

not ready for Shakspeare and the enterprise failed for lack of patronage.

Business was so good at the new Eagle Coffee House that in the spring of 1832 the building was enlarged by adding a third story as shown in our copy of an old lithograph. The sign then bore the name of John P. Gass who was proprietor from 1829 to 1834. It was Landlord Gass's boast as to the table of his house-"The living is so good that I have already got the gout, and as for the bar, that is well enough." At the raising of the Eagle Coffee House, the old ceremony of the master workman dashing a bottle of rum on the newly set ridge-pole was celebrated, probably for the last time in Concord. Before its destruction in the great fire which swept the east side of Main St. in 1851, this house sheltered many famous people. In 1841-43 Levi P. Morton destined to become Vice President of the United States, boarded there while he was clerking in a Concord store and on the register were such names as Benjamin Harrison and Jefferson Davis, and Sam Houston:

In 1827 a small group of people with liberal views in theology, began services in the Town Hall with preaching by various Unitarian clergymen from Boston. Early in the year 1829 their first pastor, Rev. Moses G. Thomas, was ordained and the Unitarian church in Concord was organized with eight members. Col. William A. Kent was prime mover in this enterprise and his family provided four of the original eight members. The Unitarian movement in Concord was happily free from the bitterness which accompanied its beginnings in many other New England communities, in token of which is the record that historic First Church invited the new Society to hold the ordination of Mr. Thomas in its old Meeting-house. This was a friendly courtesy but no compromise of its Trinitarian principles, for the ancient Meeting-house was not a consecrated church pledged to a definite mode of belief and worship: rather it was, like all old New England meeting-houses built by the Puritans, a meeting place for civic as

well as religious purposes. That First Church as a religious body had no mind to compromise with Unitarian belief is witnessed by the fact that when, the following year, the wife of one of the Unitarian adherents asked First Church for a recommendation by letter to membership in the new church, the record reads: "Voted unanimously-That it is inconsistent with our belief in those articles of faith which we have professed, to grant her request." Such were the principles of the church people of Concord a century and more ago.

Col. Kent, owning considerable land in the center of the town, generously offered a lot to the new Society and in the spring of 1829 the cornerstone of the first Unitarian church was laid. John Leach, a member of the Society, <sup>built</sup> ~~designed~~ the handsome wooden building shown in our picture. Its belfry tower was topped by a cupola in the shape of an inverted acorn—a unique feature. When the new church was dedicated in the fall of 1829, a young clergyman named Ralph Waldo Emerson had a place on the program, since, during the preceding year, he had preached frequently for the new Society. A happy romance developed during his visits to Concord for he fell in love with charming Ellen Tucker, daughter of Col. Kent's second wife. The wedding took place in the Kent home in this year of 1829. Somewhat later Mrs. Emerson presented the local church with a communion service which is treasured by the Society to this day. In 1854 this beautiful example of a work in architecture was burned and the present Unitarian church is the third to stand upon the lot given by Col. Kent.

Following closely upon the building of the Unitarian church, a local group of Methodists, in 1830, built a chapel on the site now occupied by the First Methodist Church. In 1831, West Parish organized its own Congregational Church and dedicated its first building in 1833. In 1837 the first building of the South Congregational Church was erected in the garden lot of Thomas Wilson's old homestead on the south-west corner of Main and Pleasant Sts. Thus, within a few years of the date of the Tolera-

tion Act(Chapter XXIX )the unity of religious life in Concord intact for a century,was definitely at an end.Today another century of Concord history has ended and the demand of certain Protestant leaders is for a return to one church.It must be obvious to anyone acquainted with the differences of theological conviction involved,that church unity among Protestants can be accomplished only by repudiation of the historic Trinitarian faith.

Meanwhile the congregation at the old Meeting-house which,summer and winter,had filled the great edifice,was now scattered among several parishes and by 1842 it was decided to abandon this building with its varied associations sacred,patriotic,political and civic.The First Church Society built -not a meeting-house,but a church,on the lot occupied by its present building and dedicated,<sup>it</sup> to the purposes of worship of the Triune God.Shortly afterward the old Meeting-house was sold to the Methodist General Biblical Institute for a theological school.After about twenty years of such service,during which our picture was taken,the Institute removed to Boston to become a part of Boston University and the old Meeting-house fell upon evil days.It became a cheap tenement house and its final chapter was written thus by the great grandson of its first minister (Joseph B.Walker):"On the night of Monday,Nov.28,1870,the purifying angel wrapped a mantle of flame about it and transported it heavenward upon a chariot of fire."

One of the first stores to be opened in the vicinity of the State House was in a small two-story wooden building on the site of 118 N.Main St.,then a part of the Stickney farm.William Gault was its proprietor and Henry McFarland records that the first cook stove he ever saw came from Gault's.It was a wonderful affair with a revolving lid which could be turned with a lever so that kettles could be kept over the hottest part of the fire or swung to a simmering heat.Like his eighteen competitors in business,Gault dealt in liquors as may be seen from his advertisement in a local paper:

"Genuine Liquors and Groceries.  
 William Gault  
 (Opposite the State House, Concord, N.H.)

Has just received the following supplies, viz.

10 casks Wine;  
 5 hhds. St. Croix Rum;  
 4 pipes old Cognac Brandy;  
 4 do. pure Holland Gin;  
 2 casks old Whiskey;  
 1 do. Jamaica Spirit.

W.G. endeavors at all times to keep a supply of Old Liquors, as good as can be found in the capital of New-England."

On the floor above the Gault store in 1825, William James, Tailor, advertised for sale - "tailed coats, stocks, and long trousers", indicating the fashion in male attire. Closely north of Gault's was the printing office of Jacob Moore who had come from Andover to learn his trade in the Patriot office. After finishing his apprenticeship, he was taken into partnership with Isaac Hill in the Franklin Bookstore, and continued there from 1819 till 1823. In that latter year the Bookstore advertisements featured "latest novel by Walter Scott, Peveril of the Peak."

Moore had literary taste and abundant enterprise so he leased a small piece of land from the Stickneys and built there a small shop of his own, and took over publication of the N.H. Repository which had begun issue the year before in the old building on "Parliament Corner" (site of Masonic Building).<sup>\*</sup> Having a bent for history, Moore proposed to the town a local history of about one hundred and fifty pages, and the town meeting voted to pay for sufficient copies to place one in each Concord family. In 1824 "The Annals of Concord", our first local history, was published. John Farmer from Amherst came to town in 1821 and collaborated with Moore in this work in addition to preparing in 1823 a Gazetteer of New Hampshire which was considered a model for such work in its time. Both Moore and Farmer were among the founders of the N.H. Historical Society at Portsmouth in 1823.

Mr. Moore kept a bookstore and did successful work as an editor. In the fall of 1826, he joined a party for a trip through the White Mountains and narrowly escaped the great flood in the Saco valley. He saw the devastation around the Willey house in Crawford Notch and brought home the first accurate account of the disaster. He was, at the time, preparing the issue of his N.H. Journal and its first number contained a vivid story of the Willey Mountain slide—a piece of writing which became a classic.

In 1839, Jacob Moore left Concord for wider fields of opportunity in New York where he edited the N.Y. Whig. Later he lived for a time in Washington and then joined the '49 Gold Rush. He served as postmaster of San Francisco, 1849-53, after which he returned to New England to live out his days in Bellows Falls, Vt. While living in Concord, Mr. Moore built a home on the northeast corner of State and School Sts. which was afterward moved to 80 Pleasant St.

North of Moore's printing office in 1825, the Stickney orchard bordered the main street, fenced in with unplanned boards bound by withes to the supporting stakes. Near the lane (now Bridge St.) stood the ample barn belonging to the Stickney homestead. South of Gault's store was a narrow strip of land which Isaac Hill and Joseph Low had purchased and on this land they seem to have built some small shops. One shop in this vicinity advertised thus:

"Timothy Chandler & Co. opposite the north-east corner of the State House \*\*\*\* Watches, Gold, Paste and Hair Bosom Pins; Gilt Neck Chains Amulets; Eylet Needles; Plated Table and Tea Spoons; Gold beads; Knobs and Rings.

Patent Time-pieces, Eight-Day Clocks at their old stand (80 rods south of the State House)." The latter refers to the original clock factory site, now Huntwood Terrace.

In 1823, Dea. Jonathan Wilkins had sold the famous old "Mother" Osgood tavern on the site of present Exchange Block, to Henry Farley who seems to have rebuilt the structure by adding a wooden three-

story "awkward wooden edifice" on the front. It then became known as Farley's Block and was occupied by business concerns in 1825. Isaac Frye Williams and his brother, Washington Williams, married two of Capt. Richard Ayer's daughters and had been keeping store at the North End. On the completion of the Farley Building they leased it and moved their business thither. They advertised dry goods, crockery, glass ware and the usual New England rum.

In the same block Miss P. Bartlett kept a shop which supplied the ladies of the town with bonnets, caps and dresses. Also in "Farley's Building nearly opposite the State House", A. Capen at No. 3, sold "European and American goods", while at No. 2 a tailor named Stephen Brown had his shop. In 1826 the Statesman moved into the second floor of Farley's Block and installed its presses in a long room on the third floor. Asa McFarland, Jr. who was connected with the Statesman for more than thirty years, most of which time he was editor, recalled these quarters: "The apartment in which the Statesman was printed was very low studded, exceedingly warm in summer and cold in winter. Room was made for the 'friskets' of two hand presses by constructing a recess in the ceiling overhead." For quarters on the two floors the annual rental was \$100.

Luther Roby had founded the Statesman and its first issue edited by Amos A. Parker, as already noted, had been from an office in the Carrigan house at the North End. Shortly afterward the office was moved directly across the street into a two-story building on the Davis homestead property. After a brief sojourn it took offices in the Abbot building still standing\* on the south corner of Main and Washington Sts. In 1825 it moved to "a primitive building" on the site of Phenix Block and the following year it was installed in Farley's Block.

The post office was still housed in the wooden building south of Joseph Low's new house opposite School St. and for several years Dr. Samuel Morrill and John Farmer carried on an apothecary shop on the floor

above. Next south was Isaac Hill's printing office (1825) and his commodious home and farther south was the older printing shop now occupied by George Hutchins, "I door north of Phoenix Hotel", advertising "dry goods, Silk, Cotton and Oiled umbrellas, Parasols, 400 rolls Room Paper, W.I. Goods" (including the inevitable rum) "and groceries". Hutchins store was one of the last in Concord to advertise "W.I Goods".

Somewhere along this part of the main street, "a few rods below the State House", John A. Low was carrying on a store "recently Maj. John D. Abbot's and selling "Fancy goods, Crockery, Glass, hardware, W.I. Goods and groceries ." He also advertised popular lotteries and claimed that Concord holders had drawn over \$20,000. It was reported that William Walker had drawn prizes to the amount of \$5,000. but already citizens were questioning the wisdom of lotteries and shortly public opinion would bring about a law prohibiting this form of gambling.

Below the Phenix with its inviting piazzas and "opposite the Lower Bank", Hosea Fessenden sold "Military caps, belts, harness and saddles." On the west side of the street the Columbian Hotel was in high favor with travellers through Concord. Its stables were roomy and stages for Portsmouth, Haverhill, Charlestown and Boston depended upon its hospitality for man and for beast. Its fame was established under the management of John Park Gass who prided himself upon the excellent food served in his dining room which seated one hundred and twenty-five guests. (Picture of Columbian Chapter XXX.)

Gass was a nephew of Stuart J. Park, architect of the State House, and he first came to Concord in 1816 to act as overseer at the new prison "to learn them to hammer stone" to be used in building the new capitol. After this work was completed, Gass entered into partnership with Dearborn Johnson as already stated, and contracted for the convict labor in stone cutting until 1820 when he left for the south to build locks and canals on Saluda river at Columbia, S.C. In 1823 he returned to Concord and

purchased the Columbian which he conducted for three years during which time he served the famous Lafayette dinner. In 1826 he became proprietor of the Back-Street (Salem St.) House in Boston and later he managed the Broadway House in New York City. In 1829 Isaac Hill persuaded him to return to Concord to become landlord of the new Eagle Coffee House.

To the Columbian there came in 1826 a fifteen year old lad named Nathaniel White, with just one shilling in his pocket. He found work at the hotel, saved his pay and invested in the stage business, driving stage to Hanover, himself. Industrious and thrifty, he prospered and in 1838 he was able to establish a stage to Lowell. In partnership with Capt. William Walker he initiated a new enterprise—an express via stage to Boston with three round trips weekly. Efficiently managed this business developed amazingly, especially after the railroad supplanted stages. By the year 1856, Mr. White, in partnership with B. P. Cheney of Boston, was handling express "to all parts of New-Hampshire, Vermont and the Canadas," and in due time their business was merged into the U.S. & Canada Express Co. and later into the great American Express Co. of today. This, in brief, is the story of the first Concord man who acquired great wealth. Nathaniel White was a good steward of wealth; he was public spirited and a humanitarian. He supported the cause of Abolition and it is said that more than one runaway slave found sanctuary at the White Farm on Clinton St. Mr. White's name is preserved in our principal park for which he donated the land.

The Columbian stood until destroyed by fire in 1869 but its name is perpetuated in Columbian Block which now occupies its site. Early in the nineteenth century the Columbian Artillery was formed as a unit of the famous 11th Regiment and it was made up largely of recruits from journeyman printers and apprentices. It treasured a single cannon which was manoeuvred by drag ropes and was housed <sup>at</sup> Artillery headquarters at the Columbian Hotel. In its latter days the old house was badly run down and

neglected. One of the "boys" (John W. Ford) who attended the old brick school then on the site of Parker School, used to tell, with a chuckle, how the gang-which included Charlie Mellen-destined to become a famous railroad executive-used to foregather at the old tavern to play billiards; and how, when the pennies ran low, they sometimes locked the shiftless landlord out so that he could not keep score.

The old Columbian was at the very center of the town's activities and the first record we find of a circus visiting Concord is this advertisement in the Patriot in 1827:

"A grand circus will be given in the rear of the Columbian hotel. The performance will begin with a grand display of six beautiful white horses which will lie down and set up" etc.

Landlord Gass was something of a wag and his advertisements were typical of an amusing personality. Even his church could not escape his wit for it is said that he favored a certain congregation because, as he declared, he could safely go to sleep in the assurance that the minister would meddle neither in politics nor religion. Whichever of the Concord churches thus merited his confidence, it was certainly not the old First Church for Nathaniel Bouton never hesitated to declare his convictions on any subject religious or moral. Landlord Gass was probably taking a sly dig at this outspoken Minister.

The store built by John West, Jr. (site of Patriot Building) was at this period occupied by Wilcomb & Tarlton who kept a general store but specialized in buffalo robes which added much to the comfort of winter sleighing. In spite of all the evidence that the State House had drawn business from both North End and South End, the former was not entirely bereft of trade as shown by advertisements in the Patriot (1822-23) which locate between Washington and present Pearl St. John Titcomb's wheelwright shop, a tailor shop, a "country store" run by R. & D. Davis with a factory in the rear where pipe was made for the stoves carried in stock. The old

West homestead (site of West Garden)<sup>\*</sup> was occupied in part by shops where Daniel Haseltine advertised at "No. 6 Main St. opposite the upper Bank", "kid, morocco and Denmark satin shoes." Carrigain House was still used for business and perhaps this was the place indicated where "At No. 1 Cheap side north end of Main Street" Williams & West ran a store while William West was, for the time being, carrying on a store "At the Long Room opposite Barker's tavern." It is reasonable to believe that this "Long Room" more than once mentioned in old advertisements, was the old shop where Elijan Russell printed his "Mirrour" years before. The Herberts continued to find business profitable in the various enterprises conducted on their property on the corner of Ferry road. Such was the tenacity of North End people but in spite of it, trade steadily drifted down town and neighbors shook their heads sadly over the ill fortune which located the State House so far away.

The west side of the main street south of the Columbian had but few places of business in 1825. William Low's house on the site of the Board of Trade had a chair shop in its rear. His partner, Benjmin Damon, lived on the south corner of School St. then and for many years to come. William Virgin bought a queerly shaped piece of land directly north of the Lower Bank (49 N. Main St.), moved away a woodshed standing there and built a shop where he repaired watches and sold jewelry.

In the old building at "Parliament Corner" where Andrew MacMillan opened the first store in Concord, Asaph Evans was carrying on business in 1825. Years before he had begun trade in town advertising (Patriot 6/5/1809) that he had taken over the store of Samuel Butters next north of Butters tavern. About that time he married one of Dr. Peter Green's daughters named Eliza (or Betsy). In 1825 their home was in the house shown in our picture which stood directly west of the store which Mr. Evans then occupied. This old house now stands at 66-68 Perley St.

Mrs. Evans died in 1830 and her widower married Mrs. Almira Dearborn

Davis, widow of Robert Davis 2d, the storekeeper at the corner of Washington St. Asaph Evans gained distinction for, although he sold W.I goods in his store, he "voluntarily relinquished the sale of ardent spirits, after the temperance reform commenced", being the first Concord merchant so to do. It is to be hoped that this virtuous action was in no way responsible for his later financial difficulties. In 1839 his home was sold by the sheriff, John Pettingill, who shortly became owner and occupant of the house. In 1842 Asaph Evans died in New York City.

Next north of the Evans store was a shop where Charles Hoag had kept a bookbindery, but during this year of 1825 he moved across the street into a small shop directly north of John Leach's ornate new house. About the same time he purchased an acre lot next north of Sampson Bullard's new brick house (44 S. Main St.) and lived thereon until about 1835.

On the east side of the main street, and below Hopkinton road, the "old red tannery" of Ebenezer Dustin's was still standing and in the immediate neighborhood William Gault owned considerable land, a part of which was Mrs. Gault's inheritance from her father, William Stickney. There on the site of 33 S. Main St. the Gaults were soon to build a home. Next north was the home and the paint shop of Nathan Farley who would later develop the first marble works in Concord on this property. Farley's house stood on the site of Hall Brothers Co. (31 S. Main St.) and it is remembered as a long, low, one-story building painted red. Since it stood on sloping ground its east side was two stories in height and our picture copied from a painting, shows this east elevation with the gables of the present house at 33 rising above it. In this house Nathan Farley lived for more than forty years and before his time it was (in part, at least) the "Wiggin tannery" - probably identical with the ancient Dustin tannery.

Neighborly on the south side of the Gault's new house there was an old slaughter house owned and operated by Jeremiah Frichard who supplied the village with fresh beef. Later Elisha Morrill and Samuel Blake, Jr.,

"butchers" carried on the business. In Francis West's entertaining diary there is a boy's account of a fire in this vicinity in 1839:

"Tuesday 14th May

Was awakened this morn by the ringing of bells and the cry of Fire! Leaped out of bed and hurried on my clothes and ran out and found it to be Sam'l Blake's house. There were two families in the house. When I got there about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 o'clock, the flames were bursting out of the windows and doors. The barn adjoining was most burned down. The flames came rushing down the front stairs and from all parts. It was 'awfully grand'. The two men that owned the house seemed to feel very badly. One of them (Mr. Leavitt Virgin) had a cow, a calf and a hog, in the barn, which were burnt to a crisp. The three engines done their duty. By this time the next house on the south was on fire. The firewards finding it impossible to save the first one redoubled their exertions upon this. They saved it from being much damaged. In the former was a large amount of Furniture &c of which very little was saved."

Below the Rogers farm, Charles Hutchins conducted an up-to-date "Emporium" in a building shown in our picture-made in later years after it had been transformed into a garage. The building was destroyed by fire in 1932. In 1800 Samuel Butters had kept store on the same site-possibly in the same building-and this was where Asaph Evans began his business career in Concord. Mr. Hutchins who lived on the Thorndike farm across the street, advertised in 1825:

"Dry goods, Broadcloth, Cassimeres, Rattinets, Bombazetts, Twilled and Plain Drillings, Bombazines, Cambrick muslins; Choppe and Bandanna; Black Sarsanetts and Sinshaws." (All undoubtedly the fashionable fabrics of the day.)

"Also-A general assortment of Crockery, Hardware and W. India Goods."

"Wanted  
4000 yards of Tow & Linen Cloth. 2000 lbs good Butter."

The North End had a new doctor and his home is still standing as pic-

tured, with some modernization. In the early years of the nineteenth century, the town was interested in a water supply to replace the old wells and cisterns hitherto in use. There were abundant springs in the hillside along present Spring St. and it was found practical to pipe water from them to various neighborhoods. Wooden conduits made of hollowed logs were used for the purpose, but in 1816 a man named Todd came to town with a scheme for making lead pipe for the purpose. He purchased a lot from the south edge of the Carrigain estate and built for himself this house now standing at 236 N. Main St. The lead pipe business failed to prosper and three years later the house was for sale.

In 1822 Dr. Peter Renton, a Scottish physician recently arrived in this country, purchased the house. He was an able medical man and a picturesque character and for twenty years or more this was his home. Dr. Renton loved a garden and so he laid out the slope east of his house, into terraces and there are still survivors of his planting, <sup>of</sup> long years ago: a hawthorn hedge, a larch and a weeping ash tree. One of his Snow apple trees bears fruit, <sup>and</sup> horseradish flourishes. Long ago there were small fruits in this garden but raspberyy and currant bushes have succumbed to time. (In 1949 this old garden was destroyed to make a parking place for Rumbold Press.)

Dr. Renton grew in his garden the herbs which physicians then compounded into medicines. His barn had three stalls where he kept his horses but that and the carriage house were torn down years ago. When Dr. Renton promoted the flour mill at West Concord (Chapter XXIV) he added an ell to his house and extended it to the sidewalk. There the product of the mill was stored. That ell - now reduced in size - was used at a later time by Dr. Renton as a small theatre where the Thespians, a local dramatic society, was organized and produced plays. Well - known people of the town took part in these amateur productions.

Isaac Andrew Hill reminisced (Patriot 7/31/1900) -

"Dr. Renton as Don Caesar de Bazan and as Roderick Dhu in the Lady of the Lake: his sister Christie, how beautiful she was, the Scotch lassie, with her cherry cheeks, as dressed in plaid, she played the Lady of the Lake.\*\*\*\*\* \* A youth over six feet tall\*\*\*\* shook the whole Peter Renton mansion, as he fell stone dead on the scantling platform, while playing the part of Goliath of Gath."

The next owner of the house, Dr. William Prescott, used this ell for his unusual collection of interest to students of natural history. Many visitors came to Concord to visit his museum, the contents of which ultimately became the property of a college in a distant state. In 1846 he suggested the formation of a Natural History Society and he became its first president. It had a considerable membership and maintained a museum and library in Ayer's Block (later Sanborn's Block) on the site of Hill's Brick Block) next south of the State House. All these were lost in the fire which destroyed the block in 1864. Since Dr. Prescott's day, the house at 236 N. Main St. has been in possession of John Abbott, Mayor of Concord 1856-58, and his descendants.

Dr. Renton was a supporter of the First Church where he made his presence eloquent in a pew of unusual pretension. It was, in fact, two of the meeting-house pews combined into one and finely upholstered, carpeted and curtained in vivid crimson, with comfortable chairs in place of the ordinary hinged seats. Our pictures of Dr. Renton and his wife were loaned by a neighboring family at the North End and must be specimens of early photography in the city of Boston whither the Rentons moved in the early forties. The style of dress for prosperous people of that era is of interest.

Dr. Renton left town in indignation because of the results of a Fourth of July escapade in which his son, John, figured. For some years the Fourth had been a time of dangerous hilarity which developed into reckless rowdyism. The let-down in adult morals was beginning to bear its

fruit in the younger generation. On the evening of the holiday in 1842, some young men attempted the usual demonstration in spite of previous warning from the town fathers. Defiance seems to have added to their customary violence and a barrel of tar was lighted in the middle of the State House yard and fire balls were tossed about indiscriminately, greatly endangering the wooden buildings in the vicinity. A special committee of constables and firewards were on hand to keep order but were soon helpless before this mob of youth. Beautiful trees were singed by bonfires and the rioters even tore down a small house to feed the fires. The orgy ended only when the hoodlums became exhausted.

There was swift retribution, for during the next few days the constables were busy serving warrants. John Renton was one of those brought to trial and, because of the prominence of his family and the skill of his lawyers, this was one of the famous court cases in the Concord of that generation. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty which was reversed two years later in the Superior Court, on appeal. But Dr. Renton, feeling that his son had endured more than his share of the disgrace in which so many others had been implicated, shook the dust of Concord off his feet and moved to Boston where he built up a very successful practice.

All this was a decade later than the period which concerns this chapter, but it is of interest to conclude with the account of a Fourth of July celebration written in the year 1839 by Francis S. West, a fifteen year old who joined the gang. Francis was the son of John West, Jr. who died three years before leaving his widow with six young children to care for. Francis kept a diary and was, at the same time, beginning his apprenticeship in the Statesman office under Ela & Flanders, "my masters" as he calls them in declaring himself "deprived, as it were, of my liberty for six whole years." Perhaps it is not to be wondered at that the boy bubbled over on the holiday.

"Thursday July Fourth  
(another)

Bang! Bang! Whoosh!" (Here the diary has a crude drawing of a cannon belching smoke) "Got up at 4 o'clock, and found that the landscape was covered with dense fog. Went to the office and went from there to work. Done my chores & set nearly 1,000 type before breakfast. Received 25¢ from Mr. Flanders for over work last Saturday afternoon. Looked around a little and went to breakfast, & from there to General Davis's orchard" (Note: probably the orchard which used to occupy the present side of 104 N. State St.) "and went to work on our dinner establishment. We soon went up in the woods & got some poles to sustain our pavilion. Came back and spent two or three hours in work. Got our pine bushes and an hundred yards of white canvas raised over a beautiful grass plat. Nearly 12 o'clock went down street and (with others) brought up beer, lemons, cakes of all kinds, pies, custards &c. Bye & Bye young ladies came and began to 'trim up' and set the table etc. Bye & bye things were got ready and bye and bye we sat down to a handsome repast as anyone could wish.

"In the afternoon I went with many others" into the drink", or in plainer words, in swimming. After I got back I saw handbills stuck up to the following effect. 'An act passed June session 1839. Any person exhibiting Fireworks, throwing Fire balls, rockets or any other combustible matter in the State House yard shall be liable to pay five dollars &c, &c, &c, &c, &c, (By the way we boys have our fireworks in the above place)

And is it so? Are we to be thus despoiled of our liberties, by a set of men not fit to eat cold victuals? Loco Foco demagogues! as they are. We shall see. The afternoon goes slowly off the stage. Took some lemonade just before dark.

" Eight o'clock-evening. Smash-a-tee-bang. Whir-r-r-r! Fuz-z-z! Reader didst ever go where the balls flew? The way they flew tonight in the State House yard was a caution. Tory legislature to the contrary notwithstanding. Fire balls flew merrily across the yard I assure you. Police officers did not attempt to stop us. Cause why; they knew 'twas no use.

While this was going on in the yard, let us visit a squadron of boys without who are making monstrous fires. What are those which these boys are bringing along? Mr. A's boxes which they have taken with true Yankee spirit from behind his store. What are those others? Mr. B's hoopsheads and barrels-obtained ditto. There is a great crowd with an article of considerable size lugging along. What is that? That is Mr. L's necessary. Ha! Ha! Ha Ha! Ha!

My eyes! If there aint another! These boys are not afraid of anything I really believe.

'And such a sound a/sails my ears,  
And such a smell my nose.'

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"After almost running my heels off my shoes-burning the skin off my fingers-and tiring my legs almost to death 'thinks I to myself', I'll go home and see how the bed feels. And amid the noise of squibs-crackers and 'shouts of the multitude' I departed by the light of the most glorious fire."

It seems obvious that such doings were condoned by many of their elders, else the custom could not have been tolerated year after year. Three years later the climax came in the sensational trial of John Renton after which order seems to have been restored to Fourth of July celebrations. Such events show that Concord was living at increased tempo and that the deterioration due in large measure to intemperance, had lowered the traditional morale of the townspeople.