

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM JACKSON - 1853

Sketch of the principal incidents of the life of William Jackson, written by himself at the urgent solicitation of some of his daughters.

PREFACE

I do not write this because I should be glad to see it myself, nor for the eye of the world, nor because anything sufficiently remarkable has occurred, in the course of my life, to give it any particular interest over thousands whom the providence of God has permitted to number over three score years and ten, nor is it done for any other eyes than those of my children and children's children. To them I can, from my own feelings and those expressed by my brothers, in relation to the life and character of their father and mine, conceive that such a narration may have an abiding interest, and, possibly a beneficial one. I have therefore now come to the determination of devoting such snatchings of time as my other avocations will allow, to the purpose of noting down such incidents as remain with me. How long I may be about it or whether my resolution on life span? will hold out to the end or not, I will not venture to say. If it be true that our experience of the past is our best guide in divining the future, I have but a slight prospect of leisure enough to make very rapid progress in this work. Nor do I fail to remember that I am now in a very special manner, living upon sufferance with not another year or month or day even, that I may call my own and out of which I may select leisure moments.

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2 With regard to my childhood's incidents my memory (always rather deficient) leaves almost everything blank. My Uncle Edmund Winchester, who was my father's house-boy, when I first began to live (Sept. 2, 1783) has helped me to one fact which I suppose I ought not to pass over. He had me to take care of much oftener than was agreeable to him, and of course was a competent witness in the case. He testified that "I was the crossdest chap he ever had any knowledge of". As my mother's testimony was strongly corroborative, I suppose this must be put down as one of the first facts in my career. Another old friend, a few years older than myself, says he was a member of the Ninth district Town School when my Father was the teacher, that I ran away from my Mother and made my first appearance in that Seminary without a permit, and when ordered to my seat went and sat down upon the hearth, and that my conduct in other respects was of such a type as to make that not only my first, but last, appearance in School that season. My  
3 Summer Teacher every year while I attended the District School was Miss Ruth Fuller, sister of Capt. Ezra F. She was the affianced wife of my Mother's youngest Brother, Stephen Winchester, who died but a short time before they were to have been married. He was a very energetic, promising, young man and died of a fever after only a few days illness. My Mother, Sarah Winchester Jackson, Mrs. Dana, Stone and Greenwood and Messrs. William, Edmund, and Amasa Winchester, all brothers and sisters, had sons named for him and cherished the most tender remembrance of him for years after his decease.

4 Our School house was about sixty rods west of my house and perhaps twenty or thirty north of the street. The road which now passes my house turned off notherly and went over the old bridge by a circuitous route and came into the present road nearly apposite where Mr. Bowers now lives. The School house was situated in an open field which was our playground. Miss Fuller was always very intimate with my Mother, a great favorite of hers and I have no doubt I was more of a favorite with her than I deserved to be. I have her down in my mind as a rigid and severe Mistress and well remember what the application of the birch to my back was an event of no uncommon occurrence, administered, doubtless on the part of faithfulness, but rarely if ever, with entire satisfaction on mine. She became the wife of Edmund Trowbridge and subsequently of his Brother Samuel, and ever after I grew up to manhood we both had a very good opinion of each other, the birch operation, and their provocations, to the contrary notwithstanding. Many of the incidents of my School days are yet fresh in my memory, but are not worth noticing. I ought to admit that I loved play better than books, and was a proficient, in all games which at that day were in fashion. I may also say I was not behind hand in any of my studies, and perhaps ought to say was in advance of my fellows in the number of floggings and ferullings conferred upon me, which generally, in my own judgement, were violations of justice and humanity on the part of my master, and accidents or misfortunes on my own. Corporeal punishment in the Schools was far more fashionable then than now. I remember being feruled twice in one day by a mutton-headed Teacher named Hunt, which I presume is a distinction in that line to which no other had ever attained. The Winter School after I reached the age of twelve was by far the most interesting, and as I believe, the most valuable of any, either public or private, I ever attended. 5 The School was taught by Henry Winchester, a Cousin of my Mother and brother of Capt. William who now lives in Roxbury on the place where his Father resided. Henry was a rigid disciplinarian and applied the Ferrule and Birch as I thought, far too freely. But he was a very thorough and excellent teacher. As a Teacher of Arithmetic and Penmanship the School never had his superior. He boarded with my Father and shared my room so that for the first time there was something like an intimacy and friendship between me and my Teacher. I was considered too young to begin the study of Arithmetic by my Father, but having a taste for that study, and a very strong desire to commence, it was accorded to me as a favor upon condition that I committed to memory all the Rules and Tables, which I did, more perfectly than I ever did anything else before or since. I passed through the Rules of Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, simple and compound, with reduction ascending and descending, the Rule of Three direct, and Invoice and Practice, and made the most thorough work of it. Such a change has since been made in the mode of teaching these Common School branches, that I suppose lads of this day will not be able to learn my progress from the foregoing description. Fractions, Vulgar and Decimal I did not attempt until 6 the next Winter, nor did I ever make such thorough work in mastering these two Rules as in the others. In fact through life I have relied upon, and used almost exclusively in all my calculations only the Arithmetic I mastered and laid up that Winter. Algebra I never studied, and regret that I did not as it would have been very convenient in my Rail Road matters. For the next two years I had in addition to my Town School the privilege of attending Dr. Stearns' Academy in all about three quarters. It stood nearly where the Blacksmith's shop now does. In my fifteenth year, on the fourth of February, I accompanied my mother on a visit to her Sister Stone at Oak Hill, my Father being at that time a Representative at the General Court. Here I met with an accident which lamed me for life. With the boys (my Cousins Stone) I went into Ebenezer Stone's barn (now Sam Stone's) for a game of hide and seek, when climbing upon a hay mow to hide, I fell through a hole from the top to the floor. Commencing my descent

7 head foremost, I should probably have been killed, but for striking a beam half-way down. As it was, my thigh was broken about four inches from the hip. Next morning I was placed upon a horse sled, with two beds under me, and carried home quite comfortably, after which the bone was set by Dr. Spring of Watertown, then one of the most experienced and celebrated surgeons in the vicinity. He disapproved of splintering or bandaging and I laid upon my back without much suffering twenty-five days, until, in the doctor's opinion the bone had become quite strong, when I was taken off the bed and began to move about again. On the 4th March I rode out in a sleigh to the village to Thomas Hastings', occupied as a grocery and devilling house. It was a very cold and blustering day, and the day on which Thomas Jefferson was first inaugurated President. I was upon crutches, and in passing into the house, I slipped a little, which without falling broke the bone again in the same place. I was immediately lifted into the sleigh, taken home and laid upon my bed, and was not removed again for nine weeks. The Dr. had said that the bone was thoroughly knit together and strong as the other, and would not admit that it was broken, but attributed the pain and appearance of dislocation to cramps. It was therefore never set, but the bones were allowed to form a union in a lapped state, which made that thigh about two inches shorter than the other. The long time I lay upon my back with the limb upon its side, in inaction settled the knee pan upon one side, curled and contracted the cords so that it was several months, after I got out upon crutches, before my toe could reach the ground when standing on the other foot. And, before I could move about without crutches, my shoulder seemed to have settled, and, in fact, 8 all the bones upon that side were more or less deranged. It was nearly a year before I could attend to business, and for several months before leaving my bed, it was supposed that I should never again be able to use my leg to much purpose. After, however, the cords had so far relaxed that I could bear my weight upon my toe and walk, I recovered very fast so that in the following winter I attended a dancing school and in fact, began to use and trust that leg as much as the other, and as you know, have made it decently serviceable from that day to this. It is remarkable how easily we adapt our physical powers, and also our spiritual circumstances, however sudden and great the change may be.

9 During the first weeks of my confinement the pain I suffered in my back, shoulders and hips was intolerable. After I had become used to that position, it gave me no pain or uneasiness to be confined to it, and ever afterwards to the present time it has been my most comfortable position while sleeping. And when again the being cut off from all my usual amusements and occupations, and its interference with my school privileges, seemed by a kind Providence to be all overruled for good; so that I very soon became satisfied with my situation and succeeded in adapting my plans and pursuits to my condition so well, that I enjoyed myself probably as well during twelve out of the thirteen weeks I was laid upon my back as I have averaged since that time.

I lost my school, but our Newton Library was just then established, and being in good health and spirits I spent a large share of my time in reading. The history of the United States, South America, England, France, Greece and Rome, voyages, travel and stories were all read by me with an interest and individual attention which they never could have commanded among my plays, pleasures and worldly pursuits of any kind. I have no doubt but that I left my bed with a far better knowledge of history than I could then or now obtain at any academy in the United States.

My geography was essentially improved. A taste for reading was also begotten or strengthened which has never left me and which has occupied my leisure hours ever since, which might otherwise have been so used or wasted as to have a deleterious influence upon my prosperity and character through life.

10 And, then, I had a few good friends who stuck by me well and helped me out with many a dull hour. James and Nabby Hyde, Nathan and Deborah Hastings, were among the most distinguished and highly prized. Hardly an evening passed away without the appearance of one or more of them to take a game of cards, checkers, etc. My father, sisters and brothers (all of whom learned to play those games almost as soon as they did the alphabet) were always ready for a game when they could spare the time.

11 The winter after this, and the last I spent at home, was a precious one which I often look back upon and to some extent enjoy over again. Our school was taught by a young gentleman, a student in Harvard College, Henry Adams. He boarded at our house and treated me rather as a friend and associate than scholar. I studied with him as a scholar in the day time and played cards or danced with him in the evening. He and my sister Lucretia were quite fond of each other. He urged my father to give me a college education, and at that time both my father and myself had serious thoughts of it. My lameness seemed to unfit me for action life, while my taste for and progress in mathematics, seemed to point the other way. He afterward studied law and established himself as a lawyer in Charlestown, contracted intemperate habits and sunk into a drunkard's grave more than thirty years ago! And Oh: many of that company of dancers went the same way. Of fifty or sixty blythe and happy companions of that merry winter, but here and there a solitary one is left. I have dropped them, one at a time, by the way on my pilgrimage and where are they? Nathan Hastings and wife are in Cincinnati, Ohio, as is Deborah (Mrs. Hill). Charles Kent and sister are in Petersburg, Virginia; John Marchant in Rhode Island; Esq. Whitney's son at East Cambridge, daughter at Charleston. I cannot think of another.

12 Another generation has since then come, aye and gone, I might almost say, too. Sister Lucretia was liveliest of all, we were together wherever I went or whatever I did. No nymph was ever fuller of life and fun and she was my right hand man and helped me both in contriving and enjoying my comforts. But I followed her to her grave with a heart brimfull of affliction more than forty years ago. October sixth, 1800, I left my father's house and began to be a tallow chandler in Boston. This was an epoch in my life: a change indeed. A strange place, strange associates, strange business, and strange living altogether. I was homesick with no appetite, and what I did eat or drink (the water was villainous) my stomach would not retain. I began work at five in the morning and continued till nine in the evening, no time for a game of bat ball, a hand of cards, dancing or sleighriding. I soon made up my mind it was not good for me to be there. My father said I might leave and go into a store if I could find a good place, but I could not, therefore I continued in the same place, gradually becoming accustomed to my labor and living and getting acquainted with my new associates. So when the three months for which I first enlisted expired, I, with a pretty good degree of cheerfulness entered into a new contract. My first bargain was eleven dollars a month, the whole of which I received at the end of the quarter and loaned it to Thomas Hastings, one of the owners of the

factory, on which he was to allow me twelve per cent interest. I have never felt any richer since, than I did then. In my next contract my wages were raised to fourteen dollars a month, the whole of which my father gave into my entire management. Out of this I was to clothe myself, but my mother watched over my clothes; and her motherly kindness, sometimes mended an old shirt with a new one. I went into no company, enjoyed vigorous health, wore very few clothes and they of the cheapest kind, so, at the end of the first year, nearly all my wages were in a good note, drawing twelve per cent interest.

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But here, at this time, I encountered one of the greatest hazards to which the young man leaving the watch and care of the kind and watchful parents is subjected. My father and mother had both warned me against the vice of gambling. In all my games, I had never ventured any money. In relation to this most destructive vice, as I ought to feel, I felt. But I had fallen among gamblers. The foreman of the factory and his principal assistant loved play, but always wanted a money stake; and all the hands, save myself, and one other young man from Walpole, Nathan Fales, were as fond of pitching, hustling, and playing for money as their leaders. Fales and myself slept together, communed and sympathized together on this subject and for a month or so, assisted each other in breasting this current, but not without much difficulty and frequest mortifications. Our scruples on the subject were a reproach to us and we were troubled. We both understood card playing as well as any of them and in fact all the other games, and at length, concluded to fall in with the rest. We resolved to keep the stakes as low as we could, be very cautious, and also agreed that any gains or losses should meet with should be divided between us share and share alike, and of course we were not to play against each other. The first opportunity that occurred after this arrangement was in this wise. Ben Smith, a wild boy, a former apprentice in the factory, who, the year before had run away and gone to sea, had returned. He bought with him a silver snuff-box in the form of a shoe, said to be woth a \$1.50. It was proposed this box should be hustled for, each one putting against it twelve and a half cents. Fales won it. I proposed that it should again be put up each of us paying to Fales ten cents. I won it and proposed to put it up at eight cents, and in this way the game was many times repeated. When we went to bed that night, on examining the result of our game, we found we had won about a dollar and a half and the box. This emboldened us, and, of course, it was for both of us the very worst luck that could have befallen us. Not long after, Aaron Fisher, a New Hampshire man, had sent to him a very large and handsome pair of woolen stockings, which his mother had knit for him, and which he said he did not need. He offered to put them and hustle for them, which was accordingly done. These also were won by us, and in, in fact, we won during those three months, all my winter expenses, including a suit of sailor's clothes, than which no suit at that time so entirely filled my eye. At that time, I was as zealous for going to sea, as Edward was for going to California. Of course my taste for gambling was maturing and strengthening fearfully, and continued to increase through the next summer and autumn, until Christmas Eve, I went with the other hands over to Widow Have's tavern, in Roxbury, and in a large company played Loo, until after midnight by which time, flip had crazed about two thirds of the company, amounting to twenty or thirty persons, so that a tremendous fight ensued among them, and several were badly wounded. An action of law was commenced a day or two after, and for a month or more, I suffered incredibly in my mind under fear of being called into Court as a witness in this disreputable case and having it come to the ears of my father and mother; and

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16 to my Newton friends generally, that I had been in such company, such a place, and for such a purpose. I was in "the gall of bitterness" but it was good for me to be there. It was one of the Kindest Providences that ever befell me, a most salutary discipline that led to what I then supposed an immovable resolution to abandon gambling forever. I had not then learned how much easier it was to make resolutions than to keep them. This was kept for many months but in the course of another year my innate restlessness and fondness for hazard gradually drew me back to the same practices. But a watchful and guardian Providence was over me and again "snatched me as a hand from the burning". Thomas Park and myself (we worked and slept together for several years and were nearly the same age) went to Reuben Hasting's tavern at Brighton (then Little Cambridge) the night before Thanksgiving and sat down to a Loo table with a large company, and continued play till we had both lost all our money, except one single ninepence which I had left with which we went to the bar and got half a mug of flip and six and a quarter cents worth of cake and cheese and at one o'clock in the morning started for Boston on our feet, without a cent in either of our pockets chewing the solitary cud of our bitter reflections, neither of us having a word of consolation for the other. Again I resolved and God in His infinite goodness enabled me to keep my resolution, aye, and another which I took for a single month, at the same time viz. that I could drink no more ardent spirits. God in His Kind Providence worked with and for me by taking me out and away from associates that loved drinking and gambling better than they did any body or anything else. And not only so, the same over ruling and over-watching Providence introduced me to Hannah Woodward and engraved her image upon my heart. My deliverance from a drinking habit was in this wise. I was boarding with Sam Brown in company with half a dozen young men who were all full of life and fun. We had a bottle called a flagon which held about one pint and was encased in wicker work. There was a variety of occasions in which this bottle was filled for an evening around the fire. It was supposed to be a sovereign remedy for a cold in the head. As soon as one of these was detected in any symptom, it became his duty to fill the flagon, it also became the duty of all the others to join with him around the fire in emptying it. Our bets were usually this flagon of gin or other ardent spirit. One night, after the last drop had been drained from it, and when, of course, we had become quite jolly, and somewhat philosophical withal, a question arose among us for discussion viz. would it be possible for us to get through the time, between eight o'clock and ten, our bedtime, and realize anything like a decent share of comfort without the aid of our "flagon"? And, being in a state of mind somewhat courageous and bold, the discussion ended in the adoption, unanimously, to abstain altogether from the use of ardent spirits (wine not included) for thirty days. We had not, however, quite pluck enough to make the prohibition absolute, any one might give it up, provided he would bring in for general use, one gallon of wine. Two or three of them gave in and paid the penalty. For my own part, I went about the matter with firmness and system. I procured a bottle of sweet Malaga wine, kept it in the factory, and when the time for drinking came, I went and drank a swallow of the wine, and, by that means, kept through the thirty days. Fancying I was better and felt better than before, I alone, resolved upon another months' abstinence and continued it for years afterwards, making a bargain with my employers for twelve and a half cents per day, as a substitute for my allowance for grog. When about twenty-two years of age, I came into the position of foreman of the factory, and I made the same bargain with all the men, knocked down the grog cupboard and threw the jug away. Was this a freak of half a dozen half sober boys or was it a Providence of an over ruling God, of a kind and heavenly parent? Who can doubt that it was the latter? And He, who ordered this kind Providence, only knows the consequences that have followed and have been realized by me from it and also what would have been the

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consequences to me and mine for time and eternity but for this influence. I was in the regular habit of drinking, and drinking stoutly five times a day beside incidental drinking when calling on friends.

20 Profanity was another of the failings or sins of my early life. Having succeeded so well in the matter of gambling and drinking I attacked this too. The resolution for breaking this habit was made in the Summer St. meeting house on a Sabbath forenoon which was New Year's day, and induced by a sermon preached by Mr. Emerson, minister of that Society. The topic of his discourse was "the importance of using New Year's Day as a time for commencing the amendment of our lives". In the discussion he enumerated several sins, describing them in detail and urging the necessity for reform. He, with much force, described profanity as a sin against God and man, said "instead of elevating it only degraded us, in the eyes of men, and was by all good men and all wise men considered and evidence of a weak mind and bad heart. Another point of his discourse was, that any resolution for the amendment of our lives must be taken promptly and the carrying out must be commenced the moment the resolution is taken. After a graphic description of the wickedness and folly of profanity, he turned his eyes, apparently, full upon me (I was seated in the north east end of the gallery) and said "My young friend, if you desire the approbation of God, and the respect of good men, break off this disgraceful habit, and if you mean to lean it off, resolve that you will do it now, make the resolution before you leave that seat". I did it, and affixed a penalty for every violation, of six and a quarter cents to be expended in acts of charity. As soon as I got home, I opened a Dr. and Cr. account and on Monday, my violations had amounted to seventy five cents, and, no doubt, many oaths escaped me without notice and therefore did not get into the book. This produced a change of another kind.

21 Up to this time, I had been exceedingly penurious and I expended nothing for myself that was not indispensable, and absolutely nothing for others, so that, by the time I was twenty-one I had laid up about five hundred dollars. In disposing of these fines, I found there was some truth in these lines of Pope "Self love and social is the same". I found there was self-gratification in self denial itself and in some instances I found that the self satisfaction of the donor with the thanks of the recipient together, made out more comfort for me than I could by any other way. A secret, in my judgment, with knowing, and one which, in all probability I should have found out to perfection, if I had not been so stingy naturally.

22 Another singular turn, in the tide of my earthly pilgrimage, may be worth alluding to here. I have, before, alluded to my introduction to Miss Woodward, my attachment to her as an event having an effect, in fact a controlling influence upon my rule of action, and without a doubt, making for me another new characteristic. The Woodwards were all musicians as was Col. Trowbridge (the accepted lover of Ann Woodward) who always made one of the party when I was there. Much of the amusement, when together, consisted in singing Psalms and hymns and sometimes songs not so serious and pious. Even Aunt Trowbridge, notwithstanding her staid and matronly sobriety, of the present time, could and often did tickle the fancy of those she loved and who loved her with a song. In such an atmosphere, I soon saw the necessity of my doing something to keep up with that lovely circle, which had become the decided centre of my world. To this end I procured a clarionetee, and commenced studying music, although I had no more tact for it than ever, and for half a dozen years it engrossed all my leisure moments. But was this any

loss or injury to me? So far as it was a substitute for my books, it undoubtedly was. But, that it saved me from a far worse application of my leisure there can be no doubt. To a young man in Boston, the love of anybody or anything that is lovely, or any employment for filling up time, that has no higher characteristic than being harmless and innocent is fully worth being thankful for.

23 My acquaintance with Hannah Woodward had not existed more than a month, before we were both (without saying anything to each other of the kind) looking forward to a permanent union. Of course, my movements were thenceforward shaped to that end. I was then twenty years old and had been three years in the Soap and Candle Manufactory, principally the latter. I had knowledge of consequences about the manufacture of soap, by far the most difficult and important of the two, nor could I obtain it when I there was. Oliver Fuller was Foreman of the factory when I first went into it, and managed the soap-pan. He, as the fashion then was, in his craft, was very cautious about allowing me or any one else to obtain any knowledge of the business. Nathaniel Scott was our candle-maker. Neither of these men had any religious and very little moral principle, as is but too plainly shown by what I have already said. Fuller had left and gone into partnership with another man, very like himself by the name of Lyon, and built a small factory in Cambridgeport. They soon quarreled and failed in business and were both in their graves nearly forty years since. Nathaniel Scott was put at the head of the factory which was carried on under the firm name of Thos. Blake & Co. My father was a partner in that concern. Scott was apprehensive that I might supplant him, if permitted to obtain such a knowledge of soap-making, as to fit me for the place, and would, therefore, give me no instruction nor permit me to have any experience about the soap pan, which could give me any adequate knowledge of the art. Having made up my mind to that business, it became necessary for me to look elsewhere for the instruction I needed. Benjamin Hill was then carrying on the business rather largely in little Cambridge (now Brighton) and I contracted with him for one year. I was to have charge of the soap pan in summer, and the trying and bleaching pan in winter, in all of which he was to teach me all he could.

24 The year after, I was in full charge of the factory as foreman. In this condition, however, I continued but a short time, before I determined to establish myself somewhere on my own account. I had received information which inclined me to Providence as a favorable place and therefore, without mentioning my intentions, I left Hill's after my work was finished Saturday night, and stopped over night with my Uncle Amasa Winchester, as that would not cost my anything for lodging, etc. No one could have a higher estimate of the value of dollars than I had at that time. On Sunday morning I started on the stage for Providence, R.I. and arrived there late in the evening. Then, I had little or no reverence for the Sabbath, and used it all up in that way without a thought or doubt of its propriety. As I had consulted with no one about going to Providence, I had no letters of introduction and not the slightest acquaintance with any Providence man. On going into the market house next morning, I met a mulatto, who used to live in Newton. His name was Sumner Pigeon and he kept a stall in the market. From him I learned the names of all in the soap and candle business and where they were to be found. I called on them, and succeeded in getting a pretty thorough knowledge of the statistics of the trade in Providence. I also found an old factory and utensils unemployed, had an interview with the owner, got his best terms on which all could be hired. I also saw several of the hitchers who encouraged me to come and promised me their tallow. Tallow was monopolized by an old and wealth chandler, named Waterman. The price of tallow was lower than in Boston and candles higher, and my mind was made up before night to establish myself in that place. The next morning I started for home about an hour before daylight and walked out to Hutchins Tavern in Attleboro, twelve miles, and breakfasted before the stage arrived. When I got to Dedham,



26 I left the stage and walked over to Newton, and spent the evening at Deacon Woodward's and of course communicated my progress and project to my Hannah. The thought of leaving Newton and the State had a mountainous aspect to her. However, before I left she agreed to go if I did. The next morning I laid the matter before my father. He shook his head at it. I had then laid up six hundred dollars and he had given me five hundred more. Thomas Hastings, one of the partners in the factory in Boston, on the Neck, had it on loan at twelve per cent. I notified him that I wanted my money. He couldn't conveniently raise it, and he was very anxious that I should go and take charge of the Boston factory, offering to sell me one third of his share, which would be eleven hundred dollars. Jonathan Hunnewell, another partner and particular friend of my father's, was also desirous that a change should be made, and I was, by them, induced to return to the factory. These three represented three quarters of the concern, Thomas Blake the other; and, accordingly, the thing was settled that I should become a partner with them and take charge of the factory, June 1st. Henry and George Hill were two of my business associates at Little Cambridge. I told of my Providence project and recommended to them to embrace it. They did so, established themselves when I had thought to do and prospered well.

27 George Hill was my most particular Brighton friend and I had previously introduced him at my fathers to Deborah Hastings, a dear friend of myself and sister Lucretia, which acquaintance resulted in their marriage. I rejoiced in their prosperity and felt about as much satisfaction in having contributed to it, as if it had been my own.

My first year in the factory was the most prosperous that the company had known for many years, the income, being double that of the year before, amounted to forty-seven hundred on a capital of twelve thousand, my share of which was about four hundred, beside which I laid up about seven hundred from my salary, which was eight hundred. I then bought out Hastings' other two thirds for twenty-two hundred, my father loaning me eleven hundred. The next year was also prosperous so that I was enabled to pay my father and have something left beside my share.

28 Under this state of affairs, it became obvious that I might safely take upon myself the responsibility of a family. As I was paying largely for the board of myself and men, and had to go too far for my meals, my interest as well as my inclination decided me in favor of marriage, an event that both Hannah and myself had fixed upon for more than a year and a half and had delayed only for a justifying state of circumstances. We were therefore married on the first of December, 1806, and commenced housekeeping in a small brick house in Washington St. on the Neck. We took all my men and brother Stephen and Frank to board, which made us a family of sixteen to begin life with. This has probably been my average number through life. This year, also, was prosperous as the subsequent year, not only in a pecuniary view but in the matter of health and happiness, and it also gave us an infant daughter, Sarah, to love and labor for. For four or five years time flew on with great rapidity and happiness. The leading spirits of my family were my two brothers, S. and F. and the two Baldwins, Loami(?) and Thaddeus, with plenty of babies.

My brother Stephen married Lucretia Thayer and left my home May 9, 1813, and Francis, October 5th, 1813 married Eliza Copeland.

29 About this time another circumstance recurred, which I deem worthy of record here. At the time to which I have before alluded, when with a few other young men boarders at Sam Bowen's, we absolved to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors. Joseph Greenword (a cousin of mine) and his brother Stephen were often with us. They were both carpenters and remarkably healthy, handsome, smart men, and excellent workmen and for many years prosperous. Joseph was one of the number, who agreed

to abstain from ardent spirits for thirty days, and also one of those who gave up and paid the wine penalty and went on with his modest drinking, as did also his brother. Both were, however, then considered temperate men, and were so, as the term was then understood. Joseph left us and went to Rhode Island to build a factory in the town of Warwick. Stephen continued at his trade in Boston for a year or two and then went out to Charleston, S.O. to build a bridge and, subsequently, was located in the city of New York. Several years had passed my hearing anything of Joseph. The first advices I had from him was in the shape of a letter from a lawyer in Hartford, Conn. addressed to E. & A. Winchester, informing them that their nephew was in Hartford jail for housebreaking and that his trial would come on, the next week: that he might be bailed for eight hundred dollars, and unless so bailed, would undoubtedly be convicted and sent to the Penetentiary for years. The Winchesters, myself and brothers had a meeting together, and agreed to bail him out and pay the eight hundred dollars, Winchesters three fifths, Jackson, s two fifths, and I was sent to Hartford to manage the affair. I carried with me letters of introduction to Thomas Williams; then, a distinguished lawyer, and now Justice of the Supreme Court, and two or three merchants.

I went from Boston to Hartford in-stage-coach: started one morning and arrived the next having travelled about twenty hours, that being the shortest mail trip that could be made. As soon as I could get my breakfast, I called on Mr. Williams, then upon the lawyer who wrote to us, then upon the man whose house was broken open, and succeeded in interesting them all in our behalf. I then went to the jail to see Greenwood, whom I had not seen or heard anything from for many years. The room where he was confined had nine convicts in it, two of them colored men and all of them in a filthy condition and miserable and ragged. Greenwood was lying upon a straw bunk, with no other clothes but shirt and trousers and vest. He had been in prison nine weeks, and had not been washed or shaved in that time. This was Friday, his trial was to come on the next Monday.

When I entered he raised himself up in bed, and before I could see enough of his face to recognize him (he being in a rather dark corner) he in a laughing was said "Ah, Billy, is that you?" He seemed indifferent, hardened and careless. I asked the Jailer to allow him to retire into another room with me. He said he could not permit it unless I would go with him into one of the cells, and be locked up To this I assented, and in this solitary place we sat down together on one of the old bedsteads.

I soon found that rum had ruined him. He had been prosperous for a year or two after he left us, and until he fell into drinking habits, and had become poor and abandoned. He expected to go to the penitentiary and to die there, and had made up his mind to nothing better, and was, apparently, hardened enough to be satisfied with this.

At first, I thought he had no feeling left, but, I had not half got through telling him of his sister and other relatives and the interest we all felt for him, before he broke down and cried like a child. I finally told him that, if he would break off the use of liquor altogether, that I would try to get him out of jail and clothe him and take him to Boston and give him tools and set him to work again. He promised me most solemnly and I left him and went to my lawyer. We got the Attorney General into a room of the Court House, who heard my testimony as to his former character and friends: also the man whose house was broken open, who by this time was quite anxious about him, testified that what he stole of him was not of much value: that when he found him in his house he appeared to be deranged; he did not think him a hardened criminal who would be dangerous to the community and

33 that it was his wish that he might be released. Under those circumstances, the Attorney General agreed to enter a "nol prosequi" when the court came together, and let him be discharged without trial upon my paying certain costs, his board in jail, etc. Agreeing to take him out of the state and give him bonds that he should not return. He was accordingly discharged the next Monday. I procured a suit of clothes for him and brought him to Boston. We then bought him a complete set of carpenter's tools. My youngest brother Edmund was then carrying on the soap and candle business in a partnership with myself, George and Loarni Baldwin in Charleston, S.C. and he agreed to take him out with him, and set him to work at his trade, hoping that he might, among strangers, recover his lost character, and be prosperous again. But he soon began drinking again and gave Edmund a great deal of trouble, and was, by him, sent to Savannah, to Loani Baldwin.

We expended five or six hundred dollars upon him, together with much time and sollicitous anxiety, all of which was lost; he might just as well have gone to the Penetentiary. In a drinking fit, he enlisted in a company of W.S. troops, at Savannah, went into the Seminole War in Florida under Gen. Jackson, and died of a fever contracted in the Florida swamps.

Thus ended one of the experiences of well-meant endeavor to do good that ended in total failure. The result of this enterprise with the results of similar efforts on the part of others to redeem drunkards, produced something like a conviction in my own mind, that they were irredeemable; and, not only determined me in the determination of total abstinence for myself, but led to the formation of a Total Abstinence Society in Newton in 1826.

Soon after this effort, or about the same time, I was drawn into another effort for the rescue of a friend, that in a pecuniary point of view was far more disastrous.

34 About the time of my marriage, or a year or two before, I became acquainted with a cousin of my wife, a very interesting good girl, who was affianced to Sam Seaver, a trader in Medfield. She was an adopted daughter of Artemas Woodward. They were married about the same time that we were.

Of course, a warm and friendly interest was kept up between us. Sever failed in business and both he and his wife were much broken down and discouraged. Our sympathy was such as to lead me to aid him in setting up again a retail store in Medway. His business became extended and ultimately he formed a co-partnership with Richard Sales and took a store in Foxboro, went into the straw braid business, and in the end involved me in a loss of six thousand dollars, which, of course, gave me a vast deal of trouble for ten years; and, for some time, produced such pecuniary embarrassment.

Death, however, delivered my wife from her share of this trouble, as this heavy loss did not come upon me until some time after her decease. It was a dear bought lesson to me, requiring some years of industry and rigid economy for my recovery of the loss.

35 I must now notice another train of circumstances, which had a longer influence upon my prosperity and comfort for a series of years. My business continued very prosperous until 1809. For a long time previous, and at that time, war had raged furiously between England and France as the two leading combattents, in which most

of the other nations were occasionally involved. Our own country was divided into two parties, Federalists and Republicans, the former sympathizing with the English, the latter with the French.

The government was under the control of the Federalists during the administrations of Washington and Adams, opposed by the Republicans led by Jefferson and Madison. In 1801, the latter triumphed and French interest predominated. Jefferson filled the Presidential chair for eight years and Madison, for the next eight. French decrees and British orders in council were interfering with our commerce all over Europe, which kept up an incessant invitation and aggravation of party spirit, which has never since run higher.

36 Our government was strongly biased against the English and prepossessed in favor of the French. The deprivations of the latter upon our commerce were tenfold greater than the former: hit, as French influence prevailed in our Cabinet and as a retaliation for the British orders in Council, a "non-importation" act was passed in Congress, which forbade the importation of British goods into the United States. This produced a great derangement of commerce and trade, caused many failures, and of course, had a depressing influence upon all kinds of business in any part of the Union, and especially in our commercial cities. After a year or two of trial, it was found of very little coercive influence upon the British. Their manufactured goods were greatly needed all over the country, and, in a short time, a regular triangular trade sprung up. British goods were shipped to some foreign port, when our ships went for them, instead of direct to England, and our customers had just about the same quality as before at much higher prices. Our factory continued prosperous and profitable, until the country came thoroughly under the control of Slaveholders, who, envious of the superior prosperity and enterprise of the Free states, which then, as now, and at all other times, they attributed to anything and everything rather than to the real and to all the rest of the civilized world perfectly obvious reason. Free state capital was, at that time, invested almost wholly in commerce, against which they commenced a relentless and bitter warfare as they are now (1853) and have been for many years carrying on against Manufacturers.

37 Their first crippling movement was their "non-importation" act in 1808. This was followed by the "Embargo" in 1810, which cut off intercourse by our own ships with all the world and laid them up to rot out our wharves. Many of our ships were at sea, when the Embargo was first laid, and others made their escape, before the "Act" could be put in force. By selling or otherwise denationalizing them, their owners contrived to keep them in motion until 1812, when war against Great Britain was declared, after which, they fell into the hands of the British in great numbers.

Most of my soap and candles were, as now, made mostly for a foreign market: of course my business was ruined. I made a tour of observation. First, round the coast of Plymouth, New Bedford, Newport, Providence, etc. Soon afterward, I started again for Worcester, Hartford, New Haven and New York. My object in these rambles was to see how our business was prospering elsewhere and whether there was any other reachable resources or prosperity in any other place or way, which we could avail ourselves of. From New York, I continued on to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington and returned home by way of North River, Albany, Saratoga, etc.

38 At this time, I was worth about \$14,000. Our factory was full of soap and candles, with no demand for either except home consumption, and such a competition for that as reduced its profit to almost nothing, and our kettles, fixtures and capital all idle.

A war had just commenced, which no human foresight or sagacity could see the end of, and our whole coast from Maine to Georgia, was blockaded by British men of war. I proposed to Mr. Blake to put up a factory in New Orleans or Savannah or both. We, then, had funds in New Orleans, which we could not get home and our hand of soap and candles stood higher there, than that of any other company, and we had the best of Agents, there, but I could not persuade him. Had we gone promptly into the enterprise, as soon as the War began, we should, in all probability made more money in the three war years, than in any other six of our partnership, which existed about fifteen years. But my partner had more money and more patience than I had, with less enterprise and less need of it.

39 After large accumulations of soap and candles, I was obliged to dismiss my hands and nearly stop my kettles. At this time, Loani Baldwin had been with me nearly three or four years, had become acquainted with the business and thorough master of it; and, being an excellent young man, in whom I had entire confidence, I entered into partnership with him for the purpose of carrying on the manufacture of soap and candles in some southern city. With this view, I fitted him out with a team, in 1813, loaded with New England manufactures, with which he was to proceed South, until he found some place, when he thought he could profitably establish himself in business.

With this outfit, he drove all the way by land to Savannah, sold out his goods, erected a small factory, and commenced the manufacture of soap and candles. He prospered well, through the winter and spring, and in July following took his horse and wagon and made his way back again to Boston by land.

40 After spending two months at home, he started with a larger team and invoice of goods back to Savannah, and re-commenced the soap and candle business with a great prospect before him. November 12, his factory took fire and was totally destroyed with all his stock and tools, making a loss of about \$8,000 with no insurance. One half of this loss was his, the other mine: but as I had furnished all the capital and as he owed me for his half, the whole loss, in reality fell upon me.

He, however, immediately proceeded to rebuild, draining on me for the money: and, for a few months, I was, as the saying is, pretty well cornered for money. His factory being the only one of the kind there and all communication with the City from the north, being cut off by the British Blockade Squadron, soap rose to thirty or forty cents per pound and candles were as high, so that he was able in the course of the winter and spring, to nearly retrieve his loss. On reaching home the next summer and taking account of stock, we found our loss during the year, fire included, to be only about seven or eight hundred dollars. Again we loaded him up for another overland expedition.

41 I had, some time before Baldwin first started, formed a co-partnership with my brother George, on the Neck, in Boston, in the soap and candle business, which was managed by him. This year a new partnership was formed, between myself, Baldwin, and my two brothers, George and Edmund: George to manage the business in Boston, Baldwin in Savannah and Edmund in Charleston, South Caroline, and I being a silent partner.

The two latter left early in September on their overland route. Edmund erected a factory in Charleston and the season commenced with great prosperity and a good deal of money was made. But on the twelfth of February George's factory in Boston took fire and caused us a loss of \$13,000, which subjected Baldwin again to a loss greater than all he was worth, and I was obliged to sustain for a long time a part of this loss much greater than my share, no(?) insurance. The spring after, Peace was declared and of course all prospect of future profit in the manufacture of soap and candles in Savannah and Charleston ceased. Edmund sold his factory and returned home, the partnership was dissolved, and it was several years before Baldwin was able to repay my loan to him.

42 I have now carried my narrative to the year 1816, during a period of revolutions and changes in the business of the Country and of trials and losses of my own. The Country suffered first from the Non-importation Act then the Embargo, the War and the Tariff of 1816, all of which measures were carried by slave holding voters against an almost entire vote of the North, except such Democrats as were "Northern men with Southern principles" whose party, zeal and desire for government were arrayed against that interest in which the capital of the country had ever been interested and prospered as these same elements and some parties, impelled by the same jealousy of the prosperity and industry of the free labor in the one, and servility and party zeal in the other one, threw the Tariff in 1830, and brought on another Revolution from 1838 to 1840, which overthrew hundreds of Banks all over the country, including the Bank of the United States, with tens of thousands of merchants.

43 In and by this revolution, I lost principally by bad debts \$12,000. During these years, say from 1809 to 1815, inclusive, my pecuniary losses were somewhat in this wise. In my well meant but totally useless endeavor to help Sam Seaver, I lost \$6,000. The Embargo stopped my income. Three captures at the beginning of the War, \$2,000, Fire at Savannah \$4,000, that of George on the Neck \$3,500. In the meantime I received about \$4,000 for my share of my father's estate. None of these losses, however, made a very deep impression on me. I was young, healthy and full of hope and confidence. The expenses of my family were comparatively light, and the world had not then contracted the habit of looking to me for much money. But, more than all the rest, heavier and more engrossing troubles of another kind made me careless and indifferent about them. The first of these was the sudden death of my only and much loved sister Lucretia. She died December 27th, 1812. Before that, I had not thought much of death, this grim messenger had never come very near me before. Of the whole human family, their was but one that lay nearer my heart, and the taking of her from me was a sore trial for which I was altogether unprepared. I was grieved but not . . .

44 The wound made my heart bleed, but did not soften it, and as the affliction and its influences were rapidly passing away, God saw that I needed a heavier chastisement and sent it. In 1813, I began to have some anxiety as to the health of my wife. Her lungs seemed weak, and she was occasionally visited by a cough that was troublesome to her and alarming to me. These symptoms, however, seemed to pass away and for the first half of the year 1814 did not make their appearance at all. In July, her last child Hannah Woodward was born, soon after which, she took cold, her cough set in with great violence and, in her weak state, proved almost immediately fatal. She died Aug. 11, 1814.

This was affliction, my property losses were as the small dust in the balance of comparison to it. She had for seven years been the soul and centre of my affections. She had been the spur and inducement of all my efforts and enterprises. All my plans for the future embraced her in them, and, of course were all overthrown by her death and it seemed to me as though my own heart died and was buried with her. I was surrounded by a brood of five small children, the oldest less than seven and the youngest but eighteen days, and for a while, I felt as helpless as the weakest of them. This blow not only grieved but it humbled me, and while it wounded and broke my heart, it also softened it into something like entire submission. I seemed to hear my Father saying to me "Be still and know that I am God" and, I think, became myself as a little child in His hands, all ready to do and suffer His Will as fast as I could find it out.

On the 8th of the November following, my father died after a tedious illness of twenty-seven months. He was first prostrated by a shock of paralysis, which affected half his body, and, a year after, was followed by dropsy. For more than a year, he required watchers every night, and his sons came from Boston every night and watched with him by turn.

In the following March, my mother was also called home. She had literally worn herself out over my father, and, from the time of his death, seemed to look forward with desire, to a resting place beside him in the grave.

46 During these two years, I was called to part with the four nearest and dearest friends I had in the world and more than half of all my property. This was indeed being in a school of affliction but I believed then as I believe now, that it was sanctified affliction, and this belief was a wonderful antidote and sweetener of it all. I seemed to realize that it came from a Father's hand and set myself at work in earnest to inquire wherefore "God was intending with me" feeling all the time that His judgments were right and that it was "in faithfulness that he was afflicting me"

Father Homer was, at this time, full of sympathy and kindness as was also his wife as they always were to all their people in their hour of trouble. Myself and wife in our infancy and youth were both members of his flock and were numbered among his children and were always both claimed by himself and his wife as theirs.

47 I was at his Church the Sabbath after my wife's death and his text was "Thou destroyest the hope of man" and I felt that all my hopes, at least my old hopes were destroyed. All my arrangements for life and living must be changed. Those little children must have a mother to watch over and care for them. I could not do it and therefore broke up housekeeping. Mary Bennett had been in my family two or three years. She loved the children and they loved her and my wife in her life and death had been the instrumentality of bringing her to a knowledge of the truth and giving her heart to the Saviour, so that she had become one of us. When, therefore, I had concluded to break up housekeeping, I put her and the eldest four children, under the motherly care of Aunt Trowbridge, where they remained until I again married; and Hannah, the baby was taken to Aunt Woodward's, and good mothers they both were.

Separation from my children was a trial but it was the best and probably the most rational thing I could do with them. My Saturday evenings and Sabbaths were spent with them, my other days were filled up with business and passed comparatively

comfortably but my evenings were blank enough and my solitary boarding room was solitude indeed.

48 Mr. and Mrs. Barker with whom I boarded had not, by nature, any sympathies in common with me and, as for grace, they neither had nor desired it. They were "of the earth earthy" and much more inclined to resist than to seek the favor of God. She was the best of the two for she was kind-hearted and of a good disposition, but had not much mind: while he, with the same lacking was self-willed and opinionated, and at the same time ignorant, unfeeling and dishonest.

49 They and all or nearly all my friends were Unitarians but Barker unlike the others, chose the attitude of opposer, and had not enough of the gentleman in his composition to keep him from swearing at that which he had not mind enough to comprehend. Under these circumstances, I longed all the week for the return of Saturday night and the Sabbath; for, in fact, nearly all my social comfort was crowded into this remnant of the week. For and with my family I had long labored and lived and I bore the separation but too impatiently. Mary Bennett, daughter of David and Sarah Bennett, had been in the family two or three years before my wife's death, and by her loved and trusted like a sister. She was with her as she went down to the grave and in the last moments of her conflict with death, and like myself, had seen the value of her religion as exhibited in those trying scenes and had given herself to the Saviour. She loved my children and they loved her and she was the one to whom they looked and whom they relied for all their little wants. Her kind sympathy and affection for them begat a corresponding affection in my own heart for her, and, in about sixteen months from the loss of my wife, she came back to me the mother of my children and the wife of my affection and has sustained these tender and endearing relations most faithfully for more than thirty-six years, and my constant prayer is that God will continue to bless and preserve her life until my work on earth is done and we are both prepared to sit down in "His house of many mansions together to go no more out forever."

50 The losses of property I met with about this time taught me the uncertainty of wordly prosperity and the way in which riches take to themselves wings, not necessarily forgotten. But they came at a time when I had more nearly gotten the victory over the world than ever before or since and when I thought more of the treasure laid up in Heaven and least of that which is only earthly and then I had the strongest conviction that God's Providence was over all and was most glad that it was so, and was satisfied with it just as it was.

Prosperous years succeeded the War and my losses were in a few years made up and almost forgotten. Baldwin was longer in recovering from and George never recovered from his. In a few years afterward, our partnership was dissolved. Edmund sold out at Charleston and came home and started business in Roxbury, where he was successful and fully made up his losses.

51 In the year 1819, I was elected Representative for Boston, altogether unsolicited by myself and quite unexpectedly, having had no previous knowledge of my nomination having never before thought of it myself or supposed that any one else had. In fact, when I saw it in the Sentinel I supposed it must have been some other man of the same name, knowing there was a man of some prominence in Plymouth, I presumed he had moved to Boston. My neighbors, also, without consulting me, started an



application to the General Court or rather Governor for my appointment of Justice of the Peace: but, having found out this movement before the petition was sent in, I stopped it by an unequivocal declination of the honor.

I had, for many years, been a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics' Association and for the previous two years been one of its government: I had also been called to act as one of the Assessors of the Ward in which I resided.

52 Another enterprise was started about this time. Rev. James Sabin, an English Clergyman, was by the great fire that destroyed St. John's, Newfoundland, thrown out of a living and came to Boston. I became acquainted with and interested in him and his family, and united with several gentlemen in the formation of a society and church for him, which worshiped in Boylston Hall. After worshipping a year or two in that place, we resolved to erect a meeting-house on Essex St. I became one of the building committee, which involved me in a heavy sacrifice of time, labor, and money, accompanied by no little amount of vexation, which did not come to a close in the completion of the meeting-house. I found it necessary to continue a member of the Societies' Committee, which involved the care of the House, letting and selling pews, etc.

All the various cares and responsibilities in addition to the whole management of my factory, floating me back into the world and filled my hands and mind so full that I had no time and was fast getting to have no heart to serve God. My own experiences, like the Word of God, taught me that I "could not serve God and Mammon" and I could not see any other way of delivering myself from these burdens and engrossing cares but to run away from them.

I accordingly, sold out half my share in the Blake and Jackson factory to John D. M. Williams, bought Edmund and George's share in my father's estate at Newton and made a division of the same with Stephen and Frank; they taking the south and I the north side of the road with all the buildings.

53 On the fourth of March, 1820, I moved my family out to Newton and became a farmer. This removal delivered me from most of my burdens and cares without substituting new ones.

For two or three years, I enjoyed my mind well, my hands and time being just about enough occupied to keep off ennui, with just enough leisure to think of another world and higher service than that of this.

I was soon engaged in church affairs, Sabbath School, etc., and having a mind to the work, was very happy in it all, which to myself, at least, proved to be no little profit. For several years, there was an excellent spirit among our Church members, our prayer and other religious meetings increasingly interesting and well attended. In a world, in regard to life's great end, this removal turned out just as I expected. Getting out of the city and away from all the cares and burdens which had accumulated upon me there, made a delightful and very profitable change in all that pertained to my heart, mind, and growth in grace. I went, in fact, into my Father's Vineyard in Newton.

53 The day but one after I got there, I met a handful of Christians in Father Homer's parlor, for a Monthly Missionary Concert. Increase Davis, Capt. Cook and

myself met each other there for the first time, all these having just moved into the Parish. Uncle Woodward made the fourth. Four brothers indeed! Together in the Sabbath School together in the Prayer meeting and together in every other good work which our hearts and hands could find to do. And, in these good works we continued, "with one heart and soul" until the autumn of 1827 when God opened the windows of Heaven and poured out a blessing, that we had hardly room to receive, and surely that none of us had look for or knew what to do with or behave under it.

But I am going headlong with the great generals, and must go back and pick some of the particulars in which, of course, there must be some repetition.

54 With regard to my own family, their spiritual welfare lay very near my heart. I had seen <sup>my</sup> ~~there~~ mother give the four elder children to God in baptism, and without feeling anything like all the importance of the act, I had joined her in it. And, a few days before her decease, I had seen her part with them forever, and had witnessed the strong confidence with which she gave them up to Christ. I believed then, as I believe now, that she expected they would in due time, give their hearts to Christ, and all meet her in Heaven. That this should become my prevailing desire after her decease, and be a frequent subject of prayer it is easy to see, must almost of necessity be a matter of course, and what we pray for in earnest, we also labor for. When Sarah was fourteen years old, I became anxious that she should be placed in a school that would prepare her for womanhood and was more so that she should be placed where the Saviour was loved and honored and where I might hope to have His image early impressed upon her heart. Such a school I found in the Rev. Mr. Emerson's at Byfield. Mr. Emerson was a vitally Godly man, his wife a Godly woman, and all the teachers Christians. I went with Sarah to Byfield. She was rather young to leave home alone and take up her abode among entire strangers, and we left her weeping and it was all I could do and more to keep my own eyes dry, but I was full of confidence and felt assured that she was in the right place and that her Saviour to whom she had with such strong faith been given by her dying mother, had His eye upon and would take care of her. I was not therefore much surprised to receive a letter from Miss Grant before the term was out, telling me that Sarah had given her heart to her Saviour. I never received a letter that made me happier or more grateful to God. I traced the event at once to her mother's prayers and dying faith. I knew that her prayers were just as ardent and her faith just as strong for all the other four as for her and therefore my faith gave me all the others in anticipation and I looked forward then as I have often done since and do now, to the time when she shall all stand together with that sainted mother, round the throne of God "clothed in the robes of Christ's righteousness".

56

57 From 1820 to 1826, a gradual change was quite perceptible in the life and actions of Church members, prayer meetings were established and well attended, the Sabbath School embraced most of the children of the church, the monthly concert became an interesting meeting, the brethren cultivated a Missionary field, the sisters met in their Friendly Society. Father Homer ceased his exchanges with Unitarians, a child was adopted in Ceylon bearing the name of Dr. Homer, another in the bearing that of Mother Homer, and the Church members of both sexes labored and loved to labor in season and out of season for Christ and the saving of souls.

In the summer of 1827, Madame Homer died. As she was a very kind-hearted woman and much beloved by all the people, her loss was deeply felt and a salutary impression produced on all. The whole parish, young and old, attended the funeral and followed her remains to the tomb.

58 I have said that in the autumn and winter of 1824, we were visited and blessed with such a revival as had never before been experienced in Newton. In this work, I, for four or five years, spent a good deal of time very pleasantly and very profitably for myself and family. My oldest daughter, Sarah, had become a Christian four years before this, my next oldest children Marian, Timothy and Lucretia and Hannah were among the converts in the revival, also Mrs. Jackson's sister Caroline Bennett, Mr. Otis Trowbridge and several of my workmen were among the conversions. It was the happiest year I have ever experienced. No Christian will be surprised that I should have connected in my mind, this blessed fruition with my lost wife's dying faith and confidences in her Redeemer. Notwithstanding I gave my mind, thoughts, and much of my time to this work, to an extent in fact, which lookers on would have thought and probably did pronounce ruinous to my business, yet, when I came to take an account of stock the following June, I found it had been the most profitable year of my life, that I had never before laid up more money in a year.

This blessed revival continued with more or less strength till the year 1834, when more than two hundred members had been added to our church from the world. The members of our church, young and old, seemed all to love to pray and labor and found their chief happiness in doing their Master's Will.

59 In 1812, I was one of the members who attended the first meeting for the formation of a Temperance Society. The principal object of the Society was the reformation of drunkards. It required no abstinence on the part of the members, who were most of them, perhaps all, moderate drinkers, who were not aware that they, themselves, were perhaps on the same road that had carried the drunkards to ruin.

Of course the Society and its members were soon numbered among well-meant endeavors to do good, which had proved total failures. Although I refrained from the use of ardent spirits myself, I furnished it to to my men and my visitors without supposing it possible to get along without so doing, in a neighborhood where all were in the habit of using it. My eyes, at last, opened to the truth of the matter, rather by accident than otherwise.

I had been chosen Selectman of the Town and was made chairman of the Board. It therefore became my duty to understand and prepare for the duties which devolved upon the Board. Among others, that of approbating persons, who were to be licensed to self ardent spirits was one.

60 The Court of Sessions annually sent out a form of approbation to each Town for its Selectmen to sign, which recited the names of those who were licensed the year before, after which followed, in part, the words, "The above named persons, according to the best of our knowledge and belief, have conformed to the laws respecting licensing and, in our opinion, the public good requires that they should again be licensed." This was to be signed by the selectmen and handed over to some one of the retailers and tavern keepers who usually took the approbation for the whole, to the Court of Sessions, and bought each one his license.

61 Obviously as I thought I was required to know what those laws were and how these men had regarded them before I signed a paper which declared "they had conformed" etc. Upon such examinations I found they were all in the daily violation of them, I accordingly struck out those words from the approbation and the Sselectmen all signed a paper that declared them all good men who conformed to the law as much as men elsewhere in the same calling, that the Public Good required them to be licensed and we recommended that they should be". But the court decided that they had no power to license any but such as had a certificate from the Selectmen that they had conformed to the laws: and, accordingly, no license was obtained. This raised a storm about the ears of the Selectmen that was never allayed.

I called the Selectmen together, we all wished to have them licensed but were not disposed to certify to a direct falsehood to procure it for them. The Selectmen authorized me to go to Concord and make such alterations in the approbation as would procure the License agreeing to sanction whatever I might do in the premises. I employed T. Bigelow, Esq. to go with me and to plead the case for the Selectmen and Retailers paying him five dollars and all expenses.

62 We had a hearing of an hour or two before the Court. The decision was, that if we would say they had conformed they would license but that they had no authority to do so unless we would certify to that as true, which we knew to be false and which we had testified to the Court was false. I was told by Mr. Bigelow and other respected advisers that the whole thing was a mere form, that such approbations were signed by some of the best men in every Town in the country: who knew just as much about the violations as I did: and the rum-sellers of Newton taunted me with the fact that my father who, they said, was a much better man than myself (which I could not contradict) had a great many times signed such an approbation provided it was unreasonably withheld by the Selectmen. At the same time the Judge said the Court had power to license without an approbation provided it was unreasonably withheld by the Selectmen, "but", continued the Judge "there is nothing unreasonable in the action of the Selectmen in this case. On the contrary, it is very unreasonable to expect them to sign such an approbation if it is not true".

63 I, of course, refused and no person was licensed that year in Newton and also, of course, rum-sellers and rum-drinkers many of them made war upon us. The matter was freely discussed everywhere and became better understood by the inhabitants of Newton than any other town in the Commonwealth. The Selectmen were not only attacked by the rum-sellers and their friends in Newton, but had to defend themselves in the newspapers, so that before the year was out, the real friends of Temperance became better acquainted with the subject than they had ever before been. They found that the position they had accidentally taken was both right and proper and that the best good of the community was being promoted by it and that no concessions or attempt to conciliate either rum-sellers or toppers were of any effect, and that no position in relation to them was either consistent or safe, but that of open, manly resistance to their business and debasing habits.

Accordingly, I called a meeting, in my parlor, of all the total abstinence men I then knew in Newton. They were Capt. Samuel Hyde, Increase S. Davis, Seth Davis and myself in October 1826.

64

We agreed to call the Temperancer Society on the basis of total abstinence from distilled spirits. I was appointed to prepare a circular and directed to have four hundred struck off upon a sheet of letter paper and a copy be sent to the head of every family in Newton. The circular stated our object and the necessity of united effort for arresting the progress of intemperance among us, with the Constitution under which we proposed to act, and inviting everyone to join us. We appointed the first day of January, 1827, as the time for the meeting to form our Society and choose our officers. At this meeting twenty-seven persons united and a President, Capt. Hyde, Treas. and Secretary Wm. Jackson, three Directors, Seth Davis, Joel Fuller and J. S. Davis were chosen. About half or two thirds of our Society were minors, who were induced to join us (partly at least) by being furnished gratuitously with the temperance paper called The Philanthropist.

65

Of course the opposition to our object and prejudice against ourselves was exceedingly strong, unreasonable and overbearing: for we were rebuking the whole community of both sexes and all ages for a habit which had become all but universal among us. We were met by sneers, rebukes, and condemnation everywhere and from every body, with little else for our defence but a conviction that we were right, that the welfare of ourselves, our families and all around us called for a manly defence and adherence to our principles. I soon became sensible that there was no way of standing up against this storm but by facing it and taking at once the aggressive position. Accordingly, I prepared an address, got Father Greenough's\* leave (who himself did not fully approve our measures nor believe in their ultimate success) to go into his pulpit.

We had our infant Society together and invited the whole town to be present and hear us speak for ourselves, having notices printed and circulated broadcast over the town.

It was the first time (44 years old) I had attempted a public address and the novelty of the thing procured me a houseful of hearers. At the close of the meeting I invited all to join us and succeeded in procuring double the number of our Society. This was in February, 1827, and the whole town learned that we were not to be sneered out of our principles nor browbeaten into silence and that the existence of a Temperance Society on total abstinence principles in Newton was a fixed fact.

66

We held a public meeting once a month for the discussion of our principles and measures. We multiplied and spread our Temperancer tracts and papers freely, procured a library of sermon eight hundred volumes which was made free to all members, and in less than a year and a half, we had a majority of the Newton men and women, old and young and a majority of the votes of the town, either in the Society or sympathizing strongly and voting with us.

Rummers(?) were ashamed and rum-sellers not more than half satisfied with their business or themselves. Our Selectmen, who had been turned out of office by rum-sellers and drinkers were returned, and myself sent a Representation to the General Court. It is especially interesting to my own mind to review the chain of events, link by link, which so far as I was personally concerned grew out of this apparently accidental determination of the Selectmen in 1825 to withhold approbation upon the terms required of the Rumsellers of Newton.

\*The clergyman who had a life long settlement at a church in West Newton.

I had been in Boston twenty years before removing back to Newton, had been an active member of the Mechanics' Charitable Association and its government, also of the Essex St. Religious Society, an Assessor of the City, one of its Representatives in the General Court and had, in fact, got my hands filled up with cares of a public nature, that had become quite burdensome and onerous, and had moved out of the City to escape the burden, hoping to spend the remainder of my life in retirement with my family. And, strange as it may seem, that insignificant careless measure changed the whole course of events with regard to myself and future life. To sustain myself and Society against opposers, I was obliged to bring out and bring into exercise every power and all the resources of my mind.

For the first year, all the monthly meetings were occupied in the discussion of subjects relating to Temperance. Of course, It was soon seen that there was too much sameness in the meetings to keep up the interest. To meet this difficulty we converted our Society into a Lyceum, making temperance the leading, but not the exclusive topic. Subjects of general interest that came up in Congress, Legislature was also taken up for discussion among ourselves.

68 In the winter of 1826, Dr. Phelps of Boston brought forth a resolution in favor of ordering a survey for a railroad from Boston to Albany and a Commissioner was charged with the duty of making the survey with instructions to prepare a report upon the subject for the next Legislature. Whereupon, I proposed for discussion the question as to the expediency of the States undertaking the enterprise, offering myself to take either side of the question in the discussion to be had before our Lyceum. The affirmation was assigned to me and I set about seeking information on a subject, at this time, almost entirely new to the whole community, so new that no one was found in our Society to take the negative side.

69 Having, during the month, picked up what was to be found, principally from the Boston Atheneum, from all which I had not only attained probably the most thorough knowledge of the whole subject, than was possessed by others, perhaps by any other in the community, but was thoroughly convinced of the utility, practicability, and great importance of the measures to the New England States and particularly of Massachusetts and Boston. As no other member of our Society inclined to engage for the discussion, I volunteered to make an address, and the next month wrote off as much as would take me an hour in the delivery, and with aids of models and drawings succeeded in making pretty thorough Rail Road men of all the members of the Society.

70 The next winter, a Lyceum having been formed in Waltham, through the influence of Dr. Dana, I was invited to give my Rail Road lecture there. Soon after the Massachusetts Mechanic Association having determined to procure lectures for its members (a measure which I had two or three years previously exerted myself to procure) a report prepared for them on the subject can no doubt be found among my old papers) I was invited to repeat my Rail Road lecture before them. It was very fully attended. Its novelty as to subject and as to the fact of its being got up and delivered by one of its own members, gave it an interest and popularity surprising to myself. This, together with the fact that I had taken particular pains to identify it with Boston interests, and show its bearing on the prosperity of the City had the effect of making converts of most of them.

During that winter I met frequently with a Committee of men in Boston favorable to the undertaking and also with members of the Legislature for measures for carrying the enterprise into operation. During the next spring, summer and autumn, I was engaged in writing articles on the subject not only for Boston papers, but for Springfield, Northampton, Haverhill, etc. I also lectured in several of the principal towns on the subject. In fact, it became the leading object with me, and was more in my thoughts from that time onward for the next fifteen or eighteen years than any other subject.

71 The next Autumn I was chosen into the Legislature, Representative from Newton, and continued there for the three succeeding years, and was chairman of the Rail Road committees on behalf of the House. During this time, the State having refused to undertake the enterprise, charters were granted to Companies for a Rail Road from Boston to Lowell, Boston to Worcester, Boston to Providence, and the construction of all these three roads was commenced in the following summer, or rather, stocks taken, and preparations for commencing were made.

The next winter, I was confined to my house with a severe fit of sickness, which left me in a bad state of health, the following spring, with a very doubtful chance of recovery.

The R.R. from Boston Worcester was begun in May 1831, at which time the General Agency of it was offered to me, but my health was too frail to allow of my assuming such a responsibility. Col. Binney of Boston Navy Agent was appointed to that station and the work went on under his direction until the next winter, when he was attacked with a fever and died. The situation was again offered to me, and, my health having very much improved, I accepted, and forthwith gave my whole time and attention to the work, having previously taken Mr. Otis Trowbridge and my son Timothy into co-partnership in my candle business, I now gave the whole charge of my business to them.

I held the office till the Rail Road was finished, for seven years devoting however, only a part of my time to it. During the latter part of the time, I became General Agent for the Bangor and Picataque R.R. Company, during the construction of that Road and also an assistant in the New Bedford and Taunton R.R. during its construction, giving each two days in a fortnight. I also became a Director in the Western Rail Road, first on the part of the State, and after on behalf of the Stockholders, nine years in all.

The last Rail Road enterprise in which I engaged was the Boston and Worcester. This, for one year, occupied a large share of my time and proved a more laborious undertaking than I expected, more than my constitution was equal to, and decided me against taking any other engagement of the kind.

73 With the exception of the Bangor Rail Road, all the rail roads I had had any connection with had been eminently successful and proved not only of immense value to the community but good property for the Stock-holders. In their consequences to the State, they were beneficial far beyond anything I had ever imagined and my predictions at the time were considered sufficiently extravagant to be prima facie evidence of partial derangement, by many of my reliable and most estimable friends.

This entire change in my objects of pursuit and my labors of both mind and body, during sixteen or eighteen years, as will be seen, was brought about by an accident, and that, as I supposed at the time, a trifling one. So true it is that human sagacity and foresight is quite unequal to grasping or foreseeing the circumstances and consequences of an event, however small and insignificant it may at the moment seem.

It is a link, it may be the first one in a long chain of Providences, long enough to embrace and control a lifetime, by all known from the beginning, as at the end, by Him, who along can control them, and by whom "all the hairs of our head are numbered."

One of the larger links in this chain must be noticed more particularly, for it seemed to be also the commencement of a new chain.

74 While a Member of the House of Representatives, I formed a very intimate acquaintance with Hon. George Blake, a leading Representative from Boston, and a Rail Road man. In the course of my second year in the House a petition was presented to the Legislature, for an investigation with Free Masonry, and when a motion was made to commit it, it failed. I was sitting next to Blake. I voted for committment, he against. I turned to him and asked "Why not commit it?" His answer was "I would as soon commit murder". As all petitions in respectful times, respectably signed had been committed with exception, I was astounded at such a reply, and immediately suspected that the charge against and explanations and expositions of Masonry that were floating about in the community had truth in them.

75 A motion for re-consideration was made, which the next day came up for consideration, when a member from Randolph, Rev. M. Brigham, a very able close logical reasoner, who was well posted upon the subject, took the floor in favor of reconsideration, and in a manly, candid speech of about an hour gave the character of the Masonic Institution, and the revelations in regard to the murder of Morgan, and the subsequent induct of masons, in Western New York, in such a clear and truthful way as left no doubt on my mind, as to the wickedness of the Institution and its mischievous and dangerous influences upon the welfare of the community, both in regard to the moral and pecuniary, as well as the religious and political rights of parties and churches.

He was heard with the most profound attention and decided effect by the whole House. For my part, I felt that I ought to understand the subject better than I did, and, accordingly, set about examining it in good earnest, and soon became convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the institution was and had long been, one of the most active agencies in the government of State and Nation, in the distribution of political power, and in the decisions of courts and juries, and of course, I felt it my duty to become an open and decided opposer to it.

76 Having decided upon what was right to be done, I, as in accordance with my general course of action in all similar affairs, soon came to the resolution that I would do what I could, and all I could, in opposition to Masonry. Of course, I was soon recognized and known as an earnest and outspoken Anti Mason, assuming a full share of both labor and responsibility as such, and was soon made to feel the full weight of Masonic ire and retribution.

The next Spring, I was nominated at the Anti-masonic convention, as their candidate for Senator, and was also nominated the next day, in the Whig convention, as their candidate to the same office. But, on its being made known in the latter convention, that I had, the day before, been nominated by the Anti-masons and accepted, the Masons were immediately and actively arrayed against me and the nomination was reversed.



77 As I had no desire to go into the Senate, I was not at all disappointed at this result, in the Whig Convention, that being the strongest party in the County and sure to succeed. Believing the Anti-masons to be right, I preferred defeat with them to success with the Whigs, feeling quite sure that they were controlled by the Masons. These transactions marked and fully listed me as Anti masons. Here was another accident, which, at the time, seemed of but little importance; but, in the end, resulted in an important change in my life and affairs, and made a great addition to my load of cares and responsibilities.

I had never any tact or taste for public life or affairs or office, but always had a strong desire for the sweets of private life, and would gladly have spent all the remainder of my life with and for my family. In fact, I had retired from business in Boston some time before mainly for this purpose. But my activity in the Rail Road and Temperance enterprises of the day, had brought me into politics and before the public, and given me an extensive acquaintance with men of influence, and the growing popularity which I neither desired or expected.

78 My Anti-masonic friends insisted upon it that the rightfulness of the enterprise and its necessity and my own convictions gave them a fair claim for all the use they could make of me. This, together with the fact that there was no probability and scarcely a possibility of my election induced me to stand as their candidate for office, of Senator.

Shortly after this election was over, the selection of a candidate of the party for a Member of Congress for the Norfolk District was to be made. Having learned that my own name had been thought and spoken of as a candidate for the office, and having just entered into an engagement with the Boston and Worcester R. Road for a year, I felt that I had no right to be a candidate even, and therefore authorized and directed Capt. Bacon, our delegate to the Convention from Newton to make known to the Convention, in case of my being nominated, that I could in no event, consent to be their candidate. They nominated me, notwithstanding, and the first I knew of it was from a published account of the Convention, a day or two afterward, being, at the time, absent from home.

79 I immediately wrote a declination and sent it to the Boston for publication. A committee headed by B. F. Hallett came out to see me, but I was not at home. They had an interview with me in Boston, when they represented to me that the time was then too short to admit of the call of another Convention, that the party would be greatly injured unless they had a candidate, that there was no possibility of my being elected, it requiring a gain of at least two thousand votes, in the District to elect me, that I could greatly strengthen the party by standing, that I need not reply at all to the nomination, and that, in the eveng of my being elected, I should have liberty to resign, and my letter should then be published: and all that was asked of me was that I should be silent until after election and they would shoulder all the blame.

80 At the first trial, my vote was larger than I or any one else expected and Gov. Dearborn, the Masonic delegate was defeated by a small majority. Another trial was ordered, and meantime, it had leaked out that I would not stand if elected, and my election seemed so near an impossibility, and, being so hardly pressed by my Anti-masonic friends, that I ventured to accept the nomination, and more than a year after, at the ninth trial, I was elected and took my seat as a Member of Congress.

I was then General Agent of the Boston and Worcester Rail Road corporation, but under no obligation to continue with them. They, however, preferred that I should not resign, and I went on to the Rail Road as soon as I returned from Washington.

During the following summer I commenced construction of the Millbury Branch Rail Road, and, the summer afterward, as soon as I returned from Congress, I completed it, and undertook the Bangor and Piscataqua R.R. and continued in Maine, engaged about the rail road, so as to allow me only one day with my family before again leaving for Washington.

While I was away from Congress, my time was divided between these two railroads. Between them and Congress, my mind was soon overwhelmed with cares and the former more than used up.

81 In addition to these, I was while in Congress, without being consulted, elected by the Legislature, a director of the Western R.R. As this had always been a favorite project of mine, I could not very well decline. This, then, was added to my numerous and burdensome cares. The Bangor R.R. turned out a losing concern, and in it I lost \$3,000 besides a great deal of time and flesh. It was the most vexatious affair I ever undertook. In fact, it was rendered far more so to me by the fact that I only had time to assist in the location and making the contracts, before I had to leave for Washington and did not see it again for six months. Our Engineer was inexperienced, having never before undertaken the position of chief engineer, and our chief adviser in Bangor was a reckless and unprincipled speculator, as were most of those with whom we came in contact.

Then, again, the majority of the citizens of Bangor were opposed to the location of the Road and carried on a reckless warfare, not only against the road, but against any who had anything to do with it. They actually commenced and have ever since been threatening the completion of a competing Road which nothing but their poverty prevented.

82 This was at the time of the heat of the speculation which, when it went down, left all kinds of business at a dead stand, which even at this period, (sixteen years) hardly revived.

In 1839 and '40, I had succeeded in delivering myself from several of my most engrossing cares, having been fully sensible of the folly of permitting so many and such weighty responsibilities to be rolled upon me.

I left Congress in 1839, closed up my Agency in the Bangor Road in the main. I had finished the Millbury Branch and had also finished what of the second track of the Worcester R.R. I had undertaken, and stood pledged for only half my time to the Boston and W. R.R.

In 1840, however, I engaged in the Taunton and New Bedford R.R. corporation, two days in each fortnight for about fifteen months, during which time that Road, twenty-one miles was located, contracted, and entirely constructed, at considerably within the time and cost estimated, and has proved to be one of the best and most profitable Roads in New England or the Union.

83 In 1841, I resigned my Agency and Directorship in the B. & W. R.R. and soon after that, of the Bangor also. The Western Road, being at that time, the only one in which I had any particular concern. That, however, took considerable of my time. It was a Herculean task, and one that had great obstacles to contend with and be overcome, beside, such as were presented and forbidding features of the country. It was with the greatest difficulty the money could be raised to carry on the enterprise. The stock ran down to less than half the cost and faith went with it.

Of course, its Directors and Agents had to labor against a strong tide of unpopularity, so that, at the last election before its completion, we did but barely hold our office till we could work out the completion of the Road. This was accomplished in 1844, the success of the Road was made certain and its stock rose to par, and of course the unpopularity of the Directors passed away.

84 In February, 1846, the stock had risen ten percent above par, when Col Bliss, the President, and myself, who had been laboring on through good report and evil many years, and also Mr. George Pratt and Edward Austin, who had condially and manfully sustained us in our hour of trial, withdrew, and all resigned our places on the Board.

The control of the Road, consequently, passed into the hands of a new Board with a new President, Secretary, etc. under whose auspices, and notwithstanding an increase of business, the Stock went down to Par, where it has ever since been, although it has uniformly until the present year, yielded eight per cent per annum dividend; beside more than one carried into the sinking fund.

85 No enterprise or measure any time, during my life, has engrossed so much of my thoughts and desires, time and labor, as the R.R. from Boston to Albany, which although carried out and accomplished by two Corporations, as two distinct and separate enterprises, was by me always felt and viewed as one, and even now I continue to entertain the hope and expectation that true wisdom will yet rule in the matter and prejudice be so far conquered, that these two roads may yet have but one charter, be but one interest and under the control of but one head.

The interests of the Stockholders in both Rail Roads imperiously require it to be so, as also do the Commonwealth and the whole community all the way from Boston to Albany, which though carried out by two corporations as distinct and separate enterprises belonged together.

During the last year of my Directorship, I became satisfied that there was some danger that our through business would be interfered with by competition, which would succeed in drawing it away from us or in reducing freight to a price which would afford no nett income, and consequently the reliable business for future income might be limited in the main, to way freight.

86 Obviously, therefore, a sound policy required that that should be carefully nursed and all suitable measures taken for the increase of that part of the business. It was equally obvious that the amount of through business on this road, as well as way business, must depend on the amount of Western produce wanted for consumption at home rather than on the ability of the West to produce. That Western produce

under ordinary circumstances, would never be brought to Boston, to any great extent for exportation, while the actual cost of moving it over the rail-road from Albany to Boston must be three or four times as by tow boats down the Hudson to New York.

I, therefore, was particularly desirous of seeing a branch road from Palmer to New London, from Worcester to Nashua and from Worcester to Providence. The latter I considered the most important of the three. Accordingly, I set about a survey and estimate of that Road, in 1845, and for a year or two spent considerable time and made what efforts I could to create in Providence, Worcester, and on the line of the Road, a public sentiment in favor of the enterprise, there being a large population and business in the Blackstone valley and at Providence, all which would become way business to the Western Road.

87 At the time when we undertook to get this stock taken up, it was not my intention ever again to take an Agency in the construction of a Rail Road. But, feeling its importance to the estern, finding that subscriptions for Stock came in slowly (not a quarter enough being subscribed) in the first six months) and being assured by some of the ardent friends of the Road that it would aid the subscriptions, if I would take its general Agency for Massachusetts, I concluded to do so, and gave, for a long time, my whole attention and time to the work.

The Road was completed in 1847, and has, since that time been in active operation and wholly successful. It has added largely to the business of the Western Road, still more largely to the value of the property in the Blackstone Valley and to the value of Providence property and business alone more than the entire cost of the Road. As my last effort in this line it afforded me a very pleasant theme of reflections.

Another enterprise which for a time occupied a large share of my time, was the laying out into house lots about fourteen acres of the land I inherited from my father. In ten days after I turned my attention to the subject of rail-roads, I was convinced, that the effect of the construction of that from Boston to Albany would add greatly to the value of the real estate through which it would pass.

88 In the first lecture that I prepared on the subject, one of the consequences which I predicted was, that it would increase the value of real estate in Boston to a greater amount than the whole cost of the Road; and of the towns through which it passed to an equal amount.

This I believed, but was not very successful in making others believe in. Indeed, most of them were inclined to pity my delusion. Accordingly, as soon as my Congress and rail-road cares began to lighten, I set about a train of measures for demonstrating and devloping what I felt sure was the first fact: viz. that the land in the vicinity of the Rail-Road in Newton had been increased in value three or four hundred per cent.

89 My first effort was as a Director of the B. & W. R.R. at its board. I had seen the land in Roxbury, Brookline, Cambridge, and Charlestown raised in value to a greater extent than three or four hundred percent <sup>by</sup> of the lines of omnibuses that connected them with Boston and brought Boston men who resided there, practically nearer their business in Boston than many of them, who actually resided within the city limits. Because the omnibus ran three miles in the time it would take a man

to walk one, of course with more ease and entire protection from bad weather.

From this practical illustration, I was convinced that if the cars could take passengers eight or ten miles in the same time, that the omnibus carried them there, and the foot passengers could go one, that Boston men would be practically as near their places of business at Newton as at Roxbury or on the outskirts of Boston itself; and that a residence for such men would, in time, be found equally valuable to all.

I was aware that the Rail-road had been open several years without this result. The reason of this, to my mind, was quite obvious. The trains were run but twice a day in winter and three in summer, whereas the omnibus ran every hour and met the wants of business men. What we needed, and what I earnestly worked for, was a special train from Newton to Boston with which to multiply our daily chances in coming from or going to Boston.

This train was put on in the summer of 1844, as an experiment. I watched it, of course, with much interest. In three months, I saw enough to convince me that it would be profitable to the Corporation to run it, and, therefore, that the arrangement would be permanent and might be relied upon.

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Upon the strength of this conviction, I laid out Brigg's Place (named in honor of Gov. Briggs, an intimate and much valued friend of mine for many years) the name of which has since been changed to Walnut Park, and put a heavy outlay upon it, in the way of roads, fences and trees. When I had finished my improvements and put the entire place into such divisions and such order as I intended should be permanent, and as it now remains, I advertised it for sale in house lots, at auction, in all the Boston papers for three weeks successively. I wrote puffing articles in relation to it over different signatures, brought out several of my friends to examine and admire and enjoined them to write similar articles.

During the week before the sale, I had a plan of the whole lithographed, struck off and distributed two hundred of them, by all which means, I got out to my auction in a pleasant afternoon in May, more than two hundred Boston business men and sold about two thirds of all the lots at five times as much as the same land would have been appriased at, one year before this time. This was the first time that land had been sold by the foot in Newton. This thoroughly broke the ice, and raised the value of every foot of land within half a mile of the Newton depot, at least in the estimation of its owner, as much as one or two hundred per cent.

91

I was aware it would not do to stop extra efforts here. Many of the lots were brought to hold on speculation, and several were bid off by my friends for me. Of course, unless some houses were to go up in these lots, it would not be believed that the sales were real and the whole thing would fall back and be failure. Accordingly, I loaned to several individuals, half enough money to build a house, taking a mortgage for security with three years to run for the money and whole of the land. In this way, in the course of a year, several houses went up, a neighborhood was formed, and "Brigg's Place" had become a Place of no little notoriety and all the other lots were taken at private sale at as good or better price than at the auction.

92 - So entirely confident was I in my premises, and in the ultimate success of my enterprise, that before I sold or even offered for sale a lot, I bought sixteen acres of land which joined me on the north, for one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acres, on which I had, in my own mind, made a plan of Waban Place, and if any other person but that apology for a man, Andrew J. Allen had owned the sixteen acres of land immediately north of Waban Place, I should have had that also, or he would have joined in a plan, that should embrace both estates: as it was then, so it is now with the exception of two houses and a few shanties, a scrubby ragged pasture.

In 1846, I laid out Waban Place and commenced selling the lots, and, in about three years I completed the sale of all the lots in both Waban and Brigg's Places, and both were soon covered with houses, nearly all of which are now owned by gentlemen who occupy them: and they are, undoubtedly, among the most eligible and pleasant localities for family residences, that are to be found in the vicinity of Boston.

93 In 1848, a company was formed consisting of twelve persons and nineteen shares for the improvement of Auburndale. This Company bought one hundred and eighty acres of land and Timothy and myself were appointed to cut it up into house lots, make streets, etc. This Company sold out all its lots and dissolved in 1852. They made a good gain by it, but not as good as I had, alone, done with my two places.

During all these twenty years that I was engaged in so many various responsible undertakings, I continued, my old business of candle manufacturing. In ~~1842~~, 1832, I formed a partnership with my son Timothy and Mr. Otis Trowbridge and gave the charge of the business to them. It did not, however, succeed well. When I returned from Congress, I found, in a careful examination into the affairs of the concern, that considerable money had been lost. We therefore dissolved and I again commenced the business on my own and sole account and since then I have conducted a business on my own and sole account, and it has afforded a sufficient income to support my family, pay its yearly expenses and make an addition of about \$1,000 per annum to my property.

94 For the last four or five years, I have engaged in no other business than that of my factory, except that of getting up and taking the laboring oar of the Newton Bank. This has, during that time, occupied about two hours of my time daily. In fact, my time has been divided equally between my factory, bank and land for the last three years, all which has not engrossed me so much but that I have had considerable leisure, far more than for any other period during the twenty years.

And it is quite time that it should be so, for my system is beginning to work slower and stiffer, and having now entered upon my seventieth year, I have no right to expect it to work otherwise.

Ever since the years 1828, '29 and '30 when I was in the Legislature, I have, in addition to my other cares been quite too much interested and had quite too much to do in politics, as the world around me has chosen to designate it, although I have not in all this time belonged to either of the two great parties, which have in the main divided the nation.

95 My preference between these parties, so far as their general political rule of action has been concerned, has always been with that party first known as the Federalists, then National Republicans, and afterwards and now as the Whigs. I have always believed that both the United States and State constitution were meant to be and are strictly and truly Republican, the object and intention of the framers of both being, to secure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to all the people; and believing that no such thing as liberty can be enjoyed when an equality of right is not secured and enjoyed by all, I have set my face and intend to keep it set against every combination of men whose aim and object is the abridgement of this equality of right.

96 Hence, when I became satisfied that there was a combination of men among us called "Free Masons" who were banded together by sacred oaths and obligations to favor each other in preference to all others, right or wrong, in securing the offices of honor and emolument, and in trials of Jury both civil and criminal, I saw that the principle of equality, the corner-stone of all our liberties was impaired, and in a fair way to be overthrown altogether.

The moment it came to be investigated, it was found that at least three out of four of all the office holders, whether Whig or Democrat, were Masons. There was no other way of correcting this evil, but that of refusing to vote for any but Anti-Masons. I, at my second election to Congress, was sustained by both Whig and Anti-mason parties and was, of course, elected by a very large majority.

97 While in Congress, I became familiar with the movements of another power which, so far as the equal rights of the states and Union were concerned, was a far more dangerous one than that of Masonry. I became one of its determined opponents. As this evil spirit was everywhere mingled with the Whig power and controlled its movements (although less absolutely and entirely than it did those of the other party) and as I had determined to stand against it whenever I met it, I was not infrequently acting against the Whig party, of course offending them and only reliable for them, when they were acting out in good faith their constant professions of opposition to Slavery, which was far enough from being their constant practise, in their best days, and which has long since been abandoned by them (as I long ago suspected it would be) so that devotion to Slavery and wholesale support of slave holding usurpation has now become the only received evidence of orthodox Whiggery.

With these feelings and this rule of political action, I, with many others who were actuated by similar principles, withheld our votes from all candidates who would not openly pledge themselves to resist the usurpation of slave holders in the Government of the Nation. When these pledges came to be violated, there was no alternation left, but unconditional surrender to Slavery, or the formation of a new party, which could be relied upon for Liberty and equal rights.

98 Such a party was formed and called the Liberty Party. I became an active member in it. I was their first Candidate for Governor, and for several years, for either Governor or Lieutenant Governor, Member of Congress, etc. etc. always attending their Conventions both State and National, wherever they were held; and in fact spending too much time, strength and money "for that which was not bread."

At the formation of the Free Soil Party, in 1848, the Liberty Party was merged in it, calling for and obtaining quite as much of my sympathy and labor as the other.

In 1840, it became indispensibly necessary to establish a daily newspaper devoted to the support of the Free Soil principles in Boston. For its formation \$20,000 was necessary. The name of the paper was The Boston Telegraph. For this purpose it required a strenuous effort. I became one of its Trustees and Treasurer. This proved a far more burdensome affair and involved far more responsibility than I expected, and for some months, occupied half my time, and was a source of great anxiety and trouble to me.

99 At this time, too, I began to feel symptoms of derangement of the organs of the heart, the action of my pulse became irregular and I experienced trouble in breathing, especially when too active or too much excited. On counting up "the days of my years" and finding myself in the neighborhood of "three score years and ten" I felt that there was nothing mysterious in the fact that some of my organic machinery was out of repair, and working with too much friction to work or give any rational expectation of "working on" and "working ever", and that true wisdom imperiously demanded that both my load and speed should be diminished. But how to unload was the question.

My own business I could not give up, for it alone furnished the means whereby I and my numerous family lived. I could not suddenly back out and leave the cause I had loved and labored for so long and so earnestly without injuring it and begetting a suspicion that I had lost my interest in it. To get over these difficulties with a tolerable grace, I determined to cross the Atlantic, and spend a few months in Europe, and thus get clear of my cares.

100 I accordingly left in June, 1850, and landed in Liverpool, eleven days after starting, and in six weeks had travelled over Ireland, Scotland and England, spending eleven days in London. We then crossed the channel from Southampton to Havre, and passed by way of Rouen to Paris, where I spent one week.

From thence I went to Geneva, Lausanne, Basle, Berne - to Strasbourg, sailed down the Rhine into Germany and Prussia, stopping a short time at Mayence. From thence through Belgium, stopping one day in Brussels and re-crossed the Channel from Boulogne to Dover and by way of London to Liverpool and from thence returned to Boston by the same steamer I went out in, glad to be home again.

Since which time, I have kept clear of all but family and business cares, except those which the position of President of the Newton Bank demanded. This has been one of my pets since its foundation in 1844. As soon as the accommodation trains were established, I felt that this part of Newton was to be a very desirable place of residence.

101 For this we needed a Public Free School in as good a House and with as good teachers as any other village within half a dozen miles of Boston. We also needed a Meeting House, in which the Gospel should be faithfully preached, where a Sabbath-loving community might assemble every seventh day, and where a Sabbath School might be gathered and be cared for, which, altogether might form a nucleus, around which a good and prosperous community might be attracted and held in the best of bonds.



A Bank also was needed. A young man, born in New England, educated and growing up through such a community and Sabbath School, and sitting under such preaching will hardly fail to be industrious and enterprising. But he cannot make the most of his industry and enterprise without the aid of the older and wealthier part of any such community neither can the older or wealthier do without the co-operation of the young and vigorous. A Bank, properly conducted will prove a daysman between these two classes with mutual profit. The young man's vigour must help the old man's prosperity and "visa versa".

102

The Bank is the best instrumentality that has yet been devised for this mutual benefit. It also cares for the money of Widows and Orphans and makes the most of it. Hence, from the first a Bank, as well as a Church and School House was a leading object with me and has had much of my time and attention.

And now, what wait I for? The Word of God, the Providence of God, and my own decaying faculties, all unite to admonish me that it is not for the projection or accomplishment of any new worldly object, either for myself or others. I have reached to within a few months of "three score years and ten" the allotted age of man, during all which time, with but two short intervals, God has given me health with a full share of strength and mental activity; and, I am constrained to acknowledge, that my work on earth ought to be done, my face set toward that other and better world, which should always have been my first and most earnest object, all through this. Certain I am, that it is too late for me to assume new responsibilities or be ambitious for any further distinctions among men.

End

104           Father continued in his usual health and vigor of body and mind until November 1854, when business called him to New York City. Then, he was very ill for three or four days with his daughter, Mrs. Lewis Tappan; the effect of eating oysters, at Springfield, which has poisoned him.

As soon as possible, he returned home, and was confined to the house for a week or ten days, the poison settling in one limb which was never entirely restored. This illness gave the death blow to his constitution, he continued, however, to attend to his affairs until January, 1855, he took a severe cold at the funeral of his son-in-law, Charles A. Curtis, which continued to increase, developing the disease of the heart rapidly until Jan. 22nd, after a critical examination by Drs. Bowditch of Boston and Dr. Bigelow he submitted to their advice and confined himself to his chamber. He never again left it alone. He grew steadily worse till February 26th at twenty minutes before five in the morning his Spirit soared to its Heavenly home.

105           On Friday afternoon, March 2nd, his body was carried to its last resting place in the old burying ground, followed by a large number of truly mourning relatives and friends.

The Eliot Church (which he had taken so large a part in rearing and sustaining) where the funeral services were held, was draped in black and filled to overflowing. The Rev. Mr. Bushnell (by father's request) preached the sermon, and Rev. Mr. Barstow and Rev. Dr. Beecher performed the other ceremonies. The chancel was filled with ministers (he was ever the minister's friend) and they mourned his loss as such. Not only ministers of his own belief, but of others: his largeness of heart, banishing all petty sectarian prejudices.

But if those who knew him slightly esteemed and loved him, where shall a daughter's praise cease? I will only add some of the many kind notices which were taken of his decease.

ELLEN DORINDA JACKSON

The Bank Offices held a meeting March 2nd. Hon. Levi Thaxter of Watertown in the Chair and passed resolutions expressing their appreciation of the late President and sympathy for his family.

106           A meeting of the Citizens of Newton was held. Mr. Otis Trowbridge in the chair and many feeling resolutions were passed.

A meeting of the Brethren of Eliot Church was held, Feb. 28th., Mr. J. N. Bacon in the chair and passed eight resolutions expressing much feeling.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Missionary Association, of which the Hon. William Jackson had been President, the first eight years of its existance, resolutions expressing their loss and that of his family were passed and a copy sent to the family.

Also a very long obituary notice appeared in the "American Missionary" published in New York.

Obituary notices also appeared in the "Boston Daily Advertiser", the "Boston Traveller" the "Dedham Gazette", the Telegraph closing with the verse

"Servant of God well done!  
Rest from thy loved employ:  
The battle fought, the victory won,  
Enter thy Master's joy."

An appreciation obituary also appeared in the "Newark Advertiser" accompanied by a poem of B. Ruth Plumly.

I will also add some verses written by his life-long friend, who was so attentive to him, when he had his broken leg, when a boy. Nabby Hyde, now Mrs. Nathan Hastings of Cincinnati.

"When the last sigh is heard and the spirit departs  
And we stand round the form bathed in tears,  
While the embers of memory are stirred, and send forth  
Sparks, which have slumbered for years.

If naught that is painful comes home to the mind  
On a close retrospect of the past,  
If, in joy and in sorrow, we have ever been kind,  
And shown forth our love to the las-,

O grieve not, or weep not, that the Spirit is freed,  
But, may we not hope that it still lingers near  
To love us, to guard us, to guide us, while here."