but only in his own discretion, least the accuser might be taken off or perverted &c. Being required to give bond for their appearance &c. they refused. The deputy laboured to let them see their error, and gave them time to consider of it. About fourteen days after, seeing two of them in the court, (which was kept by those four magistrates for smaller causes,) the deputy required them again to enter bond for their appearance &c. and upon their second refusal committed them in that open court.

“The general court falling out before the court of assistants, the Hubberts and the two which were committed, and others of Hingham, about ninety, (whereof Mr. Hubbert their minister was the first,) presented a petition to the general court, to this effect, that whereas some of them had been bound over, and others committed by some of the magistrates for words spoken concerning the power of the general court, and their liberties, and the liberties of the church &c. they craved that the court would hear the cause &c. This was first presented to the deputies, who sent it to the magistrates desiring their concurrence with them, that the cause might be heard &c. The magistrates, marvelling that they would grant such a petition, without desiring conference first with themselves, whom it so much concerned, returned answer, that they were willing the cause should be heard, so-as the petitioners would name the magistrates whom they intended, and the matters they would lay to their charge &c. Upon this the deputies demanded of the petitioners’ agents (who were then deputies of the court) to have satisfaction in those points, whereupon they singled out the deputy governor, and two of the petitioners undertook the prosecution. Then the petition was returned again to the magistrates for their consent &c. who being desirous that the deputies might take notice, how prejudicial to authority and the honour of the court it would be to call a magistrate to answer criminally in a cause, wherein nothing of that nature could be laid to his charge, and that without any private examination preceding, did intimate so much to the deputies, (though not directly, yet plainly enough,) showing them that nothing criminal &c. was laid to his charge, and that the things objected were the act of the court &c. yet if they would needs have a hearing, they would join in it. And indeed it was the desire of the

deputy, (knowing well how much himself and the other magistrates did suffer in the cause, through the slanderous reports wherewith the deputies and the country about had been possessed,) that the cause might receive a public hearing.

“The day appointed being come, the court assembled in the meeting house at Boston. Diverse of the elders were present, and a great assembly of people. The deputy governour, coming in with the rest of the magistrates, placed himself beneath within the bar, and so sate uncovered. Some question was in court about his being in that place (for many both of the court and the assembly were grieved at it.) But the deputy telling them, that, being criminally accused, he might not sit as a judge in that cause, and if he were upon the bench, it would be a great disadvantage to him, for he could not take that liberty to plead the cause, which he ought to be allowed at the bar, upon this the court was satisfied.

“The petitioners having declared their grievances &c. the deputy craved leave to make answer, which was to this effect, viz. that he accounted it no disgrace, but rather an honour put upon him, to be singled out from his brethren in the defence of one so just (as he hoped to make that appear) and of so public concernment. And although he might have pleaded to the petition, and so have demurred in law, upon three points, 1, in that there is nothing laid to his charge, that is either criminal or unjust; 2, if he had been mistaken either in the law or in the state of the case, yet whether it were such as a judge is to be called in question for as a delinquent, where it doth not appear to be wickedness or wilfulness; for in England many erroneous judgments are reversed, and errors in proceedings rectified, and yet the judges not called in question about them; 3, in that being thus singled out

from three other magistrates, and to answer by himself for some things, which were the act of a court, he is deprived of the just means of his defence, for many things may be justified as done by four, which are not warrantable if done by one alone, and the records of a court are a full justification of any act, while such record stands in force. But he was willing to waive this plea, and to make answer to the particular charges, to the end that the truth of the case, and of all proceedings thereupon might appear to all men.

“Hereupon the court proceeded to examine the whole cause. The deputy justified all the particulars laid to his charge, as that upon credible information of such a mutinous practice, and open disturbance of the peace, and slighting of authority, the offenders were sent for, the principal by warrant to the constable to bring them, and others by summons, and that some were bound over to the next court of assistants, and others that refused to be bound were committed; and all this according to the equity of laws here established, and the custom and laws of England, and our constant practice here these fifteen years. And for some speeches he was charged with as spoken to the delinquents, when they came before him at his house, when none were present with him but themselves, first, he appealed to the judgment of the court, whether delinquents may be received as competent witnesses against a magistrate in such a case; then, for the words themselves, some he justified, some he explained so as no advantage could be taken of them, as that he should say, that the magistrates could try some criminal causes without a jury, that he knew no law of God or man which required a judge to make known to the party his accusers (or rather witnesses) before the cause came

to hearing. But two of them charged him to have said, that it was against the law of God and man so to do, which had been absurd, for the deputy professed he knew no law against it, only a judge may sometimes, in discretion, conceal their names &c. lest they should be tampered with, or conveyed out of the way &c.

“Two of the magistrates and many of the deputies were of opinion that the magistrates exercised too much power, and that the people’s liberty was thereby in danger; and other of the deputies (being about half) and all the rest of the magistrates were of a different judgment, and that authority was overmuch slighted, which, if not timely remedied would endanger the commonwealth, and bring us to a mere democracy. By occasion of this difference, there was not so orderly carriage at the hearing, as was meet, each side striving unseasonably to enforce the evidence, and declaring their judgments thereupon, which should have been reserved to a more private debate, (as after it was,) so as the best part of two days was spent in this public agitation and examination of witnesses &c. This being ended, a committee was chosen of magistrates and deputies, who stated the case, as it appeared upon the whole pleading and evidence, though it cost much time and with great difficulty did the committee come to accord upon it.

“The case being stated and agreed, the magistrates and deputies considered it apart, first the deputies having spent a whole day, and not attaining to any issue, sent up to the magistrates to have their thoughts about it, who taking it into consideration, (the deputy always withdrawing when that matter came into debate,) agreed upon these four points chiefly; 1. that the petition was false and scandalous; 2. that those who were bound over &c.

and others that were parties to the disturbance at Hingham, were all offenders, though in different degrees, 3. that they and the petitioners were to be censured, 4. that the deputy governour ought to be acquit and righted &c. This being sent down to the deputies, they spent divers days about it, and made two or three returns to the magistrates, and though they found the petition false and scandalous, and so voted it, yet they would not agree to any censure. The magistrates, on the other side, were resolved for censure, and for the deputy's full acquittal. The deputies being thus hard held to it, and growing weary of the court, for it began [3] 14, and brake not up (save one week) till [5] 5, were content they should pay the charges of the court. After, they were drawn to consent to some small fines, but in this they would have drawn in lieutenant Emes to have been fined deeply, he being neither plaintiff nor defendant, but an informer only, and had made good all the points of his information, and no offence found in him, other than that which was after adjudged worthy of admonition only; and they would have imposed the charges of the court upon the whole trained band at Hingham, when it was apparent, that divers were innocent, and had no hand in any of these proceedings. The magistrates not consenting to so manifest injustice, they sent to the deputies to desire them to join with them in calling in the help of the elders, (for they were now assembled at Cambridge from all parts of the United Colonies, and diverse of them were present when the cause was publickly heard, and declared themselves much grieved to see that the deputy governour should be called forth to answer as a delinquent in such a case as this was, and one of them in the name of the rest, had written to him to that effect, fearing

least he should apprehend over deeply of the injury &c.) but the deputies would by no means consent there-to, for they knew that many of the elders understood the cause, and were more careful to uphold the honour and power of the magistrates than themselves were liked of, and many of them (at the request of the elder and others of the church of Hingham during this court) had been at Hingham, to see if they could settle peace in the church there, and found the elder and others the petitioners in great fault &c. After this (upon motion of the deputies) it was agreed to refer the cause to arbitrators, according to an order of court, when the magistrates and deputies cannot agree &c. The magistrates named six of the elders of the next towns, and left it to them to choose any three or four of them, and required them to name six others. The deputies finding themselves now at the wall, and not daring to trust the elders with the cause, they sent to desire that six of themselves might come and confer with the magistrates, which being granted, they came, and at last came to this agreement, viz. the chief petitioners and the rest of the offenders were severally fined, (all their fines not amounting to 50 pounds,) the rest of the petitioners to bear equal share to 50 pounds more towards the charges of the court, (two of the principal offenders were the deputies of the town, Joshua Hubbert and Bozone Allen, the first was fined 20 pounds, and the other 5 pounds,) lieutenant Emes to be under admonition, the deputy governour to be legally and publickly acquit of all that was laid to his charge.

“According to this agreement, [5] 3, presently after the lecture the magistrates and deputies took their places in the meeting house, and the people being come together, and the deputy governour placing himself within the bar,

as at the time of hearing &c. the governour read the sentence of the court, without speaking any more, for the deputies had (by importunity) obtained a promise of silence from the magistrates. Then was the deputy governour desired by the court to go up and take his place again upon the bench, which he did accordingly, and the court being about to arise, he desired leave for a little speech, which was to this effect.

“ I suppose something may be expected from me, upon this charge that is befallen me, which moves me to speak now to you ; yet I intend not to intermeddle in the proceedings of the court, or with any of the persons concerned therein. Only I bless God, that I see an issue of this troublesome business. I also acknowledge the justice of the court, and, for mine own part, I am well satisfied, I was publickly charged, and I am publickly and legally acquitted, which is all I did expect or desire. And though this be sufficient for my justification before men, yet not so before the God, who hath seen so much amiss in my dispensations (and even in this affair) as calls me to be humble. For to be publickly and criminally charged in this court, is matter of humiliation, (and I desire to make a right use of it,) notwithstanding I be thus acquitted. If her father had spit in her face, (saith the Lord concerning Miriam,) should she not have been ashamed seven days ? Shame had lien upon her, whatever the occasion had been. I am unwilling to stay you from your urgent affairs, yet give me leave (upon this special occasion) to speak a little more to this assembly. It may be of some good use, to inform and rectify the judgments of some of the people, and may prevent such distempers as have arisen amongst us. The great questions that have troubled the country, are about the authority of the

magistrates and the liberty of the people. It is yourselves who have called us to this office, and being called by you, we have our authority from God, in way of an ordinance, such as hath the image of God eminently stamped upon it, the contempt and violation whereof hath been vindicated with examples of divine vengeance. I entreat you to consider, that when you choose magistrates, you take them from among yourselves, men subject to like passions as you are. Therefore when you see infirmities in us, you should reflect upon your own, and that would make you bear the more with us, and not be severe censurers of the failings of your magistrates, when you have continual experience of the like infirmities in yourselves and others. We account him a good servant, who breaks not his covenant. The covenant between you and us is the oath you have taken of us, which is to this purpose, that we shall govern you and judge your causes by the rules of God's laws and our own, according to our best skill. When you agree with a workman to build you a ship or house &c. he undertakes as well for his skill as for his faithfulness, for it is his profession, and you pay him for both. But when you call one to be a magistrate, he doth not profess nor undertake to have sufficient skill for that office, nor can you furnish him with gifts &c. therefore you must run the hazard of his skill and ability. But if he fail in faithfulness, which by his oath he is bound unto, that he must answer for. If it fall out that the case be clear to common apprehension, and the rule clear also, if he transgress here, the error is not in the skill, but in the evil of the will: it must be required of him. But if the cause be doubtful, or the rule doubtful, to men of such understanding and parts as your magistrates are, if your magistrates should err here, yourselves must bear it.

“ For the other point concerning liberty, I observe a great mistake in the country about that. There is a two fold liberty, natural (I mean as our nature is now corrupt) and civil or federal. The first is common to man with beasts and other creatures. By this, man, as he stands in relation to man simply, hath liberty to do what he lists ; it is a liberty to evil as well as to good. This liberty is incompatible and inconsistent with authority, and cannot endure the least restraint of the most just authority. The exercise and maintaining of this liberty makes men grow more evil, and in time to be worse than brute beasts : *omnes sumus licentia deteriores*. This is that great enemy of truth and peace, that wild beast which all the ordinances of God are bent against, to restrain and subdue it. The other kind of liberty I call civil or federal, it may also be termed moral, in reference to the covenant between God and man, in the moral law, and the politic covenants and constitutions, amongst men themselves. This liberty is the proper end and object of authority, and cannot subsist without it ; and it is a liberty to that only which is good, just and honest. This liberty you are to stand for, with the hazard (not only of your goods, but) of your lives, if need be. Whatsoever crosseth this is not authority, but a distemper thereof. This liberty is maintained and exercised in a way of subjection to authority ; it is of the same kind of liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free. The woman’s own choice makes such a man her husband ; yet being so chosen, he is her lord, and she is to be subject to him, yet in a way of liberty, not of bondage ; and a true wife accounts her subjection her honour and freedom, and would not think her condition safe and free, but in her subjection to her husband’s authority. Such is the liberty

of the church under the authority of Christ, her king and husband ; his yoke is so easy and sweet to her as a bride's ornaments ; and if through frowardness, or wantonness &c. she shake it off, at any time, she is at no rest in her spirit, until she take it up again ; and whether her lord smiles upon her, and embraceth her in his arms, or whether he frowns, or rebukes, or smites her, she apprehends the sweetness of his love in all, and is refreshed, supported and instructed by every such dispensation of his authority over her. On the other side, ye know who they are that complain of this yoke and say, let us break their bands &c. we will not have this man to rule over us. Even so, brethren, it will be between you and your magistrates. If you stand for your natural corrupt liberties, and will do what is good in your own eyes, you will not endure the least weight of authority, but will murmur, and oppose, and be always striving to shake off that yoke ; but if you will be satisfied to enjoy such civil and lawful liberties, such as Christ allows you, then will you quietly and cheerfully submit unto that authority which is set over you, in all the administrations of it, for your good. Wherein, if we fail at any time, we hope we shall be willing (by God's assistance) to hearken to good advice from any of you, or in any other way of God ; so shall your liberties be preserved, in upholding the honour and power of authority amongst you."

The following notes of the proceedings of the deputies and magistrates in relation to this affair, were collected by Mr. Savage, and published in his edition of Winthrop.

"The *first* order of the magistrates is, as follows : Fined the persons after named at such sums as hereafter are expressed, having been as moderate and gone as low as they any ways could with the holding up of authority in

any measure, and the maintenance of justice, desiring the concurrence of the deputies herein, that at length an end may be put to this long and tedious business.

Joshua Hubbard is fined	£20,00,00
Edmond Hubbard,	5,00,00
Thomas Hubbard,	2,00,00
Edmond Gold,	1,00,00
John Faulshame,	20,00,00
John Towers,	5,00,00
Daniel Cushin,	2,10,00
William Hersey,	10,00,00
Mr. Bozon Allen,	10,00,00
Mr. Peter Hubbard, that first subscribed the petition	2,00,00

All the rest of the petitioners, being 81, out of which number are excepted three, viz. Mr. Peter Hubbard, John Foulshame and John Towres, the rest making 78, are fined 20 shillings a piece, the sum of which is 155,10,00

“ We have also voted, that according to the order of the general court, for so long time as their cause hath been in handling, the petitioners shall bear the charge of the general court, the sum of which costs is to be cast up and agreed by the court, when the cause is finished.

“ The house of deputies having issued the Hingham business before the judgment of our honoured magistrates upon the case came down, they have hereunder expressed their determinate censures upon such as they find delinquent in the case, viz.

Joshua Hubbard is fined	£20,00,00
Anthony Eames,	5,00,00
Thomas Hubbard,	4,00,00
Edmond Hubbard,	10,00,00

Daniel Cushman,	4,00,00
William Hersey,	4,00,00
Mr. Allen, beside his proportion with the train band,	1,00,00
Edmond Gold,	2,00,00

Total, £50,00,00

“The rest of the train band of Hingham, that have an equal vote allowed them by law for the choice of their military officers, are fined 55 pounds to be paid by equal proportion, the which said sums of 50 and 55 pounds are laid upon the said delinquents for the satisfying of the charge of the court occasioned by the hearing of the cause, in case the said charge shall arise to the sum of 105 pounds. The deputies desire the consent of the magistrates herein.

“Several discordant votes passed each branch before the business was brought to its close.”

After giving an account of the proceedings of the court, Winthrop remarks as follows :

“I should have mentioned in the Hingham case, what care and pains many of the elders had taken to reconcile the differences which were grown in that church. Mr. Hubbert, the pastor there, being of a Presbyterial spirit, did manage all affairs without the church's advice, which divers of the congregation not liking of, they were divided in two parts. Lieutenant Emes &c. having complained to the magistrates, as is before expressed, Mr. Hubbert, &c. would have cast him out of the church, pretending that he had told a lie, whereupon they procured the elders to write to the church, and so did some of the magistrates also, whereupon they stayed proceeding against the lieutenant for a day or two.

But he and some twelve more of them, perceiving he was resolved to proceed, and finding no way of reconciliation, they withdrew from the church, and openly declared it in the congregation. This course the elders did not approve of. But being present in the court, when their petition against the deputy governour was heard, Mr Hubbert, perceiving the cause was like to go against him and his party, desired the elders to go to Hingham to mediate a reconciliation (which he would never hearken to before, being earnestly sought by the other party, and offered by the elders) in the interim of the court's adjournment for one week. They readily accepted the motion, and went to Hingham, and spent two or three days there, and found the pastor and his party in great fault, but could not bring him to any acknowledgment. In their return by water, they were kept twenty four hours in the boat and were in great danger by occasion of a tempest which arose in the night ; but the Lord preserved them."

But the difficulties did not terminate here. The authority of government was resisted when the marshal attempted to levy the fines imposed on the petitioners. The following is Winthrop's account of the matter :

" 1646. 26. (1.)] The governour and council met at Boston to take order about a rescue which they were informed of to have been committed at Hingham upon the marshal, when he went to levy the fines imposed upon Mr. Hubberd their pastor and many others who joined with him in the petition against the magistrates &c. and having taken the information of the marshal and others, they sent out summons for their appearance at another day, at which time Mr. Hubberd came not, nor sent any excuses, though it was proved that he was at home,

and that the summons was left at his house. Whereupon he was sent for by attachment directed to the constable, who brought him at the day of the return. And being then charged with joining in the said rescue by animating the offenders, and discouraging the officer, questioning the authority of his warrant because it was not in the king's name, and standing upon his allegiance to the crown of England, and exemption from such laws as were not agreeable to the laws of England, saying to the marshal that he could never know wherefore he was fined, except it were for petitioning, and if they were so waspish that they might not be petitioned, he knew not what to say to it &c. All the answer he would give was, that if he had broken any wholesome law not repugnant to the laws of England, he was ready to submit to censure. So he was bound over to the next court of assistants.

“ The court being at Boston, Mr. Hubberd appeared, and the marshal's information and other concurrent testimony being read to him, and his answer demanded, he desired to know in what state he stood, and what offence he should be charged with, or what wholesome law of the land, not repugnant to the law of England, he had broken. The court told him, that the matters he was charged with amounted to a seditious practice and derogation and contempt of authority. He still pressed to know what law &c. He was told that the oath which he had taken was a law to him ; and beside the law of God which we were to judge by in case of a defect of an express law. He said that the law of God admitted various interpretations &c. Then he desired to see his accusers. Upon that the marshal was called, who justified his information. Then he desired to be tried by a jury, and to have the witnesses produced viva voce. The

secretary told him that two were present, and the third was sworn to his examination, (but in that he was mistaken, for he had not been sworn,) but to satisfy him, he was sent for and sworn in court. The matters testified against him were his speeches to the marshal before thirty persons, against our authority and government &c. 1. That we were but as a corporation in England ; 2. That by our patent (as he understood it) we could not put any man to death, nor do divers other things which we did ; 3. That he knew not wherefore the general court had fined them, except it were for petitioning, and if they were so waspish (or captious) as they might not be petitioned &c. and other speeches tending to disparage our authority and proceedings. Accordingly a bill was drawn up &c. and the jury found that he seemed to be ill affected to this government, and that his speeches tended to sedition and contempt of authority. Whereupon the whole court (except Mr. Bellingham, who judged him to deserve no censure, and desired in open court to have his dissent recorded) adjudged him to pay 20 pounds fine, and to be bound to his good behaviour, till the next court of assistants, and then farther if the court should see cause. At this sentence his spirit rose, and he would know what the good behaviour was, and desired the names of the jury, and a copy of all the proceedings, which was granted him, and so he was dismissed at present."

In 1646, the celebrated petition of Dr. Child and six others, for the abolition of "the distinctions which were maintained here, both in civil and church estate," and that the people of this country might be wholly governed by the laws of England, was presented to the house of deputies. Six of the petitioners were cited before the court and charged with great offences contained in this

petition : they appealed to the parliament of England, and offered security to abide by their sentence ; but the court thought proper to sentence the offenders to fine and imprisonment. The petitioners then resolved to lay their case before parliament, and Dr. Child, Mr. Vassall, and Mr. Fowle went to England for that purpose,* but it appears that they met with very ill success in their exertions. Their papers were published at London, by Major John Child, brother of Dr. Robert Child, in a tract, entitled *New England's Jonas cast up at London*, in allusion, probably, to the remark of Mr. Cotton, in one of his sermons, "that if any shall carry any writings or complaints against the people of God, in this country to England, it would be as *Jonas in the ship*." This tract was answered by Mr. Winslow, who was then in England, in another tract, entitled the *Salamander*, "wherein (says Winthrop) he cleared the justice of the proceedings" of the government here.

I introduced this notice of the petition of Dr. Child and others, for the purpose of correcting an error into which Hutchinson and Neal have fallen, in confounding this controversy with that of our military dispute, which created so much excitement in the country. It is proper to mention, however, that Mr. Hobart was suspected of "having a hand in it," and consequently was obliged to suffer another of the mortifications to which the relentless spirit of persecution had subjected him. I give, however, Winthrop's account of his treatment in his own words.

* An amusing account of the superstitious terror of some of the passengers in the vessel in which the petitioners went to England, and of the ill success of their petition, may be found in Neal's *History of New England*.

“ In 1646. (9.) 4.] This court the business of Gorton &c. and of the petitioners, Dr. Child &c. were taken into consideration, and it was thought needful to send some able man into England, with commission and instructions, to satisfy the commissioners for plantations about those complaints ; and because it was a matter of so great and general concernment, such of the elders as could be had were sent for, to have their advice in the matter. Mr. Hubbard of Hingham came with the rest, but the court being informed that he had an hand in a petition, which Mr. Vassall carried into England against the country in general, the governour propounded, that if any elder present had any such hand &c. he would withdraw himself. Mr. Hubbard sitting still a good space, and no man speaking, one of the deputies informed the court, that Mr. Hubbard was the man suspected, whereupon he arose, and said, that he knew nothing of any such petition. The governour replied, that seeing he was now named, he must needs deliver his mind about him, which was, that although they had no proof present about the matter of the petition, and therefore his denial was a sufficient clearing &c. yet in regard he had so much opposed authority, and offered such contempt to it, as for which he had been lately bound to his good behaviour, he thought he would (in discretion) withdraw himself &c. whereupon he went out. Then the governour put the court in mind of a great miscarriage, in that our secretest counsels were presently known abroad, which could not be but by some among ourselves, and desired them to look at it as a matter of great unfaithfulness, and that our present consultations might be kept in the breast of the court, and not be divulged abroad, as others had been.”

Winthrop then remarks upon a special providence of God, (as he terms it,) in which he takes it for granted, that Mr. Hobart, the people of Hingham and Dr. Child entertained similar views, if they did not openly combine their efforts to promote them.

“I must here observe a special providence of God, pointing out his displeasure against some profane persons, who took part with Dr. Child &c. against the government and churches here. The court had appointed a general fast, to seek God (as for some other occasions, so) in the trouble which threatened us by the petitioners &c. The pastor of Hingham and others of his church (being of their party) made light of it, and some said they would not fast against Dr. Child and against themselves; and there were two of them (one Pitt and Johnson) who, having a great raft of masts and planks (worth forty or fifty pounds) to tow to Boston, would needs set forth about noon the day before (it being impossible they could get to Boston before the fast;) but when they came at Castle Island, there arose such a tempest, as carried away their raft, and forced them to cut their masts to save their lives. Some of their masts and plank they recovered after, where it had been cast on shore; but when they came with it to the Castle, they were forced back again, and were so oft put back with contrary winds &c. as it was above a month before they could bring all the remainder to Boston.”

The editor of Winthrop in noticing these remarks very justly observes “that unless we be careful always to consider the cause of any special providence, we may fail in our views of the displeasure of God;” and notices the fact that the clergy when they came to this town, to reduce the church members to sobriety “were kept twenty

four hours in the boat, and were in great danger by occasion of a tempest.”

The last time at which Mr. Hobart was made to feel the displeasure of the government, was in 1647. Winthrop mentions it in the following manner :

“4. (6). There was a great marriage to be solemnized at Boston. The bridegroom being of Hingham, Mr. Hubbard’s church, he was procured to preach, and came to Boston to that end. But the magistrates, hearing of it, sent to him to forbear. The reasons were, 1. for that his spirit had been discovered to be averse to our ecclesiastical and civil government, and he was a bold man, and would speak his mind, 2. we were not willing to bring in the English custom of ministers performing the solemnity of marriage, which sermons at such times might induce, but if any minister were present, and would bestow a word of exhortation &c. it was permitted.”

I have thus gleaned from Winthrop, all the facts which his valuable journal contains, relating in any manner to the military difficulties in this town, and to the conduct of the most prominent individuals concerned in them.

The dispassionate reader, while he will give to Winthrop all the credit to which his impartiality entitles him, cannot fail to discover some circumstances which tend to extenuate the criminality of the conduct of a large and respectable portion of the inhabitants of this town. The convictions which the deputy governor entertained, of the disorderly and seditious course of Mr. Hobart and his friends, were deep and strong ; and in some instances his conduct indicated any thing but a charitable spirit towards those whose principal error (if any) consisted in

their attachment to more liberal views of government, than those generally entertained at that time.

Winthrop acknowledges, that "the great questions that troubled the country, were about the authority of the magistrates and the liberty of the people." "Two of the magistrates and many of the deputies" esteemed for piety, prudence and justice, "were of opinion that the magistrates exercised too much power, and that the people's liberty was thereby in danger," and the tendency of their principles and conduct was, (in the opinion of the deputy governour,) to have brought the commonwealth "to a mere democracy."

Thus we learn that one of the military company here, professed "he would die at the sword's point, if he might not have the choice of his own officers." Some of the principles and privileges for which our fathers contended, were undoubtedly too liberal and republican for the spirit of the age in which they lived. They were, perhaps, injudicious and indiscreet in their endeavours to promote their views; and probably in some instances might not have expressed that respect for the constituted authorities, to which their character entitled them. The most superficial reader, however, may discover in the conduct of the deputy governour something of the spirit of bigotry which was, unfortunately, too often allowed to affect the judgments of the wisest and best of men at that time, and which operated very much to the injury of those who entertained more liberal opinions in politics and religion. The deputies, although conscious of the disorder which the prevalence of such principles might cause in the community, did not feel so strong a disregard of the motives of the people of Hingham, which impelled them to

the course which they pursued, as to induce them to consent to impose on them heavy fines, without great reluctance.

The deputy governour appears to have been very sensitive on the subject of innovations upon the authority of government, and strongly bent, not only upon punishing, but desirous of publicly disgracing the "profane" people of Hingham. He seems to have "engulphed Bible, Testament and all, into the common law," as authority for the severe measures which were taken to mortify their feelings and to check the spread of principles so democratic in their tendency, and so dangerous to the interests of the commonwealth. Accordingly, we find that the magistrates sent to Mr. Hobart to forbear delivering a discourse on the occasion of the marriage of one of his church, at Boston, among other reasons, "because he was a bold man, and would speak his mind."

The effect of this controversy does not appear to have been ultimately injurious to the most conspicuous individuals engaged in it. Mr. Hobart, the pastor of Hingham, enjoyed the esteem of his people, and as has been before remarked, was relieved from the severe penalties which he incurred, by the liberality of the people of the town. His brother Joshua was afterwards frequently a deputy, and in 1674, he was honoured by an election to the office of Speaker to the House of Deputies.

It is to be admitted that the excitement necessarily caused by the agitation of this business, served to retard the growth and prosperity of the town; and while the effects of the displeasure of the government were operating to its injury, many of the inhabitants removed to other places.

In 1645, the relative wealth of several towns may be

learned from the apportionment of the public rate for that year.*

This town does not appear to have suffered much from the Indians. We find, however, that precautions were taken against their incursions, and that in 1645, June 29, a vote was taken "to erect a palisadoe around the meeting house," to prevent an assault from them. Considerable attention was paid to the maintenance of a military force ; and, among others, there are the following votes respecting the troops :

"January 1st, 1653. It is ordered and agreed upon by a joint consent of the town, that upon all general trainings either at *Boston*, or if the company meet with any other town to exercise, that then, every musketeer shall have one pound of powder allowed him by the town to shoot."

"1655, March 20. By a joint consent and general vote of the town, Capt. Joshua Hubbard is freed from paying any rates for the public charge of the town during the time that he is chief officer of the town for the exercise of the military company ;"† and in 1659 it was "ordered and agreed upon by the town that Stephen Lincoln should have twenty shillings the year to maintain his drum."

* It was as follows, viz. : Boston, £100 ; Ipswich, £61 10 ; Charlestown, £55 ; Salem, £45 ; Cambridge, £45 ; Dorchester, £43 17 6 ; Watertown, £41 05 ; Roxbury, £37 10 ; Lynn, £25 ; Newbury, £23 ; Dedham, £20 ; Concord, £15 ; Rowley, £15 ; Hingham, £15 ; Sudbury, £11 05 ; Weymouth, £10 10 ; Braintree, £10 10 ; Salisbury, £10 ; Hampton, £10 ; Medford, £7 ; Woburn, £7 ; Gloucester, £4 17 6 ; Wenham, £3 10,—*Winthrop*, vol. 2, p. 246.

† January 1, 1660. Those whose names are hereafter mentioned do dissent from having Capt. Hubbard freed from paying his rates to the public charge of the town for the maintenance of the ministry. Nathaniel Baker, John Otis, Michael Peirce, John Jacob, William Sprague, John Tucker, sen. John Tucker, jr. William Johns : Thomas Leavitt, Onesiphorus Marsh, Joseph Jones, Henry Chamberlin, William Hersey.—*Town Records*.

In 1662 I find the following order adopted by the selectmen.* “No Indian shall set up a wigwam, either upon property of the town’s common, or dwell in one already set up, from midsummer, next, until the last day of September, following, upon penalty of twenty shillings for every such offence, and if any Englishman shall give leave and permit any such wigwam to be built upon his land, he shall be liable unto the same forfeiture, and any man in the town, aggrieved, is hereby empowered to prosecute this order, and to have consideration allowed him by the selectmen.”

In 1665 the inhabitants thought it expedient to procure a deed of the township from the Indians, of which a copy may be found in the appendix.

In 1666, September 10, instructions were given to the deputies of the town in the general court.† They certainly indicate that a spirit of loyalty was prevalent among the inhabitants. They were as follows :

“By of the signification of his majesty’s pleasure lately sent over to the council, we perceive how evilly represented by (to) his majesty the late proceedings of this colony with those Honourable Commissioners sent hither have been ; and that his majesty apprehends by such proceedings that those that govern this Colony doe upon the matter believe, that his majesty hath no jurisdiction over us, yea also, of serving his majesty’s command, sertayne persons upon their allegiance, to appear in England, and two or three other persons to be sent, by the council, to attend his majesty, to the end his majesty in person, may heare and finally determine all matters.

* The selectmen were Joshua Hobart, John Thaxter, John Jacob, Thomas Lincoln, husbandman, Josiah Hobart.

† The delegates were Joshua Hobart and John Thaxter.

“ Now whereas a general court is summoned upon this signification of his majesty by order of the deputy governor, as appears by warrant signed by his secretary : We the inhabitants of Hingham judge it meet to order and instruct you our deputies, being the present representatives in the general court, to act for us, and on our behalf, amply and fully, according to his majesty’s signification ; and not seemingly under any couller or pretence whatsoever, to doe or act any thing agaynst the command of his majesty and soveraigne, soe that it may appeare unto all persons, that we are not such as disowne his majesty’s jurisdiction over us, but accordingly to our duty we truly acknowledge ourselves his majesty’s loyal subjects and liege people.

MATTHEW HAWKE, *Town Clerk,*
in the name and behalf of the
freemen of Hingham.

In 1669, Nathaniel Beal was chosen by the selectmen “ to keep an ordinary and to sell *sack* and *strong water* in the town of Hingham, by retail.*

In 1670, the town voted to make three divisions of the undivided common land at Conohasset, among the proprietors. The first and second divisions were made by drawing for lots, December 6th, 1670, and the third was completed March 10, 1670-1.† About the time of these

* Twenty years previous to this date—in 1649, Daniel Cushing was chosen by the town to keep an ordinary and to sell *wine* and *beer*.

† The following list of surnames of the proprietors of these lots, contains some not before mentioned. They were Joy, Andrews, Ripley, Marsh, Nichols, Thaxter, Hobart, Lane, Canterbury, (or Cattleberry) Lincoln, Sprague, Johnson, Fearing, Cushing, Burton, Chubbuck, Beal, Langlee, Mackfarlin, Jones, Bates, Peck, Prince, Baker, James, Barnes, Pitts, Leavitt, Lazell, Wilder, Chamberlin, Hewit, Pearse, Church, Stowell, Ward, Gibbs, Woodcock, Gill,

divisions, it is supposed that a few families settled within the limits of Conohasset.*

There is nothing in our records, worthy of particular notice in this department of our history, until the year 1675 when Philip, of Pokanoket, commenced the war which desolated New England. In that year, it appears that "souldiers were impressed into the country service," and disbursements were made by the selectmen, to defray their expenses. The town suffered in some degree from the incursions of the Indians.

Thus we find in Hobart's Diary that on the 19th of April, 1676, "John Jacob† (was) slain by the Indians near his father's house," and the next day, "Joseph Joanes's‡ and Anthony Sprague's houses burnt, also,

Burr, Hawke, Jacob, Tucker, Farrow, Loring, Stodder, Hughs, Huit, Whiton, Tower, Mansfield, Smith, Bacon's heirs, Dunbar, and Otis.

* Mr. Flint's Discourses.

† John Jacob went out with his musket to shoot the deer that trespassed upon a field of wheat, near the place where the meeting house at Glad Tidings Plain is now situated. The Indians, who had secreted themselves in that neighborhood the night previous, discovered and shot Jacob, near the field of wheat. He was found dead, and his musket was battered to pieces. This traditionary account, has been related to me by Mr. Joseph Wilder, now living. Another traditionary account states, that Jacob was a famous hunter, and made a declaration that he never would be taken alive by the Indians, and that when found, his friends were rejoiced that he was not taken alive, as well as that he was not carried into captivity, to be put to death by Indian tortures; and that the rock where he was found, was, in allusion to this event, called Glad Tidings Rock," the same from which the name "Glad Tidings Plain," originated. Mr. Wilder, whose narration is clear, and I am inclined to think the most correct, states that he was not found at the rock, now called "Glad Tidings Rock," but that this name originated from the fact, that a woman who had strayed away from home and was supposed to be lost, was first discovered from this rock. The correctness of this tradition is scarcely questionable.

‡ The houses of Joseph Joanes and Anthony Sprague were situated at the place called "Over the River," that of the latter, near where Mr. Gilbert now lives.

Israel Hobart's, Nathaniel Chubbuck's, James Whiton's houses burnt down by the Indians."

In consequence of apprehensions of the depredations of Indians, the following order was adopted by the selectmen in 1676. "The selectmen of Hingham, taking into consideration the great danger we are in, and damage might ensue on us, by the Indians being our open enemies, and also complaint made to us on that account, do therefore order and agree that no person or persons in this town shall take in any Indian or Indians into the said town, or entertain or keep any Indian or Indians, in the said town or in their service or houses, without order from authority, under the penalty of twenty shillings for every such offence," &c.*

Garrison houses were established for the security of the inhabitants, but I am unable to ascertain their number and situation. There were, also, in the town three forts, but the date of their erection cannot be ascertained. One of them was situated on the hill, which at that time commanded the harbour, the same of which the mounds are still visible in the Burying Yard ;† another at the place called Fort Hill, and another "on the Plain about a mile from the Harbour." There is frequent mention of disbursements for the soldiers, in the selectmen's book of records, about this time.

It is proper in this place, to give some account of the proceedings of the town relating to the erection of a new meeting house. The first meeting house was situated, as

* Similar orders were adopted at subsequent periods.

† I am informed by Samuel Norton, Esq. that there is a tradition that "this fort was built from the fear of invasion by sea, by the Dutch, &c." This statement was made to him by Dr. Gay, the third minister of the town.

has been stated, near the spot on which the post office now stands, opposite the Academy.

By the increase of the population it became necessary to build a house of worship of larger dimensions, and accordingly we find that on the 19th of January, 1679-80, the inhabitants of the town "agreed to build a new meeting house with all convenient speed," and Capt. Joshua Hobart, Capt. John Jacob, and Ensign John Thaxter were chosen a committee to view the meeting houses of other towns, for the purposes of forming an opinion of the dimensions of a building necessary to accommodate the inhabitants, to ascertain the probable expense, and to report at the next town meeting, to be held in May following.

On the 3d of May, 1680, the selectmen were directed to "carry on the business to effect, about building a new meeting house;" and at the same meeting it was voted "to have the new meeting house set up, in the place where the old one doth now stand."*

This vote was not carried into effect; but the house was eventually erected (not without opposition,) on the

* Those who voted in favour of erecting the new meeting house on the place where the old one stood, were the following, viz. : Capt. Joshua Hobart, John Beal, sen. Dea. John Leavitt, Andrew Lane, Thomas Gill, sen. John Beal, Edward Wilder, Doctor Cutler, Ens. John Thaxter, Thomas Lincoln, husbandman, Nathaniel Beal, sen. Edmund Pitts, Joshua Lincoln, Thomas Marsh, Francis James, Stephen Lincoln, Moses Collier, John Prince, John Langlee, Joshua Beal, Thomas Lincoln, carpenter, Caleb Beal, James Hersey, Thomas Andrews, Joseph Joy, William Hersey, Matthias Briggs, John Chubbuck, Josiah Lane, Robert Waterman, Matthew Whiton, Serg. Daniel Lincoln, Samuel Stowell—33. Those who voted in the negative on this question were the following, viz. : Daniel Cushing, sen. Nathaniel Baker, Joseph Jacob, Humphrey Johnson, Capt. John Jacob, Serg. Matthew Cushing, Simon Burr, sen. James Whiton, Ibrook Tower, Lt. John Smith, Jeremiah Beal, sen.—11.

hill where it now stands. Mr. Flint, in his century sermons, speaks of the "violent contest in regard to the placing of a meeting house, in which the interference of the *general court* was required."*

On the 11th of August 1680, the dimensions of the house were fixed by a vote of the town as follows,—length fifty five feet, breadth forty five feet, and the height of the posts "twenty or one and twenty feet;" with galleries on one side and at both ends. In 1681, May 2, the town approved of what the selectmen had done in relation to the building of the new meeting house, and the place where it was to be set.†

May 24, 1681, the town voted to set the meeting house on the most convenient place, on the land of Capt. Joshua Hobart. In this situation it now stands. The house was raised on the 26th, 27th and 28th days of July, 1681, and it cost the town £430 and the old house.‡ In 1681–2, January 8, the inhabitants first met for public worship in the new house.§

* There is a tradition, and I confess not a very plausible one, that the site for the meeting house was fixed on the Lower Plain,—that the day was appointed for the raising of the frame, but that on the preceding night, it was carried to the spot where the meeting house now stands. And it has been further stated, that the party on the Plain condescended that it should be placed where it now is. I can scarcely credit this tradition. There is no record of a vote fixing the site on the Plain, in the town records; besides it is scarcely to be presumed that one party would have resisted the authority of a vote of the town, if such an one had been passed; or that the other party with the advantage of such a vote, would have quietly yielded to an infraction of their rights.

† 37 persons dissented from this vote.

‡ Hobart's Diary.

§ Two additions have been made to the building, the first about the year 1730, and the second in 1755. These additions were made, however, without materially altering the external appearance and form of the house. It is yet in a good state of preservation, and its frame of oak, bears no marks of dilapidation or decay.

Although the controversy respecting the location of the meeting-house, was the cause of considerable excitement among the inhabitants ; it does not appear to have continued for any great length of time. It was nearly forty years from this period, when the east precinct was established ; and from this fact, we infer that the excitement happily subsided, or measures would have been taken at a much earlier date, to have erected another house of worship.

In 1682, at a meeting of the military company for the nomination of officers to be presented to the General Court for approbation, James Hawke received a majority of the votes given for an Ensign ; but it appears from the following copy of a remonstrance against his appointment to the office, that there was some irregularity in the proceedings of the company, which required the interposition of the General Court.

The petition is as follows :

“ To the honoured General Court sitting in Boston the 11: of October 1682.

“ We whose names are hereunto subscribed, doe hereby acquaint your honours that in our Town, there lately passed a vote amongst our foote company of souldjers, for nomination of military officers, to present to this honoured Court ; Lieutenant John Smith was nominated for Captain, Ensign Jeremiah Beale for Lieutenant ; and for Ensign, Sergant Thomas Andrewes had forty seven votes and James Hawk had fifty five, the yonger sort of persons were for James Hawk, the said James Hawk is a yong man and never was in any office, but a private souldjer. Sergant Thomas Andrewes is a good souldjer and we doubt not but is well known to many of the members of this Honoured Court, and we humbly desire if your

honours please he might be allowed of; our reasons for our request are, first, otherwise we shall not have any Commission officer but will be remote from the center of the Town, and another reason is, we plainly perceive and undoubtedly know, that there will be much discontent amongst the souldjers if James Hawk be allowed of, we are yours to serve and shall always pray for your Honours' happiness as in duty we are bound.

“ We whose names are hereunder written were not at the abovesaid nomination, nor had any notice of it but desire Sergant Thomas Andrewes may be allowed of for Ensign if your Honours please.”

Signed by Enoch Hobart and twenty-three others.*

At the October Court, 1682, the following order was passed, viz :

“ In answer to the petition of several inhabitants of Hingham, the Court, taking notice of the irregular and illegal proceedings of the military foot company of the said town, as to the election of their commission officers, do declare their dissatisfaction therewith, and do expect the acknowledgement of their error and offence therein, for the present do direct and order the commission officers of said company to manage the affairs thereof to all intents till this Court take further order.”

At the special court, in February and March after, Lieutenant John Smith was appointed Captain, Jeremiah

* The other signatures were, Benjamin Garnet, John Lane, Paul Gilford, John Record, Ebenezer Plumb, John Low, Matthew Whyton, John Bull, Josiah Lowring, Simon Gross, John Beale, senior, Thomas Hobart, Edmond Pitts, William Hersey, senior, Caleb Beale, Joshua Lincoln, Jacob Beale, Steven Lincoln, John Beale, junior, John Fering, Joseph Bate, Samuel Bate, Thomas Gill.

[The orthography of Daniel Cushing is preserved in the petition and signatures.]

Beal, Lieutenant, and Thomas Lincoln, Ensign, of the foot company in Hingham. As an individual was appointed who was the candidate of neither party, I conclude that there was a compromise of the difficulty; and as our records contain nothing more relating to the matter, it is presumed that this appointment ended the dispute.

In 1690, Hingham furnished a portion of her citizens to join the expedition to Canada, under the command of Sir William Phips. "Captain Thomas Andrews and soldiers went on board ship to go to Canada," on the 6th of August of that year. The fleet sailed for Quebec on the 9th of August.* Capt. Andrews, and most of the soldiers belonging to this town, died in the expedition.† ‡

In 1702, Hingham was divided into two foot companies.§

I have examined a list of the rateable estate in this town, in 1749, made by Benjamin Lincoln, Abel Cushing, Samuel Cushing, Ebenezer Beal and John Thaxter, As-

*Cushing's MSS.

† "Capt. Thomas Andrews, John Chubbuck, Jonathan Burr, Jonathan May, Daniel Tower, — Judkins, Samuel Gilford and two more, died of the Small Pox in the Canada expedition, and one slain."—*Hobart's Diary*.

‡ In 1690 by the selectmen's book of records, it appears, that on the 25th of December of that year, a rate was made by the selectmen, amounting to £57,7,8. And among the disbursements are the following items, viz. :

" To Enoch Whiting, for killing two wolves,	£1,00,0
To John Lincoln, for drumming,	2,10,0."

In 1691-2, the rate was £64,9,4. In the disbursements, there are several items for drumming and for killing wolves, and some for money paid to soldiers. The minister's salary was not paid out of these rates. It was eighty five pounds. In 1698, the rate made for the maintenance of the ministry, school, poor, &c. was £130, and the price of grain was fixed as follows; Indian corn, 3s. per bushel; barley, 3s.; rye, 3s. 6d., and oats 1s. 6d.

§ Hobart's Diary.

sessors, from which it appears, that there were in this town at that time, seven grist, fulling, and saw mills, *two chaises and three chairs*, six hundred and sixty three acres of tillage land, one hundred and fifty one acres of orchard, two thousand and forty three acres of mowing land, two hundred and forty tons of vessels engaged in foreign trade, one hundred and seven tons of open vessels, and one hundred and sixteen tons of decked vessels.

During fifty years, subsequent to 1700, the town records contain nothing worthy of particular notice, excepting what has already been mentioned. The affairs of the town, during that period, appear to have been conducted with order and discretion. In the wars between the English and the French and Indians, many of the citizens of Hingham enlisted. In 1757, at the capitulation of Fort William Henry, there were present from this town, Major Samuel Thaxter, Thomas Gill, Thomas Burr, Elijah Lewis, Knight Sprague, and Seth Stowers. All of them fortunately escaped the barbarous massacre which ensued. Major Thaxter was then an officer, (I think a Captain,) and with the others, was stripped of his clothing and very narrowly escaped with life. Jeremiah Lincoln and a person by the name of Lathrop, from this town, were out in the same expedition, and were taken prisoners in a scouting party previously to the capitulation. Lathrop was killed, and Jeremiah Lincoln* was carried into captivity to Canada, where he remained for a considerable time, and afterwards made his escape, and returned in safety to his native town.

* Jeremiah Lincoln was an Iron Smith. He died in Lunenburg, Massachusetts. Two of his apprentices were the late Lt. Gov. Lincoln, of Worcester, and Dr. Peter Hobart, of Hanover, both of whom left his service, for the purpose of obtaining an education at Harvard University.

Knight Sprague* was, in 1826, the only survivor of those who engaged in this expedition from Hingham.

Capt. Joshua Barker, of this town, served as a Lieutenant under Capt. Winslow, in the expedition to the West Indies in 1740, and in the different wars of the country from 1742 to 1758.†

I come now to an interesting period in the history of this town ; a period upon which our venerable fathers who participated in the toils, sufferings and dangers of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION, can look back with plea-

* Knight Sprague is mentioned in the history of Leicester, written by Emory Washburn, Esq. and published in June, 1826. The following extract is from that history :

“ One man yet survives, at the advanced age of 86 who was a soldier from 1756 to 1761, and was in the memorable affair of Fort William Henry, in 1757, when so many English and Americans were massacred by the savages of Montcalm’s army. His name is Knight Sprague, a native of Hingham, from which place he marched, in 1756. The next year, he was with Col. Bradstreet at the taking of Fort Frontinac, on Lake Ontario. His memory is yet accurate and tenacious. Fort William Henry was surrendered, according to his account, about 10 o’clock on Wednesday morning, and the English were detained till the next morning and guarded by the French. As soon however as the army had left the fort, to take up their march, according to the terms of capitulation, the Indians rushed upon them, and began to strip and kill the prisoners. Sprague escaped, after being partially stripped. His captain was stripped naked, as were many women he passed, in his flight towards Fort Edward. Of the half company to which he belonged, fifteen out of the fifty, were killed, that day. Munro, the British commander, as represented by Sprague, was a dignified man of about fifty years of age. Montcalm was a fine looking man, extremely well formed, and very active and graceful, but small in stature.”

† N. H. Historical Collections, vol. ii, p. 221, where the name is erroneously printed *Warner*.

Capt. Barker died January 1, 1785, in the 74th year of his age. In an obituary notice of him, he is described as an excellent and brave officer, and a man of real worth, “respectful to his superiors, easy and familiar to his inferiors, and good to all ; in his address courteous and graceful, in his temper calm and serene,” beloved in life and lamented in death.

sure and pride ; and in which those acts of patriotism and daring and successful achievement were performed, which entitle them to the gratitude and veneration of all posterity. A distinguished orator has said, that " Any one who has had occasion to be acquainted with the records of the New England towns, knows well how to estimate those merits and those sufferings. Nobler records of patriotism exist no where. No where can there be found higher proofs of a spirit that was ready to hazard all, to pledge all, to sacrifice all, in the cause of the country. The voice of Otis and of Adams in Faneuil Hall, found its full and true echo in the little councils of the interior towns ; and if, within the Continental Congress, patriotism shone more conspicuously, it did not there exist more truly, nor burn more fervently ; it did not render the day more anxious or the night more sleepless ; it sent up no more ardent prayer to God for succour ; and it put forth, in no greater degree, the fulness of its effort, and the energy of its whole soul and spirit, in the common cause, than it did in the small assemblies of the towns."

The remarks are as just as they are elegant ; and without claiming for the citizens of this town any more merit for their zeal in promoting the great cause of their country, when contending for " liberty and the pursuit of happiness," than others are entitled to, their records certainly indicate that no where did patriotism put forth in " a greater degree, the fulness of its efforts and the energy of its whole soul and spirit."

In the events which preceded the American Revolution, the inhabitants felt and expressed a deep interest. I shall certainly be excused for presenting copious extracts from the Town Records, that a correct opinion may be formed of the motives which actuated the conduct of our fathers,

and of the bold and determined spirit which dictated their patriotic resolutions. And this I do, as the best method of exhibiting the character of those individuals who gave a tone to public sentiment ; and whose merits for their devotion to the cause of their country, cannot be too conspicuously displayed.

At the annual March meeting in 1768, the town chose a committee to devise measures for the encouragement of industry and economy, and to report at the next May meeting. The committee was composed of the following gentlemen, viz : Hon. Benjamin Lincoln,* John Thaxter, Esq. Capt. Theophilus Cushing, Dea. Joshua Hersey, Dr. Ezekiel Hersey, Caleb Bates, Capt. Daniel Lincoln, Capt. Joseph Thaxter, Lazarus Beal, and Dea. Isaac Lincoln.

The committee reported in May as follows :

“ The committee appointed by the town of Hingham, at their meeting in March last, to take under consideration the encouraging and promoting economy and industry in the said town, report the following Resolves. First, that we will by all ways and means in our power encourage and promote the practice of virtue, and suppressing of vice and immorality, the latter of which seem daily increasing among us, and the decay of the former much to be lamented. (*This part of the first paragraph being read, the question was put whether it be accepted ; passed in the affirmative.*) And for promoting the one and discourag-

* Hon. Benjamin Lincoln, the father of Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, of the army of the revolution. “ He was a member of his Majesty’s Council from the year 1753 to 1770, when he resigned his seat at the board. In various offices of public trust, as well as in those of private life, he served his generation with uncommon diligence and exemplary fidelity. He died March 1, 1771, in the 72d year of his age.”—*Fleets’ Boston Evening Post*.

ing the other, we apprehend the lessening the number of licensed houses, would greatly contribute to the purpose and that not more than three retailers in the North Parish, two in the East and one in the South, would be as many as would be consistent with the interests of the community. (*This remaining part of the first paragraph being read, the question was put whether it be accepted ; passed in the negative.*) Secondly, we resolve for the future, to improve our lands more generally for raising of flax, and increasing our stocks of sheep, which materials properly improved among ourselves may prevent the necessity of using so great a quantity of imported commodities and increasing our own manufactures, and thereby the poorer sort more profitably employed, the medium likewise, in a great measure preserved and increased, for the want of which the industrious are at this time under great disadvantages. (*This second resolve being read, the question was put whether the same be accepted ; passed in the affirmative.*)”

The adoption of the above resolutions was in accordance with the spirit of others approved and adopted at Boston, and in other places.

The following is a copy of the proceedings of the town on the 21st of September, 1768, on the reception of a circular from the inhabitants of Boston :

“ At the said meeting the town chose Dea. Joshua Hearsēy a committee, to join the committees from the several towns within the province, to assemble at Boston on the 22d day of September, current, then and there to consult such measures as shall be necessary for the preservation of good order and regularity in the province at this critical conjuncture of affairs, and voted the following instructions to him, viz. :

“As you are chosen and appointed by the town of Hingham, to join with committees from the several towns within this Province, desired to meet at Boston on the 22d day of September, current, then and there to consult such measures as shall be necessary for the preservation of good order and regularity in the Province, at this critical conjuncture of affairs. We advise and direct you that you use your endeavors to preserve peace and good order, in the Province and loyalty to the king; that you take every legal and constitutional method for the preservation of our rights and liberties, and for having redressed those grievances, we so generally complain of and so sensibly feel; that all possible care be taken that the troops, (that) should arrive, have provision made for them, so that they be not billeted in private families and at so convenient a distance as not to interrupt the people; that you encourage the inhabitants to keep up military duty whereby they may be in a capacity to defend themselves against foreign enemies; and in case you are exposed to any charges in prosecuting any of the foregoing preparations, we will repay it, and as these instructions are for your private use, improve them for that purpose and for no other whatever.

“The foregoing instructions were drawn up by Dr. Ezekiel Hearsey, Benjamin Lincoln, jr. and Capt. Daniel Lincoln.”

The committees from the several towns met agreeably to appointment on the 22d of September. Sixty six towns, besides districts, were represented, by upwards of seventy gentlemen. The number afterwards increased to above one hundred, from ninety eight towns and districts. Their debates and proceedings were open. The convention continued their session every day till

the 29th, (although admonished by Gov. Bernard to break up and separate themselves,) and during that time they adopted a letter to be transmitted to the agent of the province at London, and published a "result of their conference and consultation," in which they declared their allegiance to the king, their abhorrence of riots, and their determination to yield all assistance to the civil magistrates towards suppressing them, and also declared their rights by charter and by nature and their humble dependance on their gracious sovereign, that their wrongs would be speedily redressed."*

In 1770, March 19, the inhabitants of Hingham passed resolutions relating to the non-consumption of imported goods, and to the Boston massacre. These resolutions do not appear in the town records, but are contained in the following letter from Gen. Lincoln to the committee of merchants in Boston.

To the Gentlemen the Committee of Merchants in Boston.

HINGHAM, MARCH 24th, 1770.

"GENTLEMEN—At the annual meeting of the town of Hingham, on the 19th day of March, A. D. 1770: Upon a motion being made and seconded (though omitted in the warrant) the inhabitants taking into consideration the distressed circumstances of the people in this and the neighbouring Provinces, occasioned by the late parliamentary acts for raising a revenue in North America, the manner of collecting the same, and the measures gone into to enforce obedience to them, and judging that every society and every individual person are loudly called to exert the utmost of their ability in a constitutional way to procure a redress of those grievances, and to secure the privileges

* Snow's History of Boston.

by charter conveyed to them, and that freedom which they have a right to as men and English subjects, came to the following votes :

“ Voted, That we highly approve of the patriotic resolutions of the merchants of this Province not to import goods from Great Britain till the repeal of the aforesaid acts, and viewing it as having a tendency to retrieve us from those burthens so much complained of, and so sensibly felt by us ; we will do all in our power, in a legal way, to support them in carrying into execution so worthy an undertaking.

“ Voted, That those few who have imported goods contrary to general agreement and counteracted the prudent and laudable efforts of the merchants and traders aforesaid, have thereby forfeited the confidence of their brethren ; and therefore, we declare that we will not directly or indirectly have any commerce or dealings with them.

“ Voted, That we will discourage the use of foreign superfluities among us and encourage our own manufactures.

“ Voted, That we heartily sympathize with our brethren of the town of Boston, in the late unhappy destruction of so many of their inhabitants, and we rejoice with them that there yet remains the free exercise of the civil authority.

“ Voted, That the town clerk be ordered to transmit a copy hereof to the Committee of Merchants in Boston.

“ I cheerfully comply with the above order and herewith send you a copy of the Votes.

“ I am, gentlemen, with great esteem, your most obedient and most humble servant.

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, JUN'R.”

The frequency of town meetings, at this period, and the inconvenience to which the inhabitants of Conohasset were subject in transacting their civil concerns in Hingham induced them to apply to the government, for an act of incorporation as a town. The petition was granted and the east or second precinct was incorporated a town, April 26, 1770, by the name of Cohasset.*

The views and feelings of the inhabitants of this town, respecting the subjects of controversy between this and the mother country, may be learned from the following instructions given to their representative to the General Court :

“ The committee chosen to draft some instructions proper to be given our representative reported as followeth ; We the subscribers being appointed by the inhabitants of the town of Hingham, at a legal meeting on the 11th inst. and to draft some instructions proper to be given our representative under the present alarming situation of affairs in this government, beg leave to report as followeth, viz :
To John Thaxter, Esq.

“ Whereas your constituents are feelingly sensible of a number of infringements on their rights and privileges until lately unheard of, the whole of which we pretend not to enumerate to you as from your knowledge of our present state, they must bear strongly on your own mind ; but would notwithstanding mention the following : First, the act of Parliament passed in the last session thereof, entitled an act for the better preserving his Majesty’s dock-yards, magazines, ships, ammunition and stores, we look upon to be one of the greatest grievances, that persons accused of capital offences should be carried 3000 miles distant from the place where the crime was com-

* Flint’s Century Discourses.

mitted, to be tried, the inconvenience and injustice of which so fully appear that there needs no animadversion. Second, The act of Parliament obliging all ships or vessels from Portugal to this province, to enter their fruit in some port of Great Britain, by which great expense must arise, and the fruit often much damaged, by which means the trade is burthened, clogged and discouraged,—we on the whole instruct you, that you use your utmost endeavours, by dispassionate remonstrance, and humble petition in a legislative way, to the Parliament of Great Britain, to have these and all grievances, we now labour under, redressed, and those we fear from circumstances are taking place.

“And we instruct you, that you use your best endeavours, that a salary be granted by this province to the Judges of the Superior Court, as shall be adequate to their important office ; and that you endeavour that a harmony may subsist on a proper foundation between the several branches of the legislative body of this province, which cement is essentially necessary to the interest and happiness thereof.

Bela Lincoln, Benjamin Lincoln, Joseph Thaxter, Jacob Cushing, Joshua Hearsey;	}	Committee.
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Hingham, January 13, 1773.”

1774, January 31. The town appointed a committee to take into consideration a letter and papers sent from the Boston Committee of Correspondence to this town. The committee was composed of the following gentlemen: Benjamin Lincoln, Esq. Joseph Andrews, Dea. Joshua Hersey, Dea. Theophilus Cushing, Caleb Bates, James Fearing, Jacob Cushing, Esq. Thomas Loring, and Hezekiah Cushing. They presented a report at the annual

town meeting in March following, from which the nature of the subjects submitted to their consideration, fully appears. It was as follows :

“ When we call to mind a late Act of the British Parliament, expressly declaring that the King, Lords and Commons, in Parliament assembled, have ever had, and of right ought to have, full power and authority to make laws and statutes of sufficient force and validity to bind the colonies and people of America, subject to the Crown of Great Britain, in all cases whatever, and in consequence thereof an Act of Parliament made for the express purpose of raising a revenue in America, for defraying the charge of the administration of justice &c. in the colonies ; and when also we consider that the more effectually to carry into execution the same Act, the councils of the nation, in a late session of the British Parliament, have empowered the East India Company to export their teas to America, free of all duties in England, but still liable to a duty on its being landed in the colonies ; and comparing those Acts and others similar to them, with several clauses in the charter granted to this province by their late Majesties, King William and Queen Mary, of blessed memory, in which it is among other things ordained and established that all and every of the subjects of us, our heirs and successors, which shall go to inhabit in our said province and territory, and every of their children which shall happen to be born there, or on the seas going thither or returning from thence, shall have and enjoy all the liberties and immunities of free and natural subjects, within any of the dominions of us, our heirs and successors, to all intents, constructions and purposes whatever, as if they and every of them were born within this our realm of England, and whereas it is by the said royal charter