

Chapter XXVIII.

A Capital for New Hampshire.

According to the census of 1810, Concord's population was about 2400 with a large proportion of the people living on the farms away from the village street. In the year 1873, Asa McFarland, Jr. gave an address before the local Board of Trade in which he made reference to the conservative character of Concord. From the very first, he declared, there had been a tendency to regard newcomers as intruders and town growth as undesirable so that "excessive conservatism became**** a characteristic of the early inhabitants." But in spite of this local spirit, young men continued to come from the outside world to seek their fortunes in Concord, and, as we have observed, they brought new ideas and new enterprise into the quiet town. In the process they provoked more or less active resistance from some of the descendants of the pioneers who desired nothing more than that Concord should continue to be a quiet rural village.

The slow and somewhat unwilling progress into an urban center for the state was speeded up by the building of a prison in 1810-12 and pride in that structure was a definite influence in developing Concord as the capital of New Hampshire. The long ago selection of the site for Pennycook Plantation was now justified in ways little suspected by the pioneers, for it was the abundance of granite on Rattlesnake hill which was a definite factor in deciding the location of the state's first prison. By legislative act, this building was offered to our town on condition that a site should be donated and that all necessary granite for its construction should be delivered free of cost to the state.

The Revolutionary patriot, Capt. Joshua Abbot, gave a two acre lot from his ancestral farm for the purpose—a section bounded today by N. State St., Beacon, Harrod and Tremont Sts. Bouton says: "The location was thought to be quite out of the way of business and population"—a sentiment which sounds like South End propaganda. In spite of such criticism the work began and with such good progress under supervision of Stuart

J. Park that it was possible to complete the building in two years instead of three as required by the contract.

Stone from Rattlesnake hill had been used freely by the townsfolk since that early day when the pioneers brought thence the stones for their grist mill. Great surface boulders and ledges provided granite for chimneys, hearthstones, doorsteps, fence posts and various other purposes. The prison was the first sizable building constructed with Concord granite and the stone came from land owned by Benjamin Kimball on the hill slope near the present State prison. Such surface stone provided ample supply for the needs of a century and the first quarry was not opened until 1834.

In the Patriot for Dec. 21, 1811, we find - " Notice: Those persons who subscribed to haul stones for the State Prison are requested to attend to it as soon as possible as the stones are now ready. Cash given for hauling two hundred or three hundred ton of Stones, if applied for soon. Abiel Walker!"; and so the farmers yoked their oxen and hitched them to clumsy homemade sleds and down the snowy highway, the last of the stone was dragged to complete the building. Our picture of the original prison is copied from a drawing.

Plans called for a three-story structure but during the process of building, it was agreed that a fourth story should be added. The cells - thirty-six in number, were in a three-story wing on the south side whose walls were three feet thick. The first and second floors were lighted (and ventilated) by slits five or six inches wide and thirty inches high, while the top floor had small square windows with iron bars. A small yard in front of the prison was enclosed by a semi-circular fence of pickets fifteen feet high and in the rear the prison yard was enclosed by a wall fourteen feet high faced with granite and surrounded by a range of pickets ten feet in height.

So great was the interest in this the first of our state build -

ings that visitors became a burden and it was necessary to restrict them after Jan. 1, 1813, to certain hours on Saturdays only. Among these early visitors was President Dwight of Yale college who declared it to be a fine building and, in his "Travels" he compares it as "a noble edifice of beautiful granite" to the disadvantage of the prison in his own state of Connecticut. Even ultra-conservative Concord felt reconciled to the growth and change which made for such fame.

Prior to building the prison, the N.H. legislature took action toward a revision of the state's penal code. The committee appointed for this work consisted of three Portsmouth lawyers, Jeremiah Mason, Daniel Webster and John Goddard, and their recommendations were adopted. The new code was a marked advance in humane attitude toward criminals for it reduced capital crimes from eight in number to only two-treason and murder.

Concord's granite industry, destined to become her greatest and most continuously productive business, had its beginnings within the walls of the new prison since, for some years after its opening, the convicts under contract labor were the only granite workers in town. This small prison cost with all its furnishings, \$37,000. Its product in granite was relatively small to that time many years later when stone worth \$1,300,000. was shipped from Concord to Washington for the construction of the Congressional Library.

The first inmate in the new prison was a horse thief from Meredith who served a five year sentence. In less than twenty years the prison population demanded larger quarters and a north wing was added which sufficed until 1880 when the old building was abandoned for our present prison. The first warden of the old prison was Trueworthy G. Dearborn (1812-1818) who made his home in the Dea David Hall house on the present Court House lot. His skill in the stone business established a standard method of stone splitting and cutting. After his death in 1824, his widow kept the old home as a boarding house until her death twenty years later, and Dr. Bouten who

knew her well, refers to her as "good motherly widow Sarah Dearborn, living in the old yellow house on the hill where the State House ought to have stood, whose benevolence exceeded her means of giving." This old house stands today in Fosterville as recorded in an earlier chapter.

The name of Pillsbury is closely identified with the first prison for Moses C. Pillsbury was warden from 1818 till 1826 and again from 1837 till 1840. His son, John C. Pillsbury, was warden from 1870 till the prison was abandoned in 1880. Our picture shows the old prison in its last days and ex-Warden Moses C. Pillsbury stands at the gate.

The time had arrived when quiet Concord was to exert a definite influence in national affairs through the genius of the young editor of the Patriot. Under Federalist leadership policies had, consistently with the principles of Washington and Hamilton, favored a moneyed class in the cities. As a result the new nation grew rapidly in industrial and financial power. Wealth became somewhat concentrated in the northern states where manufacturing made progress and shipping produced great fortunes. Political opposition to Federalist principles came from the common people who espoused the Jeffersonian pronouncement that all men are created free and equal and therefore all men have equality as a right. Few of Jefferson's followers in that day realized that he, being a farm holder, had certain reservations in his theorizing: he based his principles upon his knowledge of and faith in, the self-reliant farmers of the land. It is said that he had very little confidence in the so-called common people of the cities. (Epic of America, J. T. Adams)

Europe was at war. The French revolution had overthrown monarchy in that country and Jefferson whose theories of equality and democracy were largely inspired by earlier French philosophers, was naturally sympathetic with that country. The Federalists, on the other hand, openly sympathized with England and their scorn of the Jeffersonians found expression in the derisive term "Democrat". This epithet stuck and became the

the party name of the erstwhile Republicans-the liberal party established under Jefferson's leadership.

The European wars threatened again and again to involve the United States and threat became a menace when, during Jefferson's second administration, hostilities opened between France and England. Both nations committed outrages on American shipping so vital to our prosperity, and our nation so rich in territory and natural resources and so stabilized in her new government, found herself on the high seas at the mercy of these European combatants. In 1809 James Madison, a Republican (Democrat) who had served as Secretary of State in the Jefferson administrations, was inaugurated president. Knowing his sympathy to Jeffersonian principles, the Federalists suspicious of popular government with its tendency toward pure democracy, became thoroughly alarmed for the future of the nation.

An influential group of Federalists from Essex County, Mass. which was the great shipping center of New England, called a New England convention of sympathizers which held sessions at Hartford, Conn. Hysteria prevailed. Not only did the convention criticize the administration unmercifully, but it actually raised a threat of dissolution of the Union by withdrawal of the New England states. Its indiscretions were capitalized by the opposition party who dubbed the group-"The Essex Junto". The Federalist party could not survive this death blow-the proud party of Washington, Hamilton, Jay, Marshall and Adams. It reorganized as the National Republican party, continued for a time as the Whig party until it evolved into the Republican party of today.

All this political upheaval had repercussions in Concord as we shall see. It was a day of excessive distances in the nation and sectional misunderstanding was inevitable. In the south and south-west there was clamor for war with England because of outrages to our seamen and shipping; but this demand had behind it a purpose to use such a war for conquest on our western border. New England being strongly Federalist could not tol-

erate the idea of war with England knowing that such conflict must destroy, perhaps permanently, the commerce of this part of the country. The national government blundered weakly along and partisan politics waxed exceeding bitter.

In this atmosphere and in a New England strongly Federalist, the town of Concord held its first Fourth of July celebration in the year 1811 and used it as a Republican (Democratic) demonstration on quite a grand scale. Bouton says—"Republican citizens of this and adjoining to those of Amherst and Wilton" carried out a program of "greater splendor dignity and hilarity than had been witnessed on any former occasion in this State". Capt. Mann's tavern (site of Rumford Arms) was the center of the day's activities, and on the river bank directly east of the tavern, "a bower" was erected for the reception of guests of honor.

At dawn on the Fourth, a salute of eighteen guns was fired by the Artillery company stationed near the tavern, and this was answered by a similar salute from the ship "President," a miniature craft brought from Amherst "anchored" on dry land near Concord bridge at the South End. "At ten o'clock an immense collection of Republicans met in convention at Capt. Mann's and chose Hon. Timothy Walker president of the day with other officers." Meanwhile at the South End a procession was forming in front of Maj. Timothy Chandler's (site of Huntwood Terrace) and when a signal gun from the ship "President" was fired, the parade started up the main street to the Meeting-house. Before an audience which packed that great edifice, the ceremonies opened with prayer and the reading of the Declaration of Independence, followed by an oration by Charles G. Haines Esq. of Canterbury.

Following this very dignified program, the procession formed again and began its march to the "Bower", stopping on the shore of Horseshoe pond to watch a naval battle described by a local newspaper, thus:

"Shipping Memoranda

"Interesting Interior Ship News. The United States frigate President sailing with four wheels on dry land, emblem of our dry dock policy, and mounting one iron and twelve wooden swivels, while passing Horeseshoe Pond near Concord, N.H., the 4th inst., fired upon the British sloop-of-war, Little Belt (an old canoe, or rather, a hollow log, each end being well secured with mud to keep it from sinking) and, shocking to tell, made such havoc and confusion among the musquatos, that she struck her colors and surrendered at discretion."

"After this glorious victory," says Bouton, "the President hauled her wind, tacked to the southward and came under easy sail to the back of the bower." Again there was a grand salute of eighteen guns answered by the Artillery, with much cheering from crew and spectators. Then followed the dinner served by Capt. Mann and accompanied with the usual toasts and "appropriate music, amid the thunder of artillery." Timothy Dix, Esq. offered a voluntary toast which hints at the serious spirit underlying the buffoonery of the mock naval battle:

"God guard our President from harm,
Long may he weather out the storm;
Long may he live to quell his foes
And hold the Essex Junto by the nose."

A storm did, indeed, surround President Madison and although his administration was friendly to France, it seemed for a time, that war with that nation as well as with England, must be our portion. During the crisis of Napoleon's great struggle for supremacy in Europe, neither France nor England recognized American shipping rights. The Federalists still favored England in spite of the fact that English ships made a practice of attacking our trading vessels and impressed our sailors for the Royal Navy. Then it was that Editor Isaac Hill raised his voice, eager that our nation should vindicate her rights on the seas. He scorned the Federalists and proclaimed in his Patriot: "Federalist principles are devotion to Britain

abhorrence of France and contempt for everything American."

In the year 1811, the Indians of western Indiana went on a rampage and the Republicans seized upon and capitalized the rumor that the British were instigating the trouble. Gen. William Henry Harrison fought and won the famous battle of Tippecanoe village and several Concord men were in that fight. John L. Eastman, great grandson of Capt. Ebenezer, was adjutant and among the privates was John Virgin, great grandson of pioneer Ebenezer Virgin. Others engaged were John Elliott, Jonathan Uran and John and James Dunlap.

John Virgin, one of the eccentric characters of old Concord, was vastly proud of his part at Tippecanoe. In his old age he lived on a pension of \$96 a year in a shack at Sugar Ball, and such was his pride and independence of spirit that, even when handicapped by failing health, he refused aid. He was gifted with a certain wild eloquence and whenever he visited "The Street", he found a group ready to encourage him in a patriotic harangue centered in Gen. Harrison. On a bitter day in February, 1853, neighbors found him frozen and dead in his lonely cabin. Passionate, wilful and fiercely independent, he lived and died as he wished, beholden to no one.

In May 1812, Lieut. Col. Bedel was stationed in Concord for recruiting purposes since war with England seemed inevitable. For the next two years our town was enlivened by the presence of soldiers in the making; at least five hundred men had rendezvous here and many others marched through the town on their way to the coast or the northern frontier. On June 18, 1812, President Madison declared war and twelve days later the Patriot published the news in a special edition. Gov. Langdon issued orders for detaching 3500 men from the state militia to be organized into companies "ready to march at shortest notice". A company of artillery belonging to the famous 11th Regiment was ordered to Portsmouth and was stationed at Jeffrey's Point to defend the harbor. This company served for three months and on its roster were thirteen Concord men.

The Carrigain house was turned into barracks and another was opened at the South End near Willey's tavern at the end of the main street; a third barracks was on State St. at the North End. During the summer troops were quartered in tents on the land west of the new prison. Col. Darrington, U.S. Army, was the officer in charge and fortunately for Concord, he and his subordinate officers were men of high type whose excellent discipline spared the townspeople the excesses often attendant upon a military camp. Col. Darrington and his wife with a servant boy lodged at Stickney's during the war period.

During this local war activity Isaac Hill and his Patriot had a definite share in crystalizing public opinion. The weekly theme of the paper through 1812 was the indignity suffered by our country at the hands of the British. In long excitable sentences the editorials and retail stories of seamen impressed with the details of their suffering. One such case touched Concord intimately for Thomas Green, son of the beloved old doctor, had been impressed five or six years before and all efforts toward his release through official channels had failed. Finally he made a thrilling escape by swimming for a ship anchored a mile off British shores and eventually found means to board an American vessel bound for home.

Isaac Hill is described by those who knew him as "small of stature, intense, impatient of opposition," and he spared no foe at home or abroad during this war. A writer of the period says—"Many of the clergy had injudiciously taken a prominent part in the political disputes of the day; had proclaimed the war from the pulpit as unjust, unholy, favoring the cause of anti-Christ. These denunciations were received by many as sacred, inspired; and the religious enthusiasm was thus made to combine with party machinery, and the basest ambition, in clogging the wheels of government and procuring disgrace to the country." (Cyrus Bradley)

The Patriot combatted such pulpit doctrine with astonishing and relentless vigor and, in so doing, increased its circulation throughout

the state. It was fortunate for all concerned that Dr. Asa McFarland had the wisdom and the grace to refrain from political discussion since a personal feud with the fiery little editor would have been destructive of spiritual values. Many years later a venerable citizen who lived through these stirring years, said that Mr. Hill's paper was "of more essential service in the War of 1812 than the combined efforts of a thousand soldiers."

During the summer of 1812 Col. Bedel recruited nearly four hundred men at Concord headquarters and in September they marched north to Burlington, Vt. Capt. John McNeil of Hillsborough raised a company for the 11th regiment, marched them to Concord only to find the town so overcrowded with soldiers that he marched them to East Concord and quartered them at the tavern of Isaac Emery who was a Republican. The rival tavern in that village was kept by Aaron Austin who was a staunch Federalist, and he with some of his partisan neighbors, proceeded to the Emery tavern looking for trouble. In the bar room there were words which led to violence with Austin in the thick of the fight when Capt. McNeil, a powerful man, six feet in his stockings, well proportioned and weighing two hundred and fifty pounds, suddenly arrived on the scene. Without warning, he seized Austin and "threw him out of an open window upon the green." Austin's followers faded out of the picture with remarkable unanimity. Capt. McNeil was the officer who later won fame at Chippewa and Lundy's Lane, and Austin lost his life in service.

Such disorders were surprisingly few. At a town meeting in March 1813, a volunteer from outside Concord attempted to cast his vote for State and County officers and was promptly ruled out by the moderator Col. William A. Kent. The soldier "collared" the dignified Colonel and the town boiled with indignation; but Col. Kent was "temperate, resolute and judicious" and the matter was smoothed out to the satisfaction of the townsfolk. All this happened in the Town House on the site of our Court

House. In front of this site the Kent name is memorialized by a granite fountain, erected in honor of Col. Kent's son, William Kent. X-

The 1st Regiment N.H. Volunteers was organized in November 1812, following the departure of Col. Bedel and the quartermaster of the outfit was Joseph Low of Amherst. The regiment marched to Burlington and there it was merged into the 45th Regiment of regulars on duty at Lake Champlain. Several Concord men were among the volunteers-notably Lieut. Marshall Baker of the Borough. Col. Aquila Davis of Warner was in command of the regiment on the march north, with John Carter, Revolutionary veteran of Concord, as Lieut. Colonel. Reorganization at Burlington reduced Davis to second in command, but it was he who devised a strategy which kept the enemy at respectful distance from the shore, by mounting a battery of huge guns on an island in the lake. These formidable defences were pine logs hewed, fashioned and painted by the soldiers.

In the spring of 1813 malignant scarlet fever became epidemic among the soldiers in Concord and spread to the civilian population in various towns of the state. This caused Concord's most poignant experience during the war years for there were two hundred and fifty local cases and many deaths. Provision for the sick soldiers was emergency need and the town built its first real hospital on land loaned by the Abbots directly west of the prison. At the close of the war, Nathaniel Abbot 2d purchased the structure and moved it to a site on the main street a little north of Prison St. (Washington St.) where it was fitted up for a dwelling. In 1829, Mr. Abbot, designated as "saddler", sold the land on which it stood, reserving the house which was later sold to Dea. James Moulton who moved it to 33 Washington St. to be part of a house he was building there. Our picture is from an old photograph of the Moulton house.

In the Old Burying-ground, a stone marks the grave of "Doc. Moses Chandler", son of the Concord family, who had settled in Fryeburg, Me. When fourteen years of age, Moses ran away and enlisted in Capt. Frye's company,

Col. Gilley's regiment and served about a year in the Revolution (1778-9). In 1813 he was surgeon on a privateer sailing out of Portsmouth harbor. When the war ended he came back to the home of his ancestors and practiced his profession in Concord until his death in 1825. His home was next south of the Carrigain property.

In 1814 Portsmouth was seriously threatened by British cruisers off the coast of New Hampshire; Concord felt alarm and was well represented in the detachments sent to meet the emergency. The Patriot shows the excitement of this final year of hostilities. Andrew McClary, Captain of Infantry, U.S.A., has a long list of recruits printed under the heading "Attention Ye Brave." Peter Robertson, commissioned captain of artillery, invites men desiring to join his company to meet at the house of Isaac Emery, Innholder, and Capt. John Carter advertises for a company of volunteers to join the regular troops under Gen. Dearborn. A shrewd medical man announces inoculation by "Kine Pock-especially for Patriotic citizens who have volunteered their services to their country and expect to be called upon immediately."

Capt. Robertson's company marched up the main street and across the Federal bridge on a Sunday, within twenty-four hours of the Governor's call: thirty-one men in all with Samuel Herbert, 1st Lieutenant and Chandler Eastman 2d Lieutenant. So great was the alarm lest the British actually invade our state that Gov. Gilman called for volunteers for home defence a precaution justified by the ruthless burning of the White House and Capitol in Washington in August of that year of 1814. Concord men, many of them Revolutionary veterans, and all exempt because of age from military service, met at Stickney's hall and organized "in defence of our altars and firesides, our property and our country." On October 1st this company which included some of the town's most prominent citizens, paraded our main street and the Patriot asserted-"Their appearance was accompanied by the proud conviction that this nation can never be conquered when such defend.

ers shoulder the musket."Spurred by the rumor that the British threatened to destroy the ship Washington then on the stocks at Kittery, a squad for home defence was also formed "Over the River."

The sacking of Washington had unified the nation as nothing else could have done and a new spirit of self respect and determination to defend our liberties, possessed the country. Peace was declared at the very end of 1814, but news did not arrive in America until after the brilliant victory won by Andrew Jackson at New Orleans. This victory proved that the gallant sea fighting of American sailors could be matched in valor by American soldiers on land. England from then on respected American rights upon the seas and our own country realized that we could be independent and fearless against the world.

There were other results of the war: Andrew Jackson became a national hero whose influence is felt even to this day and generation, and a glorious national anthem was inspired as Francis Scott Key, a young Maryland lawyer, held against his will upon the deck of a British war ship, watched the enemy bombard Fort McHenry. "The Star Spangled Banner" is taken to a later generation of the birth of a national spirit in 1814.

During the war smuggling was a serious problem and since all ports were closed, much of this traffic came by team over the northern border. In April 1814 Concord was in a ferment over what many felt was over-zealous action on part of the custom house officer, Ballard Haseltine. Born in 1769 on his father's farm on Silk Farm road, at the time of the war he was living on his grandfather's farm at the South End. The Patriot carries his signed statement defending his official course in a particular case, declaring that he had followed a team suspected of smuggling, on its way south from Plainfield and that he held it up in Dunbarton. He found no contraband, but insisted that search was justified because he had since been informed on good authority that the load - \$70,000. worth of goods - had been secreted in Concord the night before his search.

When the good news arrived that peace had been concluded with England, Concord celebrated with a public dinner at the tavern recently opened by John George under the name of Eagle Hotel. At this affair held in February 1815, toasts were drunk and cannon salutes fired. This tavern gained fame as the lodging place of Gov. Benjamin Pierce at the time of his inauguration in 1827, when a fellow lodger was his son, Franklin Pierce, a young member in the legislature. Eagle Hotel sign is preserved at the Old Building of ^{by} the N.H. Historical Society—an eagle with wings spread and a halo of thirteen stars about its head.

With the war happily ended, New Hampshire turned to consideration of its need of a State House. Concord was given opportunity for the building on conditions similar to those laid down for the erection of the prison: a suitable lot and stone sufficient for the purpose furnished without cost to the state. There was no hesitation in meeting the conditions, but there was violent difference of opinion as to the location of the lot. Once more the feud between North End and South End flared up, for the North Enders insisted that the State House be built on or near the site of the Town House, rightly claiming that the land, being high and well drained was admirably suited to the purpose. The South Enders, led by Col. William A. Kent, Isaac Hill and William Low, were equally insistent upon a lot which ~~had been the home~~ ^{of} Esq. Peter Green and ultimately this lot was chosen.

Since business was centering more and more along that section of the village street between Mill road and Centre road, the lot from the Green farm had much to recommend it, but it was low and boggy land and well deserved the epithet "frog-pond" contemptuously used by the North Enders, one of whom declared "that the frogs would peep up, and with their croakings interrupt the debates of the house!" Tradition tells that the Governor and Council were hopelessly divided on the question of location. Gov. William Plumer had boarded during a previous session of the legisla-

Here, at the home of Francis N. Fisk and it was believed that he had the North End point of view, but this year (1816) he boarded with Isaac Hill who undoubtedly helped him to change his mind. Two of the Council-Gen. Benjamin Pierce and Samuel Quarles- boarded at the Eagle Hotel and they favored the North End choice. On a certain day when one of the Councillors favorable to the North End was unavoidably absent, the Governor called for the deciding vote and the present site of the State House was chosen by that narrow margin.

The South End group raised a generous sum of money, purchased two acres of land and deeded it to the state. Convicts at the prison cut the granite and, under the direction of Stuart J. Park, the State House was built and ready for occupancy in June 1819. The building committee consisted of Albe Cady, William Low and Jeremiah Pecker of East Concord. The North End had no share in the glory. On a July day in 1818 the "great gold eagle" was raised with due ceremony and the completed structure stood as shown in our picture. At the raising of the eagle there was a parade under the direction of the indispensable Maj. Peter Robertson, an address by the eloquent Philip Carrigain, band playing, artillery salutes and plenty of liquid refreshment. The climax was the toast: "The American Eagle- May the shadow of his wings protect every acre of our united Continent, and the lightning of his eye flash terror and defeat through the ranks of our enemies!"

During the first twelve months after its opening nearly seven thousand persons visited the State House and were shown about: a large number for that day of difficult travel in rural New Hampshire. So elegant was the building that its fame was set forth in "A Book for New-Hampshire Children in Familiar Letters from a Father:" "The State House is the grandest building in New Hampshire. It is built of hewn stone, almost as beautiful as white marble. The body of the house is much higher and longer than any meeting-house you ever saw. The windows are of the largest glass, with mahogany sashes. The front of the building has a noble projection and pedi-

ment with a large elegant door; the whole is set off with a most beautiful cupola, with a great gold eagle on top of it. There is a very large and beautiful yard in front of the State House, with a wide ^{and} smooth gravel walk up to it. I have seen many elegant buildings in the course of my life; but I never saw one so elegant as the State House."

Sad to relate, in spite of all this grandeur, ^{er} irrevent youth played stunts with this proud edifice. Boys of adventurous spirit found that they could climb up by the lightning rod from the ground to the dome and then crawl across to the eagle and sit astride his golden neck. One boy, we are told, Abiel Carter by name, went up this perilous ascent the night before the glorious Fourth and hung a flag on the eagle. When daylight came it revealed to his chagrin, that the flag hung "Union down", so he climbed up again and righted it. One of the admiring visitors to the new State House was a mulatto ex-convict who stole most of the fifteen door keys of the building (huge in size those keys) and carried them off as mementoes. He was apprehended and promptly arrested.

In the sixties the State House was enlarged by adding a third story a columned porch and a new dome. Since he rose to greater height the dignity of the eagle has not suffered from the exuberant youth of Concord. The original state seal with the date 1816 was removed from the enlarged building and is now in ^{possession} the Old Building of the N.H. Historical Society.

The War of 1812 left two small cannon in town, one at the North End and one at the South End. Two of our local military companies guarded them jealously. William Kent commanded the South End group and the North End leader was a son of David George. About 1817 the two companies hauled their cannon to the hill near the Town House and staged a sham battle, and during the excitement the old feud broke out and the cannon were loaded with gravel to make them effective. The town authorities had to interfere but the enmity thus aroused smouldered during the ensuing months.

until both cannon disappeared. The South Enders lost theirs unaccountably and so when the Fourth approached in 1818, they made a raid and captured the North End gun for their celebration. Before snow fell it was re-captured but the next spring while it was in use on Town House hill, the South Enders made an assault and carried it away in triumph to a hiding place in Maj. Chandler's jewelry shop. The North End discovered its whereabouts and plotted to break in and carry off their property, but good sense prevailed and they decided to wait developments.

Maj. Chandler wisely decided that such contraband was no asset to him and so he dumped the cannon out, whereupon the South Enders secreted it in the loft over the Phenix Hotel stable and chained it to a beam with a padlock and left a dog on guard. During the night someone "bribed" the dog and returned the gun to home territory where it was fired off in triumph. Until 1826 it was kept in hiding in various places at the North End and fired on occasion-but never more than one shot at a time. Finally, in order that it might forever remain secure from enemy assault, Charles K. West sunk it in Horseshoe pond where it lies today, a permanent North Ender.

But still the feud continued and as late as the sixties it still prevailed between North End and South End boys. Frank P. Hill whose home was on Centre St. related: "We had a fire engine (No. 2) kept in the old Ayer barn owned by my father" (Cyrus Hill) "and when we went to fires (we) fought sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other", because Centre St. was neutral ground and its neighborhood boys rejoiced in the name of "tweenies". The fights were over whether North End boys or South End boys arrived first at a fire. The Ayer barn stood in the vacant lot next north of the present State Library and Frank Pierce Hill's boyhood home was directly opposite on the north side of Centre St., in the house now No. 18. Mr. Hill was at the head of the Brooklyn Public Library when he reminisced of the days of the "tweenies."

A century and more ago, Concord's calendar provided for two great holidays-Thanksgiving Day and Election Day. Even Christmas passed unobserved except for a religious service in the new Episcopal church in 1820. As late as 1850 the local directory states: "Dec. 25, Christmas, was passed as usual almost unobserved." Election Day was fixed for the first Thursday in June, the occasion being the inauguration of the new Governor. "Lection" was preceded in earlier years by "Nigger 'Lection" when all the colored people were given their holiday that they might attend their masters on the great day following. From all parts of the state they came and paraded our main street in their gayest attire. Gov. Gilman had as his body guard a negro servant named "London" who had served during the Revolution and who always appeared at 'Lection dressed in his regimentals, cocked hat and all. All the other colored people of the vicinity marched under command of "General London" to pay their respects to Gov. Gilman who, according to custom, provided them a treat.

In the years just preceding 1820, Concord with a population of less than 3,000, maintained several companies of militia. These increased shortly to seven, possibly eight, including one at the Iron Works, another in Millville and one each at East Concord and West Parish village. There was a famous company of riflemen from the Horse-hill and Borough section. The first general muster of these companies seems to have been held on the lower intervale at East Concord. This military spirit was not peculiar to Concord for every self-respecting town had its company of militia and its parade ground. Not only was the enterprise honorable, it was a part of good citizenship as well.

In May the town began preparations for 'Lection. Bouton says-"The women put everything in order indoors, and the men, outdoors. Rooms were swept, white-washed and garnished; wood piled, chips raked up and door-yards cleaned; fences repaired; barns put in order; provisions laid in, and all things else put in readiness for 'Lection. From Monday to Wednesday, mem-

bers of the Legislature, ministers of the gospel—all sorts of public men—would be seen 'coming to town', some on horseback, some in wagons and carriages; some in stages—but all would be on hand by Wednesday. Almost every family on Main street in old times took boarders."

On Wednesday evening an Oratorio was given at the Meeting-house, the singers coming from far and near, and the performance was always excellent for every community had its singing school so that the voices were well trained in the great choral classics. Ordinarily an admission fee of 25¢ was charged but on one occasion a member of the Potter family "Over the River," claimed free admission because he owned a pew in the Meeting-house. No society, quoth he, had the right to hire the house of God and keep out a regular pew owner. He carried his point and also carried with him several small boys one of whom, Simeon Abbot, told the story.

Before the State House was built the Town House was the center of festivities on 'Election Day'. The entire territory from thence to the Post office (site of Rumford Arms) "indeed to the North Church and Pond Hill—was full of people; and booths, bowling alleys, colored fiddlers, wheels of fortune and other paraphernalia abounded on all sides. There was a parade of military, and the escort in the long procession of the Wisdom, to the North Church; the Sermon and other religious services there, and the procession back to the Hall. There was horse racing in Main street, 'Old Daniel' with his bones, Greene Parker, dressed in drab, preaching his sermons to any one who would listen, as he walked to and fro between a couple of poplars in front of the house—very often from the text Joel I:4-5; Wheat with his tent full of punch, and the caged eagle with which to draw custom; flip was the drink and Wheat kept a fire of charcoal with irons heating for the drink; the cannon blasting away in front of the Town House, to the destruction of glass in the neighborhood; and the general joy abounding on all sides." (N.H. Statesman 2/7/45) So great was the crowd attending the 'Election sermon that it was the habit to shored up the galleries with heavy timbers.

One of the traditional features of Election Day was 'Lection cakes, sometimes called buns, and a famous maker of these was the versatile Maj. Peter Robertson who, at one time, conducted the bakery near present Park St. It was "beyond every day gingerbread, glossed over with treacle and shining like a copper colored native when oiled for a gala day. Maj. R. commanded the artillery which acted as escort, and his manner of pointing out his toes while marching was the admiration of us boys, and the envy of his compatriots in the 11th Regiment." (N.H. Statesman 6/6/45)

The farmer whose planting was not all done before Election was "no account". From town and countryside the people poured into town for this June holiday and nature was almost invariably favorable so that the saying "hotter than 'Llection" came to be proverbial in this section. But there was one strange exception and that in the strange year of 1816 when frost came every month in the twelve, and farmers did their June hoeing with mittens on. Simeon Abbot remembered that time when, a small boy of nine, he came down with father and mother and brother John from their home under the shadow of Rattlesnake hill, to Election. The day was fair and promising when they started and so everyone wore a summer outfit which custom declared should be donned for the first time on this great day. Before noontime a driving snow storm filled the main street so that one could barely see from side to side and the Abbot family nearly froze. So they hurriedly purchased their 'Llection cakes, oranges and raisins and turned toward home, glad to sit in the chimney corner close to a blazing and comforting fire.

Henry McFarland recalls the militia which participated in the 'Llection Day ceremonies of a later period: "Annual militia trainings in May and the autumnal regimental musterings were interesting and picturesque events; Concord Light Infantry" (dating back at least to 1797) "Capt. David Neal, with blue coats, white trousers, waving plumes of red and white; Columbian Artillery, Capt. Thomas P. Hill, in patriotic blue; the Troop with

red coats and horses of every color, led by the redoubtable Cotton K. Simpson; and the Borough Riflemen, Capt. Timothy Dow, with a front rank of pioneers dressed like Indians and bearing big tomahawks. The more numerous train-bands without uniforms but provided with muskets, cartridge boxes, knapsacks and canteens, were given the name of 'string beans'."

The accompanying picture is copied from an old print at the N.H. Historical Society which shows the Election Day procession in a yet later period-perhaps the late fifties. In the background is the original State House and a rather inaccurate representation of the brick block which Isaac Hill built where Capitol St. now leaves Main St. Acting as escort for the Governor's barouche are the famous Horse Guards, a company of cavalry organized in the late fifties and considered the crack company of its kind in all the country. Company A. was composed of about fifty of Concord's most prominent men with John H. George as captain. The uniform was a gorgeous reproduction of that worn by the French Imperial Hussars-blue jacket and trousers with yellow cavalry stripes, a scarlet dolman with yellow trimmings, hung from the left shoulder, and a tall red shako with high pompon in front. One of these uniforms is ^{in possession} ~~exhibited at the~~ Old Building of the N.H. Historical Society.

In 1839 a young boy named Francis C. West was living in the old house which then stood on the site of West Garden. His father, John West ^{Jr.} had died three years before and the lad was apprenticed to Ela & Flanders, publishers of the Statesman -Journal. Francis kept a diary and in it we find:

"Thursday 6th June. Election Day!!!! Cloudy. It was after six when I waked this Glorious morn. Got up and bent my way towards the office. Swept out, made a fire and trimmed my lamps. went to breakfast. Went to mother's and hoed the garden a spell-went down street-entered Mr. Haines's confectionery store-hired me to keep tent for him today-another boy and I carried a lot of oranges, lemons, cocoanuts, walnuts, confectionery, cakes,

beer, Lemonade &c to the state house where I entered upon the duties of the day. A great crowd soon assembled and Pedlars, Auctioneers &c soon made noise enough.

" The Speaker of the House of Reps. is Norris of Pittsfield. A Van Burenite. He made a very appropriate address, in which he expressed his thanks for the honor conferred upon him. In the P.M. Gov. Page (Loco-foco) took his seat. The Message was then read. The galleries were crowded. About 6 o'clock I had to go to work on the Message.

" Evening. Attended an Exhibition of a Steam Engine Locomotive on 120 feet of circular track."