

Chapter XXX.

Prosperous Years.

1810-1820

Concord had its tavern keepers and traders, its wood workers and tailors, its millers and tanners, but hitherto there had been little to indicate that the town might become an industrial center. In the N.H. Patriot of August 13, 1813 there appeared a modest announcement which heralded one of the greatest industrial enterprises in our local history:

"Lewis Downing respectfully informs the inhabitants of Concord and its vicinity that he has commenced the wheelwright business in Concord near Mr. William Austin's store."

William Austin had recently taken over the store of John West, Jr. which stood on the site of West Garden.* Not long ago the foundations of a small building were uncovered while digging near the sidewalk directly north of West Garden's limit and the most plausible explanation seems to be that this was where the First Downing shop stood.

A native of Lexington, Mass., Lewis Downing was twenty-one years old when he arrived in Concord and his total capital was \$125. of which he invested \$75. in tools for his trade. He had no machinery, no power in his little shop and all his wood was sawed out by hand. In his first ledger we find "Wheelbarrough whealls" listed as one of his products, and the first charge entered upon his accounts is the item: "To thirty-one hat block "5.17" charged to "Benjamin Kimball, Jun^r," the latter. It was Downing's purpose to make wagons and in November of that first year of business, he lists one at the price of \$60. This was the first of the long line of "Concord wagons" and the iron work for it and its successors was done at the prison and at the smithy of an old Revolutionary veteran named Caleb Whitney, who plied his trade near Francis N. Fisk's store at the North End.

For some time wagon making was a one man job for Lewis Downing and his working day was twelve to fourteen hours long. Often of a winter evening he worked till nine o'clock with only a small dingy two-wick oil lamp

for light. He boarded at the home of John West (167 N. Main St.) where John West, Jr. was also living temporarily. There are indications in his old ledger that business during those first months was hardly adequate for his needs, for at 'Lection time in June he was glad to rent his little shop for \$2., probably for use as a refreshment stand on the route of the procession. Sometimes he made an extra bit of money by tending store for William Austin at a dollar per day; and sometimes he rented an unsold wagon for trips. Dr. Peter Green was charged 25¢ "To waggon to Burrough" and Mr. Obadiah Kimball (1815) was charged \$5. "To chaise by way of Salam".

Hard work and thrift made possible the purchase of "the Duncan Estate" (old Chase farm) at the South End in 1815 and he transferred his shop to that location. In 1825 he built his first large shop on the farm for by that time his fame as a wagon builder was secure. The next year he sold his first chaise to the new Minister, Rev. Nathaniel Bouton. During these years of progress he had come to employ a dozen workmen and had added to his output a type of heavy wagon for the overland freight between the north country and the coast towns. Early success was only a challenge to a young man of Lewis Downing's quality and already he was dreaming of coaches for New Hampshire travellers.

In Salem, Mass. there was a young man who was an expert builder of coach bodies and Downing engaged him to come to Concord. J. Stephens Abbot justified the choice and the two young men constructed the first coach built north of Salem and in July 1827, sold it to John Shepard, famous stage driver of the period. So promising was the venture that a partnership, Downing & Abbot, was formed which continued for nearly twenty years. With its dissolution in 1847, Mr. Abbot and his son continued at the South End plant while Mr. Downing and his two sons, Lewis, Jr. and Alonzo, built new shops in the rear of the old Lower Bank. (See picture in Chapter XXVI) Of these buildings, the brick blacksmith shop is standing today*. Upon the retirement of Lewis Downing a corporation was formed (1873) un-

der the name ~~Abbott~~Downing Company, which continued the making of high grade coaches and wagons at the South End plant for many years.

The Civil War had created demand for ambulances, baggage wagons, gun carriages and quartermaster teams and a generous share of orders came to Concord. In 1863-64 there was increasing sale for coaches for the West and the highly skilled workmen who made the Concord coach won fame for our town. Thirty-two coaches were shipped "round the Horn" to the Pacific coast, consigned to the Pioneer Stage Co. of California. One of these was assigned to the mountains in the northern part of the state, to carry passengers and U.S. mail to and from the mines. Later it came into possession of Gilmore, Salisbury & Co. and was taken across the mountains and ran from Cheyenne to Deadwood. Very shortly it was attacked and captured by Indians, then rescued but later abandoned in a desolate canyon. Finally it was acquired by Col. William F. Cody, famous Indian scout, who took it with his "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show" over two continents.

This Deadwood coach was identified by a number beneath a guard iron, on the right hand side-"150"- and records of ~~Abbott~~Downing Co. showed that it was built in 1863 and left Concord Feb. 13, 1864. Five days later it was shipped from Boston on the clipper ship "Gen. Grant" and arrived in San Francisco safely. Not so with some of its companion coaches in the same consignment, which were shipped on the "Sea Lark" only to be seized by rebel privateers. In 1895 the Deadwood coach returned to Concord with the Wild West Show and Buffalo Bill invited Lewis Downing, Jr. and some of the older employees of the Company to ride in it. Our picture shows the coach in front of ~~Abbott~~Downing shops as it started on its route through the city. Col. Cody handled the reins and over the coach door was a sign, "1863 HOME AGAIN 1895".

During the years between those dates the old mail coach had become famous. Twice it had crossed the ocean and twice it crossed the Mediterranean with Buffalo Bill and his Show. At Col. Cody's invitation famous

olk had thrilled to ride therein: the Prince and Princess of Wales (later King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra), President Carnot of France, the Emperor of Germany, the King of Sweden, the King of Italy, the sovereigns of Belgium, Greece and Denmark, the Marquis of Lorne and the Duke of York. Thus did a Concord coach afford royalty a holiday.

Another Concord coach to win fame was that shipped in 1868 to Montana to run from Helena to Bozeman. In 1877 it was captured by Indians but Gen. Howard recaptured it in a thrilling fight. It was in 1868 that a spectacular shipment of thirty mail coaches left Concord, consigned to Wells Fargo Co. at the terminus of the new Union Pacific Railroad. With these coaches went four carloads of repairing materials, with harnesses (made by J.R. Hill Co., Concord) for the entire outfit. The special train which carried this big order was in charge of Conductor Parker of Concord and under his supervision it arrived in Omaha, Neb. exactly seven days after it left town.

Orders for Concord coaches came from remote lands: from Australia, from Peru, from South Africa. The company claimed that during the nineteenth century, its twenty-three hundred coaches had girdled the earth and that during the process of their manufacture, not less than eight million dollars had been paid employees of the plant. Much of this large sum was invested in real estate south of Pleasant St. where the well paid workmen owned their own homes. Many of the employees were life-long workmen with Abbott-Downing and they contributed much to the dignity and stability of Concord. One of these old retired employees told with some pride, of the considerable group of his fellow workmen who, with his family, might be seen starting out on a Sabbath morning for church, ^{each} ~~each~~ wearing as the badge of his prosperity, a shining tall silk hat.

The old Duncan house was the home of the Downing family and our picture (See Chap. XII, p. 17) is copied from a painting made years ago by one of the artists at the shops. With the family lived Mrs. Lewis Downing's aged father, Jonathan Wheelock, who was born in Lancaster, Mass. in 1759, entered the Continent

al Army when he was sixteen and served as a musician. He was at the Battle of Bunker Hill and helped construct the trenches and breastworks the night before the battle. He was at the capture of Burgoyne and served until the end of the war, attaining the rank of drum major before its close. His grave is in the Old Burying-ground at the North End.

West Garden is a place of many memories. The old West house shown in the picture stood directly north of the West-Sweetser house and through its back yard flowed Meeting-house brook renamed by a later generation, West brook. The brook had its source in what is now White Park and as it neared the main street, it dipped into a deep ravine on its way across the highway and toward the river. A causeway was built wide enough so that two carriages could pass each other over over a gulf large enough and deep enough to contain a good sized dwelling. Tradition tells that a four-horse stage leaving Stickney's before dawn for the north country, pitched off the causeway into the ravine below. For long years after the ravine was filled to the level of Main St., the brook flowed openly through Steam Mill Court (No. 204 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Main St.) where the ravine deepened, and one could follow its course along Stickney field and across Bridge St. until it entered the river.

Miss Alma J. Herbert (b. 1823) left this description of the brook as she remembered it from her childhood. The interpolations in parentheses are not in the original, but are supplied to make plain this description for present day readers:

" A clear brook flowed out under Washington St. south and ran uncovered to the east, past the cottage of Amos Perry (near Perry Ave.) crossing Washington St. again to the northeast. It meandered along the Abbott field and somewhere behind the prison, with aid grew to a pool, where Dea. Moulton had a tannery." The proprietor of this tannery in the rear of the old prison was James Moulton, Jr. elected deacon of First Church in 1829. There is a record that in the thirties this pool was used as a

place for baptism by immersion, and of course the boys of that day used it as a swimming hole.

Continuing Miss Herbert's narrative:

"Mr. Seavey built a house east of the old Merrimack School (11 Beacon St.) which he and Judge Fowler occupied (about 1840) and he was obliged to stone in the brook which ran through his cellar. Emerging to the south, the brook ran along between the sidewalk and the street along Mr. Emerson's land (No. 107 N. State St.) and I often picked white violets along its bank on my way to school. Under the street again the brook ran rippling and gurgling in a narrow ditch like a channel, close to the road within the premises of Mrs. Joshua Abbott (No. 22 Washington St.). At her eastern limit grew a clump of tall shrubs and climbing vines on the smallest bit of an island where Sylvester Dana (who then lived at 12 Washington St.) twined them into an arbor. There his sister entertained her Sunday School class. For the fourth time crossing Washington St. the brook was partly covered in Mrs. Gilbert's garden (site of 9-11 Washington St.) but escaping to Sweetser's (167 N. Main St.) without troubling the clear cold spring there canopied with wild grape vines. West of Main St. somewhere near Chapel St. it assisted Ezra Allen in honest blacksmith work and here it became historic!"

The reference to "historic" refers to the fact that the log Meeting-house was built on this site in pioneer days. The spring back of the Sweetser house must have been a picturesque spot for tradition tells that a short flight of stone steps led down into the "canopied" hollow.

The old West house - no one seems to have discovered its builder - was interesting for many reasons. Ex-Gov. Frank West Rollins who lived there when a boy, left us a description of its kitchen: "Thirty-five feet long by twenty-five feet wide, the east side all of brick, and the outline of the enormous fireplace of other days still plainly visible, flanked on one side by the brick oven, still in use for baking bread and pies, and on the other by a capacious wash boiler. In the opposite corner was the long-

handled wooden pump, drawing water from the well in the yard. The low ceiling was crossed by big oaken rafters, and the small rectangular window panes allowed a distorted glimpse of Grandmother's old fashioned garden, with a row of peach trees at the back."

"Grandmother" who had the garden was Mrs. John West, Jr., born Nancy Montgomery, the daughter of Gen. James Montgomery who won fame in the War of 1812. She married John West, Jr. in Haverhill in 1815 and the couple went to Boston to live. This old house where West had kept store prior to 1813, the store taken over by William Austin- was used also for office purposes by Samuel Sparhawk, Secretary of State, and other officials. Returning to Concord, the Wests made the house over for their home and in 1829 Mr. West built the addition on the north side and there he had his office while he was Town Clerk (1829-32).

John West, Jr. died before he was fifty and his widow, a gracious and lovely lady, lived on in the old home with her seven fatherless children. She opened her roomy house to some distinguished boarders during these years, among them Judge Nesmith of Franklin, Judge Samuel Green then of Hopkinton, and other judges of the courts. When Franklin Pierce had his law office in the new bank building across the main street, he lodged at Mrs. West's. Lafayette was entertained there according to family tradition, and in later years men of national fame including Henry Ward Beecher, Theodore Tilton, Col. Robert G. Ingersoll and Gen. Philip Sheridan, were honored guests.

One of Mrs. West's daughters married a young man named Edward H. Rollins who came, a poor boy, from Dover and prospered in the drug store business on our main street. He ventured into politics with such success that he served in Congress in both the House and the Senate. During the fifties Mr. Rollins and his family lived in the West house and it was there that certain political gatherings were held which made history. The threat of southern secession from the Union led to the formation of a secret polit-

ical party called the "Know Nothing", with the promotion of American principles as its objective and the original constitution of the party with its signatures was produced in this house. At another gathering of political leaders within its walls, the idea of the present Republican party was proposed, so that it may justly be called the birthplace of that historic party.

But the memories of the old house were not confined to dignified judges and political leaders, for we read of lively boyish pranks under its broad roof. This was the birthplace and cherished home of Frank West Rollins who, when he was governor of New Hampshire, introduced the celebration of Old Home Day. This is his account of May Day fun in 1876 in his "Old Home."

"Shall I ever forget it! After making the night hideous with horns, guns, drums rattles and devil's fiddles, I gathered about fifty of the young ragamuffins of the town, and somewhere in the small hours of the morning when sleep is sweetest, I quietly led this horde of tatterdemalions through the side door of our house. At a given signal, thumpity-thump tootity-toot, bangity-bang went the whole gang up the front stairs single file, by the foot of the bed where Mother and Father, at first furious, but soon laughing uproariously, were, and then down the back stairs, and out into the darkness to hatch other mischief."

When, thirty-five years later, that mischievous boy grown to manhood and prominence, watched his old home as it fell to decay, he purchased the place, removed the house and created West Garden in memory of his mother, presenting it to the City of Concord.

May Day celebrations continued in Concord for years to come, but as a rule only horns were used by the juvenile paraders. This custom of ushering in the month was entirely a local affair and the stores on Main Street catered to it by carrying a stock of sizable tin horns known to small fry as "May horns". Through the eighties and nineties adults found practical use for these horns: on Friday the fish cart made a circuit of the town

and the driver blew a horn at intervals to announce his coming. The farmer's wife used such a horn to call the men in the field to dinner and there were mothers who kept a horn handy to summon small boys home from play.

In the Monitor of May 3, 1880, is found this account of earlier May Day junkets: "In the days of long ago it was the custom for boys to start out in the early morning on horseback, ride to the woods, gather may-flowers and evergreen, decorate their horses and themselves, and return in grand cavalcade through the streets during the forenoon. The horns were used by the earliest risers to awaken their slumbering comrades. Such was the fact a generation ago but the exact date of its origin we cannot give"

There was, in 1812, a cabinet maker in Concord named George W. Rogers and his shop which was occupied also by Mann & Robertson, traders, stood next north of the Upper Bank (Livermore house). In mid February the North End narrowly escaped serious fire loss when this shop went up in flames. The vault of the Bank was only four feet from the burning building and strenuous effort was needed to remove its contents and to clear the house of all furnishings. The windows and doors were removed because it seemed so certain that the building could not be saved. In the rear of the burning shop there were several sheds and a barn and on the north side the dwelling house of Richard Herbert, Jr. (later a tavern).

West brook served emergency need during this fire according to the Patriot-"The alacrity with which lines were formed from the brook about thirty rods distant and supplied our only engine with water, the cool and fearless manner in which a number approached and extinguished the fire which many times caught on the other buildings cannot be too much praised." The same issue of the Patriot carries a card of thanks "To the gentlemen of Concord Engine No. 1" signed by Judge Timothy Walker, president of the Bank, in behalf of "the Directors and Stockholders." According to Woodbridge Odlin, this old hand engine bore the nickname of

"Old Literary No.1" and it was kept in a building on Stickney's lane (Bridge St.). The Engine Company which so valiantly controlled this fire was the one incorporated in 1807 and its officers included such prominent "gentlemen" as Abel Hutchins, James Ayer, Bowen Crehore, William Huse and Timothy Butters, with Daniel Greenleaf as captain. Alarmed by the menace of this North End fire, the next town meeting voted a committee of three lawyers, Thomas W. Thompson, Charles Walker and Samuel Green, with instructions to prepare a By-law insuring increased fire protection, with an appropriation of one hundred dollars to purchase fire hooks and to repair the hand tub or engine. The ordinance produced by the combined legal talent of the town was adopted March 9, 1813:

"A Bye Law relateing to the Extinguishing of fiers." One trusts that the spelling is that of a town clerk and not of the three lawyers. Provision is made for the appointment of "persons of approved ability and fidelity" to be Firewards: the "distinguishing badge of their office a staff five feet Long painted red and headed with a bright spire six inches long." In case of fire these officials must "immediately repair to the scene with their badges of office" and "vigorously Exert themselves" to put out the fire and prevent its spread. They were granted full police power during a fire and given additional responsibility for preventive work by inspecting houses for dangerous chimneys, fireplaces, faulty foundations and other fire hazards.

The fire engines of the day were operated by a hand brake with six men on each side and twenty to thirty feet of hose. In 1818 the town purchased a second engine, an apparatus which had an improved pump and which was the joint invention of S.F.B. Morse and his brother Sidney. The inventors had high hope of a wide sale for their product, but the \$200. paid by Concord for the engine seems to have been a poor investment and this failure apparently ended the Morse enterprise.

The primitive fire department of a period somewhat later, as it went

into action, was described by Dr. Bouton: "at the cry of fire and the ringing of an alarm bell, the firewards seized their badge-with a blue ribbon streaming from the apex-the firemen sprung for their engines, to be drawn by hand, and the people, with pails and buckets, rushed to the scene. Then would be heard the command from a fireward, ringing out in stentorian tone 'Form a line!' Then the people-all the people (whoever disobeyed did it at his peril) fell into line-rather two lines-one to pass single buckets of water from the nearest well, hand by hand, to be emptied, one by one, into the tub of the engine; the other, to return the buckets to be refilled. Then the stream of water from a half inch pipe would be thrown upon the burning building. Very unfortunate was it if a well, with five or six feet of water, should give out before the fire was got under control, but so it often happened. And if a building was so unfortunate as to be burnt up, it was not for want of good will and of sweat on the part of the brakemen, nor because the people in the lines did not help all they could."

Capt. George W. Rogers lost by the fire not only his building-a new one only three years before-but all his equipment and stock. He moved across the street, however, and for the next few years carried on his business where Lewis Downing had opened his first shop. His homestead was closely south of the Old Building of the N.H. Historical Society, ^{214 N. Main St.} where there was "a dwelling house, a barn and other buildings". The house was a large two-story one standing directly on the street and with its front door on the south side. It was torn down within memory of North Enders. Capt. Rogers and his wife, Lucy, were admitted to the church in 1816 and dismissed to the church in Rumford, Me. in the fall of 1822.

The Herbert family with property on both the north and south side of Ferry road, continued the enterprise which had characterized them in the last years of the preceding century. The head of the family, Richard, continued to live in the old house until his death in 1823 and his sons, Jonathan and Samuel-bachelors-lived with him. The former keeping store

as related in Chapter XXII. Samuel's twin brother, Charles, kept a hatter shop for years in a small building closely north of the store and well back from the street. He, too, was a bachelor. A fourth brother, Richard Jr., known as "Butcher" Herbert because of his trade, built for himself the house shown in our picture which stood directly across the street from First Church. About 1828 he opened this house as a tavern, sometimes acting as its host and at other times leasing it. Known as the Merrimack House in its early days, it was re-named the Pavilion in the fifties and was a favorite center for "court boarders" as members of the legislature were called. Leaving the tavern, Richard Jr. built himself a new home on the site where Capt. Rogers's shop had burned, next south of the tavern. There he died in 1855 at the age of ninety-four.

A fifth brother, James, moved to Rumney and one of his sons, Charles Herbert 2d, came to Concord when about twenty-five years of age and, in 1814, advertised "Drugs, Medicines, Patent Medicines, Perfumeriers &c" at a shop one door north of John West Jr's store. The following year he was licensed to practice medicine but his career was cut short by death in 1816.

In 1823 Samuel Herbert married Nancy Bridges who, doubtless, was the milliner who that year, sold her business located in the John West Jr's house. Samuel was then carrying on a store and advertising a line of "spring and summer goods". Some years later, his nephew, Albert Herbert kept store in a small building on the south corner of Ferry St. and continued till it burned in 1845, endangering the ancient house then occupied by his uncle Samuel, next north, the tavern next south and his father's house beyond the tavern. Following this loss, Albert kept the tavern for a time.

Charlotte Herbert, older sister of Albert, kept a dry goods store in the building used by her uncle Jonathan, in 1823 and in 1830 she moved her business to her father's home (now 218 N. Main St. adding millinery to her stock in trade. Her

quaint sign may be seen in ~~the Old Building of~~ the Historical Society. In 1836 she married James Woolson who then carried on the Herbert farm.

In recent years the tavern was torn down to make way for a filling station. Our picture shows it just before its last days when it was a tenement house. In front of its site there is a granite slab between the sidewalk and the street, which covers the old well which supplied the tavern pump and watering trough. Very recently this old relic has been covered with concrete paving. The Herbert family holds the record in Concord for number and variety of commercial enterprises on the home place, but of all these activities only two houses remain to bear witness—the ancient home on Ferry St. and the Charlotte Herbert house. This latter house stood originally close to the sidewalk and on a lower foundation.

The store at the north corner of Ferry St. is probably of later construction. In the fifties it was occupied by John D. Abbot West, son of Joseph Carter West, Concord storekeeper and his wife, Mary Abbot, daughter of Nathaniel Abbot 2d. ^{D. A.} John West lived in a house built on the old Abbot farm and still standing at 9 Pearl St. West carried W. I. goods and groceries and Frank W. Rollins reminisced over the group which he remembered in his boyhood, sitting around the stove in the store swapping stories and practical jokes, while John West sat on his high stool at his high desk and cast up his accounts.

In the year 1812, John West, Jr. was advertising— "Received this morning one hundred straw bonnets of latest New York pattern, likewise gingham, stripes and checks from the factories of Almy, Brown & Slater's of Providence and Smithfield", at his store on the site of West Garden. Mr. West had cousins in Salisbury and two of them came to Concord to keep store. William West advertised (1812) "To sell at Store one Door North of Mr. Barker's Tavern, Shaker Candlesticks, Spinning Wheels, Cotton and Wool Cards, Whips and Sieves, likewise Mackerell, Teas, Coffee, Logwood, Sole Leather, W. I. Rum, Gin, Tobacco, Honey, School Books, Pelisse Cloths, India Calico,

Straw Bonnets, a Good Assortment of Deerskin Gloves and Mittens.

"Wanted at above Store-a quantity of good Tow Cloth, Diaper, Tallow, Beeswax, Corn, Rye, Wheat, Oats, Flax, Butter, Poultry and Rags."-All of which indicates the diversity of farm products in the vicinity of Concord.

This store was the one built by Solomon Mann, Jr. near the northwest corner of Washington Tavern during the time his father was owner of the hostelry. In 1819 William West's brother, Joseph Carter West, appears at the North End and leased this same 48 x 24 feet building, and in 1822 Landlord Barker sold to William West the store and the bit of land on which it stood. This was about the time when William married Barker's daughter, Mary.

A new business at the North End is announced in this advertisement-"Robert Davis, watch maker, has begun business near the meeting house after spending considerable time with the best workmen in Boston. Also jewelry." (Patriot Nov. 10, 1812) This was Robert Davis Jr.-later to be known as Gen. Robert Davis because of rank in the 11th Regiment. His shop stood on the north corner of Main and Franklin Sts. which was the east portion of the Davis homestead. Another of his advertisements reads: "Robert Davis, Watchmaker and Jeweler near the Meeting House in Concord, Manufactures Silver Spoons, Tongs, Thimbles, Mourning Knobs, and Drops, Gold and Hair Hoops Hair work of every description neatly executed." Occasionally one still finds among family treasures, watch chains, locketts and bracelets of this hair work- sentimental tokens ^{the} woven of hair of loved ones. Two years later Robert Davis had a shop down town "one door south of the Patriot office" and his cousin, Robert Davis, Jr. of West Parish, advertised "General Store nearly opposite Barker's Tavern" probably the shop just vacated by the watchmaker.

Robert Davis lived with his father, David Davis, on the family homestead, the house still standing at 102 N. State St., its backyard extending

easterly to the main street. In 1816 he purchased the place from his grandfather, Lieut. Robert Davis, for \$1500, and the deed describes it as "the homestead or houselot where I (i.e. Lieut. Davis) now live on the main street". In later years the jeweler of the family removed the wooden store on Main St. and built there a brick business block of some pretension as shown in our picture. It became the famous store of Pecker & Lang who, according to the 1834 directory, sold "English & W.I. goods". At that date Seth Eastman had a jeweler's shop next to the new brick store and David Davis of West Parish carried on a dry goods store next north of Pecker & Lang. All this business was conducted upon the lot now occupied by the house now on the north corner of Franklin and Main Sts. which, by the way, is said to have inside walls built from brick of the old store.*

Gen. Robert Davis was one of Concord's most prominent citizens and for years he was a leader in civic affairs. His second wife long outlived him and, until her death in the early eighties, the Davis house remained a charming relic of the old days. Long sheds and a carriage house connected the house with a roomy barn east of the dwelling, and north of these buildings was an apple orchard where the house now 104 N. State St. stands. In the south angle of house and sheds there was a lovely old-fashioned garden on ground which sloped toward the east and was well below the level of Franklin St. Garden terraces led up to the wide piazza—a modern addition—which extended the entire length of the east side of the house, and this piazza was a bower of climbing roses, hop vines, and a huge bittersweet vine on the street end. On this wide piazza was a deep well, curbed and with a bucket on a long rope. The water from the Davis well was prized in the neighborhood. Great elms shaded the house and in sheltered corners lilies of the valley and violets grew each spring time. It was a home to dream of in these latter years. A picture of this house taken in the eighties before alterations were made, is shown in Chapter

When the Toleration Act went into effect, the town was no longer responsible for support of a minister: therefore the original parsonage lots were auctioned off. One of these lots lay north of Capt. Emery's house (125 N. State St.) and Robert Davis purchased it in 1826. Then he moved his old jeweler's shop to the lot and made it into a dwelling for his unmarried sister, Lucy. In later years his son, Henry C. Davis, lived there and for years after his death his widow, Mrs. Lucy Davis, kept her home there. In 1890 the old house was moved a second time and now stands at 14-16 Prospect St. For a short time before the building left Main St. the second floor room was used as a printing office for the N.H. Statesman, access being by an outside staircase.

The Patriot advertisements during 1812 reveal the extremes of good and evil in the standards of that time. The reform which ended open gambling for the next generations had not yet begun and we find that Col. Kent had at his store "Tickets in the 7th Class Harvard College Lottery with Highest Prize \$20,000." Also - "Last Chance - Tickets in the Dixville Road Lottery now drawing, for Sale at the Patriot Office. Wholes \$6.00. Halves \$3.00. Quarters \$1.50." And side by side with such announcements George Hough, dealing in pious matters, calls for subscriptions at his Concord Book Store for a proposed History of the Baptist denomination; that once small and persecuted, but now extensive and prosperous community of Christians. "And in the May 26th issue - " All who wish to be members of the N.H. Bible Society are desired to meet at the Meeting House in this Town, on the third day of June next at ten o'clock A.M., when the Constitution of the Society is to be adopted, and the officers chosen for the year ensuing." For many years, Nathaniel Abbot 2d was treasurer of ^{the} Society.

Schools continued to be a major interest in town affairs and appropriations rose from \$900. in 1811 to \$1,000. in 1812 - a sum considered adequate for the following six years. Highway conditions were primitive. In wet weather the main street from the Stickney mansion (site of Elks Club)

north to the hill on which the Court House now stands, was "a gulf of mud" down into the hollow of Tanyard brook. Near the corner of Centre Road there was a stretch of corduroy road and in 1820 a plank sidewalk or bridge for pedestrians was built on the west side of the hollow with a handrail on its east edge. This bridge extended north to the vicinity of present Lyster block and was "considered a substantial proof of the public spirit of those who got it up." The causeway over West brook has been mentioned but although it was edged with round logs thirty to forty feet long, scant protection was afforded for the main street traffic.

The farm folk of this generation continued to be self-sustaining as were their pioneer fathers, except for a few commodities such as cotton goods, fine woolen suitings and West Indies products- molasses, rum, spices etc. In addition to the food stuffs raised on every farm, game was still plentiful in the surrounding country and until 1840 it was common for each farm to set a pigeon net in which whole flocks were snared. Wild turkeys were often caught on our intervalles and trout were in our brooks in the rear of the houses along the east side of the main street.

Every farmer had a flax field and when the pretty blue flower ripened into a ball, the plants were carefully pulled by the roots, tied in small bundles and left on the ground to dry for a day or two. Then the bundles were stacked in the field for a fortnight or more until the seed so highly valued for its medicinal qualities, could be threshed out. The stalks were then soaked in water for at least a week and then spread evenly upon the grass to rot. When decayed the mass was stored for the winter awaiting a fair spring day which should favor the "dressing". This hard and dirty process of separating the fibrous thread from the stalks with hand tools called the brake, the hatchel and the swingling board and knife, brought out a general gathering of the men of the neighborhood. When properly dressed and twisted into bunches, the flax was handed over to the women of the household to be spun into thread and woven into cloth.

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which must be bleached to snowy whiteness in the sun. With so much labor involved it is small wonder that the housewife delighted to weave her linen in beautiful and intricate patterns and treasured it through the years.

Wool was a home product also, but until Slater's and other cotton mills opened in New England, cotton was imported by the bag and the seeds removed by hand at home in preparation for spinning. This cotton was inferior in quality and the homespun cloth far less desirable than the mill product. Dyes were homemade from the bark of butternut, walnut or yellow oak, steeped and sometimes mixed with copperas and alum to make a variety of shades of brown and yellow. The more genteel of the townsfolk employed the "taylor" to make suits of imported broadcloth but the farmer folk wore homespun exclusively as late as 1816.

The wearing qualities of homespun left nothing to be desired and the farm boy found two suits sufficient for his needs. On Thanksgiving Day he donned his winter suit and the tough cowhide shoes made by the itinerant cobbler. On 'Lecture Day he changed to his summer suit and went barefoot for the season. Simeon Abbot averred that spring and fall styles were only new patches on old garments. He recalled that sometimes before Thanksgiving arrived, the frozen ground made a boy's feet crack and the remedy was a thorough washing and then a greasing, followed by drying before the open fire- and then to bed. Boys of that day wore shirts of tow which nothing could tear but which were so rough with woody fibre as to be a torment to body and spirit. A suit for summer comprised a vest, a spencer (short coat) and trousers of hand woven linen or cotton. The winter suit was similar but woven of wool.

During these years when Concord was developing the prosperity and dignity appropriate to the capital of the state, the editor of the Patriot prospered in proportion to his talents and industry. In 1814 he became allied with prominent families of the old tradition when he married

Capt. Richard Ayer's daughter, Susanna, and the event was announced in the Patriot thus: "In Concord, N.H., Feb. 3, Mr. Isaac Hill, one of the editors of The Patriot, to Miss Susan Ayer, daughter of Capt. Richard Ayer.

As I walked out the other day
 Through Concord Street I took my way;
 I saw a sight I thought quite rare—
 A Hill walked out to take the Ayer.
 And now, since earth and air have met together
 I think there'll be a change of weather."

Mr. Hill had purchased a two acre place on the east side of the main street extending down to the river, known as the Sweatt Place, and occupied today by Hill and Cyrus Hill blocks. On land now the site of the north end of Emmons Store, stood an old dwelling house where William Manley, the store-keeper, once lived. Near by was a shop, a barn and a woodhouse. About the time of his marriage Isaac Hill built a new house south of the old one and at an angle to it, some forty feet back from the street. Here the Hill family lived for nearly twenty years and here they boarded apprentices and journey men, the governors Plumer, and the two Bells, the elder Dinsmoor and many prominent legislators. It must have been a spacious house for when he built his mansion on the Rogers farm at the South End, this house was moved near it and made into three or four dwellings. The printing office stood near the new house on the site of Emmons Store. In 1844 Mr. Hill sold the north section of this lot and the famous Athenian Hall was built where the Manley house (also moved to the South End) had stood. The office where Isaac Hill edited and printed the Patriot until 1827 later became a dwelling house and sometime before 1861, George Hutchins bought it, removed it to the rear of the new Hill block and made it into three tenements. There it stood, used in more recent years for storage until it was torn down in 1929.

A fellow member of the Amherst Colony, Joseph Low, was next door neighbor to the Hills on the north side. Released from military duty at the end of the War of 1812, Mr. Low came to Concord and married Fanny, the

eldest daughter of Nathaniel Abbot 2d. When he was appointed postmaster in 1816, Mr. Low kept the office in the old West house. In 1817 he purchased the George Hough property where Rumford block and Woodward block now stand and he moved the post office to a shop or store which stood on the south side of the premises. At that time the annual receipts of the post office were about \$150. Apparently Mr. Low lived in the house next north where Mr. Hough had lived prior to building his mansion house on State St. (site of Christian Science church). Later Joseph Low built a new house to which Henry McFarland refers in "Sixty Years in Concord":

"In the forties, Gen. Joseph Low whose gilt-headed cane and confident manner caused the boys to regard him as the Croesus of the town, had a pleasant house with a deep front yard where Rumford block stands."

The ground on the east side of the street sloped steeply at that point so the house stood below street level and steps led down to it from the sidewalk. In later years this house was moved and stands with some alterations, at 51 School St. as pictured. Sometime prior to 1844 Mr. Low built upon this Main St. lot the brick block called Low's block (now rebuilt into Woodward block). The accompanying picture of old Main St. shows the original Low's block at the extreme left and at its north side a portion of Rumford block which now has a modern roof covering the quaint old one. High on the north wall of Rumford block today may be seen the outline of the chimneys which rose from the original steep pitched roof. Rumford block stands on the site of George Hough's oldtime dwelling house.

Low's block (now Woodward's) was the scene of a riot in Civil War days when John E. Palmer and his three brothers, in partnership with their father, published there a weekly called "The Democratic Standard" with pro-slavery views. The town seems to have been tolerant until the issue of Aug. 8, 1861 made reference to soldiers just returned from three months enlistment, as "Old Abe's Mob." Copies of the paper fell into the hands of some of these soldiers and they mobbed the printing office and destroyed

most of its equipment. The proprietors escaped personal injury, but Concord would tolerate them no longer. Forty years later one of the brothers was living in poverty and unable to find work. He committed suicide by hanging in his room in Stickney block, leaving a bitter letter addressed to the Mayor of Concord, recounting all the old grievances.

Joseph Low was a loyal and devoted citizen and through the years, every good cause won his interest and support. He was Adjutant-General of the state and served also as Quarter-Master General, hence his title, Gen. Low. He was one of that small group of Concord men who dared unpopularity by organizing the first temperance society on Fast Day, 1830, at a gathering in the Meeting-house led by the new young Minister, Nathaniel Bouton. In 1853 he became the first mayor of the new City of Concord.

At the close of the War of 1812, travel increased greatly and stages in and out of Concord multiplied. Stickney's tavern on the rise of ground (since cut down for a filling station) on the north corner of Court St., was at the height of fame and prosperity. Our picture is from a drawing in Henry McFarland's "Sixty Years in Concord". Standing high above the street and well back, it was approached by a long crescent driveway which left the highway near present Pitman St. and swung back into Main St. near Chapel St. which was the north boundary of the Stickney property.

In the Statesman (1845) Asa McFarland Jr. reminisced of his boyhood memories of the tavern activities as watched from his home directly across the street:

"Stickney's was the stage house, and on days when the stage arrived from Boston, which was weekly, was the scene of no small bluster created by the arrival and departure of those public conveyances in quiet rural villages thirty years ago. The drivers invariably carried a tin horn as a permanent fixture of their establishments, secured in a deep socket by their sides, and arriving at hailing distance of the village, used to herald their approach by continuous blasts through these enormous trumpets.

The mail was carried to the Postoffice at the North End, and "Mr. George, the Postmaster, used to hand out the letters and papers upon the counter of his hatter's shop.***Papers in the winter often came frozen together, and had to be thawed out on the hearth before the fire."

The tavern property included four acres between the main street and present State St., and three acres more west of State St. and "broad green yards, gardens and orchards surrounded it" spreading across what is now Court St. and into the Court House yard. Famed for its cookery "even to the Canada line", Stickney's never lacked for trade during all the years when William Stickney was host. After his death in 1828 at the age of three score and ten, the tavern was conducted by his son, John. When the old house finally decayed it was removed to the site of 9 Bradley St. where it degenerated into a poor tenement house and was finally torn down. There is a well-authenticated tradition that the old red building now standing in Hall's Court is one of the old tavern's barns, moved thither for use as a freight house for the Northern Railroad—a purpose never fulfilled. At one time it was a paint shop for the Blanchard Churn Co.

After William Stickney's death, his son, Nathan (b. 1787) built the house still standing on the north side of the tavern lot at 163 N. Main St. (now Red Cross House). He probably built the brick store which stood on the north corner of Chapel St. until its recent removal to make way for another of the super-abundant filling stations. The 1844 directory refers to "Nathan Stickney's brick store" at this location which was the place where John West's smithy stood earlier and where, earlier still, the log meeting-house of the pioneers was built. South of Nathan Stickney's house is a fine elm which grows out of the foundation of an ancient malt house. In 1785 Jeremiah Abbot who married William Stickney's sister, ran a malt business there. Later William Stickney took it over and included it as part of his business until 1816. Then he turned it into a smoke house and it is said that at times in the fall and winter, two hundred and fifty,

sometimes three hundred, fine legs of bacon belonging to various families of the town, were hung there to be smoked.

A fire, disastrous though it be, is sometimes a means to progress and such was the case when, late in the fall of 1817, the large house where Abel Hutchins and Albe Cady lived was destroyed in a midnight blaze. The old printing shop next door where William Hoit once published the Patriot, was also burned but the new office on the north where Isaac Hill edited and printed the paper was saved. The entire town seems to have turned out to fight this fire and even "the fair sex" brought carpets, coverlets and blankets to cover endangered roofs, and helped carry water to fill the engine. The next issue of the Patriot gave them due credit for saving the printing office.

With good courage Abel Hutchins began at once to rebuild—not a dwelling, but a thoroughly modern hotel which he named, appropriately, "The Phenix". In January 1819 this famous house was opened to guests and became the booking place for stages to Boston over the Londonderry turnpike and for north bound stages to Hanover and Haverhill. On its broad porches and in its great central room with its cheery fireplace, the gentlemen of the Whig party gathered for conference and to celebrate their occasional victory over the Republicans (Democrats) led by Isaac Hill. And so it was, that among the famous names on the hotel register, that of Daniel Webster appeared often. In 1856 this hotel burned and was replaced by the present Phenix Hotel.

The old Butters tavern at the South End continued business under the management of John Carr who owned it from 1814 till 1822 when it was purchased by Joshua Sawyer. The success of this tavern and increasing travel over the Londonderry turnpike had led Samuel Willey to open an inn on the spot where ferryman John Merrill had lived in pioneer days (135 S. Main St. In the Patriot of January 1814 this advertisement appears: "Oval sign marked S.W.**** at the house he formerly kept at the lower end of Concord

Street and at the head of the Londonderry Turnpike." Rates included- "Horses kept at twenty cents a night each." Then and for generations to come, the main street ended at this tavern where the Londonderry turnpike began, and when the streets were officially named the road south of West St. was called Turnpike St. It seems a pity to change this characteristic name into S. Main St. In these early days the road to Concord bridge branched off the main street directly south of Butters tavern and ran steeply down the hill east of Water St. which, at a later date, was cut through the homestead property of Samuel Willey.

At 5-7 West St. stands the old home of James Willey who was one of the founders of the First Baptist church and long served as one of its deacons. His mother, widow of Jonathan Willey, a Revolutionary veteran, lived in this home until her death in 1834 a few days before her one hundredth birthday. Eventually Dea. Willey owned the tavern property and ran a blacksmith shop there. He was devoted to his church and in his will he left a legacy to the "First Calvinistic Baptist Society." It was on May 20, 1818 that a group of people met at the home of Richard Swain, a "house joiner" who lived next north of William Low's house, and there formed this new church. Baptist churches had been established earlier in Bow and Salisbury and a few Concord people had become converts to Baptist doctrine.

Most of the land north of Richard Swain's as far as present Park St. had become the site for the new State House. The bake house where Peter Robertson had made his famous gingerbread, stood on leased land and shortly before 1820 the Major moved the building to a site next south of the State House and kept a general store there, in partnership with Artemas Evans. Then he seems to have tried his hand at tavern keeping, finally moving the house a few rods farther south and enlarging it. He sold it to John Park Gass who made it famous as the Columbian Hotel. Its site is now occupied by Columbian block.

The leading physician of the day was Dr. Chadbourne who entered into partnership with Dr. Zadok Howe who was to leave Concord shortly for Billerica, Mass. where his fame as a scientist is memorialized today. Dr. Chadbourne belonged to the old Concord tradition for his mother was a daughter of Col. Andrew MacMillan of Conway and his maternal grandmother was "Mother" Osgood's daughter, Hannah. Dr. Chadbourne fell in love with the youngest of Dr. Peter Green's daughters and soon made her his bride. Their home was the old house which stands on the north corner of Montgomery St. which was built by the doctor before that street was opened. The front door was on the south side and although the interior has been changed to adapt it to commercial use, one may still trace the position of the front hall and find the old parlor mantelpiece intact. In later years Dr. Chadbourne bought the old Edward Abbot Garrison house next south of his home, moved it to its present location on Montgomery St. and built a new house on its site. In that house he lived until 1855. In 1935 it burned.

One of the few attempts at abuse of the oldtime discipline of the church occurred when Dr. Chadbourne declared his purpose to become a member in 1816. A certain woman in Millville protested on the ground that the doctor had charged her husband an unreasonable fee for professional services. The church investigated and decided that Dr. Chadbourne's charge compared well with fees charged by other local physicians, so the complaint was dismissed. A few years later a certain citizen of erratic temper talked indiscreetly about that fine gentleman, Thomas W. Thompson, then deacon in the church. The talk was too serious to be ignored and Dea. Thompson requested the church "to investigate the ground of certain reports circulated by Maj. Peter Robertson that are unfavorable to the character of the said Dea. Thompson." The result was complete vindication for the deacon, but the church had no authority to discipline the mischievous Major since he was not a communicant.

On the south corner of Washington St. the Abbots had built a store

where, in 1814, Joshua Abbot, Jr. advertised a general store "opposite the Walker Bank"-that is, the Upper Bank. The following year the business was taken over by Mrs. Abbot's brother, Obadiah Kimball, who advertised "English and W.I. goods" on the corner of Prison St., indicating the recent opening of what is now Washington St.. It was this year of 1815 that Capt. Joshua Abbot, the veteran of Bunker Hill died, leaving Joshua, Jr. in possession of the south half of the original Abbot farm. Having given up business, it is probable that the young man returned to teaching for that had been his occupation in his youth. In 1820 he was principal of the experimental Lancaster school in the Town House. In that year he sold the store to his brother, Nathaniel Abbot 2d, and went to Virginia on account of his health, leaving his wife and their six young children in Concord until he could prepare a home for them in the south. Death in faraway Norfolk made this impossible.

The store building continued to be used for commercial purposes but in 1826 Nathaniel Abbot 2d sold it to his son, John D. Abbot, and the deed notes that the building "is now occupied by Lemuel Barker as a dwelling." The old house is still standing and its further history belongs to a later chapter. *

At the South End changes were taking place on the farms along the main street. In the spring of 1814, Thomas W. Thompson purchased the Dea. George Abbot farm and moved into the substantial old garrison house on the north corner of present Fayette St. His next neighbor on the north was Maj. Timothy Chandler and next south was the homestead of Daniel Cooledge on the north portion of the old Haseltine farm. In 1819 the Cooledges sold their home and moved to New York where prosperity awaited the family in the publishing business. At this time Robert Harris, the merchant, owned that part of the Haseltine farm directly south of the Cooledge home, except for the lot directly north of Dr. John Thorndike's farm. On that lot Richard Haseltine, Jr. (b. 1742) was living as late as 1813. Mr. Harris did not

live on his property-now called the Harris farm-but maintained his home until his death in 1822 on the place he purchased from Col.Gordon Hutchins(site of Concord Theatre).After his death the farm was cut into building lots.

Across the street and north of the Rogers farm,Ebenezer Dustin had mortgaged his home and tanyard to Concord Bank and William Stickney, the taverner,purchased it in 1814.Later it became the property of his daughter Harriet(b.1792)and her husband,William Gault.Their house stood on the site of 33 S.Main St.Mr.Gault kept store in Concord for many years his first place of business being a small wicker building on the Stickney farm directly north of the site of the Eagle Hotel.

In the year 1820 the people of Concord were concerned for the health of Dr.McFarland.It was generally known that he was subject to "depression of spirit" but the fact that such depression was a symptom of insidious disease was not then recognized.The Minister fought on until 1823 when he suffered the first of a series of paralytic strokes.His resignation was tendered a few months later and on a Sabbath morning in mid-winter,1827,Dr.McFarland died at the age of fifty-eight.His successor, Rev.Nathaniel Bouton,had been in Concord nearly two years and knew and revered the stricken clergyman.In his History of Concord,he pays this tribute to Dr.McFarland:

"His labors as a minister were very arduous,and the fruits of his industry are abundant.He left 2054 manuscript sermons.**** Besides preaching two written discourses on the Sabbath,he usually attended a third service at the town hall,or at a schoolhouse where he preached extemporaneously.In seasons of revival he preached frequently in outer districts of the town,sometimes spending a day or two in visiting from house to house,and attending meetings in the evening without returning home.Three years and a half he officiated as chaplain in the State Pris-

on preaching to the convicts once on the Sabbath".

During the greater part of his pastorate, Dr. McFarland was the only minister in Concord and his parish was the entire town. He was missionary in spirit and was on call for trips through the north part of the state for preaching missions. To those who study his career today, he grows in stature both intellectually and spiritually, and the conviction deepens that he contributed not alone to his town, the character of its heritage, but much to the state and to his Alma Mater, Dartmouth college.