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# NEWTON

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THE NEWTON NUMBER of a Series devoted to the illustration of certain of the cities and towns adjacent to the City of Boston and the presentation, in brief accompanying text, of some suggestive facts concerning their advantages and development.

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The Newton Hospital at Newton Lower Falls.

# The City of Newton

AN intention to preserve and to improve all conditions tending to make Newton increasingly desirable and more and more charming as a place of residence must have been shared by its authorities and its citizens through many years or generations. Otherwise, and if the residents and their officers had not been animated by so well directed a public spirit, the City would not have been developed so remarkably and along such happily chosen lines. Nature was not niggardly in its endowment of the land now comprised within the limits of the

City. The scenery is of marked and varied though always quiet charm. There are many elevations of different heights and numerous water courses, while the remaining forest trees and several lakes or ponds add further and a pleasant diversity to the topography. The Charles flowing for eleven miles or so along the southern and western boundaries so far enfolds the City in an embrace of beauty. All the territory of the present City, about eighteen square miles in extent, had natural preparation for its future use and ultimate destiny as



The City Hall, facing the Wide Thoroughfare Washington Street.





The Vine-embowered Building of the Newton Library.

the site of a municipality bearing so aptly, and so worthily, its conferred appellation, "The Garden City of the Commonwealth."

The settlement of these parts was begun in about 1630 and in 1631, New Town, one of the earlier towns within the Colony, was established on the north of the Charles River. In 1635, the territory on "The south side of the Charles" or Nonantum, and now included in Newton, Brighton, and a part of Brookline, was added to the "New Town," which in 1638, and when Harvard College was founded, became Cambridge. In 1660, the first Meeting House in the more southern district of the then town was constructed on Centre Street and in 1664 the first church was organized. The inhabitants quite reasonably objected to the further payment of church rates to Cambridge, and after considerable agitation, there was a practical separation in 1679. Newton thus had its beginning, and like other Massachusetts towns, with the church as the nucleus of the settlement and the center of municipal interest. It was not, however, until 1688 that Newton was incorporated and then its name was Cambridge Village, or, as sometimes called, "New Cambridge," until late in 1691 when it was ordered by the General Court that it should be known in turn, as New Town. Thereafter, and for many years, the spelling of the name varied in usage, but in 1766 the then Town Clerk entered



A View in Farlow Park at Newton.



The New Technical High School at Newtonville.



The High School Building at Newtonville.



Station of the Boston and Albany Railroad, Newton.



Newton in his records and this form has prevailed. The community was at first mainly devoted to agriculture, although mills were established early where the river furnished power, and the growth in population was slow until the advantages of the locality became gradually better known. By 1873, however, the number of inhabitants had increased sufficiently and an act to incorporate the city was passed by the legislature and duly accepted by the town. As ascertained by the State census of 1905, the population had grown to 36,827, representing an increase of over thirty-three per cent in the single decade then ending. At that time the legal voters numbered 7,821. It is estimated that in 1909 the population has become over 39,000 with a corresponding increase

in the number of voters. Due growth in material prosperity has accomplished the increase in residents and in dwellings. The assessed valuation, as for 1908, amounted to over sixty-nine million dollars, on real estate \$50,984,650.00, on personal estate \$18,162,950.00.

A line drawn upon the map and passing through the more thickly settled points, or named villages included in Newton, would represent perhaps half of a nearly exact oval with its rounded extremity where the Charles forms the city's western boundary. Along the lines of this half oval pass the tracks of the railroad which secures for Newton such ready communication with practically all of the habitable world. Newton, Newtonville, West



Some of the Buildings of the Theological Institute, Newton Centre.



Grace Church, Protestant Episcopal, at Newton.

Newton, Auburndale, and Riverside are all stations on the main line of the Boston & Albany Railroad. Chestnut Hill, Newton Centre, Newton Highlands, Eliot, Waban, Woodland, and Riverside where the tracks converge, are stations on the Highland Branch of the same railroad. A little below the line of the half oval are Newton Upper Falls and Newton Lower Falls, separated by three miles or so of the flowing Charles, the latter of the two places connected with Riverside by another branch of the railroad. The tracks of the railroad in the main or as they pass through the more populous parts of the city are depressed and crossings are made over proper bridges

while fortunately many of the station buildings are attractive enough or set in grounds handsome enough to serve as appropriate entrance ways to the various parts of the Garden City. To Newton Station, seven miles by rail away from the Boston terminal, there are forty-four trains from Boston daily and thirty-nine into that city, and on Sundays there are sixteen in each direction. The single fare is thirteen cents; twelve rides cost \$1.05, and the average running time is eighteen minutes. Riverside is eleven miles by rail from Boston, while the distances to the other mentioned stations vary slightly and the rates of fare and the running times differ accordingly; but to and from each place



Our Lady, Help of Christians, Roman Catholic Church.



The Fire Department Station at West Newton.



Houses in Newton Centre from across Crystal Lake.



Business Buildings, Nonantum Square, Newton.



there are frequent and convenient trains. Cars on electric railways not only run between one portion of the city and another, but from Newton to Boston via Brighton; to Waltham; to Woburn; and so again via Cambridge to Boston; to Brookline; to Needham; to Wellesley, Natick and South Framingham. From Newtonville, West Newton, Auburndale and Riverside there is similar transportation. From Newton Centre, Newton Highlands, Waban and Newton Lower Falls the electric cars run to Boston over the Commonwealth Avenue Boulevard. From Newton Upper Falls the cars run on Boylston Street and over the Boston and Worcester lines to these cities and the places between.

As the city has developed, facilities and utilities have been introduced duly and its stores have multiplied until these latter are now so numerous, so conveniently located and so well prepared to render proper services that the residents of Newton are not at all dependent upon any other place for the supply of household or personal necessities.



The Methodist Episcopal Church at Walnut Street and Newtonville Avenue.

All the professions moreover are well represented. The financial or fiduciary institutions here are the First National Bank at West Newton; the Newton Trust Company, with offices at Newton Centre and at Newton; the Newtonville Trust Company; the Newton Savings Bank; the Newton Centre Savings Bank; the West Newton Savings Bank, and Cooperative Banks at Newton, Newtonville and West Newton. Four weekly newspapers



Unitarian Church of The Channing Religious Society.



The Eliot Church, Congregational Trinitarian, Newton.



Central Church, Congregational Trinitarian, Newtonville.

are published. Among the several establishments providing employment are the Silver Lake Company with its cordage mills at Newtonville; the Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph Company; Phipps and Train, silk mills; the Saco-Pettee Machine Shops at Newton Upper Falls; W. S. Cordingly and Son, shoddy manufacturers and C. F. Crehore and Son, paper makers, at Newton Lower Falls. Gas for illuminating and cooking is supplied by the Newton and Watertown Gas Light Company, and the streets are lighted in part by gas.

In other part the streets of Newton are lighted by electricity, the principal ones all of every night and some until twelve-thirty at night,

under a five-year contract with The Edison Electric Illuminating Company. This company also furnishes electricity for the illumination of residential or commercial structures, as well as for power, at its standard rates as established throughout the 33 cities or towns it supplies with the electric current. The service of the company is continuous during every hour of every day of the year.

Water of purity attested by careful and authoritative analyses is supplied throughout Newton. By means of the works owned by the city the water, in generous quantity is made available by all but a very small fraction of the population. The pressure maintained throughout the twenty-four hours never varies more





Some of the Dwellings on Kirkstall Road, Newton.



One of the Larger Residences, Newton.





Homes on Burnham Road, Newton.



A Residence on Oak Hill, Newton.

than a few pounds. The unfailing source of supply is a covered collecting gallery near the banks of the Charles where this forms the boundary line between Newton and the town of Needham, while a large reservation protects the water from any possible contamination. Thence it is pumped directly to the circulating system, the surplus reaching a reservoir on Waban Hill, while the distributing pipes have an aggregate length of one hundred and forty-three and one-half miles. The service pipes in use equal nearly ninety miles in length and eighty-seven and six-tenths per cent of the services are metered. There are one hundred stand pipes to supply the street watering carts, numerous watering troughs, several bubbling drinking fountains and nearly one

thousand fire service hydrants. The city is well protected by sewers, for there are nearly one hundred and seven miles of sewer conduits and pipe. Over eighty-three per cent of the sixty-six hundred houses in Newton have sewer connections and the sewage is discharged into the trunk sewers of the South Metropolitan System. There are, moreover, over fifty-six miles of drains or drainage pipes for the removal of surface water.

Protection against loss by fire in Newton is afforded by an efficient department with apparatus, horse-drawn and consisting of a steam fire engine with its house at Newton; one hook and ladder truck and one hose wagon at Newtonville; one steam fire engine and one chemical engine at West Newton; one



Church at West Newton of The First Unitarian Society in Newton.



Present Edifice of First Baptist Church in Newton Society, Organized 1780.



The Bank Building at Newton.





Vernon Court Apartment Hotel at Newton.



The Associates' Business Block at Newton.





Newton Centre Methodist Episcopal Church.

steamer at Newton Centre; one hose wagon at Newton Upper Falls and another at Newton Lower Falls; one hook and ladder truck at Newton Highlands; one chemical engine at Chestnut Hill; one hose wagon at Auburndale and another at Nonantum. Good order is preserved in Newton by the will and morals of the inhabitants, but any necessary protection of person and property is given by an excellent police force suitably officered with an adequate number of uniformed men. Other departments of the government are alert in enforcing measures intended to protect the interests of the city and the general welfare. Due inspection is made of milk and supplies and weights and measures. The erection of dwellings or other building so notable

in number and amount during recent years, proceeds only after due investigation and the issue of permits. Under direction of the Forest Commissioner the stately and beautiful shade trees and the woodland areas are protected from the ravages of moth and other insect pests. Moreover in Newton the unfortunate and the poor have such enlightened care as may be extended without pauperizing them and the Board of Health is active in its protective duties.

The streets and roads of the city, in their character and condition, may be regarded as important among the good reasons for extended civic pride in Newton. At the beginning of 1909 there were one hundred and forty-one miles of accepted streets and sixty-two then

as yet unaccepted. The surfaces of these streets are varied to best adapt them to bear the expected traffic, but all are so maintained as to enable them to perform their useful purpose as avenues of communication or to serve as pleasant driveways in picturesque or beautiful surroundings.

The Newton Hospital is an institution of importance, occupying buildings, attractive in appearance and well planned and constructed, standing upon an elevation on Washington Street, near Newton Lower Falls. In 1881 the Newton Cottage Hospital was incorporated; but in 1894 its present more comprehensive and more accurately representative name was adopted. The first two small buildings of the Newton Hospital were opened in

1886, but the earlier contributions of public-spirited and generous citizens have been supplemented by later gifts and extensions and other buildings constructed. The various wards in their pavilions have suitable and adjoining service rooms while together with the operating rooms these are furnished and equipped to meet modern and recognized requirements. A Nurses' Home and Training School of far-reaching good is connected with the institution. The hospital is governed by a Board of Trustees and it is supported by voluntary contributions, its earnings from pay patients and by the proceeds of a small endowment.

The Newton Free Library may be said to have had its beginning when the Newton Book Club was



Bradford Court, Another of the Modern Apartment Houses.



The Immanuel Baptist Church at Newton.



The Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart at Newton Centre.



organized in 1848. After private subscriptions had made this possible, the present site of the Library was purchased, and the building erected in due time. This was dedicated in June of 1870. Later the institution and its maintenance were assumed by the city, the formal transfer being made in 1876. The volumes in the Library number about 72,000, and a large number of periodicals are received regularly. While extended use is made of the reading rooms and the reference books, the volumes delivered for home reading or study numbered 247,740 in 1908. Branch reading rooms and reference libraries are maintained at West Newton, Auburndale, Newton Centre, Newton Upper Falls, Non-

antum, Newtonville, and Newton Highlands.

The schools of Newton commend themselves to the residents as they should to all interested in the true welfare of the men and women of the future. The continuing debt of the city to itself in this respect is well met, and its obligation fulfilled to enable its children and youth to fit themselves to bear their parts well in life and to become useful members of the community. Under the direction of the School Committee of the city and the Superintendent the schools are maintained at a cost representing about thirty per cent of the total municipal expenditures. The State Board of Education reports that there are one hundred and fifty-five public



Bray's Block, with its Stores and Offices at Newton Centre.





St. Mary's Church, Protestant Episcopal, Newton Lower Falls.

schools in Newton, including the High School. There are twenty-five public school buildings, and many of these are modern brick structures of impressive appearance. In the schools a high educational standard is maintained adapted to the varying grades and to the different ages of the nearly seven thousand enrolled pupils. Manual training and the domestic arts are part of the curriculum, while there is proper physical training and the general well-being of the student has due attention. Evening schools are also conducted. In addition to the schools as numbered above, a new Technical High School has been established at Newtonville, in which there are fine arts as well as commercial courses. In addition to these public schools there are one

parochial school and several private schools of high grade. The Newton Theological Institute, with its group of buildings at Newton Centre, is an important institution established in 1825.

In such a residential community as that of Newton, of high ethical standards and inheriting the traditions of the ancient town organization, when the church, or the meeting house, was a civic as well as a religious institution and its administration closely identified with that of the town, an increase in the number of devotional edifices must be regarded as of at least equal importance with growth of population and advance in material prosperity, and the increase has come in Newton. Some of the church edifices are notable and excellent examples

of modern ecclesiastical architecture; some are imposing in size, while some are placed in carefully chosen or improved surroundings. Therefore these structures are gratifying additions to the beautiful or important aspect of the streets of Newton while, moreover, it may be said that in design, construction, and situation, all these churches well meet the requirements of members of the societies and attendants upon the services. Of the forty churches now in Newton five are Baptist, seven Congregational, eight Episcopal, seven Methodist Episcopal, five Roman Catholic, four Unitarian, one Union Evangelical, one Second Advent, one Swedenborgian, and one Universalist.

The Associations connected with the various churches are not only active in good works but they increase the pleasures of social life in Newton or give opportunity for its exercise. There are numerous other societies, and several clubs, some with literary cultivation or other special objects within their aim as well as social intentions. The fraternal orders are locally well represented and so are the large or national patriotic societies. The Newton Club is a social organization of importance with a thoroughly well-appointed club house. The Hunnewell Club is a social neighborhood club also of importance, and so is the Players, while the latter gives plays, enacted by the members, in its own house at West



Church of the Messiah, Protestant Episcopal, Auburndale.



A few of the Pleasant Homes at Waban—on Pine Ridge Road



The Silver Lake Mills at Newton.

Newton. There are many halls in which entertainments or large social functions may be given. The Young Men's Christian Association, organized here in 1877, not only presents opportunities for the extension of proper good fellowship, but its gymnasium and classes in physical training, its reading rooms, and business courses superintended by business men of the city are of great benefit. The Newton Boat Club is a popular organization, with its quarters on the Charles at Auburndale. On the river here and at Riverside over three thousand canoes and some sixty power boats are in use at proper seasons. The Newton Golf Club, the Albemarle and the Woodland maintain satisfactory golf courses. The Commonwealth Country Club,

with its eighteen-hole golf links on the northerly and westerly slopes of Waban Hill, has also tennis courts and provides winter sports while the view from the verandas of its club house is one of unusual extent and charm. The Brae Burn Country Club at West Newton is one of the most distinguished of such organizations with its noted golf course of eighteen holes, its tennis courts, skating pond and thoroughly equipped club house.

Within Newton are over four acres of the Hemlock Gorge Reservation with its very remarkable natural beauties and over one hundred and ninety acres of the Charles River Reservation with its drive-ways tree-lined and so pleasantly surrounded. In addition the city maintains over one hundred and



Plant of the Saco-Pettee Manufacturing Company at Newton Upper Falls.





A View from Weston Bridge, over the Charles, at Riverside.

seventy three acres of parks or playgrounds. Farlow Park is a beautiful and duly improved city pleasure ground, at Newton. At the Newton Centre playground, at Cabot Park and Clafin Field, are fields for base-ball and foot-ball, running tracks and apparatus for athletic exercises, all providing enjoyable as well as healthful occupation for the leisure of the students and youth of the city. Nye Park at Auburndale has been developed and improved and there are many other pleasant city breathing places. The streets and roads of the city, so well maintained and extending for so many miles through picturesque and beautiful surroundings, are inviting to those seeking recreation a-wheel or a-foot, while Commonwealth Avenue, one hundred and

twenty feet wide and running for five miles or so through about the centre of the city presents a park-like aspect as well as excellent driveways.

The various advantages of Newton, natural and introduced, have of course led to the establishment of the many homes which are, in themselves, so potent present attractions of the city. In the Oak Hill district and other outlying portions of the city are many residences, some presenting the characteristics of country houses and some almost palatial standing in spacious grounds duly adorned. In such newly settled villages as Waban and other recently developed portions of the city or on long country roads, are pleasant houses of suburban type, while in all the older



The Station, in its Garden-like Grounds, at Auburndale.

villages, on street after handsome street, are homes widely varying in size and degree of visible importance but all good to look upon and duly suggestive of attained comfort. These homes vary as widely in mode and material of construction, and in size and amount of surrounding ground, as they must, inevitably, in cost of maintenance. Apartment houses and apartment and other hotels present their conveniences. Indeed, practically any inclination as to immediate environment or scope of household expenditure may be followed in Newton, and amid chosen good neighbors, to a satisfactory conclusion.

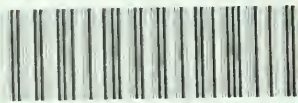
Not least among the many advantages of Newton is the fact that

its people have had the good fortune to obtain, or have been wise enough to secure, a government composed of public-spirited men heartily interested in the present and future well-being of the city and representing the finest civic aspirations. In turn, the elected and appointed city authorities are fortunate in that in their efforts to advance as they may and to protect the best interests of the community they are duly sustained by proper public opinion and worth-while influence. No less, they are fortunate, as was acknowledged in a recent address of importance, "in being called to official duties in a community where only the highest motives of service are expected."





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