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AN

A D D R E S S

ON THE OCCASION OF

OPENING THE NEW TOWN HALL,

IN

B R A I N T R E E,

J U L Y 29, 1858.

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By CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

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B O S T O N :

WILLIAM WHITE, PRINTER, 4 SPRING LANE.

1858..

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Hon. CHARLES F. ADAMS:—

BRAINTREE, July 31, 1858.

Dear Sir,—The undersigned, Committee of Arrangements, for themselves and in behalf of the Town, present to you their sincere thanks for the very able and highly interesting Address delivered by you on the 29th instant, on the occasion of the dedication of our Town Hall.

We cordially unite in a request that you will, at your earliest convenience, furnish us a copy for the press.

We are truly your obedient servants,

CALEB STETSON,	J. H. D. BLAKE,
JASON G. HOWARD,	JOEL E. HOLBROOK,
JOHN BEATH,	S. W. HOLLIS,
DAVID H. BATES,	PHILIPS CURTIS,
EZRA PENNIMAN,	N. H. HUNT,
ALVA MORRISON,	ASA T. PRATT,
ALVERDO MASON,	

*Committee of Arrangements.*

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Hon. CALEB STETSON and others, *Committee of Arrangements, Braintree*:—

QUINCY, August 7, 1858.

Gentlemen,—On my return from a short absence I find your kind note of the 31st of last month.

It will give me the greatest pleasure to place at your disposal a copy of the Address, as soon as it can be properly prepared.

I am your friend and servant,

C. F. ADAMS.



N. B. Some passages in this Address were omitted in the delivery on account of its length.



## A D D R E S S .

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This assembling of ours to-day is to mark a new event. Not a great one, may be, if measured by the scale of national rise and fall ; but yet great enough for us. Old Braintree inaugurates her new town hall. It is a fact in which she may take an honest pride, and for which she may be fairly congratulated. Accordingly, we come, *all* of us, not her immediate children only, but the children of those who were her children in years gone by, to give her joy. By this sign we know that Old Braintree has prospered, greatly prospered ; and that, too, in the face of what have appeared to her grievous discouragements. For the ancient town has in her two centuries of life endured, much against her will, repeated amputations of her most vigorous limbs ; she has felt herself barbarously shorn of her once ample proportions ; she has been reduced in her outward form until she appears smaller than either of her off-shoots. Yet in spite of this tribulation, Old Braintree shows out hale, and vigorous, and youthful withal. Her hills and her valleys still ring with the echoes of honest industry ; her fields still swell their annual rewards for faithful labor ; her dwellings resound with the mirth of happy children, and her expanding churches still witness the grateful devotion which marked her Puritan days. The strangers, too, flock within her gates ; and of

the infant brood, the cry is still they come. The ancient halls will no longer serve the turn. They were adapted to a condition out of which the living being has grown; in this respect, like the clothes of children, which in time become too short at either extremity, and pinching in the girth besides. Something is moreover due to the progress of the age, and to the demands of an advancing civilization. The movement all around us is toward a higher culture and more abounding refinement. Hence springs up this spacious edifice, which, through its ample proportions and graceful embellishment, gives evidence, louder than words, of times of peace and plenty in the land. Long may it lift its crest to the rising sun, an honorable monument of the providence of the present fathers, as well as of the gratitude of the children of the town! To these are to be committed in lavish measure the talents not to be laid away unused in a napkin. Out of the dotation of this day should ascend to Heaven the aspirations of myriads of youthful souls, for a condition of mind and heart wise and pure in proportion to the expanded sphere for attaining it. May they not forget that every child in the United States, in just degree to the extent to which his moral and intellectual being is cared for, has a mission of solemn import, which he must do his utmost to fulfil, or the cause of human Liberty and Christian Civilization will grieve!

This noble structure is then dedicated to two great objects. It is the TOWN HALL, where the citizens meet for the transaction of their common business. It is the place where freemen perform their most solemn duties to each other and to their common country. It is the political nursery of the adult male population, in which they are trained to the protection of law and the maintenance of order. Here sits

the civic Minerva, not frowning repulsive, and armed with ægis or helmet, but smiling and with her brow crowned by the cap of Liberty.<sup>1</sup> Under the same roof, too, and proper enough that such provision should be made, are rooms devoted to the advancement of the youth of both sexes in the higher departments of Education. Here is set up the portal to science. It is, in short, the HIGH SCHOOL. The Town Hall and the High School! Types of Massachusetts and of New England, of what they are and what their people hope to become. These two, and a third, most important of all, nay, indispensable to the rest, the HOUSE OF GOD, form the great symbols of social order, as it was first framed by our Puritan ancestors in the days of small things, and as it has ever since remained in the region where they dwelt. On that rock the house shall stand.

Braintree is then by her act of this day doing no more than a simple duty. She is contributing her share to facilitate the movement of the body politic of which she is a constituent member, humble it may be, yet not unimportant to the general harmony. She is but smoothing and rolling the path which has been painfully worn for her beforehand. The occasion seems not inappropriate to a review of the process by which she has reached her present condition. Such thrifty cottages, such well ordered roads, such shining fields, such massive walls, such flourishing trees both for fruit and shade, were not the work of a day nor of a year. They tell of productive labor and of social security. Let us go back for a while and trace these things to their source. From the various details of common events which happen

<sup>1</sup>Minerva Polias, the protector of towns and guardian of the citadel. My change of her usual attributes is, however, without classical authority.

alike to all communities of civilized man, there may be picked out here and there a symptom of something not unworthy of respectful commemoration among friends. We are not called to discourse of wars and bloody battles, of fire and slaughter, of principalities and powers with their loves and hates, which constitute the substance of what men denominate history. Ours are relatively but the "simple annals of the poor;" and yet trust me, some little events of their story can furnish examples of patience and perseverance, of energy and endurance which are not unworthy of a place in the lessons of a more pretending philosophy, or of honor in the palaces of the proud ones of the earth.

When at last the curtain was drawn which from the time of the creation had concealed the continent of the West from European eyes, all Christian nations as with one consent rose up to claim the new field of labor for their own. In the plenitude of his assumed authority the Roman Pontiff undertook to parcel out the rights of property in the regions yet unopened between the monarchs of Southern Europe; but there was one people which did not acknowledge the validity of the grants, and proceeded to claim for itself the right to possess whatever its energy might be the first to explore. The Anglo-Saxon race chose for the theatre of its exploits the North Atlantic coast of the temperate zone. Hither the relics of a chivalric age rushed in quest of adventure. Here the hardy mariner sailed to find new resorts of fish, the eager trader to set up more depots of commerce, the jolly roysterer to hunt for fresh pleasures, the scheming projector to realize the eldorado, or to hit upon the fountain of perpetual youth; lastly the stern reformer, disgusted with the corruptions and the tyranny of antiquated civilization, burned with the desire to begin society

anew. There are few prominent points along these shores which might not have their tale to tell of the reception of some one or other of these types of the old world. Braintree is not an exception. The territory since so called witnessed the advent of several of them in succession, before the commencement of its actual history. Let me begin with the most memorable. You have all doubtless heard of the adventures of Captain John Smith, the first colonist of the lower country of Virginia, a representative of the once active but then vanishing age of knight errantry. You may have learned something of his travels in other quarters of the known world, of his battles and his loves, of his championship of Christianity against paganism; and how, in single combat, he slew three of the most formidable of the Turkish army in rapid succession, the Lord Turbashaw, Grualgro, and Bonny Mulgro, for which he was complimented with the permission to wear in a shield for his arms, three Turks' heads. You may have heard of his being at last taken prisoner, and sold for a slave among the Tartars, and of his exciting the tender sympathies of the Princess Charatza Tragabigzanda, who to save him from worse usage, "till time made her master of herself," caused him to be sent to her brother, the Bashaw of Nalbrits; and how in the course of time he beat out the brains of said Bashaw, and made his escape into Russia. All this romantic story of hairbreadth escapes, I dare say you may know; but there is one thing of which I do not believe you ever heard; and that is, that this same hero of romance, John Smith, was the first European who ever gave an English name to the region we now inhabit.

Yet such is the fact, as it stands on record. Tired with his rambles in Europe, Asia and Africa, his mind received



a new stimulus with the idea of discovery in the West. He first set on foot the expedition to Virginia, in the course of which he once more owed his safety to his power of awakening the tender feelings of the gentler sex, in the person of Pocahontas, the daughter of the Indian chief Powhattan, without whose interposition he would never have survived to visit, and to designate, probably forever, the territory now embracing the six Eastern States, by the name of *New England*.

But he was not so fortunate as it respects our town; the name he gave to that did not stick. In truth he did not know much about it from personal observation. In the year 1614, he spent the summer in ranging along this coast in a boat, with eight men, and trading with the Indians for furs. The aspect of the country was so pleasing to his eye that he determined to set afoot a project of occupation. To this end he drew a rough map of it, upon which he dotted here and there such names for different places as he had gathered from the natives, or as his fancy dictated. The map was, on his return, presented to the Prince, better known afterwards as King Charles the First, with an humble petition that he would use his pleasure in changing such names as he found upon it for others he might like better. Charles did in some instances as he was requested, and a few of his names have stuck. Such is the case with the Charles River and Cape Anne; but I think Smith had a right to feel a little hurt at the neglect paid by his prince to the most tender associations of his heart; for he had selected that very cape as the means of transmitting to the remotest posterity the mirror of his affections, the Princess Charatza Tragabigzanda. Now, though I cannot, from my heart, pretend to believe that our labor-saving mariners would ever have

consented to preserve such a sesquipedalian title, and though I doubt, if at first retained, whether it would not ultimately have degenerated into vulgar Big Sandy, or most unsentimental Sandy, yet I will be bold to say that I view it as having been both cruel and selfish in the Stuart prince so coolly to set aside the heart's idol of his gallant subject, merely to put in her place the insignificant baptismal name of his mother, Anne of Denmark.<sup>2</sup>

But to come down from the clouds nearer home. Smith found the tract of country bordering upon Boston Bay "the paradise of all those parts," the favorite planting ground of the tribe of Indians bearing the name of Massachusetts. He was surprised at their superiority over their neighbors in wealth of corn, which he attributed to the fertility of their soil. Directly behind their principal resort, as seen from the water, loomed up the first elevation visible to the seaman nearing the coast, which bore the name of the tribe, and was called MASSACHUSETTS MOUNT. Enchanted by what he saw under the brilliant light of our summer's sky, he went home and published an account, in which he said of it:—

"Of all the four parts of the world I have yet seen, not inhabited, could I have but means to transport a colony, I would rather live here than any where; and if it did not maintain itself, were we but once indifferently well fitted, let us starve."

On the rude and incorrect map which still remains, the

<sup>2</sup> Smith is not always consistent in his statements. In one of his later productions he says that he gave the name to the Charles River; but this is at variance with his earlier lists, which give the old name as Massachusetts. It is a singular coincidence that there should be a place now called Sandy Bay near Cape Ann.



only proof of Smith's visit, there stands attached to this tract of land here around us, as nearly as I can make it out, the name of *London*, the ancient metropolis of his native land; and the signs are annexed of a castle and a cathedral, as indicative of his anticipation of its probable importance. Neither was this one of the names which Prince Charles thought proper to change; he rejected that of MASSACHUSETTS as applied to the beautiful range of hills that sweep along our Western border, and substituted the term, more familiar to British and Scottish ears, of the CHEVIOT HILLS; but he suffered LONDON to stand where Smith had placed it—*here*.

But these proved names, and nothing more; the gallant knight's second expedition failed to reach these shores. He passed away, and his map remains only as a curiosity for the speculations of the antiquary. London is nowhere visible among the local designations of Massachusetts. The Cheviot Hills yet bring to mind only the border range made famous by the ballad of "Chevy Chase," and the hunt of the Percy. I have now told you the story, not for its intrinsic importance, but because I thought you would like to know the fact that precisely that time, when there was not a civilized being within our borders, was that when we came nearer than we have been since, or probably ever shall be again, to an association with a name typical of the most populous city on the globe.

Ten years passed away before the next attempt at colonization; and when it came, the spirit that moved it was by no means the same. Smith was a hero of romance,—a knight of the temper of Sir Lancelot du Lac, or the renowned Prince Arthur. Captain Wollaston filled a ship with goods, enlisted thirty or more indented servants, and

came over to try his luck in trade. He took possession of a gentle elevation, close to the water side, and within the ancient limits of this town, and tarried there a while ; but presently he discovered that his selection would not answer his purpose. His servants did not work as he expected, and the land yielded no products rich enough to compensate for slackened industry ; so he made up his mind to move away to other regions in which he might fare better. Accordingly the next year, 1626, he passed off with one portion of his company, leaving orders with his next in command to follow with the remainder at a later period. What became of him nobody knows ; I am sure we do not care to know. He left nothing behind him but his name, which still clings to the tract of land he so briefly occupied. It was not under such auspices that old Braintree was destined to be colonized ; her plains and her hills respond but ill to the call of any but cheerful industry. Her labor must be intelligent as well as free, or it will surely fail of its reward.

But when I say that Wollaston left nothing behind him, I mistake. I meant to say that he left nothing that was good. Something of the other kind he did leave, which it would have been as well for him, as for every body else in that day, if he had carried off. Among all the queer specimens of human character developed in the course of American colonization, no one stands out in bolder relief in Massachusetts than Thomas Morton of Clifford's Inn, Gentleman. Whether he came out with Wollaston or not is doubtful. By his own account, not always entirely trustworthy, he came in 1622, or three years earlier, in which case he may have been in Weston's company at Weymouth. To whichever he belonged, he could have been of no

manner of use to it. On the contrary, he proved a pest; for no sooner was Wollaston well out of the way than he set himself to the work of undermining his authority. With plausible words he instilled into the minds of the remaining followers suspicions of their master's intent permanently to enslave them in their new abode, whilst on the other hand he held forth a glowing picture of the delights in store for them by remaining with him in the enjoyment of liberty, unawed by old restraints. His seduction had its effect; the men drove away Wollaston's lieutenant, and put themselves under the guidance of Morton. And now followed a new version of European life, never before comprehended in this Western wilderness. Not ungifted with natural capacity, and possessing some advantages of education, Morton set himself to the work of reviving the extravagances of which he had read, or perhaps which he had seen practiced in the ruder revels of the ancient world. He constituted himself the Abbot of MISRULE. He selected, as he tells us, "a goodly pine tree of eighty foot long, with a pair of buck's horns nayled on somewhat near unto the top of it," and with the help of some of the Indians he set it up on the hill as "a fair sea marke how to find the way to mine host of the Ma-re Mount." It was, in other words, the *May-pole* of older countries, the symbol of an intolerant hierarchy, the stumbling-block of offence to the Puritans;<sup>3</sup> and its erection

<sup>3</sup> On the 24th of May, 1618, King James the First issued his Declaration, that "those who attend on Church on Sundays be not disturbed or discouraged from dancing, archery, leaping, vaulting, having May-games, Whitsun-ales, Morrice dances, *setting up May-poles.*" The fact that ministers had been obliged to read this in their churches, was one of the grievances which the Puritans remembered with the most bitterness. How irritating to have it brought over the Atlantic to their retreat!

was accompanied with festivities like those which the poet Milton describes when the crew of Comus sing :—

Meanwhile welcome Joy and Feast  
 Midnight shout and revelry,  
 Tipsy dance, and Jollity—  
 Braid your locks with rosy twine,  
 Dropping odours, dropping wine.  
 Rigour now is gone to bed,  
 And advice with scrupulous head.  
 Strict Age and sour Severity,  
 With their grave saws, in slumber lie.  
 We that are of purer fire,  
 Imitate the starry quire,  
 Who, in their nightly watchful spheres,  
 Lead in swift round the months and years.

I might indeed have given you some of the lines which Morton himself prepared for the occasion, (for *he*, too, claimed to be a poet,) but, beside the consideration that they are by no means so good, I was restrained by the fact that they express much less happily what he was about. In sober truth, he was doing a world of mischief. He was dealing out to the savages all around stores of gunpowder, and teaching the use of fire-arms in hunting animals for their skins. He was keeping an open resort for the idle and the vicious, and drawing away from the infant settlements all along the coast, the laborers who could be tempted by his allurements. And worst of all, this reckless roysterer was spreading among natives and Europeans the taste for that liquid fire which scatters desolation in its path alike over friend and foe. Thus it was that the prospect of Christian civilization just opening on the land from the advent of companies of men imbued with its true principles,

became on a sudden clouded. Of what was proper to be done there could not be a moment's doubt. The nuisance was to be abated at all hazards. The handful of settlers in the immediate vicinity, not strong enough themselves, appealed to the older community of the Pilgrims at Plymouth for assistance. They sent their Man of War, Captain Miles Standish, with seven or eight more, to Mount Wollaston, to seize Morton and take him prisoner. Morton showed no courage in resistance. He was removed and put on his way to England. In his absence the zealous Endicott, who signalized his zeal by cutting the cross out of the King's colors, came from Salem to the Mount now generally designated as MOUNT DAGON, and cut down the no less odious symbol of the May-pole. But it was not a great while before the fellow managed to get back to his old haunts again. And here he continued to give more or less trouble until 1631, when a new expedition was set on foot, which finally succeeded in breaking up the nest, in dispersing the inmates, in shipping him off once more, and burning the house that had sheltered him. Such was the end of Thomas Morton's career at Mount Wollaston. And this house that was burned was probably the first ever erected within the ancient limits of Braintree.

From this account I think we must all admit that we have nothing to boast of in our first settler. Morton was a rollicking, dare-devil sort of jolly companion, not without some redeeming sparks of talent, of wit and pleasantry, but utterly unfit for the species of undertaking into which he had plunged himself. Was there ever a lawyer that founded a settlement? It would seem as if that profession necessarily followed, and could not precede the establishment of social order. But I doubt whether Morton was any



better suited for Clifford's Inn, than for Mount Wollaston. He has left behind him his own account of his adventures. A curious, quaint, enigmatical book, sometimes marked with good sense and a brilliant fancy, but more commonly filled with the conceits prevalent among the wits of his day, and with absurdities peculiar to himself. It is brimming with malice against those who were driven to violence against him,—men for the most part incomparably better than himself. It discloses enough to secure his condemnation out of his own mouth. His is the first example of the *pestilent demagogue* known in the annals of America. The recollection of him in Braintree is only as of an ugly dream that has passed away. It was not out of such materials that her social structure was to be reared.<sup>4</sup>

The curtain now drops again. The hero of romance, the money making trader, the boisterous Lord of Misrule have successively come and gone before our eyes; and now the scene appears once more, but with wholly new and very different actors. Thus far there has not been a whisper about religion any more than if such a being as God had never been thought of. Now it is to be religion and nothing else. The great immigration of the Massachusetts Company is seen in motion. And the people settle down, some in Charlestown and Newtown, some in Salem, some in Boston and Roxbury, and others in our neighboring Dorchester. But the majority soon discover that Boston is the most convenient for the shipping and for trade. The narrow surface of that peninsula is quickly taken up so far as to

<sup>4</sup> Yet, that some of the men who followed Morton afterwards became members of the Massachusetts company is probable. One of them, Edward Gibbons, rose into note as the commander-in-chief of their military force.

forbid the indulgence of further claims for large patches of its territory. Yet men of considerable means are still on their way from the old country whom it is deemed desirable to retain to uphold the church and state, and who desire to remain. Some mode must be provided by which they shall be able to obtain good-sized plantations, and yet not go out of the Jurisdiction. The people of Boston apply to the General Court for aid in reconciling the difficulties. And that body settles the matter by passing on the sixteenth of May, 1634, the following vote:—

“The Court hath ordered that Boston shall have convenient enlargement at Mount Wollaston, to be set out by four indifferent men, who shall draw a plott thereof, and present it to the next General Court, when it shall be confirmed.”

This duty appears to have been performed; for on the twenty-fifth of September following it was “Ordered, that Boston shall have enlargement at Mount Wollaston and Rumney Marsh.”

On the eleventh of December, the good people of Boston met, as they were wont, after the Thursday lecture, to choose seven men who should divide these lands. They vote by ballot, and lo! what a result,—their leading men, Winthrop and Coddington and the rest, are not the favorites. The successful candidates are denominated as of “the inferior sort.” It was an early outbreak of republican liberty jealous of an unequal distribution of social advantages. The case demanded the interposition of the Church; and the reverend John Cotton came forward to prove “that it was the Lord’s order among the Israelites to have all such businesses committed to the elders, and that it had been nearer the rule to have chosen



some of each sort." Softened by this address, the majority gave way, and agreed to go into a new election the next lecture day. Accordingly one week later, Winthrop, Coddington, Bellingham, Cotton, Oliver, Colburn and Baulstone were chosen to "divide and dispose of all such lands as are not yet in the lawful possession of any particular persons to the inhabitants of the town, leaving such portions in common, for the use of new comers and the further benefit of the town, as in their discretion, they shall think fit."

The jealousies appear to have been quieted, and the process of allotment began. There was plenty of room in the enlargement for rich and poor, and both classes took as much as they wanted. This was the moment when the tract around us first came under the jurisdiction of any recognized European authority. All the preceding adventurers appear to have acted without any patent or commission, and without serious project of colonization. The land now became a part of the property of the Massachusetts Company, and subject to all its laws, "not being repugnant to those of the mother country." It was rapidly taken up in large and in small allotments. On the 14th December, 1635, it was ordered by the town, "that William Colborne, W. Aspinwall, John Sampford, William Balstone and Richard Wright shall in behalf of the town go and take a view at Mount Wollaston, and bound out there, what may be sufficient for William Coddington and Edmund Quiney to have for their particular farms there; and accordingly as they five or four of them shall agree upon, to stand, and the same to be entered in this book."

Then comes another vote authorizing all the allotments at Mount Wollaston to be set out by five persons, who are named, or some four of them; and that, "every allotment

shall have a convenient proportion of meadowe thereunto, according to their number of cattell that have the same."

Under this authority, and a special grant to their pastor, Mr. John Wilson, pretty much the whole of the open plain lying along the shores of the bay, from the northerly bounds at or near the Neponset River all the way to the Weymouth River on the south was taken up. To William Coddington, Edmund Quincy, Atherton Hough, Owen Roe, William Hutchinson, respectively, were assigned parcels of from two to seven hundred acres each. Two hundred and fifty acres fell to the lot of Mr. John Wheelwright, and as many more to Edward Tyng, "adjoining to the land of Edward Hutchinson and T. Savidge, on the upper side of the pond," by which term I understand to be meant what is now called the *Little pond*.<sup>5</sup>

The names of several of these grantees, of Hutchinson and Savage, of Coddington and Atherton Hough, and above all of John Wheelwright, let us in at once to the secret causes of the next great event in our annals.

The grand old epic poet of Greece has conferred immortality upon the memory of the female, bewitching as she was fair and frail, for whose sake nations engaged in ten years of mortal strife, in the course of which even the deities were supposed to have taken part, until the trouble was ended by the total extinction of the far famed city of Troy. But no American imitator has yet been found daring enough to perpetuate in verse the tale of similar perils surrounding the infant Puritan commonwealth from a like cause. Helen has stood for ages innumerable before the mental vision of civilized man as the type of

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix, (A.)

female fascination, beautiful to look upon, but fatal to all about her. How shall I venture to describe the dangers that befell our town from the potent influence exercised over its first European settlers by the magic spells of Mrs. Anne Hutchinson? Not that there was in them the smallest ingredient or approach to a sign of a carnal element. No. It would be doing the deepest wrong to our worthy progenitors to suspect them for a moment of such vulgar weakness. Had Mrs. Hutchinson dropped down among them a perfect impersonation in the flesh of the Coan or the Cnidian Venus, with all the Graces and Cupids and Nymphs in her train, the Puritan would have moved on without a symptom of perturbation. Whether she was or was not fair to the eye, not a soul who wrote at that time seems to have thought to mention. No! Her charms were the sublimated ones of the intellect. Her magic was of the spirit. "Take any shape but that" and the good man would have walked through the fiery furnace without a wink and without a sigh. But Mrs. Hutchinson spoke of redeeming grace. She was a reformer, and raised her feeble voice against what to her seemed the backsliding of the teachers in the Church. After the weekly lecture at Mr. Cotton's meeting-house, she was apt to gather about her in her dwelling a bevy of her sisters, there to discourse of the meagreness of the doctrines furnished for their nourishment, and of their ending in nothing beyond a Covenant of Works. She had the gift of speech, and powers of mind keen enough to loosen the tightest knots of metaphysical polemics. As a consequence, she soon came to be regarded as a leader in Israel. The seeds of her teaching finding a congenial soil in the temper of the times, soon took root and produced fruit. The youthful Harry Vane, just arrived from home,

where similar topics were becoming the favorite exercise of the day, declared himself on her side. The fire spread, until it touched many of the elders, and even a large majority of the Boston church. Mr. Cotton himself was thought to have been scorched. From the church it naturally got into the state. The boy Vane was set over the head of the older and wiser Winthrop; parties became bitter and vindictive; and every thing for a while boded a civil convulsion. Luckily for the infant colony, it already had a circumference considerably wider than the limits of Boston. The clergy were united to check the evil. The calm sense and acute judgment in the neighboring settlements had suffered no injury from contact with the heat of the metropolis. They came in to moderate the strife, and to restore the balance in the body politic in such danger of being completely upset. The majority in Boston gradually righted; but it ought to be noted that the chief source of the dissension lay nestled in the bosom of Mount Wollaston. It was here that John Wheelwright was sent to preach, after he had been edged by Winthrop out of the walls of the first church. It was here that both the Hutchinsons had taken up plantations to settle. It was here that Vane and Coddington, and others of like sentiments, after their final defeat in the elections, and the restoration of Winthrop, preferred to come and keep the fast day ordered on account of these tribulations, rather than to listen to the jubilant tones of their great pulpit opponent, John Wilson, to whom they mainly owed their discomfiture. John Wheelwright was the brother-in-law of Mrs. Hutchinson, and was in the pulpit the champion of her opinions. Here he is thought to have first preached the famous sermon which made the flames of dissension burn more furiously than ever. It was

at him that the party in power first levelled their thunderbolts. After assembling a synod, in which several opinions expressed by him were denounced as errors, and the conduct of Mrs. Hutchinson in holding meetings of women declared disorderly and without rule, the General Court, upon evidence of contumacy, proceeded to banish the two as the chief offenders, and to disarm and disfranchise their followers.<sup>6</sup> It was a hard sentence for matters of mere belief; yet the consequence, had it not been passed, might have been worse for all. The strife might have been pushed to blows; and blood and slaughter, anarchy and destruction been the consequence. Under these circumstances it was clearly better that those who could no longer live together in peace, should separate.<sup>7</sup> Yet as a consequence, Massachusetts, and especially the town of Braintree, paid the

<sup>6</sup> By a comparison of names it appears that many of the persons thus disarmed were of those who had taken up more or less of the lands at Mount Wollaston. The largest holders were Atherton Hough, William Coddington, John Wheelwright, William Hutchinson, his brother Edward, and his son-in-law, Thomas Savage. Although Mrs. Hutchinson resided in Boston and held the women's meeting at her house there, it appears that her farm at the Mount was the last place to which she went prior to her final departure from the colony. Savage's Winthrop, Vol. 1, p. 259. Her son-in-law Savage was also settled there, as is proved by the fact that the second committee sent from the first church to reason with Mrs. Hutchinson, stopped at his house the first night, on their way to Rhode Island.—*Life of Anne Hutchinson*, in Sparks' Am. Biog. Vol. xv. p. 330.

<sup>7</sup> On the abstract principles involved in this controversy, so far as I comprehend them, both in the ecclesiastical and the political branch, my feelings lead me to side with the minority. Yet I cannot deny that the tendency of their doctrine in the minds of zealots or hypocrites might be to the overthrow of all established institutions. Milton observed that "the sort of men who followed anabaptism, Familism, Antinomianism, and other fanatic dreams, were such most commonly as were by nature addicted to religion, of life also not debauched, and yet their opinions having full swing, ended in satisfaction of the flesh." It would have been better for the Puritans had they acted without giving any reasons. I



penalty of the discord, by losing many of those who would have proved among the most valuable of citizens.

And among them no man was more to be regretted than William Coddington. He had come from England in the hope of making his final resting place in Boston. To that end he had greatly exerted himself in effecting the arrangement by which he could embark a considerable portion of his estate in a plantation at Mount Wollaston. As if to restore the ground desecrated by the orgies of Morton and his associates, he had chosen for his own the very seat of those revels. And on this he hoped to place successors worthy of the new commonwealth, fearing God and honoring man. All these purposes remained unfulfilled. He was driven to Rhode Island, where he remained to serve out a long life of usefulness in the performance of all the highest duties of a citizen. His memory is now held in honor among the people of that State, as that of Minos and Charondas, Lycurgus and Zaleucus was held by those of ancient Greece, as the founders and legislators of nations. Such a life supplies a most significant warning of the folly of contentions and strife, of jealousy and mutual hatred, as they sometimes arise, from the most insignificant causes, in the midst of the best ordered communities. Far be it from me to enter into the merits of the great controversy that brought on this calamity. Time has softened away the obstacles to a right judgment so much that the impartial student might now safely pronounce the views of the minority to be most in consonance with the highest and most exalted philosophy. Mrs. Hutchinson sometimes appears

cannot justify them on other ground than that upon which I should justify a strong man in throwing a weak one off of a plank only large enough to float one on the ocean.

to have much the best of the argument and always excites our sympathies in her favor. Doubtless Wheelwright could at this day have preached his most dangerous sermon over and over in our pulpits without a fear of any other consequence than a rather languid appreciation of his occult meaning. What was then a powder magazine is now much more like an ice house. But the change is too late to repair the original mischief. Massachusetts lost Coddington, and Rhode Island gained him. The country profited, but it was Braintree that suffered. The tattered relic of the first page of her town records bears on its face the copy of a conveyance which ultimately secured for the benefit of education a large tract of the territory he was obliged to abandon in his exile. It has been ever since held, and the profits have been devoted to the support of the public schools. Coddington's name is therefore entitled to be inscribed on the hearts of the people as that of their *earliest benefactor*.

With the departure of Vane and the Hutchinsons, of Coddington and Wheelwright, the heresy which threatened the prosperity of the Colony disappeared. Braintree lost many of her large landed proprietors, but their places were taken by poorer men then arriving in great numbers from the mother country, many of whom took smaller lots, but improved them faster. As yet all such persons were held to belong to the church in Boston. Mr. Wheelwright had indeed been permitted to preach to them, but only as a branch of that parish. His banishment left a void which it was important to fill. The residents petitioned for leave to constitute themselves a separate church. After a slight demur on the part of Boston, leave was granted. According to the custom of the time two persons were



chosen, the Reverend William Tompson as pastor, and Henry Flynt as teacher.<sup>8</sup> This spiritual organization once effected, as it was on the seventeenth of September, 1639, the next step was easy. The new parish petitioned to be set off as a new town. The General Court, after a delay occasioned by the necessity of adjusting the claims on the inhabitants and on the lands, which had been conceded to Boston, granted this request. The vote, which bears date the thirteenth of May, 1640, is in the following terms:—

13 May, 1640.

“The petition of the inhabitants of Mount Wollaston was voted, and granted them to be a town according to the agreement with Boston; provided, that if they fulfil not the covenant made with Boston, and hereto affixed, it shall be in the power of Boston to recover their due by action against the said inhabitants, or any of them; and the town is to be called BRAINTREE.”

Before this moment nothing has been heard about this name. How came it to be adopted? A satisfactory answer to the question is not easy. The topic has been a good deal discussed by very competent persons, but without leading to any positive result. On the one side<sup>9</sup> it has been maintained that out of the company of emigrants from the town of Braintree,<sup>10</sup> in the county of Essex, in England,

<sup>8</sup> Henry Flynt had been among the persons censured by the General Court for signing a petition in defence of Wheelwright. He made his submission and expressed his contrition on the day the town was incorporated. Four days afterwards he assumed his trust.

<sup>9</sup> By the late John Quincy Adams, in Thayer's Family Memorial, p. 38, note.

<sup>10</sup> This name is variously written in ancient records. In the Domesday survey, it appears as Branchetreu, which is said to be Saxon and to mean

who came under the direction of Mr. Hooker, in the year 1632, and who began to settle at Mount Wollaston, a large portion remained, notwithstanding the order of the General Court to remove to Newtown. And from these might naturally have come the name of their former home. But this conjecture is in conflict with the evidence. For it is very certain that what purports to have been the whole company did obey the order to remove to Newtown (the present Cambridge), and that the names of forty-five of them are preserved in the records of that place. Most of these people ultimately removed with Mr. Hooker to the Connecticut River, and founded the settlement of Hartford. From this circumstance it has been inferred by others<sup>11</sup> that a few, unwilling to make so distant a removal, may have accepted of the allotments just then freely made of the lands at Mount Wollaston, and have come back here to settle.<sup>12</sup> Here again there is no positive evidence to sustain this conjecture.

*a town near a river.* In this particular the New England namesake is placed appropriately enough. Much more so indeed than the county in which it is situated. For here Norfolk is *south* of Suffolk. Other ancient designations of the town are Branketre, Branchetrefen, Branctoe, Brantree, Bromptre. That there should have been an emigration to New England from this place is natural enough. There had been a considerable settlement of Flemings in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who had fled from the severities of the Duke of Alva, and to them the ancient town had been indebted for the activity of its woollen manufactures. It has always had a body of dissenters from the established church, of the persuasion of "Independents." Its population in 1831, was 3,422. Just about the same number that this Braintree had in 1855.

<sup>11</sup> Rev. Dr. Lunt in his admirable Century Sermons, Appendix, Note C.

<sup>12</sup> Dr. Lunt quotes Wood's New England's Prospect to prove that there were settlers at Mount Wollaston before the fifteenth of August, 1633, when that writer left the country. But the Braintree company did not follow Mr. Hooker from Newtown to Hartford, neither was the allotment at Mount Wollaston made, until September of the next year, 1634. So that Wood could not have referred to any of the persons whom Dr. Lunt supposes to have returned at the later date.

The number of these stragglers could at best have been but small. They must have come, if at all, by the year 1635. But the allotments to the great majority of the settlers likely to determine the character of the town took place in 1638 and 1639. In the choice of a name it seems reasonable to suppose that the voice of the mass of the real inhabitants would be respected. It is from them I think that the town must have got its name. It was mainly from them that the draught was subsequently made of the colony which removed at a later period from Braintree to found the town of Chelmsford. Now Chelmsford is the name of the shire town of Essex county in England. It is only eleven miles from Braintree, and is the place where the Reverend Mr. Hooker had been settled. It seems to me therefore reasonable to suppose that the same influence which prevailed in naming the one town in 1640, prevailed in naming the other in 1655. It might then be possible to trace it through the persons who colonized the later town, if any such could be identified as having been early settlers in Braintree on this side, and at the same time known to have belonged to Braintree or Chelmsford on the other side of the ocean.

But in order to make this a reasonable presumption it would seem necessary to establish a connection at least in names if in nothing else. It is just here that the proof completely fails. In the year 1787, only a century and a half after the emigration, John Adams then in England paid a visit to both those towns in Essex county. He tried hard, by examination of church-yard inscriptions and by inquiring of the residents, to trace there the names of his own family as well as of others in his native town. But he met with no success whatever. It was this that con-

vinced him no connection with that region of England could have existed, and drove him with scarcely stronger evidence to fix the emigration as from Devonshire, a result which puts us entirely off the scent of Braintree.

Once more, from the names of Mr. Hooker's company known to be from Braintree in England, as given in the Newtown records, some idea may be gathered of the chances of a similar origin among the settlers here. On comparison the names turn out by no means identical. For out of the forty-five on that list, only two, those of Adams and Webb, are found in all Braintree at the time it was named. This at least proves that Adams *was* a name known in the Essex town. Adams was also among the emigrating class from our town which first gave the name to Chelmsford, though Webb was not. Henry Adams, Jr., was the first town clerk, as well as clerk of the writs in Braintree. It is barely possible that the name may have been suggested by him, but not probable. For there is no trace of connection between Jeremy, who came over in the Braintree company in 1632, and settled at Newtown, and Henry the elder, who came with his large family in 1639, and settled here. Besides, the name is quite common in various parts of England.

The question is rather curious than useful. But so much has been heretofore written about it, that some notice of the differing opinions seemed unavoidable.

Previously to giving the town a name, the General Court had taken measures to define its boundaries ; on the southern or Weymouth side, they passed the following orders.

1637. 1 August. "The Court did express that the next river to Minotoquid river is that which goeth up the same

cove to the mouth of Minotoquid, and that is the bounds between Mount Wollaston and Weymouth.”

1639. 22 May. “Mr. John Oliver and Robert Martin were appointed to set out the bounds between Mount Wollaston and Weymouth, which is to be run from the high water mark in the river mentioned in the last order, in our ordinary tide, and so to run south half a point westerly.”

On the northern and western side they voted the following. Dorchester, it should be recollected, then extended over the territory now making the towns of Milton, Canton and Stoughton.

1637. November 20. “Mount Wollaston is to be bounded by the Blue Hills, and the rest is to be in Dorchester, to go to the bounds of Plymouth.”

1639. March 13. “Mount Wollaston is to be bounded as formerly to the top of the great Blue Hill next Neponset, by a line running south-west and by west half a point westerly, and from thence by a square line extended to the other side of Mount Wollaston bounds.”

And now I pray you to pardon me if I dwell one moment upon the natural character of the region thus circumscribed. Seaward, can I say too much of the beauty of its serene bay, at each extreme of which a far advancing headland seems as if the earth were throwing forth his strong arm to protect it from the fury of the winds and to give to the waters of the inflowing ocean the placid brightness of an inland lake; whilst around the outer shores of both these projecting capes winds its way the silver thread of a graceful stream, coming to mingle the fresh drops trickling from the gentle springs of the Blue mountain range with the briny waves of the rude ocean. Then when I look landward, the view differs only in its variety of beauty. Not unde-



servedly did it receive the admiration of all who in early days were the explorers of its coast. The testimony of John Smith we have already had. Wood and Johnson briefly notice it in a commonplace manner,<sup>13</sup> but it was reserved to the wild and eccentric Morton, with an eye for beauty not dulled by mere worldly interests, to describe most fittingly the character of the scene.

“In the month of June, 1622,” he says in his *New English Canaan*, “it was my chance to arrive in the parts of New England with thirty servants and provision of all sorts fit for a plantation. And while our houses were building I did endeavor to take a survey of the country. The more I looked, the more I liked it.

“And when I had more seriously considered the beauty of the place, with all her fair endowments, I did not think that in all the known world it could be paralleled. For so many goodly groves of trees, dainty, fine, round rising hillocks; delicate, fair, large plains, sweet cristal fountains, and clear running streams that twine in fine meanders through the meads, making so sweet a murmuring noise to hear, as would even lull the senses with delight asleep, so pleasantly do they glide upon the pebble stones, jetting most jocundly where they do meet, and hand in hand run down to Neptune’s court to pay the yearly tribute which they owe to him as sovereign Lord of all the springs. Contained within the volume of the land, fowls in abundance, fish in

<sup>13</sup> This town hath great store of land in tillage, and is at present in a very thriving condition for outward things.—*Wonder Working Providence*, chapter 18, p. 161.

Three miles to the north of this (Weymouth) is Mount Wollaston, a very fertile soil, and a place very convenient for farmers’ houses, there being great store of plain ground without trees.—*New England’s Prospect*, p. 31.

multitude ; and discovered besides, millions of turtle doves on the green boughs, which sat pecking of the full, ripe, pleasant grapes, that were supported by the lusty trees, whose fruitful load did cause the arms to bend, while here and there dispersed you might see lilies and of the daphnean tree, which made the land to me seem paradise. For in mine eye, 'twas Nature's masterpiece ; her chieftest magazine of all, where lives her store. If this land be not rich, then is the whole world poor."

This description, though the offspring of a poetical fancy, must have been, at the time it was made, singularly accurate so far as it applies to the country nearest along the coast. But it scarcely does justice to the wilder and more distant region. On the first heaving hill sides must then have grown a dense and tangled forest, thickly matted with the clustering wild vine and the luxuriant parasites of our northern clime. Here and there a sudden break must have struck the eye, partially disclosing the points of that solid rock which is now daily made by the strong arm of labor to pour forth its store of the most durable material known to the sons of art wherewith to adorn the palaces of merchant princes or the storehouses of nations. To the westward and altogether behind this rougher range of hills lies a valley more strictly rural, much of it still in its native and wild beauty, enlivened by the gurgling of innumerable brooks, and the heavier flow of the pretty Monatiquot with vigor enough to serve the handiwork of man. In the midst of this interval are found, somewhat apart from each other, two of those lovely, placid sheets of water, known among us by the unassuming name of ponds, but which, in any other country would be exalted into lakes ; the largest of which, lying at the foot of what we are content to call the Blue



Hill, but which on a different continent would be called a Mountain, presents, in its silvery sheet and glassy purity embosomed in woods, with their projecting lights and retreating shadows, a picture worthy of the pencil of Rembrandt or of Claude.

All this soil, I admit, is not of that boasted class which is met with in the boundless prairies of the West. It will yield to labor no more than a moderate and sufficient reward. But the sky that covers it contains none of those elements that poison as they pass. On the contrary, there is health and vigor, and length of days in their touch. I know not, my friends, whether you feel, as I do, so profound a sense of the natural beauty of the scenes around us, but I never stand on the silent border of that lucid lake, or cast my eyes upon those forest-crowned hills beyond, as they show up their tinge of deepest blue under the garish rays of a declining summer's sun, or their more flaring hues of red and yellow responding to the chilling kiss of an autumn sky, that I am not tempted to exclaim with the sweet, rural poet of Britain :—

“ And yet was every faltering tongue of man,  
 Almighty Father ! silent in thy praise,  
 Thy works themselves would raise a general voice  
 Even in the depths of solitary woods  
 By human foot untrod ; proclaim thy power  
 And to the quire celestial THEE resound  
 Th' eternal cause, support and end of all.”

Of the wide tract originally included in the township of Braintree, embracing not less than fifty square miles, much of which remains to this day almost as wild as ever, only a very small part of the most northerly section nearest to Boston was at first occupied. The first church covenant was

signed by only six settlers.<sup>14</sup> The first properly recorded town meeting was composed of only seven persons.<sup>15</sup> None of these were of the wealthy class. They were probably what are called middle men. After the incorporation was once effected, the immigration, for the most part of the same general character, became steady, and the outlines of a respectable Christian community began to appear. According to the Puritan custom the church of Christ had been first provided for, but in its wake followed with certain course, the social bond and the provision for the young.<sup>16</sup> The church was the column of adamant around which were wound the twin tendrils of the state. All traces of the heresy that had raged but two years before, had vanished or had been obliterated.<sup>17</sup> And, as if to show the absence on the part of the succeeding settlers, of all sympathy with it, they voluntarily confirmed and recorded the arbitrary edict passed by the General Court,<sup>18</sup> to guard against the return

<sup>14</sup> George Rose, Stephen Kinsley, John Dasset, William Potter, Martin Saunders, Gregory Belcher.

<sup>15</sup> Samuel Bass, John Allen, Stephen Kinsley, Martin Saunders, Thomas Madson, Thomas Flatman, Peter Brackett.

<sup>16</sup> The first recorded provision for a school does not occur until 1658. But it implies the existence of one before that time, on private support.

<sup>17</sup> 1658, February. At a Town meeting this vote passed for schoolmaster.

<sup>18</sup> "That the Town of Brantree did consent to lay the school land, that is to say the annual income of it, for a salary for a schoolmaster, and to make it up twenty pounds besides what every child must give." See Appendix, (B.)

<sup>17</sup> "The people are purged from the sour leaven of those sinful opinions that began to spread, and if any remain among them it is very covert."—*Wonder Working Providence*.

<sup>18</sup> This measure was adopted on the 17th May, 1637, merely as a temporary safeguard against the inrush of antinomians from the mother country. But on the 2d of May, 1638, it was confirmed and made a standing law.

of the danger. Early in the year 1641, it was “ Voted that no man that is not received an inhabitant into the town shall have liberty to build any house or cottage within the liberties of the town without the consent of those that are chosen to dispose of the town’s affairs.”

And as if this was not stringent enough in its terms, it was voted in 1654, at a meeting consisting of the five Selectmen :—

“ Upon consideration of the great ill-convenience that may come to the town of Braintree by persons coming in to inhabit amongst us, it is ordered that no person or persons shall come in to inhabit amongst us without the Selectmens’ consent, upon the penalty of nineteen shillings fine for every three days they shall stay amongst us. And it is further ordered that no inhabitant shall receive any person or inmate into their house above three days without the townsmens’ consent, upon the forfeiture of nineteen shillings and eleven pence. And it is further ordered that no man shall build house or cottage within the township of Braintree without the townsmens’ consent, upon the forfeiture of such penalty as the Selectmen shall see cause to put upon them.”

MARTIN SANDERS.

RICHARD BRACKETT.

WILLIAM ALLIS.

Of course an order of this kind in a country superabounding in wild lands could not fail in course of time to become obsolete. The alarm was needless. The great charmer, Mrs. Hutchinson, was gone, never to return ; and

with her went all the spells that raised the storm.<sup>19</sup> From this period the annals of the town descend into the path of commonplace contentment of which history takes little note.

After the incorporation of the new town, the first care of the inhabitants was to remove the difficulties in their way, growing out of conflicting claims to the lands. Boston yet reserved pretensions not merely to unsold tracts but to tax such as had been granted to persons yet residing within its limits. Besides this the title of Chickatabot and the remnant of the Massachusetts tribe which had escaped the pestilence that a few years before had raged along the coast, had never been entirely extinguished. The northern region of the town nearest to the Neponset River had been their chief seat, and the open lands along the shores had been used as their planting grounds. Although Chickatabot died before the question was disposed of, his authority seems to have descended to his son, Wampatuck, who became the chief sagamore and was recognized as such by the Europeans. It is one of the most pleasing incidents attending the humble records of our fathers, that they so carefully respected the position of these wanderers of the forest. In the collision that unavoidably took place on these shores, when the adventurous spirits of the old world first rushed upon the work of displacing the American savage, the question what were the rights of the natives to the soil was one of no

<sup>19</sup> I cannot help thinking that some other motives were mingled with these orders wherever they were passed, although most writers do not allude to more than one. Certainly in the records of Braintree more questions occur as to the rights of the citizens in the large quantity of common lands belonging to the town, than upon any other single subject. It was natural that some restraint should be attempted on interlopers.

I perceive some instances in the Boston records of the payment of a sum of money in the nature of a fine, for the transfer of real property.

trifling magnitude to every conscientious mind. Casuists discussed it elaborately and their decisions are to be found recorded in the books. It is no part of my work here to-day to examine them. It is to the honor of the Massachusetts Company in England that their earliest letters of instruction to their officers here contained earnest injunctions to respect the Indian possession. But in the every day transactions of common life, it often happens that such injunctions are forgotten under the perpetually recurring temptation of the stronger party to neglect or evade, to dispute or to deny the practical obligation to defer to what in truth were in many cases more or less shadowy pretensions. I should be afraid to enter into any very thorough scrutiny of the original colonization of the American continent in this particular. But however it may have been elsewhere, there is abundant evidence left to show the regard paid to them by the authorities established in Massachusetts. Not in the general records alone is this visible, but likewise in the acts of the town corporations and of individuals. Braintree in this respect is well entitled to be remembered favorably. Not only did the earliest grantees prior to the incorporation, purchase each one for himself his right of possession from Chickatabot, but the people, after they became a town, negotiated, and bought and paid for all that remained ungranted within the jurisdiction. The proof of this is recorded in a paper signed and sealed after the manner of customary conveyances among civilized people.

Fellow citizens, I now hold that deed in my hand. I will not try your patience or my own eyes by attempting to recite the particulars. Enough to say that it is in the nature of a quitclaim to eight persons in behalf of the inhabitants of

Braintree of all the Indian title, not before granted, to the lands within the township bounds—reserving however the right of hunting and fishing, provided no harm be done to the English. Consideration, twenty-one pounds, ten shillings. Signed, sealed and delivered on the fifth day of August, one thousand six hundred and sixty-five, by Josiah, alias Wam-patuck, Sagamore, and his six wise men—Squamog, Old Nahatun, Manunion, Noistenus, Mamuntago, and Hahatun.

This deed came into my possession with other family papers. How we came by it, I know not, but I am sure it has been held for at least two generations. On the back of it are these words: “In the 17th reign of Charles 2d, Brantrey. Indian Deede given 1665, August 10. Take great care of it.” My inference is that at a former time, when much less value was attached in towns to old documents than is the case now, this was placed in the hands of John Adams for safe keeping. But I do not think he or his successors ever regarded it in any other light than as a trust. And now that this town has erected so noble a depository for it, I purpose to restore it; and after repairing it and putting it in a suitable frame, to cause it to be placed in the care of the officers of Braintree, for the benefit and for the edification of all future generations of the people of the three towns.<sup>20</sup>

The difficulties with Boston were adjusted earlier, and mainly through the kind offices of William Tyng, an influential citizen of that place, who by having become the purchaser of a part of the tract called Mount Wollaston, originally allotted to Coddington, had the strongest motives for persevering to effect a settlement. The people of the

<sup>20</sup> This deed has already been printed in Whitney's History of Quincy.



town acknowledged their grateful sense of the value of his services by a vote which remains upon their records.

At this time one might naturally infer, that the title to fifty square miles of territory now confirmed to a community certainly not exceeding five hundred in number, would satisfy every reasonable appetite. But the American sprout of the Anglo Saxon stock seems to find no end to its desire of spreading roots. Just at the period of the date of the Indian deed, a petition was before the General Court from the people of Braintree, for the grant of a bran-new plantation. Of the motives to this proceeding I have not been able to find any explanation: it is said to have been on account of their public services. At any rate the Court seem to have received it favorably, and on the 10th of October, 1666, they passed an act formally granting the petitioners six thousand acres from the unsurveyed lands. But, like spoiled children, the moment they secured the toy they seem to have cared no more to play with it. After an unsuccessful effort to procure a location on the south, between Braintree bounds and Plymouth, the matter subsided and lay forgotten for nearly half a century. In 1713, the people waked so far as to get up a committee to go and search the records, and ascertain if the right had expired by non-user. And if not, another committee was vested with authority to go and find the property, to cause it to be surveyed and divided into lots. The consequence appears to have been a new application to the General Court, and a confirmation of the former grant, with authority to locate it in any part of the unimproved territory of the colony. But several years more passed away before the good people who had got their prize could agree among themselves as to who was entitled to a share of it,

and as to how it should be disposed of at all. Their records teem with contradictory votes to sell and not to sell, to give and not to give. The truth seems to be that they stood in no need of it, and the discovery only threw in an apple of discord. At last, in the year 1727, they came to a definitive settlement of all the disputed questions. The lands were divided and sold, and the proceeds disposed of between the precincts. But out of this grant sprung up an offshoot from the old place, which is now the little but thrifty agricultural town known by the name of New Braintree, in the county of Worcester. The event drew away a few people from here, who went to get the benefit of the superior fertility of the virgin soil, and to plant in another spot what was more valuable, the seeds for a crop of habits of order, of industry and frugality, which may last as long as time.

Whilst on this subject I may as well finish all that I have found to have any relation to it. After the lapse of another long period a new movement for colonization took place. In the midst of the struggle of the revolutionary war some agitation as to the probable value of what were once called the *Hampshire grants* became perceptible in the older towns of Massachusetts. Taxes were very heavy. The people felt poor, and many of them began to be restless. The temptation of large lots in new townships at a very small price, was sufficient to lead them to try their fortunes in a fresh country. The effect was the organization in the year 1781 of another town, with the name of Braintree, which is now to be found on the map of the State of Vermont. As the traveller winds his way on the Vermont Central Railroad in the valley of the White River that separates the Green Mountains, he will stop at the place, and see enough

around him to prove to his satisfaction that the signs which commonly attend New England colonization prevail there as elsewhere. A native of old Braintree might be permitted perhaps to doubt whether the bees gained as much as they hoped from this swarming in a new hive, but he will not doubt that the spirit of Christian liberty regulated by law is maintained in as much purity in the heart of the Green Mountains as ever it was at the foot of the Blue.

But it is time for me to hurry from these recollections towards the end of my story. Time rolled on in this quiet, peaceful region, furnishing, as is always the case in prosperity, little to record. The settlements went on farther and farther into the interior of the township, bringing with them new wants and fresh requisitions. There were no railways in those days, and it was a long way that some had to travel to church and to town meeting; especially whilst both were held only in the north-eastern end of it. After long and serious differences the members of the first parish were compelled to consent to a division; and a portion applied to the General Court for permission to be set off by themselves, in that part of the town bordering on the river Monatiquot, and called by its name. Leave was given, and a church was accordingly gathered in the year 1707, on the 10th of September, when the Rev. Hugh Adams was ordained its first pastor. The following year the town was divided into two precincts. And the first parish was defined to be within the *north* precinct, whilst the remainder of the town, embracing the second parish, was called the *south* precinct. This division, however, did not last a great while. For the banks of the little Cochato were gradually gathering their knot of settlers, who began to find it as laborious to travel to the meeting-house of the

south precinct as ever it had been to the latter parish to go to the northern one. So they too applied for leave to be set off by themselves. Accordingly a third church was gathered within certain defined limits, called the south precinct. This was on the 28th of May, 1731, and the Rev. Elisha Eaton was ordained the pastor a few days later.<sup>21</sup> So that after this date Braintree was divided into three parts known as precincts. The *north*, embracing that section oldest settled and nearest to Boston, with all the coast line. The *middle*, being the portion along the Monatiquot River, which has ever since retained the name of Braintree, and the *south*, or that on the Cochato and the most distant from Boston, now known as the town of Randolph. In each of these cases the same order was preserved, and the church was made the precursor of the township. But the final separation of municipal interests did not take place for sixty years. There had indeed been some agitation of the question so early as 1728. A committee of the town reported favorably, but the majority of the meeting refused to hear to it. So the matter was suffered to subside. At last in 1790 the people of the north precinct began to move in earnest. They applied to the General Court to be made a separate town. But Braintree, unwilling to part with her largest limb, persevered in remonstrance as long as there was hope to prevent it. All in vain. The divorce was decreed, and on the 22d of February, 1792, that precinct became a town, taking the name of *Quincy*, in memory of Colonel John Quincy, who had for a period of more than forty years proved himself a trusty and faithful servant of the old corporation. It was not long

<sup>21</sup> See Appendix, (C.)

before the third precinct decided to follow the example of the first. Farther resistance was useless. It was on the ninth of March, 1793, organized under the name of *Randolph*, in honor of the Hon. Peyton Randolph, of Virginia, the President of the first Congress of the Confederation, in 1774.

It is from 1793 that the thread parts into three strands. The children had grown to men's estate, and no longer found it convenient to dwell under one roof. So that it was on the whole wise that they should separate; yet in all good will. Sixty-five years have passed away. The course of each has been steady and uniform. Blessed with peace and plenty, their prosperity has been great enough to satisfy any reasonable wish. And they have never failed to maintain towards each other in their separation the same degree of affection which marked them during their union of a century and a half.

Indeed, so long as the general condition of public affairs continued troubled, there seems to have been an inclination to remain together. The latter part of the last century was a hard period for Massachusetts. She entered so zealously into the old French Wars, and she strained her energies so severely in the seven years of Revolutionary trial, that at the end of it there can be no doubt the great body of the population were much reduced in means. Many were heavily in debt, which accounts for the disposition, so unusual with her people without strong provocation, to impede, in 1786, the regular administration of justice. But during this trying period I find no variation in the movement of this town. Many of the citizens were poor, quite poor; but their courage did not appear to flag. The spirit of liberty never even flickered. Few towns could

boast of greater unanimity. A century before, when the people of the Colony rose upon Sir Edmund Andros and deposed him from his authority, the town of Braintree was among those which declared in favor of at once reassuming the dear old vacated charter. In 1765, when the first attempt was made by Great Britain to raise a revenue by laying a duty on stamps, this town was among the first to express its indignation. In the letter of instructions which they addressed to their representative, they use these memorable words:—

“We further recommend the most clear and explicit assertion and vindication of our rights and liberties to be entered on the public records; that the world may know, in the present and all future generations, that we have a clear knowledge and a just sense of them, and with submission to Divine Providence, that we never can be slaves.”

The same firm tone prevails in the other papers as well as in the action called out by the thickening dangers of the time. I have left myself no space to enlarge upon them, or I could give you pages of sound sense and right feeling extracted from their records.

And thus it came that when matters fell to the worst, and nothing was left to the people but to fight, they were prepared for that too. When the British chieftain Gage was put at the head of the government to overawe them, and when he made his first demonstration upon the building at Cambridge in which the powder of the towns was commonly stored, the people, warned by this attempt, took immediate measures to secure their own. When the same officer sent out through the courts the warrants to obtain



juries that might be used to restore to his authority the impeached Chief Justice, Oliver, they took instant measures to obtain possession of all the obnoxious papers within their jurisdiction. And here it is fitting to dwell a moment upon one particular incident in this transaction, on account of the light that it reflects on their character and habits. It appears that it was on a Sunday evening that about two hundred gathered for the purpose of seizing these papers, then in the hands of the Deputy-Sheriff. Having made the necessary arrangements, they went and secured that officer, and compelled him to deliver up the warrants. They then made a fire, around which they stood in a circle, whilst the obnoxious documents were committed to the flames; but after all was done, when a vote was called whether they should huzza, it passed in the negative, *because it was Sunday*. So they went home in silence.

And when at last the attack of Gage on Lexington and Concord brought the dispute to open war, the whole male population rose in arms. Three military companies were set on foot at once; one commanded by Captain Wild, drawn principally from the north precinct, one commanded by Captain Vinton, mainly from the middle, and the third commanded by Captain Turner, drawn indifferently from all three.<sup>22</sup> During the siege of Boston, which followed, these men were kept on constant duty. In order to protect the coast from alarms occasioned by the excursions of the British foraging parties to the shores of the bay and the islands, Captain Vinton's company was stationed at Squan-

<sup>22</sup> The names of the members of the two latter companies are to be found in the book called the Vinton Memorial; a work showing infinite industry and research in genealogical matters connected with the town of Braintree, and occasionally throwing much light on its history.

tum, and Captain Turner's at Germantown, from which points they repeatedly succeeded in harassing the enemy, and in rendering his labor fruitless as well as dangerous. And, at last, when the call came to repair to Dorchester Heights to make the final great effort to dislodge the enemy, the men were all there. Fortunately this last stroke decided the contest in Massachusetts without further bloodshed.<sup>23</sup> But if we consider the fact that more than a century had passed away without the presence of a hostile foot any where in the vicinity, these facts go to prove that here at least effeminacy had not been the effect of peace. And after the war was carried elsewhere, when the men no longer feared for their wives and their children, still the town relaxed no effort to yield its full share of contribution both in money and in men, to the support of the American side, in the other colonies. The trial was severe; they bore it well. *They* won the honors. May *we* wear them long!

During this, the most troubled period in their annals, it is not probable that there was any material increase to the population; famine and pestilence then came in to embitter the perils of war. It is probable that in the year 1657, or seventeen years after the town was incorporated, it may have contained eighty families, perhaps four hundred souls. A century later, including, by the usual calculation, the lapse of three generations, it was estimated to have about twenty-four hundred. This is not doubling oftener than once in about forty years,—a slow rate for

<sup>23</sup> The following entry in their records, is significant:—

1776. March 18. "The inhabitants being obliged to guard the shores to prevent the threatened damages from the ships which lay in the harbor with the troops abroad, the meeting was adjourned to the 25th inst."

America. From 1790 we are aided by the statistics of the Federal and State census, which furnish these results:—

	1790.	1800.	1810.	1820.	1830.	1840.	1850.	1855.
Braintree, . . . }		1,285	1,350	1,466	1,752	2,168	2,969	3,472
Quincy, . . . }	2,771	1,081	1,281	1,623	2,192	3,486	5,017	5,921
Randolph, . . . }		1,021	1,170	1,546	2,200	3,213	4,741	5,538
	2,771	3,337	3,800	4,635	5,944	8,867	12,727	14,931

This table shows the rate much more rapid; for the sixty-five years it is doubling once in about twenty-eight years.

Braintree has been, on the whole, remarkable for the equality of condition of her citizens during their united and separate state. Of the sources of their industry, of their orderly habits, and of the religious sentiments prevailing among them, it would be impossible, within suitable compass, to speak in any manner which should do them justice.<sup>24</sup> But this feeble sketch would be unpardonably imperfect if it omitted to refer to those from their ranks, natives of the soil, whose honorable and dignified career has reflected lustre upon the institutions that reared them. We have seen how the knight errant, the commercial adventurer, the profligate pettifogger of Clifford's Inn came in rapid succession, like flying clouds, only to throw an instant's shadow on the scene, and then to pass away and be no more. We have seen the next array of disputants on points of sublimated ethics and transcendental theology, threatening for awhile the peace of an infant community, and then vanishing before the less rarified wisdom of a

<sup>24</sup> See Appendix, (D.)

company of practical statesmen. But Braintree only furnished the scenery for the drama; it was reserved to a later day to produce actors whom she might call her own. Of such, she has had many not unknown beyond her borders; many prized not the less because of virtues known only within them. Learned and faithful pastors, eminent lawyers, liberal merchants, honest statesmen, brave and accomplished soldiers. We have not forgotten the faithful public servant, elected year after year by a unanimous vote of the people, their representative in the Colonial Assembly, and for his long services especially honored by that Assembly with an ample grant of the public lands,—the man whose memory has been since more honored by affixing his name to one of the three divisions of the town.<sup>24</sup> Shall we forget that John Hancock was the son of the pastor of the first church, was born in the north precinct, and christened in its meeting-house? Or that Josiah Quincy, Junior, the son, and grandson, and great grandson of honest and able and honored citizens, a statesman too early lost for the good of his mourning country, there imbibed the early lessons of his youth, and that his bones repose in yonder churchyard. But he has left us a noble son, and that son still lives—but it is not my design to mix this record of the past with premature and indelicate

<sup>24</sup>John Quincy, born in 1689, the son of Daniel Quincy and Anna Shepard, and the great grandson of William Tyng, the second owner of Mount Wollaston, from whose daughter he inherited it. He built the first house upon it, unless Morton's be counted as one, and lived in it until his death, on the 13 July, 1767. John Quincy was the only male descendant of the second Edmund Quincy by his first wife, Joanna Hoar. The name has since become extinct in this branch. The venerable Josiah Quincy traces his descent from the second wife of the same Edmund Quincy, Elizabeth Gookin.

eulogy of the living. I will only say, old and venerable as he is, long may he still live to postpone my praise!

And now, my friends, it is time for me to close this perhaps tedious tale. Full of pleasurable associations as the preparation of it was to me, I may have forgotten that others feel it not as I do. Let me turn your eyes then once more from the past to the happy present, and to the immediate cause that brought us all together. We devote this house to the cause of Liberty and Law. Happy union exemplified in the action of these little democracies through which the pillars of the Republic are made to stand firm. Each generation of mankind has its peculiar trials and its own victories or defeats. But none has had greater responsibilities in my view than that will encounter which is about to frequent halls like this. I declare to you my profound conviction that the mission of freedom to mankind, even now, rests mainly in the hands of the children of the Puritans. In the wide world I know of no practical national school for the study of equal rights and the production of equal laws, the isonomy of the ancient republics which Greek and Roman sages so long waited for and never found, to be compared with that of the rural town meeting. It is the only resort to which all can go, rich or poor, for training in the law and for a familiar acquaintance with the forms of public business. From this centre issue the pupils who are promoted into the collective assemblies, from the grand jury to the County Convention, and from that up to the highest deliberative bodies known in the land. From halls like these are caught those rules of discussion and those customs of order which make a free government beneficent or even practicable. They never had such in France, and for that reason, if there were no other, a republic has thus far

proved impossible. I have seen the effect of them in the popular assemblages of America, and I will say, without offence intended, that I have noted a positive advantage in the preservation of order and in the application of the mind to the business in hand ever to rest with the New England men. I attribute all of this to the school and the town meeting. It is fitting, then, that this ample roof be extended to protect them both. Long may it last to give evidence of the perpetuation of them in their purity in this ancient town!



## CEREMONIES OF THE DAY.

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The afternoon of the 29th of July, 1858, was fixed upon as the time for the dedication of the new house. Very fortunately the weather proved all that could be desired, and the occasion attracted large numbers of people from the surrounding towns. The Committee of Arrangements and the guests, assembled at three o'clock, at the house of Colonel J. H. D. Blake, where His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth was present, agreeably to invitation. After partaking of refreshments, a procession was formed under the direction of William Potter, Esquire, Chief Marshal, and a large number of aids.

The escort duty was performed by the Braintree Light Infantry, under the command of Captain Bumpus. The Weymouth Brass Band furnished the music. The order of the procession was as follows:—

The Braintree Light Infantry.  
Committee of Arrangements.  
The President of the Day and the Orator.  
His Excellency the Governor.  
The High Sheriff of Norfolk County.  
The Clergy and invited Guests.  
Citizens.

As the procession passed along, the public schools were found formed in a line on either side of the street, making a most pleasing part of this interesting exhibition. They joined the procession in their order, and contributed by their fresh and hearty and gay appearance to the pleasure of the occasion. After moving along Washington, through Hancock, and across to Washington Street again, the procession entered the Town House at about four o'clock, and in a few minutes every part of the spacious hall in which the exercises were appointed to take place, was crowded to overflowing. Numbers were unable to gain admittance.

The services were commenced with a Voluntary by the Weymouth Brass Band.

Prayer was offered by the Reverend Richard S. Storrs, D. D., the venerable pastor of the First Congregational Church of Braintree.

A piece of vocal music was executed by a choir of voluntary performers, assisted by the Germania Band.

Honorable Caleb Stetson, the President of the Day, then arose and made the following statement of facts connected with the rise and progress of the new edifice.

At the annual meeting of the citizens of Braintree, in March, 1857, it was voted to build a new town house, and Ezra Penniman, John Beath, David H. Bates, Jason C. Howard, and Caleb Stetson, were chosen a committee with full power to contract for the same, provided only, that the entire cost should not exceed twelve thousand dollars, above the cellar, &c.

In accordance with the town's instructions, the committee employed Mr. J. D. Towle, of Boston, as the architect to furnish the plan of the building. It is ninety-six feet in length by fifty-five in width—two stories high. On the lower story, are large and commodious rooms fitted up with accommodations for a high school of the first class, agreeably to the vote of the town establishing the same. There are also other rooms for the use of town officers and of committees, and one apartment is set apart for an armory for the Braintree Light Infantry. On the second story are rooms for the use of the Selectmen, and the spacious hall in which the present company is assembled. It is eighty feet long by fifty-three feet wide, and finished in the manner now to be judged of by all.

The whole cost of the building, including the grading, cellar, and other expenses, is fifteen thousand dollars.

The land upon which the house is built was a liberal donation by the late Josiah French.

The committee had deemed the completion of this work an event worthy of special commemoration. To that end they had extended a cordial invitation to all the citizens residing within the ancient limits of Braintree to be present with them, and they had called upon one of these persons, living in that part now called Quincy, whose name and whose forefathers had long been associated with the history of the old town, to favor them with an Address. The chairman would therefore without further enoaching upon the time content himself with introducing the Hon. Charles Francis Adams.

Mr. Adams was received with much cordiality, and he proceeded to deliver the preceding Address, which was listened to throughout with great attention, though it occupied one hour and thirty minutes.

An earnest desire having been shown on the part of the assembled citizens to hear a few words from His Excellency the Governor, he kindly complied with their wishes. He was received in a most enthusiastic manner, and proceeded to comment in a pleasant, unpremeditated strain upon various points mentioned in the Address, and concluded by intimating that with the progress which the metropolis was making in this

direction, it was not impossible that in the course of time the latest state of this territory might be like the first, and Boston would again vote to be enlarged at Mount Wollaston, in a manner that would convince the orator of his mistake in supposing its earliest would be its nearest connection with the name of a populous city. His Excellency's remarks were closed amidst great applause.

An Ode was then sung by the choir of voluntary performers.

The services were concluded by a benediction from the Reverend Jonas Perkins, the venerable pastor of the Union Church of Weymouth and Braintree.

In the evening a levee and entertainment were given by the Braintree Light Infantry in the hall of the Town House. Many distinguished gentlemen invited to honor the assembly with their presence appeared and made brief congratulatory addresses on the occasion. The Germania Band was in attendance, and the company present, of both sexes, terminated in a most agreeable manner a day that will long be remembered in the annals of the ancient town.



## A P P E N D I X .

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[A.—p. 20.]

It is proposed to give a general view of the manner in which the lands included in the old township of Braintree were originally taken up.

The order of the General Court annexing Mount Wollaston to Boston has been given in the text, and the first proceedings of the people of the town under that authority. But the general plan of allotment reported by the first committee, allusion to which is repeatedly made in the later stages of distribution does not appear to have been preserved. As a consequence it is not easy to identify the places allotted, or to comprehend the system adopted. In the absence of such a guide, there seems to be no other way than to take the several allotments in the order in which they were made.

The first is that which was provided for the minister of the first church, the Reverend John Wilson, in the place of a former grant at Mystic or Medford.

This vote was adopted during his absence to bring over his wife from England.

8 *December*, 1634. "At a general meeting upon public notice.

"Imprimis. It was ordered that Mr. Wilson the Pastor (in lieu of his land granted him at the North River by Mystic, which he shall pass over to the town of Boston) shall have as much land at the Mount Wollaston as he elects; and after, so much as shall be his portion of other lands belonging to this town, to be laid him out so near his other land at Mount Wollaston as may be for his most conveniency."

13 *April*, 1635. "It is agreed by general consent that our pastor Mr. John Wilson shall have liberty to improve what ground may be for him at Mount Wollaston with free reserving unto him his grant at Mystic until his coming home for further agreement with the inhabitants."

Mr. Wilson arrived in Boston in October.

It seems from the next vote that the intended gift turned out to be burdened with an incumbrance, the Indian right of possession.

4 December, 1635. "Item—whereas the greatest part of the ground at Mount Wollaston intended to have been given from the inhabitants to our Pastor Mr. John Wilson in lieu or exchange for his farm at Mystic, has proved to belong unto the Indians and others, whose interest therein he hath been forced to purchase—the inhabitants do therefore relinquish all claim unto his said land at Mystic, and do further confirm unto him his interest in his said land at Mount Wollaston, with further allowance to have by way of purchase from the Indians and others, or otherwise, so much of the upland ground within or about his said grounds there as may make him up a convenient farm there."

The town seems to have had some trouble in buying up the rights of settlers as well as of the Indians, to make good this grant.

16 September, 1636. "Item, at this assembly it was agreed upon by common vote and by lifting up of hands, that the five hundred and sixty-five acres, as they are described in a map, and which were formerly purchased at Mount Wollaston with the consent of this town, partly of Mr. Pynchon, partly of Mr. Wolcott, partly of Mr. Smith, (or at least his title utterly silenced,) and partly of the Indians, should be and is the allotment of the said John Wilson there, together with the lands there in controversy betwixt Dorchester and Boston, if the Court adjudge them to Boston."

There can be no doubt that this allotment must have been made in the extreme northern section of what is now called Quincy. It made probably a part of what has been since known as *the Farms*, a tract which all the early writers unite in describing as the chief seat of Chickatabot and the Massachusetts tribe, or what was left of them at the time of the arrival of the Europeans.

The next grant in order is that to Quincy and Coddington.

14 December, 1635. "It is agreed by general consent that Mr. W. Colburne, Mr. W. Aspinwall, Mr. J. Sampford, W. Balstone, and Richard Wright shall in the behalf of the town go and take view at Mount Wollaston, and bound out there what may be sufficient for Mr. William Coddington and Edmund Quincy to have for their particular farms there; and accordingly as they five or four of them shall agree upon to stand, and the same to be entered in this book."

Immediately after this follows a general authority to make allotments in the following words:—

"Item, it is agreed that all the allotments at Mount Wollaston shall be set out by Mr. Coddington, William Colburne, William Aspinwall, Edmund Quincy and Richard Wright, or some four of them; and that



every allotment shall have a convenient proportion of meadow thereunto, according to their number of cattle that have the same."

Here is the report of the first Committee—that on the allotments to Coddington and Quincy:—

14 *March*, 1636. "And whereas at a general meeting the 14th of the 10th month last, it was ordered that Mr. W. Colburne, Mr. W. Aspinwall, J. Sampford, W. Balstone and Richard Wright should bound out Mr. W. Coddington's and Edmund Quincy's farms at Mount Wollaston, and the same accordingly to be entered in this book.

"Now the said five persons have thus given in the bounds thereof, viz.: that Mr. Wilson's lot shall be the northerly bound, and the sea on the east part, with so much of the neck of land toward Nut Island unto the marked trees of the neck, and so to be compassed about on the south and west part as we have marked it out by trees, from place to place, unto the dead swamp next to Mr. Wilson's, excluding a parcel of marsh land in which there stand three hummocks with pine trees upon the east side of the marsh near the water."

It will be perceived that this boundary includes both farms, and comprehends the whole of the extensive tract on the seaboard from the dead swamp on the north to Hough's neck on the south, including what is called Mount Wollaston, but excluding the great plain of salt marsh on the south of it, as well marked by the three hummocks at this day as it was two centuries ago, although the wood has changed from pine to oak and walnut.

An arrival of great importance to the Colony, which took place on the 13th September, 1634, now introduced the seeds of the great schism at Mount Wollaston:—

4 *January*, 1636. "Item, that Mr. William Hutchinson shall have a sufficient farm laid him out at Mount Wollaston, beyond Mr. Coddington's farm and Mr. Wilson's into the 'country adjoining Dorchester bounds, by the aforesaid five persons or four of them at their discretion."

That is, by the general committee of allotment already mentioned.

It would appear from the following, that the collision between Pastor Wilson and the Hutchinsons was not altogether confined to spiritual boundaries:—

9 *May*, 1636. "Item, it is ordered that William Aspinwall, William Brenton, William Balstone, John Sampford and James Penne, or some four of them, shall lay out our Pastor Mr. John Wilson's bounds and Mr. William Hutchinson's at Mount Wollaston."

The result of this order was the report of a map, already described in the account of Mr. Wilson's allotment, under date of 16th September of this year. The General Committee reported upon Mr. Hutchinson's, as follows:—

9 *January*, 1637. "And whereas, at a general meeting, the 4th of the 11th month, 1635, it was ordered that Mr. W. Coddington, Mr. W. Colburne, W. Aspinwall, Edmund Quincy and J. Sampford should lay out Mr. W. Hutchinson a sufficient farm at Mount Wollaston at their discretion. Now the said five persons have at this day under their hands thus given in the laying out thereof, viz.: they have assigned unto him five hundred acres of ground lying betwixt Dorchester bounds and Mount Wollaston river from the back of Mr. Coddington's and Mr. Wilson's farms, up into the country, and if there be not sufficient meadow ground within this lot, to have such competent meadows assigned to him as there shall be found most fitting for him."

It would appear from this, that William Hutchinson's farm must have extended along from the northerly bounds near the Neponset, next south and west of the tracts allotted to Mr. Wilson and west of Mr. Coddington's, as far as the Mount Wollaston River, which I take to be what is now known as Black's Creek.

The next great grant is that to Atherton Hough:—

4 *January*, 1636. "It is agreed by general consent that Mr. Atherton Haughes shall have six hundred acres laid him out beyond Mount Wollaston, from between Monottyquot river to the bound that parts our bound from Weymouth, and if there be not sufficient meadow there for his said farm, then he is to be accommodated with meet meadow for it in the little meadow at the upper end of the fresh brook called the stand, and to be laid out by the former five mentioned persons or four of them."

Thus far it has not been difficult to understand the course of the allotments. They appear to have extended coastwise from the Neponset to the Weymouth river, beginning from the north and going southward. But there was yet one great tract left, and this seems to have been granted later to Mr. Hough in exchange for some portion of his first grant. It is the same which has ever since been known by his name, as Hough's neck.

4 *December*, 1637. "Also it is agreed that Mr. Atherton Haulgh shall have all that neck of land (as yet not laid out) joining to Mr. William Coddington, north-west of the Brethrens' meadow lots there, and to have it made up seven hundred acres upon the main land, fifty acres thereof to be in the little meadow where Mr. William Hutchinson had hay mown this

last year, and if the meadow exceed not threescore acres, then is Mr. Haulgh to have the whole meadow, and it is left to his choice to begin from the West, either at the little meadow, and so to come downwards to the Brethrens' lots of seven acres upon a head—or to begin from their lot and so up to the meadow, all upon the north side of the Stony Brook—and for the rocky ground therein to have allowance, as the Brethren have unto their rocky ground there—and to have commonage as the Brethren have there, and if the said meadow do exceed threescore acres, then is Mr. Haulgh to have his fifty acres therein where he pleaseth, taking it altogether, at which end thereof he will."

The allusion to Hutcheson's meadow is explained by the following order :

28 *August*, 1637. "Also it is agreed that Mr. William Hutcheson have leave for the present summer to mow the little meadow at the head of Monatiquot river, and to be considered of for further enjoyment of it."

A further settlement with Hough was made afterwards, as follows:—

28 *October*, 1639. "It was fully agreed on and concluded between the said overseers on the town's behalf on the one part and the said Mr. Atherton Haulgh on the other part, that Mr. Haulgh shall relinquish all claim unto all the land commonly called the Captain's plain lying over against the southern end of the second company of lots at Mount Wollaston, and lying on the west side of the fresh brook, bounded towards the north and east by the said fresh brook running out of a swamp in the midst of the plain near adjoining unto the said fresh brook towards the West by the marked trees. In consideration of which the men chosen in the town's behalf aforesaid do grant and agree that the said Mr. Haulgh shall have with all convenient speed measured out unto him as much land in quantity as the plain bounded as aforesaid containeth in it—and eighty acres overplus to adjoin unto the southernmost side of land already laid out to him, to lie all along a line already set out, extending about five hundred rods in length and to be of equal breadth from the said line in all places, as much as the quantity granted to him, (whatever it be) shall require."

The next important grant was made to the famous John Wheelwright.

20 *February*, 1637. "It is agreed that our brother John Wheelwright shall have an allotment of two hundred and fifty acres set off for him at Mount Wollaston where may be most convenient, without prejudice to the setting up of a town there, to be laid out by Mr. Coddington for our brother Wheelwright."

The report made soon after seems to have placed him in or near the marsh called the three hill marsh, immediately south of Mount Wollaston.

3 *April*, 1637. "Whereas at a former meeting it was agreed that Mr. W. Coddington and our brother Richard Wright should lay out our brother, Mr. J. Wheelwright his allotment of two hundred and fifty acres at Mount Wollaston.

"Now, they have brought in the laying out thereof, thus, viz., forty acres thereof in the sunke marsh, lying south and by east of the lands of the said William Coddington; five acres for his house lot, and two hundred and five acres at the end of it running with one side of the first lot and the line of twenty acres of the planting ground allotted, to be extended into the country ground till his full proportion of two hundred and five acres between those lines be runned out."

This disposition seems to have conflicted with the rights of other grantees, so that when Wheelwright's lands came to be sold after his banishment, it became necessary to settle the question how far they extended.

27 *January*, 1641. "It is ordered that whereas there was formerly granted to Mr. John Wheelwright a great lot of 250 acres, 205 acres whereof have been laid out where parts of the first allotments should have lain, and the purchaser of Mr. Wheelwright's grant hath consented to the parting with the said two hundred and five acres for the having in lieu thereof all the Captain's plain, and eighty acres more.

"Also for ending the differences between the purchasers of Mr. Wheelwright's lands and the owners of the second division or lot at Mount Wollaston, for as much as the said purchasers cannot have their lands supplied in course, as those of the first lot had, without prejudice to many men, who had improved their lots; it is therefore ordered, by consent of divers of the parties, that the purchasers of Mr. Wheelwright's lands shall have (in lieu of the two hundred and five acres which was taken away towards the making up of what was wanting to the first division or lot there) the one hundred and thirteen acres at the end of his land, and the Captain's plain, being about one hundred and fourteen acres, and that the widow Shelley's son and those who challenge interest in the said plain shall have their parts first supplied and laid out where no grant is already made in particular, and together therewith the thirty acres remaining of Mr. Wheelwright's proportion besides, and the purchasers are to have in lieu of the residue, more than the thirty acres which they allowed to the said widow Shelley's son and the rest, such proportion of the rocky ground lying next the said plain, and the said forty-three acres, as the surveyor, upon view shall find answerable to the eighteen acres remaining to them."

We are left somewhat in the dark as to the second allotment which is here alluded to. So far as the records of the town of Boston go, they show a constant stream of grants during the time it held the property, without much discrimination or order. For the further information of those citizens of the three towns who may have any curiosity to trace their ancestors in this way, I have placed in an alphabetical and a tabular form all the smaller grants that were made; separating, however, those made to citizens of Boston and others, before the incorporation of the town, and those made after the agreement.

			Heads.	Acres.
1640.	Feb. 24,	Adams, Henry, 3s. an acre, . . . . .	10	40
		Albye, Benjamin, . . . . .	3	12
		Aldrich, George, . . . . .	5	20
		Allen, Samuel, . . . . .	7	28
		Arnold, John, . . . . .	2	8
1638.	Feb. 19,	Award, (Hayward?) Richard; a houseplot on condi- tion of inoffensive carriage, . . . . .	-	-
1640.	24,	Barrell, George, . . . . .	9	36
		Belfield, Samuel, . . . . .	5	20
1639.	Feb. 19,	Belcher, Gregory, 3s. an acre, . . . . .	13	62
1638.	Feb. 19,	Bell, Thomas, . . . . .	3	12
1640.	March 30,	Bird, Thomas, . . . . .	3	12
	Feb. 24,	Blysse, Thomas, . . . . .	9	36
		Brackett, Peter, . . . . .	12	48
		Briscoe, William, . . . . .	8	32
1638.	Feb. 19,	Brown, William, . . . . .	3	12
		Burdon, George, . . . . .	5	20
1639.	Nov. 25,	" " . . . . .	3	12
1638.	Feb. 19,	Bushnell, Martha, . . . . .	5	20
1640.	Feb. 24,	Carter, Richard, . . . . .	3	12
		Clarke, James, . . . . .	2	8
1638.	Feb. 19,	Clarke, John, . . . . .	10	40
1639.	Nov. 25,	Clarke, Thomas, . . . . .	6	36
1640.	Jan. 27,	Do. . . . .	8	32
1639.	Sept. 30,	Cole, Clement, . . . . .	7	28
1640.	Feb. 24,	Collyns, Cristofero, . . . . .	2	8
		Collyns, John, of Monaticot, . . . . .	3	12
		Corey, James, . . . . .	4	16
1638.	Feb. 19, }	Crabtree, John, . . . . .	2	8
1639.	Dec. 30, }	" " . . . . .	3	12
1640.	Jan. 27,	Critchley, Richard, . . . . .	5	20
1638.	Jan. 29,	Cullymore, Isaac, . . . . .	4	16
1640.	Feb. 24,	Dassett, John, . . . . .	7	28
	March 30,	Davis, William, . . . . .	5	20
1638.	Feb. 19,	Dennys, Edward, . . . . .	3	12
	Jan. 29,	East, Francis, . . . . .	2	8
	" "	Elliot, Francis, . . . . .	4	16
1639.	Sept. 30,	Foster, Thomas, Governor of the Castle Island, . . . . .	6	24
1640.	Feb. 21,	French, John, of Monaticot, . . . . .	5	20
	" "	Gilbert, Thomas, . . . . .	7	28
	Jan. 11,	Grame, Samuel, . . . . .	4	16
1637.	Jan. 9,	Gunnison, Hugh, . . . . .	3	12
1640.	Feb. 24,	Harlar, John, . . . . .	3	12
1637.	Oct. 30,	Hassett, John, . . . . .	3	12
1640.	March 30,	Hathaway, Nicholas, . . . . .	9	36
		Haven, Robert, . . . . .	4	16
1638.	Feb. 19,	Hawkins, James, . . . . .	4	16
		Hawkins, Thomas, . . . . .	4	16
1640.	March 31,	" " . . . . .	5	20
	Jan. 27,	Hewstead, Robert, . . . . .	8	32
		Hogg, Richard, houseplot, garden, . . . . .	5	20
1638.	Jan. 29,	Hunne, George, . . . . .	5	20
1639.	July 8,	Hurd, John, . . . . .	3	12
1638.	Feb. 19,	Hutchinson, Edward, the younger, . . . . .	6	24
		Jackson, John, . . . . .	3	12



			Heads.	Acres.
1640.	Feb. 24,	Jewell, Thomas, . . . . .	3	12
1639.	July 2,	Jepson, John, 3s. per acre, . . . . .	3	12
1640.	Feb. 24,	Kidby, Lewis, . . . . .	2	8
		Kirkly, William, . . . . .	3	12
1638.	Feb. 18,	Keayne, Benjamin, a great lot of meadow and upland at Monaticot river, . . . . .	-	200
	19,	Kinsley, Stephen, . . . . .	9	36
1639.	Nov. 25,	Lisle, Francis, . . . . .	5	20
1640.	Jan. 24,	Lovell, Daniel, . . . . .	3	12
	27,	Lugg, John, . . . . .	9	36
1638.	Feb. 19,	Lowe, John, . . . . .	4	16
1640.	Feb. 24,	Maudsley, Henry, . . . . .	3	12
		Marchant, John, . . . . .	2	8
		Mekyns, Thomas, Jr., . . . . .	7	28
		Miles, John, . . . . .	11	44
		Millard, Thomas, . . . . .	5	20
		Moore, John, . . . . .	3	12
1638.	Feb. 19,	Mower, William, . . . . .	9	36
1640.	Feb. 24,	Neale, Henry, . . . . .	3	12
	Jan. 27,	Needham, William, . . . . .	3	12
	Feb. 24,	Newton, Anthony, . . . . .	3	12
1639.	Sept. 30,	Offley, D., . . . . .	15	60
1640.	Feb. 24,	Onyon, John, . . . . .	2	8
1640.	Feb. 24,	Pafflyn, John, . . . . .	2	8
	March 30,	Parker, Richard, on Monaticot river, . . . . .	-	500
1639.	Dec. 30,	Pery, Arthur, . . . . .	7	28
1640.	Feb. 24,	Place, Thomas, . . . . .	5	20
	Aug. 26,	Plumley, Alexander, . . . . .	3	12
1640.	Feb. 24,	Poffer, George, . . . . .	5	20
1638.	Feb. 19,	Porter, Abel, . . . . .	2	8
1639.	Dec. 30,	Potter, William, . . . . .	11	44
1640.	Feb. 24,	Reade, John, . . . . .	11	44
	March 30,	Rickett, Richard, . . . . .	10	40
	Feb. 24,	Rodgers, David, . . . . .	2	8
		Rose, George, . . . . .	5	20
1638.	April 19,	Scott, Robert, . . . . .	12	48
	16,	Sellen, Thomas, a house plot, . . . . .	-	-
1640.	Feb. 24,	Sharpe, Robert, . . . . .	4	16
		Sheppard, George, . . . . .	-	18
	Jan. 27,	Shrimpton, Henry, . . . . .	3	12
	Feb. 24,	Simons, Thomas, . . . . .	10	40
		Sinnott, Waters, . . . . .	3	12
		Smyth, Matthew, . . . . .	5	20
	Jan. 27,	Spoor, John, . . . . .	5	20
	Feb. 24,	Stephens, Robert, . . . . .	3	12
1638.	Feb. 19,	Stannyan, Anthony, . . . . .	11	44
1640.	Jan. 27,	Stoddard, Anthony, . . . . .	-	100
1639.	Nov. 25,	Storer, Richard, . . . . .	3	12
	Dec. 10,	Tinge, Edward, on the upper side of the pond, . . . . .	-	250
1640.	Feb. 24,	Tayer, (Thayer?) Thomas, . . . . .	-	76
	Jan. 27,	Tompson, William, free from the rate of 3s., . . . . .	-	120
1638.	Feb. 19,	Wardall, William, . . . . .	3	12
	Jan. 29,	Wayte, Gammell, . . . . .	10	40
		Wayte, Richard, . . . . .	4	16
		Webb, Henry, . . . . .	10	40
1640.	Feb. 24,	Welles, Daniel, . . . . .	20	80
1639.	Aug. 26,	Williams, Nathaniel, . . . . .	4	16
1640.	Feb. 24,	Wilson, Jacob, . . . . .	4	16
		Wiseman, James, . . . . .	3	12
1639.	Dec. 30,	Wooddas, Richard, . . . . .	3	12
1640.	Jan. 27,	Wright, George, . . . . .	3	12
1639.	Feb. 18,	Wright, Richard, a narrow piece of land lying at Mount Wollaston, between the mill and the fresh brook, to begin at the end of the first lot and to extend four- score rods in length, to the furtherance of his water- mill building there, and in regard of his ready ser- viceableness to the town's occasions, . . . . .	-	-

These were the grants made prior to the incorporation of the town. That act could not take place until some arrangement should be made with



Boston by which the rights of each party might be clearly understood. To bring about this, a committee was appointed in Boston, as appears by the following vote:—

3 August, 1639. “Also these eight were chosen to consider of Mount Wollaston business and for the ripening how there may be a town and church there with the consent of this town’s inhabitants, viz. :—

“The Governor, the Deputy Governor, Mr. Olyver, Mr. Keayne, Mr. Newgate, Mr. Colburne, Mr. Coggeshall and Mr. Brenton.”

The arrangement adopted by both parties, upon which the act of incorporation was predicated, is in these words:—

27 January, 1640. “It was agreed with our neighbors of Mount Wollaston, viz.: William Cheesbrooke, Alexander Winchester, Richard Wright, James Penniman, &c., in the name of the rest, for whom they undertook, that they should give to Boston four shillings the acre for two acres of the seven acres formerly granted to divers men of Boston, upon expectation they should have continued still with us, and three shillings the acre for every acre which hath been or shall be granted to any others who are not inhabitants of Boston, and that in consideration hereof and after the said portions of money shall be paid to the town treasurer, all the said lands shall be free from any town rates or charges to Boston; and upon these terms, and also from all country rates assessed with Boston, but to be rated by the Court by itself.

“Provided, that this order shall not extend to any more or other lands than such as shall make payment of the said rates so agreed upon of four shillings and three shillings the acre; and upon the former consideration there is granted to the Mount all that rocky ground lying between the fresh brook and Mr. Coddington’s brook, adjoining to Mr. Hough’s farm, and from the west corner of that farm to the southernest corner of Mr. Hutchinson’s farm, to be reserved and used in common forever by the inhabitants and landholders there together, with another parcel of rocky ground near to the Knight’s Neck, which was left out of the third company of lots, excepting all such grounds lying among or near the said rocky grounds, formally granted in lots to particular persons.”

The following grants were made after the incorporation. They are not many in number, but quite considerable in quantity. Boston had already reserved beside a tract of two thousand acres, “in the most convenient place unallotted.”

			Hends.	Acres.
1641.	July 31,	Bendall, Edward,	—	400
1641.	Jan. 31,	Briscoe, William,	1	4
1644.	July 29,	Elliott, Francis, and others, land within the common fence at Braintree, near the Knight's neck. [See Matson, Penniman and Payne.]		
1644.	July 29,	Flint, Henry. [See Tompson, William.]		
"	"	Matson, Sargent. [See Elliott, Francis.]		
1641.	Nov. 29,	Palmer, John,	2	8
1644.	July 29,	Payne, Moses. [See Eliot, Francis.]		
"	"	Penniman, Joseph. [See Eliot, Francis.]		
1640.	Sept. 28,	Scott, Robert, adjoined to Webb's, with allowance for rockland or swamp,	—	200
1641.	July 26,	Sterns, Henry,	5	40
1644.	July 29,	Tompson, William, and Flint, Henry, marsh in the three hills marsh not formerly granted to J. Wheelwright, together with two hillocks of upland.		
"	Sept. 28,	Webb, Henry, beyond Monaticent river, adjoining to Edward Tynge's and Edward Hutchinson's farms,	—	200
1641.	July 31,	Wheelwright, John, in the three hill marsh,	—	40
1644.	Jan. 19,	Winthrop, John, Jr., and others, for the encouragement of an Iron work,	—	3000

Notwithstanding the covenant, it appears from the town records that the people of Braintree continued to be much annoyed by the tenure of the lands held by Boston men, by which they were excepted from the common charges incident to the township. A new negotiation took place, which terminated in October, 1647, with the following conveyance:—

" This writing witnesseth.—That it is agreed betwixt the Selectmen for the Town of Boston on their part, and Martin Saunders, Samuel Bass and Matthew Barnes for and in the behalf of the Town of Brantry on the other party: That whereas Boston hath certain lands lying between the bounds of Dorchester and the bounds of Weymouth as by the grant of the Court will appear—

" It is now agreed by and betwixt the parties aforesaid (as followeth) to wit—The Selectmen of Boston for and in behalf of the town do grant that all such lands of theirs within the precincts aforesaid being heretofore commonly called and known by the name of Mount Wollaston shall be accounted within the Township of Brantry, and liable to bear all common charges in the Town when they are layed out and improved, the Town of Boston still retaining the right and power of allotting and disposing of all those lands to particular persons that are yet unlotted out; The Town of Brantry paying the sum of fifty pounds in manner as followeth unto the use of the Town of Boston, viz., ten pounds the 10th of January next ensuing the date hereof, and ten pounds each first month ensuing (the next first month excepted) for four years successively until the whole be paid. All the said payments to be made in merchantable corn, as wheat, rye, peas and Indian at fifty shillings in each of them, which said sum of fifty pounds being paid, the Inhabitants of the Town of Brantry are not only to enjoy for a common the 1500 acres formerly layed out for a common, but also

the above liberty and power with all their Inhabitants, as other Towns, to bring in all improved lands to bear common charges with them; Provided that Mr. John Wilson, Pastor of the church of Boston shall not be rated unto Brantry for his farm at Brantry only that his tax shall be still liable as heretofore. Finally it is agreed by the said three men of Brantry to make the aforesaid payments at the Meeting house of Boston to the Selectmen thereof which shall be successively chosen the several years.

In witness whereof, the Selectmen of the Town of Boston for the time being on the one part, and Martin Saunders, Samuel Bass and Matthew Barnes on the other part, in the behalf of the Town of Brantry, interchangably have set to their hands this 20th October 1647.

WILL COLBORN  
 JACOB ELIOTT  
 ANTHONY STODDARD  
 JAMES EVERITT  
 THOMAS MARSHALL  
 JAMES PENN.

Neither did the troubles end here. New pretensions were made by persons claiming to be grantees of the town of Boston of the unsurveyed lands, which threatened to involve the people in endless litigation. Once more they were driven to negotiation. The end was the passage of the following vote:—

26 *January*, 1700. “Then Voted the Inhabitants of Braintree aforesaid would buy all the whole lands, the Blue Hill Lands and all, at seven hundred pounds as it is proffered by Boston men.”

The people had become so jealous of these foreign claims that they went on to vote as follows:—

“Then Voted also, that no person now purchasing shall make any conveyance of the said land now purchased to any person out of this town as a security thereby to let them have a foothold or interest in the said purchase or any other way.”

I have copies of the releases of these Boston claims. The first was made by persons calling themselves proprietors purchasers of the lands belonging to Boston in Braintree. It bears date the 5th of February 1699. The second was made by the town of Boston itself as having reserved an authority over the acts of their grantees. It is dated the 1st of February, 1708. Although the purchase was made by the town of Braintree, it seems that the money payment, £700 currency, was made by an association of the citizens who raised the amount by a voluntary subscription. A copy of the record of their proceedings is in my hands. The association num-

bered exactly one hundred shareholders whose names are all given in full. The territory acquired by them was very large. One of the earliest votes of the company makes the following division.

“Voted, that there should be three divisions made of the said lands with all convenient speed—one of the six hundred acres—one of the land above Moore’s farm—one of the Chochecha land.”

The first of these divisions is yet well known in Quincy under the name of the six hundred acres. It is the tract adjoining the Milton line.

The second division lay principally in what is now the westerly part of Braintree.

The third division embraced a large tract within the present limits of Randolph adjoining to Bridgewater.

There was also another division of what was called the *middle cedar* swamp, adjoining Weymouth.

Each of the hundred proprietors appears by the record to have drawn one lot in each division, until the whole amount was exhausted. The names of the drawers are given, together with the numbers of the lots assigned to each. But it would take too much space to repeat them here. It is enough to say that out of the third division very soon sprang up the settlement at Randolph.

For a length of time the town was in possession of the large tract of land which in the Boston agreement is called a common of 1500 acres. And the records abound in votes touching their management. Like most of the experiments of Communities to hold property in common, the people found it a source of more vexation and trouble than of advantage. The complaints of trespass and encroachment were perpetual, and finally led to a desire to sell. This was first manifested in the case of the south common. The town voted to part with that on the 29th of March, 1762, including the lots before set apart for the use of the ministry. The sale was made; and it was confirmed on the 19th of May of the same year. The sale of the north common met with more opposition, and was delayed a little longer. At last the residents of the middle and south precincts succeeded in carrying a vote to sell against the north precinct, where the commons were situated, and directed a sale of them to the highest bidder. This was accordingly made in the year 1765.

As some of the names found in the old descriptions of the town have become obsolete, it may be as well to identify them as far as possible.

The tract now called Germantown in Quincy, was formerly known as *Shed’s neck*.

Another portion of the town since known as Braintree neck, and detached in 1857 from Braintree to be annexed to Quincy, is described in the earlier books as the *Knight’s neck*.

The region at the north towards the Neponset River at its mouth was early called *the Farms*.

The *Old Fields* was a name formerly given to Quincy Point.

By the term *Monatiquot* was understood that part of the town on the river of that name, now retaining the old name of *Braintree*.

The southern portion of the township, during the last century is described as *Quochecho*, *Cochato*, and latterly *Scadding*. It is now *Randolph*.

The *Captain's plain* is perpetually referred to in the early grants. I have not been able to identify it with certainty. But it is not improbably the plain to the west of the old County road at South Quincy. A stone bridge over the brook which flows through it is still remembered as the *Captain's bridge*, although at a later period, after John Adams purchased it, it went by the name of *the Lawyer's bridge*.

*Three hill marsh* is the great salt marsh lying immediately to the south-east of Mount Wollaston.

*Moore's farm* was on a tributary to the *Monatiquot* and near the Great pond. I find a vote of the town in 1766, prohibiting the shutting of any dam that would exclude the course of alewives up the *Moore's Farm River*.

*Bendall's farm* was probably the tract granted to Edward Bendall in July, 1641, of four hundred acres. (See the list, p. 64.) It lies in the westerly part of *Randolph*, probably between the site of the present Congregational meeting-house on the south, and the Baptist meeting-house on the north.

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[B.—p. 34.]

It may not be without interest to the citizens of the town, to see gathered in one mass whatever may be found in their records relating to the progress of public education in it, from its feeble commencement in 1668 as given in the text.

The first schoolmaster employed by the town seems to have been Benjamin Tompson, third son of the first minister. He was a physician beside, an occupation not without its value to eke out the scanty subsistence furnished by his school. How much that was may be understood from the following vote of the town.

3 March, 1678. "At a public Town Meeting it was voted on the affirmative that Mr. Benjamin Tompson, Schoolmaster, shall have this year for his salary, the rent of the Town's land made up thirty pounds; and that



the Town give him a piece of land to put a house on upon the common, to be set out by Joseph Crosby and Christopher Webb, not exceeding an acre and a half or there-about; and, in case he leave the Town, the land to return to the Town, they paying for his building and fencing as it is then worth; but if he die in the Town's service, as Schoolmaster, the land to be his heirs' forever. It was also agreed that every child should carry in to the schoolmaster half a cord of wood beside the quarter money every year."

The next record we find of Mr. Tompson is many years later. The schoolmaster's occupation seems to have been more of a permanency in that day than it has commonly been of late, even though his dues were not so punctually paid.

"At a public Town meeting of the Inhabitants of Brantry, as by Record the 3d March, 1690, it was voted on the affirmative that Mr. Benjamin Thompson should have ten pounds of country pay allowed out of a Town rate for this next year ensuing, besides the Town land rent which is now in his hands, in case he keep the school lawfully for this present year (1690) at the country price, corn and all other pay accordingly, and do accept what is now promised upon his good attendance of the youth."

2 March, 1696. "It was voted by the Inhabitants of Brantry convened, that Mr. Benjamin Tompson having many years kept a grammar school in the said Town: should besides the incomes of the Town land and rents thereof, have ten pounds added by way of salary for keeping the grammar school for the year 1696, he acquitting and fully discharging the Town from all former debts and arrearages to this day on that account, excepting what he may or can obtain in any of the rates or Constables hands which is yet due."

It seems from the following vote, that the first school-house had already become old. But where it was placed, I have found no means of determining. Mr. Whitney, who gathered much from the tradition of his time, says that it was near the meeting house of that day. This would be a little to the north of the Second Congregational Meeting House, in Quincy, at this day.

22 October, 1697. "Voted then that a new school-house should be built in the road between Clement Cox his house and Gregory Belcher's, hard by the white oak tree: the dimensions of the house to be twenty foot long, the width sixteen foot, and seven foot between joints."

Gregory Belcher's was on the land to the eastward of the county road at the foot of Payne's hill in Quincy.



A few months later the good people changed their minds, and voted the old school-house good enough to remove to this place. It may naturally be inferred that it was not more spacious than the one ordered to succeed it.

*7 March, 1698.* "It was then and there voted that the old school-house should be removed to the place allotted at a former Town Meeting, October 22, 1697, or on the land of the Frenches, if attainable, or near to the best conveniency."

A year passes over and then comes a new order. The old school-house shall not be removed, but the new one shall be built in the place indicated.

*7 March, 1699.* "Voted at the same time that the Town shall have a grammar schoolmaster, as also that the present school-house should not be removed, and that a new one should be built."

The old school-house was not however used after the new one was built.

The next record shows that the first change brought on a second. A new teacher, the first in half a century, makes his appearance.

*18 August, 1699.* "Mr. Nathaniel Eells came to Braintree as their Town schoolmaster."

*13 May, 1700.* "Then voted that the Selectmen in being be appointed and empowered a committee to treat and agree with Mr. Eells (or if he refuse, some other) for a schoolmaster for the year ensuing."

*17 May, 1700.* "At a public Town meeting, the Inhabitants of Braintree lawfully convened, voted that for the year ensuing, that is to say, from the 18th of August next ensuing, every scholar shall pay for his entry into the school one shilling, and so successively for every quarter for the whole year if he shall go more than one quarter, and this shall be a part of the school salary to be paid unto the schoolmaster, and he to give an account of all that come to the Selectmen."

Mr. Eells does not seem to have made a lodgment here. For we soon find a new teacher.

*6 January, 1701.* "Mr Jeremiah Wise came and began to keep school in Braintree, according to an agreement with the Selectmen of said Town of Braintree, for thirty pounds one year."

The next provision that we find is both judicious and liberal. Neal, in his History distinguishes Roxbury and Braintree as noted for their free schools. No doubt the consequence followed that admission was sought from abroad.

26 *September*, 1701. "First voted that the rent of the Town lands formerly paying to the school shall continue as part of the salary; that the Parent or Master that shall send any scholar or scholars to said school, shall pay for each scholar to the Town Treasurer for the support of the school, five shillings a year, and proportionable for any part of it;

That any person or persons living out of the Town, who shall send any scholar or scholars to the aforesaid school, shall [pay?] twenty shillings a year to the Town Treasurer, and proportionable for any part of it;— Provided that any poor persons in this town who shall send any children to said school, and find themselves unable to pay, upon their application to the Selectmen it shall be in their power to abate or remit a part or the whole of the above sum;—

"That what the rent of the Town Lands and the head money of the scholars shall fall short of the schoolmaster's salary, shall be raised by a Town Rate, equally proportioned upon the inhabitants of said Town."

We now find another teacher.

10 *November*, 1701. "The Selectmen of Braintree did agree with Mr. John Veasey, to keep school in said Braintree for one year, for thirty pounds. The time to begin upon the 10th of November aforesaid."

After all none of the new set suit so well as the old one. Benjamin Tompson is invited to supply the place.

16 *May*, 1704. "Then voted by the Inhabitants of Braintree, lawfully assembled; that the present Selectmen treat and agree with Mr. Benjamin Tompson for an abiding schoolmaster, not exceeding thirty pounds per annum in or as money, during the time he performs the work until the present law referring to schools be repealed."

The law referred to is probably that passed three years before, which, in consequence of the neglect of divers towns to comply with the old statute requiring the establishment of a grammar school, and the employment of a teacher "well instructed in the tongues," had enacted more stringent measures by penalties and otherwise to enforce the same.

The following vote applies to the lands conveyed to the town by Coddington. It is not unadvisable that later generations should keep it in mind.

24 *March*, 1707. "Then voted that the Town's School Lands that have hitherto been devoted to the use of the school in this town shall lie for the use of the school in this town forever."

Mr. Tompson had disappeared in 1710. He died on the 13th April, 1714, aged 72.

28 *November*, 1710. "Then voted, that Mr. Adams, the present schoolmaster, be empowered to demand a load of wood of each boy that comes to school this winter."

This provision seems to have proved difficult to enforce. For it is repeated.

28 *December*, 1713. "Then voted that the parents or masters of all children or servants that go to school, shall forthwith, that is to say, upon their first or next appearance at the school, and so from this day until the first of April next coming, deliver in to the present schoolmaster, for the use of the school at the school-house, three *foot* of cord wood, to be the proportion for each child or servant for this year."

The following entry appears in the records:—

1 *November*, 1714. "Then voted that the money formerly given to this Town by Mr. Samuel Veasey, deceased, now in some persons hands, be demanded and forthwith sued for by the Town Treasurer for the use of the Town School."

This is followed up by another vote at a later day. It is here placed out of its order, as connected with the preceding.

10 *May*, 1717. "Then voted that Deacon Moses Paine, the present Town Treasurer, should demand (and if need be sue for) the money remaining in Mr. Samuel Marshall's hands (of Boston) which was given by Mr. Samuel Veasey to the free school of this town, in and by his last will and testament—and that according to the tenor of his will."

The records do not inform us what became of this benefaction.

Before this last date, a new and a great step had been taken in the progress of education.

14 *May*, 1716. "Voted by the Inhabitants of Braintree regularly assembled, that there should be a school kept in the South end of this Town, for one half of the year, each year, yearly, beginning the first day of October yearly, for reading and writing, besides the present Grammar school, and that to be at the charge of the Town."

“Then voted that an house be erected for the accommodating of a Grammar school in this Town, which shall be in some convenient place, as soon as may be, between the North Meeting-house and Mr. Benjamin Webb's land, by the Committee hereafter named and appointed, as they should see meet. Against this vote Captain John Mills entered his dissent.”

“Then also voted, that a convenient school-house for writing and reading, be built and set up in some convenient place in the South End of this town, near the Meeting house as soon as may be, and as the Committee hereafter named and appointed shall see meet, at the charge of the town.”

17 *September*, 1716. “The Moderator moved to the Town whether the old school-house by Deacon Belcher's, should be disposed of as the Committee hereafter appointed shall see meet. It passed on the affirmative.

“It was then likewise motioned by the moderator, whether the old school-house near Mr. Benjamin Webb's, should be also disposed of as the Committee hereafter appointed should see meet. It passed on the affirmative.”

12 *May*, 1718. “Voted that the Rents of the Town's Lands be paid in to the Town's Treasurer, for the support of the grammar school.”

The next is the first movement of the schools still farther southward. The peculiar New England device of a movable school, the natural result of a population settling in clusters on a wide surface, here first appears.

28 *December*, 1718. “Then voted that the writing and reading school granted formerly to be kept at the South end of the Town, may be removed into more than one place.”

A second school for the whole year is presently established.

7 *March*, 1720. “The Moderator then proposed whether the Reading and Writing school should be kept the whole year annually at the South end of the Town, for the Town. It passed on the affirmative.”

As not infrequently happened, there was difficulty about designating the places for the movable school.

17 *May*, 1725. “It was then also voted, that there shall be a writing or reading school annually for the whole year to be kept in the South precinct, in such place or places as a Committee now to be chosen, to join with the major part of the selectmen, Mr. Joseph Crosby, Lt. Samuel

Allen and Mr. Ephraim Thayer, shall agree, and to agree with the schoolmaster."

15 *May*, 1728. "The Moderator then put the question to the town whether the Middle precinct in the town should have liberty to move the school now kept in that precinct to two other places, to be kept at each place a third of the year, or half a year at each if the said precinct see cause; Provided the said precinct will be at the whole charge of such removal, the places nominated being one at the south-east corner of the little pond where the ways part, and the other near the house of Nathaniel Wales. And it was voted in the affirmative."

The following vote begins to show the movement still further southward towards Randolph.

2 *November*, 1730. "A memorial of the new south Precinct was then laid before the town which was presented at the last town-meeting, concerning a school there; and the question being put whether the new south precinct shall have eight pounds paid out of the town's treasury toward supporting a school in that precinct yearly until the town take further order, the first year to be understood to commence from March last past; It passed in the affirmative."

Things went on so for thirty years. It then had become time to fix the sites of the school-houses. The next vote in order is of the 11th of March, 1763:—

"*Voted*, that there be a school-house built in each precinct of said town at the Town's expense.

"*Voted*, That the school-house in the middle precinct be erected on the south-east corner of Mr. Benjamin Hayden's land at the lane leading to Mr. Lemuel Thayer's.

"*Voted*, That the school-house in the north precinct be erected opposite to the ten mile stake.

"*Voted*, The South Precinct have liberty to provide a place for to erect a school-house."

Such is the history of the rise and progress of public education in the town, until the period of the separation. Considering the paucity of the population and the extent of the surface over which it was spread, the provision seems to have been timely made and quite sufficient for the occasion. Of the progress of the three towns since it would be difficult to give an adequate sketch without swelling the Appendix too much. It will be enough perhaps to give in brief compass a view of the general condition of the system at this time.

The number of children attending school is as follows:—

In Braintree, . . . . .	650
Randolph, . . . . .	957
Quincy, . . . . .	1,256
	<hr/>
	2,863

Braintree is now organizing a High school, and it has thirteen common schools.

Quincy established a High school in 1852, and has nineteen common schools.

Randolph has nineteen common schools.

Neither is the advance in the system confined to the mere aggregate of numbers. Every body in Massachusetts understands how much the character of the instruction has improved under the impulse given to it by the establishment of the Board of Education. A few years more of perseverance will probably make the inferior class of schools all that can be expected.

Of the private contributions for the maintenance or the establishment of higher grades of education in the three towns there is not room to add much here. But it is enough to say that the name of Stetson, in Braintree as well as in Randolph, is deserving of grateful commemoration for the interest taken in the welfare of the rising generations. There is likewise a fund provided in Quincy, which will in course of time not far distant, be available in giving permanency to the higher forms of instruction in that town.

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[C.—p. 42.]

The accounts given of the early provision for religious worship in the Century sermons of the reverend Mr. Hancock and Dr. Lunt are so ample, that comparatively little remains to be said of it. From them it appears with tolerable clearness that a house for public worship must have existed prior to the erection of the old stone meeting-house, as it was called; but there are no means of ascertaining precisely where it was situated. Probably it was a very frail edifice accommodated to the wants of a small and far from wealthy community. And although the succeeding structure was built of stone, it is not to be inferred that it had much architectural pretension. This was the day of small things. It was put up somewhere about the year 1666, on the main street in what is now Quincy, somewhat to the north of the present site of the second Congregational church. There were seats in it, but no appropriation of the floor



for pews. The men sat apart from the women. In November, 1695, the following vote was adopted by the town:—

“It being then proposed by the Inhabitants whether the present meeting house in Brantry should be repaired or another built.

“It was then voted that a new Meeting house should be erected or built.

“A second vote was that Mr. Caleb Hubbard and Benjamin Savil should be a Committee to repair and stop the leaks in the South side of the meeting house for the present.”

The decision to build a new edifice of course opened the question where it should be placed. The people at Monatiqot had become numerous enough to have some voice in consulting their own convenience. A difference of opinion led to a good deal of contention, the ultimate consequence of which was that the old meeting-house was repaired and newly arranged, whilst a new one was erected at Monatiqot. With this reconstruction came in the appropriation of pews in cases where individuals chose to make them at their own expense.

22 *October*, 1697. “Voted then that a Committee be chosen to seat or place persons at the Meeting house. John French, Samuel French, Lieut. Niel, Jonathan Paddleford: entered dissent against alteration, Deacon Thomas Bass, Lieut. John Baxter, Dea. Nathaniel Wales, Ensign Samuel Penniman; and a Rate made not exceeding five pounds to be made and collected with money for the meeting house in order thereunto by the Selectmen.

“Voted at the same time, that upon the drawing up or uniting the men’s seats with the women’s, in the present alley, any room being left after alteration in the meeting house, any persons with consent of the Selectmen, may at their own proper charge make pews for themselves and their families.

“Voted also at the same time, that Mr. William Rawson should have privilege of making a seat for his family between or upon the two beams over the pulpit, not darkening the pulpit.”

6 *January*, 1700. “Then voted that the Rev. Mr. Moses Fiske should have liberty to build a pew by the South-east window in the meeting house, he leaving convenient passage.”

28 *November*, 1710. “Then voted by the North Precinct, regularly assembled, that Mr. William Rawson should have liberty to build a pew for himself and family where the three short seats of the women be; and so to

join home to the fore seat of the women in the old meeting house at the South West end."

The new meeting-house at Monatiquot seems to have been completed in 1706.

25 *November*, 1706. "The inhabitants of the Town of Braintree being lawfully convened, it was then proposed by the moderator, that whereas there were two meeting houses erected in this town, whether the south end shall be a congregation by themselves for the worship and service of God. It was then voted by the major part of said inhabitants on the affirmative."

Two years later the question of dividing the parishes seems to have opened that of dividing the town: whilst the latter was vehemently opposed, the former proposition was adopted.

3 *November*, 1708. "There were immediately that did declare against the dividing of the Town, and that they did refuse to join with said inhabitants in that affair, and requested that it might be entered with their names in the Town Book.

"There then entered their names, Lt. Jno. Cleverly, Ensign William Veasey, Solomon Veasey, Moses Penniman, James Penniman, Sam'l Penniman, John Newcomb, Jun., James Brackett, Nathan Brackett, John Sanders."

9 *November*, 1708. "The inhabitants of Braintree being lawfully assembled, it was then voted that there should be two distinct precincts or societies in this town, for the more regular and convenient upholding of the worship of God.

"It was then also voted by the inhabitants aforesaid, that Col. Edmund Quincy, Esq., and Serj. Nehemiah Hayden be a Committee in the name of the whole Town, to address the Great and General Court or assembly now sitting, for their approving and confirming the Line by them agreed upon between the said societies.

"The inhabitants of Braintry being lawfully assembled, then voted that the line for the distinction of precincts between the North and South Societies should run as followeth:—That said Line begin at the head of the ship cove by John Newcomb, senior, (taking in his living to the South end) and so to run from the head of said cove to the Common, and so to run from the Common by said John Newcomb's to the line between John Penniman, Jun., and Samuel Veasey, and then running upon the line between Theophilus Curtis and Francis Legaree, as also running upon the line between Serj't Sam'l Payne's and James Penniman's land to the Common, and from thence to the North-west corner of Faxon's farm and so to the

north-west corner of Aldridge's farm, and so to run from said corner of said farm from marked trees to the mouth of the Blue Hill river where it comes into Moore's river, and so by said Blue Hill river to Dorchester upon the Blue Hill Line."

The town some years later voted an appropriation of a large tract of the common lands, for the benefit of the respective parishes, as follows:—

6 November, 1727. "Mr. Joseph Neall, Mr. Samuel Bass, Mr. Nehemiah Hayden, Mr. Benjamin Webb, Mr. Samuel White and Mr. Joseph Crosby, having been chosen a Committee by the Town, July 25, 1726, to lay out a hundred acres of the Common Lands (belonging to the Town) for the use of the ministry, did pursuant thereunto, with the assistance of Mr. Maudsly of Dorchester, Surveyor, lay out said hundred acres of appropriated land in four pieces as in their report by writing, under all their hands is there expressed and bounded, which report is now on file, and was this day read, once and again to the Town, and voted accepted, and by them was ratified and confirmed."

17 November, 1727. "Then voted that the first and third pieces of land laid out and returned by the Committee, be and lie for the use of the ministry for the North Precinct, and the second and last pieces of land mentioned as aforesaid be and lie for the use of the ministry in the South Precinct, as the respective precincts aforesaid stand divided."

These appropriations were however rescinded at a later period, and the whole of the lands went with the rest in the general sale of the commons, in 1762-5. Some efforts appear to have been made to set apart the proceeds as a ministerial fund, but without success.

The new parish had been gathered, as mentioned in the text, on the 10th of September, 1707, by the settlement of the Rev. Hugh Adams, but he remained here less than three years. The next pastor was the Rev. Samuel Niles, ordained 23d of May, 1711. It was during his ministry that the first meeting-house was pulled down, and a new one erected, which was opened the 28th June, 1759. This worthy and excellent man established a reputation for talents and learning by the various publications made by him during his long period of service in the Church. He died at the age of eighty-eight, on the 1st day of May, 1762. A portion of a History of the Indian and French Wars drawn up by him in 1760, has been lately published in the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Mr. Niles was succeeded by the Rev. Ezra Weld, ordained, 17 November, 1762, who continued to officiate as pastor until November 4, 1807, when the Rev. Sylvester Sage was installed. Mr. Sage, however, was here but a short time. After his dismissal, May 4,

1809, the Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs was ordained 3d July, 1811, who after forty-seven years of almost continuous services, yet remains an honor and an ornament to his sacred profession. Thus it would appear that during the century and a half that this church has existed, the work of the ministry has been in substance performed by three pastors, and they have changed their edifices just as often. The second meeting-house was pulled down in 1856 and the present one erected. The same thing has been the case, though in a less degree, in the Church at Quincy, where the labors of three pastors filled up the space of one hundred and two years, terminating with the death of the Rev. Dr. Lunt, in February, 1857. During the same period, however, a marked difference has taken place in the doctrine of the two churches. For whilst the former has steadfastly adhered to the older theology of the New England clergy, based on the system of Calvin, the latter has adopted the doctrines of the modern Unitarian school.

From the date of the separation of the towns, the respective parishes became identified with the towns, and so continued until the growth of population encouraged divisions. The connection at Quincy ceased in the year 1824. On the 14th of August, 1811, another church was organized in Braintree which was called the *Union Church of Braintree and Weymouth*. Of this church the Rev. Daniel A. Clark was ordained the first pastor, January 1, 1812. He however continued but a short time, and obtained a dismission on the 20th of October, 1813. The Rev. Jonas Perkins succeeded him in his labors 14th of June, 1815, and he remains there yet after forty-five years of service, a respected and venerable pastor.

In the year 1829, a third Congregational Church was organized in the south part of the town. The Rev. Lyman Matthews was ordained the first pastor, August 4, 1830. He continued there more than fourteen years, and was dismissed on the 4th October, 1844. Since that time the succession of ministers has been rapid.

Rev. Francis V. Tenney, ordained 7th August, 1845, dismissed 14th November, 1848.

Rev. William B. Hammond, ordained 19th April, 1849, dismissed 22d April, 1856.

Rev. Dennis Powers, ordained 4th December, 1856, who now remains there.

The rise of the third precinct now constituting the town of Randolph, has been described in the text, together with the settlement of the first pastor. He remained the incumbent for nineteen years. Upon his dismission, 7 June, 1750, the Rev. Moses Taft was ordained in his place, 26 August, 1752. His period of service was continued to an advanced age, when the Rev. Jonathan Strong, D. D., was made colleague pastor with him. This was on the 28th of January, 1789, nearly three years before Mr. Taft's death, 12 November, 1791, and four years before the

incorporation of the town. Dr. Strong continued to serve until the 9th of November, 1814, when he died. The Rev. Thaddeus Pomeroy was ordained 13 November, 1815, as his successor, and continued until 26 April, 1820, when he received a dismissal, and the Rev. Calvin Hitchcock, D. D., followed. Dr. Hitchcock was installed fifth pastor on the 28th of February, 1821, and remained thirty years, until dismissed on the 19th of June, 1851. He is now a resident of the town of Wrentham, without a pastoral charge.

The Rev. C. M. Cordley, was the next in order to Dr. Hitchcock. He was installed on the 3d of March, 1852, and is now the incumbent.

The second Congregational Church was constituted on the 15th of December, 1818, most of its members having been dismissed from the first church for the purpose of forming it. The Parish was incorporated by the name of the *East Parish*, on the 15th of February, 1819. The Rev. David Brigham was ordained the first pastor on the 29th of December, 1819, and remained there until the 22d of November, 1836, when he was dismissed. The succession has been as follows:—

Rev. Dennis Powers, ordained 5th December, 1838, dismissed 15th April, 1841.

Rev. William A. Peabody, ordained 2d March, 1843, and having been elected a Professor at Amherst College, resigned his charge 2d October, 1849.

Rev. Ezekiel Russell, installed 8th May, 1850; dismissed 1st January, 1856. The church is now without a settled pastor.

The *Winthrop Church* is also in East Randolph. It was constituted 30th December, 1856, and the Rev. Ezekiel Russell, D. D., was installed its pastor on the 3d of February, 1857, and is now in office.

There is a society of Baptists, called the *North Baptist Church*, organized 3d November, 1819. And a Catholic church where services are performed from time to time by a priest detailed from the church at Boston.

So long as the system of compulsory contribution to the support of Divine Worship was the law of the State, the parishes seem to have been kept together, and the tenure of the settled clergy remained quite secure. The effect is visible in the long ministrations of the ministers during the seventeenth century, in the three towns. But the rapid increase of the population, in connection with the practical establishment of the voluntary system, is producing a change of the most serious nature in the character of the rural churches. The sectarian denominations multiply, each of them undertaking to erect a church and maintain a minister, whilst few can furnish much assurance of continuing to do so unless the individual selected turn out to have peculiar gifts to recommend himself. As a consequence, the clerical profession, never too richly paid, is now losing the only compensation it formerly had, a tolerable certainty of permanent support, and that which in the early days of the colony was looked up to



as the most inviting of callings, has in a measure ceased to hold out attractions to ardent and ambitious young men, in comparison with other fields of action. Hence come many churches and few settled pastors. There are in Quincy, at this time, three Congregational, and two Catholic churches, one Episcopalian, two Methodist, and one Universalist congregation, and yet there is not a single permanent minister. The same difficulty has not been experienced in Braintree, where as yet there is but a single small Baptist congregation. But in Randolph it is growing as may be seen by the increasing rapidity of the succession in the ministers.

The Episcopal church in Quincy dates its origin from the early part of the last century. The first meeting within its walls was held on Easter Monday, in the year 1728. Dr. Ebenezer Miller officiated until his death, on the 11th of February, 1763. The Rev. Edward Winslow succeeded him, but on the breaking out of the Revolution, he was obliged to leave by reason of his adhesion to the government side. From that time (1777) to this, the church has been maintained with difficulty. It has flourished only during a brief period whilst the Rev. B. C. Cutler was the pastor, from 1822 to 1826. The small edifice formerly used, situated in the South part of Quincy, near the site of the Catholic church, has been pulled down, and a new and pretty building constructed on the course of the turnpike road to Weymouth, but the congregation yet remains too feeble permanently to support a clergyman.

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[D.—p. 47.]

Braintree was originally settled because of the quantity of open land along the bay which could at once be turned to purposes of agriculture. But it was not long before the settlers discovered that as they went inward, a large part of the country was rocky and sterile. The uses to which the stone might be put were then undreamed of. Hence an early attempt on the part of a large number to change their situation. A petition quite fully signed appears on the records of the General Court, under date of 1st October, 1645, requesting leave to negotiate with Punham for the purchase of some of the land which Gorton had occupied, in order to plant a town there. The Court seem to have been willing enough, but the project came to nothing. Some of the petitioners soon after took another direction. The principal occupation of those who remained seems to have been farming. But one great undertaking was started very early, which for a time at least must have materially contributed to vary the form of industry. This was the project of John Winthrop, Jun'r, and an English company to establish iron works on the Monatiquot. The town of Boston on being



appealed to in 1644, made them a grant of three thousand acres of land in the town. All that is known of this experiment has been so clearly given in the Appendix to the Vinton Memorial, as to render further detail superfluous. There is reason however to suppose that the labors of the company were not entirely confined within the limits of the present Braintree. For there is a brook in Quincy, which has ever borne the name of Furnace brook, in one part of which remain visible to this day the forms of a dam and a furnace, and where slags of iron and cinders have been from time to time found imbedded in the soil. The place had been long abandoned, when the development of the stone business in 1826, brought it once more into notice.

About a century later a kindred project was started in a different part of the township, which however met with even less success. A company undertook the establishment of a glass house, at the place now called Germantown, where an English gentleman, by the name of Joseph Palmer, had come and built himself a house, still standing, and now the property of the Sailor's Snug Harbor. The necessary workmen were not to be found in America, so that efforts were made to induce them to emigrate from Germany. The aid of the General Court was invoked, and it is said that a lottery, not an unusual mode of assisting public objects even to a late day, was granted. The Germans came over, whence is derived the present name of the place; a name that has outlived all traces of those who gave it, at least in that precise situation. It is needless to add that the enterprise completely failed. Most of the Germans removed to the township of Waldoborough, in the State of Maine. A few remained, and their descendants are still to be found in Quincy. Some of them were stocking weavers, and the art was preserved among them down to the early part of this century.

It is only since the Revolution that manufacturing industry seems to have taken a solid hold in New England. Prior to that time the policy of the mother country had been to make the population look to Great Britain for its workshops. The leading branches developed in Braintree have been manufactures of leather, and the preparation of stone for building. How early the former were introduced it is not easy to show. The town records furnish one or two applications for places where to dry skins. They now constitute by far the largest department of industry in the three towns. This is especially true of Randolph. The gross products in the year 1855, amounted to the sum of one million eight hundred and fifty-eight thousand dollars, employing eighteen hundred and forty-four males, and seven hundred and fifty-three females.

Since 1825, the quarrying and dressing of the sienite rock, in which the western section of Quincy abounds, has become a very considerable source of advantage to that town. The material had been indeed used long before

in Boston and the vicinity, but its true value, and the extent of the quarries from which it could be obtained in blocks of almost any dimensions wanted, had not been understood. Early in the last century, the sources resorted to for building stone were the small boulders found scattered in the commons, or the coarse-grained masses which rise here and there from the surface in the easterly part of the town. Of such materials was King's Chapel, in Boston, built in 1752, and also the house of John Hancock, still standing near the State House. Indeed the tradition has been preserved of the anxiety felt by the builders of the former edifice, lest the drain created by a demand for so large a structure should prove too great, and of the doubt whether all Braintree would furnish enough to make such another. It was probably some feeling of this sort that prompted the perpetual labors of the people in town meeting to check the invasion of the public commons, and to punish the trespassers who came to get stones. The records are filled with votes like the following, which it will be seen is of quite early date.

16 August, 1715. "Voted, That no person shall dig or carry off any stones on the said Common or undivided lands upon any account whatsoever, without license from the Committee hereafter named, upon penalty of the forfeiture of ten shillings for each and every cart load so dug and carried away; one-quarter part to be to said Committee in full satisfaction for their care and pains, and the other three-quarters for the use of the Town.

"Instructions to the Committee were

"*First*, That the Committee shall give no license to any person to dig or carry off any stones from said Lands, to make sale or merchandise thereof, without the Town's direction.

"*Secondly*, That the Committee may and shall give license to any and every person in this town for such a quantity of stones as he or they shall stand in need of, for their own proper use, in this Town.

"*Thirdly*, That the Committee shall or may seize all stones that they shall find dug, or carted on and off said common Lands, the digger or carter whereof is not known, and the same dispose of to the best advantage for the Town, by sale, or otherwise, deducting one-quarter part thereof to themselves in full satisfaction as above said."

It was the inability to enforce these penalties which probably contributed to produce the state of feeling that prompted the final sale of the common lands. At this day such stones as were put into the chapel walls would scarcely meet with favor excepting for the roughest kind of work, and it is not unlikely that they might be had almost any where for the trouble of getting them out of the land. It was the energy and public spirit of the

late Colonel Thomas Handasyd Perkins, of Boston, in connection with the project of building the monument upon Bunker's hill, that first laid open to view the inexhaustible mines of the finest material of the kind yet discovered in America. This led to the construction of the railway of three miles to the Neponset River, one of the first enterprises of that sort executed in America. It is still in use, although so far as transportation to Boston is concerned, the process of repeated transfers of great masses is so laborious, as to render direct land transportation by the common highway quite as eligible. Its great value has been found in the means it furnished for the introduction of the stone to other places on the seaboard. Almost every commercial city now has one or more large public buildings to show, that have been drawn from here. The annual product of the quarries, the value of which consists in a great part of labor, had risen in 1855 to two hundred and eighty-four thousand dollars. The occupation necessarily requires the most athletic class of men to carry it on. It employs about four hundred men.

In addition to these leading sources of industry, there are others of no inconsiderable value, furnished by the course of the Monaquot River. Nearly at its mouth there is a depth of water supplying facilities for ship building. The first instance of the construction of a vessel of large size is that of the ship *Massachusetts*, set up at Germantown in 1789, and launched in September of that year. Of this event, Mr. Quincy in his *Memoir of Major Samuel Shaw*, the pioneer in the American trade with the East Indies and China, speaks in these words: "On this interesting occasion the hills around Germantown, and the boats which covered the harbor and river, were filled with spectators from Boston and the neighboring country. Both English and French naval commanders, at that time visiting Boston in national ships, expressed their admiration of the model of this vessel; and it was afterwards pronounced, by naval commanders at Batavia and Canton as perfect as the then state of the art would permit." Major Shaw made his voyage in this ship to Canton, where it was sold to the Portuguese government. Since that time the business has been carried on only at intervals, and for a period it was abandoned altogether. But in the year 1854 it was resumed with a good deal of vigor at Quincy Point, where a succession of fine ships have been since erected. This business employed, in 1855, about fifty men.

Higher up the stream, its course has been found sufficiently powerful to supply the means of running machinery. Here, in 1855, were woollen mills for the manufacture of yarns and of carpetings; a paper mill, a chocolate mill, and a mill for the making of tacks. One establishment is devoted to the manufacture of twine; another to the construction of wagons and other vehicles for heavy transportation. These are all situated

within the limits of Braintree proper, which though now much the smallest of the three towns in population, is marked by the greatest diversity of industry. The Old Colony and Fall River Railroad makes the junction of the respective tracks in this town, which has led to the concentration of some of its depots and workshops at the place now distinguished as South Braintree. The South Shore Railroad also makes its connection with the Old Colony in this town, at the place called North Braintree.

The gradual development of the material interests of the three towns has led to the establishment of public institutions adapted to the accommodation of them. Three banks of discount and deposit have been incorporated, two in Quincy, the Quincy Stone, in the year 1836, and the Mount Wollaston, in the year 1833, each with a capital of \$150,000; one in Randolph in the year 1836, called the Randolph Bank, with a capital of \$150,000, and another, though situated in Weymouth, called the Union Bank of Weymouth and Braintree, with a capital of \$150,000 is also intended in part for the facilitation of the business of the latter town. There are moreover two Savings Banks—one in Quincy, incorporated in 1845, the accumulations of which by the latest returns amount to \$182,715.55, and one in Randolph in 1851 with \$8,012.17.

A Mutual Insurance Company has likewise been organized in Quincy since March, 1851, and it has transacted a large and advantageous business.

So much space has been occupied in the leading details, respecting the lands, the schools, the churches, and the collective industry of the three parts of the old town, that not much is left for any thing else. It has been thought that the present opportunity could be improved for the preservation of the most material particulars of its local history, which might at some future period be of interest to later generations. The subject is not by any means exhausted. Some portions of it have not been even touched. It would be a curious matter of inquiry, for instance, to follow down the history of the names of the inhabitants of the three towns, and to note the origin of the families, in each. For two centuries New England was remarkable for its preservation of the race of original English settlers comparatively free from admixture with any other. This has now ceased in a measure. A very large portion of the laboring population is now of Celtic and not of Saxon origin. In the course of another half century the effect of this upon the social, religious, and political institutions of the Puritans, will become more distinctly visible than it is now. If a fusion can be effected through our system of public education without leaving deep furrows on the surface of society, the mere fact of diversity of origin becomes unimportant. Yet even then



the difficulty of distinguishing between the two races will give more interest and value to early researches.

Of the first names mentioned in the records of Braintree, only a few have been transmitted to this day in the town. Among those of the first six or eight members of the church, only two remain, Belcher and Potter. Of the many names that occur in the records of the first century, I still find those of Hayward, of Brackett, of Bass, of Adams, of Webb, of Penniman, of Thayer, of Wales, of Newcomb, of Veasey, of Faxon, of Quincy, of Hobart, of White, of Baxter, of Savil, of Marsh, of Copeland, of French, of Hayden, of Rawson, of Niles, of Holbrook, of Arnold, of Nightingale, of Spear. I do not find those of Allis, of Payne, of Saunders, of Tompson, of Eliot, of Neal, of Flint, of Parmenter, of Aldrich, of Ruggles, of Owen, of Paddelford, of Cox, and Marshall, of Bendall, of Derby and Allen. Of the surviving names those of Spear and Bass and Brackett and Adams, of Newcomb and Faxon and Marsh, prevail most in Quincy; Penniman, and French and Thayer are found in Braintree, and Wales and Holbrook are the most frequently met with in Randolph.

I am inclined to the belief that the hill now called *Penn's hill*, got its name originally from Moses Payne, an early settler, or some of his descendants, who remained in good standing for more than a century and a half. I cannot find here any other way of spelling the name.

The town meeting appears to have been for a long time held in the meeting-house of the north precinct. After the building of the new one at Monatiquot, the rule was established of meeting alternately at each. Neither was this practice discontinued until a period comparatively late. The first town hall in Quincy is believed to have been that erected in 1817, which was used for that purpose until 1844, when the present stone edifice was put up. Braintree has been but ill accommodated since it left the Rev. Dr. Storrs's meeting-house, until the erection of the present spacious house.

Randolph is indebted to private munificence for a structure of the same kind. In the year 1841 Amasa Stetson, Esquire, a native of that town but then residing in Dorchester, intimated his intention, in case a satisfactory site should be provided, to erect and to present to the town a building suited to the accommodation of its public business. The proposal was immediately met by the citizens, who purchased the requisite site at a cost of three thousand five hundred dollars, and the work was entered upon at once. A building was so amply provided as to supply in addition to the town hall, and other rooms, a basement story, with apartments suitable for a High School as well as some to be let for business purposes. The income that might accrue in this way was by the direction of the donor appropriated to the support of a High School, and a Board of Trustees

was provided to superintend it. The design of it was declared to be "to extend and improve the education of male youth from fourteen to eighteen years of age, beyond the instruction which those of similar ages acquire in common town schools." Still more effectually to carry out his beneficent purpose, Mr. Stetson made a donation in money of the sum of ten thousand dollars, the income from which is to be applied to the preservation of the property and the maintenance of the school.

This liberal donation was accepted by the town on the terms proposed, and the school, now known as the *Stetson High School*, continues in successful operation to the present time.

For most of the information touching the south precinct or Randolph, I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Ebenezer Alden of that town.



















