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ADDRESSES

DELIVERED AT

Groton, Massachusetts,

JULY 12, 1905,

BY REQUEST OF THE CITIZENS,

ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE

Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary

OF

ITS SETTLEMENT.

GROTON,
1905.

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To the Memory

of

The Early Settlers of Groton,

to whom in many ways the present inhabitants
owe so much, these pages are
inscribed.

Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary.

The committee appointed at a Town Meeting held November 8, 1904, to consider the matter of the town holding a celebration in the year 1905, to commemorate the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the incorporation of the town, respectfully submit the following report :

1. The town hold a celebration on some one day during the last week of June 1905.

2. We recommend that at this meeting the town raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars for the purpose of said celebration.

3. We recommend that a committee of arrangements, to consist of five persons, be appointed by the moderator of this meeting, subject to the approval of the town, which committee shall have full power to make and carry out all necessary arrangements of said celebration, this authority to include the right to approve bills for expenses of the same, up to the amount of the appropriation that the town may make, the payment of said bills to be by order of the Selectmen.

4. We recommend substantially the following program :

a An historical address in the morning in the First Parish Meeting House.

b A dinner followed by speeches and music.

c A barge ride in the afternoon to give an opportunity for persons who have not been in town recently to see the changes that have taken place.

d A social gathering in the Town Hall in the evening with such entertainment as the committee of arrangements shall think best to provide.

FRANCIS M. BOUTWELL,
MOSES P. PALMER,
THOMAS L. MOTLEY,
CHARLES BIXBY,
GEORGE M. HOWE.

Groton, April 3, 1905.

At a meeting of the committee, Dr. Samuel A. Green was invited to give the address.

General William A. Bancroft was invited to be President of the day. Both accepted.

It was decided to have the dinner in a tent which was pitched on Shumway Field by the permission of the Trustees of the Lawrence Academy and the address in the Town Hall.

COMMITTEE ON INVITATION.

Col. Thomas L. Motley, Mrs. Daniel Needham, Mr. and Mrs. F. Lawrence Blood, Miss Marion Needham, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Lawrence.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Zara Patch,
Milo H. Shattuck,
Charles Woolley,
James Lawrence,
Amory A. Lawrence,
Samuel P. Williams,
George H. Bixby,
Joseph B. Raddin,
William F. Wharton,
John H. Manning,
John H. Robbins,
John W. Parker,
John Gilson,
Dr. John G. Park,
John Lawrence,
William A. Lawrence,
Charles Lawrence,
Herbert C. Rockwood,
Frank L. Blood,
Charles E. Bigelow,
H. H. C. Bingham,
Michael Sheedy, Jr.

Prayer by Rev. Pemberton H. Cressey.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that this land, once covered with unbroken forests, is now marked by the fertile farms and the happy homes of men. We thank Thee for the wealth of our inheritance in light and air, and for all the helpful surroundings in this fair region. We thank Thee for the faith which led our fathers to cross the ocean, and for the patience and fortitude which enabled them to establish their freedom in spite of every hardship, and we pray that we of later day may face with equal prowess the difficulties of our day, and thus preserve undiminished that freedom of soul which is our highest inheritance. We pray for our Commonwealth, and for the mighty nation of which we form a part. Give to the servants of the people who are in high places of responsibility such wisdom and devotion as will enable them properly to administer the affairs of public welfare. More and more may honor and love abound in the lives of individuals, of families, and of nations, until all Thy children upon the earth shall emerge out of the darkness of superstition and sin into the light of righteousness and truth. Amen.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

BY

MR. FRANCIS M. BOUTWELL.

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is now my pleasure to extend to you all, on behalf of the Town of Groton, a cordial welcome to this birthday gathering. There are, no doubt, many present who have not been here for many years, who long ago lived in Groton, and others who attended school here in the days gone by. And it may be that there are some here who never visited the town before, but to whom its soil seems sacred because it was the home of their ancestors.

We hope that you will feel that this is not only an anniversary occasion, but that it is a real old home day. We are all here together, all in the old home.

It is now my pleasure to present, as president of the day, a gentleman who needs no introduction in his native town,—

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM A. BANCROFT.

Mr. Chairman, Friends and Neighbors: By the determination of the citizens of the Town of Groton, in town meeting assembled, we are met to commemorate the anniversary of the settlement of this town by white men. We are met also in response to a natural desire to pay tribute to our ancestors and predecessors, and to review the occupation of these fields by them and their descendants for two centuries and a half. They chose a spot of surpassing loveliness, in

the midst of a region whose beauty has ever delighted the eye, and whose fertile soil compares well with any in New England. Theirs were the rugged virtues and theirs was a life of hardship and peril. A God-fearing race, they had assured themselves that their future life was secure, and may it not be that the rigor of their life here was softened by the charm of their environment? Wont as they were to solace themselves with the prospect of happiness in the world to come, perhaps they were not altogether unconscious of the prospect of earthly splendor which unfolded itself from these rounded summits with its glory of sky and valley, of mountain and river, of forest and lakelet,—our possession today, as it was theirs of long ago. And what a race of men succeeded Deane Winthrop and his companions! With hand and brain together they wrought—industrious and sagacious—in their persons, the laborer and the capitalist united, the ideal state of man. Through their exertion the earth yielded its increase and the landscape grew fairer. Of what a number of superior individuals, too, has this town been the birthplace or the abiding-place! Among them have been two United States Senators; two Cabinet Officers; three Governors of states; one Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to England; eleven Congressmen; two Attorney Generals of States; three Justices of Supreme Courts of States or of a United States Court; three Justices of the Superior Courts of States; two Speakers of the Massachusetts House; besides many holding other public offices of dignity, and many eminent in the professions and in affairs, both in war and in peace. I may not speak the names of all, but three I should like to speak, not meaning to discriminate,—indeed, without mention of these names in their respective centuries, the history of our Country cannot be written:—Major Simon Willard in the Seventeenth Century; Colonel William Prescott in the Eighteenth, and Governor Boutwell in the Nineteenth. If the spirits of the illustrious dead hover about the abodes of their mortal bodies and share the interests of the living, what a company is gathered here! What feelings of pride rightfully invade our breasts when

reflection reveals the associations that are ours! Small must be the soul and narrow the brain in which the story of our town cannot arouse the ennobling emotions which generous natures always feel in the contemplation of worthy manhood and womanhood. But besides the feeling of pride which is justly ours, we are entitled also to show that other emotion which in all ages has been regarded as creditable to mankind. We cannot, and we need not, restrain our demonstrations of affection for the town of our birth or of our choice. What delightful sensations recur again and again as the hallowed memories come back? What friendships! What glowing scenes! What happy hours! But I must not pursue these pleasurable reflections further.

There is one among us, born in the town, of its best lineage, and of which he has never ceased to be an inhabtant, whose services to the town surpass those of all others, no matter how great. Not only is the present generation his debtor, but succeeding generations for all time must be also. It would seem that everything in existence, every conceivable record, every printed or written document, every scrap of information concerning the town, from 1655 until today, his indefatigable industry has procured and preserved in the most imperishable form known to man. I do not know how many volumes relating to Groton he has published, but probably no community of its size, situation and age, since the world was made, ever had such priceless treasure, in such abundance, bestowed upon it. I make no mention of his other services and his other titles to distinction, numerous and important though they be. Today we recognize his highest claim to our respect and gratitude, and I present to you to speak our feelings from the fullness of his knowledge, the devoted lover of the town, the tireless recorder of its history, our orator, the

HONORABLE SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN.

After this complimentary and flattering introduction by your president, I scarcely know who I am, or how to begin, or what to say. I thank him, and I thank you for your warm reception of me.

I will say, in passing, that last year, in summer, I went to Groton, England, and got eight elm trees, trees perhaps five or six feet in height, and some acorns and some beech nuts. The trees were set out this spring, and probably not more than three of the elm trees will live, but of the acorns there are ten or twelve that have come up, and of the beech nuts three or four at least. At some future day, when they are large enough, I shall have them placed in some public grounds belonging to the town.

There are six other towns besides this town in the United States that bear the name of Groton. Of these six towns, I have visited five, and there is only one that I have not seen, and that is in the State of South Dakota. At some future day I will visit that place also, and if I chance to be present fifty years hence, I will certainly give an account of that township as well.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

BY

SAMUEL ABBOTT GREEN

On this interesting occasion we all miss the presence of one whose form and figure were familiar to every man, woman, and child in town; and only a few months ago we were all looking forward to the time when he would take a prominent part in these exercises of to-day. Some of us remember the Bi-centennial Celebration which took place a half-century ago, and a few of us now in this assembly were present at that gathering. We recall the grace and dignity with which he, as President of the day, performed the duties of his office, both in the meeting-house where the historical address was given, and in the tent where the after-dinner speeches were made. Whenever or wherever his services were needed, whether in the councils of the State or of the nation, they were always cheerfully rendered; and in this quiet village his aid and advice, often sought by his townsfolk, were always freely given. In many walks of life, both lofty and lowly, his absence will be keenly felt; but here among his old-time neighbors more than elsewhere, the loss is a personal one, and comes home to us all. We miss him now at this time more than words can tell. When death strikes such a man, who has led a blameless life, and whose bodily frame has become enfeebled by the infirmities of age, his removal is not a cause for sorrow; but rather it is an occasion for devout gratitude to Heaven and for heartfelt thanksgivings that he was spared to us during so many years. The noble example of such a one is as lasting as the countless ages of time, and is never lost, for the continuity of life keeps up the thread of connection. He died at an advanced age in the fulness of

all his mental and intellectual powers, which seemed to strengthen as the years rolled by. Truly he was the Grand Old Man of the Commonwealth! As long as the town of Groton shall have a municipal existence, the memory and traditions connected with the name of Boutwell will be counted among her richest treasures.

The story of this town has been told so many times, both in printed book and public address, that now I shall not repeat the tale. I might give a narrative of the trials and hardships, suffered equally by brave men and resolute women, during the first century of the settlement; I might tell how the town was attacked by the Indians and burnt, and how the inhabitants were driven away from their homes and compelled for a while to abandon the place; how on various occasions men were killed by the savages, families broken up, and children carried off into captivity; and how oftentimes from the failure of crops they were pinched by want; and how they endured other privations,—but a relation of these facts at this time would be as tedious as a twice-told tale. Instead of describing the sad and dreadful experiences of the early settlers, and the destruction of their homes by fire and hideous ruin, I shall confine myself to other topics, and speak of some of the conditions of their day, bringing the account down to a later period, and touching on a few of the more important events in our local history.

In early Colonial days a town did not become a municipal corporation by formal vote of the General Court, with power to act as one person, but a grant of land, sometimes containing many thousand acres, was made to a body of men under certain conditions, which was practically a *quasi* form of incorporation. The most important of these conditions was the speedy settlement of a Godly minister, and often another condition was that those persons who received land should build houses thereon within a stated period of time. Sometimes a board of selectmen was named by the Legislature, who should look after the prudential affairs of the town until their successors were chosen. In those days this course was substantially the only formality needed in order to give local

self-government to a new community. The term "prudential affairs" was a convenient expression, intended to cover anything required by a town which prudence would dictate.

In the early records of the Colony the proceedings of the General Court, as a rule, were not dated day by day,—though there are many exceptions,—but the beginning of the sessions is always given, and occasionally the days of the month was entered. These dates in the printed edition of the Records are frequently carried along without authority, sometimes covering a period of several days, or even a week or more ; and for this reason often it is impossible to tell the exact date of any particular legislation when there are no contemporaneous documents on file which bear on the subject. In some instances papers are found among the State Archives or elsewhere, which fix the date of such legislation that is wanting in the official records.

For these reasons it is impossible to tell to a dot or a day, with entire certainty, when the town of Groton began its municipal life or official existence,—or, in other words, when it was "incorporated," as the modern expression is. Without any doubt the date was near the end of May, 1655, Old Style. It must have been after May 23, as on that day the General Court began its session ; and it was before May 29, when the next entry in the records appears. Fortunately there is still preserved among the manuscripts of the New England Historic Genealogical Society a contemporary record of the action of the General Court in regard to the matter. This interesting old paper, officially attested by Edward Rawson, Secretary of the Colony, and by William Torrey, Clerk of the Deputies, was given to that Society by the late Charles Woolley, for many years an honored resident of Groton. This document was signed on May 25, the day when the Assistants, or Magistrates as they are often called, granted the petition, and apparently at the same time the House of Deputies took concurrent action. At that period the Assistants formed the body of law-makers which is known to-day as the State Senate ; and at that time the House of Deputies corresponded to the present House of Representatives.

It may be proper to add that the Groton Historical Society owns a contemporaneous copy of the record made near the time of the Grant by Edward Rawson, Secretary of the Colony, which is dated May 23, 1655. It was found among the papers of the late John Boynton, a former town-clerk of Groton, and may have been sent, soon after the settlement of the town, to the selectmen for their information and guidance. Perhaps the Secretary took the first day of the General Court, as in England before April 8, 1793, all laws passed at a session of Parliament went into effect from the first day, unless there was some enactment to the contrary.

But whatever the date, be it a few days more or less, the substance is always of greater importance than the shadow ; so it is of less moment to learn of the exact time of the order than it is to know that the town has now reached the ripe old age of two centuries and a half, and that she wears the dignity of her increasing years like a crown of glory.

Besides Groton the only two other towns established in the year 1655 by the Colony of Massachusetts Bay were Billerica and Chelmsford ; and singularly enough all three were contiguous townships, all lying in the same county, and all three "incorporated" within a very few days of each other. It should be borne in mind that originally the town of Westford was a part of the territory of Chelmsford. Why these three adjoining towns were thus created at this particular time may not have been a mere coincidence. It may have been the result of a certain condition of political *ins* and *outs* at that early period of Colonial history which now cannot be explained.

The Charter, duly given by Charles I., was abrogated by the English courts in the summer of 1684. The action wa considered by the Colonists as little short of a gross outrage, and caused much confusion in public affairs as well as hard feeling among the people. Says Palfrey, in his "History of New England" (IV. 5), "The charter of Massachusetts, the only unquestionable title of her citizens to any rights, proprietary, social, or political, had been vacated by regular process in the English courts." It was vacated by a decree in Chan-

cery, on June 21, 1684, which was confirmed on October 23 of the same year. On May 25, 1686, Joseph Dudley, a native of Roxbury, under a commission from King James II. became President of New England, with jurisdiction over the whole region. This office he held for seven months, until December 30, when Edmund Andros became Governor of New England, appointed by James II. He proved to be a highly arbitrary officer, and was deposed by a revolution of the people, on April 18, 1689. Andros was followed by Simon Bradstreet, who was Governor from May 24, 1689, to May 14, 1692. He was the grandfather of Dudley Bradstreet, an early minister of this town, which gives an additional interest to his name at this time. During this period another Charter, signed by William and Mary, on October 7, 1691, and now known as the Second Charter, became operative. Under this instrument the Colony was made a Province, which is a lower grade of political existence, as it has fewer privileges and more restrictions as to the rights of the people. From June, 1684, when the first Charter was vacated, till May, 1692, when the Second Charter went into operation, the time is generally spoken of as the Inter-Charter period, and is an exceptional one in the history of Massachusetts and New England.

The first settlers of the town came here less than one generation after the Colonial Charter of Massachusetts-Bay was granted by Charles I. They represented a rugged race, willing to undergo hardships in daily life, and expecting to meet danger from many sources. Under adverse conditions they pushed into the wilderness and made their homes in a region little known to the white man. They were a brave band, and took their trials and troubles with a readiness worthy of all praise. The new township lay on the frontiers, and all beyond was a desolate wild. It stood on the outer edge of civilization, and for a time served as a barrier against Indian attacks on the inlying settlements. The lot of a frontiersman, even under favorable conditions, is never a happy one, but at that period, particularly when cut off from neighbors and deprived of all social and commercial intercourse with other towns, and in an age when newspapers and postal privi-

leges were unknown, his lot was indeed hard. In after-years this experience told on the settlers to their credit and benefit and made the bold character that cropped out in later generations when there was need of such stuff. The laws of heredity are not well enough known for us to trace closely *cause* and *effect*; but the lives led by the early pioneers of the Colony had their fruitage in the wars of the next century. These laws work in a subtle and mysterious way and cannot be defined, but the hardships of one generation toughen the fiber of the next. Given a strong body and a high standard of morality, and the offspring will show the inherited traits. Every farmer in this town knows that a strain of blood and breed will tell on his domestic stock. As flowers, by a process not revealed to us, select the tint of delicate colors from the swampy bogs of nature, so the toils of life weave the warp and the woof which make up noble character. "The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together."

It was once wittily said by a writer,—so distinguished in his day that I hardly know whether to speak of him as a poet or a physician, but whom all will recognize as the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table,—that a man's education begins a hundred years before he is born. I am almost tempted to add that even then he is putting on only the finishing touches of his training. A man is a composite being, both in body and soul, with a long line of ancestry whose beginnings it is impossible to trace; and every succeeding generation only helps to foster and weld together the various and innumerable qualities which make up his own personality, though they be modified by countless circumstances that form his later education, and for which he alone is responsible.

The first comers to Massachusetts brought from their English homes a love of personal freedom and liberty. For generations this feeling had not been encouraged there by the royal authorities; and its growth, hampered by many obstacles, had been slow. These settlers were a hard-working set and a God-fearing people, and of the right stock to found a nation. Here the new conditions enabled them to give free scope to their actions, and the natural drift of events was all

toward individual independence in its widest sense. There was no law against conventicles or non-conformists, and for that period of time there was great liberality of sentiment on the part of the Colonists. For centuries the microbic atoms of independence had been kept alive in England, and from one generation to another they handed down the germs which developed in the new world, and bore fruit in the American Revolution. From the time of King John, who, on June 15, 1215, signed the Great Charter of the Liberties of England, the recognition of human rights was advancing in the mother country slowly but steadily; and the new settlers, infected with similar ideas, brought with them the spirit of these political principles. The development of broad views was gradual, but on every advance the wheels were blocked behind, and the gain was held. Each separate step thus taken led finally to the Declaration of Independence, which was the culmination of political freedom. Based on this instrument, and following closely both in spirit and in point of time, was the written Constitution of the United States, which has served as a model for so many different governments.

Less than one generation passed between the time when the Charter of Charles I. was given to the Colony of Massachusetts Bay and the date when the grant of Groton Plantation was made by the General Court. The Charter was given on March 4, 1628-9, and the grant of the town was made in May, 1655,—the interval being a little more than twenty-six years. At that period scarcely anything was known about the geography of the region, and the Charter gave to the Governor and other representatives of the Massachusetts Company, on certain conditions, all the territory lying between an easterly and westerly line running three miles north of any part of the Merrimack River and extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, and a similar parallel line running three miles south of any part of the Charles River. Without attempting to trace in detail, from the time of the Cabots to the days of the Charter, the continuity of the English title to this transcontinental strip of territory, it is enough to know that the precedents and usages of that period gave to Great

Britain, in theory at least, undisputed sway over the region, and forged every link in the chain of authority and sovereignty.

At the time of the Charter it was incorrectly supposed that America was a narrow strip of land, — perhaps an arm of the continent of Asia, — and that the distance across from ocean to ocean was comparatively short. It was then known that the Isthmus of Darien was narrow, and it was therefore thought that the whole continent also was narrow. New England was a region about which little was known beyond slight examinations made from the coast line. The rivers were unexplored, and all knowledge concerning them was confined to the neighborhood of the places where they emptied into the sea. The early navigators thought that the general course of the Merrimack was easterly and westerly, as it runs in that direction near the mouth; and their error was perpetuated inferentially by the words of the Charter. By later explorations this strip of territory has since been lengthened out into a belt three thousand miles long, and stretches across the whole width of the continent. The cities of Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Detroit, and Milwaukee all lie within this zone, on territory that once belonged to the Massachusetts Company, according to the Charter granted by King Charles.

The general course of the Merrimack, as well as its source, soon became known to the early settlers on the coast. The northern boundary of the original grant to the Colony of Massachusetts Bay was established under a misapprehension; and this ignorance of the topography of the country on the part of the English authorities afterward gave rise to considerable controversy between the adjoining Provinces of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. So long as the territory in question remained unsettled, the dispute was a matter of little practical importance; but after a while it assumed grave proportions and led to much confusion. Grants made by one Province clashed with those made by the other; and there was no ready tribunal to decide the claims of the two parties. Towns were chartered by Massachusetts in territory claimed

by New Hampshire; and this action was the cause of bitter feeling and provoking legislation. Massachusetts contended for the tract of land "nominated in the bond," which would carry the jurisdictional line fifty miles northward, into the very heart of New Hampshire; and on the other hand, that Province strenuously opposed this view of the case, and claimed that the line should run, east and west, three miles north of the mouth of the Merrimack River. In order to settle these conflicting claims, a Royal Commission was appointed to consider the subject and establish the contested line. The Commissioners were selected from the councillors of the Provinces of New York, New Jersey, Nova Scotia, and Rhode Island,—men supposed to be free from any local prejudices in the matter, and impartial in their feelings; and without doubt they were such. The board, as appointed under the Great Seal, consisted of nineteen members, although only seven served in their capacity as Commissioners. They met at New Hampton, New Hampshire, on August 1, 1737; and for mutual convenience the Legislative Assemblies of the two Provinces met in the same neighborhood,—the Assembly of New Hampshire at Hampton Falls, and that of Massachusetts at Salisbury, places only five miles apart. This was done in order that the claims of each side might be considered with greater dispatch than they otherwise would receive. The General Court of Massachusetts met at Salisbury, in the First Parish Meeting-house, on August 10, 1737, and continued to hold its sessions in that town until October 29, inclusive, though with several adjournments, of which one was for thirty-five days. The printed journal of the House of Representatives, during this period, gives the proceedings of that body, which contain much with regard to the controversy besides the ordinary business of legislation. Many years previously the two Provinces had been united so far as to have the same governor,—at this time Jonathan Belcher,—but each Province had its own legislative body and code of laws.

The Commissioners heard both sides of the question, and agreed upon an award in alternative, leaving to the king the

interpretation of the characters given respectively by Charles I. and William and Mary. Under one interpretation the decision was in favor of a Mssachusetts, and under the other in favor of New Hampshire; and at the same time each party was allowed six weeks to file objections. Neither side, however, was satisfied with the indirect decision; and the whole matter was then taken to the king in council. Massachusetts claimed that the Merrimack River began at the confluence of the Winnepesaukee and the Pemigewasset Rivers, and that the northern boundary of the Province should run, east and west, three miles north of this point. On the other hand, New Hampshire claimed that the intention of the Charter was to establish a northern boundary on a line, running east and west, three miles north of the mouth of the Merrimack River. In this controversy Massachusetts seems to have based her claim on the letter of the contract, while New Hampshire based hers on the spirit of the contract.

The strongest argument in favor of Massachusetts is the fact that she had always considered the disputed territory as belonging to her jurisdiction; and before this period she had chartered twenty-four towns lying within the limits of this tract. These several settlements all looked to her for protection, and naturally sympathized with her during the controversy. As just stated, neither party was satisfied with the verdict of the Royal Commissioners, and both sides appealed from their judgment. The matter was then taken to England for a decision, which was given by the king, on March 4, 1739-40. His judgment was final, and in favor of New Hampshire. It gave to that Province not only all the territory in dispute, but a strip of land fourteen miles in width lying along her southern border, — mostly west of the Merrimack, — which she had never claimed. This strip was the tract of land between the line running east and west three miles north of the southernmost trend of the river, and a similar line three miles north of its mouth. By this decision many townships were taken from Massachusetts and given to New Hampshire. The settlement of this disputed question was undoubtedly a great public benefit, but at the time it

caused a good deal of hard feeling. The new line was established by surveyors officially in the spring of 1741.

In regard to the divisional line between the two Provinces, lying east of the Merrimack, there was much less uncertainty as, in a general way, it followed the bend of the river, and for that reason there was much less controversy over the jurisdiction. Many of you, doubtless, have noticed on the map the tier of towns which fringe the north bank of the Merrimack, between the city of Lowell and the mouth of the river; and, perhaps, you have wondered why those places, which from a geographical point of view belong to the State of New Hampshire, should come now within the limits of Massachusetts. The explanation of this seeming incongruity goes back to the date of the first Charter, now more than two hundred and seventy-five years ago.

I have given an account of this dispute in some detail as the town of Groton was a party to the controversy and took a deep interest in the result. It was by this decision of the king that the town lost all that portion of its territory which lies now within the limits of the city of Nashua; but it did not suffer nearly so much as our neighbor, the town of Dunstable, suffered by the same decision. At that time she received a staggering blow, and her loss, indeed, was a grievous one. Originally she was a large township containing 128,000 acres of land, situated on both sides of the Merrimack; and she was so cut in two by the running of the new line that by far the larger part of her territory came within the jurisdiction of New Hampshire. Even the meeting-house and the burying-ground, both so closely and dearly connected with the early life of our people, were separated from that portion of the town still remaining in Massachusetts; and this fact added not a little to the animosity felt by the inhabitants when the disputed question was settled. It is no exaggeration to say that throughout the old township and along the line of the borders from the Merrimack to the Connecticut, the feelings and sympathies were wholly with Massachusetts.

Thus cut in twain, there were two adjoining towns bearing the same name, the one in Massachusetts, and the other in

New Hampshire; and thus they remained for nearly a century. This similarity of designation was the source of considerable confusion which lasted until the New Hampshire town, on January 1, 1837, took the name of Nashua, after the river from which its prosperity is largely derived.

By the same decision of the king one other adjoining neighbor, Townsend, — for at that time Pepperell had not as yet taken on a separate municipal existence, — was deprived of more than one quarter of her territory; and the present towns of Brookline, Mason, and New Ipswich in New Hampshire now are reaping the benefit of what she then lost.

Enough of the original Groton Plantation, however, was left to furnish other towns and parts of towns with ample material for their territory. On November 26, 1742, the west parish of Groton was set off as a precinct. It comprised all that part of the town lying on the west side of the Nashua River, north of the old road leading from Groton to Townsend, and now known as Pepperell. Its incorporation as a parish or precinct allowed the inhabitants to manage their own ecclesiastical affairs, while in all other matters they continued to act with the parent town. Its partial separation gave them the benefit of a settled minister in their neighborhood, which in those days was considered of great importance.

It is an interesting fact to note that in early times the main reason given in the petitions for dividing towns was the long distance to the meeting-house, by which the inhabitants were prevented from hearing the stated preaching of the gospel. At the present day I do not think that this argument is ever urged by those who favor the division of a township.

On April 12, 1753, when the Act was signed by the Governor, the west parish of Groton was made a district, — the second step towards its final and complete separation from the mother town. At this period the Crown authorities were jealous of the growth of the popular party in the House of Representatives, and for that reason they frowned on every attempt to increase the number of its members. This fact had some connection with the tendency, which began to crop out during Governor Shirley's administration, to form dis-

tricts instead of towns, thereby withholding their representation. At this date the west parish, under its changed political conditions, took the name of Pepperrell, and was vested with still broader powers. It was so called after Sir William Pepperrell, who had successfully commanded the New England troops against Louisburg; and the name was suggested, doubtless, by the Rev. Joseph Emerson, the first settled minister of the parish. He had accompanied that famous expedition in the capacity of chaplain, only the year before he had received a call for his settlement, and the associations with his commander were fresh in his memory. The hero of the capture of Louisburg always wrote his surname with a double "r"; and for many years the district followed that custom, and like him, spelled the name with two "r's," but gradually the town dropped one of these letters. It was near the beginning of the nineteenth century that the present orthographic form of the word became general.

In the session of the General Court which met at Watertown, on July 19, 1775, Pepperell was represented by a member, and at that time practically acquired the rights and privileges of a town without any special act of incorporation. Other similar districts were likewise represented, in accordance with the precept calling that body together, and thus they obtained municipal rights without the usual formality. The precedent seems to have been set by the First Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, which met in the autumn of 1774, and was made up of delegates from the districts as well as from the towns. It was a revolutionary step taken outside of the law; and the informality led to a general Act, passed on August 23, 1775, which legalized the change.

Shirley, unlike Pepperell, was never incorporated as a precinct, but was set off as a district on January 5, 1753, three months before Pepperell was set off as one. In the Act of Incorporation the name was left blank, — as it was previously in the case of Harvard, and soon afterward in that of Pepperell,— and "Shirley" was filled in at the time of its engrossment. It was so named after William Shirley, the Governor of the Province at that period. It never was incorporated specifically as

a town, but became one by a general Act of the Legislature, passed on August 23, 1775. While a district it was represented in the session of the General Court which met at Watertown, on July 19, 1775, as well as represented in the First Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, and thus tacitly acquired the dignity of a town, which was afterwards confirmed by the Act, just mentioned.

These two townships, Pepperell and Shirley, were the first settlements to swarm from the original Plantation. With the benediction of the mother they left the parent hive, and on all occasions have proved to be dutiful daughters in whom the old town has always taken a deep pride. In former years, before the days of railroads, these two towns were closely identified with Groton, and the social intercourse between them was very intimate. If the families of the three towns were not akin to one another, in a certain sense they were neighbors.

The latest legislation connected with the dismemberment of the original grant,—and perhaps the last for many years to come,—is the Act of February, 14, 1871, by which the town of Ayer was incorporated. This enactment took from Groton a large section of territory lying near its southern borders, and from Shirley all that part of the town on the easterly side of the Nashua River which was annexed to it from Groton, on February 6, 1798.

Thus has the old Groton Plantation, during a period of two hundred and fifty years, been hewn and hacked down to less than one half of its original dimensions. Formerly it contained 40,960 acres, while now the amount of taxable land within the town is 19,850 acres. It has furnished, substantially, the entire territory of Pepperell, Shirley, and Ayer, more than one half of Dunstable, and has contributed more or less to form five other towns,—namely, Harvard, Littleton, and Westford, in Massachusetts, besides Nashua and Hollis, in New Hampshire.

The early settlers of Groton, like all other persons of that period of time or of any period, had their limitations. They were lovers of political freedom, and they gave the largest

liberty to all,—so far as it related to their physical condition; but in matters of religious belief it was quite otherwise. With them it was an accepted tradition,—perhaps with us not entirely outgrown,—that persons who held a different faith from themselves were likely to have a lower standard of morality. They saw things by a dim light, they saw "through a glass darkly." They beheld theological objects by the help of dipped candles, and they interpreted religion and its relations to life accordingly. We living two hundred and fifty years later can bring to bear the electric light of science and modern discovery. We have a great advantage over what they had, and let us use it fairly. Let us be just to them, as we hope for justice from those who will follow us. Let us remember that the standards of daily life change from one century to another. Perhaps in future generations, when we are judged, the verdict of posterity will be against us rather than against the early comers. More has been given to us than was given to them, and we shall be held responsible in a correspondingly larger measure. It is not the number of talents with which we have been entrusted that will tell in our favor, but the sacred use we make of them. In deciding this question, two centuries and a half hence, I am by no means sure of the judgment that history will render. Do we as a nation give all men a square deal? The author of the Golden Rule was color blind, and in its application he made no difference between the various races of mankind. The rule applied to the black man equally with the white man. Do we now give our African brother a fair chance? It is enough for us to try to do right, and let the consequences be what they will. "Hew up to the chalk line, and let the chips fly where they may," once said Wendall Phillips. We hear much nowadays about the simple life, but that was the life lived by the settlers, and taught to their children, both by precept and example. Austere in their belief, they practised those homely virtues which lie at the base of all civilization; and we of today owe much to their memory. They prayed for the wisdom that cometh from above, and for the righteousness that exalteth a nation; and they tried to square their conduct by their creed.

The early settlers were a plain folk, and they knew little of the pride and pomposity of later times. To sum up briefly their social qualities, I should say that they were neighborly to a superlative degree, which means much in country life. They looked after the welfare of their neighbors who were not so well off in this world's goods as they themselves, they watched with them when they were sick, and sympathized with them when death came into their families. In cold weather they hauled wood for the widows, and cut it up and split it for them; and when a beef "crittur" or a hog was killed, no one went hungry. When a man met with an accident and had a leg broken, the neighbors saw that his crops were gathered, and that all needful work was done; and after a heavy snow-storm in winter, they turned to and broke out the roads and private ways with sleds drawn by many yoke of oxen belonging in the district. Happily all this order of things is not yet a lost art, but in former times the custom was more thoroughly observed, and spread over a much wider region than now prevails. When help was needed in private households, they never asked, like the lawyer of old, "And who is my neighbor?" They always stretched out their hands to the poor, and they reached forth their hands to the needy.

To us it seems almost pathetic, certainly amusing, to see how closely they connected their daily life with the affairs of the church. As a specimen I will give an instance found in the note-book of the Reverend John Fiske, of Chelmsford. It seems that John Parker, James Fiske, and John Nutting wished to remove from Chelmsford and take up their abode in this town. The subject of their removal was brought before the church there in the autumn of 1661, when they desired the "loving leave" of their brethren so to do, as well as prayers that the blessings of God might accompany them to their new homes. The meeting was held on November 9, 1661, when some discussion took place and considerable feeling was shown. Mr. Fiske, the pastor, shrewdly declined to commit himself in the matter; or, according to the record, declined to speak on the question "one way or the other, but

desired that the brethren might manifest themselves." At the conference one brother said that there was no necessity or the removal, and hoped that the three members would give up their intentions to remove, and would remain in Chelmsford. Reading between the lines it seems as if this town had invited the three men to settle here; and Brother Parker speaking for them (in the plural number) said that God's hand was to be seen in the whole movement. The same hand which brought them to Chelmsford now pointed to Groton. Apparently the meeting was a protracted one, and "scarce a man in the Church but presently said the grounds, the grounds." This was another form of calling for the question,—in other words, for the reasons of the removal, whether valid or not. While the decision of the conference is not given in exact language, inferentially it was in favor of their going,—as they were here in December, 1662. James Parker was a deacon of the Chelmsford church; and perhaps there had been some slight disagreement between him and a few of the other members. Evidently he was one of the pillars of the body at Chelmsford; and at once he became a deacon at Groton. To us now it is amusing to see what a commotion was raised because these three familes proposed to remove to another town. "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." Fortunately for this town James Parker, James Fiske, and John Nutting with their households came here to live, where they all became useful and influential citizens far above the average. In his day James Parker was the most prominent man in Groton, filling many civil and military positions; the next year after coming James Fiske was chosen selectman, and later town-clerk; and John Nutting was appointed surveyor of highways. There are in this audience, doubtless, at the present moment many descendants of these three pioneers who had so many obstacles thrown in their way before taking up their abode here. If these families had not removed hither at that early period, perhaps their descendants now would be celebrating anniversaiies elsewhere rather than here, and might never have known what they lost by the change in their respective

birthplaces. Without being able to call them by name or to identify them in any way, to all such I offer the greetings of this gathering on the good judgment shown by their ancestors.

This town took its name from Groton Co. Suffolk, England, which was the native place of Deane Winthrop, one of the original petitioners for Groton Plantation. His name stands at the head of the list of selectmen appointed in 1655 by the General Court; and today we should give him the title of Chairman of the Board. He was a son of John Winthrop who came to New England in 1630 as Governor of Massachusetts; and it was in compliment to him that the name of his birthplace was given to the town. Without much doubt he was a resident here for a few years; and in this opinion I am supported by a distinguished member of that family, now deceased, who some time ago wrote me as follows:

BOSTON, 27 February, 1878.

MY DEAR DR. GREEN, — It would give me real pleasure to aid you in establishing the relations of Deane Winthrop to the Town of Groton in Massachusetts. But there are only three or four letters of Deane's among the family papers in my possession, and not one of them is dated Groton. Nor can I find in any of the family papers a distinct reference to his residence there.

There are, however, two brief notes of his, both dated "the 16 of December, 1662," which I cannot help thinking may have been written at Groton. One of them is addressed to his brother John, the Governor of Connecticut, who was then in London, on business connected with the Charter of Connecticut. In this note, Deane says as follows: —

"I have some thoughts of removing from the place I now live in, into your Colony, if I could lit of a convenient place. The place that I now live in is too little for me, my children now growing up."

We know thut Deane Winthrop was at the head of the first Board of Selectmen of Groton a few years earlier, and that he went to reside at Pullen Point, now called Winthrop, not many years after.

I am strongly inclined to think with you that this note of Decamber, 1662, was written at Groton.

Yours very truly,

ROBT. C. WINTHROP.

SAMUEL A. GREEN, M. D.

During my boyhood I always had a strong desire to visit Groton in England, which gave its name to this town and indirectly to six other towns in the United States. Strictly speaking, it is not a town, but a parish; and there are technical distinctions between the two. More than fifty years ago I was staying in London, and as a stranger in that great metropolis. even after many inquiries I found much difficulty in learning the best way to reach the little village. All my previous knowledge in regard to the place was limited to the fact that it lay in the county of Suffolk, near its southern border. After a somewhat close study of a Railway Guide, I left London by rail for Sudbury, which is the only town of considerable size in the immediate neighborhood of Groton. After changing trains at a railway junction, of which the name has long since faded from my memory, I found myself in a carriage alone with a fellow passenger, who was both courteous and communicative, and thoroughly acquainted with the country through which we were passing. On telling him the purpose of my visit, he seemed to be much interested, and told me in return that he was very familiar with the parish of Groton; and he had many questions to ask about our good old town, which I was both able and glad to answer. It soon turned out that my hitherto unknown friend was Sir Henry E. Austen, of Chelsworth, Hadleigh, who, on reaching Sudbury, gave me a note of introduction to Richard Almack, Esq., of Long Melford, which I used a day or two afterward with excellent results. From Sudbury I drove in a dog-cart to Boxford, where I tarried over night at the White Horse Inn, and in the morning walked over to Groton, less than a mile distant. This place, — the object of my pilgrimage, — I found to be a typical English village of the olden time, very small both in territory and population, and utterly unlike any of its American namesakes. Its history goes back many generations, even to the period before Domesday Book, which was ordered by William the Conqueror more than eight hundred years ago, and which registers a survey of the lands of England made at that early date. The text is in Latin, and the words are much shortened. The writing is peculiar and

hard to read; but it gives some very interesting statistics in regard to the place.

On reaching the end of my trip I called at once on the rector, who received me very kindly and offered to go with me to the church, which invitation I readily accepted. He expressed much interest in the New England towns bearing the name of Groton, and spoke of a visit made to the English town a few years previously, by the Honorable Robert C. Winthrop, of Boston, which gave him great pleasure. We walked over the grounds of the old manor, once belonging to John Winthrop, first Governor of Massachusetts; and Groton Place, the residence of the lord of the manor at that time, was pointed out, as well as a solitary mulbury tree, which stood in Winthrop's garden, and is now the last vestige of the spot. In strolling over the grounds I picked up some acorns under an oak, which were afterward sent home to my father and planted here, but unfortunately they did not come up. I remember with special pleasure the attentions of Mr. R. F. Swan, postmaster at Boxford, who took me to a small school of little children, where the teacher told the scholars that I had come from another Groton across the broad ocean. He also kindly made for me a rough tracing of the part of the parish in which I was more particularly interested; and as I had left the inn at Boxford when he called, he sent it by private hands to me at the Sudbury railway-station. All these little courtesies and many more I recollect with great distinctness, and they add much to the pleasant memories of my visit to the ancestral town, which has such a numerous progeny of municipal descendants in the United States.

Of this large family our town, now celebrating the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its birth, is the eldest; and as the "first-born, higher than the kings of the earth."

The next child in the order of descent is the town in Connecticut, — younger than this town by just half a century, and during the Revolution the scene of the heroic Ledyard's death. It was so named in the year 1705; during the Governorship of Fitz-John Winthrop, out of respect to the Suffolk home of the family. In population this is the largest of the

various towns bearing the name, and contains several thriving villages. It is situated on the east bank of the Thames River, in New London County.

The next town in age is the one in Grafton County, New Hampshire, which was originally granted by the Legislature of that State as early as July 3, 1761, under the name of Cockermouth, and re-granted on November 22, 1766; but the present name of Groton was not given until December 7, 1796. It was chosen by certain inhabitants of the place, who were connected either by birth or through kindred with this town. The population is small, and the principal pursuit of the people is farming, though there are eight of ten saw-mills within its limits. Mica is found in great abundauce, and forms the basis of an important industry. There is a Spectacle Pond, lying partly within the town, of which the name may have gone from this neighborhood. There are two villages in the township, the one known as North Groton, perhaps the more important, and the other situated near the southerly border, and known as Groton. Between these two villages, in the centre of the territory, are the town-house and an old burying ground where fifteen years ago I examined many of the epitaphs and found a few family names that are still common here in our burying-ground.

The fourth child in the municipal family is the town of Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont, a pretty village lying in the Wells River Valley, and chartered on October 20, 1729, though the earliest settlers were living there a few years before that date. The first child born in the town was Sally, daughter of Captain Edmund and Sally (Wesson) Morse, who began her early pilgrimage on September 2, 1787. The father was a native of our town, and principally through his influence the name of Groton was given to the home of his adoption among the foot-hills of the Green Mountains. Wells River runs through the township in a southeasterly direction, and with its tributaries affords some excellent water-power along its course. The stream rises in Groton Pond, a beautiful sheet of water, and empties into the

Connecticut at White River Junction, a railway centre of some importance.

My visit to the town was made on July 26, 1890, and while there I called on the Honorable Isaac Newton Hall, one of the oldest and most prominent citizens of the place, who kindly took me in his buggy through the village, pointing out by the way the various objects of public interest. The Methodist Episcopal church, situated at one end of the village street, had some memorial windows, of which two had inscriptions, as follows:—

Capt · Edmund · Morse
Born · Groton · Mass · 1764
Died · Groton · Vt · 1843

Sally · Morse · Hill
Born · 1787—Died · 1864
The · First · Person · Born · in · Groton

Before leaving the place I walked through the burying-ground and examined some of the epitaphs, but none of the names reminded me particularly of the parent town.

The next town of the name is Groton, Erie County, Ohio, which was settled about the year 1809. It was first called Wheatsborough, after a Mr. Wheats, who originally owned most of the township. It lies in the region known as the Fire Lands of Ohio, a tract of half a million acres given by the State of Connecticut in May, 1792, to those of her citizens who had suffered losses from the enemy during the Revolution. Like many other places in the neighborhood, the town took its name from the one in Connecticut.

Late in the autumn of 1889 I happened to be in Nashville, Tennessee, as a member of a committee on business connected with the Peabody Normal College in that city, of which ex-President Hayes was chairman. On telling him incidentally that I proposed on my return homeward to stop for a short time at Groton, Erie County, Ohio, he kindly invited me to make him a visit at his home in Fremont, which

was very near my objective point; and he said furthermore that he would accompany me on my trip to that town, which offer I readily accepted. On the morning of November 27, we left Fremont by rail for Norwalk, the shire town of Huron County,—a county in which the township of Groton formerly came,—where we alighted, and at once repaired to the rooms of the Firelands Historical Society. Here we were met by several gentlemen, prominent in the city as well as in the Hisorical Society, who showed us many attentions. We had an opportunity there to examine various objects of interest connected with the early history of that part of the State. Then taking the cars again on our return, we proceeded as far as Bellevue, where we left the train. Here at a livery-stable we engaged a buggy and a pair of horses, without knowing exactly to what part of the township I wished to go, as I was then told there was no village of Groton, but only scattered farms throughout the town. One man, however, said that there was a place called Groton Centre, which seemed to me both very natural and familiar, and so thither we directed our course. After driving over very muddy roads for five or six miles, we inquired at a farm-house the way to Groton Centre, where we were told that a school-house in sight, half a mile off, was the desired place. There was no village whatever to be seen in any direction; and the building was the public voting-place, on which account the neighborhood received the name. The town is entirely agricultural in its character, and the land is largely prairie with a rich soil. It is small in population, and does not contain even a post-office. The inhabitants for their postal facilities depend on Bellevue and Sandusky, adjacent places.

Another town bearing the good name of Groton, which I have visited, is the one in Tompkins County, New York. More than eighteen years ago I found myself at Courtland, Courtland County, New York, where I had gone in order to see the venerable Mrs. Sarah Chaplin Rockwood, a native of this town. She was a daughter of the Reverend Dr. Chaplin, the last minister settled by the town, and at that time she was almost one hundred and two years old. By a coincidence she

was then living on Groton Avenue, a thoroughfare which leads to Groton, Tompkins County, a town ten miles distant. Taking advantage of my nearness to that place, on May 4, 1887, I drove there and was set down at the Groton Hotel, where I passed the night. Soon after my arrival I took a stroll through the village, and then called on Marvin Morse Baldwin, Esq., a lawyer of prominence, and the author of an historical sketch of the place, published in 1868. The town was formed originally, on April 7, 1817, from Locke, Cayuga County, under the name of Division; but during the next year this was changed to Groton, on the petition of the inhabitants, some of whom were from Groton, Massachusetts, and others from Groton, Connecticut. The principal village is situated on Owasco Inlet, a small stream, and is surrounded by a rolling country of great beauty. The population is small, and the business chiefly confined to a machine-shop and foundry, several carriage-shops, and the making of agricultural implements. The town supports a National Bank and also a weekly newspaper, and has railway communication with other places.

In all these visits to the several towns of the same name, I have interested myself to learn the local pronunciation of the word. I have asked many persons in all ranks of life and grades of society in regard to the matter, and without exception they have given it "Gráw-ton," which every "native here, and to the manor born" knows so well how to pronounce. It has never been Grōw-ton, or Grŏt-ton even, but always with a broad sound on the first and accented syllable. Such was the old pronunciation in England, and by the continuity of custom and tradition the same has been kept up throughout the several settlements in this country bearing the name.

The latest town aspiring to the honor of the name of Groton is in Brown County, South Dakota. It was laid out about twenty-two years ago on land owned by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company. I have been informed that various New England names were selcteed by the Company and given to different townships along the line,

not for personal or individual reasons, but because they were short and well sounding, and unlike any others in the Territory of that period.

At some future day, if my life be spared long enough, I may pay my respects to this youngest child of the name and visit her township. In that case I will describe her personality and place her in the family group with her elder sisters.

During two centuries and a half,—the long period of time now under consideration,— many changes have taken place in the customs and manners of our people. Some of these are entirely forgotten, and traces of them are found only in the records of the past ; and I purpose to allude to a few. In this way a survival of their knowledge may be kept up, which will help the present generation in some degree to catch the attitude of its ancestors.

In the early days of New England marriages were performed by magistrates only, and by other officers appointed for that particular purpose. It was many years before ministers of the Gospel were allowed to take part in the ceremony. At a town meeting held here, on December 15, 1669, the selectmen were authorized "to petition to the [General] Court for one to marry persons in our towne"; and it is probable that before this time persons wishing to be joined in wedlock were obliged either to go elsewhere in order to carry out their intention, or else a magistrate or other officer was brought for the occasion. At that period the population of the town was small, and the marriages were few in number; and before this date only eight couples are found as recorded of Groton. Perhaps these marriages were solemnized by a Commissioner of Small Causes, who was authorized equally with a magistrate to conduct the ceremony. These officers were empowered to act in all cases within the jurisdiction of a magistrate, and were approved, either by the Court of Assistants or the County Courts, on the request of any town where there was no resident magistrate. They were three in number in each of such towns, and were chosen by the freemen.

Another instance of a change in early customs is found in connection with funerals, which formerly were conducted with severe simplicity. Our pious forefathers were opposed to all ecclesiastical rites, and any custom that reminded them of the English church met with their stern disapproval. And, furthermore, prayers over a corpse were very suggestive of those offered up for the dead by the Roman church; and to their minds such ceremonies savored strongly of heresy and superstition. A body was taken from the house to the grave, and interred without ceremony; and no religious services were held. Funeral prayers in New England were first made in the smaller towns before they were in the larger places. Their introduction into Boston was of so uncommon occurrence that it caused some comment in a newspaper, as the following extract from "The Boston Weekly News-Letter," December 31, 1730, will show:—

Yesterday were Buried here the remains of that truly honourable & devout Gentlewoman, Mrs. SARAH BYFIELD, amidst the affectionate Respects & Lamentations of a numerous Concourse.—Before carrying out the Corpse, a Funeral Prayer was made, by one of the Pastors of the *Old Church*, to whose Communion she belong'd; which, tho' a Custom in the Country-Towns, is a singular Instance in this place, but it's wish'd may prove a leading Example to the general Practice of so christian & decent a Custom.

At a funeral the coffin was carried upon a bier to the place of interment by pall-bearers, who from time to time were relieved by others walking at their side. The bearers usually were kinsfolk or intimate friends of the deceased; and they were followed by the mourners and neighbors, who walked two by two. After the burial the bier was left standing over the grave ready for use when occasion should again require.

Two centuries ago, writers of poetical compositions in memory of the dead were more common in New England than they are today. They gave utterance to their feelings in a form of verse known as the Elegy. Occasionally such productions were printed on single sheets, and circulated among the friends of the family. They were generally crude in their

metrical construction, but they afforded a certain kind of sad satisfaction to the mourners. Sometimes manuscript copies were made from the printed sheet, and these, too, were sent round to the friends of the departed. An entry in Judge Sewall's Diary, under date of June 9, 1685, would seem to show that such verses were sometimes pinned or placed on the coffin, as in modern times flowers are laid on the graves. It is found in the paragraph describing the funeral of the Reverend Thomas Shepard at Charlestown, as follows — "It seems there were some verses; but none pinned on the Herse. Scholars [from Harvard College] went before the Herse" (1.82). The meaning of the old form "herse" is coffin, grave, tomb, etc., and the word has its modern representative in "hearse," a carriage for conveying the dead to the grave.

Many years ago an old citizen of the town told me that once he served as a pall-bearer at the funeral of a friend who died in Squannacook Village (West Groton). It took place near midsummer, in very hot weather: and he related how the procession was obliged to halt often in order to give a rest to the bearers, who were nearly prostrated by the heat during their long march.

Hearses were first introduced into Boston about 1796, and into Groton a few years later. In the warrant for the Groton town meeting on April 4, 1803, Article No. 7 was

To see if the town will provide a herse for the town's use, and give such directions about the same as they shall think fit.

In the Proceedings of that meeting, after Article No. 7, it is recorded: —

Voted that the town will provide a herse for the Town's use.

Voted and chose James Brazer, Esqr Jacob L. Parker, and Joseph Sawtell 3^{d} a Committee and directed them to provide a decent herse at the Town's expence.

From the earliest period of our Colonial history training-days were appointed by the General Court for the drilling of soldiers; and at intervals the companies used to come to-

gether as a regiment and practise various military exercises. From this custom sprang the regimental muster, so common before the War of the Rebellion.

During a long time, and particularly in the early part of the nineteenth century, many such musters were held here. A training-field often used for the purpose was the plain, situated near the Hollingsworth Paper-mills, a mile and a half northerly from the village. Sometimes they were held on the eastern side of the road, and at other times on the westerly side. During my boyhood musters took place, twice certainly, on the easterly slope of the hill on the south side of the Broad Meadow Road near Farmers' Row; and also, once certainly, in the field lying southeast of Lawrence Academy, near where Powder House Road now runs.

Musters have been held on land back of the late Charles Jacobs's house, and in the autumn of 1850, in a field near the dwelling where Benjamin Moors used to live, close by James's Brook, in the south part of the town. The last one in Groton, or the neighborhood even, took place on September 13-14, 1852, and was held in the south part of the town, near the line of the Fitchburg Railroad on its northerly side, some distance east of the station. This was a muster of the Fifth Regiment of Light Infantry, and occurred while Mr. Boutwell was Governor of the Commonwealth; and I remember well the reception which he gave to the officers on the intervening evening at his house, built during the preceding year.

Akin to the subject of military matters, was a custom which formerly prevailed in some parts of Massachusetts, and perhaps elsewhere, of celebrating occasionally the anniversary of the surrender of Yorktown, which falls on October 17. Such a celebration was called a "Cornwallis"; and it was intended to represent, in a burlesque manner, the siege of the town, as well as the ceremony of its surrender. The most prominent generals on each side would be personated, while the men of the two armies would wear what was supposed to be their peculiar uniform. I can recall now more than one such sham fight that took place in this town during my boyhood. In 10 Cushing, 252, is to be found a decision of the

Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, enjoining a town treasurer from paying money that had been appropriated for such a celebration.

James Russell Lowell, in his Glossary to "The Biglow Papers," thus defines the word: Cornwallis, *a sort of muster in masquerade;* supposed to have had its origin soon after the Revolution, and to commemorate the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. It took the place of the old Guy Fawkes procession." Speaking in the character of Hosea Biglow, he asks,

> Recollect wut fun we hed, you'n' I an' Ezry Hollis
> Up there to Waltham plain last fall, along o' the Cornwallis?

He further says in a note: "i hait the Sight of a feller with a muskit as i du pizn But their *is* fun to a cornwallis I aint agoin' to deny it."

The last Cornwallis in this immediate neighborhood came off about sixty years ago at Pepperell; and I remember witnessing it. Another Cornwallis on a large scale occurred at Clinton in the year 1853, in which nine uniformed companies of militia, including the Groton Artillery, took part. On this occasion the burlesque display, both in numbers and details, far outshone all former attempts of a similar character, and, like the song of a swan, ended a custom that had come down from a previous century. At the present day nothing is left of this quaint celebration but a faded memory and an uncertain tradition.

The first settlers of Massachusetts brought with them from England a good supply of seeds and stones of various fruits, grains, and vegetables, which were duly planted. In this way was begun the cultivation of apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, wheat, rye, barley, oats, beans, peas, potatoes, hops, currants, etc., and in the course of a few years they raised fair crops of all these products.

As early as 1660 all inn-holders and tavern-keepers were required to have a license in order to be allowed to carry on their business; and they were obliged to be approbated by the selectmen of the town and to be licensed by the County Court. At the same time a restriction was placed on makers

of cider, who were not allowed to sell by retail, except under certain conditions ; "and that it be only to masters of families of good and honest report, of persons going to Sea, and they suffer not any person to drink the same in their houses, cellars or yards." This reference, found in "The Book of the General Lawes and Libertyes" (Cambridge, 1660), shows that at an early date in the history of the Colony the prohibitory principle was recognized by legislative enactment, and that it is by no means a modern idea. The reference shows furthermore that cider was made by the settlers at an early period. Few persons of the rising generation are aware of the great quantities of cider made fifty or seventy-five years ago on almost every farm in an agricultural community. I am placing the estimate within moderate bounds when I say that every good-sized farm in Groton had an apple orchard and a cider-mill on the premises. Many a farmer would make all the way from ten to thirty barrels of cider for home use, besides what he would sell elsewhere or make into vinegar; and this large stock was kept in the cellar. There are now in this audience men and women who remember how years ago they used to suck sweet cider through a long rye straw, as it ran from the press. At such times the children were often as thick as honey-bees round the bunghole of a hogshead of molasses in summer time.

Many plants were brought to New England originally from other countries for their medicinal virtues, and many were introduced by chance. Some have multiplied so rapidly and grown so plentifully in the fields and by the roadside, that they are now considered common weeds. Wormwood, tansy, chamomile, yarrow, dandelion, burdock, plantain, catnip, and mint all came here by importation. These exotic plants made their way into the interior, as fast as civilization extended in that direction; though in some instances the seeds may have been carried by birds in their flight.

Dr. William Douglass, in "A Summary, Historical and Political, of the first Planting, progressive Improvements, and present State of the British Settlements in North

America," published at Boston (Volume I. in the year 1749, and Volume II. in 1753), says:—

> Near *Boston* and other great Towns, some Field Plants which accidentally have been imported from Europe, spread much, and are a great Nuasance in Pastures, . . . at present they have spread Inland from *Boston*, about 30 Miles (II. 207).

According to this statement, the pioneers of some of these foreign plants or weeds had already reached the township of Groton near the middle of the eighteenth century. Dr. Douglass gives another fact about the town which may be worthy of preservation, as follows:—

> There are some actual Surveys of Extents which ought not to be lost in Oblivion; as for Instance, from *Merrimack* River due West to *Groton* Meeting-House are 12 miles; from *Groton* Meeting-House (as surveyed by Col. *Stoddard*, Major *Fulham*, and Mr. *Dwight*, by Order of the General Assembly) to Northfield Meeting-House W. 16 d. N. by Compass are 41 Miles and half (I. 425 *note*).

Such surveys, as those given in this extract, were of more interest to the public, before the days of railroads, than they are now; but, as the author says, they "ought not to be lost in Oblivion."

The greatest advance in social and moral life during the last one hundred and twenty-five years has been in the cause of temperance. Soon after the period of the Revolution there arose an abuse of spirituous liquors, perhaps induced in part by the return home of young men from the army, who while absent had acquired the habit of drinking to excess. There was no public occasion, from a wedding to a funeral, or from the ordination of a minister to the raising of a house or barn, when rum in many of its Protean shapes was not given out. It was set on the festive sideboard, and used freely both by the old and young; and sometimes even the pastor of the church yielded to the insidious seduction of the stimulant. Liquors were sold at retail at most of the trading shops in town, and at the three taverns in the village. The late Elizur Wright, an eminent statistician, and nearly eighty years ago a resident

of Groton, once told me in writing that, according to an estimate made by him at that period, the amount of New England rum sold here in one year was somewhat over 28,000 gallons. This was not a guess on his part, but was taken from the books of dealers in the fluid, who had kindly complied with his request for the amount of their sales during the previous year. We judge of the whole from the specimen.

It is generally supposed that the huge department stores in the large cities are a modern institution, so far as they relate to the variety of articles sold ; but in this respect they are only an imitation of the old-time country store. Fifty years ago the average trading shop kept about everything that was sold, from a pin to a plough, from silks and satins to stoves and shovels; and from tea and coffee to tin dippers and cotton drilling, flour, all kinds of dry goods and groceries, molasses, raisins,bricks, cheese, hats, nails, sperm oil, grindstones, boots and shoes, drugs and medicines, to say nothing of a supply of confectionery for the children; besides a daily barter of any of the aforesaid articles for fresh eggs and butter. The traders were omniverous in their dealings, and they kept on hand nearly everything that was asked for by the customers. In this respect they have set an example to the proprietors of the department stores, who offer for sale an equally miscellaneous assortment of goods.

Within the last three-quarters of a century, perhaps the most useful invention given to mankind, certainly one very widely used, has been the common friction match. Apparently it is so trifling and inconspicuous that among the great discoveries of the nineteenth century it is likely to be overlooked. This little article is so cheap that no hovel or hamlet throughout Christendom is ever without it, and yet so useful that it is found in every house or mansion, no matter how palatial, and in every vessel that sails the sea. Bunches of matches are made by the millions and millions, and broad acres of forests are cut down each year to supply the wood ; and in every home they are used without regard to waste or economy. "No correct statistics of match making can be given, but it has been estimated that six matches a day for each

individual of the population of Europe and North America is the average consumption." (The American Cyclopædia, New York, 1883.) Perhaps no other invention of the last century comes so nearly in touch with the family and household in all parts of the civilized world as this necessity of domestic life.

I have mentioned these facts in some detail as the friction match has had such a close connection with country life in New England, as elsewhere. In early days when fire was kept on the domestic hearth, from month to month and from year to year, by covering up live coals with ashes, sometimes from one cause or another it would go out; and then it was necessary to visit a neighbor to "borrow fire," as the expression was. If the distance was short, live coals might be brought on a shovel; but if too far, a lighted candle could be carried in a tin lantern and furnish the needed flame. Often a flint-and-steel was used for striking fire, but sometimes even this useful article was wanting. I have heard of instances where a man would fire off a gun into a wad of tow and set it on fire, and thus get the desired spark to start the blaze.

Another invention, which has come into general use within the last sixty years, and has changed the destinies of the world, is Morse's electric telegraph. In the sending of messages it practically annihilates space, and has worked wonders in science and in the every-day affairs of life. By means of it the words of Puck become a reality when he says:

> I 'll put a girdle round about the Earth
> In forty minutes.

If the ocean telegraph had been in operation at that time, the battle of New Orleans, on January 8, 1815, would not have been fought. It took place a fortnight after the treaty of peace had been signed at Ghent, though the tidings of the treaty were not received in this country until a month after the action. The chances are that Andrew Jackson would never have been President of the United States if he

had not gained that battle; nor would Martin Van Buren have succeeded to the same high office if as Secretary of State or as Vice-President he had not been associated with Jackson. This will serve as an illustration of the influence which the telegraph may have on human affairs.

Little short of fifty years ago I spent an evening with Professor Morse at his rooms in Paris, and he told me a thrilling tale of the circumstances which led up to his great discovery of the application of electricity to the sending of messages; and how the thought first came to him many years before, when in a packet ship on the voyage from Havre to New York. I have often regretted that I did not then write down at once my recollections of the visit, while they were fresh in my memory; but unfortunately I did not do so.

A telegraph office in this village was opened on Saturday, March 20, 1880, and the first message along its wires was sent to Nashua, New Hampshire. The office was in the railway station, where it has since remained.

The telephone office here was first opened on Friday, April 29, 1881, in the building at the south corner of Main Street and Station Avenue, where it still remains; and there are now more than one hundred and twenty subscribers.

By the side of the investigations connected with this address I am reminded that the First Parish Meeting-house is now one hundred and fifty years old. During one half of this period it was the only designated place of worship within the limits of the town; and for these seventy-five years it was the centre of the religious life of the people. From its walls went forth all the efforts that made for the highest and noblest activities of human nature. It was the fourth meeting-house used by the town, and stands on the site of the third building, a spot which was by no means the unanimous choice of the town when that structure was built; and the usual controversy then took place over the site. It was begun in 1714, and was two years in process of building. In early times there was always much contention in regard to the local position of the house, some wanting it put in one place, and others in another, according to the convenience of their respective

families. Mr. Butler, in his History of Groton, says: "But the momentous affairs of deciding upon a spot on which to set a public building, and choosing and settling a minister, are not usually accomplished without much strife and contention, and are sometimes attended with long and furious quarrels and expensive lawsuits" (page 306). The Reverend Joseph Emerson, the first minister of Groton West Parish, now known as Pepperell, explains the cause thus: "It hath been observed that some of the hottest contentions in this land hath been about settling of ministers and building meeting-houses; and what is the reason? The devil is a great enemy to settling ministers and building meeting-houses; wherefore he sets on his own children to work and make difficulties, and to the utmost of his power stirs up the corruptions of the children of God in some way to oppose or obstruct so good a work."

With no desire to dispute Mr. Emerson's theory in regard to the matter, I think that the present generation would hardly accept this explanation as the correct one.

For some months, perhaps for one or two years, before the present house of worship was built, the question of a new structure was considered and discussed at town-meetings. It was then in the air, and finally the matter took concrete shape. On May 6, 1754, the town made definite plans for a raising of the frame; and on such occasions at that period of time rum was supposed to be needed, not only to bring together a crowd to help along the work, but also to give strength to the workers. At that meeting the following vote was passed:—

at a Legal meeting of the Inhabitants at Groton qualleyfied by Law for voting in Town affairs assembled chose Cap^{t} bancroft moderator for s^{d} meeting

The question was put which way they would face the meetinghouse and the major vote was for facing s^{d} house to the west.

Voted that The meeting house Com^{tee} prouide one hogshead of Rum one Loaf of white Shugar one quarter of a hundred of brown Shugar also voted that Deacon Stone Deacon

farwell Lt Isaac woods benje Stone Lt John Woods Cap^t Saml Tarbell Amos Lawrence Ensign Obadiah Parker Cap^t bancroft be a Com^tee and to prouide Victuals and Drink for a hundred men and If the people Dont subscribe among them the Com^tee to purchas the Remainder up on the Towns Cost.

Voted that The Com^tee that Got the Timber for The meeting house haue Liberty with such as shall subscribe thear to to build a porch at the front Dore of the meeting house up on their own Cost

Then voted that the Select men prouide some conuiant place to meet in upon the Sabbath Till further order.

According to Joseph Farwell's note-book the raising took place on May 22, 1754,—which day fell on Wednesday,—and lasted until Saturday, May 25. It is to be hoped that during these three days no accident happened on account of the liquid stimulant. Probably the work of the building was pushed with all the speed then possible and available; and, probably too, it was used for worship long before it was finished. During this period of interruption in the public services it is very likely that the Sunday meetings were held at the house of the minister, Mr. Trowbridge, who then lived on the site of the High School building.

According to Farwell's note-book, on August 18, 1754, Mrs. Sarah Dickinson became a member of the church, the first person so admitted in the new meeting-house. She was the widow of James Dickinson, who died only a few weeks before, and was buried in the old grave-yard. According to the same authority, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered in the new building for the first time on November 15, 1754.

The early settlers did not believe much in outward ceremony; and the new meeting-house was never formally dedicated by a special service. Perhaps, when the house was first opened for worship, Mr. Trowbridge preached a sermon in keeping with the occasion; and very likely in his prayer he made some allusion to the event. We are told that the prayer of the righteous man availeth much. The homage

paid to the Creator of the universe each Sunday, both by the pulpit and the pews, would consecrate any such structure to its high purpose. Simple in their religious faith, the worshippers had no use for ecclesiastical forms. Not alone by their words, but by their thoughts, they dedicated the meeting-house. Sometimes words not spoken have more meaning than those which are uttered.

The Common, in front of the present meeting-house, was a place closely connected with the life of the town. Here at an early period the two militia companies used to meet and drill at regular times, known as training-days. On the Common the two companies of minute-men rallied on the morning of that eventful nineteenth of April, and received their ammunition from the town's stock, which was stored in the Powder-House near by. Here they took farewell of friends and families, knowing full well the responsible duties that rested on their shoulders, and the dangers that threatened them. These men marched hence on that memorable day as British subjects, but they came back as independent citizens who never knew again the authority of a king.

In that house Mr. Dana, a young and rising lawyer of Groton, pronounced a eulogy on General Washington, which was delivered on Saturday, February 22, 1800, a few weeks after his death. The military companies of the town attended the exercises. Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth (1791–1884) as a little girl was present on the occasion, and Mrs. Sarah (Capell) Gilson (1793–1890), remembered the event, though not present at the exercises; and they both gave me their faint recollections of the day.

The meeting-house was remodelled in the year 1839, when it was partially turned round, and the north end of the building made the front, facing the west, as it now stands. Formerly the road to the east part of the town went diagonally across the Common, and passed down the hill to the south of the meeting-house; and there was no highway on the north side. Before this change in the building was made, the town-meetings were always held in the body of the house; and the

voting was done in front of the pulpit. In my mind's eye I can see now the old pulpit, with the sounding-board hanging overhead.

The town-clock in the steeple, so familiar to every man, woman, and child in Groton, was made by James Ridgway, and placed in the tower some time during the spring of 1809. It was paid for in part, by the town, and in part by private subscription. Mr. Ridgway was a silversmith and a clockmaker, who during the war with England (1812–1815) carried on a large business in this neighborhood. He afterward removed to Keene, New Hampshire, where he lived for many years. His shop was situated on Main street, nearly opposite to the Groton Inn, but it disappeared a long time ago.

The bell of the meeting-house was cast in the year 1819 by Revere and Son, Boston, and, according to the inscription, weighs 1128 pounds.

On this interesting occasion we are all glad to have present with us the venerable Zara Patch, a native of Groton and the oldest inhabitant of the town. His ancestry in both branches of the family runs back nearly to the beginning of the settlement, and in his person is represented some of the best blood of old Groton stock; and we welcome him at this time. He is the last survivor of nineteen citizens who signed the call for the due observance of the Bi-centennial anniversary, on October 31, 1855, which was issued in the preceding May.

Fifty years ago the town had a celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of its settlement, similar to the one we are now holding. On that occasion Governor Boutwell was President of the day, and the Reverend Arthur Buckminster Fuller, a younger brother of Margaret Fuller,—of a family once resident here,—made the historical address, which was delivered in the Congregational Meeting-house. Colonel Eusebius Silsby Clark, who lost his life in the War of the Rebellion, at Winchester, Virginia, on October 17, 1864, was the Chief Marshal. Of his six aids on that day John Warren Parker and myself are the sole survivors, and the only representatives of those who had an official connection with the exercises; and now we are left the last two leaves

on the branch. At that celebration Mr. Parker was also one of the Committee of Arrangements; and we are all glad to see him present on this occasion.

Groton is a small town, but there are those who love her and cherish her good name and fame. She has been the mother of many a brave son and many a fair daughter, dutiful children who through generations "arise up and call her blessed." She is the Mount Zion of a large household. Of her numerous family, from the nursling to the aged, by her example she has spared no pains to make them useful citizens and worthy members of society. In former years she was relatively a much more important town than she is now. At the time of the first national census in 1790, in population Groton was the second town in Middlesex County, Cambridge alone surpassing it. In order to learn the true value of some communities, and to give the inhabitants of Groton their proper rank, they should be weighed and not counted; and by this standard it would be found that the town has not been lessened even in relative importance. Bigness and greatness are not synonymous words, and in their meaning there is much difference between them. In all our thoughts and deeds, let us do as well by the town as she has done by us.

Fellow Townsmen and Neighbors,—the stint you set me is now done. On my part it has proved to be not a task, but a labor of love. If anything that I may have said should spur others to study the history of an old town that was typical of life among plain folk in the early days of New England, and one that has left an honorable record during the various periods of its existence, my aim will have been reached.

APPENDIX.

The Name of Groton.

I AM indebted to the courtesy of Dr. Edward Mussey Hartwell for the following paper on the origin of the name of Groton. From any other source I could not have obtained such a scholarly essay on the subject; and it places me under great obligations to him. Dr. Hartwell passed his boyhood in Littleton, where his father's family belonged; and he fitted for college mostly at Lawrence Academy, so that he has inherited an historical interest in the neighborhood.

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.
Boston, July 3, 1905.

HON. SAMUEL A. GREEN, Librarian,
Massachusetts Historical Society.

DEAR DR. GREEN, — What follows contains the gist of my notes on Groton. For the sake of conciseness and brevity, I forbear (1) from fully describing the sources whence my citations are derived, and (2) from quotation of authorities regarding the linguistic affinities of the components of the word Groton. However, I may say that I can support every statement by documentary evidence that seems conclusive to me.

Groton occurs as a place name both in England and the United States. Groton in England, which is situated in the County of Suffolk, appears to be a small parish of some 1560 acres, of which 39 are in common. The "Dictionnaire des Bureaux de Poste" published at Berne in 1895, gives six post offices in various parts of the United States having the name of Groton. Two of them, viz., Groton, Massachusetts, and Groton, Connecticut, date from Colonial times, i. e., from 1655 and 1705 respectively, and numbered among their original grantees or proprietors

members of the Winthrop family whose ancestral seat was Groton in the Babenberg Hundred, County Suffolk, England, whence it is reasonable to suppose all Grotons in this country have derived their name. Among them Groton, Mass., is the most ancient. The name (spelt *Groaten*) appears in a vote of the General Court dated May 29, 1655, to grant a new plantation at Petapawag to Mr. Deane Winthrop and others. In later records of the General Court, e. g., May 26, 1658, the form *Groten* appears; and in the same records under date of November 12, 1659, both *Groten* and *Groaten* appear.

The Manor of Groton in Babenberg Hundred in the Liberty of St. Edmund and the County of Suffolk, England, according to the Domesday Book (1086) belonged to the Abbey of Bury of St. Edmund's in the time of Edward the Confessor (1042–1065). In 1544 the request of Adam Wynthorpe to purchase "the Farm of the Manor of Groton (Suffolk) late of the Monastery of Bury St Edmund's" was granted by Henry VIII. (into whose hands it had come when the monasteries were suppressed) for the sum of £408. 18s. 3d. Governor John Winthrop, grandson of Adam Wynthorpe, was Lord of the Manor of Groton in 1618. In 1630 or 1631 he sold his interest therein for £4,200. I find the name of this manor spelt variously at different times as follows:

1. Grot*ena* (a) in Domesday Book in 1086.
   (b) in Jocelin de Brakelond's Chronicle in 1200.
   (c) in the Hundred Rolls in 1277.
2. Grot*ene* (a) in Joc. de Brakelond about 1200.
   (b) in the Patent Rolls, 1291 and 1298.
3. Grot*ona* in Joc. de Brakelond about 1200.
4. Grot*one* (a) in Joc. de Brakelond about 1200.
   (b) in the Patent Rolls in 1423.
   (c) in Dugdale's citation of a Ms. of 1533.
5. *Groton* (a) in Dugdale's citation of a Ms. of 14th Century.
   (b) in Records of the Augmentation Office, 1541 and 1544.

Jocelin de Brakelond was a monk of Bury St. Edmund's who, as Chaplain of the Abbot, wrote the Chronicle which bears his name. It covers the period 1173–1203, i. e., the incumbency of Abbot Samson. The frequent mention of Groton in this Chronicle, written just at the beginning of the thirteenth century, may be accounted for by the fact that the Abbey and certain claimants named de Cokefield had a law-suit over lands at Groton.

Since 1541 Groton appears to have been the form of the name of the English manor, parish or hamlet. It may be remarked: (1) that "de Grotena" is found as a personal name in the Hundred Rolls 1297; and "de Grotton" in the Scotch Rolls, 1327; while a holding named Grotton, "late of the Monastery of Delacres in Staffordshire" is mentioned in the records of the Augmentation Office, 1547; and Grotton, a railway

station in Lancashire, is mentioned in a "Comprehensive Gazetteer of England and Wales," a recent but undated work.

The Latinized in "Grotena" and "Grotenam" of the Domesday Book give rise to the suggestion that *Groten* has the force of an adjective (meaning gravelly, gritty, stony or sandy), which served to characterize a tract of land, or perhaps a hill, a pit, a ham, or a ton. I take *grot* to be one form of the Old English greót, grut (Middle English, greet, gret, and Modern English, grit) meaning gravel.

The following is a series of forms in which variants of *greót* seem to have adjectival force:

(1) *Greotan* edesces lond relating to land in Kent in a charter dated 822. Possibly *greotan* may stand for *greatan*, meaning big.
(2) *Grêten*linkes, in Hampshire, in a land charter of 966.
(3) *Gretin*dun (later Gretton in Dorsetshire), mentioned in a charter of 1019.
(4) *Greten*howe, the name of Gretna in Scotland, in 1376.
(5) *Grotin*tune, a manor in Shropshire, Domesday Book, 1086.
(6) *Graten*ton (?), a manor in Berkshire, Domesday Book, 1086.

On the other hand, the form Greot*an* may be the dative plural of greot (for greot*um* ?) used in a locative sense "at the gravels," since *Gravelal* and *Gravelei* occur as place names in Domesday Book and *Gravell* occurs in the Hundred Rolls, temp. Edw. I.

The following scheme, derived from various standard lexicons, exhibits the etymological affinities of Greot (grit).

	Old	*Middle*	*Modern*
Saxon	Griot, griet, greot,	cf. English and German,	cf. English, German and Norse.
English	Greót, grut, grot	Greót, Greet, grit, gryt, gret,	Grit, grot, grout.
High German	Grioz,	Griesz,	Gries, Gruse, Graus.
Norse:			
Icelandic	Grjôt (griot),	Grjôt,	Grjot, Gryttn.
Danish and *Norwegian*	Grjôt,	Grjót, Gryt(e),	Gruus, Grus, Gryttn.
Swedish			Grus, Grytt.
Old Frisian	gret.		
Low German	grott.		

Grot for *greót*, appears to be an old and rather rare form. It should be stated that British place (and personal) names having *Gret* are much more numerous than those having *Grot* in the first syllable. Gretton is

the name of several manors mentioned in Domesday, e. g., the present Girton (formerly called Gritton) (cf. Girton College), near Cambridge (Cambs.) and Gretton in Northamptonshire, still called Gretton. The last was Gretton (gryttune in 1060), Greton in 1086, Gretton in 1277, 1678, and 1895.

Other forms besides Gretton are: Gret-â = Gritwater, a stream in Cumberland, cf. Greta-marsc(= Grit-water-marsh?), 821; Greta-bridge = Grit-water bridge, Gret-ford, Gret-ham, Gret-land, Gret-well. Southey, the poet, lived at Greta Hall.

Gretâ river in Cumberland had its counterpart in *Grjótá*, in the eleventh century in Iceland, translated Gritwater by Dasent in "*The Burnt Nial.*" Gryttubakki = Gravel hill or Gravel bank, is the name of (1) a modern post-office in Iceland and (2) another in Denmark. Grytten is a place name of today in Norway.

The Icelandic (Old Norse) *Grjót-garth* meant stone fence. Akin to *garth* (gard) are the Norwegian *gaard* and Swedish *gård*, a landed estate or homestead; and the English Cloister-garth, yard, garden, and orchard (ort-geard).

Ton in Groton, Boston, etc., is related to M. E. Ton (Tone), O. E. tun, tune, O. Norse tún, O. Frisian tún, O. H. German taun, and German zaun, a hedge or fence, meant also, field, yard, manor, hamlet, village and town or city.

Garth (yard) presents a parallel series of similar meanings, e. g., O. Norse for Constantinople was Myckel-gard, i. e., the Great City.

I think that Groton stands for Grot-ton (cf. Gretton, Grit-ton) and is practically equivalent to the Icelandic Grjót-garth, and that your suggestion in 1876 as to the meaning of Groton was a happy one. *Floreat Grotena!*

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD M. HARTWELL.

Bi-centennial Celebration.

The following extracts from the town-records relate to the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Groton, which took place fifty years ago. They have never yet been printed, but are given here, as they have a certain connection with the celebration recently held. With the exception of the Reverend Edwin A. Bulkley, every man

whose name is mentioned in these extracts is now dead, showing the ravages which half a century may bring about.

In the warrant for the Town Meeting, November 13, 1854, Article 2 is as follows:—

To see if the town will take any measures to notice or celebrate the Two Hundredth anniversary since the settlement of the town of Groton in the year 1655 or pass any vote in relation to the same.
[p. 389.]

In the proceedings of the meeting it is recorded that:—

The subject matter of this article [2] was referred to the following committee with instructions to report at a future meeting.

Stuart J. Park	Jacob Pollard
Josiah Bigelow	Abel Tarbell
Wm. Shattuck	Joseph Sanderson
Willard Torrey	Calvin Blood
Norman Shattuck	Joseph Brown
John Pingree	Silas Nutting
Elnathan Brown	Joseph Rugg
Charles Prescott	Charles A. Hutson

[p. 392.]

Proceecdings at the Town Meeting, March 5, 1855:—

The committee chosen in Nov. last upon the Article "To see if the Town will take any measures to notice or celebrate the two hundredth anniversary since the settlement of the town of Groton in the year 1655 or pass any vote in relation to the same" have attended to that duty and submit the following Report:

That there are eras or waymarks in the history of a people which it well becomes them to notice or celebrate, and such we consider the approaching anniversary of the incorporation of this town, and would therefore recommend to the town to celebrate said anniversary with becoming festivities, and that a committee be chosen to take the whole subject into consideration and report at the next April meeting a plan or mode of celebrating said anniversary.

	Stuart J. Park
Joseph Bigelow	Wm. Shattuck
Joseph Rugg	Willard Torrey
Norman Shattuck	Silas Nutting

[p. 403.]

The above report was accepted and the following gentlemen were chosen a committee to report a plan or mode of celebrating said anniversary at the next April meeting.

Geo. S. Boutwell	Josiah Bigelow
Rev. David Fosdick	David Lakin
B. Russell	Dr. George Stearns
S. J. Park	Norman Smith
Peter Nutting	Daniel Needham
Nath[l] Stone	Rev. Daniel Butler
B. P. Dix	John Spaulding
Rev. Crawford Nightingale	Curtis Lawrence
" E. A. Bulkley	Geo. W. Bancroft
" George E. Tucker	J. F. Hall, Jr.
" [John M.] Chick	Noah Shattuck
Geo. F. Farley	Joshua Gilson
Calvin Fletcher	P. G. Prescott
Abel Tarbell	J. G. Park
Walter Shattuck	Wm. Shattuck

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Proceedings at the Town Meeting, April 2, 1855 :—

Voted, That the report of the Committee on the second Centennial Anniversary celebration be accepted and placed on file, also chose the following persons a committee to make preparations and arrangements for the celebration as mentioned in said report with discretionary powers as to the same, to wit.

Geo. F. Farley Joshua Green S. J. Park Geo. S. Boutwell David Fosdick, Jr.	General Committee.

District No.	1.	Henry A. Bancroft	District No.	9.	Thos. Hutchins
"	2.	Curtis Lawrence	"	10.	Rufus Moors
"	3.	Josiah Bigelow	"	11.	John Pingree
"	4.	Edmund Blood	"	12.	Nath[l] Stone
"	5.	Wm. Shattuck	"	13.	E. D. Derby
"	6.	Solomon Story	"	14.	S. W. Rowe
"	7.	Reuben Lewis	"	15.	Ch's. Prescott
"	8.	Calvin Blood	"	16.	Allen Blood

[p. 407.]

Many years ago I obtained the letters and other manuscripts, together with the printed circulars, connected with the Bi-centennial Celebration; and I have had them carefully arranged, bound in a volume, and placed in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

List of Indian Words.

The following Indian names, applied by the early settlers to streams, ponds, or places, in the original township of Groton and neighborhood, for the most part are still in common use. The spelling of these words varies, as at first they were written according to their sound and not according to their derivation. In the absence of any correct standard either of spelling or pronunciation, which always characterizes an unwritten language, the words have become so twisted and distorted that much of their original meaning is lost; but their root generally remains. It is rare to find an Indian word in an early document spelled twice alike. In the lapse of time these verbal changes have been so great that the red man himself would hardly recognize any of them by sound. Even with all these drawbacks such words now furnish one of the few links in a chain of historical facts connecting modern times with the prehistoric period of New England. As the shards that lie scattered around the site of old Indian dwellings are eagerly picked up by the archæologist for critical examination, so these isolated facts about place-names are worth saving by the antiquary for their philological value. "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

Babbitasset—formerly the name of a village in Pepperell, now included in East Pepperell.

Baddacook—a pond in the eastern part of the town.

Catacoonamug—a stream in Shirley, which empties into the Nashua.

Chicopee—a district in the northerly part of the town, and applied to the highway approaching it, called Chicopee Row.

Humhaw—a brook in Westford.

Kissacook—a hill in Westford.

Massapoag—a pond lying partly in Groton and partly in Dunstable.

Mutpus—a brook in Shirley.

Nagog—a pond in Littleton.

Nashoba—the old name of the Praying Indian village in Littleton, now applied to a hill in that town as well as to a brook in Westford.

Nashua—a river running through the township, and emptying into the Merrimack.

Naumox—a district near the Longley monument, lying west of the East Pepperell road; said to have been the name of an Indian chief.

Nissitisset—applied to the neighborhood of Hollis, New Hampshire, and to a river and hill in Pepperell.

Nonacoicus—a brook in Ayer, though formerly the name was applied to a tract of land in the southerly part of Groton, and is shortened often to Coicus.

Nubanussuck—a pond in Westford.

Petaupaukett—a name found in the original petition to the General Court for the grant of the town, and used in connection with the territory of the neighborhood; sometimes written Petapawage and Petapaway.

Quosoponagon—a meadow "on the other side of the river," mentioned in the land-grant of Thomas Tarbell, Jr., the same word as Quasaponikin, formerly the name of a tract of land in Lancaster, but now given to a meadow and a hill in that town, where it is often contracted into Ponikin.

Shabikin, or more commonly *Shabōkin*, applied to a district in Harvard, bodering on the Nashua, below Still River village.

Squannacook—a river in the western part of the town flowing into the Nashua; a name formerly applied to the village of West Groton.

Tadmuck—a brook and a meadow in Westford.

Unquetenassett, or *Unquetenorset*—a brook in the northerly part of the town; often shortened into Unquety.

Waubansconcett—another word found in the original petition for the grant of the town, and used in connection with the territory of the neighborhood.

List of Towns

established in the two Colonies, before the township of Groton was granted in 1655, together with the year when they are first mentioned in the records of the General Court.

PLYMOUTH COLONY.

1	1620	Plymouth	7	1639	Taunton
2	1633	Scituate	8	1641	Marshfield
3	1637	Duxbury	9	1643	Eastham
4	1638	Barnstable	10	1645	Rehoboth
5	"	Sandwich	11	1652	Dartmouth
6	1639	Yarmouth			

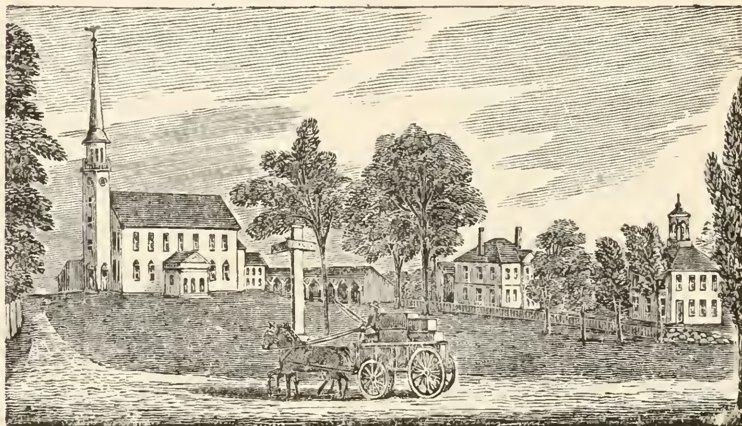
MASSACHUSETTS-BAY COLONY.

1	1630	Charlestown	19	1640	Braintree
2	"	Salem	20	"	Salisbury
3	"	Boston	21	1641	Haverhill
4	"	Dorchester	22	"	Springfield
5	"	Watertown	23	1642	Gloucester
6	"	Medford	24	"	Woburn
7	"	Roxbury	25	1643	Wenham
8	1631	Lynn	26	1644	Hull
9	"	Cambridge	27	"	Reading
10	1633	Marblehead	28	1645	Manchester
11	1634	Ipswich	29	1646	Andover
12	1635	Newbury	30	1648	Topsfield
13	"	Hingham	31	1649	Malden
14	"	Weymouth	32	1650	Medfield
15	"	Concord	33	1653	Lancaster
16	1636	Dedham	34	May, 1655	Groton
17	1639	Rowley	35	" "	Billerica
18	"	Sudbury	36	" "	Chelmsford

Trees from England.

Last September I wrote to the Reverend John W. Wayman, rector of the Groton Parish in England, and through his courtesy I procured several young elms and some acorns and beechnuts from the mother town. During the winter Professor Charles S. Sargent, who is at the head of the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, kindly took charge of the trees; and he also planted the acorns and nuts which came up in the spring. These trees and saplings have been set out temporar ily on my land, and in due time, when of suitable size, they will be transplanted in some public place. It is hoped that they will foster and keep alive an interest

between the two towns which are connected by sentiment, though separated in age by centuries of time and in distance by thousands of miles.



First Parish Meeting-house.

This cut was taken from a drawing made in the year 1838 by John Warner Barber, and originally appeared in his Historical Collections of Massachusetts (Worcester, 1839). It represents the First Parish Meeting-house before it was remodelled in 1839, when it was partially turned round, and the north end made the front, facing the west. The Academy building on the right of the Meeting-house, was enlarged in the autumn of 1846, and afterward burned on July 4, 1868. The fence now around the Common in front of the Meeting-house was built in the autumn of 1842, the last post being placed at the northwest corner on October 3 of that year. The trees within the enclosure were set out about the same time, excepting the row of elms along Main Street, which were transplanted in 1828.

FIRST PARISH CHURCH, 1905.

It is manifest that we are all agreed that another important chapter has been added to the records of the Town of Groton. And this exercise is ended. The next exercise is the dinner, but that, I am informed, will not take place until one o'clock. It is some time between now and then, and I am told that the First Parish Church is open. It is a very interesting structure. Also the Public Library where there is an interesting exhibition of historical articles. And the house of Mrs. Ward Dix, one of the old houses of the town, through her kindness, is open to the public, where some very interesting things which once belonged to General Ward are to be seen.

PRAYER BY REV. BYRON F. GUSTIN.

We thank Thee for these occasions when Thy people can meet, and thus gather to do honor to a noble past, and do honor to the men and women that made that past .possible, and a bright and beautiful future, too. We pray Thee that this love for town and home may be extended so that the nation itself may be honored, and this nation become a nation worthy of imitation by the world. Wilt Thou graciously bless these Thy gifts and all other temporal gifts to the use of man and to Thy holy service, and strengthen Thy children here gathered.

REMARKS

BY

GENERAL WILLIAM A. BANCROFT.

The Town of Groton, like a gracious matron, in holiday attire, her face radiant with the smile of welcome, not all regretful of her age; on the contrary, rather proud of it as she contemplates her numerous and vigorous daughters, the eldest of whom have the charms of a hundred and thirty years, and the youngest of whom, has the air (Ayer) of more than thirty-four years, extends cordial greetings to all whom she has asked to join in her birth year, and settles herself with motherly composure to listen to the pleasant things they may have to say of her, or of—themselves, speaking, as I am admonished that they will, with that soulful brevity which men of wit always command, and with that consideration for the listener which youth shows when it addresses age.

Fifty years ago the illustrious man who presided at the two hundredth anniversary of the town, and who would have presided again today, had a few more months of life been vouchsafed to him, after adverting to the early struggles, and to the important episodes in the history of the Community, spoke as follows:

"But it will be a sad perversion of the proper objects of this day, if we devote ourselves exclusively to joyous festivity, or even to calm reflections upon the Past.

The Present should use the Past as a guide to the Future, — we pass from one century to another at a period of unexampled prosperity. This prosperity is attended by corresponding dangers. If our career thus far has been illustrated by instances of individual virtue, of devotion to duty, of sacrifices in the cause of freedom, of valor in war and charity in peace, of liberality in the cause of learning, of sincerity and ardor tempered with meekness in the cause of religious liberty and truth, then there are so many examples that we are to imitate and if possible to excel."

Since these words were spoken what momentous issues have been decided! What great crises have been passed: and with what a continuance of unexampled prosperity has the country been blessed! And this unexampled prosperity has had indeed its corresponding dangers. Within six short years the country was plunged in the terrible throes of a civil war, unparelleled in modern times, and then surely were needed "virtue" and "devotion" and "sacrifices" and "valor" and "liberality."

Who shall say that the examples of which Governor Boutwell spoke have not been imitated, perhaps excelled? Measured by conspicuous virtue and devotion to duty in public affairs, his own honorable career makes conclusive answer for the individual; and he did not stand alone.

America which gave the world a Washington in the Eighteenth Century, gave it a Lincoln in the Nineteenth.

Measured by the Country's previous standard of achievement, these fifty years will not be overlooked. The governmental methods established by the fathers in this country of vast resources have made possible the accumulation of great material wealth. It is the fashion in some quarters to regard the accumulation of wealth as an evil. It is not, however, from the accumulation of wealth that a community will suffer, but rather from the abuse of the power that wealth bestows.

To create saner conditions for a community, the accumulation of wealth is essential. Public and private institutions whose purpose it is to point out methods of physical well be-

ing, moral advancement, and spiritual uplifting all need wealth to support them. It is only a wealthy community that can afford to maintain institutions of study and research. From such institutions result saner laws, saner morals, and saner religions.

A community all of whose members are engaged constantly in a struggle for physical existence cannot advance either physically, morally, or spiritually. Such, however, has not been our fortune.

Through the prescient wisdom of our fathers, were laid the foundations which have made possible our present happy conditions. In the main, the wealth of our Country has been devoted to righteousness. The many useful creations of modern life; the countless institutions, both public and private, devoted to learning, to benevolence, and to religion, for the benefit of mankind, has been the result of accumulation.

Higher standards of living have come, and with material wealth have come the refinements of life, not only to the very wealthy, but to those of smaller means. Wealth has made possible the great inventions which have blessed mankind in so many ways, and wealth has made possible the great intellectual and moral awakenings which have raised the average of individual character.

Wealth means civilization instead of savagery. It means progress instead of stagnation. It means order instead of anarchy. Wealth is a blessing. Poverty is a curse. And yet there is abroad a spirit, which, regardless of our history and of the experience of mankind, would overthrow the established principles of society and change our conception of government. The New England ideal was independence. The other notion is dependence. The immigrant whose enterprise we commemorate, in worldly affairs at least, believed in individual freedom to the very uttermost, and to the very uttermost he was willing to strive, knowing that the result of his striving, except in so far as society needed its share, was his own. No hardship, no peril, no adversity, diverted or discouraged him. Toil was his instrument.

Fatigue and danger were necessary incidents. His pride was to support himself. His shame was through fault of his own to be supported by others. He was thrifty, saving, "close" if you please. To be so was virtuous, and thus he was independent. Nevertheless he was public spirited where the Commonwealth was concerned and he gave to the extent of his ability, even life itself. Self-reliant, resourceful, ambitious, persevering, enterprising and successful, he represents the spirit which has built the republic. Undoubtedly there are evils incident to the conditions he has created, but the cure he has provided to be administered. If there are foolish or unscrupulous men who have come into control of great wealth, their folly or their iniquity may be stopped without changing the plan of society. It is a barbarous doctrine which kills the patient to cure the disease. But what is proposed? A system which provides that the invidual shall have, not what he is able through industry and self-denial to create, but what it is said vaguely his needs require, as others may determine.

By taking away the inducement to human effort, it is expected that the sum of human happiness will be increased. The industrious, the courageous, and the efficient are to get more than the idle, the cowardly and the inefficient. The services of Daniel Webster would command no more than his office boy's. President Eliot would get no more than a college janitor; and the inventor of the telephone or of the air brake would get nothing for his invention.

Such a scheme will not answer the constitution of human nature. It will fail, but before it fails, much mischief may be done. Demagogues and self seekers will mislead with their sophistries the vicious, the lazy and the unfortunate. Well meaning men seeking to remedy injustices which can be dealt with otherwise, or seeking to change conditions which cannot be changed, will urge an abandonment of the methods of our fathers, and will make some trouble. The thoughtless will find it easy to assail large aggregations of wealth, whether in corporate or individual holdings; but when the man who has saved a hundred dollars or more, finds it to be

a part of the plan, as it surely must be, that he is to give up his hard earned savings, then there will be a reaction. Moreover, intelligent youth will rebel at a system which destroys all hope of self-betterment,—one of the most powerful stimulants of human action. Great organizations will resist; among them the patriotic societies, which will not surrender tamely the heritage for which their fathers fought; the trade-unions when their eyes are opened to the machinations of the agitators who are endeavoring to exploit them; the fraternal orders whose watchword is "thrift;" and many, if not most, of the great churches. In the meantime, through insidious forms, such as the municipalization of so-called public utilities, and by the constant advocacy of impracticable theorists who are to be found in all vocations, gains are being made.

In Europe where this movement against wealth is much older and more insolent than it is here, it has assailed likewise the fundamental institution of marriage upon which the existence of the sanctity of the family and indeed our entire moral code depends; it has assailed religion, without which the peoples would drift as aimlessly as a ship without a compass; and it has assailed the idea of nationality from which patriotism springs. It is only a question of time when the same things will be assailed in this country.

Today there is danger, too, as there was fifty years ago, and as there will be fifty years hence. Every period has its dangers, for such is life; but today the danger is not of the savage Indian nor of civil war. Today the danger is that a doctrine which undermines the very foundation of society, which disregards the teachings of the past, which derides New England and the New England town, which misconceives human nature, which would thwart human aspirations and would destroy human progress—today the danger is that this pernicious doctrine will be adopted. The New Englander—the American—must choose. Do we meet to reaffirm the principles of our fathers and to follow their footsteps in the path of human advance, or do we acknowledge that for two hundred and fifty years we and those we venerate have been deluded by a misconception? Do we move

forward or backward? Here is a chance for courage no less than was his who braved a savage foe; or than was his who bared his breast to the bayonets of rebellion. It will not be popular to oppose this new doctrine, but opposition must be made. Scattered now through the length and breadth of our country, shall the successors of our progenitors, the hardy frontiersmen of this and many an other New England town be recreant?

In the sky of our Country's glory we read the names of the shadowy hosts that beckons us on,—statesmen and soldiers and orators and poets—but patriots all. We seem to hear their harmonious voices like a strain of lofty music, as they call upon us to do our duty, and with reverent hearts, trusting in Him before whom the glory of the kings of this world passes away like a tale that is told, we respond to the inspiring summons, resolve to transmit to our children, and we hope to our children's children, even to the latest generation, our heritage of American citizenship, unrestricted by folly and unimpaired by hatred.

HON. GEORGE A. MARDEN.

Among the distinctions which Groton possesses is the circumstance that two presidents of the United States have tarried within its borders. I am quite sure, however, that neither could have continued to interest a Groton audience as he whom I am to ask to speak.

Many years ago, I think perhaps the Civil War in which he took part as an officer in the Union Army, had been fought, I heard him in the Town Hall for the first time; although I feel certain that it was not the first time that others had heard him here. Many times since then he has spoken acceptably to Groton audiences, and his speech will be heard today with as much interest as it will be read fifty years from now at the three hundredth anniversary.

In his long and useful public career the only mistake I ever heard that he has made was when Speaker of the Massachusetts House twenty years ago, he appointed me Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. For this I hope he has not suffered unduly. He represents the government of the United States, but everything that he says may not relate to that subject. I present Assistant United States Treasurer,

HON. GEO. A. MARDEN OF LOWELL.

Man is an animal. I am a vice-president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. I heard General Bancroft, a few minutes ago, speaking to one of the battery of orators which he has a list of, who asked him how long this thing will be kept up, and he said, "It will depend on you orators." I do not propose it shall be kept up unduly on my account.

I did make (not then "Major General") Bancroft Chairman on Military Affairs, but I had a purpose in it, and I have seen the result of that appointment. Whether he has been inoculated, by his patriotic associations, with a recur-

rence of the fear, of the urgent fear, of the Groton people, of an attack by the Indians, I don't know; but he has fortified your Main street. And he is building, I understand, as a simple soldier might, a very plain set of barracks somewhere back in the woods. When we get so fortunate as to be at the head of the Elevated Railway, we will fortify all our towns, and build our barracks, and pay dividends, and accommodate the people.

I never saw so large an audience in so melting a mood when I began with them. I have learned a new recipe to-day, which is to serve your potato salad, and your corned beef, and your baked beans with melted butter. This is a part of my remarks which does not relate to the "national government."

When the General read the list of the distinguished men who have served the public, and who are natives of Groton, modesty incomprehensible forbade him to speak of a certain Major-General, the only one on the list, but as he read the list,—presidents, senators, members of congress, members of the cabinet,—as he came to each class, I said to myself, George S. Boutwell; but he tells me that he didn't need to take Ex-Governor Boutwell as the sole representative of any class, because these distinguished men have hunted in couples and in triplets as well.

Groton,—let me come to the words of my text,—"Groton as related to the Nation." The most obvious remark is that but for Groton we wouldn't have any nation. The General has spoken of the early patriots who settled in New England. We have the pilgrims of Plymouth and the puritans of Boston, and they spread out over this way into Middlesex County, and Massachusetts was the result. New England followed Massachusetts, and the nation followed New England. And you in Groton not only have welcomed the presidents, two of the chief magistrates of America, but you have started an institution which shall educate boys for future presidential chairs.

Groton,—I have come to the cattle shows of Groton many times. Two hundred and fifty years have done much for an

old town like this, but the old town, two hundred and fifty years old, has done for the country, which for the moment I am honored to represent, what no other town in New England has done. The cavaliers of Virginia and of Maryland, and the Dutchmen of Manhattan Island have done their part, but except for New England where would we be today? We were told in the address of Dr. Green that Groton's future depended at one time on three immigrants from Chelmsford who, by permission of the church, were allowed to come here. What would Groton have been but for the decision of those who surrounded her?

Three towns, he told us, had their two hundred and fiftieth anniversary this year,—Billerica and Chelmsford and Groton. Ah, but Billerica! poor old Billerica! of whom I am ashamed—because a lineal ancestor of mine came from Billerica. She has failed to appreciate the advantages of a record, and she has left it for the anniversary fifty years hence, to take hold and make up the loss and disgrace of her indifference, this year.

Here is a battery of oratory to come after. The General is polite. He was very modest in intimating that the speakers ought to be brief. Let me say that I have given them an example. I had sixty rounds of cartridges in my belt, and I have fired but twenty.

GOVERNOR GUILD.

The people of this town are under great obligation to the Lieutenant Governor, who at no small inconvenience to himself, has come here not only to bring the greetings of the Commonwealth, but to delight us by his own attractive presence and his felicitous speech. Massachusetts is fortunate in counting him among her honored sons, and I suppose it will not transgress the proprieties of the occasion, if I mention that he is exposed to the bestowal of still further honors.

If the manifest desire of a great political party is recognized at the polls, our state will have next year another excellent Chief Magistrate. I have much gratification in presenting to you a public-spirited citizen, a patriotic soldier, a capable public servant, a consummate orator, His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor,

GENERAL CURTIS GUILD, JR.

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen: I thank you, sir, for your very kind reference, and you for your very agreeable reception. We will let the future take care of itself, sir. At present it is my privilege and extremely pleasant duty to present to you the greetings of the present chief magistrate of Massachusetts,—a conscientious, clean, upright public servant, justly honored by the people,—William L. Douglas, Governor of Massachusetts.

In looking over the proceedings of the last celebration of Groton, on the train, on the way to this tent, for that is all the preparation I have been able to make, I observed that fifty years ago the toast of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was supposed to be fittingly responded to by a combination of hot air and brass. It was responded to by the band. On this occasion, you furnish the hot air, and if I should accept too many prophesies, I am sure you would think I was furnishing the brass.

The first guide book of New England, Wood's New England, published but a short time after the arrival of the New England settlers and citizens that marched into the interior, speaks of the great danger on account of the vast numbers of lions in the frontier settlements. Groton was one of these towns. In a foot note he adds, honestly enough, "I have not seen any of these lions myself, but there proceed at night times such dreadful roarings that there must be either lions or devils." The devils are not present today, but rather their opposite in the pleasant presence of the opposite sex, who represent angels rather than devils. But the good old coasts of Wood's time are represented, for if there are not

lions here, what have we here in the front row of this table today?

At the late visit of the President of the United States to Massachusetts, he brought a new story (at least, new to me) from the west, speaking of the care that fellow men should show for one another. A new mine was being opened in Arizona, and over the main shaft, which was some sixty feet deep and without any railing, with the old fashioned wind-up, truck, and windlass, the thoughtful owners of the mine had put up the inscription, "Please do not fall into this hole; there are men working below." I do not propose to fall into a hole myself today, because I find that there are nine men whose names occur below mine, and I am sure you will greet the nine with three times three.

But if I must give one serious word for the good old Commonwealth that we all honor, let me say something in regard to the one product of Groton which remains steadfast in the light of the world. I mean the old fashioned education. Beneath the eaves of the Public Library in Boston, there runs this inscription, "The Commonwealth demands the education of her citizens as the safeguard of order and liberty." But education cannot be the safeguard of order and liberty if the educated man neglects to use his education for the benefit of the commonwealth. And education cannot be the safeguard of order and liberty if it is merely that technical education which, as the late William E. Russell said, "may teach a man to make a living, but which does not teach a man to make a life." That old fashioned education, with something of philosophy and more of history, and something of the classical languages in it, was taught from time immemorial here in the old schools, and later in the Lawrence Academy, and now in the splendid new Groton School. It seems to me that if our Commonwealth is to hold her head high, as she does today, as she has from the beginning, that we cannot afford altogether to abandon that old fashioned education. It is a magnificent thing for us to be able to boast that whereas, ten years ago, when the builders of battleships sought their models, they had to go to Paris or England for a school of

naval architecture, today, the first school of naval architecture in the world is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is a superb thing for us to be able to boast that, if twenty years ago our physicians and surgeons were obliged to go abroad to complete their education, today the best medical schools in the world are within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. But it is an infinitely better thing to think of that a leader of the United States that leads his party, and represents liberality, breadth, progress, and the bursting of the old shackles, may owe his birth to New York, and his parentage to different races, but he owes the education that inspired his toils to the education of Massachusetts. And so, in that spirit, I venture to say just one word, not against technical education,—even let us encourage it—but against the utter abandonment of the education in history, in philosophy, in poetry, in literature, that shall turn out a man a mere part of an industrial machine. If in war, as has been proved, the best soldier is the man with some power of initiative, so it is true in peace that the best citizen is the man who is not merely a money making cog in a mere industrial machine. The danger of which you speak, sir, and it is a real danger, is much less if, not this man or that man, but all the people have a knowledge of history, and of the examples that have gone before. If, when the demagogic machinist, with his speech that appeals so to the ears of an uninformed man, speaks to an audience that has already heard similar words that were spoken in France by Robespierre, that have been spoken before in this country, and that struck down the splendid structure that was raised by the patriotism of our forefathers.

Not that we should neglect technical education, but we should not confine our education to it. The mere skillful machinist may become a burglar. The skilled chemist who is that and nothing else may become a counterfeiter. The skilled accountant who is that and nothing more may let his knowledge find its scope in embezzling. It isn't merely necessary that we should build up skilled artisans to add to the wealth of Massachusetts, but that, by education of the old

sort, we should build up sound citizens to lift up the citizenship of Massachusetts. With the basis of character, we can safely build the other form of education. Our industries are threatened by child labor in Georgia, and by yellow labor in the steam cotton mills in Japan. We will seek to make our labor even more skilled, but if we keep our character true as well, we may always answer in the future to any boast of any contesting state or section of country as the Governor of Massachusetts, not born in Massachusetts, foreign born citizen, one of the truest Americans that ever lived, Frederick T. Greenhalge, Governor of Massachusetts, — as he answered the boast of the Governor of Georgia. The Governor of that state threatened that ultimately they would take away all the industries of New England. I can see Governor Greenhalge now, standing in the midst of that southern exposition, under that hot Georgia sun, answering Governor Atkinson: "We congratulate you on your prosperity. We wouldn't take from it a single tithe. Every bar of iron that drops from a southern forge, every reel of yarn that falls from a southern spindle adds but another link in the chain that binds the north and south together in a common country. Spin your yarn if you will, you must send it to the north to be woven. Weave your cloth if you will, you must send it to Massachusetts to be finished and dyed. Finish and dye it if you will, you must come to Massachusetts for your machinery with which to make it. Build your machinery if you will, you must still come to Massachusetts for educated Yankee boys with Yankee brains to officer your industries."

BISHOP WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

I might tell you of a worthy family whose representatives have had habitations here almost from the beginnings — to the story of whose services to municipality, to state and to country, in public and private relation, in its last four generations, it would be profitable to listen for a longer period

than we shall have remained under this shelter; but I am instead to read a letter from a member of that family whom the community has had ample reason to honor, without in the least drawing upon the claims of his distinguished ancestors or relatives, the Right Reverend, the Bishop of Massachusett,

DOCTOR WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

BAR HARBOR, ME., July 4, 1905.

My Dear General Bancroft:

It is a source of real regret to me that I cannot be present at the 250th anniversary of the founding of Groton, but having once gotten away from official engagements I find it necessary, if I am to get a rest, to stay away for awhile.

With the scenes and the people of Groton are bound up many of my happiest memories and associations. I can recall how, as a small boy, we used to walk across the meadow road to Church, and the ringing of the bells gave forth sweeter sounds than any city bells. The thrills ran down my back as the bass in the quartet thundered out his note.

My Aunt Woodbury's old horse, Doctor, used to drop her at the old Meeting House and make his way around to the shed. Then at the singing of the Doxology he backed out and drove around to the front porch to take her home. Some of the people used to bring their noonday lunch and be ready for the second service.

The handsome face and kind heart of Aunt Eliza Green are no doubt, familiar to some of the older inhabitants, and the smell of her pies still seems to linger about the house as I pass it on my visits to Groton.

I even go as far back as Peter Hazard, the old negro; and I remember with a shudder how his old wife pulled a black pipe out of her mouth and gave me a kiss.

Farmers' Row, with its unsurpassed view across the Nashua Valley, even with its many changes, still remains beautiful.

Lawrence Academy has done, and is doing, its noble work. If the architects of a generation ago had been wise enough, or the towns-people had been smart enough, to compel them

to adopt the simple colonial style in the erection of the Lawrence Academy, how much more beautiful the town would be. In the last twenty-five years the town has steadily improved in appearance. In fact, if I might make a suggestion, how much more beautiful the town may be if every citizen would do his part toward making his paths, his barn and shed as neat, simple and attractive as possible. It is not so much a question of money as of a desire to put a little thought and work into village improvements. When Mr. Bryce was here a few months ago the first question he asked me was whether I could give him the constitution of a village improvement society, for he had seen so much of it in this country that he wished to organize the movement in Scotland, whose hamlets are bare, hard and ugly. Thus the influence of America spreads even from the smallest villages.

Groton has a history so great that it should stand to all who pass through it as a model Massachusetts village. Grateful for what the men and women of Groton have done in the past we should do our part toward the town, the Church and the nation in the future.

I remain, with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) William Lawrence.

CONGRESSMAN TIRRELL.

It would have been regrettable, indeed, if this commemorative gathering had not been graced by the presence of the representative of the Congressional District of which this town is a part. Almost at any time during the last century had our honored guest been in the House he would have found there as an associate a Groton man, either a native or a resident, and sometimes he would have found more than one, for, as I mentioned this morning, the town has had at least eleven congressmen. I presume our distinguished friend is of the opinion that Groton has had its share, and having supplied so large a part of the membership of Con-

gress during the nineteenth century, some other town—Natick for instance—might be intrusted to contribute membership during the twentieth century. He comes from a town of much historic interest; but though the town still retains the Indian name, the Indians have long since departed. In this part of the country they are rarely to be found except in large cities, where it is current knowledge that they are used only for political adversaries or for tobacconists' signs. While I do not suppose that our able and genial Congressman would arrogate to himself the mantle of John Eliot, the Apostle of the Indians, yet I can testify that in the cause of temperance and good citizenship, he has proved himself an excellent disciple of that worthy.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present our Congressman, the

HONORABLE CHARLES Q. TIRRELL.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am sure that if a stranger from a distance ventured into the town of Groton today, and saw the bright and expectant faces upon your Main Street, which has been so thronged, he could with difficulty determine whether this was an old home week gathering, or whether it was in commemoration of some one of the many interesting events for which this town has been distinguished in its long and eventful history. But I am sure that he would agree with the man who was invited to a distant mansion in the country, not aware of the object for which he was invited. It seems it was a funeral occasion. He arrived very late. The ceremony was over. They had all gathered together at the dining table, and, as it was in anti-temperance days, the guests became somewhat exhilarated, and, finally, rising with unsteady feet, with glass in hand, he said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I propose a toast to the bride and bridegroom." Thereupon, a friend attempted to put him right by saying, "Sit down, man; this isn't a wedding, this is a funeral." He said, "I don't care what it is, I know one thing, it is a grand success." I am sure those of us who are not natives can say that of this celebration.

I have always been interested in colonial matters, perhaps because I was brought up in an old colonial town. My father's ancestors were of the town of Weymouth. It was settled in 1622, and incorporated in 1636. In another respect it also has a little advantage over Groton. Whereas in 1676, when King Philip swept like a besom of destruction through this part of the province, and laid forty of your homesteads in ashes, in 1622, when the Indians of Weymouth gathered together into a conspiracy to exterminate our settlers Miles Standish was informed, and he with eight of his warriors marched up through the woods of Marshfield and Scituate and massacred them all. No trace of Indians has been found in that ancient town since that time.

I do not propose to touch upon any of the matters in reference to ancient history which have been already presented to you by the orator of the occasion and by those who have addressed you. I do not even propose to speak upon education generally. But there is one line of education not touched upon by the Lieutenant-Governor or by any of the speakers, which is applicable to this occasion. Why is it that the leaders in business and professional life, those entitled to take front rank not only in industrial matters but in national pursuits as well, are those who have been educated in just such towns as these? What is the subtle influence which such a town has upon the human mind? Why does it develop all the characteristics which tend to make a man great among his fellow creatures? Here is a young man born far away from the madding crowd.

The old homestead is overshadowed by a lofty mountain. Here at its base he plays in childhood, sometimes climbing its almost inaccessable heights until he stands upon its snowy summit. From the foot of the mountain the daisied meadow stretches far beyond to a brook dashing down from the mountain's side flows onward to the sea. Here also he plays and fishes and whiles away the hours. At last early manhood is obtained. It is lonely at the old homestead. There are no companions to cheer him. He longs for an active life. He is ready for life's battles. So he leaves his

home for the distant city. There he struggles working his way up, rung by rung, until his object is secured. Then old and gray headed he revisits the old homestead. For the first time he realizes the debt he owes to his native town. His steadfastness of purpose, his patriotic impulses, his avoidance of evil, his honesty, his integrity, all that combined to make him an honorable, upright and respected citizen, was moulded there amid those mighty hills.

So it is to those of you who perhaps after many wanderings have returned once again to Groton, your native town. Here you were educated. Here you spent your youthful days, here you got the education which has made you, largely, what you are; education which differs according to the temperament and the susceptibility of each individual person. But such as you are, and the honorable career which you have attained, is largely owing to this indefinable education which the old town has given you.

I was much interested in the record given by General Bancroft, the long list, the innumerable list almost, of Groton people who became distinguished and rendered service to their country. When he came to the eleven congressmen, he looked at me and stopped. He had just reached the point where if he had continued he must have given the fact that you elected here in the town of Groton Col. William Lawrence as your Representative to the State Legislature for seventeen times, and then you elected the Hon. Mr. Prescott for fifteen times in succession, and then later on, I don't know for how many years, the Hon. George S. Boutwell. Think what the General might have done for me if he had only stated those facts.

But I must not detain you longer, delightful as it would be. I congratulate this town, so memorable in its history, for a record which cannot be excelled if equalled among the old colonial towns of the Commonwealth.

DOCTOR GREEN.

On this platform sits my cousin, the venerable Zara Patch, a Vice President, who was one of the petitioners for the celebration fifty years ago. Last winter, at the age of ninety-two, he spurned my advice to use a cane when he walked upon the icy sidewalk.

It is the fortune, however, of Dr. Green and that of only one other now living, Mr. John W. Parker, a Vice President, to have had any official part in the celebration of fifty years ago, and also, in that of today. Such a fortune can never be that of but few; although, speaking of this town, many of us were here fifty years ago. For one, however, I did not feel especially interested in what was then going on.

We should like to have heard a word from the orator of the day. He knows the town from the "Throne" to the "Ridges" and from "Massapoag" to the river. He loves every foot of it. He loves its history. He loves its people,—and its people love him.

He was by unanimous choice requested to represent the women of Groton. They have always been among the best in the world, and no one of all has been more beautiful, both in character and in person, than that same Eliza Green of whom Bishop Lawrence wrote, and whose son would have spoken to you. Doctor, Colonel, Mayor, Honorable, Histoian, Antiquarian, Genealogist, and many other things, a real Groton boy,—"Sam" Green. But the heat of the day, and the fatigue attendant upon his effort this forenoon, has deprived us of the pleasure which we should have felt in listening to him again this afternoon.

HON. CHESTER W. CLARK.

In the changes of time and political plan, the Councils which created this township have passed away, but in some sort the Great and General Court is their successor. So the town has asked its Representative in the upper branch of that renowned legislature to address the people of this

corporation. The town is old enough now to enable him to judge whether his predecessors acted wisely in allowing it to be settled.

I have the honor to introduce the Hon. Chester W. Clark of the Sixth Middlesex Senatorial District.

HON. CHESTER W. CLARK.

Mr. President, Citizens of Groton, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am glad to have this opportunity of being present and enjoying with you the celebration of this most important epoch in the history of your beautiful town. Time passes swiftly; the lives of men soon vanish away; and even the quarter-millennium of a municipality, when it is passed, is but as a tale that is told. It is interesting and profitable to pause at the end of such periods of time and look back upon the dim and half forgotten years of its earliest history, and to discern the pathway by which it has arrived to its present state of prosperity and happiness.

I understand that I am expected to say something about the General Court, and especially about the Senate. This is a subject befitting the occasion; for the very cause of our being assembled here today was an act of incorporation passed by the General Court two hundred and fifty years ago. That incorporation was one result of the tremendous activity that characterized this part of the new world during the few years next succeeding the first settlements.

What exhibitions of heroic toil and unyielding energy are disclosed as we bring those old days before the imagination and consider what was accomplished by only a few, unaided by the implements and machinery and motive power of later invention.

Upon the arrival of Governor Winthrop and his company in 1630 there were only about two thousand persons in the territory now included in Massachusetts. Five years later their numbers had augmented to about four thousand. That was only twenty years prior to the settlement of Groton; and yet, before this town was incorporated, more than fifty others

had been established in Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay, comprising about forty thousand inhabitants.

The harmony, order, and economy of means that made possible such wonderful achievements in two decades could not have been secured and preserved, even among a people as small in number as were they, without the control and direction of some form of government. And so that essential element of civilization was inaugurated at the very first, bearing the outward semblance and designation of the General Court, — an institution and a name that have come down from that remote origin to the present time.

The charter of Charles the First provided that there should be a governor, a deputy governor, and eighteen assistants of the company, to be elected yearly by the freemen; that the governor or deputy and the assistants should hold a court periodically for directing their affairs; and that four times a year there should be held by the governor or deputy and assistants and all the freemen who might be present, a general assembly to be called the four Great and General Courts. There was then no rivalry, as there sometimes is at the present day, nor any caucuses, to determine who should be sent to the General Court; for every freeman had a right to go. In that respect it resembled a town meeting of the present day. The number of freemen in the colony grew gradually more numerous, so that it became impracticable for all of them to meet in General Court. Thereupon it was provided that each town might be represented by two or three delegates, or, if it chose, by all of its freemen in a body; and later it was decided that each town should send two delegates only. The similarity between the original and the present General Court now begins to appear. The first meeting of the General Court was held in October, 1630.

The court held by the governor or deputy and the assistants was called the Court of Assistants. Its province was to sit in the interim between the sessions of the General Court; and the latter might repeal any action previously taken by the former. To this Court of Assistants and to the General Court alike belonged all legislative, judicial, and executive

functions. From time to time thereafter certain of those powers were eliminated, so that at length the General Court possessed only the power of legislation, as it does today. The foundation of our present General Court may therefore be said to date from 1630, for all its powers were then exercised, although in conjunction with others. It then exisited under the government of England; it now exists under the constitution of Massachusetts; but in point of historical succession its life has been continuous. By including therein two classes, the governor and assistants forming one, and the freemen, the other, it was analogous to the form of our present legislature of representatives and senators but they sat together as one body.

To a curious circumstance that happened very early, we may trace the separation of the two classes of legislators mentioned, which furnishes the historical basis for the formation of our legislature into two branches. During that period all sorts of petty cases came before the General Court. At one of its sessions a case was brought by a Mrs. Sherman against Captain Keayne, to recover damages caused by a stray hog which had rooted up all the cabbages in the widow Sherman's garden. After a protracted hearing, commensurate with the magnitude and importance of such a case, two assistants and fifteen freemen voted in favor of the widow, and seven assistants and eight freemen voted in favor of the hog. A majority of the whole, but not of each class, had thus voted in favor of the widow. A point arose as to whether it was necessary that a majority of the assistants and of the freemen should concur, to enable the plaintiff to prevail.

The question created great agitation and was warmly debated on either side. At length it was determined that a majority of each class was essential to any action, and such was thereafter required. The two classes continued to sit together, but each in a portion of the room by itself. In the course of time they came to occupy separate quarters. The custom of one body having a negative upon the other afterwards became embalmed in the constitution of our Commonwealth.

The sessions were opened at eight o'clock in the morning, and the assistants who were not then present were fined, notwithstanding there were no public conveyances, but each must travel on foot or on horseback to the square, homely, frame building which was the capitol. Now the sessions never begin before half-past ten in the morning, and even then many of the members are dilatory.

As before stated, the General Court both made laws and enforced them. It may not be uninteresting to notice some of the peculiar enactments and judgments of those days.

Sir Richard Saltonstall was one of the assistants and apparently a man of importance. He furnished considerable business for the General Court, as appears by these records:

"Sir Richard Saltonstall is fined four bushels of malt for his absence from the court."

"It is ordered that Richard Duffy, servant to Sir Richard Saltonstall, shall be whipped for his misdemeanors towards his master."

"Sir Richard Saltonstall is fined 5 £ for whipping two persons without the presence of another assistant, contrary to an act of court formerly made."

"Chickataubott is fined the skin of a bear for shooting a swine of Sir Richard Saltonstall's."

It seems that the inhabitants coveted good society, for we find the following:

"Mr. William Foster, appearing, was informed that we conceive him not fit to live with us; wherefore he was wished to depart before the General Court in March next."

It would seem that treason was allowed no breathing place in the colony.

"It is ordered that Philip Ratcliffe shall be whipped, have his ears cut off, fined 5 £ and banished out of the limits of this jurisdiction for uttering malicious and scandalous speeches against the government and the church of Salem."

The proximity of the Indians jeopardized the public safety and occasioned the following provisions:

"It is ordered that there shall be a watch of four kept every night at Dorchester, and another at Watertown; watches

to begin at sun-set; and that if any person shall shoot off any piece after the watch is set he shall forfeit 40s or be whipped."

We made paper money legal tender in war time, but even that expedient was surpassed by the genius of the earliest settlers, of which this evidence appears:

"It is ordered that corn shall pass for payment of all debts at the usual rate it is sold for."

In those days there were no political "fences" to be looked after, but concerning the other kind they enacted that,

"The town of Hingham for not making sufficient fences is fined 5s and hath time to mend their fences until the fourth month."

The inhabitants also looked well to their ways:

"The town of Boston for defect of their ways between Powder Horn Hill and the written tree is fined 20s and enjoined to mend them."

There are many humbug nostrums at the present day with which unscrupulous persons prey upon the public; but here is what happened in the olden time:

"Nicholas Knapp is fined 5 £ for taking upon him to cure the scurvy by water of no worth or value, which he sold at a very dear rate, to be imprisoned till he pay his fine, or else to be whipped."

Another instance illustrates how trivial was some of the business:

"Bartholomew Hill is adjudged to be whipped for stealing a loaf of bread from John Hoskins."

Much of the time of the present General Court is consumed in the consideration of the so-called "labor bills," all which aim to limit the hours and to secure for the workmen a greater rate of compensation. In contrast to these, the labor bills that then came before the General Court tended to decrease rather than to enlarge the compensation, which fact is noticeable as indicating the change of conditions or sentiment that has taken place. These are samples of the former kind:

"It is ordered that laborers shall not take above 12d a day

for their work and not above 6d and meat and drink, under pain of 10s."

"It is ordered that sawyers shall not take above 12d a score for sawing oak boards, and 10d a score for pine boards, if they have their wood felled and squared for them."

"It is ordered that no master carpenter, mason, joiner, or bricklayer shall take above 16d a day for their work if they have meat and drink; and the second sort not above 12d a day under pain of 10s both to giver and toreceiver."

The punishment of death was inflicted for a variety of offences, some of which would not be considered of very great magnitude in our time. The town of Groton was incorporated at the session of the General Court held in March, 1655. At the same session the following act was passed:

"In answer to the petition of Edward Sanders, craving the favor of this court of the leaving off from his neck his sentenced halter, the court, having received some testimony of some good effect his punishment hath produced, do grant his request."

I must not dwell longer on the quaint and curious doings of bygone days.

That the division of the legislature into two branches is a wise safeguard against hasty action is being constantly demonstrated. The senate has been facetiously styled "the graveyard of legislation." During the last winter more than twenty bills which passed the House were buried in the Senate beyond hope of resurrection. In most of those cases the measures would have passed by a majority if the House and Senate had voted unitedly as one body. The Senate obviously believed them to be unwise measures. If there was any doubt, it was better to err on the side of conservatism than on the side of new and untried statutes. There is more danger of too much legislation than of too little. The effect of the operation of a particular law cannot always be foreseen; and moderation in respect to changes is to be commended. It is often "better to bear the ills we have than fly to those we know not of."

The men who compose the General Court in colonial times were possessed of strong characters; but their knowledge and experience were very limited. They would have been incompetent to have dealt with questions of the magnitude and complexity of those which now engage the attention of the General Court. With the development of time there has come a broadening of the minds of men, but the virtues of those old characters may well be imitated and perpetuated.

It has been said by critics from abroad that the legislature of this Commonwealth is superior—in the character and intelligence of its members, the order and decorum of its sessions, and the seriousness with which it undertakes the transaction of business. Let us hope that this high standard may be maintained.

Groton has furnished a legislator of especial worth in the eminent statesman whose life-work has recently ended. It is a signal honor to this town to have been the dwelling place of one who was a tower of strength to the Nation and the Commonwealth. The exemplary career of Governor Boutwell will always summon to noble action those who undertake the service of the public. We may justly point to him as the embodiment of our highest ideals.

> "What constitutes a state?
> Not high raised battlement or labored mound,
> Thick walls of moated gate;
> Not cities proud with spires and turrets crowned;
> Not bays and broad-armed ports
> Where, laughing at the storms, rich navies ride;
> Not starred and spangled courts
> Where low-browed baseness wafts perfume to pride.
> No! Men, high-minded men.
>
> * * * * * * * * * *
>
> Men who their duties know,
> But know their rights, and, knowing, dare maintain;
> Prevent the long-aimed blow,
> And crush the tyrant while they rend the chain.
> These constitute a state."

HON. CHARLES S. HAMLIN.

We are favored with the presence of a distinguished guest who, though not himself a native or a resident of the town, has reason to feel a strong attachment to it from the circumstance that his family once lived in that part of it which is now the sightly town of Westford. He very willingly responded to the Committee's invitation to join in this observance, and has given gratification by so doing. An eminent publicist, a profound student of our Country's concerns, who has served with credit in high official station, I present to you the

HONORABLE CHARLES S. HAMLIN.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a very great pleasure to me to be able to be here today, and to take part in these memorable festivities. In this connection, let me say that my brother told me yesterday that he was sitting in his office, when suddenly the telephone rang with such a rattle that he jumped hastily from his seat, and, rushing to the instrument heard the voice of General Bancroft, in imperious tones, as if, as Major General, he were giving a command to some corporal in the ranks. The General said he desired to know "what your brother's interest in Groton was, anyway." He was so frightened, he said, all he could think of was that some of our ancestors lived and died in Westford, I am very glad that my brother's courage gave out, because if it hadn't, the General would have made my speech, and there would have been nothing left for me to say. I really feel, however, that I have a right to be here today. In the first place, I come as a trustee of the time honored Academy of Westford, and bring the very best greetings of the Board of Trustees. Secondly, my wife is a collateral descendant of that James Sullivan who was once an honored citizen of this town. And, thirdly, my grandmother, Harriet Fletcher Hamlin, was born in and married from this town. She was a daughter of Pelatiah Fletcher, and her grandfather commanded a regiment in the Revolutionary War; they lived on what is now called the Timmins farm. I came here once to look at

that farm and see where she was born, but I remembered a story of four beautiful chairs which once belonged in the family, and when I arrived in the town I was sorely perplexed. I felt that I ought to go and see the ancestral home, but I wanted those chairs; and so, after thinking it over, I postponed my visit to the ancestral home, and tried to secure the chairs, but I was unfortunate, as the owners would not part with them. I shall not give the name of the people who own those chairs, because I do not accept that defeat, but intend to come here sometime again and get them.

My great-great-grandfather, Eleazer Hamlin, built a house in Harvard, only a few miles from here, which is still standing. He had nineteen children, and for his second wife he married a lady who had a bountiful supply of her own, so you can imagine he must have been a man of some property, or must have been a heavy charge on the town. He moved to Pembroke, and I went down there a few years ago to see his old house there. I saw in the house an old fashioned fire back which I thought must have belonged to my great-great-grandfather, and I wanted to buy it. I made up my mind to pay ten, twenty, or even twenty-five dollars. For the sake of old associations I would gladly have paid that amount. I said, "I know that must have belonged to my great-great-grandfather." My wife looked it over, and then with that calm air of superiority which wives often visit upon their foolish husbands, she pointed to one corner of the fire back where I saw the words "Worcester, patented 1876." So I was saved making the purchase. Eleazer named four of his children for the continents, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. I am a descendant of Asia. I wish I could say that I owe all my allegiance to this town. I do owe a good part of it. I love it. I used to spend the summer in Westford, and belonged there to a celebrated baseball team, but skilful as we thought we were, we couldn't beat the Groton nine. We were mercilessly defeated once, and when we made up our minds to try again, Providence thoughtfully sent a storm which prevented the match, and that was my last appearance on the base ball field. To the neighboring town of

Westford also I owe allegiance, and as well to other towns on the Cape; they are all memorable, and they all mean practically the same thing in our public life. It reminds me of a story of an old lady who once made famous pies, mince and apple; one day some one asked her how she could tell them apart. "Why, by that mark," she said. The mince pies were marked "T. M." He found the same mark on the apple pies. "But how can you tell," he said, "they are both marked alike." She said, "Why, one stands for 'tis mince,' and one for 'tisn't mince'." So we have all the same mark, the same heritage of American citizenship of which we are all proud whether we come from Groton or Ayer or Westford. This town of Groton has reason to be proud, if for no other reason, because it has given to the country that great statesman and patriot, George S. Boutwell; it would take its place in history for that reason alone.

The secret of the success of Massachusetts is that the towns have practiced the principle of home rule which our ancestors gave us, and which we will always cherish. There is a spirit about the people of Massachusetts, whether in the North, the South, the East or the West; there is a fine old Massachusetts spirit that takes its rise from the home rule doctrines. You cannot define what that Massachusett spirit is. You can feel it, you can watch its effects, and you know it is there. If I were to try to define it I should have to define it as a minister once tried to define religion:—"You get religion when you don't want it; when you get it you don't know it; if you know it, you haven't got it; when you get it you can't lose it; if you lose it, you never had it." And that is the spirit of Massachusetts. There has been a marvellous development of this, our country, in the last twenty, thirty, or forty years. We are getting welded together more and more with a true national spirit. The best proof of this, to my mind, is that in the early days, after 1776, or rather after 1789 when the Constitution of the United States was framed, when the words "United States" were used they were invariably followed by the plural verb,—the United States *are* not *is*. Whereas, in modern days, the

most recent illustration being the treaty of peace with Spain, the phrase was used, — "The United States *is*." The United States is now a common unit, a great national government. It was welded together by the genius of interpretation of John Marshall, by the great Secretary of State Daniel Webster, and by many succeeding statesmen. Today we stand both a great united people. If there is one idea more than another that I can bring here, it is that when the United States faces a foreign power it shall be as one undivided nation. Let no political dissension come into play to defeat or defend a treaty when the United States speaks to another nation. If there are differences in the Senate, let us forget our partisanship when we face another power, in the common love of our grand united country.

Now, my friends, I wish I had time to say more to you. I have much more to say, but time is precious to me, for it is hay day, and I have got to go home to my farm at Mattapoisett and see what has been done today. My genial friend, the Lieutenant-Governor, has the advantage of me, — he has been making hay all day. We can all make hay when the sun shines. He can make it just as well when it rains; he can make hay in the night; he can make it in the winter as well as in summer. And I want to say, as one who has not exactly been in accord with him politically, that there is no one in our state who envies him his high reputation, well earned and deserved.

I take a great interest in my farm. My vocation is that of law, and I took up farming as an avocation, hoping that I might some day follow farming as a vocation and law as an avocation. I have accumulated a vast mass of experience, and not much more, but I have invented a device by which I make that farm pay expenses. I charge off the deficit as rent of the summer dwelling house in which I live, and I am proud to say my farm pays its expenses. I began by raising hens and chickens, and as the first cost was expensive, my wife and I wrote to each of our friends to send us a hen, and said we would name the hen for the donor, male or female. That brought a number of hens, but not as many as we

wanted; so I wrote again to the delinquents, and said that if they didn't send a hen I would name a pig for them. I have carried on that farm for several years, and any man that will come to me and say he is a descendant of Groton can have its products at actual cost,—about one dollar apiece for eggs, and somewhat more a quart for milk.

The ramblings in which I have indulged remind me of an old railroad in Massachusetts called the Boston, Barre and Gardner, which didn't start from Boston, didn't go through Barre, and only barely reached Gardner.

I do not remember where or how I began, or whither my remarks have tended, but the anxious look on the presiding officer's face impresses upon me the fact that I have reached my destination, so thanking you for your courteous invitation I will take my seat.

HON. ANDROS B. JONES.

At the time of Deane Winthrop's petition, Lancaster was Nash-a-way; Nashua was Merimake, and a part of Nashua was a part of Groton. Since then boundaries, as well as names, have been changed, and today we are welcoming the accomplished mayor of a beautiful city in another state, with the assurance that, had his territory of Nashua remained with us, he might now be Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Groton. And we greet him and his people with the cordiality of kindred, and wish him to know that we are proud of our relatives from New Hampshire. I have much satisfaction in introducing the Mayor of Nashua, the

HONORABLE ANDROS B. JONES.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is needless for me to mention the great pleasure which I take in coming to this gathering from Nashua, to pay for her a tribute of honor and a debt of gratitude to the old mother who fostered and nourished her many years ago.

Nashua together with the other sister towns of the same

common parentage gather here today to join in commemoration of the birth of Groton. For, the citizens of Nashua, whom I have the privilege and the honor of representing on this occasion, date the real beginning of their town history back over two centuries and a half ago, when Jonathan Danforth braved the dangers of wilderness to survey the original Groton plantation.

At that time the line which now marks the main thoroughfare of your town was but a faintly traced path through the forest. It had known no human step, save the moccasined foot of the Indian.

The ancient and primitive wood had never heard the sound of the white man's axe. But soon all this was changed. Where once was but a scarcely perceptible tract through the forest we now see a well trodden path and a much wider clearing. Wreaths of smoke curling up from the rude log cabins on either side gave evidence of that Anglo-Saxon grit and perseverance which converted the wilds of New England into a fertile and habitable land.

The red men have since become aware that the street is no longer free to them, save by permission of the settlers. The wild forest has shrunk back and the street has lost the odor of the pine and the hemlock. And so from this humble beginning grew the town whose birth we celebrate today.

But soon that restless energy which is so characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon pushed forth into the unknown forest in search of new homes. The more adventurous spirits came to a spot which seemed graced by God.

At the junction of two rivers, a place which had long been the favorite fishing ground of the Indian, they cleared away the forest and founded a little settlement. From this settlement grew the large and prosperous city of Nashua.

Because of its favorable location, its splendid water power and its unsurpassed railroad facilities, Nashua is today the most vigorous child of old Groton.

Although these great natural resources have contributed largely to her growth and prosperity, she owes much to those

sturdy pioneers who first cleared away the forest and opened up the farms of old Middlesex.

And it is in recognition of that debt that I speak here today in behalf of the citizens of Nashua. We all rejoice with you on this memorable occasion. We are glad of having this opportunity to express our appreciation of the services which those men rendered, who here on this spot felled the first trees and made possible by their untiring efforts the marked success which we as a city have attained.

We have erected a monument worthy of the fathers who have gone before. The busy hum of the factories, the cotton mills, and the foundries of Nashua, bears an unceasing tribute to the memory of the founders of Groton. I thank you.

HON. GEORGE A. SANDERSON.

The duties pertaining to the office of President of the Board of Trustees of the Lawrence Academy, and the duties pertaining to the office of District Attorney for the Northern District, which comprises Middlesex County, have been performed of late years in a way that shows clearly that the incumbent of each of these offices is well fitted to perform the duties pertaining to the highest elective law office in the Commonwealth. In all of these offices the people of Groton feel no inconsiderable interest, and they are indeed fortunate to be privileged today to listen to a gentleman, who, either from association or from anticipation, is able to talk about all of them, but he is also at liberty to refrain from talking about any of them if he chooses. Upon any subject that he may wish to select, we shall be glad to hear

HONORABLE GEORGE A. SANDERSON.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: A town that has two hundred and fifty years of history has an inheritance of all that is best in life upon this continent, and the town of Groton is peculiarly fortunate in its history and its inheri-

tance. One of the features of that history, and one well worth mentioning at a great celebration like this, is the fostering care which this town has given to educational institutions. Among them, the ancient academy on the hill, upon whose athletic field we have today met. It was founded more than one hundred and ten years ago, by forty-seven subscribers, at a time when every dollar earned and given meant a sacrifice of time and effort. These forty-seven men, devoted to education, devoted to the higher and the best things, subscribed sums varying from five to fifteen pounds each for the erection of the first building, as they said in that agreement, "to diffuse useful knowledge, and render the means of instruction and information more general and less expensive." The last subscriber on that list was the municipality, the town of Groton itself, which subscribed two hundred pounds to the erection of that building, and it is probable that the institution could not then have been founded but for the subscription of the town. So we have in these forty-seven enthusiastic individuals, and throughout the whole town, a devotion to the idea of education so strong that they were willing to make sacrifices for it. Since that time, that institution, through long periods of its life, has furnished education to many of the sons and daughters of Groton. It has brought to this village thousands of boys and girls to be educated, who have carried the fair fame of Groton to other parts of this state, and to other states in our nation. It has stood there as a silent influence for education to all those who have not had the privilege of entering its walls. It is said that a church building, by its very existence in a community, is constantly preaching a sermon to all who look upon it, by reason of the significance of things for which it stands. In a similar way, this institution on the hill, because of the principles for which it has stood, because of the spirit of the boys and girls in it, and the teachers there, has enabled this town to be a town in which its citizens have high ideals, are interested in the higher things, and are devoted to the things that are not wholly material. It has not only given much to this community, but it has received

much from it. The beautiful scenes of these hills and valleys have been mixed with the joys and duties of student life. The churches of this town have furnished much of the religious influence to those who have attended that institution, and the character of the people of this town has been impressed upon the youth who have attended that school. Many a student has formed his ideal of life from the people whom he has come to know when at school here. Lawrence Academy and the town of Groton are in their history indissolubly linked together. Each is a debtor to the other. As we look down the future, can we not ask the town of Groton for that friendly interest which was guaranteed in that original gift of two hundred pounds? Can we not promise for the old academy an adherence to the ideals that it has stood for, and that it shall continue to stand for the higher things of life.

> "I hold it true that thoughts are things
> Endowed with being, breath and wings;
> And that we send them forth
> To fill the world with goodness or ill."

HON. CHARLES W. STONE.

In the history of the Federal Union a large part has been taken by the great state of Pennsylvania. Within her borders have been events of the very highest concern to our nation—events both in council and on the field. Her natural resources have yielded wealth which we characterize as marvelous, and among her men have been, and are, leaders in momentous affairs.

Among those whom her people have delighted to honor—a former Lieutenant-Governor and Congressman—is a Groton boy whom I shall now ask to address you—the

HONORABLE CHARLES W. STONE.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: I would be a rash man indeed if, at this hour of the day, and in this temperature,

and after the wealth of eloquence, of educational history, of practical agricultural experience, of political science, which we have been favored with today, I should undertake to detain this audience. Ordinarily, I would like to do that for a little time. Ordinarily, I would be glad to say a few words here in the place where I was born; but you are protected from any such possible danger, for I am advised that the train which will take me toward the setting sun will soon be due, and railroad trains, like time and tide, wait for no man. Consequently, Mr. Chairman, the speech which I would like to have made will have to be postponed until the next centennial.

Anywhere, except in Groton, and at any other time except today, the eloquent, feeling, enthusiastic eulogy upon the state of Massachusetts from the lips of her Lieutenant-Governor would have perhaps, provoked from me some words in relation to the grand, imperial old Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with its unrivalled resources and its glorious history. But today, Mr. Chairman, I stand here as a loyal Yankee. Today, I claim allegiance to the old state of Massachusetts. I claim the right to partake with you in the pride which we all feel in this grand old town of Groton. Tracing my lineage back by direct descent to three of the original land-holders of Groton, Simon Stone, Thomas Williams and William Green, I feel that I am entitled to share with you in the pride which we feel in this grand town, in its historical past, and its attractive present.

Yesterday I strolled to the top of Gibbet Hill, which I used to know as a boy, and I looked out upon the beautiful panorama spread before us, the distant hills and mountains, and the intervening fields, and it was a beautiful sight. I recognized that Groton was "beautiful for situation," and it seemed to me that it was a good place to be born in. I strayed later into the cemetery, peaceful, delightful, quiet; nothing to interfere with the peace and quiet of that solemn place, and it semeed to me that Groton was a good place to die and be buried in. I came today into this assemblage, with those

bright faces and well laden boards, and wandered about your streets with their houses radiant with beauty, and it seemed to me that Groton was a good place to live in. And yet, no man who has tasted the enticing fascination of western life, who has mingled with the men who make things move, who has listened to the "call of the wild" that comes from the West with its vast prairies and gigantic forests, will ever be content to return, even to the peaceful monotony of a New England town.

I noticed, in coming in on the train yesterday, what was a surprise to me, because in my boyhood days there was nothing noticeable in the language of this community, except possibly a little of what General Scott used to call "the rich old Irish brogue," but on the train yesterday, strident, drowning and overwhelming the conversation of the native New Englander was a foreign language, unknown to me, unintelligible to me, and I wondered if I would find the same state of affairs in Groton. I wondered if I should find the genuine old New England element, or that composite element that comes from foreign immigration. But while today I miss many a figure which I would expect to see on this occasion, and especially one that had become prëminently prominent in the state and nation and left a deep and lasting impress on his country's history, was absent, and while many another has gone on to that bourne from which no traveller returns, yet others have grown up and come in, and the general character of the town remains unchanged. You have the same churches and the same deep religious spirit, the same schools, the same town meeting, and the same educating influence of the town meeting, and the exemplification of pure democracy shown in the conduct of your local affairs by direct vote of each individual citizen. And the town remains the same, and it is a great and glorious old community. I listen to the eulogies concerning New England, and I believe its influence is extending beyond the nation, and I would give you as a concluding sentiment,—Here's to the New England of the past, the home, the birth-place of American liberty and free government; here's to the United States of the present,

carrying the enlightening, the elevating, the refining influence of New England civilization to the uttermost parts of the earth.

HON. GEORGE J. BURNS.

Unmindful of the precept that children should be seen but not heard, and oblivious to the somewhat unfilial utterances which were heard here thirty-four years ago, and which were prompted only by eagerness for a much desired separation, and by impatience for independent existence, and not by any lack of respect or of affection for a venerable parent, I was to have asked you to listen to a representative of that frisky, that vivacious, that irrepressible child of old age—for so it seemed to me in my boyhood—the modern—or model—town of Ayer. Now that she has dropped the peevishness of childhood, and has assumed the decorous serenity of a dignified sister, and is avowedly not ashamed of her elder relative—I am getting the kinship in this consanguinous metaphor a bit mixed—it would be fitting that her spokesman should be one who, like herself, possesses all the enthusiasm of youth together with many other estimable qualities which come with the ripeness of mature age. I should, therefore, have invited to speak in behalf of our good neighbor now in all the bloom of full grown womanhood, not all of whose beauties, however, can be seen from her railroad station, one whose agreeable voice, on more than one occasion has not failed to please a Groton audience, one who fills a large place in this community, and one who, when Congressman Tirrell is sent to the Senate or made Ambassador to the Court of St. James, for aught I know, may represent this district in the halls of Congress—our worthy friend, the Honorable George J. Burns. But I do not see him here at this moment.

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The addresses then are finished and the Chair, therefore, declares this gathering adjourned to the 300th anniversary to which time the 200th anniversary gathering was also adjourned.

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