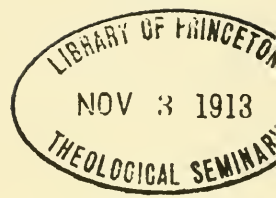




AM PRES F144.P9 H34 1879 v.1  
Hageman, John Frelinghuysen.  
History of Princeton and  
its institutions : the town



HISTORY  
OF  
PRINCETON  
AND ITS INSTITUTIONS:

THE TOWN FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT, THROUGH THE REVOLU-  
TIONARY WAR, TO THE PRESENT TIME—ITS CHURCHES—SCHOOLS  
—COLLEGE—THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY—LITERATURE, VOLUMES  
AND AUTHORS—NOTICES OF PROMINENT FAMILIES,  
AND CHIEF CITIZENS—THE CEMETERY, ETC.

*ILLUSTRATED WITH STEEL AND WOOD ENGRAVINGS.*

BY  
JOHN FRELINGHUYSEN HAGEMAN,  
COUNSELLOR AT LAW, PRINCETON, N. J.

---

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

---

PHILADELPHIA:  
J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO.

1879.

COPYRIGHT, 1878, BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., PHILADELPHIA.

In compliance with current  
copyright law, LBS Archival  
Products produced this  
replacement volume on paper  
that meets the ANSI Standard  
Z39.48-1984 to replace the  
irreparably deteriorated  
original.

1990



## P R E F A C E .

---

SOME places gain celebrity from the picturesque beauty and grandeur which nature has lavished upon the scenery around them. One may command fine views of the ocean ; another of Alpine ranges. One may boast of its river, lake, or plain ; and another of its grand cataract whose voice, as the voice of many waters, is never silent. To such places men resort to commune with God in nature. But there are places, which, though destitute of all natural beauty, and wholly insignificant in themselves, nevertheless are made famous, and draw thousands of visitors to them yearly, because they have been the scene of some great event, human or divine—as where some great battle has been fought, or where some great poet, or hero, or statesman, or orator, or philosopher, has been born, or has lived or died.

The notoriety which Princeton has acquired is not traceable to any peculiar advantages which nature has bestowed upon her, though her situation and embellishments have made her an attractive place. But she is notable because, and only because she has been the theatre of important public, historic events : and has been, and is, the seat of important public institutions, venerable with age, drawing around them, from generation to generation, distinguished public men and scholars, and ever and anon made the recipients of liberal gifts and endowments,

causing grand buildings to be erected, and sending forth from them, yearly, bands of trained young men to bless the world.

The position of Princeton during the Revolutionary War; the glory of her battle-field—and the prominence of her citizens in the struggle for independence, will justify the large space which I have given to the Revolutionary period.

So, too, the extended sketch which I have given of the Presbyterian Church, so ancient and so intimately connected with the College and Seminary, and through which so many youth have passed into the ministry, will not, I trust, be unwelcome to multitudes of readers who are thus reminded of the place where they, and their fathers before them, while in the College or Seminary, were accustomed to worship; and I cannot doubt that the fullness of this historical narrative will interest the present as well as the future members of this church in its prosperity and perpetuity.

What would Princeton be without its institutions of learning? These cannot be ignored in writing the history of Princeton; and yet two volumes as large as these have been filled with the history of the College, and still another volume is required to complete that history. The full and valuable history of the College by ex-president Dr. John Maclean, so recently published, supersedes the necessity of my incorporating herein any more than a succinct and popular sketch of this institution—such as will impart to the reader that knowledge of the College which he would expect to find in the history of Princeton. Both the College and the Theological Seminary give honor to the name of Princeton, and they justly claim to be honored in its written history.

Above all, Princeton gathers eminence from her distinguished men and families. She shows a long catalogue of eminent scholars and authors, who have made a literature which

may become as distinctively Princeton as its theology has become. I have herein presented the names of these authors and their volumes in one chapter, so that the reader can see, at a glance, this new and interesting phase of Princeton, well calculated to impress him with a quickened sense of its being a seat and centre of intellectual and moral power. To do full justice to this subject would require a volume instead of a chapter.

No little interest gathers around the Cemetery—the burial place of the dead of Princeton for successive generations past. The sacred ashes there deposited give a sacred and melancholy interest to the multitudes who tread reverently when they enter within the gates of this “Westminster Abbey of America,” as it has been called.

I have endeavored in these volumes to avoid cramming them with excessive details of family genealogies, titles to land, and useless annals and statistics, which do not interest a large portion even of local readers, while they always are distasteful to the general reader. I have also avoided an extensive use of foot-notes, by incorporating the subject matter, when of sufficient interest, in the text itself.

As Princeton does not wholly belong to the people who reside in it, but is a depository of rich gifts and treasures—bestowed by non-resident benefactors—and is a seat of learning sustained by its friends throughout all the States, and has a history, revolutionary, political, literary, and ecclesiastical, of general public interest, these volumes are less strictly local than histories of towns ordinarily are.

I have endeavored to rescue from oblivion many honored names which should be gratefully remembered. I am too late in the field to do justice to the unwritten history of the early settlement of Princeton; and I have been embarrassed by the exceedingly great number of prominent men whose lives and services justly claim to be recognized in these volumes.



Doubtless I have omitted some whom I ought not to have passed by in silence.

In addition to the acknowledgment made in the text and notes, of aid afforded me, my thanks are especially due to SAMUEL J. BAYARD, Esq., the Hon. GEORGE SYKES, Dr. J. V. D. JOLINE, and the Rev. R. RANDALL HOES, for manuscript and printed papers, etc., which have been of use to me; and to all other persons who have kindly answered my interrogatories, I return my sincere thanks.

A reliable index is appended to the work.

JNO. F. HAGEMAN.

PRINCETON, N. J., *October*, 1878.

# CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION.

	PAGE
Princeton <i>Township</i> —Boundaries—Landscape Views from Rocky Hill—Soil—Model Farms—Tusculum, Dr. Witherspoon's Country Seat—The Rock House—The Gallows Tree—Cedar Grove—Cherry Valley—Mount Lucas—Worth's Mills—Quaker Meeting House—Battle-Field—Stony Brook—Pretty Brook—Delaware and Raritan Canal—The <i>Borough</i> of Princeton—Its Elevation, Charter, Population—Name—Climate—Not a Business Place—An Educational Town—Beautiful Trees and Residences—Handsome Public Buildings—Libraries—Refined and elegant Society—Views of Dr. Murray—Historic Allusions.....	I

## CHAPTER II.

### PRINCETON PRIOR TO 1750.

First Settlement—William Edmundson's Description in 1675—The Indian Path—Dr. Greenland—Samuel Brinson—Dr. Gordon—Colony of Friends in 1696 at Stony Brook—Benjamin Clarke—William Olden—Joseph Worth—John Hornor—Richard Stockton—William Penn sells 5,500 acres to Richard Stockton—Stockton's Death—Will, Estate, Children—Preëminence of the Stockton Family—Fitz Randolph, Benjamin and Nathaniel—Thomas Leonard, large Landholder and Prominent Citizen—His Extraordinary Will—John Stockton, Father of the Signer, his Will—Extract from Kalm's Travels and others—Scudder's Mills.....	19
---	----

## CHAPTER III.

### 1750—1775.

Two Prominent Events—Planting the Presbyterian Church and the College in Princeton—Presbyterianism in the Ascendant—First Meeting of Presbytery in Princeton—Address to the British Government, in favor of Gov. Belcher—Presbytery meets oftener here than elsewhere—College removed here—Citizens Petition for Military Barracks, for protection, during the French and Indian War in 1758—Gov. Bernard visits Princeton—He re-

	PAGE
plies, in an Extempore Latin Speech, to a Congratulatory Address by a Student in Nassau Hall—Gov. Boone visits Princeton and the College— <i>Biographical Sketches</i> : Jonathan Sergeant—Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant—John Berrien—Dr. Absalom Bainbridge—Enos Kelsey—Dr. Thomas Wiggins—Jonathan Baldwin—Dr. John Beatty—Job Stockton—Robert Stockton—Richard Stockton, (the Signer)—Samuel Witham Stockton—Rev. Philip Stockton—Col. Francis Barber—Rev. John Witherspoon, D.D.—Wm. Churchill Houston—James Finley—John Johnson—Capt. William Howard—Jonathan Deare.....	57

## CHAPTER IV.

### PRINCETON DURING THE REVOLUTION. 1775—1784.

Influence of Princeton in the Revolution—Why it attracted the War-Cloud—Its Prominent Citizens—Its Central Position—Early Patriotic Demonstrations by the Students—Burning Tea—SEC. I. Princeton proposed a Provincial Congress—II. Princeton and the Declaration of Independence—III. First Legislature under the Constitution organized at Princeton—IV. A Month before the Battle—V. The Battle of Princeton—VI. The Devastation of Property—VII. The Second Session of the Legislature in Princeton—VIII. The Council of Safety in Princeton—IX. The American Congress in Princeton—X. Miscellaneous Items.....	98
---	----

### SECTION I.

#### PRINCETON PROPOSED A PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

Princeton advised a Provincial Congress—One called at Trenton in 1775—Princeton strongly represented—Sessions opened with Prayer at 8 o'clock A. M.—Proceedings of Congress—Delegates to Continental Congress—Committee of Safety—First Sessions in Princeton—Provincial Congress at Burlington in June, 1776—Dr. Witherspoon a prominent Member for eleven days—Gov. William Franklin adhered to the Crown—was arraigned before the Congress—was contemptuous—was deposed—Dr. Witherspoon's bitter Speech—Prominent Services of Sergeant, Frelinghuysen and Pater-son, in securing a State Constitution which was adopted July 2, 1776—Dr. Witherspoon, Richard Stockton and others, appointed Delegates to Continental Congress—Instructed to vote for Independence .....	103
---	-----

### SECTION II.

#### PRINCETON AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Vindication of Mr. Sergeant and other Delegates to the Continental Congress from Aspersion of their Courage and Patriotism, by the Gordons in their Histories—Mr. Sergeant and Mr. Livingston justified and commended—Dr. Witherspoon and Mr. Stockton speak in Congress in Favor of Inde-	
--	--

	PAGE
pendence—The Vote of New Jersey given for the Declaration—Errors in History corrected—The Signers immortalized—The two from Princeton, Witherspoon and Stockton, confer upon their little Town singular Honor—The Declaration ratified at Nassau Hall by an Illumination and Volley of Musketry . . . . .	110

SECTION III.

THE FIRST LEGISLATURE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION  
ORGANIZED AT PRINCETON.

First Legislature met at Princeton, August 27, 1776, in College Library—Two Candidates for Governor, Richard Stockton and General Livingston—Both eminently qualified—After a tie vote, Livingston was elected—Absurd Reason assigned by Dr. Gordon, for Mr. Stockton's Defeat—Closing Words of Governor Livingston's first Message—The Great Seal of New Jersey adopted—Legislature compelled to flee from Princeton as the British forces invaded the State—Returned after the Battle of Princeton. . . . .	116
---	-----

SECTION IV.

A MONTH BEFORE THE BATTLE. DECEMBER, 1776.

The darkest Period in the Revolution—Washington defeated on Long Island and in New York—Compelled to retreat across New Jersey—Arrived at Princeton, December 1st—The People on the Route panic-stricken—Many accept Lord North's Terms of Pardon—Cornwallis pursues Washington to Princeton, and quarters his Troops in the College and Church—Washington, too weak to fight, retreats beyond the Delaware—The Hessians forage upon the Farms around Princeton—Tusculum and Morven pillaged—Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant's new House burned—The College disbanded—Interesting Description of the Scene, by a Student who kept a Journal—Cornwallis pursues Washington to Trenton—Washington's strategy in recrossing the Delaware on Christmas Night, and Capture of the Hessians at Trenton—Effect of the Victory—British Forces accumulate in Princeton—Washington increases his Army—Battle of the Assanpink at Trenton, January 2, 1777—Washington's Retreat to Princeton. . . . .	121
--	-----

SECTION V.

THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON. JANUARY 3, 1777.

Gen. Washington with his Army at Stony Brook, at Sunrise, Jan. 3, 1777—Council of Officers—Gen. Mercer detached to Worth's Mills to intercept British Regiments—He is attacked by them—His Men give way under a Bayonet Charge—He, standing his Ground, is mortally wounded, but will not surrender—Washington goes to his Relief—Fights desperately—Ex-	
--	--

	PAGE
posed to extreme Personal Danger—Gains the Victory—Great Loss of American Officers—Loss of the British—Over one hundred dead on the Field—Battle at the Ravine—Capture of the Colledge—The big Cannon on Count Donop's Earthworks—Cornwallis with eight thousand, hastens from Trenton in Pursuit of Washington—Washington eludes the Pursuit by filing off at Kingston, and goes to the Hills of Morris—Death of Mercer—Death of Captain Leslie—Gen. Washington's Letter to Congress—Grand Results of the Victory—Hope for the Country—Reaction of Public Feeling—Princeton after the Battle—Proposed Monument.....	135

SECTION VI.

THE DEVASTATION OF PROPERTY.

Princeton obnoxious to the Enemy—British Troops quartered in it three weeks—Farms and Families pillaged and plundered—Report of Committee of Congress on the subject—Names of the Sufferers—Tusculum pillaged—Mr. Sergeant's new house burned—Morven Robbed—Papers, books and plate stolen—Mr. Stockton taken prisoner in Monmouth—Action of Congress in his behalf—Scudder's Mills burned—The Church damaged—College Library and Furniture pillaged—Dr. Green's Account of it.....	152
---	-----

SECTION VII.

SECOND SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE IN PRINCETON. 1777—1778.

Princeton again the seat of the State Government—Certain laws enacted here—Act allowing an oath to be taken with the Uplifted Hand, instead of kissing the Bible—Day of Thanksgiving appointed—Mismanagement of Hospitals reformed—Gen. Putnam arrested Quakers who would neither enlist nor pay fines—Gov. Livingston countermanded the order, and Gen. Washington sustained the Governor—Articles of Confederation commended by Gov. Livingston—Rev. John Mason requests the Governor to recommend a recognition of God, and the Christian Religion, to be incorporated in the Articles—Interesting Letter of the Governor, with his reasons for dissenting from the suggestion.....	158
--	-----

SECTION VIII.

THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY IN PRINCETON. 1777—1778.

Members of the Council—Their Duties—Their proceedings in Princeton—Many of the Quaker citizens summoned to take the Oath of Abjuration and Allegiance—Some held to Bail—Interesting Extracts from their Minutes.....	162
--	-----

## SECTION IX.

## THE AMERICAN CONGRESS IN PRINCETON. 1783.

	PAGE
Congress under duress in Philadelphia, remove to Princeton—Accommodation provided by the Governor and Citizens. Sessions held in the College Library—Celebration of the 4th of July—Clio and Whig Societies appoint Orators—An Equestrian Statue of General Washington ordered by Congress—College Commencement attended by Congress—Gen. Washington and Foreign Ministers—Ashbel Green, valedictorian, addresses Gen. Washington—Deputation of Quakers ask Congress to prevent the Slave Trade—Congress appoints a Day of Thanksgiving—Testimonial to Gen. Greene—Proclamation applauding the American Army—Gen. Washington summoned to confer with Congress on Arrangements for Peace—Address of the President to Washington, and his Reply—Judge Berrien's house at Rocky Hill assigned to Gen. Washington for his Quarters—The Minister from the United Netherlands arrived, and the Treaty of Peace announced in the College Chapel—Convivial Meetings closed the day—Washington's Farewell Orders to the Armies written at Rocky Hill—Congress adjourned to meet at Annapolis, where Washington resigned his Trust, and returned to his home in Mt. Vernon.....	167

## SECTION X.

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Orders from Quartermaster Stockton to Capt. John Johnson—Trial of Joseph Stockton—Sale of Forfeited Estates—Gen. Putnam's Strategy—Gen. Sullivan at Princeton—Thirteen hundred Mutinous Soldiers at Princeton—Patriotic Demonstrations over the success of Mr. Deane in obtaining the aid of France—War Meeting in Princeton—Marquis De Chastellux's visit—Interview with Dr. Witherspoon—Visits the College and the Battle-Field—Items in the <i>Gazette</i> —The close of the Chapter.....	173
--	-----

## CHAPTER V.

1784—1800.

Fruits of Peace—College and Church repaired—The *Princeton Packet*, a weekly Newspaper, published in 1786—The Academy instituted in 1790—Col. George Morgan, a Scientific Farmer at Prospect—Dr. Cutler's Visit to him—Dr. Witherspoon is succeeded by Dr. Smith—Rev. Samuel Finley Snowden chosen Pastor of the Church—Biographical Notices of Captain James Moore—Maj. Stephen Morford—James Hamilton—Isaac Anderson—The Longstreets—Capt. Andrew McMakin—The Arrival of Walto Minto, Dr. John Maclean, Theobald Wolfe Tone, Robert Adrain—Colony

	PAGE
of French Refugees at Cedar Grove in 1795—Stage Proprietors ask and receive a Reduction of License Free, on Account of the Effect of Contagious Disorders in the Cities, upon Travel—Princeton at the Close of its First Century.....	184

## CHAPTER VI.

1800—1812.

Conflagration of Nassau Hall in 1802—Rebuilt with enlarged facilities—New Professors—Thompson, Kollock, and Hunter—Dr. Smith continued the popular President till 1812—Henry Clow's Reminiscences of Princeton in 1804—Biographical Sketch of Richard Stockton, the great Lawyer (the son of the Signer)—Of Thomas P. Johnson—Col. Erkuries Beatty—John Hamilton—Dr. Ebenezer Stockton—Rev. Robert Finley, D. D.—Samuel Bayard—Incorporation of the Princeton and Kingston Branch Turnpike Company—Excitement and Incidents of Stage Travel—Progressive Civilization—New Jersey Bible Society Organized in 1809.....	208
--	-----

## CHAPTER VII.

1812—1830.

Nassau Hall Bible Society—Dr. Ashbel Green succeeds Dr. Smith, as President of the College—The Theological Seminary established in 1812, with the Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander and Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, Professors—The Presbyterian Church burned in 1813, and rebuilt—Princeton Incorporated—Visit of General Scott—The War of 1812—Bainbridge and Stockton distinguished in Naval Battles—Religious Revival in 1815—Princeton Sabbath School Association—Female Benevolent Society—Nassau Hall Tract and Education Societies—New Jersey Colonization Society organized in Princeton—Visits of General Lafayette—A new Printing Press introduced—Biblical Repertory and other Periodical Publications commenced in 1825—A remarkable Public Meeting in behalf of the New Jersey Domestic Missionary Society and Common Schools—A Great Work accomplished—The State explored and supplied with the Bible. <i>Biographical</i> —Dr. Van Cleve, F. D. Janvier, John Harrison, Thomas White, Robert Voorhees, John Passage, John S. Wilson, Dr. Ferguson, Hart Olden.	231
---	-----

## CHAPTER VIII.

1830—1840

Extraordinary Development of Material Interests—Construction of Delaware and Raritan Canal, and Branch Railroad—Controlling Influence of Princeton Men—The Cholera in 1832, and the Heroism of Wm. C. Alexander as Nurse—Rapid Strides of the Growth of the Village—New Streets opened	
--	--

	PAGE
and built up—Presbyterian Church in 1835 burned, and rebuilt—Princeton Bank organized—It stimulated Enterprise—Formation of Mercer County in 1837, changed the Relations of Princeton with Places of Revolutionary Associations—No moral Retrograde, with material Advancement—Various Associations formed—Visit of Drs. Reed and Matheson from England— <i>Monthly Journal of Education</i> , published—New Jersey Lyceum organized in Princeton—Its Influence on the Cause of Common Schools—New Jersey Agricultural Society organized at Princeton—Financial Reverses of 1837—Death of three Physicians, Dr. Horatio Sansbury, Dr. Samuel L. Howell, Dr. Alfred A. Woodhull—Rev. Dr. Rice succeeds Rev. Mr. Woodhull as Pastor—New Families added to the Society of Princeton in this Decade.....	252

## CHAPTER IX.

1840—1850.

The Presidential Campaign—Funeral Ceremonies of General Harrison in Princeton—Robert E. Hornor appointed Postmaster—Decapitated by President Tyler—Issues a Manifesto—John R. Thomson Candidate for Governor under New Constitution—Defeated through the Enthusiasm for Clay and Frelinghuysen—Lenox Hall built by James Lenox and presented to the Seminary—Change of Commencement from September to June, made in 1844—Its wonderful Effect—Case under the Fugitive Slave Law—Trial by Jury—Slave remanded—His Liberty purchased by a Lady, and set free in Princeton—Delegates from the Free Church of Scotland—Centennial of the College in 1847—Law School established—Building erected—Railroad Disaster near Princeton—The Wounded nursed at the Basin—Deaths and Notices of Peter, John and David N. Bogart, Col. John Lowrey, Professor A. B. Dod, Dr. William Forman—Removals.....	265
--	-----

## CHAPTER X.

1850—1860.

The <i>Princeton Magazine</i> —Introduction of Gas-light—Market-House Controversy—Two Great Lights extinguished in the Death of Dr. Miller and Dr. Alexander—Tragic Death of Dr. Dunn—Professor John Maclean elected President of the College in place of President Carnahan—Nassau Hall again burned in 1855, and rebuilt—Printing Office, Machine-shop and Foundry of Mr. Robinson burnt—College Horn-spree—Students indicted for assaulting Officers—Battle of Princeton celebrated by Sham Fight, in 1858—Rev. Dr. Nott preached in Princeton—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's first Lecture—John P. Stockton appointed Minister to Rome—Charles S. Olden elected Governor of the State— <i>Princeton Standard</i> established—Several palatial Residences and other Buildings erected.....	277
--	-----



## CHAPTER XI.

## PRINCETON IN THE LATE CIVIL WAR.—1860—1866.

	PAGE
The late Civil War not to be passed in Silence—The Attitude of Princeton—The Attitude of Parties—Sketch of the Life, Services and Death of Gov. Olden—Loyalty of the <i>Princeton Standard</i> —Strong Article in the <i>Princeton Review</i> by Dr. Charles Hodge—Response of Citizens to the first War Message—Flags and Processions—First public War Meeting in Mercer Hall—Committee to procure Volunteers—First Offering of two thousand Dollars by the Misses Stevens—Com. Stockton's Position and Letter—Excitement among the Students—National Colors over Nassau Hall—Taken down, but put up again—Southern Students did not return in the Fall—Disorderly Patriotic Demonstrations in College—Three Students dismissed—They are drawn to the Depot by Students with Music and Banners—President Maclean's Letter—Union League—Second War Meeting—Daily Union Prayer Meeting—What the Ladies did for the Soldiers—Miss Breckinridge and others—Quotas of Soldiers fully supplied—Disturbance threatened and averted—Capture of Richmond celebrated—How the Assassination of President Lincoln was received at Princeton—Peace and Magnanimity of the Victors—Roll of the Volunteers from Princeton.....	284

## CHAPTER XII.

1860—1870.

The general Excitement preceding and during the War—Efforts for Railroad Facilities—Death of Professor Addison Alexander—Semi-centennial of the Theological Seminary—Notice of the Life and Death of John Potter—James Potter—Thomas F. Potter—John R. Thomson—James S. Green—The Murder of James Rowand, the Jeweller—Charles Lewis, the Murderer, arrested, tried and executed—An Extraordinary Case of Circumstantial Evidence—Biographical Sketches of Commodore R. F. Stockton, Dr. John N. Woodhull, and others—Inauguration of President McCosh—A New Era in Princeton.....	310
--	-----

## CHAPTER XIII.

1870—1876.

<i>Biographical Sketches.</i> Life and Services of Richard S. Field—Of Col. William C. Alexander—Of Rear-Admiral Thomas Crabbe—Of Rev. William A. Dod, D.D.—Visit of Professors Eadie and Calderwood from Scotland—Dr. Calderwood's Lecture on the Philosophy of Mental Science, in the College Chapel—Delegates to the World's Christian Alliance in New York visit Princeton—Dorner, Christlieb, Hugh Miller, Sheshadri the Brahmin, address the People—The whole Alliance visit the Place—The Dean of Canterbury and others make Addresses—Preparations for the National Centennial Year.....	344
--	-----

# ILLUSTRATIONS.

## VOLUME I.

	PAGE
MAP OF STOCKTON LAND.....	37
JONATHAN DICKINSON SERGEANT.....	67
MORVEN (STOCKTON RESIDENCE).....	81
PLAN OF BATTLE OF PRINCETON.....	136
GENERAL MERCER.....	143

## VOLUME II.

UNIVERSITY HOTEL.....	49
QUAKER MEETING-HOUSE.....	66
MAP OF THE OLD CHURCH PEWS .....	83
REV. HENRY KOLLOCK, D.D.....	96
REV. BENJAMIN H. RICE, D.D.....	133
REV. WILLIAM E. SCHENCK, D.D.....	145
REV. JAMES M. MACDONALD, D.D.....	153
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH..	191
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.....	200
NASSAU HALL ( <i>Aula Nassovica</i> , 1760).....	228
PRESIDENT JONATHAN DICKINSON.....	233
PRESIDENT AARON BURR.....	236
PRESIDENT JONATHAN EDWARDS.....	249
PRESIDENT SAMUEL DAVIES.....	253
PRESIDENT SAMUEL FINLEY.....	256
PRESIDENT JOHN WITHERSPOON.....	261
PRESIDENT S. STANHOPE SMITH.....	264
PRESIDENT ASHBEL GREEN.....	271

	PAGE
PRESIDENT JAMES CARNAHAN.....	274
PRESIDENT JOHN MACLEAN.....	285
PRESIDENT JAMES MCCOSH.....	291
MAP OF COLLEGE GROUNDS.....	303
JOHN C. GREEN SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.....	308
WITHERSPOON HALL.....	309
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.....	324
THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY—LENOX HALL.....	337
REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, D.D.....	343
REV. SAMUEL MILLER, D.D.....	349
REV. CHARLES HODGE, D.D.....	355
REV. J. ADDISON ALEXANDER, D.D.....	359
REV. JOHN BRECKINRIDGE, D.D.....	365
REV. JAMES W. ALEXANDER, D.D.....	367
MRS. DR. SAMUEL MILLER.....	406
GRAVES OF THE PRESIDENTS.....	423

# HISTORY OF PRINCETON.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTION.

*Princeton Township*—Boundaries—Landscape Views from Rocky Hill—Soil—Model Farms—Tusculum, Dr. Witherspoon's Country Seat—The Rock House—The Gallows Tree—Cedar Grove—Cherry Valley—Mount Lucas—Worth's Mills—Quaker Meeting House—Battle-Field—Stony Brook—Pretty Brook—Delaware and Raritan Canal—The *Borough* of Princeton—Its Elevation, Charter, Population—Name—Climate—Not a Business Place—An Educational Town—Beautiful Trees and Residences—Handsome Public Buildings—Libraries—Refined and elegant Society—Views of Dr. Murray—Historic Allusions.

PRINCETON is a name which designates both a Township and a Borough in the State of New Jersey.

The TOWNSHIP of Princeton, politically, is of recent origin,—having been erected in 1837, when the county of Mercer was formed from portions of the counties of Middlesex, Burlington, Hunterdon and Somerset. Within its territorial boundaries was incorporated the old borough of Princeton, from which it received its name. Prior to that time the borough embraced portions of both Somerset and Middlesex Counties. The old road, or King's Highway as it was anciently called, now known as Nassau and Stockton Streets, in the borough, was the line which had divided those counties. That portion which lay on the north side of the road formed a part of Montgomery township, in Somerset County; and that on the south side was a part of West Windsor, in the County of Middlesex. The inhabitants of Princeton then residing on the north side were drawn generally to the villages of Harlingen and Rocky Hill, in the public business transactions of Montgomery township; and to Somerville, in the business of the courts of the county

of Somerset ; while those residing on the south side were identified with the township of West Windsor, and were drawn to New Brunswick, as the centre and capital of the county of Middlesex. Somerville was eighteen miles north of Princeton, and New Brunswick was sixteen miles east of it. In searching title to lands in Princeton prior to 1837, recourse must be had to the records at Somerville, for property lying on the north side of Nassau and Stockton Streets, and to the records at New Brunswick for property lying on the south side of those streets. It is well to bear in mind this fact, that the village of Princeton originally lay in two counties, in order readily to understand how, so often, there was more than one representative from Princeton in the early Assemblies and Provincial Congresses of the State, while other localities had usually but one to represent them.

The township of Princeton is bounded on the north by Somerset County ; on the east by Millstone River ; on the west by the Province line, which separates it from the townships of Hopewell and Lawrence ; and on the south by the Delaware and Raritan Canal. When the township was first created, Stony Brook was made the line dividing Princeton from West Windsor, but the legislature has changed it by substituting the canal for the brook as the boundary, and thereby placing the Princeton-Basin property in the township of Princeton.

The township is about five miles in length from north to south, and three miles in width ; and, according to the last census, (1875), it contains three thousand nine hundred and twenty-three inhabitants. It embraces within its limits Rocky Hill Mountain, which lies across the northern portion of the township, and is distant about two miles north from the limits of the borough. This mountainous ridge has been nearly cleared of its heavy forest, and much of it is under cultivation. From its top there are beautiful landscape views on the north, extending for twenty miles over the cultivated champaign of Somerset County, through which flow the Millstone and Raritan Rivers : while southward the eye takes in a broad expanse of alluvial land slightly undulating, with the blue Navesink Hills rising to view in the distant south-east, along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. The villages of Pennington, Dutch-

Neck, Dayton, Cranberry and Hightstown, which lie embosomed within the extensive landscape, are indicated by their church-spires, and afford a pleasant relief to the panorama. The town of Princeton is peculiarly attractive and picturesque from this point of observation. It was on Rocky Hill a few miles north-west of Princeton where Hassler's Triangle-post was erected; a height sometimes used to convey by signal, intelligence between New York and Philadelphia before the days of railroads and electric telegraphs.

The SOIL is a rich clay loam, with the red sandstone underneath. It is admirably adapted to farming purposes, and highly favorable to the growth of trees, which are much cultivated, and grow with luxuriance. The red shale is found a few miles north of Princeton, while the whole State south of it is sandy, alluvial land. The trap rock crops out everywhere on Rocky Hill. The land in this, and in the adjoining townships, is productive, and generally in a good state of cultivation. There are model farms and specimens of model farming. Wheat, rye, corn, grass, oats, potatoes and other vegetables, and fruits are all raised, and readily find a remunerative market. The surface of the land is undulating, with a pleasant variety of hill and dale. The farms are not generally large, but average about one hundred acres. The farm houses are commodious and attractive, and indicate a good degree of prosperity and home comfort. Some of the most valuable farms in Princeton are owned by young men of thrift, who have been liberally educated, and who apply to their agricultural pursuits the results of science and reading.

On the slope of the mountain, about a mile from the borough, is Tusculum, well known as the country seat of the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, President of Princeton College. The old stone house on whose walls the year 1773 is inscribed, still wears a stately appearance, and has withstood, or escaped the transforming genius of modern improvements which has wrought such marvellous changes, within a few past years, in the original college buildings and their surroundings. The property is now owned by Edward Jewell, but its ancient dimensions have been reduced to less than a hundred acres. The house, though built a century ago, testifies by its plan and

structure that its projector was a man who devised liberally for the comfort of his family and friends.

A little north of Tusculum, and on its northern boundary, there is a pile of massive rocks, so lying upon one another as to form what some persons possessing a fertile imagination have called a natural house; and this curious freak of nature bears the name of "The Rock-House." A tradition now almost extinct, refers to this place as having been the hiding-nest of a gang of United States mail robbers, who several times robbed the United States mail coaches which ran between Philadelphia and New York. The only evidence to support this tradition, besides the secluded character of the place in the rocks and thick forest, was the discovery of some iron pots and cooking utensils in one of its dark recesses, just after the time when the robberies were committed. In former years this was a resort of college students and other young people, who were glad on almost any pretext to make an excursion on foot into the country.

But this was not the only object of attraction to the pedestrian excursionists of ancient Princeton. About a quarter of a mile north of the Rock-House there stood in the wild forest of the mountain, another natural curiosity—known as "The Gallows Tree;" so called from its peculiar growth and its resemblance to a gallows. About two feet from the ground, a branch grew out horizontally from the trunk about four feet; then upright ten feet; then returning rectangularly to the main trunk, making four right angles, as if made by human hands. Additional interest gathered around this curious object as its history became legendary and weird in narrating how, in olden time, summary justice had been vindicated, and the condemned victim had actually been executed extra-judicially on this very tree for his crimes.

The Rock-House still stands unaffected by the storms of centuries which have beaten upon it, but the Gallows-Tree is among the "things that were." It was ruthlessly cut down about thirty-five years ago, by an undiscovered, though not an unsuspected hand. It stood upon the wood-land of Benjamin Griggs, who resided on his farm at Queenston, quite remote from it. It is due to the proprietor to state that this curiously

formed tree was not cut down with his consent ; and that he resented the outrage by bringing an action of trespass against the alleged trespasser. The law of New Jersey at that day did not allow parties in a cause to be sworn as witnesses ; and the evidence failed to secure a verdict for the plaintiff, and thereby to fix the vandalism upon the defendant.\*

But the fact is undeniable, however it may be explained, that since the Gallows Tree has been destroyed, the Rock House has not been much resorted to by the curiosity seekers of Princeton, or inquired after by strangers ; and the ancient paths to it, over the rocks and through the thickets have been almost obliterated. The Centennial inquisitors in search of old things and old ways, however, have been cutting their way to the Rock House, and photographing it with the names of the students, carved by themselves in the rock half a century and more ago ; names some of which are now high on the roll of fame.

CEDAR GROVE, which is about two and a half miles from the borough of Princeton, on the brow of the hill, on the road leading from Princeton to Blawenburgh, contains a little cluster of dwellings—a district school-house, a blacksmith shop, and a neat chapel for preaching and religious services. This chapel was formerly a Methodist church, but the building was sold, when the Methodists built their church in Princeton, to Mr. Paul Tulane, who, at that time, resided in that neighborhood, though doing business in New Orleans. Mr. Tulane still holds the title and control of this chapel, and opens it every Sabbath to the different denominations of Christians in the vicinity, for preaching alternately in succession. To the different clergymen, who render these services without any charge upon the hearers, Mr. Tulane pays, from his own funds, a liberal compensation.† The place derived its name from the grove of cedars which environ it. It has a beautiful southern

\* The action was brought in 1840 before Justice Lowrey and tried by a jury in Princeton. The defendant was Charles Sylvester, who lived near to the Gallows-Tree, and who had been annoyed by visitors to the Rock House and Gallows Tree, who, especially on Sundays, would trespass upon his land. The trial was an exciting one, and the jury disagreed. William C. Alexander for the plaintiff, and J. F. Hageman for the defendant, were the counsel who tried the cause.

† Mr. Tulane has recently committed, in trust, this chapel and a fund to maintain it, to the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton.



prospect. In the latter part of the last century most of the farms and lands around Cedar Grove were bought and occupied by a colony of French Refugees—families of wealth and distinction. They receive a particular notice in a subsequent chapter of this volume.

CHERRY VALLEY will be remembered by many of the old graduates of the Theological Seminary, as a neighborhood whose prominent central figure was a stone school-house at the cross-roads, about half a mile north of Cedar Grove, and on the Pennington and Rocky Hill road—a place to be remembered for the interesting Sunday School and religious services which, for many years, were maintained there under the auspices of some of the most brilliant and devout theological students, who have honored the catalogue of the seminary, and the ministerial roll of the church. This old post is abandoned, or rather it has been divided and transferred to Cedar Grove and to Blawenburgh. The old stone school-house still stands, but no rays of education or religion emanate from it. It is an old candlestick, with the candle removed.

MOUNT LUCAS, which is also in this township, is situated about two and a half miles north of Princeton, on the road leading from the latter place to Rocky Hill village, and is the most beautiful and picturesque spot in the township. Its grand view is north of the mountain and embraces all the valley between the Millstone River and Sourland Mountain, northward as far as the eye can see, and westward up through Blawenburgh. The scene becomes enchanting as it exhibits to our view the whole township of Montgomery spread out in front of us, with the glistening waters of the Delaware and Raritan Canal and of the Millstone River side by side, sometimes touching each other, and then again separated by a belt of green meadow, while flowing on northward towards the Raritan, presenting a landscape of green farms dotted with white farm-houses, and church spires rising from the villages of Harlingen, Blawenburgh, Rocky Hill and Griggstown, with here and there little patches of timber-land, reserved to indicate what heavy forests covered the whole area a century ago.

Mount Lucas is the centre of a school district—a large modern school-house having recently superseded the old stone

building. It was formerly the site of the "*Mt. Lucas Orphan and Guardian Institute*," which was the first Orphan Asylum established in New Jersey, so far as we can learn. It was founded in the year 1842, by Franklin Merrill, a student in the Theological Seminary at Princeton. The farm was held by private trustees until 1845, when it became incorporated by law under a special charter. A large stone building was added to the frame building on the farm. The institution was supported by private charity and continued under the direction of prominent citizens as trustees, for thirteen years,\* and, during that time, it received about thirty pupils, boys and girls. It had liberal and influential patrons. Among them were the families of Dr. Miller, Dr. Alexander, Dr. Janeway, James Lenox and John Sergeant, whose contributions, advanced for the purchase of the property, were secured from waste in case of failure. It was for the benefit of this institution that the Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander appropriated the proceeds of the "*Log College*," which he published in 1845. But the enterprise finally failed of success, through the want of a successor who possessed the faith and enthusiasm of the founder, and for want of permanent endowment. The property was sold by the trustees, and, after paying the debts, the surplus fund, which had been given under restriction as above mentioned, was handed over to Mrs. Dr. Miller, who subsequently, with the consent of the original donors, transferred it with its increase, nearly \$2,000, to what was then known as "*The Ashmun Institute*," now "*Lincoln University*," in Pennsylvania, and was invested as a part of its permanent fund, for the education of pupils in that institution. The farm now belongs to the township of Princeton, and is kept for the maintenance of the resident poor.

In the southern part of the township along the historic stream of Stony Brook there are still standing, hoary with age and sacred with Revolutionary associations, WORTH'S MILLS and the ancient QUAKER MEETING HOUSE, and near them a

\* It numbered among its local trustees and officers, Prof. Joseph Henry, Commodore Crabbe, J. F. Hageman, C. Smith Green, Isaac Baker, Phillip Hendrickson, Samuel Miller, Jr., Samuel D. Alexander, Ralph Gulick, and others. Their annual Reports were printed.

little cluster of houses known, before Princeton had a location and a name, as the village of Stony Brook.

Adjoining these places on the north, lies the great BATTLE-FIELD of Princeton, where Washington turned the tide of the war, with greater personal danger than he elsewhere experienced in his whole military career, and where the gallant Mercer sealed the victory with his blood. These are all particularly noticed in the subsequent chapters of this volume.

The Stony Brook enters the township of Princeton on the west side thereof; and while its crystal waters pass along through the tall and silent forest on either side, for a quarter of a mile, it assumes the name of *Pretty Brook*—a resort in summer for excursion parties of children, and Sunday Schools—a very pleasant place to spend a warm summer day—then resuming its historic name and flowing down through the southern part of the township, utilized at Worth's Mills, and making a semi-circle along the Quaker road, it trends to the east and empties into the Millstone River, at the Aqueduct Mills, on the east side of the township, about two miles distant from and opposite to the point where it first entered the township.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal, one of the finest public works of the kind in the country, seventy-five feet in width, passes along the south-easterly side of the township, about a mile from Princeton. An immense transportation business is done on this public highway; and as it was constructed principally through the enterprise of Princeton men, and, as in former years, its central offices and the headquarters of the company were at Princeton, it contributed much to the business and influence of this town. While the railroad was on the canal bank, the depot and station for Princeton were there. Coal and lumber yards, and freight-houses, and the general business connected with the transportation of merchandise and freight were there established. The distance from the town was about a mile. Passengers were conveyed to and from the depot in hacks, through Canal Street, and for several years a plank walk was kept up between the town and the Basin. But since the removal of the Railroad beyond Penn's Neck, where it now passes, and a connection with it at Princeton Junction

by the Princeton Branch railroad has been effected, the business done at the Basin is materially diminished; that which pertained to the railroad having been transferred to Princeton and to Princeton Junction.

The BOROUGH of Princeton is situated nearly in the centre of the township, on an elevation 221 feet above the ocean, almost as high as the Rocky Hill mountain. It stands on the first high land which separates the alluvial plain of South Jersey from the mountainous and hilly country of the north. There is a gentle depression between it and the mountain, and a gradual descent on every other side of it towards the streams that nearly encircle it. The views from Princeton are almost equal to those from the summit of Rocky Hill, though less extensive northward. A pleasant view is afforded of Penn's Neck, a village once called Williamsburgh, and a strip of well cultivated farming country, with handsome farms, lying beyond the canal, in West Windsor, and through which passes the straight turnpike leading from Trenton to New Brunswick. The country between Penn's Neck and Kingston, on the east side of the Millstone River, is known as Mapleton, in the township of South Brunswick, in Middlesex County. It was early settled, and being only three or four miles from Princeton, its inhabitants, in former generations, were brought into close neighborhood relations with the latter in matters religious as well as political.

Princeton has worn the dignity of a borough since the year 1813, when the legislature granted it a charter for a municipal government. The reason why so small a town, as it then was, received such special privileges in its local government, can be found only in the peculiar exigencies which grew out of the existence of the college in the place, and its location in two counties; and this reason is declared in the preamble to the charter, which will be fully set forth in a subsequent chapter on that subject.

The POPULATION of the borough does not increase rapidly. The last census, taken in 1875, when the students were absent and not counted, returned the number at 2,814. The students of the several institutions and other persons who remain here for a few years, in connection with the institutions, and then return to their original homes, would exceed 600 in number—

making our usual population nearly 3,500, within the borough.

Princeton is also situate nearly midway between New York and Philadelphia. It is ten miles distant from the city of Trenton, which is at the head of navigation on the Delaware River, and sixteen miles from the city of New Brunswick, which is at the head of navigation on the Raritan River. It is forty miles distant from Philadelphia and forty-five from New York. The village of Kingston is distant three miles, on the road to New Brunswick, and Lawrenceville six miles on the old road to Trenton. The old road from Trenton to New Brunswick, through Lawrenceville forms a junction at Princeton with the Princeton and Kingston Branch Turnpike.

The NAME of Princeton receives no clearly reliable history, as to its origin, either from tradition or record. Before the village was built up, the neighborhood was called Stony-Brook. The first settlers resided along this stream; and as early as 1712 both the "Friends' Meeting House," and "Worth's Mill" were in existence; and these, with the families of the Clarkes, Oldens, and Stocktons residing in their vicinity, very naturally, were designated, in respect to their location, as "of Stony-Brook." In title deeds, which bear date in the early part of the 18th century, the parties thereto, who resided in what is now Princeton, were so described. Like many other names of towns in early times, Princeton was variously spelled, or rather mis-spelled, in deeds, records and correspondence. It was called and written Princetown, Prince's Town, and Princeton. And in like manner Kingston was written Kingstown, King's Town, and Kingston, in its early days. The same variety was exhibited in the names of Trenton, Allentown and Pennington.

The suggestion which was made a few years ago, that the name of Princeton was derived from and called after Henry Prince, of Piscataway, who purchased a tract of land of 200 acres, in the township of Montgomery, which is now embraced within Princeton township, in the year 1711, of Thomas Leonard, never received the least degree of authentication. A letter of ex-Governor Olden, which was published in the *Princeton Press*, soon after that suggestion was printed in the Appendix

to the "Historical Discourse" of the Rev. Wm. E. Schenck, designating the locality of that land, removed all ground for the suggestion, so that the idea has been discarded even by those who first gave it utterance. Without positive proof it was incredible that a place whose early settlers—the Stocktons, the Clarkes, the Oldens, the Fitz-Randolphs, the Leonards and the Hornors, who owned all the land in and about the neighborhood, and who were then, and have continued to be, influential and prominent citizens, should have received its name in honor of a merchant and resident of Piscataway—whose name is not connected with the history or the development of this place, but who is only known here as having been the owner of a lot of land—a mere fraction of the five thousand acre tract which the Stockton family had derived from Penn.

Henry Prince was a son-in-law of William Dockwra—a wealthy and distinguished London merchant, whose name is well known in the history of colonial New Jersey. He received from his father-in-law 1,000 acres of land in Monmouth County, 800 acres on the Hackensack River and a house and lot at Amboy, which was formerly the Court House, all of which property, together with the 200 acres of land in Somerset County, which he bought of Thomas Leonard, (the tract which was supposed to have impressed the owner's name upon Princeton) he devised to his wife and three children, by will, which was proved, September 29th, 1714—*ten years before the name of Princetown was given to the town!* The pretence that Princeton, first so called in 1724, should have been called in honor of a man who had been dead ten years and had, in his will, disposed of his land, two hundred acres, in the county without a building on it, and whose name was not associated with the village in any way, and who never lived in it, is simply preposterous.

There is, however, a very general belief among our citizens that Princeton has a flavor of royalty about its name and that it was given in honor of *William, Prince of Orange*, a prince whose memory was cherished with affection by hosts of men, who had been subjects of oppression and persecution in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe, not a few of whom had taken refuge in this country and in this neighborhood.

But it is more probable that this name is traceable to

*Kingston*, a village a few miles east of Princeton. Kingston is probably an older village *by name* than Princeton; and the idea of royal affinities seems to have been kept alive in the people of the neighborhood, in designating the names of several adjoining places. For we have first Kingston—next Queenston—then Princeton, and last Princessville, succeeding each other on the road from Kingston to Trenton. The first of these names, Kingston, was probably so called because it was situated on the road called the King's Highway—the ancient road leading from New Brunswick to Trenton; though it may have been so named in honor, directly, of the King of England, then the mother country.

We have not been able to learn from any reliable source, that this place was called Princeton prior to 1724. Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, a native of this place, born here in 1703, made an entry in his private journal, chiefly a family register, on the 28th day of December, 1758, as follows:

“Princeton first named at the raising of the first house built there by James Leonard, A. D. 1724. Whitehead Leonard the first child born at Princeton, 1725.”

This is probably a truthful record of the date when this place was named Princeton. There is a tradition germane to this record in Princeton, that in the year 1724 or thereabouts, in a certain agreement entered into for the building of a house in this village, the place was designated Princeton, for the first time. Though no reason is given for calling it Princeton, there seems to be none for doubting the reliability of Mr. Fitz Randolph's journal. This entry precedes another entry, which he made in the same journal respecting the college, and his early connection with it, and of his part taken in laying the corner stone of the building; and also of his having given land and money to the college, with other incidents which are amply confirmed in the history of the college.

The CLIMATE of Princeton is salubrious; and such is generally conceded to be the climate of the whole State of New Jersey. Professor Smock of Rutgers College, says: Its equal character conduces to its healthfulness and exempts it from diseases due to more extreme climatic features. The

tendency to pulmonary diseases is not so great as in the Atlantic States north of this, where great humidity is often associated with low depression of temperature. In summer the extreme heats are not so protracted as in the Gulf States and Southern States, nor are there so many rain-falls and consequent evaporations; and hence there is scarcely any malarial disease as epidemic, excepting a few localities on the undrained marshes and stagnant pools, or lakes. These sometimes generate intermittent fevers. As compared to New England and New York, the extremes of summer are not greater than in those States, while the heat continues later into autumn. In winter the extreme depressions are from ten to twenty degrees. Such extreme cold does not last often longer than three or four days. Spring opens a month earlier than in Central New York, or in New England. This longer duration of warm and pleasant weather and freedom from great extremes of heat and cold, together with its general healthfulness, make New Jersey the most attractive of the Atlantic States considered from a climatic stand-point.\*

Douglass, in his history, says that the salubrious climate of New Jersey drew many emigrants here rather than to New England and New York. This character of the climate of the State is confirmed by its proximity to the thirty-eighth parallel of north latitude, which is the point of the average temperature of the earth, and where the Grand Pyramid of Egypt is located, the orientation there being more accurate than in any other observatory.

Because of its healthfulness, Princeton was called by Dr. Witherspoon the Montpelier of America; though the biographers of Dr. Archibald Alexander say that like that salubrious town of France, it is exposed to the sweep of angry winds, especially about the breaking up of winter.

Gordon in his *Gazetteer* of New Jersey describes Princeton as remarkable for the salubrity of its climate. And the Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., who resided here for about forty years, while professor in the Theological Seminary, was in the habit of recording with his characteristic regularity, the testimony of the thermometer at his door, *die ad diem* through the years of

\* Beers' Atlas of New Jersey.



his adult life. He was susceptible to atmospheric influences, and watched the changes of the weather with more than ordinary interest ; and his opinion is as reliable and authoritative on the subject, as that of any other person. He had a delicate constitution, yet lived to become an octogenarian. He had lived in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. His biographer, in vol. ii, p. 488, publishes a letter from him, written in 1847, to one of his sons, urging him to bring his sick wife from Maryland, where the climate was questionable, to Princeton, which he describes as a place " where she may enjoy perfect repose, and *one of the finest climates in the solar system.*"

Princeton being central in the State, and on the southernmost ridge of the Highlands between the hilly counties of the extreme north and the alluvial plain of the south, has a medium temperature. Its winters are cold enough to produce a desirable supply of snow and ice, with the mercury down sometimes for a day or two to zero, and very rarely a few degrees below that. But such intense cold is exceptional and of very short duration. Its summers are adapted to the growth and perfection of the crops and fruits of the season. When the mercury rises above ninety degrees, it is exceptional and only of a few days' continuance. The autumn with its Italian sunsets, and its gorgeous foliage of brilliant hues, combines with an unsurpassed beauty, a most genial and uniform temperature. The spring is short, its earlier half is fickle, and by reason of its sudden changes of temperature, its high winds, and frequent storms, it is usually the most disagreeable part of the year; while its later half is mild, bright and delightful, introducing the sweet music of the feathered songsters, and the fresh fragrance of the early flowers. Like all temperate climates, the record of a year in Princeton will show occasionally a day of extreme heat and one of extreme cold, with less uniformity than is experienced in other latitudes ; and yet the sudden atmospheric changes in the winter and spring months, impose no other burdens upon us than a prudent adaptation of our raiment to them. But nowhere can we reside through all the seasons of the year with stronger assurance of health and uninterrupted activity, than in Princeton. Invalids who cannot

bear the summer heat, may wisely resort in mid-summer to cooler regions, and those who are too frail to withstand the blasts of icy winter, may prudently avoid them by following the birds to the sunny climes of the tropics. But no person of ordinary health is obliged to suspend his labors, whether intellectual or physical, and go from Princeton in any season of the year, on the pretext that the climate is ungenial and unsuitable for constant labor and enjoyment. There is nothing in our climate that calls for any suspension of the exercises of our schools and college during any particular month. The summer would be as enjoyable here as the winter, and perhaps as favorable for study; and formerly the Commencement of the college was held in the fall, and the session continued during the summer; but we have yielded to the general sentiment and custom of the whole country and adopted the heated term as the season for necessary recreation, travel, and general vacation.

Princeton is not, in any proper sense, a business place. It wears no business aspect. The multitude of men who throng its streets daily, going to their meals, to the post office, to the depot, or who walk for exercise, are not working men, or operatives in factories, or clerks, or tradesmen, but chiefly students, professors, clergymen, strangers and retired gentlemen. There is a large amount of capital invested here, but not in manufactures, trade or commerce. There is nothing here to invite the manufacturer, but everything to repel him. There is no water power, and there are no facilities or advantages for the employment of steam in factories. Nor is there a cheap and convenient access to the great markets of the world, that would secure to it equal advantages with other competing communities.

It is preëminently an educational town, and has been such for at least a hundred and twenty-five years; and this feature gives it its peculiar charm. Far distant be the day when the pure, bright atmosphere of Princeton shall be darkened and tainted with the murky, smoky, dirty exhalations of a manufacturing city! The peculiar attractiveness of this classic, quiet and healthful place will be diminished in proportion to the increase, within or near it, of the noise and bustle of trade and money-making. Millions of dollars have been expended here in the erection of handsome public buildings for literary, scientific and

theological pursuits, and for the endowment of professorial chairs in our educational institutions. Here have been planted and nourished those two venerable Institutions, the College of New Jersey, and the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church, making it the stronghold of Presbyterianism, as well as of science and letters. In these classic shades, and around these institutions have clustered for several generations past, learned scholars and divines, and a society of refined and cultivated families. Streams of light and influence have flowed hence through the channel of printed volumes, as well as through the lecture-room and the pulpit. Such a place, though not interesting to the capitalist, is nevertheless attractive to wealthy families who have children to educate, and to persons of literary taste and religious sentiments, which may be gratified in the libraries, lecture-rooms and society of Princeton. Situated as this place is, midway between, and so near the large cities of New York and Philadelphia, it is palpably important that cheap and convenient railroad facilities should be afforded to its citizens, in order that those who wish to maintain their families and residence here and still continue their business in the cities, might be enabled to do so comfortably and advantageously. The Branch railroad which has been built from Princeton to the junction of the Great Trunk road, of the Camden and Amboy Company, at present leased to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, about three miles from Princeton, affording to Princeton passengers a connection with many of the rapid express through trains on that road in both directions, secures more advantages to this place than a local road would do, notwithstanding the inconvenience in changing cars at the junction. It is hoped that the large travel on this Branch, which yields so large a revenue to the company, will command the most ample accommodations, fully adapted to the necessities of this town, to and from which there is a constant stream of travel to both of the great cities.

Princeton is especially attractive in the summer and autumnal months, when it is embowered in its rich green foliage. It is then clothed with uncommon beauty. Enchantment steals over you as you stroll through its streets and extensive lawns, and observe its profuse and rare shade trees with varieties of

the maple, the linden, the chestnut, the ash, the elm, the sycamore, the catalpa, some of them being over a hundred years of age ; with a choice variety of evergreens and magnolias, all-vocal with the sweet music of its beautiful birds ; and also its handsome residences with grounds ornate with hedges, walks and flower-beds. And then as you turn your eyes to the numerous large, unique, classic public buildings and churches, suggestive of letters, science and religion ; and as you pass on through its quiet ways, free from the rattle and clatter of business—and breathe its salubrious air, free alike from malaria and from the plague of those little *hostes homini*—mosquitoes ; remembering its accessibility to the large cities, and those higher attractions of libraries and literary society, of religious and educational advantages so multiform in the presence of the hundreds of students, teachers, clergymen and other educated men and women, you cannot fail to appreciate its peculiar charms, especially if you are seeking health and repose for yourselves, and education for your children.

That our views of the importance and influence of Princeton as an educational centre may not be regarded as extravagant, and be ascribed to the partiality of an enthusiastic admirer and resident of the place, we shall take the liberty of citing a passage from the published address delivered in Princeton at the dedication of Dickinson Hall in 1871, by the Rev. Dr. Murray, then pastor of the Brick Church, New York, but now the accomplished professor of Belles Lettres and English Language and Literature in Princeton College.

After speaking of great educational and religious centres as Jerusalem for religion, Athens for learning, and Rome for order and law among the ancients, he says :

“ Our Presbyterian System in its new compactness, let us fondly hope, in its coming consolidation needs one educational centre at least, of scope and power commensurate with the ecclesiastical organization of which it is the child and the nurse. That PRINCETON is this focal point in our educational system, there can be no doubt. It belongs to her ; and every auspicious sign points to her most worthy occupancy of the high trust. It belongs to her by reason of a century's great and good history. It belongs to her by reason of services rendered in the educating of a consecrated mental power which has been felt on every square foot of territory on which Presbyterianism has been planted in this country, and in which it has taken root. It belongs to her by virtue of her noble array of names historic in the coun-

cils of the church. It belongs to her by the prestige of saintly and famous memories. Her Dickinsons and Edwards' and Witherspoons ; her Alexanders and Millers, are a goodly foundation on which to build up the foremost of our Presbyterian colleges. It belongs to her by the presence here of her two Faculties, that of the College, and the Theological Seminary, each of which in its own sphere has been so proudly eminent in this land, and far beyond the seas. It belongs to her by virtue of her position in the history of the past, and in the promise of the future."

As we proceed in the following chapters to enumerate the historic names and events which belong to Princeton, and to illustrate the vast brain power and influence which have radiated from this focal point in past generations; as we, with some local pride, recall to mind that two of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence resided in Princeton; that the battle-field which turned the tide of the war in the Revolution and gave hope to the country is here; that the first legislature under the State Constitution was held in this place, and here adopted the Great Seal of New Jersey in 1776; that the Continental Congress, for a time sat here, and legislated in the old College Library; that distinguished jurists, statesmen, scholars, soldiers and divines have from generation to generation resided here, shedding a halo of glory around the name of our town; that our cemetery holds the sacred dust of a great company of leading and mighty men, renowned in letters, in science, in theology, in law and politics: and as we trace the history of the church, and the distinguished preachers whose eloquence and success have rendered their names, and the name of Princeton immortal in history; as we present the number and character of the many volumes of books and literary contributions which have been written in Princeton, and re-produce other items of historic interest, and Centennial association—we shall only become the more interested in the record, and the more enthusiastic in unfolding the narrative; and we hope, at least, that our spare hours shall not have been wasted in presenting Princeton and her Institutions in a historic volume.

## CHAPTER II.

### PRINCETON PRIOR TO 1750.

**First Settlement**—William Edmundson's Description in 1675—The Indian Path—Dr. Greenland—Samuel Brinson—Dr. Gordon—Colony of Friends in 1696 at Stony Brook—Benjamin Clarke—William Olden—Joseph Worth—John Horner—Richard Stockton—William Penn sells 5,500 acres to Richard Stockton—Stockton's Death—Will, Estate, Children—Preëminence of the Stockton Family—Fitz Randolph, Benjamin and Nathaniel—Thomas Leonard, large Landholder and Prominent Citizen—His Extraordinary Will—John Stockton, Father of the Signer, his Will—Extract from Kalm's Travels and others—Scudder's Mills.

THE precise date of the settlement of the first family in what is now Princeton, cannot be ascertained. What may be called its original settlement was not of so early an origin as that of some other towns in the State. The place does not seem to have been sought out as a choice site for a city, by some adventurous colony. But its rich soil and pleasant situation uninhabited and secluded, with William Penn as the chief and almost sole proprietor of all the land, attracted in 1696 a little colony of about half a dozen families of the Society of Friends, who were intelligent and thrifty, and who desired to dwell by themselves, under their own laws, and as much as possible even separate from Puritan society. Its situation was that of a frontier forest, between two slowly advancing waves of civilized population—one flowing from the margins of the Raritan and Millstone Rivers; the other from the margin of the Delaware River, along which streams the early settlers of New Jersey planted their new homes.

It was a central point and nearly midway on an air-line between the cities of New York and Philadelphia,—also nearly midway between New Brunswick and Trenton—the former being at the head of navigation on the Raritan, and the latter at the head of navigation on the Delaware. The Province line,

separating the province of East Jersey from the province of West Jersey, passed along so near its south-western boundary, as to leave it for a long time in doubt whether the place belonged to the Eastern or Western Province. Indeed, it lay between the two lines of the surveyors, Keith and Lawrence. The Keith line, which we understand now to be recognized as the true Province line, is the boundary line of the township of Princeton on the west; so that while Princeton has been so nearly on the line as to be claimed by both sections, it is all in East Jersey, assuming the Keith line to be the true one. But in the other direction it lay in the line of a great prospective thoroughfare of travel between the great cities, as above stated. Its situation, as the middle point on the route, though not the first to be occupied, was, nevertheless, not without local advantages, for in the natural course of time and events as a highway was opened for travel, and the waves of population approached it, its growth became the more rapid from being replenished from both sides.

A picture of this central part of the State of New Jersey, while it was yet a wilderness, inhabited only by the Indians, was drawn by William Edmundson, a minister of the Friends from England, in his journal under the date of 1675, while travelling across the State on a journey to Maryland.

After leaving Shrewsbury and Middletown, in Monmouth County, he writes :

“Next morning we took our journey through the wilderness towards Maryland, to cross the river at Delaware Falls. Richard Hartshorn and Eliakim Wardell would go a day’s journey with us. We hired an Indian to guide us, but he took us wrong, and left us in the woods. When it was late we alighted, put our horses to grass and kindled a fire by a little brook, convenient for water to drink, to lay down till morning, but were at a great loss concerning the way, being all strangers in the wilderness. Richard Hartshorn advised to go back to Rarington River, about ten miles back as was supposed, to find a small landing-place from New York, from whence there was a small path that led to Delaware Falls. So we rode back, and in some time found the landing-place and little path; there the two friends committed us to the Lord’s guidance and went back. We travelled that day and saw no tame creatures. At night we kindled a fire in the wilderness and lay by it as we used to do in such journeys. Next day about nine in the morning by the good hand of God, we came well to the Falls, and by his providence found there an Indian man, a woman and a boy with a canoe; so we hired him for some *wampampeg* to help us over in the canoe; we swam our horses, and though the river was broad yet got well over, and by the directions we received from friends, travelled towards

Delawaretown along the west side of the river. When we had rode some miles, we baited our horses and refreshed ourselves with such provisions as we had, for as yet we were not come to any inhabitants."

Whether this small Indian path through the wilderness to the Delaware Falls (Trenton), came through this region which is now Princeton, or whether it was on the lower route through Cranberry, may not be absolutely certain. But if the landing place on the Raritan, to which the lost traveller went, was the town of New Brunswick, as we presume it was, and the Falls mentioned were those at Trenton, about which there is no doubt, it is then quite certain that his path led him through this part of the State, and not on the lower route. Whether so or not, the description of the country at that remote period of time, was applicable to both routes. There was no wagon-road across the State at that time.

It was in the same year in which Edmundson crossed the State as above given from his journal, 1675, that the Legislature adopted general regulations for the opening of roads. Previous to that time the only road laid out by Europeans within the limits of New Jersey, appears to have been that by which the Dutch at New Amsterdam communicated with the settlements on the Delaware. It ran from Elizabethtown Point, or its neighborhood, to where New Brunswick now stands, and was probably the same as that one, now widened and improved, known as the old road between those places. At New Brunswick the river was forded at low water, and the road ran then almost in a straight line to the Delaware, above where Trenton is now situated, which was also forded. This was called the "Upper Road," to distinguish it from the "Lower Road" which branched off five or six miles from the Raritan, took a sweep towards the east, and arrived at the Delaware at the site of the present Burlington. These roads, however, were very little more than foot-paths, and so continued for many years, affording facilities for horsemen and pedestrians principally. Even as late as 1716, when a ferry boat had been established at New Brunswick for twenty years, provision was only made for "horse and man," and single persons. Previous to that time, however, the road had been improved and considered the main thoroughfare to Pennsylvania; for in 1695 the



innkeepers of Piscataway, Woodbridge, and Elizabethtown were made subject to taxation for five years to prevent its falling into decay. An opposition road was opened by the proprietaries, in the hope of drawing the principal travelling to their seat of government, but without success. Governor Basse in 1698, was directed to bring the matter before the Assembly and have an act passed that would cause the public road to pass through the post-town of Perth Amboy from New York and New England, to New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but nothing was accomplished; the upper road was preferred. These were the two roads travelled between New York and Philadelphia, under the proprietary government, but no public conveyance for transporting goods or passengers existed on either. In 1707 complaints were made to Lord Cornbury by the Assembly that patents had been granted to individuals to transport goods from Burlington to Amboy for a certain number of years to the exclusion of others, which was deemed contrary to the statute respecting monopolies, and destructive to that freedom which trade and commerce ought to have. The Governor in reply justified the improvement, in having an opportunity for every one to send goods to the cities once a fortnight and thought it no nuisance.\*

We have thus, at some length, given a historical account of the origin of this old road, or King's highway, originally an Indian path across the State, through what is now Princeton, and which continues to be the great thoroughfare between New York and Philadelphia. In 1738 a bill was introduced in the Assembly to authorize a stone bridge over the Millstone River, between the counties of Somerset and Middlesex in the high road; and one over Stony Brook; and in 1740 a petition was presented to that body for repairing and rebuilding those two bridges on the post-road to New York. The bridges above referred to were undoubtedly the one at Kingston, over the Millstone, and the one at Worth's Mills over the Stony Brook. In 1737 a stage wagon was established to run from Trenton to New Brunswick and back, twice a week.

In the Library of the New Jersey Historical Society, there is a map of the rivers Millstone, Raritan, etc., made by John

\* Newark Daily Advertiser; New Jersey Historical Collections.

Reid, a Scotchman, in 1685, for the proprietors. On this map the plantation of Dr. Greenland is designated, and is now recognized and identified as the Castle Howard, or Beatty Farm, now owned by the Rev. Dr. Blodgett, purchased by him of Captain Thomas Lavender, deceased. This farm is bounded by the Millstone River, with its mansion on the east side of the road leading from Princeton to Kingston, and just without the limits of the borough of Princeton. This map is corroborated as to Dr. Greenland's plantation, by the fact that the Penn deed to Richard Stockton in 1701, for the 5,500 acre tract, describes that tract as bounded on the east side by Henry Greenland's land.

We find in the legislative proceedings under the twenty-four Proprietors in 1681, mention made of a Captain Henry Greenland, who, with Robert Vicars, was declared "incapable of bearing any office or charge of public trust in the Province, or serving as a member of Council or House of Assembly, without the consent of the General Assembly."

The conduct complained of against Capt. Greenland and Mr. Vicars, for this action, was that they had been instrumental in dissolving the Assembly of 1681, to the prejudice of public business in the Province, and keeping courts of special commission of the late Governor, contrary to the concessions; and especially because the Proprietors were desirous of a peaceable agreement upon the first entering of the government of the Province. Were not this Captain Henry Greenland and Dr. Henry Greenland above mentioned, and whose plantation was the Castle Howard farm near Princeton, one and the same person?

There is still further confirmatory testimony that Dr. Greenland owned a plantation in this part of what was then Somerset County, and had a family here. Daniel Brinson, who is mentioned in the Penn-Stockton deed, was a son-in-law of Dr. Greenland and lived in this vicinity before 1690. His residence was at or near the Kingston mills—the mills not then yet erected. He left a will bearing date 1690, and therein devised his plantation to his son, Barefoot Brinson, a name frequently met with in the records of Somerset County.\* Barefoot Brinson was a man of some prominence. He held the office of

\* This name is sometimes written Brunson.

sheriff of that county, and died in that office in 1749, or thereabouts. His successor was John Riddle, of Princeton, appointed at the suggestion and recommendation of Thomas Leonard, esq., then a Judge of the Common Pleas of Somerset County, and residing in Princeton. Judge Leonard was arraigned before the Assembly of the State for dereliction of his official duty, in not properly qualifying Mr. Riddle and his sureties in that office. But he made a successful defence.

As early as 1685 Dr. John Gordon seems to have been the owner of a tract of about eight hundred acres of land, which lay between what is now the main street of Princeton and Stony Brook, on the east side of Princeton, extending from Queenston to the line of the farm, now belonging to Charles H. Olden, and of "Woodlawn." In 1696, Dr. Gordon conveyed the westerly end of said tract, from what is now Washington Street, containing about four hundred acres, to Richard Stockton; and the easterly half, embracing the Hamilton farm and the farm of Joseph Olden, to John Hornor. And between 1701 and 1709 Richard Stockton conveyed one hundred acres, including what are now the college grounds and other adjoining lands to Benjamin Fitz Randolph. The remainder, including the Seminary property—the land on Canal Street, the Episcopal Church property, Edge Hill, and Steadman Street property—and the Springdale farm—he devised to his son Joseph Stockton. This tract of eight hundred acres owned by Dr. Gordon, appears not to have been a part of the Penn tract which was conveyed to Richard Stockton. As there is no evidence that Dr. Gordon ever resided on his tract, or in this vicinity, while it is fully established that *Dr. Greenland* was settled on his plantation above referred to, in 1685, the latter must be regarded as the first settler in this neighborhood, and nearest to what is now the borough of Princeton, so far as we have any authentic proof.

The prominent starting point, however, in the history of the early settlement of Princeton, is found in the purchase by William Penn, in the year 1693, of a large tract of land lying in and about the neighborhood of this place—he having taken it as his share from the Proprietors. Through his influence, a number of Quaker families removed here. They came to es-

tablish free and safe homes. They had been persecuted in their native countries, and after they had settled in New England, in New York, and in other parts of New Jersey, they determined to secure, as we have already stated, a settlement where they might enjoy their religious principles without molestation even from the Puritans; hence they were attracted to this unsettled neighborhood of Stony Brook, and to the land of Penn where there would be no disturbing element in their society.

These families were highly respectable, intelligent and religious; and as we shall hereafter see, the influence and high position of Princeton in history may be traced, in no small degree, to the sterling character of these early settlers. Their names should be held in grateful remembrance, not only by their lineal descendants, but by this entire community. We proceed to enumerate them. They all appear to have come in the same year.

I. BENJAMIN CLARKE came to Stony Brook in 1696 from Piscataway, in Middlesex County, New Jersey. His father, Benjamin Clarke, was a native of Scotland and became a member of the Religious Society of Friends during the lives of its founders and about the time of its organization. He was an intimate friend of his fellow countrymen Robert Barclay and Gawen Lawrie; the former a large proprietor and proprietary Governor of the Eastern Division of New Jersey from 1683 to 1686, was one of the most successful polemical writers of his time, in defence of the fundamental principles of Quakerism. Gawen Lawrie, a native of Scotland, and for several years a merchant of London, a prominent member of the same religious society, was a wealthy and large proprietor, and Deputy Governor under Robert Barclay, and emigrated to New Jersey in the same year, and perhaps in the same vessel with Benjamin Clarke, then a stationer in Lombard Street, London.

Mr. Whitehead, in his very valuable contributions to East Jersey history, informs us that Benjamin Clarke, Stationer, arrived with his son Benjamin at Perth Amboy in 1683; was followed by his wife in 1684; and surviving his wife, died in the latter part of the year 1689, leaving his son Benjamin heir to all his estate, which was very considerable.

Charles Gordon, in a letter to his brother, March 16, 1685, speaks of him as having brought a library of books to sell, and James Johnstone, in a letter to his brother about the same time, speaks of the good stationer's shop of books at Perth Amboy.

His son Benjamin Clarke, (the second) afterwards married Ann, the daughter of James Giles, of Boundbrook, in Piscataway, New Jersey, and becoming the owner of two hundred and seventy-five acres of land in Piscataway, removed there, and settled on his land, and was a Justice of the Town Court of Piscataway in 1688, and a member of the Assembly from that place in 1692.

In 1695-6, this Benjamin Clarke, (the second) bought of Thomas Warne, twelve hundred acres of land lying on the south angle of Stony Brook, bounded by the old road as it now runs from Princeton to Worth's Mills on the west, by the Province line on the south, and the Gordon tract on the north. It included the two farms of Mary Hallet, on the other side of the brook. It included the battle-field of Princeton.

In 1796, he removed to Stony Brook, and built the first dwelling house, on that tract which he had bought, where the present dwelling house now stands on the farm lately occupied by Elisha Clarke and other heirs at law of Joseph Olden Clarke. He continued to reside there till his death. In 1709 he conveyed  $9\frac{6}{100}$  acres to Richard Stockton and others in trust to build a meeting house on it, and for a burying ground for the Society of Friends.

Next to Richard Stockton, Benjamin Clarke was the largest land-holder at one time, about Princeton and Stony Brook. He gave to his son James Clarke, a large tract of land on the south and south-westerly side of Stony Brook, including the two adjoining farms of Mary Hallet: and he gave to his son Benjamin Clarke, his homestead farm, which included the David Clarke farm. He was a practical surveyor—an intelligent man, with good business habits. His name frequently appears as a witness to important deeds and documents. He was one of the trustees appointed in the will of Richard Stockton in 1709; and he transacted much public business.

He was the progenitor of a large family, which increased steadily through four generations, and then began to diminish.

The great body of the tract of land which Benjamin Clarke bought of Thomas Warne, was occupied by some of his descendants, until within the present generation.

There were four Benjamin Clarks in consecutive succession from father to son; the last one having been the father of David Clarke, the grandfather of the late Samuel Paxson, whose farm adjoined the Quaker Meeting-house at Stony Brook. This Benjamin Clarke (the fourth) married Hannah, daughter of William Lawrie. He was one of the most prominent members in meeting (church) affairs—a public minister, and travelling preacher, extending his religious visit on one occasion to Canada. David Clarke married for his second wife, Miss Kirkbride; her sister having married Joseph John Gurney, the philanthropist, of England.

Dr. Israel Clarke, a physician of Clarksville, well remembered by our older inhabitants for his extensive practice and humorous nature, who died in 1837, and was buried at Stony Brook, was of this family of Clarks. So, also, were the two maiden ladies who nursed at their house General Mercer, who was mortally wounded at the battle of Princeton, lineal descendants of the original Clarke family of Stony Brook. Joseph Olden Clarke and his surviving widow Martha Clarke, and their children Elisha, Elisabeth, Fanny (Mrs. Paxson) and Josephine, were the last of the Clarke family who occupied the old original homestead farm of the first Clarke settler at Stony Brook. Mrs. Clarke and her children, having sold the old farm, now reside in Princeton. The farm in whose house General Mercer was nursed and died, is now owned and occupied by Henry E. Hale, who purchased it of John Clarke, now deceased.

There are but few families among the descendants of the first settler, who bear the name of Clarke in this region of country;—none in the immediate vicinity of Princeton, except the heirs of Joseph O. Clarke above mentioned. None of the original Clarke tract of land is occupied by any one bearing the name of Clarke. We have not been furnished with the genealogy of the family, and therefore in the absence of any public historical record of any prominent citizens of Princeton bearing the family name, we can only add that it has been a very numerous, intelligent and excellent family.

II. WILLIAM OLDEN came to Stony Brook from Piscataway, in Middlesex County, New Jersey, in the year 1696. He purchased of Benjamin Clarke in that year four hundred acres of land lying north and a part of the tract which Benjamin Clarke bought of Thomas Warne. His wife was Elisabeth Giles, a daughter of James Giles, who emigrated from England in 1668, and who settled at Boundbrook, in Piscataway, in 1682, and died there. He became by this marriage a brother-in-law of Benjamin Clarke, who married Ann Giles. They had eight children, three sons and five daughters. Their oldest son, John Olden, married Mary Brearley; and they had nine children, six sons and three daughters, and their oldest son, James Olden, married Catharine Gardner; their second son, Thomas Olden, married Sarah Hart, and their third son, Joseph Olden, married Ann Gardner. James Olden and Catharine Gardner had seven children, viz. Samuel who married Mary Worth, Ann (Tomlinson), Mary (Bates), John, James, Catharine (White), Elisabeth (Ridgway).

Thomas Olden and Sarah Hart had two children, viz. Nathaniel, a teacher, not married, and Hart Olden who married Temperance Smith. The children of Hart Olden and Temperance Smith were Sarah (Clow), Charles Smith Olden (the Governor of New Jersey), Jane, Mary, Job G. Olden, George Olden, Ruth (Stebbins).

Samuel Olden and Mary Worth had six children, viz. Samuel, Mary, James, Elihu, Giles and Catharine. Giles Olden married Catharine White and had three children, John, James and Samuel.

Stephen Smith married Catharine Olden, daughter of Samuel, and had four daughters, viz. Phebe Ann, who married Charles S. Olden (the Governor), Rebecca, Mary (Speakman), and Catharine (Maclean).

Joséph Olden and Ann Gardner had five children, viz. Ephraim, Amey (Rickey), Ann (Clarke), Job, who married Elisabeth Emley, and Joseph, who married Achsah Middleton.

Job Olden and Elisabeth Emley had a son Emley Olden who married Martha Earle, and they had five children, viz. Elisabeth, wife of Martin Voorhees, Charles, Rebecca (Harlow), Sarah and Caroline (Smith).

Joseph Olden and Achsah Middleton had five children, viz. Amey, Sarah (Ely), Benjamin, who married Mary Worth, Ann (Clarke) and Mary Olden.

Benjamin Olden and Mary Worth had three children, viz. Susan W. Olden, Joseph Olden, both living in Princeton, on the land of their immediate ancestors, and Samuel W. Olden, deceased, who graduated at Princeton College in 1848. There are many other branches of the Olden family which are not here given.

William Olden, the first settler here by that name, built on the tract he bought of Clarke, on the site of the present residence of Charles H. Olden. His land extended from the Stony Brook, to the old road leading from Princeton to Worth's Mill. It embraced the land recently occupied by Job G. Olden and his brother Governor Olden, and "Woodlawn," the residence of Judge Field at the time of his decease. This tract of land is in high state of cultivation, and the title remains in the Olden family at the present day, except "Woodlawn."

The Olden family was numerous in former years. The name of Joseph Olden often appears in the execution of deeds, as a Judge of the Pleas in Middlesex County, and he was a man of some public reputation. Nathaniel Olden taught school. Hart Olden, the father of Governor Olden and of Job G. Olden, was a merchant, first at Stony Brook and afterwards in Princeton. Both of his sons pursued the same line of business. Emley Olden was accustomed to transact public business of a local and limited nature, though a farmer. He spent the most of his life on the Mangrove farm, a mile north of Princeton. Giles Olden lived on the original Olden farm; his name is mentioned in the boundaries of the borough of Princeton, in its charter in 1813; and his sons John, James and Samuel or one of them, held it after his death.

The original William Olden was a practical surveyor. He has always been regarded as a Quaker, and his posterity for the most part were Quakers. It is claimed that only a part of the Oldens were members of that society. But we are not able to designate any of the early families who were not such. At the present day we cannot name one who is a member. The descendants of the present generation in this neighborhood, are



found within Presbyterian or Episcopal churches, maintaining faithfully Christian doctrine and Christian life.

III. JOSEPH WORTH came from Woodbridge, New Jersey, to Stony Brook in 1696. He was a member of the society of Friends. He was a brother-in-law of William Olden and of Benjamin Clarke, having married Sarah Giles. In 1697 he purchased of Benjamin Clarke two hundred acres of land lying chiefly, if not wholly, on the south side of the Stony Brook, in the vicinity of the Mills which bear his name, and probably included the present farm of John Hunt.

Worth's Mills, at Stony Brook, have derived their name from this Joseph Worth and his successors in the Worth family, who have held them since his death. As these mills are very ancient, and also historic—having been, very early, the source of supply of feed and flour to the first settlers in the neighborhood—there being no mill nearer than Trenton, before this was built; and having continued in operation for one hundred and sixty years, until the present time, it is appropriate here to insert a short history of them. This mill property embraced land from both the Penn tract and the Clarke, or Warne tract. In February, 1712, Samuel Stockton, by the advice and with the consent of his guardians Thomas and Susannah Leonard, gave a deed to Thomas Potts, a miller from Pennsylvania, for a mill-pond and the right to dig a raceway therefrom. And in April, 1714, Joseph Worth, of whom we have above spoken, sold and conveyed six and a quarter acres of land to said Potts, upon which two corn water-mills or grist mills, under one roof, and a bolting mill were built. In 1715 Potts conveyed one-fourth of the mill to Joseph Worth and one-fourth to Joseph Chapman, a carpenter. In August, 1716, Potts appointed Joseph Kirkbride his attorney, to sell his remaining one-half, which he did in November, 1716, to Joseph Worth. Joseph Chapman bought fifteen acres of Samuel Stockton, adjoining the mill lot in the same year; and sold it, with his one-fourth share in the mill property, to Joseph Worth in January, 1721. Joseph Worth had four daughters and five sons. Giles Worth, the oldest son of Joseph, received this property from his father by will in 1739; and he gave it to his

son Samuel Worth, who in 1791 devised one half of it to his son Samuel, with the privilege of buying the other half for eight hundred pounds, which he did buy in 1794. Upon the death of this Samuel Worth, his son, Josiah S. Worth, became invested with the title to the whole property, and occupied it till his death in 1854; and his widow still resides in the handsome stone dwelling house near the mill, with her nephew Joseph H. Bruere,\* who holds the title in the property at the present time. The mill is about a mile and a half from Princeton on the Lawrenceville road. The pond which is at a considerable distance above it, is a beautiful sheet of water, shaded by tall trees on either side of it, and is much resorted to for the amusement of fishing, boating, bathing and skating.

The Worth family was never numerous; and the family name has almost disappeared in this community. There are many of our citizens who recollect Josiah S. Worth, as the genial and honorable citizen, upright and trustworthy in public office, with a kind heart towards all men. He served the public in the legislature and in many local offices acceptably. He was the last among us who bore the family name, and he died without issue in 1854. His amiable and much beloved sister, Mary Worth Olden, remembered for her benevolence and piety as also for her business capacity, died in 1852, and has two children surviving her, viz., Joseph Olden and Susan W. Olden, who reside in Princeton, on a part of the homestead of a branch of their Olden ancestry.

There was a John Worth who married Jane Giles, a sister to the wives of Joseph Worth, William Olden and Benjamin Clarke, but whether he ever resided at Stony Brook or anywhere in this region of country, we have no knowledge.

IV. JOHN HORNOR came to Princeton, from Piscataway in 1696. He settled on the property which he purchased, in that year, of Dr. John Gordon, which consisted of that tract of land embraced between the road leading from Queenston to the Aqueduct Mills, on one side, and the road now known as Washington Street on the other side, and bounded on the north by the main street of Princeton, and on the south by the

\* Mr. Bruere has furnished this history of the mill.

Millstone River and Stony Brook, covering about four hundred acres, which included the farms now held by Joseph Olden and Alexander Gray, formerly known as the Sergeant farm, and the Hamilton farm; and the several lots on the south side of the main street, which have been built upon.

He was an enterprising man, and by his buying, selling and exchanging lands, he contributed much to the growth of the village. In 1722 he was the owner of all the land on the north side of the main street, opposite the tract which he had bought in 1696, and extending probably as far up as Witherspoon Street, and as far north as the Mangrove farm, which Thomas Leonard had bought—the farm now occupied by John V. Terhune.

John Hornor belonged to the Society of Friends, and his name is entitled to be honored in the history of Princeton College. It was he who joined with John Stockton and Thomas Leonard in a bond for one thousand pounds, to secure the planting of the college here. He sold and conveyed ten acres of land to the college, adjoining the seven acres which had been secured to it. He was present and assisted in laying the corner stone of the college, in 1754. It was he, with John Stockton and Thomas Leonard, assisted some by Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, who accepted the proposals of the trustees of the college to remove that institution to Princeton, provided the trustees should receive ten acres of cleared land, two hundred acres of woodland, and one thousand pounds proclamation money; and they complied promptly with those conditions, by securing to the college the land and money required. How soon after the year 1754, Mr. Hornor died, we have no record to inform us. He was doubtless buried at Stony Brook burying ground, but no monument there perpetuates his name, or age, or marks his grave. He must have lived to an advanced age; and he must have been a man of considerable wealth. He certainly exhibited a liberal mind, when though a Quaker he bestowed his favors upon a college which was understood to be Presbyterian, and whose charter provided for the teaching of "Divinity" in it.

From this progenitor, there were descendants bearing his name, through nearly five generations, in Princeton, yet very limited in number. His son Samuel Hornor was a large land-

holder not only under the will of his father, but by deeds to himself. In 1746 he was commissioned by Gov. John Hamilton, an ensign to Captain Henry Leonard in the expedition against Canada. In 1765 he purchased three hundred acres of James Leonard, north of Barefoot Brinson's millfarm which included the present farm of Dr. Hodge at Kingston. He died about the year 1770, leaving a will with Mary Hornor, Joseph Hornor and Robert Stockton his executors. These executors in April, 1770, conveyed the homestead farm, which was then adjoining Jonathan Baldwin, to Jonathan Sergeant. It would thus appear probable that John Hornor's homestead was on the Sergeant farm. After the death of Samuel, the survivors of the family were gathered around what we know now as Queenston. This place was formerly called Jug-town, a name given to it because the Hornor family kept a pottery there for many years, where *jugs* were manufacturèd. It has since been called Queenston. Several houses and places of business were erected there, such as a store, tavern, tanyard, school, shops, etc. The last of the descendants, except Robert E. Hornor, removed to Milwaukee before 1840, and he became an active and prominent citizen of Princeton, of whom notice will be hereinafter taken. He died without issue in 1844, and none now bear the family name of Hornor in this neighborhood.

V. RICHARD STOCKTON, the first settler of this name in Princeton, was the son of Richard Stockton of Burlington, New Jersey, who was a descendant of an ancient and highly respectable family of the town of Stockton in Durham on the river Tees, which is the boundary line between Durham and Yorkshire, in England. He, the father, emigrated with his wife and children from England to Flushing, Long Island; and thence to New Jersey immediately after purchasing of George Hutchinson, a tract of land containing two thousand acres for three hundred and twenty-five pounds, by deed March 10, 1692. That tract of land was situated at a place then known only by its Indian name of *An-na-nicken*, sometimes spelled *On-c-on-ick-cn*, in the easterly end of the present township of Springfield, in the county of Burlington. It was over two

miles in length and a mile in width, adjoining the southerly boundary of the homestead farm of the ancestor of the Newbold family.

The present road from Wrightstown to Jobstown runs through it, and the tract extends quite across the marl region and includes some of the very best land in Burlington County, in the farms now owned by Michael E. Newbold, John and Thomas Black, Thomas J. Warren, James C. Bullock, David Stockton and others. In 1815 upwards of one thousand acres of said tract were still owned and occupied by the descendants of said Richard Stockton. The mansion house of James Shreve deceased is on the site of the first house built, and occupied by Mr. Stockton till his death on said tract. He left a will dated January 25, 1706, admitted to probate October 10, 1707. He devised four hundred acres of this tract to each of his sons Richard and Job, and the residue of the tract he devised to be equally divided between his three sons Richard, John and Job. He left a widow (Abigail), three sons, Richard, John and Job, and five daughters, Abigail (Ridgway), Sarah (Jones), Mary, Hannah, and Elizabeth. His widow was left his executor.

Richard Stockton (the second) who came to Princeton in 1696, emigrated with his father from England to escape the persecutions which all dissenters had experienced from the restored dynasties of the Stuarts. He was a member of the Society of Friends. He first settled in the neighborhood, a little northeast of Flushing, Long Island, with his father. It was near a creek called Stony Brook, south west from Setauket, He did not go with his father to Burlington, but went to Piscataway, either before or after his father removed to Burlington, probably before; and from Piscataway he removed to the neighborhood of Princeton, which up to that time had no name, but which afterward was named Stony Brook, he having called the stream which passed through the land he bought of Penn, Stony Brook, in remembrance of the little Stony Brook stream which ran through his land on Long Island. The Indian name of that creek was *Wopowog*. This is the origin of the name of our Stony Brook which flows around Princeton, and this name was recognized by Penn in

his deed to Stockton for the five thousand five hundred acre tract, in 1701.\*

He purchased, in the same year in which he arrived here, of Dr. John Gordon, four hundred acres of land, adjoining the tract which John Hornor bought in the same year, of the same person; and this tract of Mr. Stockton extended from Washington Street as it is now called, to the tract which William Olden had in that same year, purchased of Benjamin Clarke. He thus became the owner of all the land between the main street of Princeton and Stony Brook, bounded on one side by Hornor and on the other by Olden—land which is now occupied by the college and the seminary buildings, the Episcopal church, Edgohill, Mercer Street, Steadman Street, Canal Street, Railroad Avenue and Prospect. It is impossible to ascertain whether he resided on this tract or not; but there is reason to believe that he did; and that his residence was in the old stone house now known as the "Barracks" in Edgohill Street, or in some house on or near that site. He certainly did not then live on the Morven property, for he did not buy that until five years after he came to Princeton.

In the year 1701, October 20, William Penn conveyed to this Richard Stockton a tract of five thousand five hundred acres reserving therein ten hundred and fifty acres. This was that part of the Penn tract which lay on the north side of the Stony Brook, except what lay between the province line and Stony Brook. Penn also owned six thousand five hundred acres on the south-east side of the stream. He received this land as his share, in the division of the proprietors, in 1693. The boundaries of this tract which Mr. Stockton purchased are set forth in the deed as follows:

"All that tract of land situate lying and being in the County of Middlesex, Beginning where the road from Raritan to the Falls of Delaware doth cross the partition line betwixt east and west Jersey, and runneth along the said line north and by west and three degrees westerly, two hundred and eighty chains; thence east, one hundred and forty-five chains; thence east south east, two hundred and five chains more or less, to the land of Henry Greenland; thence south-east and by south, and east south-east, as the said Greenland's line doth run to Millstone

---

\* We are indebted to the Hon. George Sykes, of Burlington county, for this information respecting the name of Stony Brook—and also for much other information respecting the original families of Clarke, Olden, Worth and Stockton.

River ; thence up along the said river and Stony Brook to the lower corner of Dr. John Gordon's land on said brook ; thence north, north-west, and south-west as said Gordon's and Daniel Brinson's line goes to the north corner of Thomas Warne's land on the said road ; and thence along the road one hundred and twenty eight chains, more or less, to the place of Beginning, bounded west by the said partition line, north by land of Peter Sonmans, east and south by lands of said Greenland, part by Millstone River and Stony Brook, part by land of said Gordon and Brinson and part by the said road. Excepting always out of this present grant or feoffment the full and just quantity of one thousand and fifty acres of land with the appurtenance, (part of the said five thousand and five hundred acres) and to be taken off and divided therefrom, together in one entire tract or parcel either in that part of the said five thousand and five hundred acres at the place of beginning aforesaid and so by the said partition line of the said provinces of east and west Jersies, or in that part of the same adjoining to John Hornor's land, as to said William Penn shall seem meet and convenient."

The consideration was nine hundred pounds. There appears to be an omission of one course in the above description.

It will be observed that this large tract, which was conveyed by William Penn to Richard Stockton, is described in the Penn deed, as being "in the county of Middlesex." This we can only explain by the fact that when Penn received his deed for it, it was in Middlesex, because Somerset at that time had not been set off as a new county from Middlesex. And in copying the deed to Stockton, the change in the county must have been inadvertently overlooked.

The other tract of six thousand five hundred acres on the south-east side of the stream of Stony Brook, the Penns sold and conveyed entire in 1737 to Garret Schenck and John Kovenhoven of Monmouth County. A portion of it is called Penn's Neck. The original patent for this tract is still in the possession of the heirs of the late John G. Schenck, of Penn's Neck—the lineal descendants of Garret Schenck the patentee.

By these large possessions of valuable land Richard Stockton and his descendants held a prominent place among the early settlers in Princeton. He lived, however, only a few years after he made these purchases. His large estate remained almost intact at the time of his death. He died in 1709, leaving a will which bears date on the 25th day of the fourth month of that year, and was proved August 15th before J. Basse, Surrogate—the probate being signed and sealed November 30, 1709. By this will, Mr. Stockton devised to his

oldest son Richard Stockton, three hundred acres of land, adjoining the rear of John Hornor's: To his second son Samuel Stockton five hundred acres, lying on both sides of Stony Brook: To his third son Joseph Stockton two hundred acres, (Spring dale farm) "lying between Benjamin Randall (Randolph) and William Holding (Olden)," also three hundred acres back of his brother Samuel's: To his fourth son Robert Stockton five hundred acres adjoining that which is given to Samuel: To his fifth son John Stockton five hundred acres, part of it his *dwelling plantation*, the other part to be made up of woodland: To his sixth son Thomas Stockton four hundred acres, at Annanicken, which had been devised to him by his father, and one hundred and forty acres besides. The meadows were to be divided between his five oldest sons. To his mother, Abigail, he gives twenty shillings a year; and to his loving wife Susanna all of his dwelling plantation until his son John becomes of age, and then half of the house and improvements during her natural life, with all the rest and residue of his real and personal estate, with the use of all his negro slaves, except Dinah which he gave to his brother Philip Phillips; every one of his sons as they came of age to have one slave. He appointed his wife Susanna, his sole executrix, with John Stockton, Samuel Wilson and Benjamin Clarke, trustees in his will. After adding a memorandum, giving to all the sons alike an estate in fee-simple, in the several devises to them, the will was executed in the presence of Thomas Leicester, Jane V. Houghton, Henry W. Mershon, Joseph Worth, John Kelley and Benjamin Clarke, as witnesses thereto.

After the death of the testator his widow Susanna Stockton, the executrix, conveyed to the several devisees additional meadow land, and caused a survey and a map to be made of the whole partitional estate of the testator. This map bears date 1709, and was made by William Emley and is still in existence. The whole front on the old road extending from the province line, beyond the Millette farm to Bayard Avenue, was divided between Samuel, Robert and John—Samuel taking six hundred acres on both sides of the Stony Brook, including what afterwards became the Worth mill-property, but the largest part was on the other side of the creek including the Millette



farm now Purser Gulick's; Robert taking his five hundred acres next towards Princeton, including all as far as to what is now known as "Morven." The homestead of this tract has been known as "Constitution Hill." And John, who was the father of the signer of the Declaration, took what was called in the will the homestead plantation—now "Morven."

It is reasonable to infer from the devise to John Stockton, who is known to have occupied the "Morven" plantation, that the testator's homestead was there, notwithstanding in his will he describes himself as "of Middlesex County:" while Morven was in Somerset. In fact, prior to 1709, the whole of what is now included within Princeton township, was in Somerset County. The original line of Somerset ran from Inian's Ferry (New Brunswick) to the road that runs from that place to Cranberry Brook; thence westerly to the Sanpinck Brook; thence down the Sanpinck to the province line; thence on that line, etc. But in 1713, the old road from New Brunswick to Trenton, by Jedediah Higgins' house, in Kingston, was made the county line. Prior to 1688, the whole of Somerset County was included within Middlesex County, the former having, in that year, been set off from the latter.

The Stockton family, though originally Quakers, did not adhere so rigidly or so long to that Society as did the other families hereinbefore mentioned as the first settlers at Stony Brook. No family in Princeton has maintained for so long a period so prominent and illustrious a name as the Stockton family; and the history of Princeton cannot be written without the name of Stockton appearing in every successive generation with the highest honor and with a fame of preëminent lustre.

We have not been furnished with a genealogical tree of the family; but in order to show to what branches certain prominent persons of this name who are hereinafter mentioned belong, we will state that,

I. Richard Stockton (the second), who came to Princeton in 1696 and died here in 1709, had six sons, viz., Richard, Samuel, Joseph, Robert, John and Thomas. They all married and reared families in the vicinity of Princeton.

II. Robert Stockton, the fourth son of Richard above mentioned, to whom belonged the Constitution Hill plantation,

(lately known as the Edward Stockton farm), was the ancestor of Major Robert Stockton, who was quartermaster in the Revolutionary war, and the father of Dr. Ebenezer Stockton, Job Stockton, Mrs. Dr. Ashbel Green, Mrs. Thomas P. Johnson, Mrs. James and others deceased; and the grandfather of Major Robert Stockton, Mrs. Boteler and Mrs. Terry, who are still living.

III. John Stockton, the third son of Richard above mentioned, who occupied the plantation of which Morven is a portion, was the most prominent of the six sons. The most illustrious of the Stocktons are found in this line of descent. From him we trace Richard, the distinguished signer of the Declaration—who occupied Morven till it passed to his son Richard, the great lawyer who died in 1828, and who was the father of Commodore Robert F. Stockton; and from the Commodore we trace his sons the late Richard Stockton of Princeton, and Attorney General John P. Stockton, and General Robert F. Stockton, of Trenton.

John Stockton was the father of two other sons of prominence and distinction besides Richard the signer, viz., Samuel Witham Stockton and Rev. Philip Stockton.

IV. The other sons of Richard the first settler of Princeton, were the ancestors of numerous descendants, so multiplied in successive generations that we cannot trace their family relations. These families have entirely disappeared from this vicinity. None but the descendants of John and Robert, so far as we can learn, are living or are represented in Princeton at the present day.

It is impossible for us to state which one, if any of these five families, may be regarded as the pioneer, or whether they all came at one time, and under a mutual agreement. They all appear to have come in the year 1696, and three of them, viz., the Clarkes, Oldens and Worths were closely related by marriage, and they bought and built on the Warne tract while John Hornor and Richard Stockton, coming the same year, and from the same neighborhood, with the others purchased of Dr. Gordon, and first settled upon that tract. The probability is that they had all agreed to come and buy and settle here before any one had yet come. But this is only our inference from

the circumstances of the case; and the fact may be otherwise.

VI. FITZ RANDOLPH is the name of a family connected with the early settlement of Princeton.

Benjamin Fitz Randolph came to Princeton from Piscataway, between 1696 and 1699. His fifth child was born in Princeton, April 24, 1699, and all his children born after that date were born in Princeton. He was the youngest son of Edward Fitz Randolph, who was from Nottinghamshire in old England, and who came with his parents to New England when a lad and lived at Barnstable, Massachusetts. There he married a wife whose maiden name was Blossom. Her parents fled from England because of persecution in about 1620. They put into Holland and she was born there. Edward had six children, the youngest was Benjamin, who came to Piscataway, New Jersey, about 1668. His first wife was Sarah Dennis. She died in 1732, and was buried in Princeton. His second wife was Margaret Robertson. He had nine children by his first wife, viz., Sarah, Grace, Ruth, Benjamin, Isaac, Nathaniel, Grace the second, and Elisabeth; by his second wife, Mary and Margaret. He died in 1746—aged eighty-three and one-half years. He bought land of Richard Stockton, about one hundred acres, embracing the ground where the College now stands, and Mrs. Potter's farm, as early as about 1704; and later, but before 1709, he bought of the Stockton tract, that portion then unsold between Bayard and Witherspoon Streets, on the north side of the main street, which he afterward conveyed to Thomas Leonard. His daughter Grace married Stephen Johnes of Maidenhead, in 1728. They had seven children. One of them, Sarah, married Noah Hunt.

Ruth Fitz Randolph married first Edward Harrison, of Griggstown, and afterwards in 1720, John Snowden, of Philadelphia. She had two children by her first and four by her second husband. Hope married Henry Davis, and had seven children. Benjamin, who was born in Princeton in 1699, married Elisabeth Pridmore and had three children; he died in 1758. Isaac, born in 1701, in Princeton, married Rebekah Seabrook and afterwards Hannah Lee. He built a mill on the Millstone River, a short distance above the Aqueduct Mills.

Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, the seventh child of Benjamin by his first wife, Sarah Dennis, was born in Princeton, Nov. 11, 1703. He married Rebecca Mershon, who was two years older than himself, in 1729; they had fourteen children. They were all born in Princeton except one, who was born in Maryland but died here. His family record states that Job died in Princeton in 1760, of small-pox; and that Elisabeth, the youngest, was born in his brick house near Princeton, in 1757. Ten of the children were daughters. The sons were Job, Samuel, John and Nathaniel, the last named died in infancy. Samuel married Amy Edwards in 1762. Eunice married Gershom Hunt, and Sarah married Thomas Norris. Ann married Paul Fitz Randolph. Ruth married Christopher Skillman. John married Elisabeth Vance. Rebekah married James Perrine. Rachel married Thomas Wetherill. Hannah married Wm. Pangborn.\* They were a very fruitful progeny, and their descendants multiplied rapidly.

Nathaniel was a man of some prominence in Princeton, and his name will appear again when we refer to the establishment of the college in this place, in which he took much interest. The family of Randolphs in New Brunswick to which the present United States Senator and Ex-Governor of New Jersey belongs, was related to this one, having dropped the Fitz in their name.

We have thus presented a brief history of the early settlement of "Stony Brook." We have named the six intelligent, sterling, religious families who came here prior to the year 1700, and took up all the land in what is now known as Princeton Township, except a small tract on the north and west of the Kingston Mills. We have designated the several parcels of land upon which those first settlers planted their homes. We have traced their history down to the death of Richard Stockton, in 1709, and the division of the large estate among his several sons, down to the time when the children were beginning to take the place of their fathers, and the number of households began to multiply.

The next prominent man who came and settled in Princeton was

\* From the Fitz Randolph Family Journal.

THOMAS LEONARD.—We are not able to state precisely in what year Mr. Leonard came to reside here; but it was probably as early as 1710. He came from Massachusetts, where his immediate ancestors, who came from England, settled in 1652; and we find him, with his wife Susannah, as “of Stony Brook,” conveying by his deed, dated 1711, to Henry Prince, of Piscataway, a merchant, two hundred acres of land, north of John Stockton’s land, and adjoining other land of said Leonard on the north and east. Mr. Leonard soon became one of the largest land-holders in this neighborhood; and he owned much land in other counties. In 1716 he and his wife joined with Richard Stockton (the second in Princeton) in a deed to Rutt Johnson, for five hundred and fifty acres along the Stony Brook and the Province line. In 1722 he bought of the sons of Richard Stockton, the farm known as “Mansgrove,” containing one hundred and sixty acres; this was the farm occupied for many years by Emley Olden, now the residence of John V. Terhune, about a mile north of Princeton. He sold, in the same year, to John Van Horn six hundred and ten acres on the Millstone. And still later, perhaps about 1740, he bought of Benjamin Fitz Randolph that large tract north of the main street of Princeton, between Bayard and Witherspoon Streets, as far north as Tusculum; and he also purchased of John Hornor the land lying on the east side of Witherspoon Street. He was a man well educated for those days, and possessed as much, if not more, public spirit than any of his contemporaries in this community. He was almost continually in public office. Sometimes a presiding Judge of the Common Pleas, in Somerset County; and for nearly a quarter of a century he served as a member in the Colonial legislature, at various sessions between 1723 and 1744, from Somerset County. He was a member of the eighth General Assembly, held at Perth Amboy. His residence at the time of his death, was in the house now kept as the Nassau Hotel; a part of the present building having been built by him in 1756, of brick imported by him from Holland. It was an elegant residence. He was an intimate friend of Judge Berrien and also of John Stockton and Richard Stockton, his son, the Signer of the Declaration. When he

entered public life he bore the military title of Colonel. He was one of the original Corporators named in the charter of Princeton College and was influential in securing the location of that institution in Princeton.

In 1738 Col. Leonard and Thomas Farmer were Loan Commissioners of the Province of New Jersey, for Somerset County; and it was their duty to cancel a large amount of Bills of Credit outstanding. The committee of the Assembly whose duty it was to inspect the Treasurer's accounts, charged them with negligence in not cancelling the several sums at the time appointed by Act of the Assembly, by which misconduct the public credit was greatly injured. The report was signed by Joseph Cooper, chairman; and it was followed by an order of the Assembly that the Commissioners should bring the balance still uncanceled, amounting to four hundred and sixty seven pounds, to be cancelled by the sixth of February, and that the Justices and Freeholders of the county should give attendance on that day to see it cancelled. This order not being obeyed, was followed by another one of February 22, that a committee wait on the Governor and desire him to prosecute them with the utmost rigor. The minutes of the Assembly disclose nothing farther on the subject; and the commissioners undoubtedly paid the amount due, and by complying with their duty avoided a suit in law; but so far as we can learn, the commissioners made no explanation of the cause of complaint against them. Notwithstanding this, both Col. Leonard and Mr. Farmer retained the public confidence and received public honors in the public service for years afterwards.

Judge Leonard became involved in another charge, impugning his official integrity as a Judge of the Pleas, in the year 1750; but he made a successful defence in vindication of his conduct. This matter, like the preceding complaint against him, stands on the records of the State, and it is therefore proper to advert to it. The facts were these: Barefoot Brinson, the sheriff of Somerset County, whose residence was near Princeton, died in office. John Riddle, of Princeton was appointed to fill the vacancy, but it was alleged that he had refused to qualify, by neglecting to give proper securities, sign the roll and take the oath of office. It was further charged

that his character was infamous, his conduct vicious, and that he had procured his appointment through the recommendation of Judge Leonard, who knew him well, and who permitted him to act without first qualifying himself. Judge Leonard was also charged with assisting him in inveigling John Horner to become surety on his bond, by falsely pretending that John Davison was to be one of the sureties, and afterwards erasing his name and adding that of William Montier. The House ordered Judge Leonard in a private way, to give information of the qualifications of said sheriff; but the Judge refused, and thereby implied misbehavior. Therefore they thought that he should not retain his office any longer.

The Governor sent his message to him, to which the Judge replied at length, but substantially as follows:—That John Riddle, late pretended sheriff, came many years ago to live at Princeton, and kept a store of goods there; and afterwards married a woman there with good estate, real and personal, and had sundry negroes and other personal estate: that after his marriage he built a house and lived in it: that he had a good reputation and respect of the community: that upon the death of Barefoot Brinson, he was recommended for this appointment by most of the freeholders of the county, of whom he was one, not doubting his ability and fitness; that John Horner owned real estate on the side of the road in Middlesex, though he has sold his land in Somerset, and he was responsible: that William Montier owned a lot in Middlesex, and was building a house upon it; but then lived in a rented house in Somerset: that he was innocent as to the execution of the bond, and deemed it good and lawful, but he had not seen the oath act, and had referred Riddle to the clerk: that he knew of no blot on his character till he ran away; and was only then informed that he had taken to drinking privately, but never heard of any other vice: that he had left in debt to him (the Judge) to the amount of thirty pounds, and he denied having acted in bad faith.

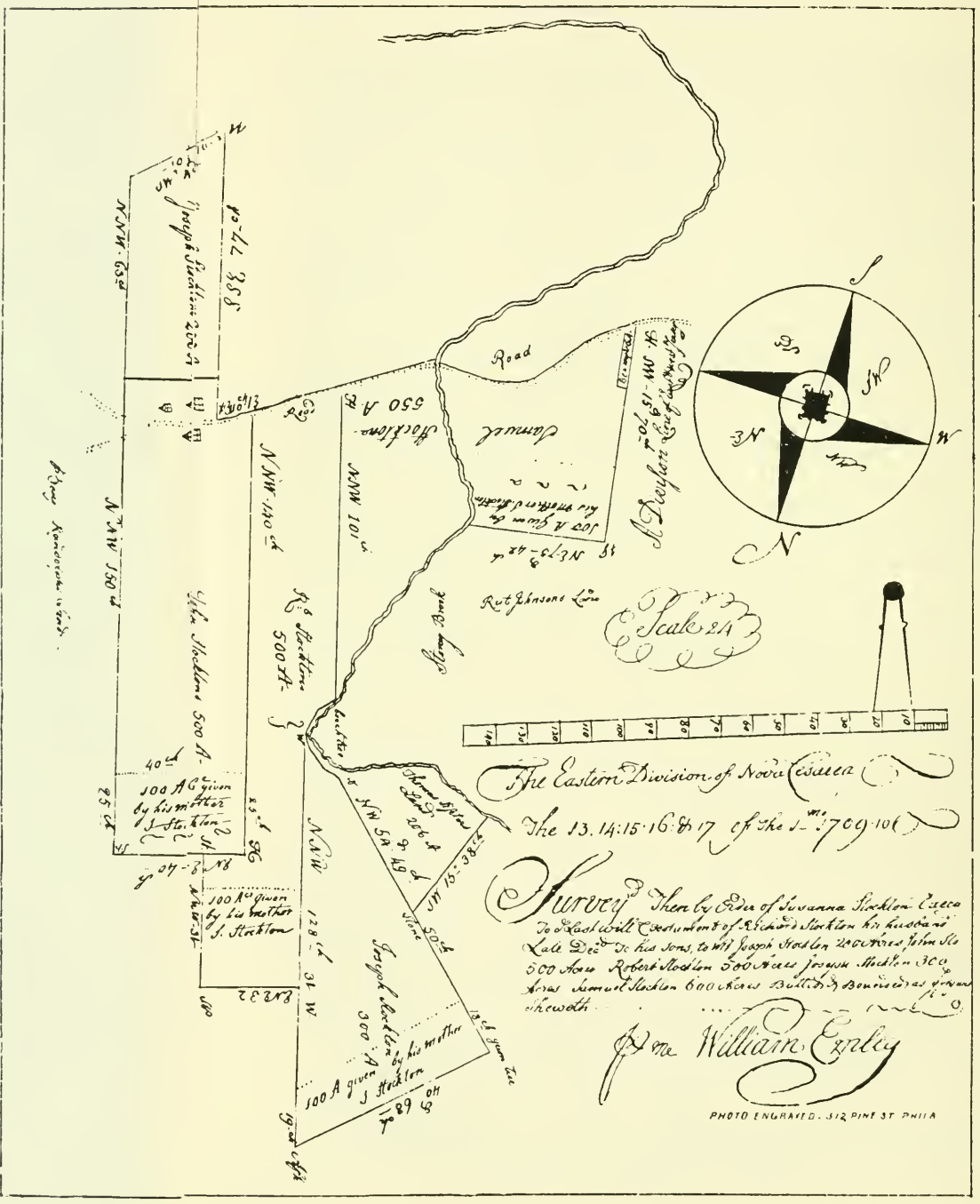
The Governor not finding Judge Leonard in fault, the case was referred to the House of Assembly. The House refused to give the matter a second reading.\*

Judge Leonard met with the original trustees of the college

\* See Votes of Assembly, Vol. II, p. 42.



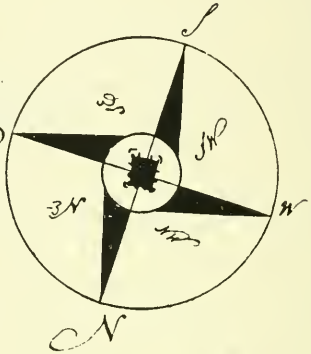
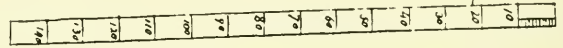




N 1/4 W 65 ft  
 N 1/4 W 77 ft  
 Joseph Stockton 200 A

N 1/4 W 150 ft  
 N 1/4 W 140 ft  
 500 A  
 500 A given by his mother J. Stockton  
 40 ft  
 85 ft

550 A  
 N 1/4 W 101 ft  
 500 A  
 500 ft  
 500 A given by his mother J. Stockton



Scale 2A



The Eastern Division of Nova Caesaria  
 The 13. 14. 15. 16. & 17 of the 1700 100

Surveyed then by Edm of Savanna Station Caesaria  
 To East with Excursions of Robert Stockton his hands on  
 Late Dec<sup>r</sup> to his sons to wit Joseph Stockton 200 acres John do  
 500 Acres Robert Stockton 500 Acres James Stockton 300  
 Acres Samuel Stockton 600 Acres Built by Benjamin deas given  
 the width

Wm. Erley

PHOTO ENGRAVED - 512 PINE ST. PHILA

of New Jersey, October 13, 1748, at New Brunswick, and was qualified to act as trustee. He met with that board at Newark in the following month. He and John Stockton were appointed on a committee to solicit subscriptions for the college. He was also appointed in September, 1752, chairman of the building committee to act for the trustees in erecting the college and the President's house.

Though twice married he left no children. His second wife was Abigail Doughty, a widow with three daughters. He had four brothers and a sister. He died in 1759, leaving a will dated December 6, 1755, with a codicil added in 1757. He died seized of a very large estate, and his will is very long; but it throws so much light upon the history of Princeton, and also upon the character and family of the testator, that an abstract of it will be read with interest by the older residents of this place. We have not learned where Judge Leonard was buried, but suppose it was in the Quaker burying ground at Stony Brook. There is no monument there to his memory, and his grave is unknown. He has no kindred bearing the family name residing in Princeton at the present time.\*

\* There have been several attempts made within a few years past on behalf of some of the remote kindred of Judge Leonard, residing in some other States, to establish a title in them as heirs, to some of the property on the north side of Nassau Street, but no suit has been successfully prosecuted. The claimants were probably misled by their ignorance of the fact that the land claimed was subjected to a judicial sale, under a claim against the estate of Judge Leonard, soon after his death, whereby the title was diverted from the legal course of descent among the heirs, and from the devise in the will.

In November 1769, a petition was presented to the House of Assembly from Samuel Tucker and Thomas Watson, two of the assignees of Thomas Leonard, late of Princeton, in the County of Somerset, deceased, complaining against Robert Stockton as having falsely secreted a deed (from Judge Leonard to the said Thomas Leonard) for a valuable house and lot in Princeton, which was sold by the sheriff as the Judge's property, on an execution against his estate; and a deed also fraudulently obtained from the petitioners to the said Robert Stockton, who purchased at the vendue for three pounds one shilling, and praying the Legislature to vacate the sale. A petition also from Moore Furman of Philadelphia, merchant, stated that he was a creditor of Thomas Leonard and desired the sale to be vacated.

The House in Committee of the Whole, heard the case and the parties and reported that in their opinion no fraud had appeared in said Robert Stockton, and the House agreed *nem. con.* in dismissing the petition.

## ABSTRACT OF THOMAS LEONARD'S WILL.

Date *December 6, 1755.* Gifts bequests and devises as follows:

To my nephew Samuel Leonard, son of my brother Henry Leonard, deceased, deemed to be my heir at law, twenty shillings, proc. money.

To my nephew Thomas Leonard, brother to said Samuel, three hundred acres in Hunterdon County. Also, plantation at Fly-Brook, in Middlesex County, about one hundred acres, on condition that he pay to his brother Capt. Henry Leonard, forty pounds.

To my nephew Capt. Henry Leonard, all my title to the Indian purchase near Squan River, ten thousand acres, which I hold under a deed from Samuel Leonard, brother of Henry. Also my house and lot in Kingston, where Benjamin Maple lives.

To my nephew John Leonard, son of my late brother John Leonard, deceased, six hundred and forty acres on Cape Fear River, near a place called Brompton. Also a negro lad called John.

To my nephew Whitehead Leonard, my house and lot in Kingston, which I bought of Gudgeon, in possession of the widow Brunson. Also to Whitehead and John Leonard his brother, an infant, the Grist-Mill on Opposite Brook, in Middlesex County, with power to sell, &c.

To my nephew Daniel Leonard, son of my deceased brother James, my house and lot in Princeton, where Samuel Hornor lives, from and after the death of my wife Abigail; Subject to the payment of ten pounds to his sister Sarah Leonard, and ten pounds to my niece Sarah Tindall, daughter of my late brother John Leonard.

To my said niece Sarah Leonard, daughter of my brother James, deceased, a lot of land at Amboy, next to the lot devised to her by her father. I also devise to her a small plantation of about thirty acres, in the County of Middlesex, where Samuel Groves now lives.

To my nephews Whitehead Leonard, James Leonard and Thomas Leonard, sons of my brother James Leonard, the land and Saw-Mill and one thousand five hundred acres on both sides of Deep-Run, in Middlesex County, subject to a payment of five pounds each, to my niece Nancy Elridge.

To my nephew Thomas Leonard, son of brother James, deceased, the land I hold in partnership, or lately held with brother Samuel, subject to pay to my niece Sarah, sister of the last named Thomas, ten pounds, and to each of my sister Mrs. Walker's two daughters, fifteen pounds.

To my nephew Capt. Henry Leonard's eldest son ten pounds.

To my niece Sarah, daughter of my late brother Henry, deceased, ten pounds.

To Hannah, wife of Richard Salter, ten pounds.

To Pamela Leonard, daughter of my nephew Thomas, ten pounds.

To Lucy Leonard, daughter of Whitehead Leonard aforesaid, ten pounds.

My nephew Thomas is to pay these legacies.

To Samuel Hornor I give my plantation in Middlesex County which I bought of Stephen Gudgeon, but he is to pay his daughter Amy ten pounds.

To Sarah Tindall, daughter of my brother John, deceased, my land at Raritan Landing, above New Brunswick.

To my well beloved friend John Berrien, my house and lot of one acre in Kings-

ton, which I bought of Abram Bonnell. To his brother Peter Berrien, the house and lot in Somerset, next to where he now lives; the title whereof is now in the hands of his brother John Berrien, aforesaid.

To my wife Abigail, during her natural life and widowhood, my house and lot in Princeton where Samuel Hornor now lives, and after that, to my nephew Daniel Leonard to whom I have devised it. I also give her my house in Princeton, where Richard Patterson now dwells, and which she purchased of John Dean, Esq., late high sheriff of Middlesex, before our marriage, for her life, and after her death I give it to her three daughters, viz., Hannah Doughty, Susanna Doughty and Deborah Doughty, with my negro girl Caroline, and above what is in our contract in lieu of dower. Also all the leather chairs which she brought with her when we were married. I also give her while my widow, five acres of pasture land next to what I sold to Joseph Green, together with dead timber to burn for her own fire. I also give to said Hannah Doughty all my house and lot in Penns Neck forever.

To Charity a daughter of my nephew Thomas Leonard, and to Mary daughter of my nephew Whitehead Leonard, brother to said Thomas Leonard, all my house and lot in Kingston, which I bought of Richard Huff.

To Charity, a daughter of my nephew Whitehead Leonard, and to Deborah Doughty, my house and lot in Kingston where Richard Sleppy now dwells, as tenants in common.

To Thomas Leonard, son of my nephew Thomas, one of my executors, all my house and lot in Trenton, and a negro, Francis.

To Whitehead Leonard, and to his brother my said nephew Thomas, son of my late brother, James Leonard, all that tract of land in Middlesex County, on the south side of my grist mill brook near Kingston, adjoining land of Thomas Van Dike, and west by Millstone River, containing about two hundred acres, to hold as tenants in common, not joint tenants.

To the said last mentioned Thomas Leonard, son of my said brother James, I give, etc., "All that tract beginning at the east corner of what was commonly called the late Doctor Brinton Davison's land, in the street in Princeton; thence running down the middle of the tract, as the road is laid out to Hornor's line; thence running north N. west to John Robinson's brook: being bounded north by part of "Mansgrove," west by land hereinafter mentioned, to be a devise to my nephew Thomas Leonard; south to Princetown street, to his heirs and assigns forever." "Also the plantation where Nathaniel Runyon now lives, with about twenty acres of meadow adjoining my plantation called "Mansgrove." Also all of my plantation called "Mansgrove" bound east by Thomas Mershon, north by land I bought of Thomas Stockton. Also all my plantation, etc. which I had in company with the Stocktons, bound north by the college land; south by Mansgrove, and east by Aaron Hughes, called by the name of "Mayberry Hill." Also all my plantation called Cole Brook, bounded north by Nathaniel Fitz Randolph—west by Joseph Stockton, and south by lands hereinbefore bequeathed to said Thomas Leonard.

To my nephew James Leonard, son of brother James, deceased, all that Plantation, now in the tenure of Neville Furman. Also the plantation where Jeremiah Denton now lives, adjoining James Van Horne's land, and John Stockton's, upon condition that he deliver up an assigned bond which I gave to his father, for which I never received any consideration.

To Thomas Leonard, of Crosswicks, son of my nephew John Leonard, that house and lot in Kingston, where Martha Hide now lives.

To Thomas Leonard, my nephew, son of brother James deceased, that tract of land in Princetown beginning at the north west corner of the late Dr. Brinton Davison's lot, so called; thence north north west to Green's lot; thence continuing the same course to a small run of water crossing the Rocky Hill road, where John Robinson now lives; thence down the said brook as it runs to Joseph Stockton's land; thence as his land runs to Princetown street or road: thence down said road or street to the said Doctor Brinton Davison's lot: and down his lot to the place where it first began, containing one hundred and thirty acres, more or less, during his natural life, remainder to my said good friend John Berrien of Rocky Hill, and his heirs, for the life of said William Leonard, in trust to preserve the contingent use and estate hereinafter limited from being destroyed and for the purpose of making entries, etc. And after the death of said Thomas Leonard, I devise it unto the first, second, third and all the other sons of the body of the said Thomas lawfully begotten, or hereafter lawfully in succession to one after another—in seniority and heirs male, and in default of such issue, to the issue heirs male of my brother James Leonard, deceased, in like manner, always preferring the male to the female. *Also* the rent of five pounds annually issuing out of the house and lot in Princetown, where William Montier lives. *Also* my slaves, viz., Harry, Jack, John, James, Frank, Abraham, Isabell, Judy, Nancy, Poll, Betty, Dinah, and Jenny. *Also* all my stock of horse kind, cattle, sheep, hogs, with farmer's tools and utensils, household stuff except what is given to my wife. *Also* the residue of my estate real and personal. He paying and discharging all my debts and legacies.

I appoint my nephew Thomas Leonard, son of brother James, and my friend John Berrien of Rocky Hill, *executors* of this, my will.

I revoke the clause giving my Patterson house in Princetown, after the death of my wife to her three daughters, and direct it to be sold, and the proceeds to be divided between them—Hannah to receive twenty pounds more than the other two.

If James does not give up the bond I gave to his father as aforesaid, within one month after request, the devise to him shall pass over to Thomas Leonard my nephew.

Whereas I have devised to said Thomas Leonard, a certain tract of land in Princetown, for his natural life, and then to his first, second, third and other sons of his body in tail, male; it is my will that the whole tract shall not stand limited and entailed in manner, etc., but a certain part shall be so limited, viz. Beginning at a well one half of which I have before conveyed to Samuel Horner: thence as the road runs to Brinton Davison's: thence along the corner of his lot in a square angle four chains and a half: thence on a straight line to the well: all the rest of the tract. All the rest of the tract is to stand limited and entailed to Thomas Leonard and his heirs male. And I give to said Thomas my other negro men, Henry, Jack, Philip and Bill.

(Signed),

THOMAS LEONARD, (L.S.)

Witnesses.

Thomas Watson, }  
Richard Patterson, }  
Joseph Murrow. }

A codicil was added June 1, 1757, revoking the entailment of part of the one hundred and thirty acres, and giving it in fee to Thomas Leonard.

Witnessed by

Joseph Murrow, }  
Thomas Watson, }  
Joseph Yard, Jr. }

The will was proved before Theodore Stevens, Surrogate, November 23, 1759, and letters Probate were issued by Charles Read, Register, to Thomas Leonard, by Francis Bernard, Captain General, and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of New Jersey.

Dr. Maclean in his history of the college, Vol I. p. 105, says the Leonards of New Jersey were of English origin and they were descended from a family of that name settled at Raynham, Massachusetts, in 1652. At this place they introduced the first forge set up in America, and in 1797 it was in possession of the family of the sixth generation. The Leonards were remarkable for their longevity—promotion to public office, a hereditary attachment to the manufacture “of iron, and kindness to the Indians.” Our Judge Leonard must have been far advanced in life when he died. He was a married man when he came here, and he lived here about fifty years. And it was certainly true of him as we have already stated, that he was generally in public office. As to his hereditary attachment to the manufacture of iron, and his kindness towards the Indians, we doubt not he possessed such a family trait, though we cannot prove it.

JOHN STOCKTON, a son of Richard Stockton who has been mentioned among the first settlers at Stony Brook, was a contemporary Princetonian with Judge Leonard, and one of the leading citizens of Princeton, until his death in 1757. He was a Presiding Judge of the Common Pleas of Somerset County. He occupied the plantation known now as Morven, which had been devised to him by his father. He was a man of fortune, with much public spirit. He was a liberal friend and patron of the College, and did as much as any person if not more, to secure its location here. His son Richard was among its first students. Judge Stockton was a religious man and is said to have been a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church. He was noted for his hospitality; and his house was a home for ministers who visited the place. He always entertained those devoted missionaries, David and John Brainerd, when they came to Princeton. John Brainerd in his Journal under date of August 24, 1749, describing his journey from Cranberry to Neshaminy, Pa., says:

“Visited the sick Indian again, and prayed with him; took leave of him and

several others of my people, and set out on my journey about three o'clock in the afternoon. Called at Mr. Wales as I passed along; tarried a little while and then came to Princeton. Went to Justice Stockton's and tarried there. I spent the evening mostly in conversation, and afterwards attended family and secret duties in which I was favored with some comfortable composure of mind, but had no special enlargement.

*Friday, August 25th.*—Attended religious duties. Took leave of Mr. Stockton and his family, and proceeded on my journey, but felt very unwell. It being very hot, I could not travel far."

He returned in September, and the Journal on the 5th of September says:

"Took leave of the Indians and came up to Justice Stockton's at Princeton, with whom I tarried all night. *Wednesday Sept. 6.*—Attended religious duties and came on my way homeward. Visited Mr. Wales." (Minister at Kingston.) See *Life of John Brainerd*, pages 166, 176, and note.

It was this John Stockton, Esquire, whose name is connected with the celebrated case of Tom Bell, who personated the Rev. John Rowland, and involved him in a criminal charge of horse-stealing in Hunterdon County, and the trial of which involved the Rev. William Tennent and others in an indictment for perjury. The history of the case as found in the *Log College*, p. 191 states:

"It so happened that Tom Bell arrived one evening at a tavern in Princeton, dressed in a parson's dark, grey frock. On his entering the tavern about dark, the late John Stockton, Esq., of that town, a pious and respectable man to whom Mr. Rowland was well-known, went up to Bell and addressed him as Mr. Rowland, and was inviting him to go home with him. Bell assured him of his mistake. It was with some difficulty that Mr. Stockton acknowledged his error, and then informed Bell, that it had arisen from his great resemblance to Mr. Rowland. The hint was sufficient for the prolific genius of that notorious impostor."

John Stockton died in 1757. His memory ought to be cherished, for his religious and useful life, and influence in the early history of Princeton. His son, Richard Stockton, who had graduated in the College of New Jersey in 1748, came into possession of the old homestead, "Morven," and in the profession of the law, shed lustre upon his father's name, by his distinguished services for Princeton and for his country, having been one of the signers of the Declaration.

His will was proved in 1758. He had made a deed in his

life-time to his son Richard, for the east side of the homestead plantation, and by his will he devised the whole of it, extending westerly as far as Robert Stockton's land; and that part of his plantation lying on the south side of the main street or highway, he devised equally between his two sons, Philip and Samuel Witham Stockton. There is no monument to mark his grave. We know nothing of the time or history of his adoption of the Presbyterian faith and polity. The fragrance of his piety and generous hospitality, as well as his unsullied reputation and public influence, not to mention the honor reflected upon his name by his descendants, should not pass away and be forgotten, but should be cherished as a perpetual legacy to Princeton.

We cannot here bring to notice the large number of the descendants of the several original settlers in this neighborhood, who were respectable and influential in the generation preceding the year 1750. The several families of the Clarkes, the Oldens, the Worths, the Hornors, the Stocktons, the Fitz Randolphs and the Leonards, constituted the strength and sinew of this community, in that period, and afterwards. But they led quiet lives, and did not make much history until the Revolutionary period. The village of Princeton had attained some growth from 1725 to 1750. The material for tracing that growth is very scanty. The Quaker Church at Stony Brook was the only one in the neighborhood, and there all who were members of that society worshipped; while the Presbyterians attended worship at Kingston, or at Maidenhead, as it was then called, now Lawrenceville.

Some feeble glimpses of the country and its development can be obtained from the records and published journals of travellers, who passed through the State occasionally in those remote years. It will appear that the village in its early history was not built closely, but that the residences were far apart and surrounded with open grounds, and that the houses were built of wood.

In a letter dated 1730-31, published in Whitehead's History of Perth Amboy, noticing the progress of settlement on this route through Princeton, the writer states, that in 1715,



"There were but four or five houses in the thirty miles from Inian's Ferry (New Brunswick), and the Falls of the Delaware, (Trenton,) but now the whole way is almost a continued lane of fences and good farmer's houses, and the whole is settled or settling very fast."

Professor Kalm, of the University of Abo, in Swedish Finland, while on a visit to North America, passed over the road from Trenton, through Princeton to New Brunswick in 1748; and in the first volume of his travels (*Kalm's Travels*, Vol. 1, p. 173,) under date of October 28, 1748, we find full notes of the appearance of the country at that time. Our readers will be pleased to read some extracts from these interesting volumes, written by so intelligent an observer, at so early a period in our history. In describing Trenton, Professor Kalm says :

"Our landlord told us that twenty-two years ago, when he first settled here, there was hardly more than one house; but from that time Trenton has increased so much that there are at present near a hundred houses. The houses were, within, divided into several rooms, by thin partitions of boards, the inhabitants of the place carried on a small trade with the goods which they got from Philadelphia, but their chief gain consisted in the arrival of the numerous travellers between that city and New York, for they are commonly brought by the Trenton yachts from Philadelphia: or from thence to Philadelphia. But from Trenton further to New Brunswick, the travellers go in the wagons which set out every day for that place. Several of the inhabitants however likewise subsist on the carriage for all sorts of goods which are every day sent in great quantities either from Philadelphia to New York, or from thence to the former place, for between Philadelphia and Trenton all goods go by water, but between Trenton and New Brunswick they are all carried by land, and both these conveniences belong to the people of this town." \* \* \*

"Between Trenton and New Brunswick a person (passenger) pays two shillings and sixpence, and the baggage is likewise paid for separately."

After leaving Trenton and on his way to Princeton, his journal continues :

"We continued our journey in the morning. The country through which we passed was for the greater part level, though sometimes there were some long hills; some parts were covered with trees, but far the greater part of the country was without woods; on the other hand, I never saw any place in *America*, the towns excepted, so well peopled. An old man who lived in the neighborhood and accompanied us for some part of the road, however, assured me that he could well remember the time when between Trenton and New Brunswick there was not above three farms, and he reckoned it was about fifty and some odd years ago. During the greater part of the day, we had very extensive cornfields on both sides of the road, and commonly towards the south the country had a great declivity. Near almost every farm was a spacious orchard full of peaches, and apple trees in such quantities as to cover nearly the whole surface. Part of it they left to rot, since they could not

take it all in and consume it. Wherever we passed by we were always welcome to go into the fine orchards and gather our pockets full of the choicest fruit, without the possessor so much as looking after it. Cherry trees were planted near the farm on the roads, etc.

"The *barns* had a peculiar kind of construction hereabouts, which I will give a concise description of. The whole building was very great, so as almost to equal a small church; the roof was pretty high, covered with wooden shingles declining on both sides, but not steep; the walls which support it were not much higher than a full grown man, but on the other hand, the breadth of the building was the more considerable; in the middle near the threshing floor, and above it, or in the loft or garret, they put the corn which was not yet threshed, the straw or anything else according to the season; on one side were stables for the horses, and on the other for the cows; and the small cattle had likewise their particular stables or styes; on both ends of the buildings were great gates, so that one could come in with a cart and horses, through one of them, and go out at the other; here was therefore under one roof, the threshing floor, the barn, the stables, the hay loft, the coach-house, etc. This kind of building is chiefly made use of by the Dutch and Germans, for it is to be observed that the country between Trenton and New York is inhabited by few Englishmen, but instead of them, by Germans or Dutch, the latter of which especially are numerous.

"About nine English miles from Trenton the ground began to change its color; hitherto it consisted of a hazel-colored clay, but at present the earth was a reddish brown, so that it sometimes had a purple color, and sometimes looked like logwood. The color came from a red limestone, which approached very near to that which is on the mountain *Kinneulle* in *West Gothland*, and makes a particular stratum in the rock. The *American* red limestone therefore seems to be merely a variety of that I saw in Sweden. It lay in stratas of two or three fingers thickness, but was divisible into many thinner plates or shivers whose surface was seldom flat and smooth, but commonly rough; the strata themselves were frequently cut off by horizontal cracks. When these stones were exposed to the air, they by degrees shivered and withered into pieces, and at last turned into dust. The people of this neighborhood did not know how to make use of it; the soil above is sometimes rich and sometimes poor; in such places where the people had lately dug new wells, I perceived that most of the rubbish thrown up consisted of such a species of stone. This reddish brown earth we always saw till near New Brunswick, where 'tis particularly plentiful. The banks of the river showed in many places nothing but strata of limestone, which did not run horizontally, but dipped very much."

He continues on page 177 :

"About ten o'clock in the morning we came to Princetown, which is situated in a plain. Most of the houses are built of wood, and are not contiguous, so that there are gardens and pastures between them. As these parts were sooner inhabited by *Europeans* than *Pennsylvania*, the woods were likewise more cut away, and the country more cultivated, so that one might have imagined himself to be in *Europe*.

"We now thought of continuing our journey, but it began to rain very heavily and continued so during the whole day and part of the night; we were forced to stay till next morning.

"October 29th. This morning we proceeded on our journey, the country was pretty well peopled ; however there were yet great woods in many places ; they all consisted of deciduous trees ; and I did not perceive a single tree of the fir kind till I came to New Brunswick. The ground was level, and did not seem to be everywhere of the richest kind. In some places it had hillocks losing themselves almost imperceptibly in the plains which were commonly crossed by a rivulet. Almost near every farm-house were great orchards. The houses were commonly built of timber, and at some distance by themselves stood the ovens for baking, consisting commonly of clay.

"On a hill covered with trees, and called *Rock Hill*, I saw several pieces of stone or rock so big that they would have required three men to roll them down. But besides these there were few great stones in the country, for most of those which we saw could easily be lifted up by a single man. In another place we perceived a number of little round pebbles, but we did not meet with either mountains or rocks. At almost noon we arrived at New Brunswick."

There seems to be some discrepancy between the statement in the letter quoted in Whitehead's History of Amboy, and that of the old man who rode with Professor Kalm, as above stated. The former states that in 1715 "there were but four or five houses in the thirty miles between New Brunswick and Trenton," but that in 1730, the date of the letter, "the whole way was almost a continued lane of fences and good farmers' houses, and the whole country was settled or settling very thick ;" while the latter says that at a time which he reckons to be about 1700, there were "not above three farms between those two cities." Such loose and casual statements are usually inaccurate and unreliable, and ought not to be received as historically authentic. There must have been more than two additional settlements, or cleared up farms, in fifteen years, next after the year 1700, between Trenton and New Brunswick. The writer mentioned in Whitehead's History, must have been inaccurate in his statement, because the Stocktons, the Clarkes, the Oldens, the Hornors, the Worths, and Dr. Greenland and Brinson were at Stony Brook, or near Princeton, in 1696. And in 1709 the Stockton Tract was divided, as we have before stated, after the death of Richard Stockton, among his several children ; and both Fitz Randolph and Leonard were there before 1710. Moreover the Quaker meeting house at Stony Brook was built in 1709, and the settlement at Maidenhead, now Lawrenceville, had an earlier origin and growth than Princeton. The church at that place

was in a prosperous condition in 1713, there being ten baptisms there on one Sabbath in that year; John Hart, the signer of the Declaration, being one of the subjects; and in 1716 the Hunterdon County Court was held in that church.\* A deed for one hundred acres of land was made by Basse and Revell to twenty-seven farmers in the neighborhood of Maidenhead, for their church and parsonage in 1698. The assertion therefore, that in 1715 there were but four or five houses between Trenton and New Brunswick, on the route of the old road passing through Maidenhead, Stony Brook, Princeton and Kingston, with at least two churches and scores of farm houses observable on the route, must have been an unreliable statement, and made at random.

We have before noticed Worth's Mills on the Stony Brook, as having been established in the early part of the eighteenth century.

We regret that we cannot give the date of the origin of "Scudder's Mills," now known as the Aqueduct Mills, on the Millstone River where the Stony Brook empties into that river. It is not probable that these mills are as ancient as Worth's Mills. They have always had more power and done more business, than the latter. They are quite as near to the East end of Princeton as Worth's Mills are to the west end. They were burned by the British soldiers, during the Revolutionary War, while Colonel William Scudder owned them, but were immediately rebuilt.

It is matter of record that one Josiah Davison and wife in 1749, conveyed one hundred acres, with the mill-pond and dam as it then flowed, with two grist mills, fulling mill and mill house to Jacob Scudder, for fourteen hundred pounds. This deed was proved in 1768, before Judge John Berrien, and was recorded in Middlesex Clerk's office in 1801. There was a collateral agreement under seal, of the same date, executed by his executor, in which he bound himself that he would not suffer any mill to be built on said Millstone River within the compass of land then in his possession, which lay adjoining thereto. This paper recited that he had conveyed the one hundred acres with the mill-pond and dam, to Jacob Scudder, of Long Island. The

\* Dr. Hall's History of Trenton.

attesting witnesses were Joseph Skelton and Henry Silcocks. On January 1, 1763, John Davison, son of Josiah above-named, made a deed to said Jacob Scudder, for a lot of land which his father had reserved in 1749, on the Millstone, above the mills aforesaid, where Isaac Fitz Randolph had formerly built a mill. In this deed the grantor recited the said agreement of his father in 1749, and that this was done in fulfilment of the contract of his father. It thus appears that Scudder's Mills were ancient, and that another mill a short distance above these had been built by Fitz Randolph, and suffered to go to decay, before Scudder purchased.

This mill property passed from Jacob Scudder at his death, to Colonel William Scudder, who was not only a patriotic soldier, but a very useful and public-spirited citizen in this community. His patriotic services during the Revolution caused the enemy who were quartered near him, to burn his mills.

At his death the property passed to his children, Isaac Scudder, William Scudder and Sarah, wife of J. Ross Hamilton. His daughter Hannah married the late Rev. Eli F. Cooley. This property with valuable additions remained in the Scudder family for about one hundred years. Captain William V. Scudder, now of Princeton, was one of the last of the family who occupied it. It is now owned by William and Benjamin Gray. The fulling mill, which in 1787 was carried on by Joseph Harris, as then advertised in the "Princeton Packet," has been abandoned.

## CHAPTER III.

1750—1775.

Two Prominent Events—Planting the Presbyterian Church and the College in Princeton—Presbyterianism in the Ascendant—First Meeting of Presbytery in Princeton—Address to the British Government, in favor of Gov. Belcher—Presbytery meets oftener here than elsewhere—College removed here—Citizens Petition for Military Barracks, for protection, during the French and Indian War in 1758—Gov. Bernard visits Princeton—He replies, in an Extempore Latin Speech, to a Congratulatory Address by a Student in Nassau Hall—Gov. Boone visits Princeton and the College—*Biographical Sketches*: Jonathan Sergeant—Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant—John Berrien—Dr. Absalom Bainbridge—Enos Kelsey—Dr. Thomas Wiggins—Jonathan Baldwin—Dr. John Beatty—Job Stockton—Robert Stockton—Richard Stockton, (the Signer)—Samuel Witham Stockton—Rev. Philip Stockton—Col. Francis Barber—Rev. John Witherspoon, D. D.—Wm. Churchill Houston—James Finley—John Johnson—Capt. William Howard—Jonathan Deare.

PRINCETON now began to assume an important and influential position in New Jersey. Within the first decade of the latter half of the eighteenth century, two prominent events in its history had their origin; namely, the planting of the Presbyterian Church here, and the removal of the College of New Jersey from Newark to this place. These two institutions, the Church and the College, were the germs of a future development, to which may be traced the present influence and attractiveness of Princeton. Moreover, if the college had not been here, it is not at all probable that the Theological Seminary would have been established here.

The village, prior to 1750, had grown large enough to require a place for public worship more convenient than Kingston or Maidenhead, for the Presbyterian population of the neighborhood. The little Friends' Meeting House at Stony Brook, though a little distant from the village, was near enough for the convenience of the families who belonged to that society; it having been built in the centre of the early Quaker settle-

ment of that place. And it has proved to be sufficiently convenient and commodious to them, from that distant period to the present time. It has an antiquity that makes it venerable as well as historic.

The village grew in population. Presbyterianism became in the ascendant, and the people who became discontented with the burden of riding to Kingston, a place which had now become an inferior village, every Sabbath to enjoy the benefits of public worship and preaching, began to agitate the Presbytery of New Brunswick by petitions for gospel privileges at home. They asked for supplies; for an occasional administration of the ordinances of the church; for a share of the labors of the minister at Kingston; and finally for leave to build a church in Princeton. The first application for supplies for Princeton was made in 1751, but it was not till 1755 that they obtained leave of Presbytery to build a church. Doubtless an impulse was given to this movement by the fact that the Trustees of the College of New Jersey, then at Newark, had voted in 1752, to remove their college to this place; and as the removal was to take place in 1756, it was manifest that the presence of such an institution involved the necessity of a commodious place of worship. Hence in 1755, the Presbytery gave leave to build a church in Princeton. The college favored the erection of the church and contributed materially to aid the congregation. The enterprise, with the aid of the college, was a tedious struggle. And in fact the church was for many years but an appendage to the college; a sort of a College Chapel Church, with good preaching, but without the appointments of ordained pastor and ruling elders. The Presidents and Professors of the college and clerical visitors preached to a congregation made up of students and families of the village. But it was not long before the richest of all blessings attended the means of grace, and gracious revivals of religion in Princeton made the whole Zion of God rejoice.

The first meeting which the Presbytery of New Brunswick ever held in Princeton, was a *pro re nata* meeting held Dec. 10, 1751. There were present William Tennent, Israel Reed, Eliab Byran, Charles McKnight, *Ministers*; and David Rea and John Thomson, *Elders*. The Rev. John Brainerd sat as a

corresponding member, Eliab Byran was moderator, and Chas. McKnight clerk. The only business before them was to address a letter to the British Government in favor of Governor Belcher, who was highly esteemed by the Presbyterians in New Jersey. It being the first voice ever uttered by the Presbytery from *Princeton*, so far as the records of Presbytery show, and the subject being of general public interest, we take the liberty of inserting that address here, for its historic importance, and especially for the sake of Gov. Belcher, whose name and character are so endeared to the friends of Princeton College. The minute is as follows:—

The Presbytery understanding that the character of his excellency, the Governor has been unjustly attacked by some designing persons at home, were stirred up from a principle of justice to his excellency's reputation to vindicate his conduct by drawing up an address to that purpose, to the Right Honorable, the Earl of Holderness, which is as follows:

"To the Right Honorable, the Earl of Holderness, one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State:

"The humble address of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, convened at Princetown in New Jersey, Dec. 10, 1751.

"May it please your Lordship:

"Tis a sincere regard to his Majesty's Government in general and an unfeigned concern for the welfare of this Province, in particular, that has induced us to give your Lordship the trouble of the following address.

"It is currently reported here that the administration of his Excellency, our present Governor, has been disadvantageously represented to the ministry at home. The Governor, we are informed, is spoken of as being friendly and favorable to those scandalous riots and their abettors which of late have so much disturbed and perplexed this Province. We are much surprised and astonished to hear anything of the nature; and firmly believe it to be a most unjust and groundless aspersion upon his Excellency's character and administration. We are sure that the Governor, both in public and private, has always warmly remonstrated against all such rebellious and wicked proceedings, and are fully persuaded that if his conduct in general, but specially as it relates to this unhappy affair, should undergo the most severe and critical examination, it would be greatly to his honor and evidently appear that he has done his utmost to discountenance and suppress these lawless tumults, and taken the most prudent measures to restore peace and establish good order in this government. And we can assure your Lordship that this is not our private judgment only, but the current sentiments of the people in general, in the various parts of the Province among whom we labor, both of our own and other denominations.

"If therefore any representations contrary to this have been made in England or elsewhere, it must undoubtedly arise from prejudice, or the sinister views of men. 'Tis an unspeakable satisfaction to us that the spirit of rebellion that has prevailed in some parts of the Province is so far suppressed. We have heard nothing of those



detestable riots for more than a year past, and we are persuaded that none of that nature have been made; and as we have ever borne testimony against them (as subversive of all civil government) so we shall not fail to do the same on all occasions. We esteem it a singular favor that his Majesty has condescended to take such mild and gracious methods to compose the unhappy confusion of the Province and by leave to express our most grateful acknowledgments of the same, and add our most humble prayer that the desired effect may be obtained; and from a very warm attachment to the present happy establishment in the Illustrious House of Hanover; and high esteem of our most excellent constitution; and a lively sense of the invaluable privileges we enjoy under his Majesty's most wise and gentle government. Permit us to assure your Lordship that we shall use our utmost endeavors to inspire our people with principles of loyalty and obedience.

"And as we justly esteem it a peculiar smile of Heaven and a signal instance of the Royal Goodness to send us a Governor endued with so much virtue, integrity and wisdom, as Mr. Belcher has always discovered, so we humbly crave your Lordship's favor that he may still be continued among us and receive all due encouragement in his difficult administration, which will be acknowledged with the highest gratitude by many, and none more than by

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servants,

(Signed by order of the Presbytery,)

ELIAB BYRAN, Mod.

CHARLES MCKNIGHT, Clk."

After the Presbytery in 1755, granted leave to the people of Princeton to build a "meeting-house," and allowed them supplies, Princeton became a place for the frequent meetings of that body, owing no doubt to the presence of the college. In every year from that time to 1776, with the exception of half a dozen years, there was at least one, and sometimes there were two meetings of Presbytery held in this place; and after the Revolution, it was oftener the place of its meetings than any other place within its bounds, and has continued to be so to the present day,—it having long been a standing rule of Presbytery, that at least one meeting in every year shall be held in Princeton. The church edifice was not erected and completed so far as to admit its use for worship until about 1766, though commenced in 1762. But as the history of the church is given in detail in a subsequent chapter, we only desire, here, to note the fact and date of its origin, and refer to it in a general way to illustrate the progress and history of the village.

But the most important event in the history of Princeton during this period, was the removal of the College of New Jersey to it, and its permanent establishment here. This institu-

tion was first opened at Elizabethtown under its first illustrious President, the Rev. Jonathan Dickinson. Upon his death it was transferred to Newark, under its second, and no less illustrious President, the Rev. Aaron Burr, but only temporarily.

The trustees, one of whom was Thomas Leonard, Esq., from Princeton, in selecting a site for the college, prescribed certain conditions to determine its location. They demanded from the citizens of the place where it was to be located, the payment of one thousand pounds, and the gift of ten acres of cleared land for the buildings, besides two hundred acres of woodland. The city of New Brunswick was prominently mentioned as a proper site, and negotiations with it were instituted; but the people of that city were slow to reply to the proposals; and while they seemed reluctant to advance the requisite aid, the energetic and liberal citizens of Princeton stepped forward promptly, and tendered the money and the land, and obtained a vote of the trustees in 1752, to locate it at Princeton. The bond for the one thousand pounds, was given by three wealthy landholders, residing in Princeton, viz., John Stockton, Thomas Leonard, (one of the trustees) and John Hornor. This bond was received as satisfactory, and was, after a few years, paid off. The requisite land was procured and conveyed to the trustees, and the college building was commenced on the 29th of July, 1754. President Burr, with seventy students, came to Princeton in November, 1756, and took possession of the new building.

Happy day for Princeton was it, when it secured the location of the college!

Let everlasting thanks be rendered for the prompt, liberal and enterprising spirit of Thomas Leonard, John Stockton and John Hornor, and we should include the name of Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, who were prominently instrumental in securing to Princeton the College of New Jersey! These four gentlemen were large landholders in Princeton; and they had the foresight to anticipate the benefit that would enure to them, in the rise of the value of their land, that would ultimately result from the establishment of such an institution here.

But we must not ascribe such sordid motives to such noble men, in this transaction. Judge Leonard was a man of public

enterprise as well as of wealth. He was a trustee of the college, and appreciated the benefits which grow out of institutions of learning: and Judge Stockton, whose brilliant son, Richard, had just received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in the first graduating class of the college, could not but feel a deep interest in this institution on this account, as well as for the sake of religion and liberal education. John Hornor, too, possessed an honorable and liberal public spirit; while Nathaniel Fitz Randolph evinced the liveliest interest in the college even before it was located here, and devoted much time in soliciting funds for its support.

There is, however, in this instance of a generous and prompt outlay of private means for public institutions, a good lesson for Christian capitalists, which confirms that principle in the theory of compensation that a generous bestowment of private capital to secure the location of grand public institutions of learning, religion and benevolence, will, in the end, ensure a liberal reward to the benefactor. And happy too, was it for the college, that it was anchored in this beautiful place, so central, so healthful and so well adapted to the pursuit of letters, science and religion! The wisdom of the trustees and patrons of the college, in closing with the overtures of the citizens of Princeton, has been confirmed by the preëminent success which has crowned the history of Nassau Hall.\* For a historical sketch of the college we refer the reader to a subsequent chapter.

Upon the removal of the college hither, the population of Princeton, we know, received an accession of several intelligent and influential families. Presidents Burr, Edwards, Davies, Finley and Witherspoon came here in rapid succession, and all came between the years 1756 and 1768. These distinguished men, though in their relation to the college were set apart to the official duties of their station, had all been earnest and eloquent ministers of the gospel, and engaged in pastoral work, before they came here. No, one, who has read the biography

\* There is ground to believe that Gov. Belcher, as early as 1747, had made an agreement with the friends of the college, that it should be located at Princeton, as the most central place in the Province. Notwithstanding this, overtures were made to New Brunswick.

of these saintly men, can doubt that when they came to Princeton, they took an interest in the welfare of the citizens and in the general society of the place, as well as in that of the students. And it is known that some of the personal friends of these presidents, with their families, accompanied them to this place, and became identified with, and an integral part of, the society of Princeton.

In 1758, during the "French and Indian War," the citizens of Princeton were frequently subjected to the annoyance and burden of having the British troops quartered upon them. The village was small, and some of the inhabitants were poor and lived in very small houses; and it was held unjust for them to be compelled to bear equal burdens with the larger towns of Trenton and New Brunswick, between which two places Princeton was nearly midway. They therefore petitioned the Provincial Government for the establishment of Barracks here, at the expense of the State, so as to relieve themselves from the unjust burden; and we take pleasure in inserting a copy of that petition which was drawn by Richard Stockton, who afterwards became the Signer of the Declaration, with the names of the petitioners annexed.\* It is the first record of the kind that we have met with which exhibits so many of the names of the citizens of Princeton, residing here at that early period. The following is a copy :

To the honorable the House of Representatives of the Province of New Jersey in General Assembly now convened at the city of Burlington.

The Petition of the inhabitants of Princeton, in the said Province, and of the parts nearly adjacent humbly sheweth—

That your Petitioners, ever since the commencement of the present war, between the Crown of Great Britain and that of France, have been greatly burdened with the quartering his majesty's troops; that as the little town which your Petitioners inhabit is nearly central between Brunswick and Trenton, they, notwithstanding the smallness of their numbers, have constantly the same troops to quarter in their marches, as either of the aforesaid towns; and that although many of your Petitioners are poor, have small houses and numerous families, with not more than one room, they have yet been obliged to entertain sometimes ten, twelve or fifteen soldiers for a night, to their great inconvenience and distress; and what greatly increases your Petitioners' unhappiness is, that during the two winters last past, they have been obliged to quarter in their houses, some two, some three, others four of his majesty's

---

\* The original paper is in the hands of G. D. W. Vroom, Esq., of Trenton, having been found among General Rhea's papers. We are indebted to him for this copy.

troops, and find them fire, bedding, &c., which is easy to determine must be vastly inconvenient and distressing where so many of the inhabitants are in low circumstances. That as the whole country is equally concerned in the event of the present war, your Petitioners humbly conceive that so disproportionate an expense ought not to be borne by the few towns in the Province; but as all are sharers in the advantages, so ought all to assist in bearing the burdens. That seeing you have been pleased to grant the like Petition from sundry other towns in this Province which we presume have not more weighty reasons than we, we doubt not, had our former application been in time, we should have had the like favor. Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that at this present session (which we hope will be time enough) your Honorable House will take the premises into your serious consideration: and for our relief cause it to be enacted, that barracks be made, erected and set up in this town, of such dimensions as you in your discretion shall think proper, for the accommodating and quartering his majesty's troops in their marches and winter quarters, at the expense of the Province.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, etc. July 22, 1758.

Tho. Leonard,	Nathaniel Scudder,
Jos. Davisson,	Gilbert Gaa,
Job Stockton,	Richd. Stockton,
Saml. Hornor,	Robt. Stockton,
John Clarke,	James Worth,
Jos. Yard, Senr.	James Oldden,
Thos. Leonard, Jr.,	Saml. Worth,
Thos. Watson,	Jos. Oldden,
* Patk. Barber,	David Oldden,
John Kiddie,	Thomas Middleton
Es. Boudinot,	Albert Schenck,
William Worth,	John Schenck,
George Nicholson,	John Covenhoven
† Richd. Paterson,	Joseph Skelton,
Jos. Morrow,	Wm. Covenhoven,
W. Whitehead,	Nath. Davison,
Jos. Stockton,	Joseph Hornor,
Robt. Campbell,	Saml. Stockton,
George Norris,	Wm. Mountier,
James Sanders,	Thomas Norris

There had been a general act passed by the Legislature, bearing date April 15th, 1758, authorizing the building of Barracks within the colony, to prevent the admission of soldiers into private families for winter quarters, subjecting such families to expense and pernicious consequences.

Such barracks capable of accommodating, each, three hundred men, were built at Trenton, New Brunswick, and Perth

\* The father of Col. Francis Barber, who was born in Princeton.

† The father of William Paterson, Judge and Governor of New Jersey.

Amboy; though we have no evidence that one was built at Princeton. The old stone house still standing on Edgehill Street known as the barracks was undoubtedly used for such purpose, either in the French war, or in the Revolutionary war; but which, we are not able to determine; the probabilities connect it with the Revolution.

It will be observed, that among the names to the said petition, all the families which were the original settlers of Princeton, except that of Fitz Randolph, are represented by their descendants. The Stocktons, the Clarkes, the Oldens, the Worths, the Hornors, were the most numerous; and being the largest landholders, they were liable to suffer most by having the troops to quarter upon them. Hence they united strongly in the petition.

It was in the same year which this petition bears date, 1758, that Governor Francis Bernard, on his way from New Brunswick to Burlington, stopped at Princeton, and was received into Nassau Hall by the Trustees. He was conducted through the building and shown the curiosities, and was then honored by an oration from one of the students, in Latin, to which his excellency returned an elegant and polite Latin answer, extempore, an undertaking which few of his predecessors or successors would have ventured upon. After receiving and replying to an address from the Trustees, the Governor proceeded to Burlington.\*

Governor Thomas Boone, the successor of Governor Bernard, also visited Princeton in 1760, with Chief Justice Morris and other gentlemen of distinction. He was introduced into Nassau Hall by the President and tutors. Complimentary addresses were made to him by two of the youngest members of the senior class, in Latin and English orations, but nothing is said of any responses by him.†

Among the several families who were drawn to Princeton, by the removal of the college to this place, and one whose name is most honorable in its history, is that of Sergeant.

JONATHAN SERGEANT came to Princeton from Newark, New Jersey, in 1758, which was his native place. His father

\* Note on page 171, Whitehead's History of East Jersey.

† Ibid p. 177.

and his grandfather, whose name he bore, lived in that city; his great grandfather Jonathan Sergeant was among the early settlers of New Haven in 1639, and of Branford, in 1646. His younger brother was a Missionary to the Mohegan Indians at Stockbridge.

He was a son-in-law of the Rev. Jonathan Dickinson, having married his daughter Abigail for his second wife. President Burr having also married a daughter of Jonathan Dickinson, was his brother-in-law. Mr. Sergeant's first wife was Hannah Nutman of Edinburgh. Mr. Sergeant was the treasurer of the college from 1750 to 1777; and was sent to select a site for the college at Princeton and at New Brunswick in 1751. He was a warm friend of the college, and also aided in building the first Presbyterian church in this place. In the year 1770, he purchased of Mary Hornor, Joseph Hornor and Robert Stockton, executors of Samuel Hornor deceased, the farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on Stony Brook adjoining the farm of Jonathan Baldwin and John Field. This was the farm which Joseph Olden now owns and occupies. After the death of Mr. Sergeant, this farm was conveyed, by his widow and by his son Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, and Rev. John Ewing, of Philadelphia, his administrators, to Joseph and John Olden of Philadelphia, in August, 1777; and John Olden conveyed his share to Joseph Olden in 1779. It has remained in this family for the last ninety-eight years. In the deed from the executors of Hornor to Jonathan Sergeant, for said farm, the grantee was described as "of Maidenhead," which is explained by the fact that Mr. Sergeant resided on a farm in that township prior to 1770.

The will of Jonathan Sergeant was placed with some college papers in an iron chest, and sent to Philadelphia in care of the Rev. Dr. Ewing, for safety from the British army, then at Princeton, but the chest with its contents was captured by a British officer, and was never recovered. Proof of the loss of the will was made by his executors, Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant and Dr. Ewing, in 1785, and Governor Livingston of New Jersey, issued letters of administration with the established will annexed, to Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant.

Mr. Sergeant had represented the County of Middlesex in







*Jonathan Sargent*

the Provincial Congress in 1775, and took an active part with the citizens of Princeton, in the cause of liberty in the early stages of the Revolution. He was an exemplary Christian with literary taste. He died just before the battle of Princeton, of small-pox, which he took from the soldiers while in this place, having resided here for nineteen years. He left two children by his first wife, Hannah, wife of Rev. John Ewing, and Sarah, wife of Jonathan Baldwin; two by his last wife, viz: Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, and Elisabeth who married Edward Fox. His place of burial is unknown, his family being absent when he died.

*JONATHAN DICKINSON SERGEANT*, the son of Jonathan Sergeant above mentioned, was born in Newark, and came to Princeton with his father; he was graduated at Nassau Hall in 1762; he studied law with Richard Stockton, and practiced law in Princeton. John Adams spending a Sabbath in Princeton in 1774, writes, "I saw Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, a young lawyer, sociable, etc. I heard Witherspoon all day. I sent a card to Sergeant. He came and drank coffee with us."

Mr. Sergeant married Margaret Spencer, a daughter of Rev. Elihu Spencer, D. D., of Trenton. He was a member and the secretary of the first popular convention that was held in New Brunswick in 1774, for the purpose of resisting the oppressive measures of Great Britain towards the colonies. He was a member of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey in 1775, as a representative from Somerset County, and was chosen secretary of that body, with Frederick Frelinghuysen and William Paterson his assistants. He soon resigned the office of secretary and was appointed Provincial Treasurer. He was also appointed, and served as a member of the Committee of Safety, to act during the recess of the Congress. He was a member of the Committee of the Provincial Congress of 1776, directed to prepare a Constitution for New Jersey. He was a member of the Continental Congress both before and after the Declaration was adopted. In all his public trusts he generally had the laboring oar assigned to him. He ranked high as a lawyer, and was retained as one of the counsel for the defendants in the Cumberland County Tea suit.

In 1775 he purchased of Mrs. Berrien, the widow and executrix of the Hon. John Berrien, deceased, a lot of land in Princeton, on which he built a handsome house for his residence. It was the same lot on which his son-in-law the Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., afterwards built his stately mansion on Mercer Street, and which was his residence till his death, now the property of Sarah A. Brown. Mr. Sergeant's new house had scarcely been finished when the Hessian troops which took possession of Princeton and were quartered in the College and Church, in December, 1776, set fire to it and laid it in ashes. His father's farm had also been pillaged by the soldiers at about the same time.

Mr. Sergeant was specially obnoxious to the enemy, not only because he had been a leading and prominent actor in the cause of independence, but because his personal friends and family, especially his father-in-law, the Rev. Dr. Elihu Spencer, for whose head a reward had been offered, had been such too.

At that time Mr. Sergeant was a member of the Continental Congress, at Baltimore; and under a sense of the burdens that were bearing upon him, but rejoicing that public affairs had assumed a more hopeful prospect since the battle of Princeton, he tendered to the Assembly of New Jersey a resignation of his seat in Congress, in a letter bearing date, Baltimore, Feb. 6, 1777, addressed to John Hart, Speaker, etc., as follows:

"I have attended the Congress as one of the delegates from their first sitting in Baltimore to this time. As during this period public affairs have taken a much happier turn, and my own private circumstances have assumed rather a melancholy complexion, I hope your honorable body will excuse my wishing to retire to the management of my private concerns. The loss of my house by fire is the least part of my misfortunes, as my attention to politics during these unhappy times has at once superseded my business and prevented the collecting my accounts till the greater part of my debtors, it is to be feared, are either ruined or not to be found. For these reasons I find it necessary to apply myself to some business for the support of my family. My attendance in Congress must be a bar in the way of all such attempts, and I must therefore beg that some other person may be appointed in my place. I shall however attend till a person can be appointed to succeed me.

I am your most obedient and humble servant,

JONA. D. SERGEANT."

Hon. J. HART, Speaker, etc.

In 1820 Mr. Adams, again referring to Mr. Sergeant, wrote saying, "He was one of my most intimate friends in an

earlier part of his life, though we differed in opinion on the French Revolution in the latter part of his days."

Mr. Sergeant was invited to take the Attorney Generalship of the State of Pennsylvania, in 1777, and he removed to Philadelphia for that purpose. There he gained a high position at the Philadelphia bar. When, in 1793, the yellow fever visited that city with dreadful fatality, Mr. Sergeant volunteered to serve on a committee of twelve to stay and relieve the suffering; and in discharging his duties in that position, like a martyr, he fell a victim to the pestilence, and died, in the strength of his manhood, much lamented. He was a noble man, with a strong intellect and an honest and benevolent heart; and his political services and record, in the Revolution, while a citizen of New Jersey, are brought in review in our chapter on that subject.

Mr. Sergeant has been honored by his descendants as he had honored them. His children, by his first wife, Miss Spencer, were William Sergeant, John Sergeant, Thomas Sergeant, E. Spencer Sergeant, distinguished lawyers in Philadelphia, and Mrs. Dr. Samuel Miller, who was born in Princeton, and Henry Sergeant, Elisabeth Sergeant and Jonathan Sergeant, also of Philadelphia; and by his second wife, who was a daughter of the distinguished David Rittenhouse, he had three children, viz: David Sergeant, Mrs. John C. Lowber and Mrs. Wm. Barton. The high social position of the family is still maintained in its numerous branches of lineal descendants, the most of them residing in Philadelphia.

*JOHN BERRIEN* is the name of another honored Jerseyman, a Princetonian he may be called, who was cotemporary with Richard Stockton, and Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant for some years preceding the period of the Revolution. He lived in a house on the hill, on the east side of the Millstone River, at the village of Rocky Hill, in Somerset County, the same house which Gen. Washington occupied while Congress sat at Princeton, and in which he prepared his Farewell Address to the army. The house is built of stone and is still standing, and was lately the property of D. H. Mount. It was for many years the property of Judge Crusier. Its historic interest, and

its wild surroundings, attract many strangers to visit it yearly. It is left in a dilapidated condition, perhaps the more interesting for being so. Mr. Berrien was a lawyer. He belonged to the Berrien family whose descendants still dwell in that part of the State. The Hon. John McPherson Berrien, late a United States Senator from Georgia, was his grandson.

Mr. Berrien was appointed a Colonial Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, by Governor Franklin, from whom he received his commission and took his official oath February 21, 1764. He held the office from that time till his death, with a salary of fifty pounds per annum, with an additional ten pounds for holding the circuit. He was an intimate friend of Judge Leonard, by whom he was remembered in his will. His name appears on very many of the old deeds for lands in Princeton, and the surrounding country, as the officer or witness who took proof or acknowledgment of them. He was a trustee of the College of New Jersey from 1763 to 1772; and in 1769 he was an active member of the House of Assembly from Somerset County. Though his residence was nearer to Kingston and Rocky Hill, than to Princeton, his business and social relations were so intimately blended with Princeton men and measures, that he must in those days have been regarded as a Somerset Princetonian. He died in 1772, in the sixty-first year of his age, much lamented, leaving a widow and six children, and was buried in the Presbyterian burying-ground at Princeton, where an ancient and neglected monument marks his grave.\*

DR. ABSALOM BAINBRIDGE graduated at Nassau Hall in the class of 1762, and practiced medicine in Princeton for several years and then removed to the city of New York. His father, John Bainbridge, in 1695 bought a tract of four hundred

\* On the day of his death, he had invited some gentlemen from Princeton, among them Richard Stockton, to dine with him and to witness his will. After having dined and executed the will, he invited them to walk down to the river to see some proposed improvements. Coming to a deep place in the stream, he exclaimed, "There I am going to make my grave," and he ran and jumped into the stream, which was deep, and was drowned. Such is the unquestioned tradition in the neighborhood, among his neighbors and kindred, who have always spoken of it as a suicide.

acres of land, lying on the west side of the Province line, in the township of Lawrence, then in Burlington County, afterwards in Hunterdon County. It extended from Cox's Corner as it is now called, to Stony Brook, probably including the farms of George Phillips, and Colonel McDaniel; the house then standing and fronting on the old Lawrenceville road, about two and a half miles from Princeton. The land was conveyed to him by Richard Ridgway. The original parchment deed is well preserved. Witnesses to the deed were Richard Stockton and Benjamin Clarke and others. He is supposed to have been one of the Judges of Common Pleas of Hunterdon, who in 1716 held a session of the court in the church at Maidenhead, and who died in 1732, and was buried in Lambertton below Trenton.\*

Dr. Bainbridge was the father of Commodore Bainbridge of the United States Navy, who was born in Princeton in 1774, and was the maternal grandfather of the Rev. John Maclean D.D., ex-president of Princeton College. He was secretary of the New Jersey Medical Society in 1771; and was its president in 1773. In two or three years after this time he removed to the city of New York and engaged in medical practice there till his death in 1807. His brother, Dr. Edmund Bainbridge, also resided in Princeton. He bought the Bayard House as it is now called, and built an addition to it, and resided in it for several years, until it was sold to Mrs. Gibbs, of Charleston, South Carolina. He was the father of Theodore Bainbridge, and step-father of Mrs. Rev. Dr. W. W. Phillips of New York. Dr. Absalom Bainbridge, on coming to Princeton, first occupied the house of Job Stockton, which afterwards became the well known residence of Dr. Ebenezer Stockton.

ENOS KELSEY, a native of New Jersey, was a prominent and useful citizen of Princeton, from the year 1766, when he graduated at Nassau Hall, till his death in 1811. After graduating he became a merchant in Princeton, and kept his store in the brick property in Nassau Street opposite the College Library, and which afterwards passed into the hands of Hart Olden and his descendants. He was an earnest patriot and bore

\* Dr. Hall's Hist. of Trenton.

an active part in the service of his country during the Revolutionary War. He was a member of the Provincial Congress from Somerset in 1775, and served with J. Dickinson Sergeant on the Committee of Safety. He held the commission of Justice of the Peace, and as such was called to sit with the Council of Safety. He was Major in a battalion of Militia in Somerset County, but resigned to take the office of Deputy Quartermaster, and Deputy Commissary, which he filled with uncommon fidelity. He was commissioned to buy clothing for the soldiers under the State government, and was entrusted with a large amount of public funds for that object, thirty thousand dollars at one time. When some charges were presented against him by officers of the New Jersey brigade, to council, the house refused to entertain them. He was also on a commission to sell forfeited lands of the State in 1778. Major Kelsey was treasurer of the college from 1796 to 1810, and he was trustee of the Presbyterian church from 1786 to 1804, and was a steadfast friend and supporter of both these institutions. In all his trusts and duties, public and private, he was faithful and patriotic; and he received well merited thanks for his services.

He was very exact in all of his accounts of public money, and never permitted public funds to become mixed with his own, but kept them by themselves in a separate safe. One of his original ledgers of his store accounts for the years 1767-68, still extant, is written and kept in the most legible and perfect manner—a model to book-keepers of the present day. A list of his customers is interesting, in exhibiting the names and number of families in and about Princeton, at that early period in its history, viz: 1767-68.\*

\* Entries of accounts are found therein, against Richard Kinnan, Mrs. Annie Jones, James Thompson, Alexander Moorhead, Thomas Melville, Robert Blackwell, John Clarke, Isaac Anderson, Robert Stockton, Peter Kettletas, Samuel Furman, William Horriner, Joseph Mershon, Ichabod Leigh, Giles Worth, Joseph Hedger, Joseph Hornor, John Hill, Joshua Anderson, Gabriel Furman, Benjamin Plum, Joseph Stockton, John Updike, John Furman, David Olden, Burgoon Updike, Isaac Updike, Thomas Robertson, John Scott, Silvanus Hunt, Jesse Reed, William Coats, Amos Man, David Zubly, Thomas Norris, Mrs. Mary Field, William Gaa, James Olden, John Denton, John Blytenburgh, Mrs. Parnal Davenport, Jacob Hyer, Ezekiel Anderson, Thomas Olden, Thomas Stockton, John Smith, Jacob Taylor, James Knapp, Samuel Stockton, Samuel Hazard, James Clarke, John Henry, Henry Waggaman, Rachel Stockton, George Scott, Princeton Col-

His wife was a Miss Davenport, a sister of the Rev. John Davenport, pastor of the church at Pennington, a most estimable woman, still remembered and praised by a few of our oldest citizens. Major Kelsey left a will dated in 1810, and gave all of his property to his wife and made her sole executrix. By a codicil, made a month after, he gave a legacy of five hundred dollars to the College of New Jersey; and by another codicil in the same month, he provided that if his wife should not survive him, one-half of his property should go to his brother-in-law, the Rev. John Davenport; one-fourth to the college, and one-fourth to the Princeton church, and in that case appointed Richard Stockton his executor. His wife survived him many years, and consequently the above mentioned legacies miscarried. He died June 26, 1811, and was buried in the Princeton burying-ground.

DR. THOMAS WIGGINS came to Princeton prior to the year 1762, but we are unable to ascertain, precisely, the year. He graduated at Yale College in 1752. He was a prominent citizen, and a practicing physician, highly esteemed. His name frequently appears in connection with measures designed to promote the interest of the community. He bought land on the east side of Witherspoon Street, and lived in the Brick House, still standing, which he is understood to have built, and which after his death was devised with about twenty acres of land, to the Presbyterian church, for a parsonage, and which was held and used as such until after the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Rice. It was he, undoubtedly, who planted those majestic sycamore, ash and elm trees, which must be a hundred years of age, still standing in the vicinity of the old brick parsonage. The property has been sold. A portion of it, including the old brick mansion, is owned by the gas-light company, a portion by Mr. Vandeventer, for his nursery and lake; and a portion has been dedicated to the cemetery for sepulchral uses. Dr. Wiggins was for several years a ruling elder, and a trus-

lege. Unice Beach, George Smith, Robert White, Jonathan D. Sergeant, Job Stockton, Addie Osborne, Robert Andrews, Samuel Baldwin, John Blair, Daniel Manning, Caleb Russel, James Taylor, Richard Stockton, Nathan Perkins, Mathew Clarke, Robert Stewart, Joseph Periam, Mrs. Mary Hornor, and a few others.



tee of the Presbyterian Church, to which he was strongly attached. He was treasurer of the College in 1786.

Though living in Princeton during the Revolution, his name does not appear prominently in any of the war measures adopted; however he was appointed at a public meeting in Princeton, in 1782, a member of a committee to enforce the laws of the State.

Dr. Wiggins was prominent in the State as a physician, and his name is found among the leading physicians in the New Jersey State Medical Society, in the early years of that institution. He was one of its original founders, in 1766, and served as treasurer and secretary. He was its secretary in 1782; and the society having been suspended during the war, we find in the *New Jersey Gazette* a call signed by him for the annual meeting of that society to be held on the first Tuesday of May, 1782, at Christopher Beekman's, the sign of the College, in Princeton. His professional card was advertised in the *Princeton Packet* in 1786.

Dr. Wiggins lived till 1804, and was buried in the Princeton burying-ground, where the trustees of the Presbyterian church have erected a marble monument to his memory. None of his descendants are living in this region of country. He left several daughters surviving him, one of whom married John N. Simpson, a highly intelligent and respectable citizen of Princeton, who was a merchant and filled several public positions, and who, at one time, lived on the farm which Emley Olden bought and occupied for many years, north of Princeton.

JONATHAN BALDWIN was a resident of Princeton, and graduated at Nassau Hall, in the class of 1755. He owned and occupied Prospect, (now Mrs. Potter's farm,) until he sold it to Col. Morgan. It was then in West Windsor. His name is frequently met with as the representative of Middlesex County, in legislative and other deliberative bodies. He was a member of the Provincial Congress in 1775. He was entrusted by Gov. Livingston with the distribution of balls and cartridges, in 1778. He contributed liberally to the building of the Presbyterian church in 1762. It is said that he was steward of the College. Either as such, or as a merchant, he became involved in the

violation of the Act of 1777, passed by the Legislature at Princeton, limiting the price of certain articles. He was summoned before the Council of Safety, at Princeton, for selling sugar at a higher rate than that law allowed, and he was fined by the Council.

How Mr. Baldwin, who was an educated and patriotic citizen, came to violate this law, which had just been passed by the legislature at Princeton, we cannot understand. He may have inadvertently omitted to apply for the requisite legal certificate to sell. It is possible that he may have intended to test the virtue of the law itself; for it was a very unpopular statute, and was soon repealed.

Mr. Baldwin was a son-in-law of Jonathan Sergeant, having married Sarah Sergeant, a daughter by his first wife. After he graduated in college, he became steward of King's College; and then again took his residence in Princeton. He removed from Princeton to Newark, New Jersey, where he died in 1816.

DR. JOHN BEATTY, the oldest son of Rev. Charles Beatty of Neshaminy, Pa., graduated at Nassau Hall in 1769, in the first class under Dr. Witherspoon, and studied medicine. In March 1774, he married Mary Longstreet, daughter of Richard Longstreet, who resided near Princeton, on the farm now owned by Boyd Vandoren; and he took up his residence in Princeton and commenced the practice of his profession here. At the commencement of hostilities in 1775 he received a captain's commission in the Pennsylvania line and joined the army, leaving his wife at her father's till the close of the war. He was taken prisoner in the surrender of Fort Washington, and suffered a long captivity. After being exchanged in May 1778, he returned with impaired health to Princeton, when he was appointed Commissary General of prisoners with the rank of Colonel, in the place of Dr. Elias Boudinot who had resigned. In 1780 he tendered his resignation and was honorably discharged from the service.

Upon his return to Princeton in 1788, he bought a residence with a farm, near to, and south-east of Princeton, called "Windsor," where he lived with his family. When he retired from the army, he returned to the practice of medicine, and

he was known in Princeton as Dr. Beatty, though he had the titles of Major, Colonel and Brigadier General resting upon him. He had been a delegate from New Jersey to the Continental Congress in 1783, and a member of the Federal Congress in 1793. He was a member of the state convention in 1787; and was Speaker of the Assembly at one time. In 1795, he was elected Secretary of State, and held the office for ten years. About 1790 he sold "Windsor" and a part of his farm, and leased a house in Princeton of Colonel Morgan. When he was elected Secretary of State, he removed to Trenton, disposing of the remainder of his farm to John Hamilton. He built a handsome residence on the banks of the Delaware above the state-house. He was chosen President of the Delaware Bridge Company in 1803. He was President of the Trenton Banking Company from 1815 till his death in 1826. He was a trustee of the college in Princeton for nearly twenty years.

General Beatty, for he was so called after he left Princeton, was tall and commanding in person, courtly in address, full of humor, intelligent, upright, and actively useful. His wife, who was an attractive woman, died in 1815. She had two children, one a daughter, who died in infancy, from convulsions occasioned, it is said, by the firing of cannon at the battle of Princeton; the other, a son, Richard Longstreet Beatty, was a graduate of Nassau Hall and a member of the bar of New Jersey. General Beatty's second wife was Mrs. Kitty Lalor. His younger brother, Colonel Erkuries Beatty, who became a citizen of Princeton after the war, will be noticed in a subsequent chapter.

THE STOCKTONS.—In the previous chapter, we gave a sketch of Richard Stockton, who bought of Penn, and of his several children who survived him. We took special notice also of his son, John Stockton, to whom the Morven plantation was devised, and who died in 1757. We do not propose here, or in any part of this volume, to give the full genealogy of the Stockton family in Princeton, but propose only to notice those who were prominent before the public, and whose names are historical in Princeton. Liberal education rather

than wealth, perpetuates in family descent, ancestral honor and superiority.

JOB STOCKTON was born in Princeton, in 1734. In 1759 he was commissioned by Governor Bernard, Sheriff of Somerset County. He was also Judge of the Common Pleas of that county, in 1770. He was a man of much personal popularity and promise. He died in 1771, at the age of thirty-seven, universally lamented; he was buried in the Presbyterian burying-ground, where there is a monument to his memory. He was a grandson of Richard Stockton, the first who settled in Princeton; and we believe that he was a son of Robert Stockton to whom the Constitution Hill farm was devised; though this is not absolutely certain, as we have been unable to ascertain the names of all the children and descendants of the six Stockton brothers, respectively. There were several Jobs, and Roberts, and Richards, and Samuels in the Stockton family.

ROBERT STOCKTON, who was Quartermaster in the army, in the Revolution, and a very patriotic and prominent citizen, resided on "Constitution Hill," next to John Johnson's farm. General Washington is said to have made his quarters at the house of this Mr. Stockton during the first week in December, 1776, while he and his army halted in Princeton, on their retreat from New Brunswick. Perhaps no Princeton man was more active in service to the American army, in Princeton, than Robert Stockton. Not a few of the written orders issued by him in Princeton, directed to John Johnson, are still preserved among the Johnson papers.

His will bears date 1801. He mentions therein his children, viz., Ebenezer, Job, James, Elisabeth, wife of the Rev. Ashbel Green, D.D., Nancy (James), Mary, wife of Thos. P. Johnson, Esq. To Ebenezer Stockton he devised the brick house and tan-yard property, in Nassau Street, in which Dr. Stockton resided at the time of his death, and for which a deed had been given to him before the date of said will. The property has remained in the family until the present time, being now occupied by Mrs. Terry, the daughter of Dr. Stockton. The front part of his homestead farm, he devised to his son, Job Stockton,

who was a fine-looking and genial man, but who never married. The rear of that farm he devised, in trust, to his son James Stockton. The late Edward Stockton was descended from this branch. Legacies were given to the other children.

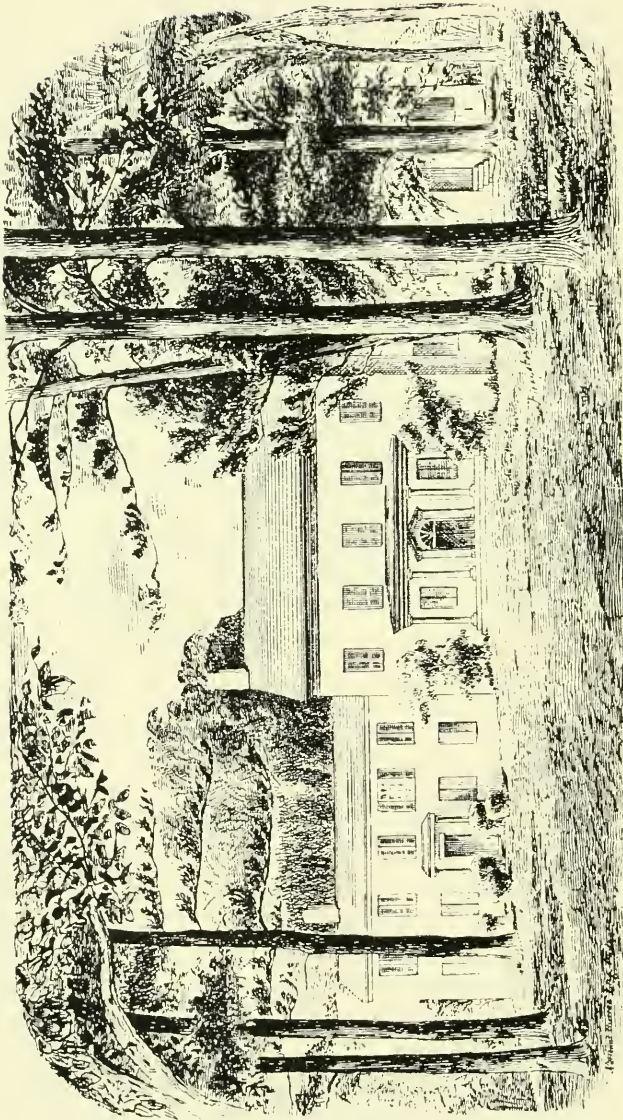
Robert Stockton died April 24, 1805,\* and was buried in the Quaker burying-ground at Stony Brook. Job Stockton his son, died in 1820, and was buried also at Stony Brook. Constitution Hill came into the possession of the late Edward Stockton, and it subsequently passed into the hands of Paul Tulane, and is at present owned by Samuel W. Stockton, the owner also of Morven.

In the preceding chapter, we have stated that John Stockton had three sons, viz: Richard, Samuel Witham and Philip. This is the most illustrious branch of the Stockton family in the history of Princeton. Every successive generation for more than a hundred years, in the line of descent from John Stockton, has been represented in the most honorable and eminent positions in the country. The name belongs to Princeton. These sons and daughters who have shed so much honor upon Princeton, have been "to the manor born." Other great names have adorned its history, but they have not all been natives of this place.

RICHARD STOCKTON, (the eldest son of John,) the signer of the Declaration, was born in Princeton October 1, 1730. His father, who had abundant fortune and a noble character, took special pains to have this son educated in the best possible manner. He was sent to the Academy at Nottingham, in Maryland, under the care of the Rev. Samuel Finley, afterwards President of Princeton College, who was a ripe scholar, and a celebrated teacher. After being there for two years, he was sent to the College of New Jersey, and graduated with the first class, (1748) at Newark. He read law with David Ogden of Newark and was admitted to the bar in 1754. He opened

\* It is quite certain that Robert Stockton above mentioned, was not the son of Richard Stockton to whom this tract of land called Constitution Hill was devised by Richard in 1709. The first Robert—one of the six brothers—must have been the father of the Robert Stockton above mentioned, as the Quartermaster in the army, and who died on the same farm in 1805. He could not have been the brother of John Stockton—but his nephew—and a cousin of the Signer of the Declaration.





MORVEN (STOCKTON RESIDENCE).

a law office in Princeton, and entered at once upon the duties of his profession. With fine natural powers, highly cultivated and improved by study, his success was unusually rapid and brilliant. His business was co-extensive with the Province, and he was invited into the neighboring colonies. As an eloquent and persuasive advocate he had no competitor in the state. Among his law students, were Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, General Joseph Reed, William Paterson, and Elias Boudinot. After a close attention to legal practice for twelve years, in Princeton, he made a visit to England, in 1766, where he received marked attention from the Marquis of Rockingham and others, who consulted him upon the political affairs of the colonies; and where he, with Dr. Franklin, conferred with the merchants of London, upon the subject of a paper currency, touching the act of Parliament prohibiting future emissions.

While Mr. Stockton was in England, Dr. Finley, the President of Princeton College and a warm personal friend of Mr. Stockton, died; and the trustees elected the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon of Paisley, in Scotland, as his successor. The letter informing him of his appointment was transmitted to Mr. Stockton, who was one of the trustees of the college, with a request that he should present the application to Dr. Witherspoon in person and solicit his acceptance. To effect this, he extended his journey to Scotland, and presented the claims and history of the college, and of Princeton, in as favorable and attractive a light as could possibly be done.

It is generally conceded that Dr. Witherspoon's acceptance was due to the efforts of Mr. Stockton, to induce him to reconsider his first refusal, and favorably consider a second election.

The following is a copy of the letter he wrote to his wife, on the subject, from London, March 17, 1767 :

It is a matter absolutely certain, that if I had not gone in person to Scotland, Dr. Witherspoon would not have had a serious thought of accepting the office, because neither he, nor any of his friends with whom he would have consulted, had any tolerable idea of the place to which he was invited, had no adequate notions of the importance of the College of New Jersey, and more than all, would have been entirely discouraged from thinking of an acceptance, from an artful, plausible, yet wickedly contrived letter, sent from Philadelphia to a gentleman of Edinburgh. I



have obtained a copy of it, but cannot take time to send you any extracts, nor would it be necessary if I had time, because the contents of it at present had better be unknown. I was so happy as to have an entire confidence placed in me by Dr. Witherspoon, and thereby I was able to come fairly at him. I certainly have succeeded in removing all the objections which have originated in his own mind. Those of Mrs. Witherspoon I could not remove, because she would not give me an opportunity of conversing with her, although I went from Edinburgh to Paisley, fifty miles, on purpose. After I returned from Paisley to Edinburgh, letters passed between Dr. Witherspoon and me, whereby I have received some hopes that she may be brought over. This firmness is not peculiar to this case; for her own husband informed me, that she was as much averse to removing from an inconsiderable place to Paisley, where he was then minister, from whence we should put a good-natured construction, and suppose that it is only owing to a certain greatness of mind, averse to changing place. I wish he may have reason to think so finally. I have taken most effectual measures to make her refusal very troublesome to her. I have engaged all the eminent clergymen in Edinburgh and Glasgow, to attack her in her intrenchments, and they are determined to take her by storm, if nothing else will do. This has a favorable aspect, and is at the same time surprising; because they were upon my first coming, so unwilling to part with her husband; but the light in which I have set the affairs of the college, has made them perfect proselytes.

Dr. Witherspoon soon after intimated that upon a re-election he would feel it his duty to accept the appointment, which was done, and his wife acquiesced, and cheerfully accompanied him to this distant land.

Mr. Stockton was honored in Edinburgh, by being invited by the Lord Provost and council, to a public dinner, after which the freedom of the city was conferred upon him. A similar honor was paid him in the town of Paisley.

While in Edinburgh he was attacked one night by a desperate robber, and though a severe struggle ensued, he defended himself successfully with a small sword, which is now in the family, and without receiving any material injury.

Mr. Stockton experienced another providential interposition, which saved his life. He had engaged his passage in a packet for the purpose of crossing the Irish Channel, but his baggage being accidentally detained, did not arrive before the vessel had sailed. Though disappointed, he did not embark; and the vessel in which he was to sail was wrecked in a violent storm, and every soul on board perished.

After an absence of about fifteen months, he returned to Princeton in 1767. The next year he was made a Member of Council, and in 1774 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme

Court, having his honored preceptor, David Ogden, his associate on the bench.

We are now approaching in Mr. Stockton's life the Revolutionary period, when his fame will culminate in those glorious deeds which make his name immortal in history. In our next chapter we shall follow him into the Continental Congress of 1776, at Philadelphia, with his friend Dr. Witherspoon, obeying the instructions of their constituents, voting for and signing the immortal Declaration of Independence. We shall see him paying the cost of his avowed patriotism, by his suffering a long continued captivity, in a cruel imprisonment imposed upon him by a revengeful enemy, at once crushing to his delicate and sensitive nature, and gradually undermining his physical health, with his endeared home pillaged, his valuable property seized and squandered, and his honorable and useful life expiring in its meridian fullness.

But just here we wish to dwell for a moment upon his domestic virtues—his home life—his inner life; upon those refined and tender affections and that Christian culture which are so rarely found in the robust statesman, but which he possessed in the complete symmetry of his character.

Let it be remembered then that Mr. Stockton was a man of handsome fortune as well as of superior mind and education. The valuable plantation which he received from his father was made one of the most beautiful residences in the State. His house was filled with elegant and rare furniture; a valuable library and works of art. His grounds were tastefully laid out in lawns, planted with rare trees, and ornamented with a choice flower garden, under the special supervision of his accomplished wife, who called the place "Morven," taken from one of the scenes laid in Ossian's poems, which she was fond of reading; for she possessed a fine literary and poetic taste.

Mr. Stockton's visit to England had contributed both to his taste and to his supply in the line of those things which make a country seat elegant and attractive. While he sent to his wife choice flowers and roots for her garden, he doubtless procured a variety of rare trees for the adornment of Morven. Those venerable trees which still stand as the sacred vestiges of the ante-revolutionary period—the majestic avenue of elms

through which you pass in entering the mansion from the street ; and the long row of large, though knotty and gnarled catalpas, still in vigorous life, along the whole front of Morven on Stockton Street, having survived the less ancient pines which alternated them, were planted by him. In verification of this fact we have, not only the tradition of the family, and the testimony of the trees themselves, but we have what seems to be a pretty direct declaration of Mrs. Stockton, his widow, who, in one of those elegiac odes which she wrote yearly on the anniversary of her husband's death, refers to these trees as having been reared by him. These elegies preserved in manuscript, we have been permitted to read ; and have been allowed to publish the following closing lines of the first one, for this purpose only :

“ To me in vain shall cheerful spring return,  
 And tuneful birds salute the purple morn :  
 Autumn in vain present me all her stores,  
 Or summer court me with her fragrant bowers ;  
 These fragrant bowers *were planted by his hand,*  
 And now neglected and unpruned must stand.  
 Ye stately Elms ! and lofty Cedars ! Mourn,  
 How, through your avenues, you saw him borne ;  
 The *friend who reared you,* never to return.  
 Ye Muses ! whom he loved and cherished too ;  
 Bring from your groves, the Cypress and the Yew ;  
 Deck with unfading wreaths his sacred tomb ;  
 And scatter roses of immortal bloom.  
 Goddess of Sorrow ! tune each mournful air  
 Let all things pay the tributary tear ;  
 For worth like this demands this heartfelt grief,  
 And tears alone can yield a sad relief.”

For more than a hundred years these ancient witnesses have borne testimony to the taste and unselfish instincts of this noble man, who while he loved his country, also loved God, in nature, in trees and flowers.

This long row of catalpas in front of Morven can only be viewed as a sacred memorial to the signer of the Declaration. The Fourth day of July is the great day in Mr. Stockton's calendar, as it is in that of our country, and these catalpas, with the undeviating certainty of the seasons, put on their pure white blooming costume every fourth of July. And for

this reason they have been called, very fitly, in this country, the "Independence Tree." No marble monument has been raised over the grave of Mr. Stockton, among the unnamed graves in the Quaker burying ground, by his friends; but here, in the immediate presence of the home in which he was born, in which he lived and died, and which he adorned in life and death, here, these Fourth of July orators, in the sweet silence of nature, in all the grandeur of their independence, recall with the sweet fragrance of their blossoms on every Fourth of July, the memory of the Declaration of Independence, and of this honored Son of Liberty who signed it. For one hundred years have these trees pronounced their annual panegyric upon the memory of the man who planted them; and it was eminently fitting, during the centennial year, for patriotic Jersey-men to be summoned around Morven, to catch the inspiration of these silent oracles, as they teach a lofty patriotism, and transfix upon the memory of every attentive listener, the vow ever enjoined:

"Revere the sacred memory of the dead,  
Nor lose the liberty for which they bled,  
Fulfil the trust to your own children due,  
And leave them all your sires bequeathed to you."

But we must not see Mr. Stockton only in his affluence—at his luxurious house, among his trees and flowers; nor yet among his peers at the bar, or in the National Assemblies, if we would fully learn his true character and his rare qualities.

The key that will open to us the domain of affection toward his wife and children, is the key that will exhibit to us his highest excellence and his rarest virtues.

Mrs. Stockton's maiden name was Annis Boudinot. She was descended from a French Huguenot family, which emigrated to this country in 1686, shortly after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. She was a sister of the honorable Elias Boudinot, who studied law with Mr. Stockton, and married his sister Hannah Stockton. Elias Boudinot spent much of his time in Princeton. He was on the staff of Governor Livingston and was commissary-general of prisoners, appointed by Congress. He was President of Congress when it sat at Prince-

ton, and he was an honorable man, receiving honors, all his life.\*

Mrs. Stockton was a woman of strong mind, fine culture, a zealous Presbyterian, a woman whose force of character impressed itself not only on her husband, but on all her children and her children's children to the present generation. She was about three years younger than her husband. When Mr. Stockton went to England he invited his wife to accompany him, but she said she had no particular call of Providence which made it her duty to venture both of the parents in one bottom. Their mutual correspondence exhibits the purest sentiments of plighted love and conjugal honor. Indeed there was some romance kept up between them through life. In all such correspondence, she assumed the title of "Emilia" and he that of "Lucius." This was quite in fashion at that day among familiar literary correspondents. Mrs. John Adams in her younger days is said to have signed herself Diana, and after her marriage Portia. Such a fashion is known to have prevailed in the times of Queen Anne, when true names were disguised under the fictitious titles of Calliope, and Myra, Aspasia and Amelia. The reason for adopting it in the confidential correspondence between husband and wife, is not, however, so apparent, as in the case of literary correspondence.

On one occasion Mr. Stockton writes from England to her and says :

"Had you received a letter I wrote you from Dublin and the one I wrote you upon my return, you would have laughed at those idle people at Philadelphia who would persuade you that I prefer the elegance of England to the sylvan shades of America. No! my dearest Emilia, the peaceful home which God has blessed me with at Princeton, you and the sweet children you have brought me are the sources from which I receive my highest earthly joys ; joys which I prefer to the state of a prime minister, or a king upon the throne. I am entertained with the grandeur and variety of these kingdoms, as you wish me to be, and as you know I am curious, new objects are continually striking my attention and engaging my fancy ; but

One thought of *thee* puts all the pomp to flight,  
Priests, tapers, temples, swim before my sight."

Again, he writes her, with the ardor of a youthful lover :

"Let me tell you that all the grandeur and elegance that I have yet seen in these kingdoms, in different families, where I have been received with great politeness,

---

\* His father was a silversmith who for a time resided in Princeton.

serves but to increase the pleasure I have for some years enjoyed in your society. I see not a sensible, obliging, tender wife, but the image of my dear Emilia is full in view. I see not a haughty, imperious dame, but I rejoice that the partner of my life is so much the opposite. But why need I talk so gallantly? You know my ideas long ago, as well as you would were I to write a volume upon the endearing topic.

. . . Kiss my dear, sweet children for me, and give rather the hardest squeeze to my only son, if you think it is right; if not divide it equally without any partiality, but tell Dick I will bring him a laced hat, which seems to be his passion, and the little girls something pretty."

In another letter he says:

"What abundant reason have I to bless God for his gracious protection through all the dangers I have passed, and for that great and uncommon degree of health which I now enjoy; wherein my unthankful heart fails, my dear Emilia, I know, will not fail."

Speaking of General Conway, Secretary of State, to whom he had been introduced, and had received polite treatment from him, he said:

"I am happy that I have had nothing to ask of Government, and, therefore dare speak my sentiments without cringing. Wherever I can serve my native country, I leave no occasion untried. Dear America—thou sweet retreat from greatness and corruption! in thee I choose to live and die."

In another letter he writes at length, about flowers and flower gardens of which she was so fond, and his visit to Mr. Pope's garden and grotto; and about some curiosities that he was gathering for her; he had sent her some boxes of roots and flowers, and said: "but I really believe you have as fine tulips and hyacinths in your little garden as almost any in England; yet I shall order some of the finest to be sent next July, so as to be set out in the fall."

In referring to the proposed scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for raising money from the colonies, and sending more soldiers here, he said: "*I exceedingly fear that we shall get together by the ears, and God only knows what is to be the issue!*"

Mr. Stockton attended the Queen's birth-night ball—the assembly having been the most brilliant possible. The Duke of York and the Princess of Brunswick opened it with a minuet. The Duke of Gloucester and the Princess Louisa succeeded. The Duke of Cumberland and the Duchess of Bolton—the nobility and gentry then followed as their names were called.

The affability of the King and Queen--the magnificence of the foreign ambassadors and their ladies, and the dress of the English nobility who attended, were all very entertaining. "Here I saw," he writes, "all your Duchesses of Ancaster, Hamilton, etc., so famous for their beauty. But here I have done with this subject, for I had rather ramble with you along the rivulets of Morven or Red Hill and see the rural sports of the chaste little frogs, than again be at a birth-night ball."

When the army of Cornwallis came to Princeton on the 7th of December, 1776, Mr. Stockton was not attending Congress at Baltimore, though a member of that body; but he sought refuge for his family at the house of an old friend in Monmouth County, a Mr. Covenhoven. He was betrayed by some of the loyalists, a party of whom came at night and with force entered the house where he was staying, and dragged him out of bed, and carried him to Amboy and thence to New York, where he was thrown into a dismal jail, and treated barbarously. Congress, on the 3d of January, 1777, the day of the Princeton battle, adopted a resolution directing General Washington to inquire into the treatment Mr. Stockton was receiving in prison, and to seek his deliverance, which was effected, but the indignities and sufferings to which he had been exposed were too much for his sensitive nature to bear. His health became impaired; and after riding on a cold day to Somerset Court, his lip was cracked just at the parting, being so severely chapped that it resulted in a cancerous affection which terminated his life. Surgical operations and incisions proved useless. He suffered intensely; and died at Morven, his residence in Princeton, February 28, 1781.

The Rev. Dr. S. S. Smith, Vice President of the College, preached his funeral discourse in the College chapel, from the words of Scripture selected by his widow. "I have seen an end of all perfection, but thy commandment is exceeding broad." In speaking of him personally, on that occasion he said:

"It was one of his earliest honors to have been a son of this college, and it was one of the first honors of this college to have given birth to such a son. After having adorned the place of his education by his talents, he soon rose to the Board of its Trustees, and has ever since been one of its distinguished patrons."

"Young gentlemen," said he, addressing the students of the college, "another of

the fathers of learning and eloquence is gone. . . . At the bar he practiced for many years with unrivalled reputation and success. . . . In council he was wise and firm, but always prudent and moderate. . . . The office of a Judge of the Province, was never filled with more integrity and learning than it was by him for several years before the Revolution. . . . In his private life, he was easy and graceful in his manners; in his conversation, affable and entertaining, and master of a smooth and elegant style, even in his ordinary discourse. As a man of letters, he possessed a superior genius, highly cultivated by long and assiduous application. His researches into the principles of morals and religion were deep and accurate, and his knowledge of the laws of his country, extensive and profound. He was well acquainted of polite learning, but he was particularly admired for a flowing and persuasive eloquence by which he long governed in the Courts of Justice."

Nothing need be added to such a eulogy, pronounced by one who knew Mr. Stockton so well, personally, and who was able to discriminate so wisely. *The New Jersey Gazette* announced his death also with high eulogy. Mr. Stockton was buried in the Stony Brook Quaker burying-ground, with no monument to mark his now unknown grave among those of his ancestors.

His honored widow, with three children, remained at Morven, until Richard began the practice of the law, and was married; then she surrendered the place to him. While she occupied it, and especially during the war, and while Congress sat at Princeton, her home was visited by many of the distinguished friends of her late husband. The most friendly relations existed between her and Gen. Washington. He paid her much respect, and they corresponded with the freedom of sincere friendship. After she left Morven she boarded for a while at the house corner of Nassau and Washington Streets. Gen. Washington called there to see her. Her youngest daughter, Abby, lived with her till she married Mr. Robert Field, of Whitehill, Burlington County, a brother of the wife of the last named Richard Stockton, and then Mrs. Stockton removed with her daughter Mrs. Field, to Whitehill, and there died in 1801.

Mr. Stockton left two sons and four daughters. His oldest son Richard Stockton became one of the most eminent lawyers in the country. He succeeded his father in the possession of Morven, and occupied it till his death in 1828, and left a large number of children, of whom Commodore Robert F. Stockton was one. We notice him particularly in a subsequent chapter.



His other son Lucius Horatio Stockton was also an eminent lawyer, who graduated in the class of 1787. He studied law and settled in Trenton, where he acquired a large practice and held at one time the office of District Attorney of New Jersey. In 1801 President Adams nominated him to be Secretary of War, just before the close of his administration, which gave umbrage to Mr. Jefferson. He was eccentric and a strong political partisan of the Federal school. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, and his daughter Sarah Milnor, was married to the Rev. Wm. J. Armstrong, D. D., of Trenton. He died May 26, 1835, and was buried in Trenton.\*

Richard Stockton's eldest daughter Julia was married to Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia, who was also a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and died in 1848. His daughter Susan was married to Alexander Cuthbert, of Canada, and died in Princeton in 1821. His daughter Mary was married to Rev. Andrew Hunter, D. D., a chaplain in the U. S. Army in the Revolution, and at one time a professor in Princeton College, the father of Gen. David Hunter, Dr. Louis Hunter, and the present Mrs. Dr. Hodge, of the Theological Seminary in Princeton. His daughter Abby was married to Robert Field, of Whitehill, Burlington County, the father of the late Judge Richard S. Field and of Mrs. George T. Olmsted, who is still living in Princeton. Mrs. Field died in 1853. These daughters of Richard Stockton, like his sons, were distinguished for their strong intellectual and Christian character and culture. They all sustained the high character of their distinguished parents, and added honor to the name of Stockton in Princeton, where their memory is loved and honored. Daughters possessing the personal attractions of beauty, culture and position, which these possessed, added much to the special influence of Morven, in Princeton society, while they were at home unmarried; and in their marriages with distinguished and honorable men, they widened and increased the honor and influence of their family, at home and abroad.

SAMUEL WITHAM STOCKTON, younger than his brother Richard, the signer, was graduated at Nassau Hall in the class

\* Dr. Hall's History of Trenton.

of 1767. In 1774 he went to Europe as secretary of the American Commission to the courts of Austria and Russia. While abroad he negotiated a treaty with Holland. He returned to New Jersey in 1779. He was elected Secretary of the Convention of New Jersey to ratify the Constitution of the United States in 1787. He removed from Princeton to Trenton, and in 1794 he was appointed Secretary of State of New Jersey. He lost his life by being thrown from a chaise in Trenton, in 1795.\*

PHILIP STOCKTON, the third son of John Stockton, and brother of the signer, graduated at Princeton in 1773, and was a clergyman. He became the owner of the Castle Howard farm and resided there. He married Catharine Cumming, sister of Colonel John Noble Cumming, and they had several children, all remarkable for their fine physique; among them were

1. Lucius Witham Stockton, who was clerk or surrogate of Hunterdon County. His wife, was a Miss Coxe, and his daughter Rebecca was married to R. L. Howell, son of Governor Howell, of New Jersey. Philip Augustus Stockton was a son of this Lucius. He married a Miss Canty, and owned and lived on the place, which he sold to R. S. Field, now called Woodlawn. He planted the most of the large evergreen trees which were there when Judge Field bought it. He has sons living, children by this wife. She died in Princeton, and he then married a Miss Remington, and has for several years past resided at Newport, R. I., where he died quite recently, leaving his widow and one son surviving him.

2. William Tennent Stockton, who lived at Newark, and was assisted by Colonel J. N. Cumming, and taken into the staging business. He married a Miss Williamson of Ringoes. They had two daughters, Mrs. Cox, and Julia.

3. John N. Cumming Stockton.

4. Richard C. Stockton, of Baltimore, who was of the firm of Stockton and Stokes, in carrying the United States mails.

\* Dr. Hall's History of Trenton.

COLONEL FRANCIS BARBER was born in Princeton in 1751. His father, Patrick Barber, Esq., came from Ireland to New York in 1749 or 1750. After a short residence there, he removed to Princeton. What attracted him to this place at that early day, we know not. The college had not yet been removed hither. We find his name among the petitioners for the establishment of military barracks in this place, in 1758. It also appears among the subscribers for building the Presbyterian church in 1762. Francis graduated at the college in this place, in the class of 1767; after which he took charge of the grammar school in Elizabethtown. Among his pupils was young Alexander Hamilton. His father, Patrick Barber, had about this time removed into Orange County, New York, where he received appointments to civil offices under the colonial and State governments, and his ashes repose in the family cemetery in Orange County, beside the untimely grave of his gallant and lamented son.

When the Revolutionary war broke out, Francis and his two younger brothers, John and William, devoted themselves to the service of their country. John commanded a company in the New York line, and Francis and William were officers in the New Jersey line. Francis received a commission from Congress on the 9th of February, 1776, as Major of the Third Battalion of New Jersey troops. He next received a commission of Lieutenant Colonel of the Third Regiment, January 1, 1777. He was also Assistant Inspector General under Baron Steuben. Colonel Barber was in constant service during the whole war. He was at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth, and was wounded at Monmouth. He served under General Schuyler; and in 1779 he was Adjutant General with General Sullivan in an expedition against the Indians, and was wounded. In 1780, he was conspicuous in the army of New Jersey, and was at the battle of Springfield. He accompanied the New Jersey line to Virginia, and was at the capture of the British at Yorktown. He and his horse were killed by the falling of a tree upon them, while acting as the officer of the day for a friend at New Windsor, New York, February 11, 1783, where he and his wife, who was a daughter of Robert Ogden of Elizabethtown, had

been invited by General Washington to dine with him, and hear the intelligence of peace.\*

REV. JOHN WITHERSPOON, D.D., President of the College of New Jersey for more than quarter of a century, is a central figure in the History of Princeton. His long connection with the college as its head; his long continued and faithful services as minister of the church here; his prominent and important public position before the country, in the Continental Congress for six years, and in other political bodies and popular conventions, during the Revolutionary period; his bold and unequivocal advocacy of national independence for a long time before he signed the Declaration; his numerous learned and valuable discourses, lectures, essays and treatises on political, moral and theological questions, have combined to give immortality to his name, and have drawn forth since his death, and especially during the Centennial year, so many high eulogies, and interesting biographical sketches of his life and services, that it would require volumes to record all that has been spoken and written of him.

We introduce his name here, only to show that he was among the prominent citizens of Princeton when the Revolution commenced. He was not a native of this country, but he came from Paisley, in Scotland, where he was the successor of the Rev. Robert Finley, in a pastoral charge, to Princeton, where he became the successor of the Rev. Samuel Finley, D.D., President of the college, in 1768.

He brought with him a reputation of high character, as a scholar, an author, a theologian, an eloquent Presbyterian preacher; and he was an ecclesiastic with lance in hand, ready for the most formidable controversy in philosophy, politics, or religion; and being able to trace on his mother's side an unbroken line of ministerial ancestry, through a period of two hundred years, to the great reformer John Knox. He transferred his allegiance to this his adopted country with an ardent patriotism, which impelled him to give a portion of his talents and experience to statesmanship, when his adopted country was in peril.

\* Princeton College Eighteenth Century by S. D. Alexander. History of Elizabeth, by Dr. Hatfield. National Portrait Gallery.

When Dr. Witherspoon came to Princeton, he found here Richard Stockton, who had presented to him, in person, while in Scotland, the letters of the trustees of the college, notifying him of his election. An intimate friendship grew up between them, and they both became subsequently the honored signers of the Declaration of Independence, as representatives of New Jersey.

In our subsequent chapters, on the *Revolutionary Period*—on the *Princeton Church*—on the *College*—on *Princeton Authors* and their volumes, we endeavor farther to exhibit Dr. Witherspoon, as he bore his part in the stern duties and conflicts which so squarely confronted him in his true and earnest life in America; and following him into the golden sunset of his years at Tusculum, we shall take leave of him in our chapter on the *Cemetery*.

His wife who came with him from Scotland, was a woman of marked piety, amiable and of fine social manners, which won the love of all who knew her. They had ten children, but five of them died before they left Scotland, and five came with them to Princeton, three sons and two daughters.

James Witherspoon, the eldest son, was a young man of bright promise. He graduated at Princeton College, in the class of 1770. Sharing his father's patriotism, he joined the American army as aid to General Nash, in the Revolution. He lost his life in the battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, while fighting for his country.

John Witherspoon, the second son, graduated in the class of 1773, and practiced medicine in South Carolina, and was lost at sea in 1795.

David Witherspoon, the youngest, graduated in 1774, practiced law in Newberne, N. C. He married the widow of General Nash.

Anna was married to the Rev. Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, the successor of Dr. Witherspoon in the presidency of the college.

Frances was married to Dr. David Ramsay, the historian of South Carolina. She died in 1811, and the memoirs of her life were published in a volume by her husband, and contained some of the productions of her own pen. She was a cultivated

woman—a tender wife, an excellent mother of eight children who survived her.

Mrs. Witherspoon, the wife of President Witherspoon, died in 1789; and in eighteen months after, he married a young widow of Dr. Dill, of Philadelphia—forty-five years younger than himself. Their daughter was married to the Rev. James S. Woods, of Pennsylvania. Dr. Witherspoon died at Tusculum, November 15, 1794.\*

*WILLIAM CHURCHILL HOUSTON* was a native of South Carolina; first appeared in Princeton as a teacher in the College Grammar School, and graduated in the college in the class of 1768; was appointed tutor in college in 1769; and in 1771 he was elected Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. When the Revolutionary war broke out he and Dr. Witherspoon were the only professors in the college. At the dispersion of the students in 1776, when the army invaded the town, Mr. Houston took command as captain of a scouting party organized at Flemington, and rendered service in the counties of Hunterdon and Somerset. One or more of the students of the college enlisted under him, and a journal of their marches and services was kept and has been published in Princeton.

Mr. Houston was called in to sit as a member of the Council of Safety, in Princeton, in 1778, and acted as the treasurer or cashier of that body for some time. He resumed his duties as professor in college as soon as the public safety allowed it; and in 1783 he resigned his chair, having previously been studying law, and admitted to the bar. He removed to Trenton, and acquired a large practice there. While in Princeton, he was sent in 1777, to the Assembly from Somerset; and then he was sent to Congress as a delegate from the County of Middlesex, in the years 1779-80-81; and in 1784, he was again sent. He was appointed a delegate from New Jersey to the convention of Commissioners at Annapolis, in 1786, which suggested the convention which framed the Federal Constitution. But his feeble health forbade his attendance. He died in Frankfort, Pa., in 1788.

*JAMES FINLEY* came from Glasgow, Scotland, to Princeton,

\* Sprague's Annals.

in 1769, through the solicitation of Dr. Witherspoon, who was his warm personal friend. He had been a yarn merchant, in his native city, and when he and his family came to this village, he followed the occupation of weaving. He was an eminently pious and exemplary Christian, a devout student of the Bible, and a highly useful member of society. He was a warm supporter of the American Revolution. He was employed as clothier to a brigade of American troops, and held this office while the English were in possession of Princeton. He continued at home during this period, and had British officers quartered at his office; yet he did not fail to show his fidelity to the cause of Independence. He was impoverished in his estate by the sacrifices he made for his adopted country.

Mr. Finley was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church in Princeton, and affectionately attended upon Dr. Witherspoon in his last sickness. After the death of Dr. Witherspoon, he went to spend the residue of his days at Baskingridge, with his son, the Rev. Robert Finley, and there he filled the office of ruling elder till his death, greatly aiding the pastor by his experience and Christian gifts. His death was calm and triumphant.\*

JOHN JOHNSON, a son of John Johnson who died in 1762, and grandson of Rutt Johnson, was the owner of a large tract of land along Stony Brook. In addition to what he derived from his father, he purchased in 1770, of Richard Stockton and Sarah his wife, of Hanover, Burlington County, three hundred acres, being a part of the tract of Samuel Stockton, devised by him in 1739 to his son Joseph, and which Joseph had conveyed to Richard in 1769.

John Johnson's homestead was where Henry D. Johnson now lives, just out of the west end of Princeton, and adjoining the Constitution Hill farm of Robt. Stockton. He was a good patriot and rendered important service to his country in the Revolution. He was commissioned a justice of the peace for Somerset County, by Governor Livingston in 1776. He suffered much loss by the depredations of the British soldiers, who stole his stock and seized all his property. In 1778, he issued

\* Memoirs of Dr. Robert Finley.

a venire to try Joseph Stockton for violating the act to punish traitors and disaffected persons, which resulted in a verdict of guilty; and Mr. Stockton's estate was forfeited and sold.

Mr. Johnson was later in life a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church of Princeton. He was a farmer and distiller, and the father of Caleb, Lewis and Ralph Johnson, and the grandfather of Henry D. Johnson, now occupying the old homestead. We find among his papers many army orders directed to him by Quartermaster Robert Stockton, in the Revolutionary War, which will be found in a subsequent chapter; also an agreement entered into by his father with Joseph Stockton in 1754, allowing him to build a dam for a saw-mill on Stony Brook, for twenty-five years.

Captain WILLIAM HOWARD, an officer in the British army for some years prior to the Revolutionary War, resided on the farm a little to the east of Princeton, now owned by Rev. Mr. Blodgett, known as the Castle Howard farm, named after Capt. Howard, then the owner of it. He probably built the main part of the stone mansion house, which with additions put up by Col. Beatty, a subsequent owner, is still standing. Captain Howard was a decided Whig, but was laid up with the gout, which during the Revolution confined him to his room. His wife was of different sentiments, and he was often exceedingly vexed by her entertainment of British officers, whose conversation was very obnoxious to him; so that he had painted in large letters over the mantel-piece in his room, "No Tory talk here." This, though covered with whitewash, was plainly discernible twenty years after. He died during the war. His wife returned to England.\*

In 1785 the farm was sold to the Rev. Philip Stockton, the son of John, and brother of Richard Stockton, the signer of the Declaration. In 1795 Col. Beatty bought it, and occupied it for twenty years. This is the oldest farm in the vicinity of Princeton, having been the plantation of Dr. Greenland prior to the conveyance of Penn to Stockton. Captain Thomas Lavender, who owned it for many years before the present owner bought it, greatly improved its productiveness, buildings and lawn.

\* These facts are taken from Dr. Charles Beatty's Family Record.



JONATHAN DEARE, a highly respectable English gentleman, a lawyer by profession, also took an active part in New Jersey, in the struggle for Independence. His zeal and intelligence attracted the attention of the patriotic citizens of Middlesex County, and he was chosen a deputy from that county to the first Provincial Congress in 1775. For several years during the war he represented that county in the Assembly of the legislature under the State convention. He was a resident of Princeton, but we are not certain as to the year he became such. It was while he was attending upon the session of the legislature in Princeton, that he met Miss Frances Phillips, a beautiful daughter of William Phillips of the township of Maidenhead, (now Lawrence) an influential and active patriot, and became fascinated with her personal charms. He married her and they lived in Princeton for several years, occupying and owning the house which was recently removed from where the University Hotel stands to Bayard Avenue, next to the residence of the Misses Stevens. It was well known for many years as the residence of Dr. Van Cleve and afterwards of Dr. Forman, in Nassau Street. Mrs. Deare, his wife, served with Mrs. Richard Stockton, Mrs. Lord Sterling, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Colonel Neilson, and other ladies, on a committee to aid the soldiers.

Mr. Deare acted as chairman of a public meeting of the citizens of Princeton, held at the Market House, in 1782, to form an association to prevent trade and intercourse with the enemy; and he was a member of a committee to present that association to the inhabitants for their coöperation.

As a resident citizen of Princeton, Mr. Deare filed his claim with the State government, for loss and damage sustained by him, and done by the British soldiers.\*

In 1784, we find his name down for ten pounds on a subscription for repairing the Presbyterian church in Princeton; and in 1786, he and Dr. Beatty were appointed by that church a committee to draw a petition to the Legislature for an act to

\* The items mentioned in his claims were the following:

"Young orchard, 50 grafted trees destroyed by British about half a mile from Princeton—6000 cedar rails enclosing his lot at Amboy—Furniture, spoons, etc., in Princeton. Total £215 19s. 2d.

Sworn before Joseph Olden, 22 Oct. 1782.

incorporate the joint congregations of Kingston and Princeton, and an act to accompany it, in case the pending negotiation for a union of the churches should be consummated.

Soon after this Mr. Deare became a resident of the city of New Brunswick. He was offered by the government a place in connection with the Port of Entry, in Middlesex County, but whether he ever accepted it or removed from Princeton on that account, we are not able to state.

In the burying-ground of the Episcopal church in New Brunswick, where he was buried, his death is inscribed on his tombstone, as of January 3, 1796. unless we have mistaken the almost illegible figures.

He left several children who were greatly respected and beloved. William Phillips Deare was a lawyer and filled for a long term of years, with great fidelity, the office of Clerk of Middlesex County. Mary Deare never married, but spent the most of her life in New Brunswick and Princeton, beloved by all who knew her for her gentleness, piety and liberality. She gave a scholarship to the Theological Seminary at Princeton, and her life abounded in acts of charity. She died in Princeton in 1860, the place in which she was born in 1786, and was buried with her parents and kindred in New Brunswick. Frances was married to Gilbert T. Snowden, Esq., and spent her married life at Columbia, South Carolina, with him. After the death of her husband and children, she came to the North and she and her sister Mary lived with Mrs. L. W. R. Phillips, until their death. Mrs. Snowden was remarkable for her cheerful piety. She was always in sunshine, never under a cloud. She lived to an extreme old age, and yet maintained till the last a bright, happy, lovely spirit. She died in Princeton in 1874, and was interred at New Brunswick, by the side of her son William Deare Snowden. Samuel S. Deare died in 1827. Lewis was the name of another son who has been dead many years.

We have omitted to notice, in this chapter, the early Presidents of the college—Burr, Edwards, Davies and Finley, who preceded President Witherspoon, and whose short residence in Princeton conferred distinguished honor upon the society and reputation of the place. They will be brought to view in a subsequent notice of the church and the college.

## CHAPTER IV.

PRINCETON DURING THE REVOLUTION. 1775—1784.

Influence of Princeton in the Revolution—Why it attracted the War-Cloud—Its Prominent Citizens—Its Central Position—Early Patriotic Demonstrations by the Students—Burning Tea—SEC. I. Princeton proposed a Provincial Congress.—II. Princeton and the Declaration of Independence—III. First Legislature under the Constitution organized at Princeton—IV. A Month before the Battle—V. The Battle of Princeton—VI. The Devastation of Property—VII. The Second Session of the Legislature in Princeton—VIII. The Council of Safety in Princeton—IX. The American Congress in Princeton—X. Miscellaneous Items.

THE name of Princeton shines with a bright lustre in the history of the American Revolution. No place in New Jersey was more influential in inaugurating the Revolution, and in shaping the political status of the State under the first Constitution, than the little village of Princeton. Its prominence in opposing the oppressive legislation of the Mother Country; its central position on the great thoroughfare across the State; its college and the cluster of influential and leading public men who resided here, and who ardently espoused the cause of liberty, as naturally attracted the fury of the war-cloud as it passed over the State, as the magnet attracts the needle. Hence its citizens early had the enemy quartered upon them, and were subjected to a wanton devastation of their property. Their soil received an early baptism of blood in a sharp and victorious battle, which by its results in turning the tide of war, inspired hope in a desponding people, who were striking for liberty; and which made their battle-field an inspiring watchword to the patriot soldier in all the subsequent struggles of the great conflict.

Notwithstanding there was a large Quaker population in and around Princeton, which, though opposed to British oppression, was at the same time opposed to war, there was a goodly

number of brave men here who were wise in council and who did not shrink from pledging their lives and their reputation for the cause of independence. That we may more fully comprehend the situation, let us call to mind those prominent men of Princeton, just before and during the Revolution, who rendered signal service to their country, either in council or in war, in public or in private: viz.

Richard Stockton, Robert Stockton, Jonathan Sergeant, Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, Jonathan Baldwin, Jonathan Deare, Enos Kelsey, Dr. Absalom Bainbridge, Dr. or Gen. John Beatty, John Johnson, Ruloff Van Dyke, Col. William Scudder, Dr. John Witherspoon and his son James Witherspoon, James Finley, Capt. Howard, Dr. Thomas Wiggins, Wm. Churchill Houston, Col. Stephen Morford, Capt. James Moore, Capt. Andrew McMackin, Capt. Aaron Longstreet, Maj. Jacob Hyer, James Hamilton, Capt. Jonathan Combs, Maj. Thomas Egbert, Capt. William Covenhoven, David Snowden, Thomas Skillman, Jr., Thomas Stockton and others, besides those who served as privates in the militia.

Among these names we have two of the most illustrious lawyers in the colony, Richard Stockton and Jona. Dickinson Sergeant. Ten of them were sons of Nassau Hall: one a graduate of Yale; besides the distinguished President of the College of New Jersey. John Stockton, the father of Richard, Judge Leonard, and Justice Berrien of the Supreme Court, who had lived in the vicinity of Princeton, died a few years before the Revolution commenced. Princeton, at that time and for more than half a century afterwards, was divided by the line which separated the counties of Middlesex and Somerset, and this not only gave Princeton a double representation in the councils and conventions of the colony, but it drew to this village for mutual conference, and friendly alliance, other prominent men who resided in the more remote townships of those respective counties, especially Frederick Frelinghuysen of Millstone, and William Paterson of Raritan.

Frederick Frelinghuysen was a son of the Rev. John Frelinghuysen of Raritan, and the grandson of the Rev. Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen, the first ancestor of that honorable name who emigrated from Holland to this country in 1720,

and resided about three miles west of New Brunswick, but preached alternately in Raritan, New Brunswick, Six-mile-Run, and North Branch. His mother was Dinah Van Berg, that extraordinary woman, the daughter of a wealthy and distinguished East India merchant who resided in Amsterdam, and who after her husband's death, was married to the Rev. Jacobus Rutsen Hardenberg. He graduated at Princeton in 1770, under President Witherspoon, studied law and began the practice at Millstone. He was present and acted as clerk at the Somerset County Meeting, in May 1775, to appoint Deputies to the Provincial Congress, to meet at Trenton on the 23d of that month, and he and William Paterson, with Messrs. Sergeant, Kelsey and others, were appointed deputies. From this time his rise was rapid, though he was only twenty-two years old. He was soon elected a member of the Provincial Legislature, a member of the Committee of Safety and a member of the Continental Congress, but resigned in 1777. He spent much of his time in Princeton, during the Revolution. He was captain of an artillery company, engaged at the battles of Trenton and Monmouth. He was afterwards Colonel of the Somerset Militia. In 1793, he was elected to the United States Senate. He was appointed Major General of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops in the Western Expedition. As a citizen he stood among the first at the bar of New Jersey. His life was unsullied by a stain and abounded in acts of benevolence and usefulness. He died in 1804. His three sons, John, Frederick and Theodore, were all distinguished lawyers. Our late Senator of New Jersey is a son of Frederick; and Theodore's reputation in the Senate, at the bar, and in the university, is fresh and fragrant. The name is still among the most honored in the State.

William Paterson, was a son of Richard Paterson, and was born in Ireland. He came with his father to Princeton, prior to the year 1755. He graduated at Nassau Hall, in 1763, and then read law with Richard Stockton in Princeton, after which he removed with his father to Raritan, on a farm a few miles west of Somerville. He became a representative from Somerset County in the early Provincial Congress and Legislature. He served in the highest places of the State, and of the United

States, for many years as Governor of New Jersey, as Judge of the United States Court, as law maker—revising and drafting more statutes than any other person in the State, and maintaining deservedly, a reputation as one of the best, if not the very best, jurists in the country. His relations to Princeton in the earlier part of his life were such, that we might justly claim him as a Princeton man.

The counties of Hunterdon and Burlington each extending within three or four miles of Princeton, made it a convenient centre for the consultation of the leading men of those districts, with the men of Princeton. John Hart of Hopewell, who became a signer of the Declaration, lived nearer to Princeton than to any other public place, in which he might be educated for the scenes and trials of the Revolution; and he was in full sympathy with the Princeton men. And the same may be alleged of Hendrick Fisher, of Somerset, one of the most steadfast and trusted patriots of that county, and whose biography ought to be prepared and incorporated in the Revolutionary History of New Jersey.

Superadded to all these circumstances which pertained to Princeton, giving it prominent local influence, we should mention the presence of the college, as the great centre of learning and power, for "knowledge is power." Its president being a man of great learning and independence of thought and action, accustomed to write, and speak, and preach without the fear of man, and having come from among the strong intellectual men of Scotland and England, whom he knew and did not fear, he stood foremost in the contest for independence; and doubtless his personal magnetism inspired the public men whom he met and mingled with at Princeton, none of whom were more stimulated by his patriotic words and actions than Mr. Stockton and Mr. Sergeant, Mr. Paterson and Mr. Frelinghuysen.

Several years before a speck of war against the Mother Country could be discerned, an electric spark of patriotic fire was struck in Princeton, which betokened the flame that afterwards lighted up New Jersey. James Madison, on the 23d of July, 1770, then a student in the college at Princeton, in a letter to Thomas Martin, wrote :

"We have no public news but the base conduct of the merchants in New York in breaking through their spirited resolutions not to import, a distinct account of which I suppose will be in the "Virginia Gazette" before this arrives. The letter to the merchants in Philadelphia requesting their concurrence, was lately burned by the students of this place, in the college yard, all of them appearing in their black gowns and the bell tolling. . . . There are about one hundred and fifteen in the college, and in the grammar school, all of them in American cloth."\*

Frederick Frelinghuysen, Dr. Beatty, Dr. McKnight, Hugh Brackinridge, Philip Freneau, and James Madison were among the students in college at that time, and all became distinguished for their services to their country in the Revolutionary War.

Another exhibition, quite as demonstrative of Princeton patriotism as the foregoing one, was made a few years later. Charles C. Beatty, who graduated at Nassau Hall in 1775, was in college in 1774. In a letter written by him, dated Princeton, January 1774, he says :

"Last week, to show our patriotism, we gathered all the steward's winter store of tea, and having made a fire in the Campus, we there burnt near a dozen pounds, tolled the bell and made many spirited resolves. But this was not all. Poor Mr. Hutchinson's effigy shared the same fate with the tea, having a tea canister tied about his neck."†

These effervescent demonstrations were powerfully educational, and not of mere local influence. The participants were young men from all the colonies, and when they enlisted in their country's cause a little later, as Mr. Beatty did, they had not forgotten these exciting college experiences, but were inspired by their recollection of them.

We now proceed with the History, under this chapter, in Sections.

\* Princeton College in 18th Century.

† Beatty's Family Record, p. 68.

## SECTION I.

## PRINCETON PROPOSED A PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

Princeton advised a Provincial Congress—One called at Trenton in 1775—Princeton strongly represented—Sessions opened with Prayer at 8 o'clock A. M.—Proceedings of Congress—Delegates to Continental Congress—Committee of Safety—First Sessions in Princeton—Provincial Congress at Burlington in June 1776—Dr. Witherspoon a prominent Member for eleven days—Gov. William Franklin adhered to the Crown—was arraigned before the Congress—was contemptuous—was deposed—Dr. Witherspoon's bitter Speech—Prominent Services of Sergeant, Frelinghuysen and Paterson, in securing a State Constitution, which was adopted July 2, 1776—Dr. Witherspoon, Richard Stockton and others, appointed Delegates to Continental Congress—Instructed to vote for Independence

FOR a year or two previous to the Declaration of Independence, a note of preparation for war was sounded among the people of the colony. New Jersey responded sympathetically with Massachusetts, in organizing defensive measures. But William Franklin, at that time Governor of the colony, adhered to the crown, and headed the party of royalists. He declared his displeasure at the rashness of General Gage at Boston, for having commenced hostilities, before renewed efforts had been made to bring the people to acquiesce in Lord North's policy; but he was soon confronted with a popular demonstration, that his subservient adherence to the British Government, in its oppressive colonial legislation, was treason to American liberty.

Committees of correspondence were appointed in the several towns, with a view of concerted action. Bancroft says:

"The Committee of Newark were willing to hazard their lives and fortunes, in support of their brethren of the Massachusetts Bay. Princeton and Perth Amboy advised a Provincial Congress, to which Morris County promptly appointed delegates. All ranks of men in Woodbridge greatly applauded and admired the conduct and bravery of Massachusetts."

The advice of Princeton prevailed, and the New Jersey Committee of Correspondence, on the second of May, called a Provincial Congress for the 23d of May 1775, at Trenton. The several counties of the Province sent their deputies to that Congress, which met at the time and place appointed.



Princeton and the two counties to which it belonged, were well represented in that Congress. Among the deputies were Jonathan Sergeant, Jonathan Baldwin, Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, Enos Kelsey, William Paterson, Frederick Frelinghuysen, Hendrick Fisher and Jonathan Deare, five of whom, at least, were residents of Princeton, viz: The two Sergeants, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Deare, and Mr. Kelsey. And six of them were graduates of Nassau Hall, viz: Messrs. Baldwin, J. D. Sergeant, Kelsey, Paterson and Frelinghuysen.

Remembering that Mr. Frelinghuysen had graduated under President Witherspoon in 1770, and resided at Millstone; and that Mr. Paterson after graduating in 1763, read law in Princeton, with Richard Stockton, we can readily conceive how these educated men from Princeton, and those who had recently graduated at Princeton College, would sympathize in their views, and exert a controlling influence in that Provincial Congress. And this was demonstrated in the organization of that body on the 23d of May, when they elected Hendrick Fisher President, Jona. Dickinson Sergeant, Secretary, and William Paterson and Frederick Frelinghuysen his assistants, all of whom were deputies from Somerset County. Mr. Sergeant, after acting as secretary for a short time, resigned, and was elected the Provincial Treasurer of the Congress, and Mr. Paterson acted as secretary, with Mr. Frelinghuysen his deputy. This Congress had about eighty-seven members; among them were John Hart and Abraham Clarke, who afterwards were signers of the Declaration of Independence. As soon as the Congress was organized, the following order showing the religious sentiments of that body, was adopted; but on whose motion the record does not disclose:

“Inasmuch as the business on which this Congress are now assembled, and is likely to engage their deliberations, appears to be of the highest moment, and may in the event, affect the lives and properties, the religion and liberties of their constituents, and of their remotest posterity, it unquestionably becomes the representative body of a Christian community, to look up to that all powerful Being, by whose providence all human events are guided, humbly imploring his divine favor, in presiding over and directing their present councils towards the re-establishment of order and harmony between Great Britain and her distressed Colonies; and that he would be graciously pleased to succeed the measures that may be devised as most conducive to these desirable ends:

It is therefore ordered that the president do wait upon the ministers of the Gos-

pel in this town, and in behalf of this Congress, request their alternate attendance and service every morning at eight o'clock, during the session, in order that the business of the day may be opened with prayer for the above purpose."

The Congress then proceeded to provide ways and means for the security of the province as the exigencies of the times required, and at the same time declared their profoundest veneration for the person and family of His Majesty George III, and professing all due allegiance to his rightful authority. They also approved and ratified the act of the Colonial General Assembly, convened at Perth Amboy in January of that year, appointing Stephen Crane, James Kinsey, William Livingston, John De Hart and Richard Smith, Esquires, as representatives in the Continental Congress, in Philadelphia; but resolved that it was most eligible thereafter to elect representatives to that Congress through the Provincial Congress.

The Congress adopted strong resolutions recommending the good people of the province, most religiously to adhere to the resolution of the Continental Congress, that exportations to Quebec, Nova Scotia and other British possessions should cease, and that no provision should be furnished to the British fisheries on the American coast; and sought to be in accord with the Continental Congress and with other colonies, in promoting the common cause of the country, in its then unhappy situation; at the same time recommending the people to form, in every township, military companies of men between sixteen and fifty years of age, and to be prepared for the storm of war which was about to break upon the country. Congress adjourned on the 17th of August, having first appointed a Committee of Safety, to act during the recess of Congress.

#### THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

This committee consisted of the following persons, viz: Hendrick Fisher, Samuel Tucker, Isaac Pearson, John Hart, Jonathan D. Sergeant, Azariah Dunham, Peter Schenck, Enos Kelsey, Joseph Borden, Frederick Frelinghuysen, and John Schureman, seven of whom were from Somerset and Middlesex Counties, and two from Princeton.

The first meeting of this committee was held in Princeton, where their sessions were continued during the months of

August and September, 1775. They adopted measures to take up and examine strollers and vagabonds on the public road, who were stealing horses and robbing at their pleasure. They encouraged the formation of companies of minute men, and recommended them to adopt the uniform hunting frocks, like those of the riflemen in the Continental service. They resumed their session at Princeton in January 1776, and provided for erecting beacons and establishing posts, etc., to carry intelligence to different parts of the colony. They directed a man and horse to be kept in constant readiness at Newark, Elizabeth, Woodbridge, New Brunswick, Princeton, and Trenton, to forward all expresses to and from congress, and they took measures to disarm and arrest extreme and violent men, who traduced the friends of American liberty. They remained in session in Princeton till January 14, 1776. There was some change in the members of this committee. Ruloff Van Dyke, who lived north of Princeton in Montgomery township, having been elected to the Congress, was a member of this committee, in January. After the organization of the State government, this committee was succeeded by the COUNCIL OF SAFETY, which often held sessions in Princeton.

The Provincial Congress, elected in September, held their sessions in the months of October and November, 1775; and being again summoned they met at New Brunswick, January 31st, 1776, and sat through February and March. On the 6th of February, they appointed new delegates to the Continental Congress for the current year, consisting of William Livingston, John De Hart, Richard Smith, John Cooper and Jona. Dickinson Sergeant, "who or any two of them, were empowered to agree to all measures which such Congress might deem necessary."

Governor Franklin had endeavored to anticipate and defeat the action of the Provincial Congress, which was to meet in May 1775, at Trenton, by convening the regular assembly at Perth Amboy, a few days before the time when the Congress was to meet. And when the Provincial Congress was called to meet at Burlington on the 10th of June 1776, he again summoned the House of Assembly, in the name of the king, to meet on the 20th at Perth Amboy, hoping to divide public opinion.

The Congress met on the 10th of June, at Burlington, and a very lively and important meeting it was. Princeton was ably represented again by Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon and Jona. Dickinson Sergeant. William Paterson and Frederick Frelinghuysen were also with them members from Somerset. Dr. Witherspoon, the President of Princeton College, who, John Adams said, was as high a "son of liberty" as any of them, and whom Bancroft describes as "an eloquent Scottish minister, a descendant of John Knox, a man of great ability, learning and liberality, ready to dash into pieces all images of false gods; a combatant of skepticism and the narrow philosophy of the materialists, deputed by Somerset County to take part in applying his noble theories to the construction of civil government," opened the session with prayer.

Dr. Witherspoon had served on a Committee of Correspondence for Somerset County, before this time; and on the national fast day on the 17th of May, 1776, he preached a sermon in Princeton, "On the dominion of Providence over the passions of men," in which he discussed fearlessly and ably the political questions of the country. It was printed and dedicated to John Hancock; and it drew public attention to Dr. Witherspoon as an eloquent and courageous leader of the patriots in council. And now he appeared for the first time, as a member of a delegated political law-making body.

Samuel Tucker was president and William Paterson was secretary of this Congress at Burlington. The object of the Congress was to prepare for the defence of the colony against the British troops who threatened to devastate the land and drench it in blood; also to take action on the question of independence, and lastly to form a constitution for New Jersey. The first act was to resolve to send thirty-three hundred of the militia to reinforce the army of New York.

Governor Franklin was at Perth Amboy, the place of his official residence, and this Congress, anticipating the meeting of the General Assembly, which had been called together by his proclamation for the 20th of June, voted on the 14th that said proclamation ought to be disregarded: and on the next day they caused his arrest and compelled him to appear in person before the Congress under a military guard, charged with

adhering to the royal cause. The Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green says :

“ The Governor treated the Congress with marked indignity—refusing to answer questions—denouncing the body as lawless, ignorant and vulgar, incapable of devising anything for the public good, and subject to the charge and punishment of rebellion. When he finished his tirade of abuse, Dr. Witherspoon rose and let loose upon him a copious stream of irony and sarcasm, reflecting upon the Governor's want of proper early training in liberal knowledge, and alluding to an infirmity in his pedigree.”

Dr. Witherspoon must have been very much excited by the words and manner of Governor Franklin, to be betrayed into such personalities and expressions of indignation as are here ascribed to him. Governor Franklin was deposed, and afterwards sailed for England.

In the several votes taken by the Congress, on the resolutions, that Governor Franklin's proclamation ought not to be obeyed ; that he had acted in contempt and violation of the resolution of the Continental Congress ; that he had discovered himself to be an enemy to the liberties of this country, and that he ought to be immediately arrested ; and that all payment of salary to him should cease, we find Dr. Witherspoon and Mr. Sergeant uniformly voting aye.

Dr. Witherspoon served as a member of this Provincial Congress only eleven days, when having proved so ardent and efficient an advocate of the cause of liberty, he, with others, were elected delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

No member of that Provincial Congress performed more important labor in the public interest, or manifested more earnestness in the cause of Independence, than Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant. He bore a leading part in drawing and reporting important laws to be enacted, and also the new constitution which was adopted. The Constitution contained, at its close, a provision, by which it should become void, in case a reconciliation between the people of the province and the mother country should be effected. The vote adopting the Constitution was carried—all the members but nine, voting in favor of it. Upon the vote for printing the Constitution “ now,” or to wait a few days, to reconsider the last clause about

reconciliation, Mr. Sergeant, with Mr. Frelinghuysen, Paterson, Symmes and a few others, voted against printing "now," though they had voted for adopting it: but it was carried to print "now," and not wait. This vote shows that Sergeant, Paterson, Frelinghuysen and others voting with them, had no hope or desire for reconciliation, at the expense of independence; but wished to have the clause stricken out of the instrument. This clause however remained in the Constitution till 1844, when a new Constitution was adopted.

Mr. Sergeant who was placed on several important committees in the Congress, resigned his seat which he held also at this time in the Continental Congress, on the 21st of June, the same day on which a new election was held. Mr. De Hart had resigned on the 13th; and Richard Smith on the 12th.

The names of Messrs. Frelinghuysen, Sergeant, Paterson and Witherspoon, are all found among the ayes, on the vote, that a government should be formed for this colony, according to the recommendation of the Continental Congress of May 15th. The committee to prepare the Constitution was appointed on the 24th of June and a draught was reported on the 26th, which was adopted, or confirmed, after a short and imperfect consideration, on the 2d day of July, 1776. Though never submitted directly to the people, it remained till 1844, when a new one was substituted.

This bold act of the Provincial Congress, in establishing a new and independent State government, was the strongest kind of a Declaration of Independence. A new set of delegates to the Continental Congress was appointed on the 21st of June,\* to fill the places of those who had resigned, for the space of one year, or until others were elected. These new delegates were Richard Stockton, Abraham Clarke, John Hart, Francis Hopkinson and Dr. John Witherspoon.

With the appointment they received the following instructions, directed to Richard Stockton and the other deputies by name, viz :

"The Congress empower and direct you, in the name of the colony, to join with the Delegates of the other colonies in Continental Congress in the most vigorous manner for supporting the just rights and liberties of America. And if you shall

---

\* The American Archives make it the 22d.

judge it necessary and expedient for this purpose, we empower you to join with them in declaring the United Colonies independent of Great Britain; entering into a Confederacy for union and common defence, making treaties with foreign nations for commerce and assistance, and to take such other measures as to them and you may appear necessary for these great ends, promising to support them with the whole force of this Province; always observing that whatever plan of confederacy you enter into, the regulating the internal police of this province is to be reserved to the Colony Legislature."

These instructions were more positive and emphatic than those which the last preceding delegation had received; and when the majority of the Continental Congress had shown themselves in favor of a Declaration of Independence, these delegates from New Jersey were precluded from voting against such declaration unless they should betray their constituents, and contemn their instructions.

---

## SECTION II.

### PRINCETON AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Vindication of Mr. Sergeant and other Delegates to the Continental Congress from Aspersions of their courage and Patriotism, by the Gordons in their Histories—Mr. Sergeant and Mr. Livingston justified and commended—Dr. Witherspoon and Mr. Stockton speak in Congress in Favor of Independence—The Vote of New Jersey given for the Declaration—Errors in History corrected—The Signers immortalized—The two from Princeton, Witherspoon and Stockton, confer upon their little Town singular Honor—The Declaration ratified at Nassau Hall by an Illumination and Volley of Musketry.

THOMAS F. GORDON, in his History of New Jersey (p. 251,) speaking of the former delegates to the Continental Congress, says:

"After the proposition of the fifteenth of May, for organizing provincial governments, it would seem that *nearly all the gentlemen were reluctant to assume the responsibility of measures which led eventually to independence.* Richard Smith alleging indisposition resigned his seat on the 12th, John De Hart on the 13th, and Mr. Sergeant, on the 21st of June. Mr. Cooper appears to have taken no part in the proceedings of this Congress. His name with that of Mr. Sergeant's is regularly on the minutes of the State Convention, from the 10th of June to the 4th of July. Mr. Livingston was withdrawn on the 5th of June to assume the duty of brigadier general of the New Jersey militia. Mr. Richard Stockton, Abraham Clarke, John Hart, Francis Hopkinson and Dr. John Witherspoon were substituted for the previous delegation on the 21st of June."

And Dr. William Gordon, in his *History of the Revolutionary War*, (vol. 2, p. 93,) says: "In this election they left out William Livingston, Esq., under a strong persuasion that he was not favorable to independency, and chose the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, the President of the college at Princeton, from a conviction that he would support it with all his might."

We cannot allow this volunteer aspersion of the courage and patriotism of these foremost men among the sons of liberty, to go unchallenged. The reasons given in support of the charge fail to sustain it in its sweeping implication.

When Mr. Sergeant, on the 21st of June, resigned his seat in the Continental Congress, he was also an active member of the Provincial Congress of the State, voting for his successor, and engaged as a member of the committee to prepare a constitution for an independent State government—an advanced step to independence, which for courage and responsibility was not surpassed by any colony nor by the Continental Congress. Was a man who was laboring to lead a little colony like New Jersey to cut loose from its allegiance to the Crown, and, in defiance of British bayonets, to set up a republican government, without yet having an assurance that other neighboring colonies would do the same, justly chargeable with cowardice? Which required the more courage, to vote one little colony into rebellion against the royal government in view of independency, or to join with the representatives of all the colonies, in Congress assembled, to declare them all free, making one common cause and defence? Mr. Sergeant reported the Constitution of the State on the 26th, and voted for it on the 2d of July, and showed as much courage, and incurred as much risk, by so doing, as by all that he could have done in the Congress at Philadelphia. There was undoubtedly an understanding between him and Mr. Stockton and Dr. Witherspoon, all of whom were mutual friends, living at Princeton, and leading men in the patriot cause, that Mr. Sergeant should remain in the Provincial Congress and work up the new Constitution, which was referred to the committee two days after that time, of which he was a member, and in drafting which there was no man in the colony more efficient than Mr. Sergeant; while Mr. Stockton and Dr. Witherspoon, the seniors of Mr. Sergeant,



would consent to push the same cause of Independence in the Congress at Philadelphia. Mr. Sergeant had written to Mr. Adams, that New Jersey would send a delegation to Congress this time, who would be instructed to vote for independence and he joined in the vote.

Mr. Sergeant's record from first to last was too good to justify doubt or suspicions as to his courage and fidelity to the cause of independence. He identified himself with the first movements of resistance to British oppression, in New Jersey. He was secretary of the large convention held in New Brunswick, in 1774, which was called to assert and defend the rights of the people. He served faithfully in the Provincial Congress and on the Committee of Safety; and also in the Continental Congress, both before and after the Declaration was adopted. He was re-elected a member in November of 1776. When in March, 1776, Mr. Wythe took new and advanced ground in his amendment to the resolution looking to independence of the Crown as well as of Parliament, Mr. Sergeant joined with Richard Henry Lee, Chase, and Harrison, in supporting it, while Jay, Wilson and Johnson opposed it, as effectually severing the king from the thirteen colonies forever.\* A man—a Princeton man too, whose record was as honorable as that of Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, and whose persistent and distinguished services in the popular cause had evoked the special malice of the enemy upon him, and brought the Hessian torch to his new residence, laying it in ashes, should not have the lustre of his name tarnished by such an unwarrantable insinuation as this which has thus crept into the history of New Jersey.

And much of what we have said of Mr. Sergeant can be applied to William Livingston, who was noted for his manly courage and boldly announced opinions. He was an early champion of independence. So obnoxious did he become for this, that a price was offered, by the enemy, for his head. While a member of the Continental Congress, in April, 1776, Mr. Livingston was of opinion that an alliance with France should precede the Declaration of Independence. Many other members of the Congress, among them Mr. Dickinson, of Pennsylvania, and the

\* Bancroft, viii, p. 320.

elder Laurens, of South Carolina, held the same views; while Samuel Adams argued with better logic, that no foreign power could treat with the colonies, till they were declared independent, and therefore the Declaration should precede an alliance.\* But Mr. Livingston did not shirk responsibility. He was called or withdrawn from that Congress by the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, to accept the office of Brigadier General of the militia, to which he had been elected. Did he not show as much valor by *fighting* the British soldiers for independence, as he would have exhibited by retaining his seat in Congress and *voting* for it? The whole subsequent career of Governor Livingston through the Revolution fully attests the enthusiastic appreciation of his courage and patriotic services by Jerseymen. For he was soon after this elected by the same body, Governor of the State, and trusted with more power than any other man in the State.

The resignation of Richard Smith was on the ground of ill health, and Mr. Cooper appears not to have taken any part in the proceedings of Congress; but served on the Constitution Committee at home. As for Mr. De Hart we know nothing and have nothing to say about his resignation, except that it should not be ascribed to dishonorable motives without evidence. He gave as the reason for it, the situation of his family and his affairs; and there is nothing in the facts of history, at least so far as we have read, that reflects upon his courage or patriotism. He is vindicated by his friends.

But the great day of freedom is at hand! The Resolution of Independence had been discussed in Congress, by the ablest men in the country; some of whom were enthusiastic and even vehement for its adoption, while others, though more deliberate and less impassioned, were fully prepared, when the voting hour came, to unite in the sublime act of asserting national independence.

The delegates from New Jersey, fresh from the people who had sent them, with hardly time enough to express their views on the subject, after presenting through Francis Hopkinson the instructions of their constituents to vote for independence, gave their cordial support to the cause.

\* Bancroft, viii. 328.

Dr. Witherspoon, the only clerical member of the body, with impressive earnestness urged that the country was fully ripe for the great decision, and that delay alone was fraught with peril. He offered an amendment to the recital of the wrongs charged in the Declaration, which was adopted.

"When the Declaration of Independence was under debate," wrote the late Rev. Dr. John M. Krebs, of New York, "doubts and forebodings were whispered through the hall. The house hesitated, wavered, and for a while liberty and slavery appeared to hang in even scale. It was then that an aged patriarch arose—a venerable and stately form, his head white with the frost of years.

"Every eye went to him with the quickness of thought, and remained with the fixedness of the polar star. He cast on the assembly a look of inexpressible interest and unconquerable determination, while on his visage the hue of age was lost in the flush of burning patriotism that fired his cheek.

"There is," said he, "a tide in the affairs of men, a nick of time. We perceive it now before us. To hesitate is to consent to our own slavery. That noble instrument upon your table, which ensures immortality to its author, should be subscribed this very morning by every pen in this house. He that will not respond to its accents and strain every nerve to carry into effect its provisions, is unworthy the name of freeman.

"For my own part, of property I have some, of reputation more. That reputation is staked, that property is pledged on the issue of this contest: and although these grey hairs must soon descend into the sepulchre, I would infinitely rather that they descend thither by the hand of the executioner, than desert at this crisis the sacred cause of my country."

Richard Stockton also, after asking Mr. Adams to recapitulate his argument, which he and others had not arrived in time to hear when first delivered, and which Mr. Adams did repeat, delivered a short and eloquent speech in support of the measure, in the closing hours of the debate.

The resolution of independence was passed on the 2d day of July, and the formal Declaration of it to the world, was adopted on the Fourth of July, 1776. Injustice has been done to New Jersey, by an inadvertent statement of Samuel Adams, in a letter to Richard Henry Lee. It was the former and not the latter delegation of New Jersey, which had not been empowered to vote for independence. The latter as we have shown were empowered; and through Mr. Hopkinson presented their instructions to vote, and they did vote for the Declaration. New York was the only colony which was unable to vote on the second of July. Twelve did vote, and as New York did not, New Jersey must have voted, to make that

number of votes. Bancroft so states it in vol. viii. p. 459. Sedgwick's Life of Livingston, p. 194, is also in error. See Biography of the Signers; "Stockton."

The State of New Jersey will ever cherish the memory of those honored men, who so faithfully discharged the sacred trust committed to them by voting for Independence. Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, and Abraham Clarke! At the end of a hundred years, their names are fresh and fragrant; and we, of the present generation, have as much reason to be proud of them, for their service in that great crisis of our country, as Massachusetts has to be proud of her illustrious representatives, on the same grand occasion.

But we are confined to Princeton and Princeton men; and therefore we can only make special references to Richard Stockton and Dr. John Witherspoon, among the signers. Princeton was highly honored in having two of her illustrious citizens immortalized in this one great event. Both were from the same village, and from the same church. Dr. Witherspoon was the acting pastor of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Stockton was a member of it. Dr. Witherspoon was President of the college, and Mr. Stockton was a trustee and a graduate of the same. *What other little town, in our whole country, was so honored as to have had two of her citizens and such distinguished ones as these were, to sign the Declaration of Independence?*

And these distinguished services in Congress were in full accord with the sentiments of their fellow-citizens at home, who had at the same time adopted a Republican State government. Scarcely had the announcement of the Declaration by Congress been received at Princeton, when an impromptu ratification of the act was demonstrated. A Princeton correspondent of the *Evening Post*, of Philadelphia, wrote that "on the 9th of July, 1776, Nassau Hall was grandly illuminated, and independency proclaimed under a triple volley of musketry, and universal acclamation for the prosperity of the United States, with the greatest decorum." It was on the same evening in which the Declaration was received by General Washington, and read to the American troops at New York.

## SECTION III.

THE FIRST LEGISLATURE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION  
ORGANIZED AT PRINCETON.

First Legislature met at Princeton, August 27, 1776, in College Library—Two Candidates for Governor, Richard Stockton and General Livingston—Both eminently qualified—After a tie vote, Livingston was elected—Absurd Reason assigned by Dr. Gordon, for Mr. Stockton's Defeat—Closing Words of Governor Livingston's first Message—The Great Seal of New Jersey adopted—Legislature compelled to flee from Princeton as the British forces invaded the State—Returned after the Battle of Princeton.

ON the *second* day of July, 1776, the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, as we have seen, adopted a State Constitution which continued in force until 1844, and on the 18th of July it assumed for the province the title of a State, with a view of organizing a State government under the constitution.

Princeton was again honored in being *the place where the first Legislature of New Jersey under the constitution assembled, and organized a new State government.*

This new body met at this place on the 27th day of August, 1776, in the room of the College Library. The village as well as the whole country was full of commotion. The banner of independence had been given to the breeze everywhere, amidst general rejoicing; but the armed forces of the enemy were on that very day striking a heavy blow upon the American army, on Long Island, conquering and defeating our undisciplined soldiers with terrible slaughter. Joy and consternation now struggled for the possession of every patriot heart. The war had commenced in earnest. The British government had determined to make short and decisive work of this rebellion as it was termed. On the 31st of that month, the Legislature having organized, proceeded to the choice of a Governor; and two distinguished names were presented on nomination, viz.: Richard Stockton, of Princeton, and General William Livingston, of Elizabethtown.

Mr. Stockton was a Jerseyman, a native of Princeton, well-bred, possessing wealth and great personal influence; an able lawyer, the most accomplished and distinguished citizen of the

State, having just been honored with the office of Colonial Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, and being a member of the Continental Congress, in which he had just made his name more illustrious by signing the Declaration of Independence; a man eminently qualified for the two-fold office of Governor and Chancellor of the State.

William Livingston had lived in New Jersey only four years, but belonged to the distinguished Livingston family, of the State of New York.\* He, too, was an able lawyer, a man of unquestionable courage and ardent patriotism, holding the pen of a ready writer on both political and religious questions, and being at the time a Brigadier General of the New Jersey militia forces at Elizabethtown, having been appointed to that office while a member of the Continental Congress, in October, 1775. Both he and Mr. Stockton were decidedly Christian men of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Stockton was seven years younger than Mr. Livingston.

With two such excellent candidates it would seem not strange that the first vote should be equally divided between them. The election was by joint ballot of the Assembly and Legislative Council, and after an exciting and protracted canvass, resulted on the 2d day of September in favor of Gen. Livingston.

Sedgwick, in his *Life of Gov. Livingston*, p. 204-6, refers to this election as follows:

“On the first balloting the votes were equally divided, and it was not till the next day that the two parties coalesced in support of Mr. Livingston. The defeat of the unsuccessful candidate has given rise to a charge against his patriotism, first, I be-

---

\* The Livingston family was founded in America by Robert Livingston, the son of a clergyman of Teviot, in Roxburghshire, Scotland. He emigrated about the year 1672, and appears to have soon after filled the office of Secretary to the Commissioners of Albany and parts adjacent. He purchased an extensive tract of land from the Indians, which was incorporated into the Manor of Livingston, by patent dated July 22, 1686. He took an active part in colonial affairs, and died about 1726. His son Philip succeeded to the estate and married Catherine, daughter of Peter Van Brugh of Albany, in which city their fifth child, William, was born in November, 1723. A year of his boyhood was passed with a missionary among the Mohock Indians, during which he acquired a knowledge of the language and manners of the tribe which was of much service to him subsequently. In 1737 he entered Yale College, and was graduated at the head of his class in 1741. He studied law in the city of New York with Mr. James Alexander.

lieve, stated by Gordon. (History of American Revolution, Ed. 1758, vol. ii. p. 300,) and warmly denied by the writer in "Sanderson's Biography of the Signers." It is not my place here to go into the defence of Mr. Stockton, against an accusation on its face not very probable, and which would almost appear to be refuted by the hereditary character of his family. On the contrary it speaks highly for Mr. Livingston, that a residence of but four years in New Jersey should have enabled him to obtain a majority over a native of the Province, who had been one of its Judicial officers under the Crown, and who was held in sufficient consideration to be elected Chief Justice of the State by this same Legislature, the day after his defeat as a candidate for the office of Governor; and we are easily reconciled to the hard won success of Mr. Livingston, in this instance over such an antagonist, when we know that all his subsequent elections were unanimous, or obtained by large majorities."

The language used by Dr. Gordon in his History of the Revolutionary War, in reference to this election, alluded to by Mr. Sedgwick, in the above quotation, and which is an unwarrantable aspersion of Mr. Stockton's patriotism, is as follows:

"The New Jersey Legislature in the following September chose William Livingston, Esq., a gentleman of the law, and of first rate abilities, to be their Governor. There was an equal number of votes for him and Mr. Stockton; but the latter having just at the moment refused to furnish his team of horses for the service of the public, and the Legislature coming to the knowledge of it, the choice of Mr. Livingston took place immediately."

It is incredible that the defeat of Mr. Stockton was caused by the absurd reason above assigned by the historian, because, 1st. It does not appear that there was, pending the short interval between the first and the final balloting, any public exigency demanding an extra use of horses. No danger was near; no enemy was approaching Princeton. 2d. If there had been such an exigency, the village was full of horses, kept for public use and hire. The "Flying Machine," as it was called, had been carrying passengers between New York and Philadelphia, for more than ten years, and Princeton was the half-way place, where the exchange of passengers and horses was made. 3d. It was unreasonable to expect any gentleman to lend his own choice, high-bred horses, for public use, unless in case of absolute necessity; and had there been such a necessity, Mr. Stockton would have allowed them to be used; and if he had not, they would have been impressed by the authority of the Legislature or Committee of Safety, into public use without his consent. 4th. Mr. Stockton's high and honorable character, as a private citizen, and as a statesman, prominent as a leader in the Revolution, a Signer of the Declaration, and at that

moment being voted for as Governor of the State, forbids us to believe that he would do, towards the Legislature or the public, any trifling act that would be improper or impolitic. 5th. The same body on the next day tendered him the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, thereby showing their continued confidence in him.

There was no necessity to resort to such a cause to account for the result of the election; nor is it necessary to assume that there existed at that birth-day period of the Republic, such machinations, rings, and corrupt appliances, which control too many of the elections of Governor at the present time. The simple truth of the case was, that both candidates were admired and beloved, as the tie vote showed; that John Cleves Symmes probably changed his vote from Mr. Stockton to Mr. Livingston, perhaps others did so (he claimed to have effected the result); that Mr. Livingston was from the eastern part of the state, where there were more inhabitants than in the western part, and they were nearer to the advancing troops of the enemy; and finally, it was desirable to have a war-governor, a man of push and daring, with some military experience and taste; and such was Brigadier General Livingston. Such was not, to the same extent, Richard Stockton. The administration of Governor Livingston exhibited, in his character, elements peculiarly adapted to the bloody times in which he executed the laws under the constitution. In saying that he was the more suitable person for that office at the time he took it, is not disparaging in the least to Mr. Stockton, and does not demand any fault, or censurable conduct on the part of the latter to explain why he was not preferred.

Governor Livingston's first gubernatorial message was read at Princeton, September 30th, 1776, to the council and assembly. In closing it, he used this language:

" Let us, gentlemen, by precept and example encourage a spirit of economy, industry and patriotism and that public integrity and righteousness, which cannot fail to exalt a nation; setting our faces at the same time like a flint against that dissoluteness of manners and political corruption, which will ever be the reproach of any people. May the foundations of our infant state be laid in virtue and the fear of God; and the superstructure will rise glorious and endure for ages.

Then may we humbly expect the blessing of the Most High, who divides to the nations their inheritance, and separates the sons of Adam. In fine, gentlemen,



while we are applauded by the whole impartial world for demolishing the old fabric, rotten and ruinous as it was, let us unitedly strive to approve ourselves master-builders, by giving beauty, strength, and stability to the new."

It was among the early acts of this new Legislature, at Princeton, to devise and provide "The Great Seal of the State of New Jersey." Richard Smith, the chairman of the joint committee to whom this subject was referred, made a report, bearing date Princeton, 3d October, 1776, as follows :

"The joint committee appointed by both houses to prepare a Great Seal beg leave to report,—That they have considered the subject and taken the sentiments of several intelligent gentlemen thereon, and are of the opinion that Francis Hopkinson, Esq., should be immediately engaged to employ proper persons at Philadelphia to prepare a silver seal, which is to be round, of two and a half inches diameter, and three-eighths of an inch thick ; and that the arms shall be three ploughs in an escutcheon, the supporters, Liberty and Ceres, and the crest a horse's head. These words to be engraved in large letters round the arms, viz : The Great Seal of the State of New Jersey."

This seal was adopted and has been used for a century and is still used without change. It bears the date of its origin on its face, MDCCLXXVI. None of the seals of the several States ante-dates this one ; nor does the seal of the United States.

The seal at arms of Governor Livingston was used as a seal of the State till the Great Seal was provided.

David Olden was chosen doorkeeper of the assembly in Princeton, in August, 1776. Robert Hamilton is also mentioned as having been doorkeeper, probably of council.

The Legislature and the Governor did not remain in session at Princeton very long after the organization of the State government. The last act was passed October 5, 1776. The State was soon after invaded by the British forces, and for a month before the battles of Trenton and Princeton it was really a conquered territory. The Legislature with the Governor at their head, were compelled to flee from Princeton to Trenton, and from Trenton to Burlington, and from Burlington to Pittstown, and from Pittstown to Haddonfield ; and then finally at the utmost verge of the State dissolved themselves on the 2d day of December—there being no place where their sessions could safely be held, and each member was obliged to look after his own personal safety. After the battle of Princeton, the Governor and the Legislature returned to Princeton, and resumed their sessions here.

## SECTION IV.

## A MONTH BEFORE THE BATTLE. DECEMBER, 1776.

The darkest Period in the Revolution—Washington defeated on Long Island and in New York—Compelled to retreat across New Jersey—Arrived at Princeton, December 1st—The People on the Route panic-stricken—Many accept Lord North's Terms of Pardon—Cornwallis pursues Washington to Princeton, and quarters his Troops in the College and Church—Washington, too weak to fight, retreats beyond the Delaware—The Hessians forage upon the Farms around Princeton—Tusculum and Morven pillaged—Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant's new House burned—The College disbanded—Interesting Description of the Scene, by a Student who kept a Journal—Cornwallis pursues Washington to Trenton—Washington's strategy in recrossing the Delaware on Christmas Night, and Capture of the Hessians at Trenton—Effect of the Victory—British Forces accumulate in Princeton—Washington increases his Army—Battle of the Assanpink at Trenton, January 2, 1777—Washington's Retreat to Princeton.

THE darkest period in the Revolution was the month preceding the battle of Princeton. On the fourth of July the Rubicon had been crossed, by Congress declaring the thirteen colonies free and independent. The war had been inaugurated. The enemy in full force, with disciplined troops and abundant ammunition and stores, under experienced commanders, had come to New York with a determined purpose to reduce the rebellious colonies to obedience in a single campaign. Those troops were disembarked on Staten Island and on Long Island, with a view of capturing the city of New York. General Washington, with a small and inadequate army, untrained and not consolidated, was summoned to confront the British forces on Long Island and on both sides of the Hudson River. He could not withstand the superior troops of the enemy, and though gallantly resisting when attacked, he was compelled to abandon post after post, and field after field, with loss of many soldiers slain in battle. Brooklyn Heights, New York city, White Plains, and Fort Washington, in New York, and Fort Lee, in New Jersey, were all successively captured by the enemy, by the 18th day of November, 1776;—while General Washington, with his army weakened by loss of officers, soldiers and stores, and dispirited by such terrible defeats, was compelled to adopt a retreating policy, and hastened across the Hacken-

sack and then across the Passaic Rivers, in New Jersey, hotly pursued by the enemy. The retreat was still pursued, and Newark, Elizabethtown, and New Brunswick in rapid succession fell into the hands of the victorious army.

Washington with his dismayed and shattered army now reduced to about three thousand men, hurried on to Princeton, and arrived here on Sunday night, the first of December.

It is not difficult to imagine what a heavy pall must have settled upon the people of New Jersey, especially upon those who resided near New York, Newark, Elizabethtown, New Brunswick, Princeton and Trenton, places liable to be ravaged by Hessian soldiers, in their triumphant march through the State. The public pulse beat feebly for the cause of liberty, under such circumstances. Many of the people along the route on which the hostile army was approaching, panic-stricken, accepted the terms of pardon offered by Lord Howe, and gladly would have remained subjects of the crown. The inhabitants of the neighborhood of Princeton were neither enthusiastic or unanimous in favor of Independence at this time. The non-resistant Quaker element, always antagonistic to war, was strong here, and placed many of the excellent families in this vicinity, in a quasi opposition to the war, as will be more apparent when we come to the record of the Council of Safety, while sitting in Princeton. The very fact that this place had been so prominent and focal in the Revolutionary Councils, and was the residence of so many brave and leading spirits in the cause of independence, only made the approach of the British army the more alarming.

Under other circumstances, the advent of the Commander-in-chief of the American army, at Princeton, would have thrilled the people with delight, and assured them of relief and security.

General Washington and his army remained in Princeton at this time for about a week only. Lord Cornwallis wanted to pursue him from New Brunswick and had he done so, he would probably have captured him and his little army, and ended the campaign; but he was instructed by General Howe not to go farther than New Brunswick, until he had orders to do so; and thereby Washington had time to reach and cross the Delaware.

And now the gloom thickens over Princeton; Cornwallis has orders to pursue the retreating army. He leaves New Brunswick for Princeton, where Washington was, and Washington leaves Princeton for the Delaware, on the seventh of December, with all his troops, except twelve hundred men, whom he left here under Lord Sterling, to check the British army, while the main body of the American army proceeded to Trenton. Was there ever in the history of Princeton, a day of such painful suspense and agony? If the Commander-in-chief, present with his main forces, could not stand in defence of this place, but was compelled to flee, and leave the inhabitants and the college to the tender mercies of the Hessians, what hope was there in any other defender? Washington had scarcely left Princeton, before the tramp of Cornwallis' large army was heard to approach it. General Sterling made no resistance, but soon followed the American Commander-in-chief. Cornwallis took possession of Princeton, and left a large force to hold it, occupying the college and Presbyterian church for barracks, while he with a portion of his troops moved on to Trenton, reaching there just as Washington had effected a crossing of the Delaware, and secured all the boats on the river, to prevent the enemy from crossing after him.

From this time till the 3d of January, a large force of the British army was quartered upon Princeton, destroying property, preying upon the farms in the neighborhood, and giving but little heed to the ordinary rules of war. Governor Livingston and the Legislature had removed from the place. Wither-  
poon, Stockton, Sergeant and other prominent Revolutionists were absent. "Tusculum," the country seat of Dr. Wither-  
poon, was pillaged. "Morven," the renowned home of Richard Stockton, left in the care of servants and his son Richard, a little boy, was also pillaged and stripped of its furniture and library; and then made the headquarters of the officer in command. And the large new house of Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, just built, and standing where the residence of the late Dr. Samuel Miller now stands, was burned to the ground by the British soldiers. Every home was invaded; and the non-resisting Quaker families experienced no exemption. Small detachments of the officers were quartered in various localities in the

neighborhood,\* and cantonments were established throughout this part of the State between New Brunswick and the Delaware.

We devote a subsequent section to a fuller notice of the devastation of private property wantonly perpetrated by the soldiers, with a list of those persons who filed their claims for their loss. It will be seen that hay and grain, stock and poultry, butter and milk, provisions and clothing, furniture and wood, were taken, in great measure, without supervision or restraint. Everybody suffered, and there was no help. It was war.

The college was suspended; the officers and students were dispersed. Some enlisted in the American army, and most of those who were capable entered into some department of the public service of their country, quickened by the patriotic example of Dr. Witherspoon, the President of the institution.

We have not met with any particular description of the precise time or circumstances, when and under which the disbanding of the college took place, except what we find in a manuscript "campaign journal" kept by one of the students from November 29, 1776, to May 6, 1777, and which was in possession of the late Dr. John N. Woodhull, of Princeton. This student became a member of Captain Houston's scouting party. We insert here the opening pages of his journal to show the confusion at college. He writes:

"On the 29th of November, 1776, New Jersey College, long the peaceful seat of science and haunt of the Muses, was visited with the melancholy tidings of the approach of the enemy.

"This alarmed our fears and gave us reason to believe we must soon bid adieu to our peaceful departments and break off in the midst of our delightful studies; nor were we long held in suspense; our President, deeply affected at this solemn scene, entered the Hall where the students were collected, and in a very affecting manner informed us of the improbability of continuing them longer in peace; and after giving us several suitable instructions and much good advice, very affectionately bade

---

\* The house of John G. Schenck and the farm-house now owned by Miss Susan W. Olden, at Penn's Neck, and the house of John Johnson, now the residence of Henry D. Johnson, a little to the west of Princeton, with many others, were so occupied by the British officers.

us farewell. Solemnity and distress appeared on almost every countenance. Several students that had come five and six hundred miles and just got settled in college, were now obliged under every disadvantage to return with their effects or leave them behind, which several through the impossibility of getting a carriage at so confused a time, were obliged to do, and lost them all.

"As all hopes of continuing longer in peace at Nassau was now taken away, I began to look out for some place where I might pursue my studies, and as Mr. J. Johnson had spoken to me to teach his son, I accordingly went there, and agreed to stay there till spring. Next day I sent my trunk and desk to his house, and settled all my business in college.

"On Sunday evening General Washington retreated from Brunswick. I then went to Johnson's and having now no hopes of remaining there, was preparing to send my things further out of the way, but we had not been long talking before the press men came for Mr. Johnson's wagon and horses, and with much difficulty we put them off for this time; soon after they came again, then we had but little hopes of keeping the wagon and horses, but knowing that unless we got off our things while we had our wagons, they must necessarily fall into the enemy's hands, I took the opportunity, while the press men were debating with Mr. Johnson and took the wagons out of the stable and went off with them into the woods, and though they ran after me, they neither found me nor the horses. After they were gone, we packed up our things. I carried them by hand to the woods where we had concealed the wagons. Near day-break we got all things ready to move and drove to Amwell. Dec. 3. I returned to John Drake's where Mr. Johnson waited my return. The same day we rode to Princeton, and finding that part of our men made a stand there, I returned to Drake's, hoping the enemy would not advance further than Brunswick. I was unwell. I stayed at Drake's till Friday the 6th, then rode with Mr. Johnson to his house, and stayed all night; next day about three o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy came on towards Princeton, and had got as far as Kingston, when we set off to Drake's. In an hour and a half after we left the house, the enemy were paraded before the door."

The manuscript of this Journal was furnished by Dr. Jno. N. Woodhull, and was published in three numbers of the "Princeton Standard," in May 1863."

It was about the same time when Dr. Bainbridge of Princeton, a friend of Mr. J. Dickinson Sergeant, aroused Mrs. Sergeant at two o'clock in the morning, informed her of the enemy's approach and insisted upon her hastening, immediately, in her carriage with her sister and infant, to a ferry on the Delaware, where her husband had agreed to meet her, in case she was compelled to fly from the British soldiers. Mr. Spencer (her father,) was hurrying for her from Trenton to Princeton when he met Dr. Witherspoon, who told him she had already fled, and that he must return and remove his own family at once. Having returned, he locked up his dwelling with all its contents, left his cattle without having been able to provide any care for them, set out immediately with the entire household, in a large

carriage, and took them that night four miles to Howell's Ferry on the Delaware. Leaving them there he went on six miles further to McKonkey's Ferry, where he found Mr. Sergeant's party. To this point he then brought the others, and here they all crossed. Dr. Spencer's youngest daughter, Mrs. Lydia Biddle of Carlisle, often described in after days, the scenes at both ferries. "To my youthful imagination," she said, "they called up the day of judgment, so many frightened people were assembled, with sick and wounded soldiers all flying for their lives, and with hardly any means of crossing the river. We were unspeakably delighted when we got over safely, and into a little hut where we spent the night with a company of American soldiers, on their way to join Gen. Washington. We stayed at McConkey's Ferry for two or three weeks, until General Mercer sent my father word that he was not safe there. This was the Sunday before the battle of Trenton. . . . Mrs. Sergeant had not left her father, as her husband was still in Congress, sitting then in Baltimore. Meantime his new house in Princeton had been burned by the enemy, and his father had died of small-pox. The following November his wife spent with her widowed mother near Princeton, where her second child, Sarah, was born on the 1st of January, 1778." \*

Thus was not Princeton alone, but the whole State of New-Jersey, held in helpless subjugation by the enemy. So triumphant was the success of the British forces thrown upon the country by the British fleet at New York, under Admiral Howe, only a few months before, that General Howe received the congratulations of his government at home, and was about to return to England, thinking the rebellion broken and the Continental army scattered to the winds.

But might not this dark month in that eventful year, prove to be like the dark hour which precedes the break of day? Let us look to Washington, in whom the hope of the country had in some measure reposed. Though routed from New York, chased through New Jersey, and having taken uncertain refuge in Pennsylvania on the 8th of December, he had not lost faith in the grand cause in which he had enlisted. He felt that

\* Life of Samuel Miller, D. D. Vol. I, p. 147.

though thus far he was unsuccessful in battle, he was, with the smile of Providence, successful in retreat; and in the extreme emergency of the crisis that was present, he developed those elements of high and extraordinary character which proved him to be the right man for the position he held through the war. In his correspondence, while being driven out of New Jersey, he intimated to his confidants among his officers, and other personal friends, that it was his wish and purpose to re-enter this state, and if possible, rescue it from the dominion of the British army. Chary in disclosing his counsels to others, before the hour of execution, he did broach to one or more of his friends his purpose to recross the Delaware under cover of night, and attack the enemy in Trenton at day-break, while the hostile army was not consolidated, but still separated and stretched out in a breast of cantonments in front of the river, some miles apart. His army had been increased not only by recruiting, but by the arrival of General Lee's corps, under command of General Sullivan; and four regiments under General Gates from Ticonderoga; and General Sterling's twelve hundred from Princeton. He had a large accession of militia from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Lord Cornwallis did not remain in Trenton, when he failed to get boats to enable him to cross the river, but returned to New York, leaving his Hessian army in force at Trenton.

General Washington, well understanding the convivial habits of this class of soldiers, and that they would keep Christmas with a carousal, which would unfit them for the best service on the following morning, fixed upon Christmas night, the 25th of December, 1776, for recrossing the river, and the next morning at daybreak for marching down upon Trenton to capture the Hessian soldiers there. He had not decided what his next movement should be, but that would depend upon his success, and other circumstances. He was not without hope that he might be able to remain in New Jersey, and drive the enemy from the State. The plan was submitted by General Washington, to his officers, and was strongly opposed by some of them as infeasible, on account of the state of the river.

The history of the recrossing by Washington with his twenty-four hundred men besides horses and twenty pieces of



artillery, in small boats at night, over a swollen river, with floating ice, has been written and the scene has been painted. We do not propose here to repeat the details of the movement which was so full of peril and so fruitful of grand results. The crossing was made at McKonkey's Ferry about nine miles above Trenton, and was not effected fully before four o'clock in the morning. Washington then moved his army through a cold snow storm in two columns, upon Trenton, and surprised the Hessians there at eight o'clock, while the officers were sleeping off their Christmas carousal. The main body hardly had time to form; and the Americans pressed them so hardy, capturing their artillery, that they surrendered by their Colonel Rahl, to the number of twenty-three officers and eight hundred and eighty-six men. Seven of the enemy's officers were wounded, besides Colonel Rahl mortally. About thirty others were killed and wounded; six hundred light horsemen escaped to Bordentown. The Americans took about nine hundred and eighteen prisoners besides as many muskets, etc., and lost two men, besides three frozen to death. Lieutenant Monroe, afterwards President of the United States, was wounded. General Ewing was to have crossed just below Trenton and General Cadwallader further below at Bordentown, and by coöperating in a more general attack upon the enemy along the river, Washington had hoped to be able to hold his ground and advance, but the ice in the river did not allow them to cross the stream in time. Washington did not occupy Trenton, but having relieved it from the enemy, again crossed the river with his army and his prisoners, to his former encampment in Pennsylvania.

Historians differ on the question whether the strategic movement of Washington crossing the Delaware on the night of the 25th of December, originated with General Washington, or had been suggested to him by others. Gordon, in his *History of the Revolutionary War*, and the Hon. William B. Reed, in his eloquent oration on General Mercer in 1840, do not award the credit of the suggestion to General Washington. On the other hand Bancroft gives the whole honor to Washington and refers to the various sources of authority which he had examined, and on which his opinion is founded.\* Some ascribe

\* Bancroft, ix., note 2, p. 246.

the honor to General Mercer and General Armstrong, and some to General Reed and General St. Clair. Men who are asked for their opinion on a question submitted for consideration, often imagine, in case the course they advised is adopted, that they are entitled to the credit of having originated the thing proposed and accomplished.\*

Sir William Howe, at this time in New York, ordered Cornwallis, then embarking to Europe, to take the command in the Jerseys. This officer hastened to Princeton, followed by an additional force taken from New Brunswick, not knowing perhaps that Washington had recrossed with his prisoners to Pennsylvania.

The effect of Washington's successful strategy on the 26th of December, when he captured the Hessians at Trenton, was thrilling and most happy; though it was uncertain at the time how much benefit was to be realized from it. As a mere military movement it showed the skill and courage of Washington and his little army; but the success inspired renewed effort and some hope for the future in the American cause. The shout of victory by the half-clad, half-frozen soldiers of Washington was music to the sons of liberty, whatever future reverses might befall them. Nor was this all: it broke up the several cantonments of the enemy along the Delaware, thereby relieving several neighborhoods from the terror and depredations of the soldiers quartered upon them; though this, indeed, contributed to the consolidation and greater efficiency of the general army of Cornwallis. Donop abandoned his stores, and his sick and wounded, at Bordentown, and marched with his brigade of Hessian grenadiers, on hearing of the capture and death of Rahl, by way of Crosswicks to Princeton, where he threw up arrow-headed earthworks.

Washington had been diligently laboring to increase his forces, and to refresh his soldiers during the week between Christmas and New Year; and he prevailed on some of the

\* The Rev. Dr. Alexander McWhorter of Newark, N. J. was with Washington just before he decided to cross the Delaware to capture Trenton. His son, Dr. McWhorter of New Haven, gives it as a tradition in the family, that while Washington was walking the floor in doubt what to do in the face of so much opposition, he turned to Dr. McWhorter, who had advised to cross, and said, "Doctor, we'll take your advice."

volunteer regiments of militia, whose term of enlistments was expiring to remain with the army for six weeks longer, while he would lead them again across the river into New Jersey. General Washington and General Stark both pledged their private funds. Robert Morris, of Philadelphia, early on New Year morning raised \$50,000 which he had borrowed of Philadelphia, on his own credit.

Washington with his troops crossed the river on the 30th and 31st, but his army did not all reach that place till the 31st. His object now was, as he wrote to Congress, "to pursue the enemy and try to break up their quarters." He felt that by remaining idle in Pennsylvania, he would betray his weakness; and yet his coming into New Jersey, when the enemy was in full force, was full of peril. He knew that there were at least seven thousand veteran troops, English, Hessians, Waldeckers, Highlanders, with heavy artillery, marching against him, from Princeton. He called in from the forts near him all his forces, and concentrated them at Trenton. His whole army on the first and second of January, 1777, at Trenton, numbered five thousand men, but more than half were merchants, mechanics and farmers, unused to military drill, fresh from their warm houses, tender to the biting cold of mid-winter; but whose zeal had now become enlisted in their country's cause, and impelled them to endure the sufferings and perils of battles and of cold night marches, with the regular army.

Gen. Washington at this juncture wrote the following letter to the President of Congress, from Trenton.

TRENTON, January 1, 1777.

*Sir*.:—Your resolves of the 27th ultimo, were transmitted me last night by Messrs. Clymer, Morris and Walton. The confidence which Congress have honored me with by these proceedings, has a claim to my warmest acknowledgments. At the same time I beg leave to assure them that all my faculties shall be employed to direct properly the powers they have been pleased to vest me with, and to advance those objects, and only those, which gave rise to this honorable mark of distinction. If my exertions should not be attended with the desired success, I trust the failure will be imputed to the true cause—the peculiar distressed situation of our affairs, and the difficulties I have to combat—rather than to a want of zeal for my country, and the closest attention to her interests, to promote which has ever been my study.

On Monday morning I passed the Delaware myself; the whole of our troops and artillery, not till yesterday, owing to the ice, which rendered their passage extremely difficult and fatiguing. Since their arrival, we have been parading the regiments

whose time of service is now expired, in order to know what force we should have to depend on, and how to regulate our views accordingly. After much persuasion, and the exertions of their officers, half or a greater proportion of those from the eastward have consented to stay six weeks on a bounty of ten dollars. I feel the inconvenience of this advance, and I know the consequences which will result from it ; but what could be done? Pennsylvania had allowed the same to her militia—the troops felt their importance, and would have their price. Indeed, as their aid is so essential, and not to be dispensed with, it is to be wondered they had not estimated it at a higher rate. I perceive that Congress, apprehensive of this event, had made unlimited provision for it.

General Mifflin is at Bordentown with about 1,800 men, and General Cadwallader at Crosswicks, with about the same number. We are now making our arrangements, and concerting a plan of operations, which I shall attempt to execute as soon as possible, and which I hope will be attended with some success.

As to the number and situation of the enemy, I cannot obtain certain intelligence ; but, from the accounts most to be relied on, they have collected the principal part of their force, from Brunswick and the neighboring posts, at Princeton, where they are throwing up some works. The number there is reported to be from five to six thousand ; and it is confidently said they have sent the chief part of their baggage to Brunswick. It is added that General Howe landed at Amboy a day or two ago, with a thousand light troops, and is on his march from thence.

I have sent into different parts of Jersey, men of influence to spirit up the militia, and flatter myself that the many injuries they have received will induce some to give their aid. If what they have suffered does not rouse their resentment, they must not possess the common feelings of humanity. To oppression, ravage, and a deprivation of property, they have had the more mortifying circumstance of insult added :—after being stripped of all they had without the least compensation, protections have been granted them for the free enjoyment of their effects.

I have the honor to be, etc.

G. W.

P. S.—I have not been able to procure returns of our force, owing to our situation. I suppose that about two or three and twenty hundred passed with me, which number is now reduced to fifteen or sixteen hundred. No estimate of our force can be formed from the number of regiments ; many of them, by reason of sickness, can not turn out more than a hundred men.

Lord Cornwallis, on the 2d of January, 1777, leaving three regiments and a company of cavalry at Princeton, led the flower of the British army from Princeton, to attack Washington at Trenton. He led them in one column. The roads were soft ; the weather was mild on that day. When he reached Maidenhead, (Lawrenceville,) he met skirmishers. A brigade under Gen. Leslie was left at Maidenhead. But Cornwallis with more than 5,000 British and Hessians, pressed on to Trenton, encountering on his way Gen. Hand at the Shabbakong Creek, and Gen. Greene about a mile this side of Trenton, who had been

sent by Washington to harass and check his progress, so as to avoid a general battle if possible, on that day.

It was at four o'clock in the afternoon when Cornwallis and his army arrived at Trenton. General Washington then conducted the retreat through the town, and passed the bridge over the Assanpink, where the main body of his army were well arrayed and defended by batteries. The enemy attempted to force their passage across the bridge, but they were repulsed. The night was drawing near, and now we have the short but sharp

BATTLE OF THE ASSANPINK, January 2, 1777. The fight was across the creek; Cornwallis attempting to cross it, and attack the army of Washington, and Washington repelling the attempt. The ground, on the south side of the stream, occupied by Washington, was high, and the bridge and other places which might be forded, were well guarded with artillery. The conflict went on; assault and repulse; assault and repulse, with heavy loss of life, on both sides, for the stream was very narrow. It is said that at least one hundred and fifty were slain. Both armies fought bravely, and each maintained its ground until nightfall rendered a cessation of hostilities necessary. It was much more of a battle than the former one at Trenton, which was more a surprise and capture than a contested battle, but the effect of the former, with all its circumstances, has given it a brighter page in history. Cornwallis then withdrew to the high ground near where the road from Princeton enters the town, for a night's rest, and sent word to Maidenhead and to Princeton to put off the fight till next morning, but kept a strong picket force along the creek, to watch the Americans, expecting in the morning to capture Washington and his army, and thus redeem the character of the British arms, which had suffered by Washington's Christmas visit to Trenton.

The camp-fires of the American army were kept up all night, and the sound of preparation for the next day's battle resounded along the whole line. Washington had become familiar with the roads leading out of the place as far as New-Brunswick; and he ascertained that the road to Princeton on the south side of the Assanpink was not guarded. And here we cannot but observe, that if Cornwallis had taken the advice

of Count Donop, at Princeton, that he should proceed to Trenton with his army in two divisions, one taking the Maidenhead road and the other the Quaker and Assanpink road, Washington would have been attacked both in rear and front at the Assanpink, and could not have escaped; and the battle of Princeton would not have taken place. General Washington saw the need of avoiding a general battle, the next morning, with Cornwallis, but without showing cowardice and dismay. He knew that but few troops had been left at Princeton, and but few at New Brunswick to protect the stores and magazine there. So he determined to withdraw during the night, and march to Princeton, and then to New Brunswick if possible; and to secure himself up in the hills of Morris. He began soon after dark to remove the baggage quietly to Burlington; and called a council of his officers, to whom he proposed the circuitous march to Princeton, and the council unanimously sustained him.

The Hon. William B. Reed, in his oration on General Mercer, before referred to, claims that this night march from Trenton to Princeton was suggested by General Mercer; and that when General Washington had been informed by General St. Clair, of the exact nature of the hilly country between Morristown and New Brunswick, he agreed to the suggestion of General Mercer, and after a brief discussion, all the officers concurred. Mr. Reed alleges that the command of the advanced party in the march, was entrusted to General Mercer by General Washington, because and as a recognition of his having suggested the movement.

But here again Mr. Bancroft gives Washington the credit of the whole plan and movement. He says that Mercer only pointed out the advantages of the proposal after it was made to the war council, and that "Saint Clair liked it so well that in the failing memory of old age he took it to have been his own." Mr. Bancroft, in a note on pages 246-47 of the ninth volume of his History of the United States, arrays the authorities on the question, and shows that Sparks, Marshall, Gordon, Ramsay, and every one till Saint Clair, who was followed by Wilkinson, ascribed the bold design to Washington, who, though extremely modest, claimed it as his own.

The night of the 2d of January, during which the battle at the Assanpink was suspended, and Washington made his midnight retreat to Princeton, was dark and had become intensely cold ; so cold that the roads which on the previous day were soft and almost impassable, were now by the kind providence of God frozen hard enough to bear the horses and artillery of the American army on their march. This sudden change in the weather enabled Washington to move his army with sufficient celerity to accomplish his purpose. It was in the middle of that very cold windy night, while the camp-fires of both armies were kept burning bright, that Washington, concealing his movements and having ordered the baggage train to Burlington, silently withdrew his army from its position along the Assanpink at Trenton, and taking the road by Sandtown, and not by Allentown, as Ewald, who was not familiar with the country, has erroneously stated, marched in "double quick" step to Stony Brook, on their way to Princeton. The American soldiers had fought bravely on the previous day at Trenton ; this made them the more reliable in the battle of Princeton. And when the day light dawned upon the camp of Cornwallis, on the 3d of January 1777, the American army had gone ; and the words of Sir William Erskine, who had advised Cornwallis to fight on the previous night, predicting that "if General Washington was the General he took him to be, he would not be there the next morning," proved to be true ; and the capture of the American army, by Cornwallis, then supposed to be so well assured, was again thwarted by the strategic skill of the American General, and the gracious interposition of the God of battles.

---

## SECTION V.

## THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON. JANUARY 3, 1777.

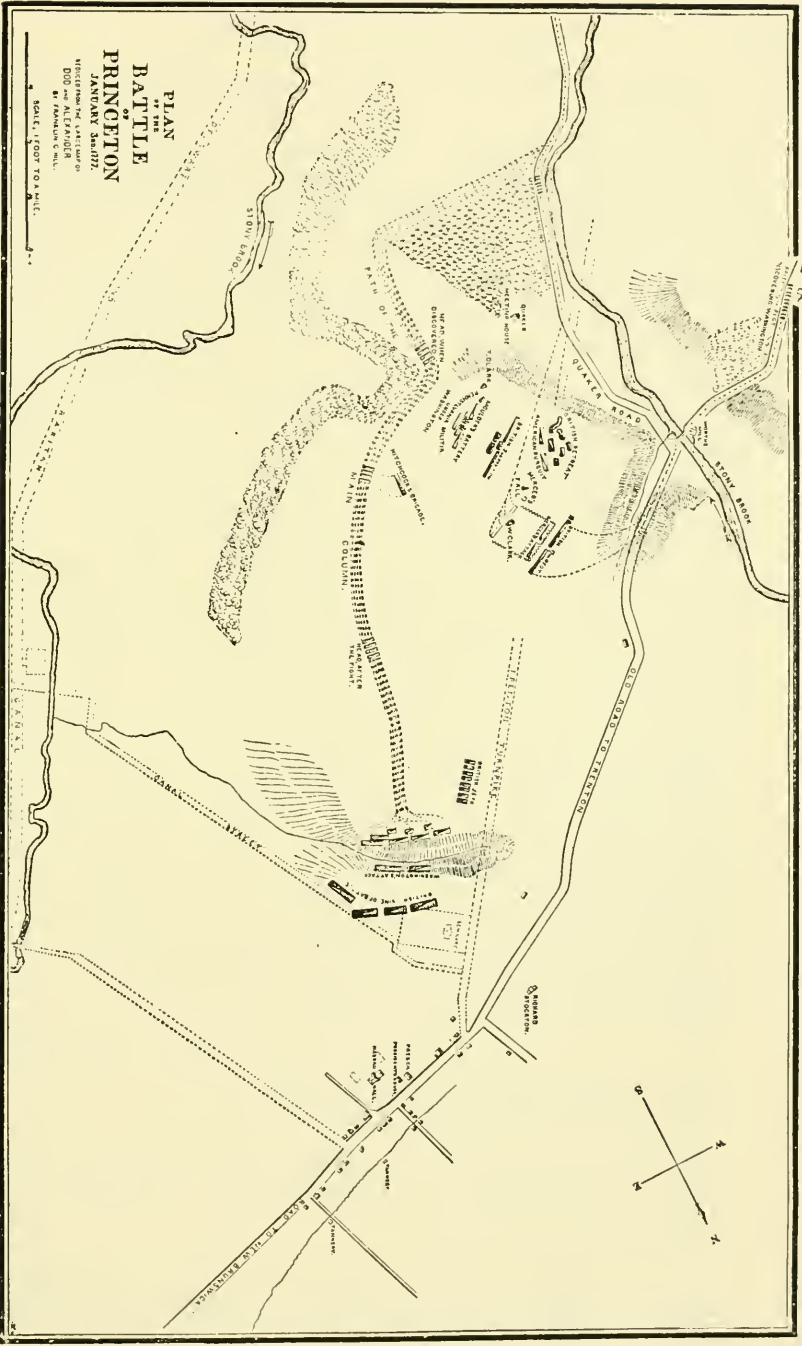
Gen. Washington with his Army at Stony Brook, at Sunrise, Jan. 3, 1777—Council of Officers—Gen. Mercer detached to Worth's Mills to intercept British Regiments—He is attacked by them—His Men give way under a Bayonet Charge—He, standing his Ground, is mortally wounded, but will not surrender—Washington goes to his Relief—Fights desperately—Exposed to extreme Personal Danger—Gains the Victory—Great Loss of American Officers—Loss of the British—Over one hundred dead on the Field—Battle at the Ravine—Capture of the College—The big Cannon on Count Donop's Earthworks—Cornwallis with eight thousand, hastens from Trenton in Pursuit of Washington—Washington eludes the Pursuit by filing off at Kingston, and goes to the Hills of Morris—Death of Mercer—Death of Captain Leslie—Gen. Washington's Letter to Congress—Grand Results of the Victory—Hope for the Country—Reaction of Public Feeling—Princeton after the Battle—Proposed Monument.

A LITTLE after sunrise on the third day of January, 1777, a very cold, bright, frosty morning, the American army under General Washington, having withdrawn from Trenton during the night, appeared on this side of the Stony Brook, on the Quaker road, near the farm of the late David Clarke, more recently the farm of his grandson Samuel Paxson, deceased, a short distance south of the Friends' meeting house. Here the army paused, and the officers held a conference. It was known by Washington that a brigade of the enemy under Lieut. Mawhood, consisting of the 17th, 40th, and 55th regiments, were quartered in Princeton, and would probably be marching to Trenton early that morning, to aid Cornwallis in the general battle which was in anticipation on that day. Gen. Washington thought it prudent to detach General Mercer, with Captains Stone, Fleming, Neal and others, with about 350 men, and two pieces of artillery, up the Quaker road to Worth's Mills, on the old road from Princeton to Maidenhead, and to take possession of and destroy the bridge there over Stony Brook, for the double purpose of intercepting fugitives from Princeton, and to cover the rear of his army against Cornwallis from Trenton; while the Commander-in-chief with the bulk of his army proposed to turn the south-east corner of the wood, and march



directly to Princeton, across the fields, through a drift-way or private road, which is said to have been used, before the present turnpike was laid out, in going directly from the village and the intermediate farm-houses, to the Quaker church, instead of the more circuitous way by the old post road. Both were moving according to the plan just stated.

The 17th and the 55th regiments were already on their march to join Cornwallis. The former with three companies of horse under Col. Mawhood, was more than a mile ahead of the latter, and had passed Stony Brook, and was on the hill in the vicinity of the Millette mansion, now owned by John S. Gulick, Purser in the U. S. Navy. From this high ground, Col. Mawhood discovered the detachment under General Mercer, marching up the Quaker road along the creek, when almost five hundred yards from the bridge, and then immediately turned about and uniting with the 55th, and other detachments on their march, precipitated an engagement with Mercer. The hostile forces were nearly equal in numbers. Each had two pieces of artillery. But the British were fresh while the Americans were fatigued from loss of sleep, and weary from hunger and cold, having marched nearly all night. Both parties then endeavored to get possession of the high ground on their right. The Americans reached the house of William Clarke, but perceiving the British line advancing on the other side of the high land and a worm fence between them, they pushed through the orchard and anticipated the enemy by about forty paces. A heavy discharge from the English artillery was returned by Neal, from the American field-pieces. After a short but brisk cannonade, the Americans climbing over a fence to confront the British, were the first to use their guns. Mawhood's infantry returned the volley and soon charged with their bayonets. The Americans who for the most part used rifles without bayonets, gave way, abandoning their cannon. Their gallant officers, unwilling to fly, were left in their rear, endeavoring to call back the fugitives. In this way fell Haslet, the brave Colonel of the Delaware Regiment; Neal who had charge of the artillery; Fleming the gallant leader of all that was left of the First Virginia Regiment, and other officers of merit; Gen. Mercer himself, whose horse had been disabled under him, was wounded,



PLAN  
OF THE  
BATTLE  
OF  
PRINCETON  
JANUARY 3, 1777  
REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL  
DRAWING BY THE  
DRAWING OFFICE  
OF THE ARMY  
ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
SCALE, 1 FOOT TO A MILE.





knocked down and then stabbed many times with the bayonet, and left supposed dead.

The firing now arrested Gen. Washington's attention, who had advanced nearly as far as the Olden farm on his way to Princeton. He immediately directed the Pennsylvania militia to go to the support of Gen. Mercer, and he led them in person with two pieces of artillery under Capt. William Moulder, who formed in battery on the right of Thomas Clarke's house. The enemy had pursued the detachment of Gen. Mercer as far as the brow of the hill, when they discovered for the first time the main army of Washington. Then they halted and brought up the artillery. Encouraged by the irresolution of the militia they then attempted to carry Capt. Moulder's battery; but at this moment "Gen. Washington," says Bancroft, "from his desire to animate his troops by example, rode into the very front of danger, and when within less than thirty yards of the British, he reined in his horse with its head towards them, as both parties were about to fire; seeming to tell his faltering forces that they must stand firm or leave him to confront the enemy alone. The two sides gave a volley at the same moment; when the smoke cleared away, it was thought a miracle that Washington was untouched. By this time Hitchcock, for whom a raging hectic made this day nearly his last, came up with his brigade; and Hand's riflemen began to turn the left of the English: these, after repeated exertions of the greatest courage and discipline, retreated before they were wholly surrounded, and fled over the fields and fences up Stony Brook. The action from the first conflict with Mercer did not last more than twenty minutes. Washington, on the battleground, took Hitchcock by the hand, and before his army, thanked him for his services."

Mawhood left on the ground two brass field-pieces, which, from want of horses, the Americans could not carry off. He was chased three or four miles, and many of his men were taken prisoners. The rest joined Leslie when his brigade came up from Maidenhead, where he had been left by Cornwallis in reserve.

While the largest part of the army were engaged with the troops under Mawhood, the New England regiments of Stark,

Poor, Patterson, Reed and others drove back the Fifty-fifth, which with the Fortieth made a gallant resistance at the deep ravine, a short distance south of the village of Princeton, extending from Edgehill down through the Springdale farm of Richard Stockton, but the Americans were here again victorious, and the enemy retreated to the college, into which many precipitated themselves on the approach of the Americans. Here at the college was another and the third battle of that memorable day. Pieces of artillery were brought to play upon them, traces of which can still be seen on the old walls of the college. The first ball is said to have entered the Prayer hall, a room used as a chapel in the college, and to have passed through the head of the portrait of George II. suspended on the wall; but to escape capture most of the enemy fled in disorder across the fields into a back road towards New Brunswick. Had there been cavalry to pursue, they might nearly all have been taken. Captain James Moore, of the militia, a citizen of Princeton, a daring officer, aided by a few men, burst open the door of the college building, and demanded their surrender; which they instantly complied with. In the building were a number of invalid soldiers, but Washington having no time to spare, left those unable to travel, on their parole of honor, and hurried off with the rest towards New Brunswick.

The British generals at Trenton on the morning of the 3d of January were surprised, at an early hour, to learn that Washington had withdrawn his troops during the night. They soon ascertained that he had gone towards Princeton and New Brunswick, and fearing that their magazines at the latter place were in danger, they were ordered by Cornwallis to arouse and move all their troops in rapid pursuit of Washington. His advanced party from Maidenhead reached Princeton just as the rear of the Americans were leaving the town.

As the British were approaching Princeton on the old Maidenhead road, they anticipated that their entrance to the town would be disputed by the Americans. We have already stated that Count Donop, on retreating from Bordentown to Princeton after the battle of Trenton, had thrown up arrow-headed earthworks for the defence of the place. These were thrown up at the west end of the town, about where Mercer

Street now forms a junction with Nassau Street, on the Sergeant property where the corner store of Mr. Hendrickson now stands. A large thirty-two pounder had been left there, and as the British troops advanced towards it, three or four men who had loaded it discharged it towards them, and checked their advance. The enemy surmised that Washington had determined to make a stand here, and after sending out reconnoitering parties of horsemen, cautiously approached the breast-work with their main force, and resolved to take it by storm. By these movements they were delayed nearly an hour; and when they came up to the works and to the town, they found to their surprise that they had none to defend them.\*

The battle of Princeton was the sharpest, and, considering the time occupied and the number engaged in it, was the most fatal to our officers of any action during the whole of our Revolutionary War. We lost one general, one colonel,† one major and three captains, killed, while the enemy exhibited the highest order of courage and military skill; especially did the 17th regiment of the British, during this conflict, display such

\* The big old cannon which is now planted in the south campus of the college was left in Princeton by the British, when they were routed by Washington on the 3d of January, 1777. The latter could not take it with him when he left Princeton, because its carriage was broken; and it remained here as a relic of the war until the war of 1812, when it was taken to New Brunswick to defend that city against an expected assault from the enemy. It was, when examined there, found to be an unsafe gun, and it was not used, nor returned as it should have been, but left for about fifteen years lying on the commons at that city until a number of the citizens of Princeton, in preparing for the celebration of the 4th of July, went down with large teams to New Brunswick, and brought it from the commons and left it at Queenston, where it remained till about the year 1838, when a number of students, under a persuasion that it belonged to the college, brought it up and planted it in the campus.

Were it not that the cannon used on the earthworks above referred to, is described as a thirty-two pounder, while the one in the college campus is an eighteen pounder, we should infer that they were one and the same gun, and that it had been left here by the British before the battle of Princeton. It is not improbable however that there may be some error as to the size of the former one. We are inclined to believe that this old cannon which was here before the battle, and which is a siege gun, was placed upon the breast-work and was left by both armies behind when they departed from Princeton, notwithstanding the alleged discrepancies in their size.

† Col. Potter was reported by Washington and all the historians as killed in the battle, but it was not so, as has been ascertained since.

brilliant gallantry, that Washington himself in the fiercest of the conflict directing the attention of his officers to them, said, "See how these noble fellows fight! Ah! gentlemen; when shall we be able to keep an army long enough together to display a discipline equal to our enemies?"

The heroism of Washington on the field of Princeton is matter of history. Defeat here would have been utterly disastrous, if not absolutely fatal; and nobody felt this more than he, for he had not only to meet other forces in front of him, but Cornwallis, with 8000 strong, was pressing on his rear. It seemed as if this was the crisis of the struggle. He could not avoid the battle; and he met the exigency with desperation, exposing his life to the greatest danger, so that his devoted aid, Col. Fitzgerald, could never relate the story of his danger and wonderful preservation without shedding tears. Custis, in his Recollections of Washington, not only states these facts, but he adds the following description:

"The aide-de-camp had been ordered to bring up the troops from the rear of the column when the band under Gen. Mercer became engaged. Upon returning to the spot where he had left the commander-in chief he was no longer there, and upon looking around the aide discovered him endeavoring to rally the line which had been thrown into disorder by a rapid onset of the foe. Washington, after several ineffectual efforts to restore the fortunes of the fight, is seen to rein up his horse with his head to the enemy and in that position to remain immovable. It was a last appeal to his soldiers, and seemed to say, Will you give up your general to the foe? Such an appeal was not made in vain. The discomfited Americans rally on the instant and form into line. The enemy halt and dress their line. The American chief is between the adverse posts as though he had been placed there a target for both. The lines of both lines are levelled. Can escape from death be possible? Fitzgerald, horror-struck at the death of his beloved commander, dropped the reins upon his horse's neck and drew his hat over his face, that he might not see him die. A roar of musketry succeeds, and then a shout. It was the shout of victory. The aide-de-camp ventures to raise his eyes. Oh! glorious sight, the enemy are broken and flying; while dimly amid the glimpses of the smoke is seen the chief, "alive, unharmed and without a wound," waving his hat and cheering his comrades to the pursuit.

"Col. Fitzgerald, celebrated as one of the finest horsemen in the American army, now dashed his rowels in his charger's flank and heedless of the dead and dying in his way, flew to the side of his chief, exclaiming, "Thank God, your excellency is safe," while his favorite aide, a gallant and warm hearted son of Erin, a man of thews and sinews, and "albeit unused to the melting mood," gave loose to his feelings and wept like a child for joy.

"Washington, ever calm amid scenes of the greatest excitement, affectionately

grasped the hand of his aid and friend, and then ordered, "Away, my dear colonel, and bring up the troops: the day is our own."

The British lost on that day, in these three battles at Princeton, about two hundred killed and wounded and two hundred and thirty prisoners, of whom fourteen were British officers. Some of the historians make the number of the killed one hundred, and the number of prisoners at nearly three hundred. Among the officers of the enemy killed was Captain Leslie, whose loss was very much regretted.

The loss of the Americans was small, not exceeding thirty. But it was great in worth and talents. Colonel Hazlet, Major Morris, Captains Shippen, Fleming and Neal were brave and reliable officers; and General Mercer, who was mortally wounded, was one of Washington's most esteemed and reliable generals, a gentleman of fine attainments and social position, and an officer whom Washington could ill afford to lose, and one whom everybody loved.

At the close of the action, Washington again detached a small party to destroy the bridge over Stony Brook at Worth's Mills. While this work was being done, the British troops from Trenton appeared on the hill just above the bridge; and they began to fire upon them, but the workmen continued vigorously and had succeeded in throwing off the loose planks into the stream; then the cannon balls were thrown so fast upon them that they had to retreat, except Major Kelly, of Delaware, who had charge of the detachment. He undertook to cut away the timbers of the bridge, so that nothing could be laid upon them on which the artillery and baggage of the enemy could cross. He took the axe and began to cut off the logs on which the plank had been placed; and though the troops had arrived and he was exposed to their fire, he succeeded in cutting off some. The last one he was cutting was struck with several shot, and it fell sooner than the gallant Major anticipated it would, and he fell with it into the swollen stream which was filled with running ice; and his men, believing it impossible for him to escape, immediately fled. Major Kelly succeeded, however, in getting out of the water, and started for Princeton, but with his frozen clothes, and without arms to defend himself, he was taken prisoner by a British



soldier. The British troops were ordered to dash through the stream, which they did, though the baggage and artillery were detained about an hour while the bridge was made passable.

The dead of the British, about one hundred, who were killed in the battle of Princeton, near Stony Brook, were buried where they lay, in the field about two hundred yards north of Joseph Clarke's barn, along an obscure driftway. Their bodies, frozen stiff, with their clothing mostly stripped from them by the American soldiers, were piled into a wagon, and then carried to the grave. In the manuscript journal of the college student, from which we have before quoted, we find this reference to the battle of Princeton, on the 3d of January :

"Set out early next morning towards Trenton, till sun half an hour high, when we heard the engagement begin towards Princeton. . . . At three o'clock we set out for Pennington ; after a roundabout march we came to the field where the battle was fought. Had a most dismal prospect of a number of pale, mangled corpses, lying in the mud and blood. I felt gloomy at the awful scene."

The fourteen Americans killed were also buried in the field. There is no monument to designate their graves.

In the death of General Hugh Mercer, the Americans lost a chief who was well qualified to fill the highest trusts of the country. William B. Reed, in his oration on Gen. Mercer, in 1840, claims as we have stated, that it was he who suggested the night march to Princeton. He also refers to his death as follows :

"The fall of Colonel Hazlet, mortally wounded, at the head of his men, threw them into momentary confusion, and General Mercer's horse being killed by the enemy's fire, he was left alone and dismounted on the field. Disdaining to surrender, and indignant at the apparent confusion of his men, he encountered, single handed, a detachment of the enemy, and being beaten to the earth by the butts of their muskets, was savagely and mortally stabbed by their bayonets. The struggle of that day was as brief as it was bloody, and with the loss of many of the bravest officers : of Hazlet, of Shippen, of Fleming, of Neal and Mercer ; the American troops remained in possession of the field so hardly won.

"With the story of victory I have nought to do. My duty is to the dying soldier. Within a short time, Major Armstrong, the General's aide, found him lying bleeding and insensible on the field. He was removed to a neighboring farm, where he lingered in extreme suffering, (the house being alternately occupied by British and American parties,) till the 12th of January, when, breathing his last prayer for his young and helpless family and his bleeding country, he expired in the arms of Major George Lewis, a fellow-citizen of his beloved Virginia, and nephew of Washington.





GEN HUGH MERCER

*Hugh Mercer*

(from a pencil drawing by Col Trumbull)

NEW YORK: G.P. PUTNAM & CO.

“Nor was his dying bed a bed of utter desolation. The house whither the wounded soldier was carried was tenanted by two delicate females, who wearing the garb and possessing the principles of peace, were too brave to fly from the field of battle, or the bed of death. While the conflict raged around their humble dwelling, these two tender, helpless women lost no confidence in the protection which the God of innocence rarely withholds, and when the dying warrior was brought to their threshold and left beneath their roof, their ministering charities were ready to soothe his anguish and smooth the passage to the grave. One of these American women of better times has died near Princeton within the last few months, aged upwards of ninety years. It was a part of her household story, that she had watched the death-bed of a soldier of the Revolution.”

The Clarke house to which Gen. Mercer was carried and where he was nursed by the Misses Hannah and Sarah Clarke until his death, is still standing and is now owned and occupied by Henry E. Hale. It is frequently visited by strangers, who are shown the blood stains on the floor, and other vestiges of the war.

Gen. Washington, at the time of the battle, thought that Gen. Mercer was killed; but when he learned after he reached Millstone, where the Somerset Court House then stood, that he was still living, he despatched his nephew, Major George Lewis, with a flag and a letter to Lord Cornwallis, with a request that every possible attention should be allowed him, and that young Lewis might remain with him and minister to his wants. To both requests his lordship assented, and also ordered his staff surgeon to attend upon Gen. Mercer. Mercer was bred to the profession of army surgeon in Europe, and pointed out the wounds which would prove fatal. He died on the 12th of January; and on the 15th, Gen. Washington not having heard of his death, sent his congratulations to be given to him through Col. Reed. Before he died he exonerated his enemies from the accusation that has been so generally hurled against them, that they bayoneted a general officer after he had surrendered his sword and become a prisoner of war, declaring that he had only relinquished his sword when he could no longer wield it. He would not surrender nor call for quarters, when he was rudely assailed by his enemies for not doing so. He was bayoneted and left for dead, but he had not cried for quarters.

The body of General Mercer was taken to Philadelphia after his death, and was buried with military honors on the south

side of Christ's church-yard, where a plain marble slab was erected; and in 1840 his remains were disinterred, and deposited at Laurel Hill. At Fredericksburg, Va., Congress erected a monument to him.

Sacred to the Memory of

HUGH MERCER,

BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,

He died on the 12th of January, 1777, of the wounds he received on the third of the same month, near Princeton, in New Jersey,

BRAVELY DEFENDING THE LIBERTIES  
OF AMERICA.

The Congress of the United States in Testimony of his Virtues and their Gratitude, have caused this Monument to be erected.

Congress also directed that his youngest son should be educated at the expense of the United States.

It is related of Gen. Mercer, that when the appointment of officers for the third Virginia Regiment was under consideration in the House of Burgesses, and no commissions below those of field officers were applied for; and those applicants being chiefly from families of wealth and fortune, a plain but soldierly looking man handed up a scrap of paper, on which was written, "Hugh Mercer will serve his adopted country and the cause of liberty in any rank or station in which he may be appointed." This from a veteran soldier, bred in European camps, the associate of Washington in the war of 1755, and high in his esteem, secured from that patriotic body, without debate, the appointment of Mercer to the command of that regiment.

Captain William Shippen, who was also killed at Princeton, was buried at St. Peters, in Philadelphia.

The Rev. Charles McKnight, of Shrewsbury and Middletown Point, N. J., was present at the battle of Princeton, and stood so near General Mercer, that he received a severe sabre cut on his head. He was a warm patriot, and had openly assured his people that, "God would take care of their liberty

if they would take care of the Red-Coats." The Red-Coats burned his church in the autumn of 1777, and took him a prisoner, carried him to New York, and subjected him to insults and cruelties, in spite of his profession and great age, which soon terminated his life. One of his sons, a captain in the army, was a prison-ship martyr; another was a distinguished surgeon in the American army.\*

Among those of the British who were mortally wounded at the battle of Princeton, we have mentioned the name of Captain Leslie. He was taken a prisoner, and carried with the American army, on its way to Morristown, but died before reaching there in the evening of the same day. In Custis's *Recollections of the Life of Washington*, the death of this accomplished officer is thus noticed:

"It was while the commander-in-chief reined up his horse upon approaching the spot in a ploughed field where lay the gallant Col. Hazlet mortally wounded, that he perceived some British soldiers supporting a wounded officer, and upon inquiring his name and rank, was answered, Capt. Leslie. Dr. Benjamin Rush, who formed a part of the general's suite, earnestly asked, "A son of the Earl of Leven?" to which the soldiers replied in the affirmative. The doctor then addressed the general-in-chief: "I beg your excellency to permit this wounded officer to be placed under my care, that I may return, in however small a degree, a part of the obligations I owe to his worthy father, for the many kindnesses received at his hands while I was a student at Edinburgh." The request was immediately granted; but alas, poor Leslie was soon "past all surgery." He died the same evening, after receiving every possible kindness and attention, and was buried the next day, at Pluckemin, with the honors of war. His troops, as they lowered the remains to the soldier's last rest, shed tears over the remains of a much loved commander."

Two days after the battle, Gen. Washington sent his aid, Col. Fitzgerald, into the British camp with a flag of truce. He was courteously received, and introduced to the principal officers. The recital of Capt. Leslie's death and burial so affected one of the British generals that he went to the window and wept; and he returned his acknowledgments by the Colonel.†

In the village burying-ground at Pluckemin, six miles north of Somerville, a plain monument marks his grave, with

\* J. T. Headley.

† Wilkinson's Memoirs.

an inscription thereon, of which the following copy has been sent to us:

IN MEMORY  
OF THE  
HON. CAPT. WILLIAM LESLIE,  
of the 17th British Regiment ; Son of the  
Earl of Leven, in Scotland.  
He fell January 3d, 1777, aged 26 years, at the Battle of  
PRINCETON.  
His friend, BENJAMIN RUSH, M. D., of Philadelphia,  
hath caused this stone to be erected, as a mark  
of his esteem for his worth, and  
respect for his noble family.

After Gen. Washington, on the 3d of January, 1777, routed the British out of the college and the town, he did not feel that his army was strong enough to stand against the whole force of Cornwallis, which was in pursuit of them, and very near them. Taking his prisoners along with him he marched out of Princeton on the road to New Brunswick, crossed the Millstone River at Kingston, and destroyed the bridge there, after his troops had crossed. He did not feel able to march directly to New Brunswick, with his exhausted army, and contend with the enemy, as he would be obliged to do, if he should go there. Hence, after crossing the river at Kingston, he wheeled from the direct road to New Brunswick, and marched down the river, and recrossing it at Somerset Court House, which was then at what is now the village of Millstone, he halted at that place for the night. There his wearied soldiers who had been exhausted by the service of two days and one night, from action to action, without shelter, and without much refreshment—"there, in the woods, men who were worn out sank down on the bare frozen ground and fell asleep, without re-

gard to the cold; an easy prey, had Cornwallis had the spirit to pursue them." \*

The next day, Washington pushed on to Pluckemin, and on the fifth arrived at Morristown, where he made his head-quarters during the winter.

We have stated that Cornwallis pursued Washington, and finding that he had left Princeton in the direction of New Brunswick, he hastened the pursuit in that direction.

When he came to the Millstone River at Kingston, he was delayed by reason of the injury which the American army had done to the bridge there, after crossing it. Supposing that Washington had gone straight on from Kingston to New Brunswick in order to capture the British stores at that place, Cornwallis kept the direct road to that place; while Washington had filed off at nearly a right angle to the north, seeking a place of safety in the hill country, where he could refresh and recruit his little army. †

The following interesting letter, written by Gen. Washington at Pluckemin, bearing date January 5th, 1777, referring to the battles of the Assanpink and of Princeton, will be read with pleasure, and be regarded as authoritative :

#### GEN. WASHINGTON TO CONGRESS.

PLUCKEMIN, January 5, 1777.

*Sir* :—I have the honor to inform you, that, since the date of my last from Trenton, I have removed with the army under my command to this place. The difficulty of crossing the Delaware, on account of the ice, made our passage over it tedious, and gave the enemy an opportunity of drawing in their several cantonments and assembling their whole force at Princeton. Their large picquets advanced towards Trenton, their great preparations, and some intelligence I had received—added to their knowledge that the first of January brought on a dissolution of the best part of our army—gave me the strongest reasons to conclude that an attack upon us was meditating.

Our situation was most critical, and our force small. To remove immediately was again destroying every dawn of hope which had begun to revive in the breasts of the Jersey militia; and to bring those troops which had first crossed the Delaware, and were lying at Crosswix's, under General Cadwallader, and those under General Mifflin at Bordentown (amounting in the whole to about 3,600), to Trenton,

\* Bancroft, vol. ix. p. 251.

† In the foregoing account of the battle, we have drawn from the several histories of Gordon's American War, Marshall's Washington, Sparks' Life of Washington, Wilson's American History, Bancroft's History, N. J. Hist. Collections, and others.



was to bring them to an exposed place. One or the other, however, was unavoidable; the latter was preferred, and they were ordered to join us at Trenton—which they did, by a night march, on the 1st instant.

On the 2d, according to my expectation, the enemy began to advance upon us; and, after some skirmishing, the head of their column reached Trenton about four o'clock, whilst their rear was as far back as Maidenhead. They attempted to pass Sanpink Creek, which runs through Trenton; but, finding the fords guarded, halted and kindled their fires. We were drawn up on the other side of the creek. In this situation we remained until dark, cannonading the enemy, and receiving the fire of their field-pieces, which did us but little damage.

Having by this time discovered that the enemy were greatly superior in number, and that their design was to surround us, I ordered all our baggage to be removed silently to Burlington soon after dark; and at twelve o'clock, after renewing our fires and leaving guards at the bridge in Trenton, and other passes on the same stream above, marched by a round-about road to Princeton, where I knew they could not have much force left, and might have stores. One thing I was certain of—that it would avoid the appearance of a retreat (which was of course, or to run the hazard of the whole army being cut off)—whilst we might, by a fortunate stroke, withdraw General Howe from Trenton, and give some reputation to our arms. Happily we succeeded. We found Princeton about sunrise with only three regiments and three troops of light-horse in it, two of which were on their march to Trenton. These three regiments, especially the two first, made a gallant resistance, and, in killed, wounded and prisoners, must have lost five hundred men—upwards of one hundred of them were left dead in the field; and, with what I have with me, and what were taken in pursuit and carried across the Delaware, there are near three hundred prisoners, fourteen of whom are officers, all British.

This piece of good fortune is counterbalanced by the loss of the brave and worthy General Mercer, Colonels Hazlet and Potter, Captain Neal of the artillery, Captain Fleming, who commanded the first Virginia regiment, and four or five other valuable officers, who, with about twenty-five or thirty privates, were slain in the field. Our whole loss cannot be ascertained, as many who are in the pursuit of the enemy (who were chased three or four miles) are not yet come in.

The rear of the enemy's army lying at Maidenhead, not more than five or six miles from Princeton, was up with us before our pursuit was over; but, as I had the precaution to destroy the bridge over Stony-brook (about half a mile from the field of action), they were so long retarded there as to give us time to move off in good order for this place. We took two brass field-pieces, but for want of horses could not bring them away. We also took some blankets, shoes, and a few other trifling articles, burned the hay, and destroyed such other things as the shortness of the time would admit of.

My original plan, when I set out from Trenton, was, to have pushed on to Brunswick; but the harassed state of our troops, (many of them having had no rest for two nights and a day,) and the danger of losing the advantage we had gained by aiming at too much, induced me, by the advice of my officers, to relinquish the attempt; but, in my judgment, six or eight hundred fresh troops, on a forced march, would have destroyed all their stores and magazines, taken (as we have since learned) their military chest containing seventy thousand pounds, and put an end to the war. The enemy, from the best intelligence I have been able to get, were so much alarmed at the apprehension of this, that they marched immediately to Brunswick without halt-

ing, except at the bridges (for I also took up those on Millstone, on the different routes to Brunswick), and got there before day.

From the best information I have received, General Howe has left no men either at Trenton or Princeton. The truth of this I am endeavoring to ascertain, that I may regulate my movements accordingly.

The militia are taking spirits, and, I am told, are coming in fast from this state ; but I fear those from Philadelphia will scarcely submit to the hardships of a winter campaign much longer, especially as they very unluckily sent their blankets with their baggage to Burlington. I must do them the justice, however, to add that they have undergone more fatigue and hardship than I expected militia, especially citizens, would have done at this inclement season. I am just moving toward Morristown, where I shall endeavor to put them under the best cover I can ; hitherto we have been without any, and many of our poor soldiers barefoot, and ill clad in other respects.

I have the honor to be, etc., G. W.

The success of Washington at Princeton produced the most hopeful and happy effect upon the American army, as well as upon Congress and the whole country. There was in it an exhibition of proof that the Commander-in-chief was a wise and consummate strategist as well as a brave and patriotic soldier ; and that the American army, though undisciplined, and composed, at that time, chiefly of raw and poorly equipped militia, dared to stand and contend in open field with the trained veterans of England and Germany.

The movements of Washington upon the military chess-board, had now become intensely exciting. Remembering how he had led his dispirited army in retreat before the veteran hosts that were pursuing him, from Long Island and New York, and from town to town through New Jersey, across the Hackensack, the Passaic, the Raritan, the Millstone and the Delaware Rivers, finding rest for a few weeks only on the other side of the Delaware, which, by being swollen and not sufficiently covered with ice to cross upon, became impassable to his hitherto triumphant foes ; remembering how by his perilous recrossing the turbulent river on Christmas night, and his capture of Trenton, he compelled Cornwallis to draw in the detachments of his army, which had spread out on every side of the main line to the terror of the people of New Jersey, and to concentrate his troops at Princeton and Trenton ; and then how again at Trenton on the 2d of January, he seemed to challenge a contest with the combined forces of the best assorted troops of Cornwallis, awaiting on the banks of the

Assanpink a fearful conflict, which to both friends and foes portended the annihilation of the American army, and the extinction of American Independence ; but from which critical position, under cover of night, he eluded the unequal struggle, and with a desperate heroism, reversed the line of action ; we behold him now assuming at once the aggressive in his triumphant return to Princeton as conqueror, routing the enemy from the college and church, and by the celerity of his marches and the ubiquity of his presence, surprising and disconcerting the enemy, and securing for his army a defiant position in an eligible part of the State ; the result of which was, the security of Philadelphia, the abandonment of the British cantonments along the Delaware, the evacuation of Trenton and Princeton by British soldiers, and the almost total delivery of the State of New Jersey from the dread presence of an overshadowing hostile army ; remembering all these events, and these sudden transpositions of things, following in such rapid succession, the marching and counter-marching, the skirmishes, the surprises, the retreats, the battles, the alternation of hope and despair, of defeat and victory, within the space of about thirty days, we cannot fail to regard Washington's withdrawal from the Assanpink to Princeton, and his brilliant and decisive victories at Princeton, on the 3d of January, 1777, as the most telling blow inflicted by him on the British generalship during the war ; and as the most important, brilliant and hope-inspiring movement, as to time, character and results, for the grand cause of the Revolution, from the firing of the first gun, to that bright day when at Princeton Washington attended upon Congress, and prepared in accordance with the request of that body his farewell address to his patriotic and illustrious army.

The immediate effect of the battle of Princeton, upon the inhabitants of Princeton and of the whole State of New Jersey, not to refer to other States, was seen in the greater alacrity with which the regiments of the militia were now filled by volunteers ; and in the more authoritative tone in which the commander-in-chief at his head-quarters at Morristown, and also the State authorities, announced their orders and regulations, for the conduct of private citizens.

It is stated that two thousand, seven hundred and three Jerseymen had availed themselves of the proclamation of the two Howe brothers, and subscribed a declaration of fidelity to the British King. This was done when the army of Cornwallis was pursuing Washington across New Jersey southward. But now Washington was strong enough to demand, by a proclamation in the name of the United States, that "those who had accepted the British protections should withdraw within the enemy's lines, or take the oath of allegiance to the United States of America."

A reference to the proceedings of the Council of Safety while sitting at Princeton shows, that not a few persons residing in and near Princeton were summoned to comply with the above mentioned order—the most of whom took the oath of allegiance prescribed.

After the battle of Princeton the village was left for a few days to itself. No guard was retained over it by either of the armies. But in the latter part of January, 1777, Gen. Putnam with a considerable force of American troops came and occupied it; and in May following, Gen. Sullivan with fifteen hundred men, to which additions were made by troops from the south, were stationed here for some time. It continued to be, during the war, a military post—having present a large body of soldiers and a military hospital—and often prisoners were detained here. The college and Presbyterian Church were occupied after the British troops had been routed from the place, as barracks, and used for hospital and other army purposes, by the American army.

The project of erecting a suitable monument of the battle of Princeton, and to the memory of Mercer, has often been agitated, but as yet without any practical result. It would be eminently proper and patriotic to raise on the battle-field, or in the village (for the whole ground in and about Princeton was battle-ground, covered with the bloody foot-prints of patriot soldiers) at a moderate cost, some monument, or memorial building, to commemorate and perpetuate the valor and wisdom—the services and sacrifices, which were exhibited by our patriotic forefathers of the Revolutionary period in Princeton.

## SECTION VI.

## THE DEVASTATION OF PROPERTY.

Princeton obnoxious to the Enemy—British Troops quartered in it three weeks—Farms and Families pillaged and plundered—Report of Committee of Congress on the subject—Names of the Sufferers—Tusculum pillaged—Mr. Sergeant's new house burned—Morven Robbed—Papers, books and plate stolen—Mr. Stockton taken prisoner in Monmouth—Action of Congress in his behalf—Scudder's Mills burned—The Church damaged—College Library and Furniture pillaged—Dr. Green's Account of it.

THE devastation of property belonging to the inhabitants of Princeton and its vicinity, by the British army, was large and wanton. It is the common fate of towns, as it is of individuals, verified in the history of all wars, that pre-eminent zeal and activity in the conflict provoke a severer retribution from a revengeful enemy with an opportunity to inflict it, than a less demonstrative spirit excites. Princeton was no exception to the general rule. Situate on the great highway across the State—the home of Stockton, Witherspoon and Sergeant—the place where the Committee of Safety had met and organized defensive measures, the seat of a college where liberty and free institutions find friends and advocates, and the place too, where the State Government under the new Republican Constitution was organized, and the first Legislature had recently been sitting, it was but natural to expect some special demonstration of revenge, in the waste and spoliation of its property by the hostile forces who were then absolute masters of the situation.

For about three weeks before the battle of Princeton the British troops were quartered in and about the village, occupying the college and the church as barracks. Their cantonments were multiplied at that time throughout this part of the State—a chain of them connecting Princeton, Pennington, Trenton, Bordentown, Crosswicks with New Brunswick, where their main supplies were held. Marauding parties were incessantly pillaging and plundering the farms and families which lay within their reach. And there can be no doubt, that if the battle of

Princeton had not resulted in such a precipitate and unexpected rout of the enemy, the destruction of property would have been greater than it was, and many more buildings would have been burned, and more human lives sacrificed. It had just been determined to "give no quarter."

The report of a Committee of Congress, of which Dr. Witherspoon was a member, made on the 18th of April, 1777, on the conduct of the British army towards American prisoners and inoffensive families, supported by affidavits, exhibits the wanton cruelty and outrages to which the people of New Jersey were subjected. This report classifies the barbarous conduct under four heads :

1. "The wanton and oppressive devastation of the country and destruction of property.

"The whole track of the British is marked with desolation and a wanton destruction of property, particularly through Westchester County, in the State of New York ; the towns of Newark, Elisabethtown, Woodbridge, Brunswick, Kingston, Princeton and Trenton, in New Jersey. The fences destroyed, the houses deserted, pulled in pieces or consumed by fire, and the general face of waste and devastation spread over a rich and once well cultivated and well inhabited country, would affect the most unfeeling with melancholy or compassion for the unhappy sufferers, and with indignation and resentment against the barbarous ravagers. It deserves notice, that though there are many instances of rage and vengeance against particular persons, yet the destruction was very general and often undistinguished ; those who submitted and took protections, and some who were known to favor them, having frequently suffered in the common ruin. Places and things which from their public nature and general utility, should have been spared by a civilized people, have been destroyed or plundered, or both. But above all, places of worship, ministers and religious persons of some particular protestant denominations, seem to have been treated with the most rancorous hatred, and at the same time with the highest contempt.

2. "The inhuman treatment of those who were so unhappy as to become prisoners.

(We omit this part of the report. which sets forth that they were generally treated with the utmost barbarity and suffered the utmost distress from cold, nakedness and close confinement.)

3. "The savage butchery of those who had submitted and were incapable of resistance.

"The Committee found it to be the general opinion of the people in the neighborhood of Princeton and Trenton, that the enemy, the day before the battle of Princeton, *had determined to give no quarter*. They did not, however, obtain any clear proof that there were any general orders for that purpose ; but the treatment of several particular persons, at and since that time, has been of the most shocking kind, and gives too much countenance to the supposition. Officers wounded and disabled, some of them of the first rank, were barbarously mangled or put to death. A minister of the gospel in Trenton, who neither was, nor had been in arms, was

massacred in cold blood, though humbly supplicating for mercy. (Mr. Roseburgh from the Forks of the Delaware.)

4. "The lust and brutality of the soldiers in the abusing of women.

"The Committee had authentic information of the treatment of women, which was too indecent to be given to the public; the affidavits were filed and published in the index to the report." \*

It is impossible at this late day, to ascertain the full extent of the damages perpetrated by the enemy on the inhabitants of Princeton and the vicinity; but a portion of the loss was made a matter of record after the battle, by the presentation of sworn claims to the State government; quite enough to make a melancholy picture.

The following is a list of some of the persons, whose loss was appraised and sworn to, and then presented to the government. Each claim sets forth the particulars of the property destroyed and taken. The property consisted of farm produce, stock, provisions, and furniture, such as hay, grain, beef, pork, sheep, horses, cattle, wagons, wood, fences, clothing, crockery, bedding, silver, poultry, flour, butter, buildings burned, etc., etc. The claims bear date in 1776-77.

The amounts of damage varied from ten pounds upward—perhaps averaging two hundred pounds. We subjoin the names, only including those from both Somerset and Middlesex Counties, in the vicinity of Princeton, viz :

Thomas Norris,	Joseph Olden,
Richard Scott,	Capt. James Moore,
Robert Stockton,	John Johnson,
James Finley,	John Hedges,
John Leonard,	George Norris,
Dr. Thomas Wiggins,	James Leonard,
Martha Hyde (Kingston),	Thomas Moody,
James Hamilton,	Thomas Stockton,
James McComb,	Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant,
Andrew McMakin,	Estate of Jonathan Sergeant dec'd.,
William Gaa,	Joseph Skelton,
Jonathan Deare,	Elizabeth Morford,
Col. William Scudder (Mills),	William Kovenhoven,
Jonathan Baldwin,	Princeton Church.

There were doubtless many more, some of whom did not present their claims.

\* Gordon, vol. ii. p. 206.

“Tusculum,” the country seat of Dr. Witherspoon, was pillaged, and stripped of everything which could gratify the plundering propensities of the Hessian soldiers.

The new and beautiful residence of Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, erected on the lot of land where his son-in-law the late Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., built his stately Princeton residence, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Brown, was burned to the ground by the enemy, with valuable personal property, in December, 1776.

“Morven,” the elegant home of Richard Stockton, who with the owner of “Tusculum,” had signed the Declaration, was also visited by the Hessian invaders. Mr. Stockton had time only to remove his wife and family to a place of safety. An old family servant, and Mr. Stockton’s eldest son Richard, then only twelve years of age, were left in the house, who, with everything in their care, were at the mercy of the enemy. “The house was pillaged, the horses and stock were driven away and the estate laid waste. The furniture was converted into fire-wood; the old wine stored in the cellar, was drunk up, and the valuable library, with all the papers of Mr. Stockton were committed to the flames. The house became for some time the head-quarters of the British General. The plate and other valuable articles belonging to the family, had been packed in three boxes and buried in the woods at some distance from the mansion. Through treachery—it is said—the place of concealment was discovered by the soldiers and two of the boxes were disinterred and rifled of their rich contents. The remaining one escaped their search and was restored to the family.”\*

We have seen several pieces of silver that were in this box in the possession of Mrs. Olmsted, the granddaughter of Mr. Stockton, who is residing in Princeton. She has also two portraits, one of Mr. Stockton and the other of his wife, which were in Morven, when occupied by the British, and were found among some rubbish, after they left. Both were pierced through with bayonets. These portraits have been restored, and are now hanging upon the walls in Mrs. Olm-

\* Mrs. Ellet’s Women of the Revolution.



sted's house. The portrait of Mr. Stockton is said to have been painted by Copley, and is a fine one.

It is said that when Mrs. Stockton heard of the destruction of her valuable library, she remarked that there were two books in it which she particularly prized—the Bible and Young's Night Thoughts; and that if these had been saved, she would not grieve for the loss of the rest. Tradition relates that when she returned to her desolated house, those very volumes were the only ones left.

Mr. Stockton, though a member of Congress at this time, was not in attendance thereon, but had gone for refuge, to his friend John Covenhoven, in Monmouth County, where he supposed he would escape arrest by the enemy, but his safety was betrayed by some of the tories of that county, and he was captured and taken to New York as a prisoner, and subjected to a cruel imprisonment there, so cruel that Congress was compelled to take special action in reference to his case; and on the third day of January, 1777, the very day of the battle of Princeton, adopted the following resolution, which led to his release:

“Whereas Congress hath received information, that Richard Stockton, Esq., of New Jersey, and a member of this Congress, hath been made a prisoner, and ignominiously thrown into a common jail, and there detained—Resolved, that Gen. Washington be directed to make immediate enquiry into the truth of this report, and if he finds reason to believe it well founded, that he send to Gen. Howe, remonstrating against this departure from that humane procedure which has marked the conduct of these states, to prisoners who have fallen into their hands; and to know of Gen. Howe whether he chooses this shall be the future rule for treating all such on both sides as the fortune of war may place in the hands of either party.”

The mills of Col. William Scudder, near Princeton, were burnt by the British troops, December 31, 1776. The grist-mill, the fulling-mill and press-house, weaving utensils, saw-mill, were in the best state of repair, and contained large quantities of wheat and corn, etc. The loss amounted to twelve hundred pounds.

The Presbyterian Church at Princeton had been occupied by the British and much abused, the pews had been burned up and the edifice used as barracks for the soldiers. The damages done to this building in 1776-77, were appraised by John

McComb, Thomas Stockton and Enos Kelsey, at £160 4s. 2d. Sworn to before Robert Stockton, Judge, etc.

Nassau Hall the old North College, whose ancient walls still stand, with its library and college furniture, received much damage from the British soldiers while they occupied it. After the enemy were expelled from it, the American army used it for several years.

Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, who graduated at the college just as the war was closing, and who was afterwards president of the institution, in his Autobiographical Letters, gives the following interesting and probably the most authentic detailed description of the use made of the college and of the church during the war; he says:

“The college edifice had been a barrack alternately for each of the hostile armies; first for the British troops and then for a detachment of the Continental army, and a corps of the militia. The British had rifled the library; some of the books of which were afterwards found in North Carolina, left there by the troops of Lord Cornwallis. What was left did not deserve the name of a Library. Of the philosophical apparatus nothing remained but the orrery, a small telescope, and an electrical machine, with a case of coated jars. They placed a guard over Rittenhouse's Orrery, intending to transport it to Britain. Its delicate machinery was damaged and all its operations prevented, by the fingering of the American troops, when on the retreat of the British, they succeeded to the possession of the edifice. The church also had been stripped of its pews, which were probably used for fire-wood, as a fire-place had been built and a chimney carried up through the roof, on one of its sides. The chapel contained nothing of its former furniture and ornaments, except an empty organ case, and the coat of arms of Governor Belcher.

“At the battle of Princeton, which by the way, turned the tide of war in favor of our country—a regiment of British troops took shelter in the college, and General Washington drove them out by turning his artillery against it. The stone walls indeed could not be perforated by the shot of the field pieces, but the impressions they made were long visible, and a number of the balls entered the windows and made great havoc in the interior of the house. The British abandoned and surrendered without further resistance. The large windows on the south side of the prayer hall presented a conspicuous mark for the American artillery, and a cannon ball, that came in at one of these windows, cut off the head of King George as it was exhibited in its full length portrait.

“Such was the accredited tradition when I was a student in the house, and I still believe in its truth. What became of the portrait of Governor Belcher I know not. Nothing but his coat of arms appeared on the wall, to which it had originally been appended. The dilapidation and pollution of the college edifice, when left by its military occupants, extended to every part of it.”

The above is undoubtedly an imperfect catalogue of the

sufferers in this vicinity, from the wanton waste and destruction of property by the enemy, in the early part of the war.

The foraging and pillaging by the soldiers extended to the whole neighborhood—for many miles around—hardly a house or farm escaped being plundered.

---

## SECTION VII.

### SECOND SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE IN PRINCETON. 1777-1778.

Princeton again the seat of the State Government—Certain laws enacted here—Act allowing an oath to be taken with the Uplifted Hand, instead of kissing the Bible—Day of Thanksgiving appointed—Mismanagement of Hospitals reformed—Gen. Putnam arrested Quakers who would neither enlist nor pay fines—Gov. Livingston countermanded the order, and Gen. Washington sustained the Governor—Articles of Confederation commended by Gov. Livingston—Rev. John Mason requests the Governor to recommend a recognition of God, and the Christian Religion, to be incorporated in the Articles—Interesting Letter of the Governor, with his reasons for dissenting from the suggestion.

IN the autumn of 1777, the enemy having, through the tactics of Gen. Washington, been drawn and forced from this part of the State, Princeton became again the central seat of the civil power of New Jersey. The Legislature which we had left flitting about the State to find a place of safety, now returned to Princeton, where Gen. Putnam had been detailed with an adequate force to assure protection and strengthen the measures adopted for the more energetic prosecution of the war, as early as the latter part of January, 1777. Governor Livingston re-appears at Princeton and his orders and proclamations are attested of this place, which continued to be the seat of Government till the latter part of 1788.

Among the acts passed by the Legislature, at Princeton, and approved by the Governor, we note the following, with their respective titles:

*“ An Act to procure certain Articles of Clothing for the use of the New Jersey Regiments, on the Continental Establishment.” Nov. 25, 1777.*

*“ An Act to limit the price of Articles of Produce, Manufacture and Trade, and to*

*prevent forestalling, regrating and engrossing, (fixing the price of things and compelling the sale of the surplus.) Dec. 11, 1777.\**

*"An Act for the encouraging the manufacturing of paper." June 20, 1778.*

*"An Act to prohibit the exportation of provisions from the state of New Jersey.*

*"An Act to prevent the subjects of this State from going into or coming out of the enemy's lines without permission." Passed at Princeton, October 3, 1778.*

*"An Act supplemental to an act for recovering the arrearages of the ten thousand pounds tax, and for other purposes."*

*"An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Justice in the State, and to confirm the proceedings of the inferior Courts of the Common Pleas, and Quarter Sessions of the Peace, of the County of Hunterdon."*

*"An Act granting bounty on Wool."*

*"An Act for the ease and relief of such persons as are scrupulous of taking an oath with the ceremony of touching and kissing the Book of the Gospels, by allowing that of holding up the hand in lieu thereof." † Oct. 1, 1778.*

On the 12th of November, 1778, Governor Livingston issued under his hand and seal at arms, at Princeton a Proclamation for a day of solemn thanksgiving and praise, naming the 18th of December of that year.

Congress instituted an inquiry into an alleged mismanagement of the hospitals at Princeton and Trenton, and Governor Livingston, on the second day of March, 1778, wrote to General Washington informing him that he had spent three days at Princeton in pursuance of a resolution of Congress, to examine the Quartermaster's Commissary Department; that he had found most unparalleled mismanagement of the Continen-

\* This was an unpopular law. Governor Livingston issued a strong proclamation to enforce it. The Council of Safety made several attempts to inflict its penalties for its violation. Warrants were issued at Morristown against Daniel Layton in January, 1778, for violating the act; and Capt. Joseph Smith was summoned before the same council for charging more for provisions, lodgings, etc., than the rates affixed by law. Jonathan Baldwin, Esq., of Princeton, was fined by the Council, at Princeton, £94 13s. 6d, for selling sugar without certificate and for a higher price than that regulated by law, which was paid to Mr. Houston, Treasurer. And William Sloan was fined six pounds, for paying more for sugar than the law allowed.

Andrew Hodge was brought before the Council at Princeton, in June 1778, for speaking contemptuously of the law, and was held to bail. But this law was soon afterwards repealed.

† Before this law was enacted, many conscientious persons were excluded from privileges, and sometimes were imprisoned, because they could not make oath in the form then prescribed. The Rev. John Mason, of New York, sympathizing with this class of persons, drew the memorial to the Legislature for the passage of this act. He had taken refuge at the time in New Jersey.

tal hospitals both at Princeton and Trenton; that he had removed many officers at Princeton, whom he considered unnecessary; and Congress voted him thanks for his care and diligence in effecting the reform at Princeton.

On the 27th of May, 1778, Governor Livingston wrote to Gen. Washington that he would send cartridges for different bores, to Jonathan Baldwin, Esq., of Princeton, who had received directions to distribute them. He wrote: "We have no powder and ball. If we fight we must fight without them."

General Putnam, who, as we have stated, was stationed at Princeton in 1777, was very much irritated by the Quakers and some others, who stood aloof, and would neither enlist, nor pay their fines. He caused their arrest, but Governor Livingston disapproved of such harsh measures, and countermanded their arrest until Gen. Washington could be consulted. The latter sustained Gov. Livingston in his action, but remonstrated against the passage of the act which retained the principle of pecuniary composition for service. Still the militia law was passed, March 15, 1778, with that commutation clause retained in it.

The ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION were before Congress and submitted to the States in 1778. Dr. Witherspoon made a speech in behalf of confederation, in Congress, a part of which is published in the fourth volume of his works; and Governor Livingston in his message of May 29th of that year, recommended, among other measures, the adoption of the Articles of Confederation.

As there has been, for several years past, an organized effort made to amend the Constitution of the United States, so as to insert in it, by way of preamble, or otherwise, an express acknowledgment of God and of Divine Revelation; and as such proposed amendment is urged on the ground, by some at least, that the subject was overlooked when the Constitution was discussed and adopted, we trust that it will not be deemed otherwise than proper and pertinent to refer to the fact, that the same question was raised in reference to the Articles of Confederation, and that it was a subject of animated discussion by Christian men, who were afterwards members of the Constitution Convention, and who could not be supposed to have

inadvertently overlooked it, when they framed that instrument which has proved so wise, strong and happy a bond of union.

The Rev. Dr. John Mason of New York, then a refugee in New Jersey, wrote to Governor Livingston, urging him to incorporate in his message above referred to, a word for the recognition of God and the Christian religion, in the Articles of Confederation. Governor Livingston was then at Princeton; and it is reasonable to presume that Dr. Witherspoon was cognizant of this question presented by Dr. Mason.

The following interesting letter bearing date the same day with the message, was written by Gov. Livingston in reply to his friend Dr. Mason :

PRINCETON, 29th May, 1778.

*Rev. John Mason, Dear Sir :—*I am much obliged to you for your kind letter of the 27th inst., and the favorable sentiment you are pleased to entertain concerning the designs of Providence in raising me to my present station. May it please God to enable me to answer the honorable expectations of the genuine friends of liberty and especially the pious hopes of the real friends of Zion.

To have prefaced the Confederation with a decent acknowledgment of the superintending Providence of God and his conspicuous interposition in our behalf had doubtless been highly becoming a people so peculiarly favored by Heaven as the Americans have hitherto been. But any article in the Confederacy respecting religion was, I suppose, never in contemplation. The States being severally independent as to legislation and government, though connected by the federal league for mutual benefit, were presumed to have formed a political constitution to their own liking, and to have made such provision for religion as was most agreeable to the sentiments of their respective citizens; and to have made the law of the Eternal God, as contained in the Sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, the Supreme law of the United States would, I conceive, have laid the foundation of endless altercation and dispute; and the very first question that would have arisen upon that article would be, whether we were bound by the ceremonial as well as the moral law, delivered by Moses to the people of Israel. Should we confine ourselves to the law of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the New Testament (which is undoubtedly obligatory upon Christians) there would still have been endless dispute about the constitution of these laws. Shall the meaning be ascertained by every individual for himself or by public authority?—if the first, all human laws respecting the subject are merely nugatory; if the latter, government must assume the detestable power of *Henry the Eighth*, and enforce their own interpretation with pains and penalties. . . . True piety has never been agreed upon by mankind, and I should not be willing that any human tribunal should settle its definition for me. I am, etc.,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.\*

Governor Livingston was himself, subsequently a member of the Federal Convention which framed the Constitution of the United States.

\* This letter in full, is found in Sedgwick's Life of Livingston.

## SECTION VIII.

## THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY IN PRINCETON. 1777-1778.

Members of the Council—Their Duties—Their proceedings in Princeton—Many of the Quaker citizens summoned to take the Oath of Abjuration and Allegiance—Some held to Bail—Interesting Extracts from their Minutes.

THE Committee of Safety which had been organized by the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, in 1776, and which has already been noticed, was succeeded after the organization of the new State Government by "The Council of Safety."

An act had been passed, "investing the Governor and Council, consisting of twelve members, with certain powers therein mentioned for a limited time." This body, known as the Council of Safety, kept almost constantly in session, sometimes at one place and sometimes at another. Their first session was held at Haddonfield, and after that they met at Bordentown, Morristown, Trenton, Princeton and other places. They held more sessions in Princeton than in any of the other places, especially in 1778. Gov. Livingston was present and presided at almost every session.

The first members of the Council were:

John Cleves Symmes,	John Mehelm,
William Paterson,	Samuel Dick,
Nathaniel Scudder,	John Combé, <i>W.S.</i>
Theophilus Elmer,	Caleb Camp,
Silas Condict,	Edmond Wetherby,
John Hart,	Benjamin Manning.

There were, subsequently, new members substituted for some of these, and more added to the number, increasing it to twenty. The names of Peter Tallman, Jacob Drake, Jonathan Bowen, John Buck, Wm. P. Smith, Frederick Frelinghuysen, Edward Fleming, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Imlay, Wm. Linn, Mr. Crane, Mr. Fennimore, Mr. Cook and Mr. Keasby, were added.

And it seems that on special occasions, in order to obtain a quorum, or for other special reasons, Justices of the Peace and

other reliable persons, in the places where the Council sat would sometimes be called in to sit as members of the Council.

The Council of Safety was charged with most important duties and constant vigilance. It took cognizance of the sentiments expressed by the citizens of the State, on the subject of the war. It was its special duty to administer the oaths of abjuration and allegiance to the citizens, especially to all such as were suspected of being disloyal to the cause of freedom. It had the power to arrest and prescribe the oaths, and to imprison. The nature of its daily transactions can be understood by some selections which we make from its minutes, while it was in session at Princeton :

*Monday, 17th November, 1777.*—The Council met at Princeton. Present, his excellency, the Governor, Mr. Elmer, Mr. Condict, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Hart, Mr. Camp, Mr. Paterson.

Whereas, James Parker and Walter Rutherford, Esqrs., were by an order of the Council of Safety, taken up and admitted to their parole at Morristown, in order to induce the enemy to release or exchange the Hon. John Fell, Esq., and Winant Van Zant, now in confinement in New York and treated with the greatest severity ; and whereas, that step has been found insufficient to produce the good effect thereby intended, and such releasement or exchange has not yet been effected agreeable to the intentions of this Board,

Ordered, that the aforesaid James Parker and Walter Rutherford be forthwith committed to the common jail in Morristown, until the Honorable John Fell, Esq., and Winant Van Zant are exchanged for them or released from their confinement in New York.

His excellency produced to the Board a letter from the Rev. Mr. Caldwell, to Maj. Gen. Dickinson, dated the 22d Oct. last, containing his report to Gen. Dickinson who had been requested by the Board to inform them of the most proper plan to fix beacons, and appoint alarm posts, by which it appears to this Board most expedient to remove the piece of cannon now lying at Princeton, to the mountain that nearly divides the space between Elisabeth and Morristown, to be put under guard of the man who lives where the said cannon is to be fixed, and a few of his neighbors who ought to be exempted from military duty ; that it would further be proper to erect a pile on the hill near where McGee formerly lived, whence the guard from the said mountain may see the fire or smoke and by that means know that the guns fired at Elizabethtown are intended for an alarm, and upon that signal, fire the cannon on the mountain. The council hereupon agreed that Mr. Caldwell be desired to carry the above plan into execution and to transmit to the Board an account of the expenses attending the same.

Agreed that the following persons be summoned to attend this Board, to have the oaths of abjuration and allegiance appointed by law, tendered to them, viz :



James Clark,	Matthew Clark,
Samuel Clark,	Ezekiel Smith,
John Clark,	Wm. McDermott,
Alex. McDonald,	Andrew Morgan,
Robt. White,	Thos. Clark,
John Stockton, (son of Joseph)	Wm. Clark,
John Heath,	Jos. Skelton,
Thos. Wilson,	Sam'l Worth,
Isaac Clark,	Jos. Horner,
Benj. Clark,	John Hedges,
Wm. Bryant.	

At a meeting of the Council held at Princeton, on the 18th of December, Ezekiel Smith was brought before the Board, asked for time to consider whether he would take the oaths or not, and was allowed till the next meeting. Matthew Clark took and subscribed the oaths and was dismissed.

The following persons of the people called Quakers, were brought before the Board, viz: Joseph Hornor, Isaac Clark, Benj. Clark, Wm. Clark, John Clark, Thos. Clark and Robert White, who, having each of them refused to take and subscribe the affirmations to the effect of the oaths of abjuration and allegiance, and having also refused to become bound in sufficient securities to appear at the next court of general quarter sessions of the peace to be held in and for the county of Middlesex, ordered that warrants of commitment do issue for their imprisonment. Thomas Wilson took the oaths and was dismissed. On the next day, Isaac, Benjamin, William, John, and Thomas Clark and Robert White appeared before the Board and passing their words to be forthcoming on Wednesday next, were dismissed for the present.

John Hedges having entered into recognizance with John Scott his surety in three hundred pounds, to appear at the Somerset sessions, and to be of good behavior, was thereupon discharged.

Ezekiel Smith entered into recognizance with Jonathan Deare, in three hundred pounds, to appear before the Middlesex sessions and was dismissed.

Joseph Skelton was brought before the Board and refused to take the oaths when tendered to him, but having entered into recognizance with Jacob Hyer, surety, in three hundred pounds to appear, etc., was dismissed.

Ordered, that Major Potter be directed to remove to Staten Island, Sarah Barron and the wife of William Smith, the wife of John Heard and the wife of Samuel Moore as well as the wives of such other persons as have returned from the enemy's lines without leave, after having been removed into the same by order of the Council of Safety, and make return, etc.

On the 22d of Dec., 1777, Richard Stockton, Esq.,\* was called before the Board and the oaths of abjuration and allegiance being tendered to him, he took and subscribed the same and was therefore dismissed.

Agreed that there be paid to Capt. Moore for himself and the use of twenty-four men of his company for their services in attending the Committee of Safety, as a guard, from the 20th of August to the 3d day of September last, the sum of

---

\* This may have been an uncle, or a cousin to the signer. There were several of that name.

£18 5s. 4d. That the said Moore be paid the sum of £6 7s. 6d., for removing the wife of Thos. Russel to Staten Island; and also, that there be allowed him for his expenses in going to Morristown and Philadelphia with prisoners, the sum of £8 15s.

Agreed, that there be paid to Lieut. Bergen for himself and thirteen men employed by him as a guard for the Council of Safety and the security of prisoners, the sum of £39 16s. 4d.; that he also be paid twenty-eight pounds bounty money for the said guard, and that for furnishing them with wood, candles and sundry other articles, the sum of £14 11s. 6d.

Agreed that Andrew McMakin be paid the sum of £12 7s. 6d., for making cartridges for the Council of Safety.

Ordered, that Jonathan Baldwin take charge of the balls and cartridges now in the hands of Andrew McMakin.

Agreed, that the prisoners taken with Richard Stockton, and now confined at Carlisle be treated as prisoners of war.

Jan. 1, 1778. It appearing to the Board that the sick in the hospital at Princeton are greatly suffering for want of firewood, and that when the commissary is able to procure woodcutters, (which is effected with great difficulty,) he has no assurance of their remaining in his service by reason of their being liable to be called out in the militia, by means whereof he is frequently unsupplied:

*Resolved*, that Burgoon Updicke, Peter Updicke, Robert Yates, Hendrick Lane, Lawrence Updicke, David Mollison, William Downey and Peter Archer, be exempted from military duty for the above purpose, for the term of thirty days from the date thereof, and that on their producing certificates from the Commissary of their hospitals, of their having been employed in such service, they be excused in their next tour of duty for so many days as they shall appear to have been so employed.

Council at Trenton, April 2, 1778. Agreed that the remaining quantity of powder in the hands of Col. Sullivan, be removed to Princeton. Also, That the prisoners under guard at this place be removed from thence to Princeton, under the care of Capt. Quigly.

At Princeton, July 1, 1778. Council agreed that Capt. Moore furnish a guard of twenty men with an officer, to convey the British prisoners in this place to Philadelphia.

Agreed that there be paid to Mr. Houston, for the use of Col. Henry Van Dike, for sundry expenses, in erecting beacons at or near his farm the sum of £5 10s. 8d.

Edward Taylor is to return to Princeton, there to continue within a mile of the college, until he shall be discharged by the Council of Safety, or the Executive authority of the State, he pledging his faith and honor, not to do or say anything contrary to the interest of this State, or of the United States, etc.

Benjamin Baird, Esq., first major in the Second Battalion of foot militia in the county of Somerset, having deceased, and Enos Kelsey, Esq., second major, in the same battalion, having resigned his commission, on account of his being appointed to the office of D. Q. Master, and Commissary, the Council proceeded to the choice of majors, for the said battalion, when Peter D. Vroom was duly elected 1st major, and William Verbryck, 2d major in the battalion aforesaid. April 5, 1777.

Haddonfield, May 13, 1777. A letter was laid by his excellency before this Board from the Secretary of the Board of War, inclosing some Resolutions of Congress respecting Capt. Gamble and Doctor Stapleton, at Princeton, who are suspected of being concerned in unwarrantable practices against the United States of

America, and requesting that his excellency would inquire into the conduct of those persons, etc.

Ordered that there be paid to Cornelius Vandervere, for his services in attending to Council of Safety as a Light Horseman, the sum of £5 15s. 9d. Dec. 12, 1777.

That there be paid to John Van Dyke, for his expenses in attending the Governor and Council of Safety, as a Light Horseman, from the 11th of May to the 21st of June, 1778, the sum of £16 8s.

Also to Jacob Vandyke for the same service, etc.

The Board looked after the hospitals; for in October, 1778, they requested Dr. Moses Bloomfield to attend them with a list of the physicians, surgeons and surgeon's mates, attending at Princeton, and the number of the sick in the hospital there.

Such were some of the duties which devolved upon the Council of Safety. The powers of government under martial law at times devolved upon them, especially during the recess of the legislature.

We have no means of ascertaining where in Princeton the Council held their meetings. It is probable that they met sometimes in the public house, and sometimes in private rooms. Their minutes show that they paid Mrs. Lott, of Princeton, fifteen shillings for the use of her room for the Council, on the 30th of August, 1777.

meeting. They accordingly assembled here on the 26th of June, 1783. They were welcomed by Governor Livingston, who assured them of the loyalty of the people of New Jersey; and the halls and library of the college were put at their disposal.

Dr. Elias Boudinot, who was President of Congress at this time, was a representative of New Jersey and a trustee and warm friend of the college. The members were furnished with rooms and accommodations in the families of the village. The sessions of Congress were held in the library room of Nassau Hall—a room nearly as spacious as that which they had occupied in the State House in Philadelphia. The committees made use of the lodging rooms in the college, which were intended for the students, but a number of which were then vacant. It appears by the journals of both houses that the State Legislature when at Princeton had also occupied the library of the college. The first joint meeting for the election of Governor was held there; but it is asserted on the authority of Major Morford of Princeton, that the assembly sat in the room of the old Joline hotel, now the Nassau hotel, and that the old ball-room in that building was then the Court of Chancery.

A few days after Congress assembled in Princeton, the National Jubilee—the fourth of July—was celebrated, and then occurred the first instance of the Whig and Cliosophic Societies of the college appointing, each, an orator to represent them as speakers before a public audience. Dr. Ashbel Green was then in the senior class in college, and represented the Whig Society, and Gilbert F. Snowden, the Cliosophic Society. The subject of young Green's speech was, "The Superiority of a Republican Government over any other." Congress formed a part of the audience, and the orators of the day dined with President Boudinot and other invited guests, at Morven, then occupied by Mrs. Richard Stockton. Mr. Boudinot was the guest of Mrs. Stockton during the session of Congress at Princeton. James Madison, who had been a student in Nassau Hall eleven years before this time, was present now as a member of this Congress. Dr. Witherspoon was present, but Richard Stockton was dead, and Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant had removed to Philadelphia.

## SECTION IX.

## THE AMERICAN CONGRESS IN PRINCETON. 1783.

Congress under duress in Philadelphia, remove to Princeton—Accommodations provided by the Governor and Citizens. Sessions held in the College Library—Celebration of the 4th of July—Clio and Whig Societies appoint Orators—An Equestrian Statue of General Washington ordered by Congress—College Commencement attended by Congress—Gen. Washington and Foreign Ministers—Ashbel Green, valedictorian, addresses Gen. Washington—Deputation of Quakers ask Congress to prevent the Slave Trade—Congress appoint a Day of Thanksgiving—Testimonial to Gen. Greene—Proclamation applauding the American Army—Gen. Washington summoned to confer with Congress on Arrangements for Peace—Address of the President to Washington, and his Reply—Judge Berrien's house at Rocky Hill assigned to Gen. Washington for his Quarters—The Minister from the United Netherlands arrived, and the Treaty of Peace announced in the College Chapel—Convivial Meetings closed the day—Washington's Farewell Orders to the Armies written at Rocky Hill—Congress adjourned to meet at Annapolis, where Washington resigned his Trust, and returned to his home in Mt. Vernon.

CONGRESS, while sitting in Philadelphia, was disturbed and threatened with violence by a band of notorious Pennsylvania soldiers who had been discharged by the expiration of their term of service. They were discontented and came from Lancaster to Philadelphia on the 20th of June, 1783. There were about three hundred of them. They placed guards at the doors of the State House, and in a written message to the President and Council of the State, then and there also in session, threatened to let loose the soldiers upon them, if they were not gratified in their wishes within twenty minutes. It was more the State Council than Congress, which was the object of their resentment, but Congress felt resolved that the authority of the United States had been grossly insulted. Congress were three hours under duress, when they resolved to leave Philadelphia and go to Trenton or Princeton. When the inhabitants of Princeton and its vicinity knew that Congress would thus honor them, they resolved to maintain order and good government, and to provide suitable accommodations. *Princeton* was then fixed upon, as the place of their next

It was on August 7th, at Princeton, when Congress unanimsly voted that an equestrian statue of Gen. Washington should be erected at the place where the seat of government should be established, to be executed by the best artist in Europe, under the superintendence of the minister of the United States at the Court of Versailles.

The journal of Congress describes this statue :

“ That it shall be of bronze, the General to be represented in Roman dress, holding a truncheon in his right hand, and his head encircled with a laurel wreath, the statue to be supported by a marble pedestal on which were to be represented in *basso relievo*, the following principal events of the war, in which Gen. Washington commanded in person, namely: the evacuation of Boston; the capture of the Hessians at Trenton; the battle of Princeton; the action of Monmouth; and the surrender of York. On the upper part of the front of the pedestal to be engraved as follows: *The United States in Congress assembled ordered this statue to be erected in the year of our Lord 1783, in honor of George Washington, the illustrious Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the United States during the war which vindicated and secured their liberty, sovereignty and independence.*”

This was never carried into effect, but a colossal one of marble now in Washington was ordered instead.

It is quite noteworthy that out of the five principal events of the war, in which Gen. Washington commanded in person, three of them occurred in New Jersey, viz: The capture of the Hessians at Trenton, the battle of Princeton, and the action of Monmouth. It indicates what history demonstrates, that the soil and citizens of New Jersey bore the brunt of the war; that no State suffered more than this, and none witnessed more memorable feats of American generalship which stained the pride of England as the patriot blood of our soldiers stained the white snow over which they tramped with almost unshod feet in mid-winter, to drive the invader from Jersey soil.

In the fall of that year the usual Commencement of the college took place while Congress was in session in Princeton. Dr. Ashbel Green says, that

“ The church of Princeton had been repaired during the summer preceding,\* and that Commencement was held in that edifice; that an extended stage, running the whole length of the pulpit side of the church had been erected; and that as the

---

\* The church could not have been repaired thoroughly, but only enough for use at Commencement, for the minutes of the trustees of the church show that the repairs were done in 1784.

President of the Congress was a trustee of the college and the President of the college had been a distinguished member of Congress, and that body itself had been accommodated in the college edifice, an adjournment to attend Commencement seemed to be demanded by courtesy and was readily agreed on. We accordingly had on the stage, with the trustees and the graduating class, the whole of the Congress, the Ministers of France and Holland, and the Commander-in-chief of the American Army."

The valedictory oration was delivered by Ashbel Green, and contained at the close, an address to Gen. Washington, who colored as he was addressed in complimentary terms. The General on the next day met Mr. Green in the long entry in the college and complimented him on his address and presented his best wishes to the class, and then went to the committee room of Congress. Gen. Washington made a present of fifty guineas to the trustees of the college, which they laid out in a full length portrait of him, painted by the elder Peale of Philadelphia. The picture now occupies, as it is affirmed, the very frame which contained the picture of George the Second, and which was decapitated by Washington's artillery. There is a representation in the background of this picture, of the battle of Princeton, in which Gen. Mercer prostrate, wounded and bleeding, holds a conspicuous place.

On the 8th of October, a deputation from the yearly meeting of the Quakers arrived at Princeton and appeared before Congress, with an address signed by five hundred members convened at Philadelphia, soliciting the Christian interposition of Congress, for the discouragement and prevention of the slave trade.

On the 18th of the same month, Congress directed that the 21st of December should be set apart as a day of public thanksgiving. And also resolved that two pieces of field ordnance taken from the British army at the Cowpens, Augusta or Eutaw, be presented by the Commander-in-chief to Major General Greene, as a testimonial of the wisdom, fortitude and military skill which distinguished his command in the Southern department, and of the eminent services he has successfully performed for his country.

The business of that day was closed by issuing a proclamation applauding the armies of the United States, for their virtue, fortitude and magnanimity, in the most trying scenes of

distress, and for a series of heroic and illustrious achievements as among the most successful defenders of the rights and liberties of mankind; and after giving them the thanks of the country for their long, eminent and faithful services, Congress discharged them after the 3d of November, from service.

On the 29th, the Commander-in-chief was directed to discharge all the troops in the United States service, who were in Pennsylvania or to the southward thereof except the garrison of Fort Pitt.

The President of Congress wrote to General Washington, who was at Newburgh, asking his attendance before that body, then in session at Princeton, to consult on the arrangements for peace and other public concerns. Leaving the army under the command of Gen. Knox, Washington obeyed the summons of Congress and came to Princeton, where he was introduced into the assembly while in session, by two of the members appointed for that purpose. He was then addressed by the President, who congratulated him on the success of the war in which he had acted so conspicuous and important a part. "In other nations," said the President, "many have performed eminent services for which they have deserved the thanks of the public. But to you, sir, peculiar praise is due. Your services have been essential in acquiring and establishing the freedom and independence of your country. They deserve the grateful acknowledgments of a free and independent nation." To this address Washington replied in the presence of Congress and then retired. A house was provided for him at Rocky Hill, three or four miles from Princeton, where he resided, holding conferences from time to time with committees and members of Congress, and giving counsel on such subjects as were referred to his consideration. The house assigned to Gen. Washington on Rocky Hill, was the house of Judge John Berrien, dec'd., an old stone building, on the right hand of the road, as you ascend from Rocky Hill village to the top of the hill towards Kingston. It belonged to the estate of the late William Cruser for many years, and is now owned by David Mount.

We have it by tradition, that there was assigned to Gen. Washington, while he was in the village attending upon Congress, a room in A. L. Martin's present residence.



On the 31st of October, the Hon. Peter John Van Berckel, minister plenipotentiary from their high mightinesses, the States General of the United Netherlands, appeared in Princeton and was admitted by Congress to an audience. The Chevalier de la Luzerne, Gen. Washington, the Superintendent of Finance, many of the gentlemen of eminence, together with a number of ladies of the first character, assembled in the chapel of Princeton college to participate in the joys the audience should afford; and for which their spirits were put into proper tone by the arrival, a little before Mr. Van Berckel entered, of an authentic account that the definitive treaty between Great Britain and the United States was concluded.

Mr. Van Berckel, upon being introduced, addressed Congress in a speech, which was so gracefully pronounced as to please those who could not understand it, because of its not being in English. He then delivered a letter from their high mightinesses. The President returned an answer to the minister, in the close of which it was observed that the United States had received the most distinguished proofs of regard and friendship from his illustrious family. The assembly after that separated, and the day closed with convivial meetings.\*

On the 2d of November, were issued from Rocky Hill, Gen. Washington's farewell orders to the armies of the United States. Having taken notice of the proclamation of Congress of October the 18th, he said:

"It only remains for the Commander-in-chief to address himself, once more and that for the last time, to the armies of the United States (however widely dispersed the individuals who composed them may be) and to bid them an affectionate—a long farewell. But before the Commander-in-chief takes his final leave of those he holds most dear, he wishes to indulge himself a few moments in calling to mind a slight review of the past; he will then take the liberty of exploring with his military friends their future prospects—of advising the general line of conduct, which, in his opinion ought to be pursued;—and he will conclude the address by expressing the obligation he feels himself under, for the spirited and able assistance he has experienced from them in the performance of an arduous office."

His closing words were, "And being now to conclude these his last public orders, to take his ultimate leave, in a short time of the military character and to bid a final adieu to the armies he has so long had the honor to command, he can only again offer in their behalf, his recommendation to their grateful country, and his prayers to the God of Armies.—May ample justice be done them here, and may

---

\* 3 Gordon's American War.

the choicest of heaven's favors, both here and hereafter, attend those who, under the divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings for others! With these wishes and this benediction, the Commander-in-chief is about to retire from service. The curtain of separation will soon be drawn, and the military scene to him will be closed forever."

On the 1st of November Congress elected Thomas Mifflin their president; and on the 4th, that body adjourned to meet at Annapolis in Maryland on the 26th.

The session of Congress at Princeton continued for a little more than four months, from June 26th to November the 4th. The business related chiefly to making arrangements for peace, issuing proclamations, and considering international treaties.

Gen. Washington, after going from Princeton to be present at the evacuation of the city of New York by the British forces on the 25th of November, proceeded to Annapolis, where on the 23d of December, in the presence of Congress, foreign ministers, and distinguished officers and citizens, he resigned his sacred trust as Commander-in-chief of the American armies; and thence returned to his home at Mt. Vernon, where he spent Christmas, not having been there but once since the war began.

---

## SECTION X.

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Orders from Quartermaster Stockton to Capt. John Johnson—Trial of Joseph Stockton—Sale of Forfeited Estates—Gen. Putnam's Strategy—Gen. Sullivan at Princeton—Thirteen hundred Mutinous Soldiers at Princeton—Patriotic Demonstrations over the success of Mr. Deane in obtaining the aid of France—War Meeting in Princeton—Marquis De Chastellux's visit—Interview with Dr. Witherspoon—Visits the College and the Battle-Field—Items in the *Gazette*—The close of the Chapter.

AMONG some papers of Captain John Johnson, before mentioned, who lived where Henry D. Johnson now lives, just out of Princeton, which have been preserved at that place for a hundred years, and which we have been permitted to examine,\*

---

\* By the kindness of Wm. Y. Johnson, Esq., great grandson of John Johnson.

we find several military orders issued at Princeton during the Revolution, principally by Robert Stockton, Q. M., and directed to Mr. Johnson, besides some other papers of public interest, copies of which we subjoin hereto :

*Sir* :—Please to receive the bearer Jacob Johnson, wounded in the head, on the 11th inst., belonging to Col. Ogden's regiment and Capt. McMyers company, into the general hospital. Sept. 14, 1777.

*To the Director General, at Trenton.*

WILLIAM BARNET, Surg.

*Dear Sir* :—I have orders to remove the sick at this place to Bethlehem, am therefore under the necessity of applying to you for wagons. I shall expect forty from you. It will be proper you order wagons here on Tuesday evening, as we propose setting out with the first division early on Wednesday next. Princeton, December 19, 1777.

I am sir, your very humble servant,

*To John Johnson, Esq.*

MOSES BLOOMFIELD, A. D. G. M. H.

P. S.—I beg you to exert yourself on the occasion.

*Sir* :—I find the constable, whether through his neglect or not I cannot say, has not furnished me with one sled, or wagon ; unless they are had immediately, shall be under the necessity of complaining to headquarters,

I am sir, your humble servant,

S. LOWERY,\* A. C. of Issues.

*Sir* :—Please to use means to furnish me with five two-horse sleighs to-morrow morning early to meet at Sculls Mill,† to carry a quantity of Indian meal to camp. Princeton, Feb. 8, 1777.

And oblige sir, your very humble servant,

*To John Johnson, Esq.*

S. LOWERY, A. C. of Issues.

*Sir* :—The bearer has a load of stone for the army ; his wagon is broke and cannot go any further. You please to assist to get one.

Dec. 27, 1780.

I am your humble servant,

*To John Johnson, Esq.*

ROBERT STOCKTON, A. Q. M.

*Sir* :—There is a four horse team wanted to convey some baggage to Pittstown for the officers, that is ordered to-morrow. There is not a team here that is in the service. You please to issue your warrant for one for that purpose. It must be here to-morrow. Monday, 21st January, 1781.

*To John Johnson.*

ROBERT STOCKTON, A. Q. M.

*Sir* :—The teams that were detained here to haul wood must be sent to Trenton this morning. We want ten good teams. You must provide them by impressing or otherwise. They must be in town by ten o'clock. In case they are not provided in this way, the soldiers will go out themselves and take them where they can find them. Sunday morning.

I am your humble servant.

*John Johnson.*

ROBERT STOCKTON, A. Q. M.

\* Son-in-law of Rev. Elihu Spencer, D. D.

† Scudder's Mills.

*Sir:*—There is a quantity of wood wanted for the troops that are in town. You please to give an order where it shall be taken. Should be glad you would come to town, to consult with Mr. Olden on the subject.

Friday morning, 3d Jan., 1782.  
*John Johnson, Esq.*

I am in haste, your ob't serv't,  
ROBERT STOCKTON, Q. M.

*Sir:*— There is a two-horse wagon wanted to carry ammuniton to Hackensack. You please to order one in Princeton to-morrow morning by eight o'clock. Lieut. Catterlin is now waiting. Hope you will not fail.

Friday afternoon.  
*To Capt. Johnson.*

I am sir, your humble servant,  
ROBERT STOCKTON.

This Captain John Johnson, as a justice of the peace, at Princeton in Somerset County, issued a venire, bearing date April 29, 1778, directed to any constable of the county, to summon twenty-four men, freeholders, on Monday the 11th of May next, to inquire, etc., in behalf of the State, whether Joseph Stockton, late of the western province, had since the 4th of October, 1776, and before the 5th of June, 1777, joined the army of the king of Great Britain and had otherwise offended against the form of his allegiance to the State as set forth in the Pardon Act of June 5th, 1777, or against the act to punish traitors and disaffected persons. (This original writ is still preserved among the Johnson papers.)

The venire was returned with the following named jurors, at the house of Nicholas Golden, viz :

Robert Stockton,	William Savage,
Richard Longstreet,	Gilbert Lane,
Peter Berrien,	John Hide,
Henry Berrien,	Richard Stout,
David Hamilton,	Henry Salter,
David Snowden,	John Sutphen,
Thomas Longstreet,	James Nevins,
Thomas Skillman,	Okey Voorbees,
Joseph Stryker,	Frederick Blough,
William Gaa,	George Duryea,
James Finley,	Hezekiah Stout,
James Houton,	James Lake.

The verdict was against him, and his property was forfeited and sold by Jacob Bergen, Frederick Frelinghuysen and Hendrick Wilson, commissioners appointed to take and dispose of the estates of fugitives and offenders, etc., in Somerset County.

Notice was published in the *New Jersey Gazette*, March 31,

1779, that the commissioners would sell on 6th of April, the plantation of Joseph Stockton, near Princeton; and that of John Coxe at Rocky Hill on the 7th; and that of John Honeyman,\* at Griggstown on the 8th; and that of John Van Dike, in Sourland, (now Harlingen,) near the meeting-house, on the 9th.

---

#### GENERAL PUTNAM'S STRATEGY AT PRINCETON.

While Gen. Washington was at Morristown, the right wing of his army was stationed under Gen. Putnam at Princeton. A British officer, Major Gen. McPherson, who lay mortally wounded at Princeton, desired the presence of a military comrade in his last moments. The kind-hearted Gen. Putnam could not refuse the request, but resorted to strategy to hide his weakness from the enemy. He sent a flag to New Brunswick in quest of the friend, who entered Princeton after dark. The General had arranged it so that every unoccupied house was carefully lighted, lights gleamed in all the college windows, and he marched and counter-marched his scanty forces to such an effect that the British soldier on his return to the camp, reported it at least at five thousand strong, while he had only a few hundred.†

---

#### GENERAL SULLIVAN AT PRINCETON.

On the 28th of May, 1777, Washington removed his quarters from Morristown to the heights of Middlebrook. His army was composed of seven thousand five hundred men. General Sullivan, his oldest major-general, with about fifteen hundred men, was stationed at Princeton. The British forces under Howe, to the number of seventeen thousand, with boats and pontoons for crossing the Delaware, were assembled at

\* The Hon. John Van Dyke, late one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, now residing in Minnesota, wrote an interesting article in "*Our Home*," a monthly, published at Somerville, N. J., to show that John Honeyman, of Griggstown, who was regarded as a rank tory, and both he and his family were treated as such, was, nevertheless, a *spy* employed by Gen. Washington, and used by him in the most confidential and important service as such. He adduced evidence which seemed to establish such a character, and made him a hero.

† Patton's History. Irving's Washington.

New Brunswick, well disciplined and equipped, and every soldier ready for battle. Howe sought to draw Washington into a fight, and to throw his army between Washington and Princeton, and to cut off the division under Sullivan. He marched with two columns about three miles on the road to Princeton and then turned suddenly to the right to Somerset Court House (Millstone). His first column under Cornwallis advancing to Hillsborough, the second under Heister to Middlebush, hoping to draw Washington down from his stronghold to risk a battle. It was on the 14th of June while the two armies were confronting each other, that Congress "resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars white with a blue field, representing a new constellation;" and Mr. Bancroft thinks that the immovable fortitude of Washington in his camp at Middlebrook was the salvation of that flag.

Gen. Sullivan, whose troops at Princeton had been increased in numbers by the militia, and by troops from the south, held himself ready for moving at any moment and had fled to the Delaware when Howe set out for Princeton, but was now recalled, and stationed on Sourland mountain, ready to cooperate with Washington in annoying the enemy.

---

#### ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED MUTINOUS SOLDIERS AT PRINCETON.

In the beginning of the year 1781, Princeton was the theatre of another scene of interest. The necessities of the soldiers under Washington at Morristown, through want of pay, clothing and provisions, had produced so much suffering and discontent, that on the first day of January of this year the whole Pennsylvania line of troops to the number of one thousand three hundred abandoned their camp at that place, declaring their intention of marching to where Congress was in session, to seek a redress of their grievances. The officers were unable to quell this sedition, and the mutinous soldiers proceeded in a body to Princeton. Here they were met by emissaries of Sir Henry Clinton, who sought to entice them into the British

service. But these soldiers, though discontented and mutinous because of their sufferings and privations, through what they thought was the neglect of Congress, had no sympathy with the enemy, nor thought of betraying their country. Indignant at this attempt upon their fidelity and allegiance, they seized the British agents who had come to Princeton to receive them, and handed them over to General Wayne to be treated as spies.

A committee of Congress and a deputation of the Pennsylvania authorities also came to Princeton to meet these discontented troops, and they made such concessions and relief to them, that those whose term of service had not expired, agreed to return to their duties after a short furlough.

Being offered a reward for apprehending the British emissaries, the soldiers promptly refused it, saying that their necessities had forced them to demand justice from their own government, but they desired no reward for doing their duty to their country, and stood ready to fight against its enemies at all times. They went from Princeton to Trenton where the terms of redress and conciliation were more fully entered into and consummated.

---

#### PATRIOTIC DEMONSTRATIONS.

The citizens of Princeton, inspired, doubtless, in some measure, by the presence of a military force, and also of patriotic civilians whose duty often called them here, became, after the battle of Princeton, quite demonstrative in their patriotism. Illuminations of buildings were more common in those days than at the present time, though not so brilliant.

When news was received of the success of Mr. Deane in obtaining the aid of France in our national struggle, in 1778, the citizens and soldiers of Princeton illuminated the town and college.

And when the express brought a despatch to Princeton, of the surrender of Cornwallis' army to Gen. Washington, in October, 1781, at Yorktown, the event was celebrated in Princeton with the utmost festivity.

At twelve o'clock, most of the reputable gentlemen of the town, and several of the neighborhood, met at Mr. Beekman's tavern, and enjoyed the occasion a while over some good punch and wine. Thence they repaired to the green in front of the house, where the field-piece was drawn out; and after an address suited to the institution of the day, delivered by one of the professors of the college, thirteen rounds were fired. The whole company then partook of a public dinner to which several strangers in the place were invited. The following thirteen toasts were drank, and the company broke up with decency at six o'clock:

1. The United States.
2. The Congress.
3. The King of France.
4. The King of Spain and States General.
5. Gen. Washington and the American Army.
6. The Count De Rochambeau and the French Army.
7. The Count De Grasse and the Navy of France.
8. Gen. Greene and the Southern Army.
9. The Memorable 16th and 19th of October at the action of Eutaw Springs.
10. Our Plenipotentiaries at Foreign Courts.
11. The Governor and State of New Jersey.
12. The Memory of all who have fallen in this war in defence of America.
13. A speedy Peace and the firm establishment of Independence of the United States of America.

In the evening, the town was handsomely illuminated and thirteen rounds from the militia concluded the rejoicings of the day.\*

---

#### A WAR MEETING.

Princeton, July 31, 1782. On Saturday, 27th ult., the inhabitants of the town and neighborhood met at the Market House, pursuant to notice, to form a plan of association to prevent trade and intercourse with the enemy.

Jonathan Deare, Esq., was chairman. A paper was adopted, and a pledge:

\* N. J. Gazette, vol. 2.



1. To bring violators of the law to justice.
2. To insist on the enforcement of the law.
3. To avoid dealing with those who are violating the laws of the country.
4. Not to purchase or wear imported goods of British manufacture.

A committee was appointed to present the association to the inhabitants, for signing, etc.

The gentlemen chosen were, Jacob Schenck, Jonathan Deare, Esq., Col. William Scudder, Thomas Stockton, David Olden, John Bergen, Capt. William Covenhoven, Capt. Jonathan Combs, George Bergen, Maj. Thomas Egbert, Capt. James Moore, Dr. Thomas Wiggins, Dr. John Witherspoon, jun., Enos Kelsey, James Hamilton, David Snowden, Daniel Slack, Thomas Skillman, jun.

Committee to meet at house of Mr. Beekman on Saturday, the 17th of August.\*

---

#### MARQUIS DE CHASTELLUX VISITS PRINCETON.

In 1781, *Marquis De Chastellux*, a member of the French Academy and a Major General in the French army under the Count De Rochambeau visited North America. His travels over this country, extending through two or three years, were published in two volumes after his return, in Dublin, in 1787. He visited Princeton in 1781, and from his first volume we give an extract of his account of that visit. He travelled on horseback, and was accompanied with Col. Moyland and Captain Herne. He was journeying from the north-eastern part of the State southward. He speaks of staying all night at Somerset Court House, which then was at Millstone, and not Somerville where it now is.† On leaving that place, he says :

"After once more passing the Millstone and getting well out of a horrible slough we halted at *Gregg Town*,‡ where we slept at Skillman's tavern, an indifferent inn, but kept by very obliging people. Capt. Herne kept his route. Our next

---

\* State Gazette.

† Somerset Court House was at Six Mile Run, before it was removed to Millstone. There was a raid on it at Millstone in 1778.

‡ Griggstown.

day's ride presented us with very interesting objects ; we were to see two places which will be forever dear to the Americans, since it was there the first rays of hope brightened upon them, or to express it more properly, that the safety of the country was effected.

" These celebrated places are *Prince Town* and *Trenton*. I should not say that I went to see them for they lay precisely in the road. Let the reader judge then how much I was out of humor on seeing so thick a fog rising as to prevent me from distinguishing objects at fifty paces from me ; but I was in a country where one must despair of nothing. The fortune of the day was like that of America ; the fog suddenly dispersed and I found myself travelling on the right bank of the Millstone, in a narrow valley. Two miles from Gregg Town we quit this valley and mount the highest of Rocky Hill, where are a few houses. King's Town is a mile farther, but still on the Millstone. The *Maidenhead* road ends here and its communication is facilitated by a bridge over the rivulet. It is here that General Washington halted after the affair at Prince Town. After marching from midnight until two o'clock in the afternoon almost continually fighting, he wished to collect the troops and give them some rest ; he knew however that Lord Cornwallis was following him on the Maidenhead road ; but he contented himself with taking up some planks of the bridge, and as soon as he saw the van guard of the English appear, he continued his march quietly towards Middlebrook. Beyond King's Town the country begins to open and continues so to Prince Town.

" This town is situated on a sort of platform not much elevated, but which commands on all sides ; it has only one street formed by the high road. There are about sixty or eighty houses all tolerably well built, but little attention is paid to them, for that is immediately attracted by an immense building, which is visible at a considerable distance. It is a college built by the State of Jersey some years before the war ; as this building is only remarkable from its size it is unnecessary to describe it. The reader will only recollect when I come to speak of the engagement, that it is on the left of the road in going to Philadelphia, that it is situated towards the middle of the town, on a distinct spot of ground, and that the entrance to it is by a large square court surrounded with lofty palisades. The object which excited my curiosity, though very foreign from letters at that moment, brought me to the very gate of the college. I dismounted for a moment to visit this vast edifice and was soon joined by Dr. *Witherspoon*, President of the University. He is a man of at least sixty, is a member of Congress and much respected in this country. In accosting me he spoke French, but I easily perceived that he had acquired his knowledge of that language from reading, rather than conversation ; which did not prevent me, however, from answering him and continuing to converse with him in French, for I saw that he was well pleased to display what he knew of it. This is an attention which costs little and is too much neglected in a foreign country. To reply in English to a person who speaks French to you, is to tell him you do not know my language, so well as I do yours ; in this, too, one is not unfrequently mistaken. As for me I always like better to have the advantage on my side, and to fight on my own ground. I conversed in French, therefore, with the President, and from him I learned that this college is a complete university ; that it contains two hundred students and more, including the out boarders ; that the distribution of the studies is formed so as to make only one class for the *humanities*, which corresponds with our first four classes ; that two others are destined to the perfecting the youth in the study of Latin and Greek, a fourth to Natural Philoso-

phy, Mathematics, Astronomy, etc., and a fifth to Moral Philosophy. Parents may support their children at this college at the annual expense of forty guineas. Half of this sum is appropriated to lodgings and masters; the rest is sufficient for living either in the college, or at board in private houses in the town. This useful establishment has fallen into decay since the war. There were only forty students when I saw it. A handsome collection of books had been made, the greatest part of which has been embezzled. The English even carried off from the chapel the portrait of the King of England, a loss for which the Americans easily consoled themselves, declaring they would have no king amongst them, not even a painted one. There still remains a very beautiful astronomical machine, but as it was then out of order and differs in no respect from that I saw afterwards in Philadelphia I shall take no notice of it.

"I confess also I was rather anxious to examine the traces of General Washington, in a country where every object reminded me of his successes. I passed rapidly from Parnassus to the field of Mars, and from the hands of President Witherspoon into those of Colonel Moyland. They were both equally upon their own ground; so that while one was pulling me by the right arm, telling me here is the philosophy class, the other was plucking me by the left, to show me where one hundred and eighty English laid down their arms."\*

We clip the following items from the *New Jersey Gazette*, published at Trenton, New Jersey:

Mrs. Livingston, of Princeton, advertises a sword lost between Princeton and Morristown; offers ten dollars reward. July 1, 1778.

Ephraim Martin, colonel of the 4th New Jersey Regiment, was quartered at Princeton, Dec. 1778.

The Commissioners for the several Counties of the State for purchasing clothing for the New Jersey Brigade, are requested to bring in immediately such articles as they have collected, to the subscriber at Princeton, the Council and Assembly having empowered him to receive the same.

Oct. 1778.

ENOS KELSEY.

Court Martial held by Brig. Gen. Heard, at the house of Jacob Hyer, Princeton, March 15, 1781, to try Lieut. Col. Fisher, of Col. William Scudder's regiment of Middlesex militia, for disobeying orders, in refusing to march to Morristown.

1780, July 4.—The ladies met at Trenton to aid the brave men in the Continental army. Committee from Somerset, Mrs. Richard Stockton, Lady Sterling, Mrs. Attorney General Paterson; from Middlesex, Mrs. George Morgan, Mrs. Col. Neilson, Mrs. Counsellor Deare and Mrs. Neilson.

With this section we must close our chapter of the history of Princeton in the Revolution. Much has been written, and

\* Chastellux's Travels, vol. i. p. 158.

much left unwritten. But our readers cannot have failed to see that Princeton was, during that period of eight years, the theatre of memorable and thrilling scenes, standing out with prominence in the beginning of the struggle, when darkness and dismay covered the State, and no less so when the first dawn of hope broke upon her victorious battle-field ; and again with prominence at the close of the bloody conflict, when in the college library, in the presence of the American Congress, Foreign Ministers and a distinguished assemblage of citizens, the rainbow of Peace was announced by a messenger with a Treaty of Peace duly signed, an event that was followed by illuminations, convivial festivities and religious thanksgivings, throughout this free and happy land.

## CHAPTER V.

1784-1800.

Fruits of Peace—College and Church repaired—The *Princeton Packet*, a Weekly Newspaper, published in 1786—The Academy instituted in 1790—Col. George Morgan, a Scientific Farmer, at Prospect—Dr. Cutler's Visit to him—Dr. Witherspoon is succeeded by Dr. Smith—Rev. Samuel Finley Snowden chosen Pastor of the Church—Biographical Notices of Capt. James Moore—Maj. Stephen Morford—James Hamilton—Isaac Anderson—The Longstreets—Capt. Andrew McMakin—The Arrival of Walto Minto, Dr. John Maclean, Theobald Wolfe Tone, Robert Adrain—Colony of French Refugees at Cedar Grove in 1795—Stage Proprietors ask and receive a Reduction of License Fee, on Account of the Effect of Contagious Disorders in the Cities, upon Travel—Princeton at the Close of its First Century.

WHEN the noise of war was hushed and peace was proclaimed, the people of Princeton joined in the universal song of triumph which went up from all parts of this disenfranchised country. For several years they had been peculiarly exposed to the presence and the depredations of both armies which had passed and repassed through their village. The place had long been the scene of military hospitals and barracks, and the permanent quarters for regiments of soldiers, as well as the seat of civil legislation and military courts—drawing to it statesmen and military officers, with much of the excitement and pomp of war.

The exercises of the college had been partially resumed before the termination of the war. But when peace was fully assured there was a general effort made to rebuild dilapidated institutions and wasted fortunes. Scattered families returned to their homes. Dr. Witherspoon was on the ground earnestly laboring to revive the college, but his friend Richard Stockton, whose health had been impaired by prison life, had not survived the war. He was numbered with the honored dead; while Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant, the other of the eminent trio of Princeton patriots, had removed to Pennsyl-

vania, to fill the office of Attorney General of that commonwealth. Other citizens who had done service in the army, but whose lives had not been sacrificed, though impoverished in estate, returned to their several vocations in quiet life in Princeton.

The work of repairing the college and the church, which had been occupied by both armies as barracks and hospitals and had been greatly abused, was among the early fruits of peace.

The church was not fully restored until 1784. There were about seventy-five houses in the village at this time.

The first great political work which engaged the attention of the most thoughtful public men, after peace was declared, was the restoration of the financial credit of the country and the adoption of a Federal Constitution, to supersede the Articles of Confederation, which Dr. Witherspoon had signed and which had been designed only to serve a temporary purpose. Dr. Witherspoon contributed valuable essays and addresses on important topics which agitated the public mind,—some of which may be found published among his works, such as his Essay on Money and on Finance. Princeton continued to be represented in Congress and in the Legislature of the State, by Dr. Witherspoon, Professor Houston and other of its citizens, after the war.

The next movement of an enterprising character, quite in keeping with the ambitious and enlightened spirit of the inhabitants of Princeton, was the establishment of a weekly newspaper. Such a paper was published here in 1786, by James Tod. It was called the *Princeton Packet*—a neatly printed paper on a sheet ten by eighteen inches, with a vignette of Nassau Hall in its head-letter. How long it continued to make its appearance we are not able to state. We know that it reached its fifty-second number of its second volume. It was, at least, the third weekly newspaper published in New Jersey. It is more fully referred to in its place, in our chapter on Newspapers and Journals.

In 1790 the citizens of Princeton originated a public movement for the erection of an academy—an institution for the instruction of youth in various branches of literature. The original subscription paper for this object is extant. It bears date

Jan. 2, 1790, and provides that every person who should give ten pounds and upwards should be a proprietor and director; and all sums less than that amount should be treated as only a donation to the institution. The money was made payable to Robert Stockton and James Moore. The names of twenty-six subscribers are annexed to the paper, and are exhibited in full in our chapter on Academies and Schools. The school building erected by this association stood on the east side of the First Presbyterian church lot, and next to the line of the President's lot. It was a two story frame building. The proprietors availed themselves of the Act incorporating Societies for the Promotion of Learning, passed in 1794, and adopted the name of "The Trustees of the Princeton Academy." Five trustees were chosen and Col. George Morgan was elected President of the Board.

COL. GEORGE MORGAN is entitled to some notice as one of the prominent residents of Princeton during this period of its history. He came with his family to this place at the close of the war.\* He had been in the army of Washington at Valley Forge, and shared its hardships. His wife, whose great grandfather was a Huguenot and fled to South Carolina after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, with her little children was left in Philadelphia with her relatives. She spent that winter with great anxiety, but was not disturbed by the enemy who occupied the city. One morning in the spring, a country woman came to the house with a small basket of butter, and asked for Mrs. Morgan. When the two women were in the room alone, the woman drew off her stocking, in the heel of which was a letter from Col. Morgan assuring his wife of his health, telling her to keep up good courage, that the city would soon be evacuated, and he would see her.

Col. Morgan occupied, in Princeton, the farm now owned and occupied by Mrs. Thomas Potter, adjoining the college. There he built the stone house, which was afterwards the residence of John I. Craig and also of John Potter, and which was taken down to give place to the present elegant mansion, built by Thomas Potter. In that stone house Col. Morgan with his

\* His name appears in 1784, in a subscription to the church.

family resided while in Princeton. He planted on a line between him and the college a row of very choice cherry trees, mainly for the use of the students of the college, in whom he took a great interest. He was a scholarly man and the most scientific farmer in the country.

In 1787, the Rev. Manasseh Cutler, LL. D., who was an agent of the Ohio Land Company, made a visit to Princeton on his way to Philadelphia. He called at an early hour upon Col. Morgan, and found him among his books and farm plans. In his journal he gives a detailed account of the farm, the garden, the apiary, the arrangements not only for raising farm produce to the best advantage, but for testing the best varieties of grains, especially Indian corn. He had a very extensive assortment of these corns, from that grown in Canada to that grown in Georgia. Dr. Cutler first saw in Col. Morgan's study the Hessian fly, and learned not merely its habits and history, but the best means of dealing with this terrible desperado of the wheat-field. Dr. Cutler seemed to have formed the highest opinion of this scientific farmer as the very first in America. Col. Morgan had set one of his own sons to study Botany thoroughly, in order to have that science thrown upon his favorite pursuit. He had proposed if he could not find a competent teacher in Philadelphia, to send his son to Dr. Cutler in Massachusetts—he being one of the most learned botanists in America at that time.

In 1804, Col. Morgan sold his farm in Princeton to John I. Craig, and removed to western Pennsylvania—not far from Cannonsburg, in Washington County. He had several children. Capt. Bunyan who lived in Princeton married one of his daughters. His daughter Maria, who was born in Princeton in 1787, was married to Dudley Woodbridge, of Marietta, Ohio, in 1811. There were five sons who removed with their father to the western country. One was named John, who was a colonel, and whose name appears in the transfer of the title of "Prospect;" and Gen. George W. Morgan is a grandson of Col. George Morgan.

It is said that when Aaron Burr made his treasonable advances to Col. Morgan and his sons, although it was done covertly, the colonel on consultation with a friend, to whom he



related what had transpired, wrote the facts to President Jefferson, who wrote to Col. Morgan that his letter was the first intimation he had of the plot of Burr.\*

The visit of Dr. Cutler to Col. Morgan, has suggested to us the probability that this Col. Geo. Morgan is the same Col. Geo. Morgan, who, in 1776, was an agent of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, in the Middle Department, who received his instructions from Congress, and whose conduct in not reporting to Congress was inquired into by that body in 1777. His station was at Pittsburgh.

We are not able to note during this period—the closing years of the Eighteenth Century—any special growth or improvements in the village. Though there were undoubtedly, additional private dwellings of considerable value and pretension erected, we cannot name any prominent public edifices, except the academy, that were during that time erected. There were, however, some valuable acquisitions to the society of Princeton after the war.

Dr. Witherspoon began to grow infirm, and moved out upon his farm in 1780 or a little before, and rode into town daily to attend to his public duties. His son-in-law, Rev. S. S. Smith, D. D., was made professor and he removed into the President's house. He was the most elegant gentleman in society. Dr. Witherspoon died Nov. 15, 1794, at Tusculum; and soon after his death, the Rev. Samuel Finley Snowden was chosen the first regular pastor of the Presbyterian church—in which Dr. Witherspoon had preached since 1768.

It was good fortune for Princeton, that when the two distinguished men, who had signed the Declaration of Independence, died, their places were filled by such brilliant and eminent successors, members of their respective families. Richard Stockton was succeeded at Morven by his son Richard, who became a member of the United States Senate, in 1796, and soon rose to the head of the New Jersey Bar, while Dr. Witherspoon was succeeded by his son-in-law, the Rev. Samuel Stanhope Smith, D. D., a man of rare eloquence and elegant

\* We have gathered these facts concerning Col. Morgan, principally from a paper read before the New Jersey Historical Society and given by the correspondent of the *Newark Daily Advertiser*, in 1872. They have been verified by Miss Woodbridge, who has recently made a visit to Princeton.

learning, and very popular in the pulpit and private walks of life. Both are represented at the present time in Princeton—and have been, ever since their death, by their lineal descendants who have continued to reside here.\*

CAPTAIN JAMES MOORE lived in Princeton before and after the Revolution. He was a tanner and currier, and carried on that business on the property in Moore Street, now belonging to the Cottrell estate. Moore Street takes its name from him. He occupied for many years and at the time of his death the house on Nassau Street, east of Cook's Hall. His ledger of accounts, extant, shows that he did a large leather business with all the families of Princeton from 1773 to 1796. And this brings to mind how prevalent was the old custom of every family buying the leather and having shoes made for the family at home. He served as a captain of a militia company in the Revolutionary war, and at the battle of Princeton, he is credited with distinguished bravery in having, with the aid of a few men, burst open the door of the college and demanded the British force then taking refuge in the building, to surrender, which they instantly complied with.

Captain Moore was employed by the Council of Safety to furnish a guard of twenty men with an officer to convey the British prisoners in Princeton to Philadelphia, in July 1778, and on several other occasions he was employed to furnish a guard for the Council, and to render military services in carrying out their orders. In his old age he claimed to be weather wise; and the common people who met him daily, accosted him as an oracle as to the weather, with as much confidence as the same class now have in "Old Probabilities."

Capt. Moore commanded great respect for his patriotism and courage. We find among his papers a little scrap, evidently in his own hand-writing, containing the following expression of his patriotic sentiments:

" I love with all my heart  
The independent part ;

---

\* Miss Caroline Salomans and Mrs. Slidell, cousins, are granddaughters of President Smith and great granddaughters of President Witherspoon ; both reside in Princeton, respected and beloved.

To obey the Parliament,  
 My conscience won't consent.  
 I never can abide,  
 To fight on England's side ;  
 I pray that God may bless  
 The great and grand Congress ;  
 This is my mind and heart,  
 Though none should take my part.

The man that's called a Tory,  
 To plague, it is my glory ;  
 Tho' righteous is the cause,  
 To keep the Congress laws.  
 To fight against the king,  
 Bright liberty will bring.  
 Lord North and England's king,  
 I hope that they will swing.  
 Of this opinion I  
 Resolve to live and die."

The following printed card is also found among his papers, directed to him and Mrs. Moore, which shows the respect he had commanded in Trenton, for his military character and services :

"His excellency, the Governor and the gentlemen of Trenton request the company of Capt. and Mrs. Moore at a dance, in celebration of Peace, at Mr. Cape's, on Wednesday the 16th inst., at six o'clock, P. M.

Trenton, 14 April, 1783.  
 (Signed)

JOSEPH HIGBEE, JR.  
 AB'M. LOTT.  
 A. D. WOODRUFF, Managers.

Capt. Moore was also greatly respected for his excellent moral character. He served as a trustee of the Presbyterian Church at Princeton from 1786 to 1831, when he resigned ; and he also held the office of ruling elder in the same church from 1807 till Nov. 29th, 1832, when he died, eighty years of age. For several years before his death he became blind, and was led about the town by a boy. He was buried in the Princeton burying ground where a monument is erected to the memory of his services in the revolutionary struggle for independence, as well as in the office of ruling elder in the church. He was twice married. His widow Abigail Moore, also much respected for her piety, died at Princeton, March 21, 1847, aged eighty-two years.

MAJOR STEPHEN MORFORD. The father of Major Stephen Morford came from England. He was married to a Miss Susan Barton, daughter of Zebulon Barton. The Bartons came from England. Many of them settled in Cranberry, N. J. Maj. Morford lived at Cranberry until the time of his marriage. He was married to Mary Hamilton, daughter of John Hamilton and Sarah Manning, (who was a Fitz Randolph,) then living in Philadelphia, but who afterwards moved to Princeton and settled on the farm now occupied by Alexander Gray. After his marriage, Stephen Morford and his brother Zebulon both settled in Princeton.

Major Morford was a soldier in the Revolution; enlisted as a private, then became a captain; and in 1797, he was appointed Major of the First Battalion, Second Regiment, in place of Major James Anderson, removed. He was familiar with the details of the battle of Princeton, though not present when it took place. He occupied the house so long known as the old post office corner—N. W. corner of Nassau and Witherspoon Street. The post office was kept there for thirty years, first by Major Morford himself and then by his son William, and finally from 1824 to 1834 by his oldest daughter Frances Witherspoon Morford, so well known to a former generation as "Miss Fanny."

Major Morford died April 22, 1833, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, and was buried in the old Princeton burying ground, where a monument commemorates his patriotic services in the struggle for American independence, in his youth. His wife died in 1831.

They had thirteen children; six died in infancy. The others were Edmund, Frances, William, Margaret, Juliet, Jane, and Caroline.

Edmund Morford, born in 1782, graduated at Princeton in 1797. After studying law he removed to Charleston, S. C., where he kept a book store, and distinguished himself as a political writer. He founded and for many years edited the famous *Charleston Mercury*, and was intimately associated with the leading men of the State, Hayne, Pinckney, Middleton, Legare, Grimke, McDuffie, Calhoun, etc. He died in 1833.

He had two daughters, Harriet who was married to the Rev. J. D. Mitchell, D. D., who graduated in Princeton in 1827, and Amelia who was married to the late Professor John S. Hart, LL. D., who graduated at Princeton in 1830, and who has been in various ways connected with the college since that time.

Frances W., after resigning the post office in 1834, removed to Lynchburg and still lives there.

William Morford, succeeded his father in the post office and died in 1824.

Margaret was married to M. L. Hurlbut, a distinguished classical teacher. She was the mother of William Henry Hurlbut the brilliant editorial writer of the *New York World*.

Juliet was married to Amos Botsford, who graduated at Princeton in 1828, and lives at Lynchburg, Virginia.

Jane was married to William Ashley, of Georgia, who graduated at Princeton in 1824. She died early.

Caroline Fitz Randolph was married to James Morgan of Lynchburg, Virginia.

It is hardly necessary to state, what may be inferred from the facts above given, that the Misses Morford were great belles in their day, in Princeton society.

Zebulon Morford, the brother of Major Stephen Morford, owned Howard Castle, after Col. Beatty removed from it. He was a shoemaker by trade and for a year or two kept the Red-lion hotel. He lost his property. He was a ruling elder of the Presbyterian church from 1805 to 1841, the time of his death. His daughter Susan was the last of the family that survived here, and she removed to Newton, in Sussex County, in this State, where she had a brother residing. Their last residence in Princeton, was nearly opposite Capt. Moore's house.

JAMES HAMILTON was long a useful and respectable citizen of Princeton. His residence was a brick house which stood where Dr. Wikoff's and Dr. Schenck's houses now stand, with the ground extending from Philip Hendrickson's new store to the Press building. It was built in 1804, probably by Mr. Hamilton himself, and was taken down by Dr. Wikoff, when he

built his present residence on the same ground. Mr. Hamilton was a painter and chair-maker by trade. Some of his surviving acquaintances say that he was a Scotchman, and came here just before the Revolution, and that he acted as an assistant commissary in Princeton during the war. He was certainly here at the beginning of the war, for his name is among those who presented claims for damages done to property in December 1776 by the enemy. He was a liberal subscriber for repairing the church in 1784, and he served as ruling elder in the church from 1786 to the time of his death in 1815, and also as trustee from 1793. He was elected trustee of the Academy in 1795. His wife survived him twenty-five years and upwards, and continued to occupy the brick house till her death. They had five daughters and two sons. One of their sons, James Hamilton, was a teacher and became a professor in the university at Nashville, Tennessee. Henry died young of consumption. One of the daughters was married to the Rev. Mr. Burt, another to the Rev. Jared D. Tyler, another to the Rev. Mr. Huntington, another to the Rev. Mr. Fitch, and another was never married, but remained at home in Princeton and taught school till her mother's death, and then she went to live with her brother James, in Tennessee. None of their descendants are living in this part of the country.

ISAAC ANDERSON was the most prominent of the family of the Andersons, who have resided in Princeton for upwards of a century and a quarter. He built the brick house now standing on the corner of Nassau and Charlton Streets, and lived there for many years. He owned a considerable property in that immediate vicinity. So influential and prominent was he that the neighborhood in which he lived and owned so much of the property, was formerly called *Andersontown*. It consisted of a clump of houses in that locality being midway between the main portion of Princeton and old Jug-town. We know but little of Mr. Anderson's history or genealogy. He was well known here in 1768. We can glean nothing of him of special interest during the revolutionary period. He was elected trustee of the Presbyterian church in Princeton, in 1786, and was a large contributor for repairing it in 1784. He was one

of the special trustees who held the title to the ground before the act of incorporation was passed. There is a stone in the old burying ground to Sophia Anderson, who was his wife; but we are informed by some of his kindred that the reason that no monument is erected to him here, is explained by the fact that he was absent from Princeton when he died, and was not buried here. He died in 1807.

We are not informed that he left any children surviving him but he had a large collateral kindred, among whom were the late Isaac L., Aaron, Ephraim and Stephen Anderson, whose descendants are resident in and about Princeton. There was a relation between a branch of the Leonard family and the Anderson family by marriage.

RICHARD LONGSTREET, sometimes called Derrick, was a resident in the vicinity of Princeton before the church was built here. His name is prominent among those who, in 1762, subscribed for the building of the church, and also in 1784 for repairing it. He was a ruling elder from 1786 to 1797—and also a trustee for the same time. He was a farmer and lived on the Dr. Scudder farm, and owned the adjoining farm where John Crusier and Leavitt Howe now live. One of his daughters married William Scudder, who lived at the Kingston Mills, and who was the father of Dr. Jacob, and Elias Scudder; another daughter, Mary, was married to Dr. John Beatty. He had two sons, Aaron and Richard Longstreet.

Richard Longstreet was a private in Capt. McMakin's company in the Revolution, and was killed near Morrystown when retreating, and while saying, "Hold on, don't let us retreat any further." A ball struck him in the head and killed him. He was buried there.

Captain Aaron Longstreet lived where John Crusier now lives. He was captain of a militia company and was in the revolutionary war. He came with a scouting party from Delaware one day when some British officers were expected at a certain house in Princeton, where a roast turkey dinner was ready for them. Captain Longstreet and his men anticipated the enemy and ate the dinner, and escaped just before the expected guests arrived at the house. The captain often related

this capture of the roast turkey, with great satisfaction. He married a Van Dike of Mapleton; he built the brick part of the house on the Crusier farm, with money from soldiers' bounty which he bought. He had only one child surviving him, viz: Eleanor, who was married to Major Cornelius Crusier, near Harlingen; they had several children, of whom John Crusier, the present incumbent of the Aaron Longstreet farm, was one.

CAPTAIN ANDREW MCMAKIN lived in Princeton during and for many years after the Revolution. He rendered service in the war as a captain of militia. He was employed by the Council of Safety when sitting in Princeton, to make cartridges for that body. He claimed to have been in the battle of Germantown, and nothing seemed to give him more pleasure than to narrate his experience, in his various exposures to danger, in that and other battles. He was a short and very corpulent person, and had some peculiarities in manner and speech. He owned the property where James C. Burke keeps his shop, and also the adjoining one where Mrs. Higgins resides. He kept there a drug and general store. Andrew M. Burke, the father of James C., was much with Capt. McMakin, during the last years he was in Princeton, and he was named after him. He also owned at the time of his death a lot of land set off to the heirs of Mary Plum, from the Robert Campbell Tract. His administrator, John McMakin, (who married Sarah Plum,) and William Brookfield, sold the said last mentioned lot to Richard Warren and wife, in 1828.

In 1786, *WALTER MINTO*, of Edinburgh, a man of reputation as a mathematician and astronomer, came to this country, and was for a year the principal of Erasmus Hall, at Flatbush, Long Island. In 1787, he was called to the professorship of mathematics and natural philosophy in Princeton college, which he accepted. He was a scholar of much learning and genius. He had prepared several works in mathematical science, but died before they were published. He had spent some time in Italy as the tutor of the two sons of the Hon. George Johnston, formerly member of parliament, and Gov-



ernor of West Florida, and who was one of the royal commissioners in 1778, to effect a reconciliation between the mother country and the united colonies. Gov. Johnston was implicated in the charge of attempting to bribe Gen. Reed through Mrs. Adam Ferguson, to favor conciliatory proposals.

We have in our possession the original Passport Letters of William Hamilton, minister of Great Britain to Walter Minto, and the two Messrs. Johnstones to the king of the two Sicilies, in French.\* Dr. Minto married Mary Skelton, in Princeton, and they lived in the old yellow house next to Prof. Stephen Alexander's residence. The house stood on the street and was taken down by Peter T. Smith, when he bought it to build upon that lot in about 1847. Dr. Minto died in 1796. Mrs. Minto died in 1824. They left no descendants. We recur to him again in our chapter on the college.

Dr. JOHN MACLEAN emigrated from Scotland to this country in 1795. He commenced the practice of medicine here with Dr. Stockton, and then became one of the most popular professors at Nassau Hall. He was a competent teacher of chemistry, natural history, mathematics and natural philosophy in college, and each of these sciences successively engaged his attention. Dr. Archibald Alexander regarded him as the soul of the faculty, in 1801, and described him as a gentleman of fine appearance, polished manners and a disposition remarkable for kindness and cordiality.† Such a person was a valuable accession to the society of Princeton. He was the father of the Rev. Dr. John Maclean, one of the presidents of the college, who has written an interesting memoir of him. Further notice of him is given in our chapter on the college.

\* NOUS GUILLAUME HAMILTON, Chevalier de l'Ordre du Bain. Envoyé Extraordinaire, et Plenipotentiaire de la Grande Bretagne près le Roy des deux Siciles.

Prions tous ceux qui sont à prier de laisser librement et sûrement passer Monsieur Minto avec les deux Messieurs Johnstones, Gentilhommes Anglois, leur domestiques et equipage allant a Livourne et retournant en Angleterre, sans leur donner aucun trouble ni empêchement mais au contraire toute sorte d'aide et secours, comme nous ferions en pareil cas pour tous ceux qui nous seroient recommandés. à Naples le 31 de Mai, Mil Sept cent Soixante Dizhuit.

[L. S.]

WM. HAMILTON,

Gratis Bon pour un An.

Par le Chevalier CH'Y SMITH.

† Princeton Magazine.

In the summer of 1795, THEOBALD WOLFE TONE left Ireland with his family and came to this country. He leased or purchased a small farm in Princeton or its vicinity. He remained here however but a short time, the way having been opened for his going to France to engage in the efforts on foot for the liberation of Ireland from British rule. His family accompanied him. He was defeated in his enterprise in behalf of Irish independence and lost his life, whereupon Mrs. Tone and her surviving child returned to Princeton and made her temporary home here, occupying a house in College Lane where Professor Karge's house is. She was a woman of high character and intelligence. Her only son William Tone, was admitted by Napoleon into the military school of France and entered the army, but upon the downfall of the empire he returned to America, and entered the United States army. He published a memoir of his father and also prepared a work entitled, "A system of Instruction for the Cavalry of the United States."

When Mrs. Tone returned to America, Robert Adrain, a young Irishman of talent and skill in mathematics, who had taken part in the rebellion under Mr. Tone, the leader of it, and was compelled to leave Ireland, came with her, and to avoid the yellow fever then in New York, he took up his residence in Princeton, and for two years was teacher of the grammar school here. He afterwards became professor of mathematics and natural philosophy in Queen's College, Columbia College and Rutgers' College. He was eminent, especially as a mathematician. He was the father of Garnet B. Adrain and of the late Robert Adrain, of New Brunswick.\*

---

#### A COLONY OF FRENCH REFUGEES.

It is worthy of note that in or about the year 1795, several families of French refugees came to Princeton and bought farms and settled in this vicinity. They occupied nearly all the lands in and about the neighborhood of Cedar Grove and Cherry Valley. Some came from France; some from Belgium,

\* Dr. Maclean's Memoirs.

and some from Guadeloupe. Their relation to the governments of their native countries was so affected by the revolutionary disturbances and wars at home, that they were compelled to expatriate themselves for personal safety, and they emigrated to the United States, then a refuge open to all the world.

These refugees were men of character and intelligence. Some of them belonged to noble families, and had possessed great wealth and high position. When they came to this country some were impoverished, while others were still wealthy. The most of them were Huguenots, and not a few of them were or had been Roman Catholics in their ecclesiastical connections, but they were of the more liberal class. Some of these families remained here only a few years and then returned to their native land, while others adopted this country and made it their permanent home. The lands upon which they settled were not very productive.

Among the names of these families were Vienney, L'Homme, Tulane, Joubert, Boissinot, Pothier, Legoy, Ancellein, Husage, Teisseire, St. John, St. Louis, Malou, La Rue, Chielou, Bona, Schmit, (a priest.)

PIERRE VIENNEY came from the island of Guadeloupe in the West Indies. He purchased about thirty acres of Isaac Van Zandt, in December 1794. It had formerly been the property of John Updike. In April 1795, he conveyed the same to Joseph L'Homme and Louis Tulane. In October of the year last mentioned, Mr. L'Homme and Francois Desirie Victorie Jourdan his wife, conveyed their undivided half therein to Louis Tulane.

JACOB POTHIER and JOHN BAPTIST FELIX LEGOY bought of Jacob Updike two lots of land, Dec. 2, 1794, and they conveyed the same, Dec. 16, 1796, to Peter Updike.

ST. LOUIS purchased a part of the land now occupied by James E. Leigh.

BONA occupied the Stephen Stryker farm now owned by Rev. Dr. McGill.

JOHN BAPTIST TEISSEIRE owned the farm next to "Morven," on the north, now also Dr. McGill's. He also owned property in the village of Princeton and sold a lot to the Rev. Andrew Hunter in 1804.

Messrs. CHIELOU and LA RUE purchased of Mrs. Dr. Witherspoon a part of Tusculum in March 1796, and they both lived there. Mr. La Rue afterwards returned to Havre, and became very wealthy, as a member of a great shipping company. Mr. Chielou removed to Elisabethtown, where he taught French and became intimate with Gen. Scott and other prominent families of that place.

CHARLES ANGELIQUE JOUBERT and Virginia Cousin his wife, owned a tract of land which they conveyed in 1803 to Louis Boissinot. It had been conveyed to Joubert by Louis Tulane and Marie Jeaum Villigus his wife, in 1801, probably a part if not the whole of a thirty acre tract.

The HUSAGES were brothers, of noble birth and great wealth. They bought of Mr. Malou, the farm of the late Judge John S. Leigh. They were accustomed to drive a pair of small cows to a cart, and would carry their grist to Worth's Mills in that way.

Mr. CHARLES ANCELLEIN came from Guadaloupe, where he had been officially connected with the civil government, as treasurer. He was tall and of fine personal appearance. His wife did not come here with him. He bought the farm of the Husages, which Malou had sold to them. He had descendants who remained here, and some are still in this State and neighborhood. Mary, the widow of the Rev. Mr. Storrs, who resides in Newark, N. J., is one of this family.

The REV. ANTHONY SCHMIT, a priest, was also among the number of these refugees. We know nothing of his history. He died here in February 1807, aged seventy-five years. He was buried in the Presbyterian burying ground in Princeton, where a marble slab marks his grave, which was close to the graves of the Tulanes.

Among these refugees, there was one, who, by his peculiar bearing and remarkable intelligence, as well as the mystery which hung about his concealed history—impressed those who came in contact with him, that he had occupied some high position politically and socially, in his native country, which was Belgium. He bought about five hundred acres of land at Cherry Valley, and built a house for himself which was afterwards sold to Louis Tulane, and which became the Tulane home-  
stead, and so remained until Paul Tulane, a few years ago, took it down. The name of this distinguished stranger was Peter A. Malou. Assured by all the little clues we could get of him, that he was prominent among the celebrated men of Continental Europe, we have taken pains to look up his history—for he only remained here from 1795 to 1799—though he returned and died in this country. His biography is sketched in *De Courcy's History of the Catholic Church in the United States*.\* We insert it here, believing that it will be read with interest :

“PETER ANTHONY MALOU, born at Ypres in the parish of St. Peter's on the 9th of October, 1753, was always firmly attached to the faith; but at first experienced no vocation to the ecclesiastical state, and on the 2d of June, 1777, married at Brussels, Mademoiselle Marie Louise Riga. By this marriage he had two sons, the elder of whom, John Baptist Malou is now Senator of the kingdom of Belgium. The latter had six children, one of whom has been Minister of Finances, and another is Monseigneur John Baptist Malou, Bishop of Bruges, universally known by his solid and learned works. It is well known that in 1786 the Belgians, driven to extremity by the religious innovations of the Emperor Joseph II. rose against their oppressor, and after many years of parliamentary struggle and bloody combats they succeeded in expelling the Austrian troops from the country. On the 26th of December, 1789, the States of Brabant solemnly declared their independence, and Catholic Belgium would have been constituted at that period, forty years prior to the revolution of 1830, had not France treacherously invaded the country in 1792, under the pretext of protecting it against the attacks of the emperor. In this heroic resistance, inspired by the purest attachment to the faith, the pupils of the theological seminary at Louvain,

\* Father Moran, of Princeton, has kindly looked up this volume for us, and referred us to the sketch therein.

gave the example to the people, and rose on the 7th of December, 1786, because the emperor wished to force upon them professors imbued with Josephine principles and the theological works of Dr. Eiybal, which had been condemned at Rome. When Peter Malou saw the emperor closing the seminaries, dispersing religious, seizing the property of the church, everywhere fomenting a spirit of revolt against the Holy See, and forbidding all communication between the clergy and Rome; when he saw that Joseph II. aimed at nothing less than the destruction of Catholicity in his States, he put himself at the head of the movement with an ardent patriotism, and played a very important part in negotiation and on the field of battle. He was repeatedly intrusted with the most delicate missions by the States of Flanders which then governed the country; and maintained a very active correspondence with the chiefs of the movement in the other provinces. Having become general, he traversed West Flanders, to enrol volunteers, and organized an army; he equipped several companies at his own expense, and gave his estate and his person in defence of the cause of his country and church.

“When the national convention of France menaced Belgium with a republican invasion, General Peter Malou was sent to Paris by the States of Flanders and boldly appeared before that terrible assembly. He solicited, at least delay, for it would have been useless to ask more; and he besought the French Government to defer the violent measures which had been decreed. This dangerous appeal was made on the 27th of January, 1793, six days after the infamous execution of Louis XVI.; and so plainly did he show the injustice of the convention that the *Moniteur* gave only a mutilated version of his speech. It is to be found in the seventh volume of the Proceedings of the Provincial Assembly of West Flanders as the historian Borgnet notes. The correspondence of Mr. Malou attests that the president of the convention who had treated the other speakers with revolutionary coarseness, showed him much courtesy and even kindness. His generous efforts were however, fruitless. The convention had resolved to invade Belgium in order to find in its plunder means of continuing war; and no arguments could prevail against such a decision. In consequence of these discussions, Mr. Peter Malou was brought into contact with the most celebrated men in Europe. He was in active correspondence with General Dumouriez, with Merlin of Douai, and other renowned conventionists. In a letter of Merlin's to the deputies of West Flanders, we find the familiar expression, ‘Your famous Malou,’ which attests and depicts the position which the future Jesuit had assumed among his fellow-citizens.

“Mr. Malou had opposed with all his energy the French invasion. On the approach of the armies he had to become an exile, and retired to Hamburg, whence he wrote an apology of his conduct in reply to the unjust accusations which always pursue misfortune. He came to the United States\* in the month of July, 1795, intending to prepare the way for the emigration of his family. But during the voyage he had the affliction of losing his wife, who died at Hamburg on the 18th of December, 1797, and he returned to Europe in 1799. The destruction of his happiness gave another turn to his thoughts, and in 1801 he resolved to embrace the ecclesiastical state. In October he entered the seminary of Wolsau, in Franconia, where he received minor orders. Then in 1805 he presented himself under an assumed name at the novitiate of the Jesuit Fathers, at Dunaburg, in White Russia, and humbly asked admission as a lay brother. Zealously employed in the lowly task of gardening, Brother Malou was recognized by a visitor who informed the superior of his real name; and the ex-general was obliged to take upon him more important functions. He was the model of the community in fervor, humility and perfect obedience. In 1811 he was sent as a missionary to America, and arrived with Father Maximillian de Rantzau. Attached at first to the New York Literary Institution, he was afterwards one of the priests at St. Peter's and died in New York on the 13th of October, 1827, at the age of seventy-four. His last days were embittered by the ingratitude of the Trustees; feeble in health and suffering from lameness, he was an object rather of their reverent care; but in order to compel him to leave, they applied to the Superior of his order at Georgetown, who, however, declined to act on their request, referring them to the bishop. Dr. Connolly at last yielded to their importunity, and requested his recall. Deeply grieved at this, to him apparently unkind treatment, the aged priest asked to withdraw from the Society of Jesus, and remained in New York awaiting means from Europe for his support. In 1825, the superiors invited him to return; but from motives which satisfied the general of the order he preferred to remain a secular priest. He was an exemplary missionary, loving poverty and the poor, and devoting himself to the service of the sick, to whom he gave what he had. Political troubles had wasted the great fortune which he had possessed in Belgium. His brother-in-law, Canon Riga, who had saved the wreck, sent him a trifling pension, in which the wretched always had a share. He also took a great interest in the schools, which he often visited, questioning the pupils to

\* To Princeton, New Jersey.

observe their progress; and the pupils long preserved their veneration for Father Malou, and told their children in turn, how when they were good he would show them his snuff box, in which was painted the miniature portrait of one of his children. The scholars were greatly astonished that the Jesuit Father had been married; but he offered God in sacrifice the pain of being separated from his children. He left them as a heritage a venerated name and the example of his ecclesiastical virtues; and Catholic Europe knows how the illustrious Bishop of Bruges has followed in his steps."

LOUIS TULANE came from France in 1795 with some of the other refugees. He bought a large part of the five hundred acre tract of Peter A. Malou, lying on both sides of the Blawenburgh road, at Cherry Valley, north of Cedar Grove. He lived and died in the house built by Mr. Malou—a singularly constructed house, with very high ceilings or floors, built with a view of hanging pictures in the rooms. It was remarkable for the good quality, and the great quantity of timber used in its construction. It was an unceiled house, until within a few years before it was taken down. It was apparently unpainted, and quite unique, standing at a considerable distance from, and on the west side of the road leading from Princeton to Blawenburgh, near the cross-roads at Cherry Valley. Mr. Tulane was a Protestant—a man of respectable position and influence in France. He visited his native country three times, once while residing in this neighborhood. His excellent wife died in 1813, and was buried in the Princeton burying ground. He died in 1847.

Mr. Tulane had five children, viz: Louis, Victor, Paul, Gershom, and Florentine. They are all dead except Paul. He came into possession of his father's lands at Cherry Valley, and made the old French house his summer residence, while he was in business in New Orleans, until he purchased, of Commodore Stockton, his present palatial residence in Princeton, which had been built for John P. Stockton, and occupied by him until he went on his mission to Rome. It is only three or four years since Mr. Paul Tulane took down the old house built by Mr. Malou. In doing so, the workmen found several pieces of old silver money, which had for many years been concealed in it, not probably by design, but by the



carpenters, who in building the house, closed up the flooring, without knowing of the treasure deposited therein.

Paul Tulane is now far advanced in life. He and several nephews are the only descendants of the original Louis Tulane. He is unmarried, and is esteemed very wealthy. He has not yet devoted much of his estate to any public institutions or enterprise. He cherishes a warm attachment to the memory and associations of those refugee families who so closely affiliated with his father, and he seems even to regard with special interest, the lands they occupied, and the tenants who now own them. Mr. Tulane is very kind and benevolent to the poor; and disburses, in a private way, thousands of dollars yearly, in helping, by educating and otherwise assisting, scores of young persons, and families, both in the south and in the north, who are in some way related to his old patrons or partners in business, or to whom, for other reasons, he may have become attached. He is a constant attendant upon the public worship of the First Presbyterian church in Princeton, and contributes liberally to its support, and in a very delicate way, to its indigent members. But his beneficence is not confined to this one church. He opens his hand to all denominations, and seldom refuses an appeal which has a moral element in it. His quiet and unostentatious bachelor life—his frugal habits—his fixed and peculiar ways—his shunning of society—so little corresponding to the magnificence and beauty of his mansion and grounds, which he occupies, would almost justify us in calling him a recluse. His character here and in New Orleans, is held in the highest veneration, for honor and uprightness.

Thomas P. Johnson, a practicing lawyer in Princeton, who understood the French language and was a genial man in society, was employed by these refugees as their counsel, in effecting their purchases and sales of property. He became very intimate with them, and thereby so improved his knowledge of the French language, that he could pronounce and speak it with as much purity and fluency as if it had been his native tongue. Dr. Ebenezer Stockton, Robert Stockton, Job Stockton and John Passage and other business men of the

place became intimate with them in business, and to some extent in social life.

What drew these refugees to Princeton? Probably in addition to the retired and healthful character of the place, it was the college of New Jersey, with its world-wide known and illustrious President, Dr. Witherspoon, the champion of religious and civil liberty, whose appeal before the war in behalf of the college addressed to the inhabitants of Jamaica and the other West India islands, had attracted much public attention.

WILLIAM MILLETTE, a French Canadian gentleman, lived on the farm next beyond Worth's Mills, on the Lawrenceville road, now the residence of John S. Gulick, of the United States Navy. He was a tall and fine-looking gentleman, of courtly manners. He and his family were Presbyterians, and were early members of the Presbyterian Church at Kingston, where they attended worship; and the daughters retained their membership there long after the Princeton church was built. Mr. Millette's name is down for ten pounds for repairing the Princeton church in 1784. His wife, Charity Millette, was among the communicants of the Princeton church in 1792.

Mr. Millette was a Tory in the Revolution, and went to Canada and remained there during the war. He had a large family connection in Monmouth County, in this State. He died in 1788, and was buried in the Princeton burying ground leaving his wife and several daughters and sons surviving him. One of his daughters, Caroline, married a Col. Salter, in St. John, New Brunswick, and lived and died there. Two maiden daughters and a son, Matthew, lived on the old homestead for many years after their mother's death. Matthew afterwards lived on the opposite side of Stony Brook, about two miles from the old place. They are all dead, though Matthew has descendants living in this State. The name was generally written by the public, Millet, though the ancestor wrote it as it is above written.

ELIAS WOODRUFF came from Elizabethtown to Princeton, in 1772, and had three sons who graduated at Nassau Hall,

Aaron D., George W., and Abner Woodruff. He remained here during the war, and rendered services to the army in one or more offices connected with the magazine and commissary department at Princeton. He was a highly respectable and trustworthy citizen, and was connected with the large family of that name in the eastern part of New Jersey. His son George, was a lawyer of distinction, in Georgia, but when advanced in life, settled near Trenton, and died there leaving a large estate. His son Aaron Dickinson settled at Trenton and was Attorney General of this State, for twenty-four years. His son Abner first settled in Sussex County—as a merchant—and afterwards became a midshipman in the navy, which he resigned in 1803, and settled then in Georgia—but afterwards in Perth Amboy, N. J., where he died in 1842.

JOHN DENTON was a bookseller in Princeton—and owned a property in Nassau Street a few doors east from the corner of Witherspoon Street. He lived here as early as 1764.

On the first day of May, 1779, the Legislature of Trenton, “Resolved, that John Denton of Princeton, be authorized and directed immediately to purchase two tons of powder, with lead, flints and cartridges, paper in proportion, for the use of the State; one ton for Zachariah Rossell at Mt. Holly, and half a ton for Elias Woodruff at Princeton, for Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, and Monmouth; and draw . . . for the same of the treasurer.” He died in 1805, in the seventy-eighth year of his age, and was buried in the Princeton burying ground.

In February, 1779, a petition from the stage proprietors on the road from Trenton to New York praying a repeal of the law requiring them to pay for license, etc., was presented to the Legislature of this State, read and committed. The committee reported that the law was intended to answer a good purpose, but on account of the contagious disorders which have visited the cities of Philadelphia and New York, and which may probably do so again, and may again subject the proprietors of stages to inconveniences;—therefore they propose that the sum imposed for licenses be reduced to one hun-

dred dollars per annum. This was agreed to by the house, and a bill was committed to Van Cleve, Southard and Pennington.\*

Thus at the end of a hundred years, Princeton had grown to be a place of some importance. It had a church, a college, an academy, three or four taverns, and almost one hundred dwellings within what now are the limits of the Borough. Many distinguished citizens of the town had died since the war; some had removed to other places—but their places here had been well filled. The medical, the legal and the clerical professions were all honorably and ably represented in the sons of a noble ancestry. The desolation of the war had disappeared, and the growth, though a slow one—quite unlike the rapid growth of recent towns in our new country—was perceptible and substantial.

A more minute description of the houses and families will be found in the next chapter, but four years later.

\* The N. J. Gazette, vol. i. No. 34.

## CHAPTER VI.

1800-1812.

Conflagration of Nassau Hall in 1802—Rebuilt with enlarged facilities—New Professors—Thompson, Kollock, and Hunter—Dr. Smith continued the popular President till 1812—Henry Clow's Reminiscences of Princeton in 1804—Biographical Sketch of Richard Stockton, the great Lawyer (the son of the Signer)—Of Thomas P. Johnson—Col. Erkuries Beatty—John Hamilton—Dr. Ebenezer Stockton—Rev. Robert Finley, D. D.—Samuel Bayard—Incorporation of the Princeton and Kingston Branch Turnpike Company—Excitement and Incidents of Stage Travel—Progressive Civilization—New Jersey Bible Society Organized in 1809.

AT the threshold of the nineteenth century Princeton was visited with a sore calamity in the destruction, by fire, of all that was combustible in the College edifice. Though this event belongs rather to the history of the college than to the town, it was nevertheless a serious disaster to the latter. The conflagration took place on the 6th of March, 1802. The trustees of the college appointed a committee consisting of Gen. Beatty and Richard Stockton to inquire into the origin of the fire; and they reported that in their opinion, it "was intentionally set on fire," but they made no arrests. They also reported that the whole library was consumed, except about one hundred volumes; but that very little damage had been done to the philosophical and chemical apparatus.

The trustees took prompt action for rebuilding upon the old walls, which had withstood the flames. An energetic and very general appeal for funds was prosecuted by President Smith and other friends of the college with success. The edifice was soon rebuilt, with enlarged facilities for the students and for the library. The institution which was in a flourishing condition when the fire occurred, very soon after the rebuilding, recovered more than its former prosperity—the number of students advancing during President Smith's administration to two

hundred. William Thompson who was elected Professor of Languages, in 1802, Rev. Henry Kollock, of Theology, in 1803, and the Rev. Andrew Hunter, of Mathematics and Astronomy, in 1804, came and took up their residence in the village, adding not a little to the intellectual and moral force of the town as well as of the college—the Rev. Mr. Kollock holding the pastorate of the Presbyterian church conjointly with his professorship.

Dr. Smith continued president till 1812, when on account of bad health he resigned. He always took an interest in the welfare of the town, and was a most prominent and useful citizen, exerting a wide and commanding influence upon the State and upon the church. His elegance in society, his eloquence in the pulpit, his scholarship in the professorial chair, and his dignified presence on all occasions, will account for his being a great favorite in the community, and one whom the citizens delighted to honor.

Some idea of the habitations of the village with the names of the families occupying them at the beginning of this century, may be gained from notes written many years ago, describing the village as it was when the writers thereof first knew it. There is a manuscript record made by the Rev. E. F. Cooley, presenting Princeton as it was in 1803. Portions of this paper have been published in the *Princeton Press* quite recently. Another account was written, describing the village as it was in 1804, by Henry Clow. We deem it unnecessary to publish both papers, as they give substantially the same description; we therefore insert only that of Mr. Clow.

Henry Clow who came to Princeton from Scotland, his native country, in 1804, and resided here for about sixty years, was steward of the college for many years, and held the office of Mayor and Alderman in the borough. He was a man of intelligence with much public spirit and some poetic taste. After having lived here forty-six years he wrote under the name of "Selma," for the *Monmouth Democrat*, in 1850, his "Reminiscences of Princeton," and described the local habitations of the place as he found them in 1804. There are those still living who may be interested in the names and residences mentioned in his narrative; and notwithstanding a few inac-

curacies in his statement, not very important, however, we deem it worthy of an insertion in the history of Princeton. Standing in the year 1850, and looking back forty-six years to the year 1804, he writes :

---

### PRINCETON REMINISCENCES.

On casting a retrospective view, by any person who resided in Princeton forty-six years past, such a reminiscence must naturally command the attention of its inhabitants, and as there are but few of the persons now alive who resided in Princeton at the time referred to, it would seem to be a duty devolving on the few who still remain, to give "a local habitation and a name" to those with whom they associated in early life. It is a pleasant, yet melancholy task to point to relatives and friends the site of their home, while in the sunny days of childhood, and the well remembered spots of holiday times ; or to that lonely spot, the resting place, where all that were lovely in life, and even victors, repose.

It was under a deep impress of such feelings that memory, ever dear to the aged, awakened my mind to the happy days of my youth when Princeton was (with the exception of the college) but a small rural village. I shall now briefly allude to the local habitations and the names of those persons who resided in Princeton about forty-six years ago.

The extreme eastern end of the village was at that time called "Jug Town," and I believe it derived the name on account of its being famous in by-gone days, for manufacturing earthen and stone ware. The name has since been changed to Queenston. It is improving rapidly, and in due course of time the improvements may be carried as far as Kingston, a village about two and a half miles to the northeast. So that, at no distant day, Princeton, Queenston, and Kingston, may be united, and hereafter receive the name of the Royal City. In Jug Town, at that time, were the dwellings of Isaac Hornor, John Harrison, Andrew Burke and Samuel Scott ; and on the southeast side of the Main road leading towards the centre of the village was the residence of John Hamilton, Esq., which still remains in possession of the family.

On entering Princeton proper, on the north side of the Main road, were the dwellings of Mrs. Leonard, Samuel Nicholson, and Mrs. Skelton ; and nearly opposite, on Joseph Olden's corner, was the residence of Mrs. Burke ; and on the same side, about two hundred feet farther west, were the dwellings of Mrs. Totten, the Misses Cozzens, and Isaac Anderson, who occupied the old brick house, at present the property of the late Mrs. Brown.

On the opposite side of the Main street, was the residence of Capt. James Bunyan. The next house was the dwelling of Thomas P. Johnson, a distinguished attorney at law—a man on whom nature seemed to have bestowed her choicest gifts. Adjoining this was the abode of Capt. James Moore—a true patriot, and a brave officer during the Revolutionary war. Farther on the same side of the street, was the residence of Dr. E. Stockton, a surgeon in the war of the Revolution—he was an eminent physician and a valuable citizen. On the south side of Main street,

was a long row of buildings, extending as far west as what is now known as Washington street, the principal inhabitants in the Row, at that time, were John Jones, Mrs. Hunt, the family of Robert Voorhees, and that of Zebulon Morford. On the same side of the street, on the corner of what is now called Washington street, was the abode of Daniel Agnew, formerly steward of the college. The next house, on same side, was the dwelling of Adam Shaw; and next, were the dwellings of Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. Booth, and the next was an old stone building, occupied by Mr. Clark, by trade a stone mason; and on the same side, on the corner of what was called College Lane, (now College street) was the tavern kept by Jacob Ten Eyck, formerly steward of the college. On the north side of the Main street, and next to the abode of Dr. E. Stockton, was the home of Andrew McMakin—a name familiar to many of the inhabitants, even at this day. In my younger days I spent many a pleasant hour, listening to his Revolutionary battles, which he fought over again; particularly that of German Town, where common report gave him the name of a soldier of distinction. The next, (on the same side) was the abode of Mrs. Steel. The building has been lately greatly altered by the erection of a building, now called "Mercer Hall." The next, on the same side of the street, was the store of Simpson & Wilson, at present occupied by Mr. Van Deventer. Directly opposite, on the southeast side of the Main street, was the College Lane, in which was the residence of James McAlester, a waiter in college at the time it was destroyed by fire; and farther on, in the same lane where the professor's house now stands, was the abode of Mrs. Priest, who kindly procured refreshments for the young gentlemen of Nassau Hall.

On the opposite side was a frame house, the dwelling of Peter Hollingshead, at that time head waiter in college. I believe it was formerly occupied by Dr. John Beatty and Mrs. Theodore Wolfe Tone. And I remember well, that in a wing of this building (in the northwest corner) was a room about ten by eleven feet, occupied by two or three students of theology, who pursued their studies in that humble dwelling, from whence it derived the name of "Divinity Hall;" and I can never forget the many happy hours which I spent under that humble roof. I believe that the infant institution, at that time, was under the charge of the Rev. Henry Kollock, then the pastor of the Presbyterian Church, whose graceful appearance and eloquence in the pulpit, could only find an equal in the Rev. Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith.

At the head of the College lane, was the mansion of John I. Craig, formerly the property of Col. Morgan. Ralph Sansbury, Esq., steward of the college, occupied a house at the east end of the old building; and Prof. Thompson's residence at the west end.

Returning to the Main street, and on the north-east corner of the college grounds, was the residence of Dr. John Maclean, who was a native of Scotland, and for many years a distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Mathematics in the College of New Jersey. His son, the Rev. Dr. John Maclean, at present the Vice-President of the college, occupies the same house; and while his energetic measures as a disciplinarian, receive even the approbation of the students, it must be even still more gratifying to him and his relatives, to know that he has, from early youth, secured the esteem of his fellow citizens.

Directly opposite, on the north side of Main street, was the residence and store of Enos Kelsey, who, at that time, was treasurer of the college. The house between Simpson & Wilson's store, and that of Enos Kelsey, was the residence of Mrs. Rock.



Farther westward, on the same side, was the store of William and Martin Agnew ; and the next on the corner of what was then called African Lane, was the dwelling of John Thompson, a native of Scotland. On the east side of this lane—now called Witherspoon street—was the abode of Joseph Leigh ; and farther on, on the same side of the street, was the house of Dr. Wiggins, well known as the parsonage. On the west side of the lane were the dwellings of the Rosincrants, the Dildains, and likewise that of Cæsar Trent, a native of Africa, a character well known to the inhabitants, and students particularly. On the Fourth of July he was often decorated with an old cocked hat and a continental coat, and after assisting them in firing the cannon, he was in the habit of using it as a temporary stage, on which he would deliver an Anglo-African speech, much to the amusement of his audience. On the same side of the street, was the dwelling of 'Squire Mathison, and George Phillips, a shoemaker. In this lane was the abode of William Downie, who is still alive, and now one of the oldest inhabitants of the borough.

On the corner on the same side as the house of George Phillips, was the Post-office, kept by Stephen Morford. The next on the north side of the Main street, were the shops of Zebulon Morford and Daniel Hankins, a tailor. Adjoining was the house and store of Robert Voorhees. Where the Post-office now is, was the dwelling of William Gaw, a barber, who often amused his hearers with an account of his hair-breadth escapes, during the Revolution—particularly when giving the history of his favorite gun, "Old Jersey."

Directly opposite, on the south side of the street, was the abode of the Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith, at that time, and for many years afterwards, President of the college ; a man who, in those days, had but few if any equals as a pulpit orator ; and in all the social relations of life, he presented the true model of an accomplished gentleman.

Adjoining the President's house was the village school-house. It was then, if memory bears me out, under the charge of Mr. Adrian, afterwards a professor in Columbia College. He was said to be an excellent teacher, and sometimes made good use of the rod. To the truth of this, I have no doubt, but some of his pupils who are still alive, can testify.

Nearly opposite, on the north side of the street, was the tavern of Christopher Stryker ; and nearly adjoining, on the same side, was the dwelling of John Passage, on the ground where the Mansion House now stands. On the south side of the street was the old Presbyterian church, which has been twice burned down and as often rebuilt within the period of forty years. The next house, on the same side of the street, was the abode of Mrs. Minto, widow of Dr. Minto, a native of Scotland, and for a number of years a professor in the college ; and nearly opposite on the north side of the street, was the tavern of John Gifford, now in the possession of J. V. D. Joline. It was, at that time, emphatically the stranger's home. It was in this house that Congress sometimes assembled for the transaction of public business. This was considered at that time, as nearly half-way between New York and Philadelphia, and consequently was noted as a resting place for travellers. Mr. Gifford was a polite landlord, and much esteemed by all who knew him.

Farther to the west was the dwelling of Josias Ferguson, Esq., a respectable citizen, and for many years a Justice of the Peace. On the opposite side of the street was the residence of the Rev. Dr. Andrew Hunter, who was at that time a Professor of Astronomy in the college. The next house to the west was the dwelling of Mr. Ryno, a well-known barber ; and on the north side of the Main street,

and nearly opposite the barber's shop, was the residence of James Hamilton, who was a commissary in the War of the Revolution, and always maintained the character of an honest man. The next house, on the same side of the street, was the abode of Mrs. Little, widow of Col. Little; and nearly opposite on the south side of the street, was the abode of Mrs. Knox, a lady of high respectability. Many of the old graduates of Nassau Hall, who are still alive, must remember the boarding house of Mrs. Knox. The old one-story building was afterwards occupied by Sally Martin and Phœbe Davis, who kept a school for girls and boys in that well-remembered house. It was in that humble nursery of juvenile science, that many of those who have graduated there, are now, or have been, among the first class of inhabitants who have acquired advancement in science and polished life. But the venerable matron has exchanged her abode for a happier home. Even the old building has been swept away and lost, amid the vortex of modern improvements.

The next house, on the same side, was the abode of Mrs. Moon; and on what is now called the corner of Nassau and Mercer streets, was the dwelling of Mr. Jennings, a blacksmith. On the opposite side, where the Princeton Bank now stands, was the residence of John Norris; and farther on to what was then called Bayard's Lane, was a small brick house, the abode of Mr. Robinson. And farther to the north, was the residence of Samuel Bayard, Esq., who was in later years, Mayor of the borough, and a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He was always esteemed as a valuable citizen.

At some distance to the southwest, and what was formerly named Lawrenceville road (now Stockton street) was the mansion of the Hon. Richard Stockton, a distinguished barrister, and an accomplished statesman. The mansion and surrounding grounds have for a great many years been known by the name of "Morven," a name, I believe, derived from the sublime epic songs of Ossian, and other bards of his day; and in our own time, the harp has been attuned to the sweetest poesy by the fair daughters of Morven Hall—and nobly has the present representative of the family supported the untarnished honors of his house, by his distinguished bravery on the land and on the ocean.

Nearly opposite, on the south side of Stockton street, was the residence of Mrs. Field, known by the name of "Rose Cottage." I believe it derived its name, according to report, on account of its producing some of the sweetest roses at that time to be found in the village. On the same side, but further on to the west, was the abode of Mrs. Henry, commonly known by the name of the "Stone Barracks." Part of the old building is still remaining.

I have thus endeavored, by the aid of memory, to brush away the cobwebs which have been accumulating for near half a century over the local habitations of those who were our associates in by-gone days, and when old age is creeping onward it may tend to check its advance, by taking a fondly cherished glance at the green and sunny spots of our youthful days. Perhaps a kindred feeling may be awakened in others, on looking over this hasty and crude sketch of Princeton, forty-six years ago; if so, the object which I have had in view will be attained, and the few hours devoted to the subject, may not have been wasted in vain.

PRINCETON, November 29, 1850.

SELMA.

There are still vestiges of the ancient village on our streets, especially on the middle and eastern portions of the Main

street; enough to enable us to note the progress of the last seventy-five years.

But as the most notable and interesting feature of the history of Princeton, in all periods, is its prominent and public men, we must not fail here to notice several such who were conspicuous during the period under consideration; some of whom might properly have been introduced, in a former chapter.

RICHARD STOCKTON, who was often distinguished from others of that name by the title of "Duke," was a son of Richard Stockton, the signer of the Declaration, and was born at Morven. He was graduated at Nassau Hall in the class of 1779. When a boy he was thought less promising than his brother, Lucius Horatio Stockton. His father took him to Philadelphia to place him in Robert Morris's counting house. There was no vacancy there at that time, but he was promised the first one that should occur. Dr. Rush, the son-in-law of Richard Stockton, the Signer, advised him to study law, as that was to be the great profession. Richard took his advice, and went up to Baskingridge to study in his uncle Elias Boudinot's office. Mr. Boudinot had sent up his family there for safety during the Revolutionary war. He was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty, and began the practice in Princeton soon after his father's death. He lived with his mother at Morven, until his marriage to Miss Mary Field, at which time his mother retired from Morven, which place under the will of his father had been devised to Richard, and which he occupied till his death.

Mr. Stockton soon gave proof of much legal ability and of some statesmanship. He was a strong Federalist, bitterly opposed to Jefferson, and represented New Jersey in the Senate of the United States from 1796 to 1799, and he was a member of the House of Representatives from 1813 to 1815. He seldom spoke in Congress, but when he did, he commanded marked attention and respect. In 1801 he was nominated in joint meeting for Governor of New Jersey, but he was defeated by Governor Bloomfield, his opponent. The next year he was again nominated and again defeated by Governor Bloomfield;

and in 1804 his friends again presented his name, but with the same result as before. His party was in the minority.

Mr. Stockton was eminently distinguished as an eloquent and profound lawyer—a great common law lawyer—standing for a quarter of a century at the head of the New Jersey bar, and not inferior to the ablest jurists in the country. His practice was large and laborious; his services were commanded in the counties and at the Supreme Court of the State, and also in the United States courts so constantly as to tax him severely to attend to all of his clients and cases. He was frequently engaged to argue causes in New York and Philadelphia, and in Washington. David B. Ogden, a New York lawyer of celebrity, said that if he were to be tried for his life, there was no one he would choose to defend him before Richard Stockton. Chief-Justice Kirkpatrick told Judge Bayard that he often trembled with fear under Mr. Stockton's eloquence, lest he should be warped in his charge to the jury and in his decisions, and give more weight to his argument than was just.

Samuel J. Bayard of Princeton, who read law in Mr. Stockton's office, says of him: "He was a gentleman of a lofty sense of honor and the sternest integrity. I remember his advice to me after I was admitted to the bar. It was never to drink whiskey, wine or brandy before I tried a cause, because it soon led to confirmed inebriety; and never to touch a client's money recovered for him in a cause, always to put it in bank or in some safe place and consider it a sacred deposit until it is paid to the client. Mr. Stockton had a great abhorrence of everything mean or unworthy. The celebrated Thomas Gibbons had occasion in his steamboat controversies with Livingston and Fulton, to consult Mr. Stockton. Once, soon after his pamphlet which he published assailing his own daughter (on account of his quarrel with her husband), he called on Mr. Stockton, and as he was leaving asked if he had received and read his pamphlet which he had sent him. "Yes," said Mr. Stockton, "but I would not suffer the vile document to remain in my house and I threw it into the fire."

Mr. Bayard also relates the following:

"When Gen. La Fayette visited Princeton in 1824, Mr. Stockton was chosen by the Common Council of Princeton to

address him. I was a member of the council. In the morning of the day La Fayette was to arrive the council assembled at Joline's hotel to hear Mr. Stockton read his address. He commenced by saying "Marquis La Fayette!" After Mr. Stockton concluded, I suggested timidly that La Fayette had renounced his title in the National Assembly, and that he would prefer in this country to be called general. Mr. Stockton sternly said 'Once a Marquis, always a Marquis, I shall address him by his title before the infamous French Revolution, and he did so address him.'

George Wood, the eminent lawyer of New York, studied law with Mr. Stockton, and verified in his professional life, the flattering predictions of his preceptor as to his future success. Thomas P. Johnson also was a student of Mr. Stockton.

It is unfortunate for the reputation of great lawyers who confine themselves to the bar, that there is so little record made of their distinguished services, so little to perpetuate their fame beyond the generation in which they live. Their finest speeches are usually unwritten and unprinted, and their written opinions are seldom published. Judges upon the bench who decide cases, prepare their decisions for the law-reporter, and these are published and make a record for the author. The advocate appears in the Reports only in his imperfect brief, though such brief may be the result of prodigious labor and learning, and may furnish the court with the idea and material for that opinion which gives an illustrious reputation to the judge who announces it. Without the authorities cited and the exhaustive argument of counsel, the written opinions of judges would be, very generally, meagre and imperfect; and yet the judges often go down to posterity with a reputation for legal research and discrimination which they derived chiefly from the argument and brief of counsel.

Such lawyers as Richard Stockton, George Wood, John Sergeant, Horace Binney, Charles O'Connor, in their generation, gained resplendent reputations as great lawyers and advocates; and no judicial honors could have added to their colossal fame which they achieved at the bar. It is too seldom that we see great lawyers like these content to be great at the bar; and possibly it would be less rare, if eminent forensic services could

in some way be perpetuated by fuller printed briefs or arguments in law reports. The modern daily press, however, is now so much employed to publish the proceedings of courts, including the arguments of counsel, that it is less difficult now than it was formerly to glean something to illustrate the power and legal acumen of the advocate.

The suggestion here arises, whether our great American lawyers, instead of seeking the honors of high judicial or political places, especially when their taste inclines them to remain at the bar, would not better fulfil their highest destiny in life by giving more attention to the cultivation of letters, and like the great English lawyers make themselves known to posterity in the authorship of legal treatises; and at the same time hold a loftier position as private citizens, to influence the masses of men in the higher grade of politics and statesmanship.

The influence of great lawyers who are known not to be seeking office of any kind directly or indirectly—when they address political conventions and mass meetings of the people, on the great political questions of a campaign, will far outweigh the influence of interested party politicians, who are laboring chiefly for their own aggrandizement. Our country needs such independent, disinterested orators to lead public opinion, and none would be so well adapted to this work as the high-minded, courageous, well-furnished lawyers and advocates, whose position at the bar is felt to be inferior to no other public position in the country.

As the generation in which Richard Stockton lived has passed away, and only a few of his survivors live to speak of his high legal character and abilities, we are obliged to refer the younger members of the legal fraternity to the law reports to see the foot-prints of Mr. Stockton in the courts.

The first volume of the New Jersey Law Reports (Coxe's) began in 1790, and Mr. Stockton's name appears as counsel in cases in the Supreme Court at the first term in that year; and in subsequent terms in every succeeding year, and through the successive Reports of Pennington's two volumes, Southard's two volumes, and down to the close of the fourth volume of Halsted's Reports, reaching the year 1827, the year before Mr. Stockton died. No one looking through these nine volumes, covering

thirty-seven years, can fail to see that Mr. Stockton was the great lawyer of New Jersey. He argued more causes at every term on an average than any other lawyer at the bar. Hardly an important cause from any part of the State was argued, in which he was not employed as counsel. His briefs, short and fragmentary as they appear, clearly indicate his legal learning and acumen, and their influence upon the opinions of the court. There was no class of cases in which he did not appear as master of the subject, whether on the criminal or civil side of the court; whether on statute, constitutional or common law.

The lawyers whom Mr. Stockton met at the New Jersey bar in his day, were such men as the elder Leake, Bloomfield, Kinsey, Griffith, Woodruff, Ogden, Reed, Gen. Frederick Frelinghuysen, Williamson, Van Arsdalen, Ewing, Col. Jos. Warren Scott, Thomas P. Johnson, Gen. Wall, the younger Frelinghuysens, Southard, Vroom and Wood.

He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Columbia College in 1815, and also from Union College in 1816.

Mr. Stockton was an active and influential trustee of the college at Princeton, from 1791 to the time of his death. He was also a trustee of the Presbyterian church in Princeton, from 1805 till his death, and as such rendered a very useful service to the congregation. He was a regular attendant at this church though not a communicant. He was a good citizen, taking an interest in the welfare of the community and bearing his share in public duties.

Mr. Stockton was tall and corpulent, and of commanding presence. He was reserved and dignified—perhaps was considered haughty and imperious. Princeton was honored in being the place where such a man was born, and where he lived and died. He went not from home for fame or fortune, but at Morven he studied and toiled, and bade success and fame come to him.

He died in Princeton March 7, 1828, leaving surviving him his wife Mary and eight children, viz.: Richard, Robert F., William B., Samuel W., Annis (Mrs. Thomson,) Mary (Mrs. Harrison,) Julia (Mrs. Rhineland,) and Caroline (Mrs. Rotch). The daughters were handsome and attractive, and while at home made Morven conspicuous for its gayety, fashion and social en-

tertainments. Richard the eldest son, was a lawyer of fine talents, who practiced for a while in New Jersey and then removed to Mississippi, where he became distinguished at the bar, and was killed in a duel. Robert F. will receive a fuller notice in a subsequent chapter. William B. never married, and survived his father about fourteen years. Samuel W. was in the United States navy—he married Mary Hunter, the present wife of Rev. Dr. Charles Hodge, and the mother of Samuel W. Stockton, the present owner of Morven. He died in 1839.

None of the children are living. He was buried in the old Presbyterian cemetery at Princeton, where a handsome marble monument, with the simple inscription of his name and age on the side, marks his grave. There is an oil painting of him upon the walls in the Supreme Court room at Trenton, and also one in the college museum.

He left a large estate which he disposed of by a will drawn by himself with great particularity, and which yet in the many unexpected contingencies that subsequently arose, became so doubtful as to its intendment, that it became necessary, half a century after it was written, to submit it to the highest courts of the State for judicial construction.

He devised Morven with two hundred and seventy acres, and the one fourth of his half of sixty thousand acres in North Carolina, besides some other tracts, to his son Robert F. Stockton. He had five thousand acres in Oneida County, New York. He devised the Tusculum farm of two hundred acres to his son Samuel W., and the Springdale farm to his son William B. Stockton. He left the use of Morven to his widow during her life, and made liberal bequests to all of his children.

THOMAS P. JOHNSON is remembered as one of the distinguished lawyers of New Jersey, and one of the most notable citizens of Princeton. He was not a native of this place, nor did he die here. He was born about the year 1761. His parents were Quakers. His father, William Johnson, a native of Ireland, emigrated to this country about the middle of the last century. He married Ruth Potts, of Trenton. He removed to Charleston, S. C., where he established a boarding-school. After a residence of some years there he died; and



his wife and five children removed to Trenton, where she opened a store, and Thomas was placed as an apprentice to a carpenter. His health failing, he engaged in teaching youth and was well adapted to the occupation. He then became a partner in a mercantile house in Philadelphia, and was sent to open a branch in Richmond, Va., where he became acquainted with Chief Justice Marshall, and was attracted by the bar of the "Old Dominion." He was recorder of that city. His store was destroyed by fire, and then he returned to New Jersey, and settled in Princeton, where he married a daughter of Robert Stockton, and entered the office of Richard Stockton as a law student. He received his license as an attorney at law in New Jersey, in 1794, and as counsellor in 1796. His career at the bar was brilliant. He always commanded fixed attention whether making a legal argument before the court, or addressing a jury. He was particularly strong before a jury. His language was pure, his manner natural and earnest, and his wit and versatility of genius captivating. He was a great favorite with the masses. His habits were convivial, and in social life he was much admired. He never took a very active part in political life, though he belonged to the old Washingtonian school. While he was frequently the antagonist of Richard Stockton and other men at the head of the bar, engaged in important causes before the higher courts, he did not hesitate to try causes in Justice's Court, in his own town and neighborhood, where he met younger men and made the local jury trials the occasion of much instruction and interesting gladiatorship, furnishing to the crowds who witnessed them, material for pleasant reminiscences during their subsequent lives. Though Mr. Johnson was never at college, his strong mental capacity enabled him to acquire knowledge readily, and being of studious habits and having a retentive memory, he became a literary and well educated man, versed in philosophy and science and acquainted with the French language. He soon attracted the attention of the French refugees who settled near Princeton about the time he came to the bar, and he became intimate with some of the most intelligent of them, and was thereby drawn to the study of their language, and learned to pronounce as perfectly as if he had been a native

Frenchman. Mr. Johnson was a sincere believer in Christianity, and in his later life was a close student of the Bible.\* He removed from Princeton to Lambertville, where he lived until his death with his son-in-law, Dr. R. D. Corson, in 1838. A large and fine portrait of him, painted at the expense of the bar of the State, hangs upon the walls of the Flemington Court House. He was a fine looking man. His residence in Princeton was where John Conover now lives, on the corner of Nassau and Moore Streets.

Theodore Frelinghuysen, James S. Green and Samuel R. Hamilton studied law in his office. He served as assistant alderman in the common council of Princeton, from 1813 to 1818. He also acted as assistant Attorney General under Aaron D. Woodruff.

Col. ERKURIES BEATTY, who closed a public and useful life in Princeton, is worthy of notice among its prominent citizens. He was a son of the Rev. Charles Beatty, the successor of the Rev. William Tennent, at the Forks of the Neshaminy, Pa., and he was the father of the Rev. Charles C. Beatty, D. D., of Steubenville, Ohio. He was a brother of Dr. John Beatty whom we have already noticed as a citizen of Princeton at the close of the war, and who had been taken prisoner at the surrender of Fort Washington in 1776, and suffered a long captivity.

When only sixteen years of age, in 1777, Col. Beatty entered ardently the military service of the country. First he was a private soldier; then he received an ensign's commission in the 4th Battalion, Pennsylvania line, Col. Cadwallader. He was engaged in the action of August 28th, under Lord Sterling, on Long Island, and at White Plains, in October. He was engaged in the battle of Brandywine under La Fayette, in 1777. He was in the battle of Germantown, and was shot and narrowly escaped death. He was in the battle of Monmouth under Wayne, and next served under Gen. Clinton in an expedition against the Indians in Western New York, and was in the battle of Newtown. He was in the military family of Gen. Lord Sterling at Baskingridge, as his secretary. He continued with Washington

\* Historical Collections of New Jersey.

during the summer of 1780. He was stationed at Tappan and West Point on the Hudson River. He then went south with Wayne, and joined La Fayette in Virginia. He was present at the capture of Yorktown. At the close of the war he had lost his property by depreciation of the currency and was penniless, and became paymaster in the Western army.

He was brave and honorable, tall and soldierly. While on a visit to his friends near Princeton, he was induced by his brother, Dr. John Beatty, then residing here, to purchase the Castle Howard farm, a little east of Princeton. It then belonged to the estate of Captain Howard, who had been an officer in the British army, and resided there previous to the Revolutionary war, and probably built the main part of the stone house which, with the additions put up by Col. Beatty, is still standing. The farm had run to waste, and Col. Beatty purchased it.

Col. Beatty married Mrs. Susannah Ferguson, of Philadelphia, and brought her and her daughter, who became the wife of the Rev. B. Wilbur and afterwards of the Rev. Dr. Brown, of Cannonsburg, Pa., to live with him at Castle Howard, in 1799. He entered into public life; was a Justice of the Peace, a Judge of the Middlesex Pleas, and member of the Legislature. He studied the science of farming, favored the incorporation of turnpike companies, being himself a corporator and President of the Princeton and Kingston Branch Turnpike Company. He labored for the passage of the public school law, and filled many offices of honor and trust. He held, with pride, the office of Treasurer of the Cincinnati. He was for many years President of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian church, and aided in rebuilding that edifice after it was burnt in 1813. He was trustee and president of the academy. He had improved his farm, but in 1816, sold it for \$10,000, and removed into the centre of the town, having bought the house on the south side of Nassau Street, opposite Dr. Ebenezer Stockton's brick mansion.\* He was appointed Mayor of the

\* Though for many years occupied as a first-class female boarding school, kept by Miss Hanna, it has long been known as the Col. Beatty house. It was a two story white frame double house, with dormer windows—with a semi-circle portico in front, sustained by four round pillars, and standing back from the street. It was an old land-mark, but becoming the property of the college its removal was decreed

borough; for twenty years he served as a trustee of the Presbyterian church, and was twice tendered the office of ruling elder, which he declined. He became a communicant in the church after the death of his daughter. He presided at the first Colonization meeting ever held in this country, which was in Princeton.\* He became financially embarrassed. He died in 1823, while filling the office of Mayor, kindly administered unto by the Rev. Charles Hodge, then boarding in the family. He was buried in the old Princeton cemetery, where his tombstone now stands, with an inscription written by the Rev. Dr. Miller. His services and character were recognized by suitable resolutions of the Council.

Dr. EBENEZER STOCKTON was a son of Robert Stockton, Quarter-master in the Revolutionary war herein before noticed. He was born at Constitution Hill in Princeton, and graduated at Nassau Hall in 1780; and having studied surgery and medicine, he entered the army as surgeon, but soon resigned and came to Princeton, where he began the practice of medicine, and continued it during his active life.

Dr. Stockton was a tall and fine-looking gentleman—very genial, humorous and popular. Though not a close student he was esteemed a skilful and excellent physician, and he had a large practice. His residence and office were in the brick house still standing on the north side of Nassau Street, nearly opposite the old Wilson corner. It has recently been bought by the college. This stately old house has remained in the family for a century past, and is one of the old land-marks in Princeton. There was once a tannery connected with the land. Dr. Stockton received it from his father both by deed and devise. The Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., after his marriage to Mary Stockton, the sister of Dr. Stockton, lived for a time in this house. Dr. John Maclean, as we have before stated, entered into partnership with Dr. Stockton in the practice of medicine, when he first came to Princeton, in 1795, and continued with him for

and James Van Deventer bought it, and has just removed it bodily across the street and placed it on his land, on Park Street, a new street recently opened. It is supposed to be a hundred years old.

\* Dr. Alexander's History of Colonization.

two years, when he was elected professor in the college. There has always existed from that time to the present day, an intimate friendship between the Maclean family and this branch of the Stockton family. Thomas P. Johnson also married a sister of Dr. Stockton.

Dr. Stockton was a warm patriot, and like all the other prominent men of Princeton in his day, was a Federalist. He was not able to render much service in the Revolution because the war was drawing to a close when he entered the army, but he always took an active part in the public business of the community—in the elections and town meetings, in common council, in schools and church. He served as trustee of the Presbyterian church from 1805 to 1835, and he took an interest in its prosperity, and was an attendant there upon public worship.

Dr. Stockton did not marry till late in life, and then married Elisabeth Duncan, a widow. He had three children who survived him, viz: Major Robert Stockton, now of Stockton's Mills; Helen who was married to the Hon. Alexander R. Boteler, of Shepherd's-Town, Virginia, who graduated here in 1835. She was one of the most beautiful and attractive of the belles of Princeton; and Mary, who was married to the Hon. A. W. C. Terry, of Virginia, who graduated at Princeton in 1839; she also inherited the personal comeliness and style of her parents, but through her early marriage she removed from Princeton while very young. She retained the homestead until within the last few months past, when it was sold to the college. She resides at Lynchburg, Virginia, with her children. Dr. Stockton was a prominent citizen and a practising surgeon and physician of Princeton for fifty years. He died December 9th, 1837, in the 77th year of his age, and was buried in the Princeton cemetery. His widow survived him till 1870.

JOHN HAMILTON was the representative of an old Princeton family, whose residence for half a century was on the farm in the eastern part of the village, now the valuable farm of Alexander Gray, and which was originally the eastern portion of the Horner tract. The parents of John Hamilton, senior, came from Scotland, and settled in Philadelphia. John married Sarah

Manning, the daughter of Ephraim Manning and Elizabeth Fitz Randolph, daughter of Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, who was born in Princeton in 1703. They had a daughter Mary, who was married to Major Stephen Morford. Hence the relation between this Hamilton family and the Morfords. Their son, John Hamilton, settled on the farm above mentioned in Princeton. He was a coach-maker by trade, and carried on his business at his residence, till his death. The little stone building which stood on the road nearly in front of his dwelling, and which was occupied by students for their study, until it was taken down in about 1842, had been his blacksmith shop. He died in 1824, aged sixty years, leaving his wife Phœbe Ross, surviving him for many years. She was a woman highly respected for her piety and exemplary life. She died in 1851, at an advanced age, having long been an honored member of the Presbyterian church. They had children, among whom were John Ross Hamilton, who died before his mother, and Samuel R. Hamilton, a prominent lawyer, who practiced in Princeton for several years and then removed to Trenton, where he spent the residue of his life, having acquired a large practice by his industry and popular tact in the trial of causes. His three sons, Morris R., John R., and S. Alexander Hamilton, survived him and are still living. The latter remained on the old homestead until Mr. Gray purchased it, within a few years past.

Rev. ROBERT FINLEY, D. D., was born in Princeton, February 15, 1772. He was a son of James Finley, whom we have noticed in a previous chapter, and who came from Scotland. He was educated at Princeton, being chiefly instructed by Dr. Ashbel Green, who was at the time a student in college, an assistant teacher in the grammar school, and later, a tutor in the college. He entered the freshman class in college, in the eleventh year of his age, and graduated in 1787. He was employed as a teacher in the grammar school under Dr. Witherspoon after leaving college. He then was invited to take charge of a seminary in Maryland, but the academy was destroyed by fire as he reached the place, and he returned to Princeton and next took charge of the academy at Allentown, N. J. In 1791 he took charge of a lucrative school in Charles-

ton, South Carolina, when he resolved to devote himself to the ministry ; and in 1792 he returned to Princeton and placed himself under the care of Dr. Witherspoon for the study of theology, at the same time becoming a teacher in the grammar school in Princeton. He soon became tutor in college, and in 1794 he was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick to preach the gospel, and in 1795 he was ordained and installed pastor of the Presbyterian church at Baskingridge, New Jersey. His taste and qualifications for teaching were so great that he was induced to take a private class of pupils in his family to fit them for college. This extended until it developed into one of the most celebrated and popular classical schools in the State. His school prospered and his church was graciously revived and enlarged. About the year 1815, Dr. Finley disclosed his plan of philanthropic labor in the African Colonization scheme. He is regarded as the father of that enterprise in this country ; and it was through his instrumentality that the Colonization Society at Washington was formed in December, 1815.

Dr. Finley having received a call to the presidency of the University of Georgia, resigned his pastoral call at Baskingridge, and his trusteeship of Princeton College, and removed to Athens, Georgia, in 1817, where he died in a few months after he had entered upon his new field of labor in the university known as Franklin College. He was distinguished for his capacity and success as a teacher and disciplinarian of youth, and for his eminent piety and Christian philanthropy. He was an excellent pastor and preacher ; a man of large size. His memoirs were published by the Rev. Isaac V. Brown, in 1819. His wife was Esther, a daughter of the Rev. James Caldwell, of Elisabethtown.

SAMUEL BAYARD came to Princeton in 1806, and made this place his residence until his death in 1840. He had graduated at Princeton College in 1784, studied law with William Bradford, afterwards Attorney-General of the United States, and practiced law in Philadelphia for seven years. In 1791 he was appointed clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States. After the ratification of the British treaty, negotiated by Mr.

Jay, he was appointed by General Washington, agent of the government to prosecute in the British Admiralty Courts the claims of American citizens provided for by the treaty. He remained in London three or four years. On his return to the United States he resided a few years with his father-in-law, Lewis Pintard, at New Rochelle. While there Governor Jay appointed him Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Westchester County. He removed to New York city in 1803-4, and resumed the practice of law. He published about this time an edition with notes, of Peake's Evidence, and an Abstract of the Laws of the United States, both works useful at the time to the profession. He was one of the founders of the New York Historical Society.

After he became a citizen of Princeton he was a representative from the County of Somerset for several years in the legislature. He was a warm and decided Federalist. He held the office of Judge of the Common Pleas in Somerset County for several years. He was an active trustee of the college and also was treasurer of that institution for many years. He was a trustee of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, and a ruling elder of the Presbyterian church. He was a wise and zealous promoter of the cause of religion, often writing for religious publications, and he published a volume entitled, "*Letters on the Sacraments.*"

When he came to Princeton he purchased of Mrs. Gibbs, a South Carolina lady, the house built by Dr. Bainbridge on Bayard Avenue (named in honor of him), where Mr. Frank Conover now resides. There were forty acres of land attached to the place, and by additions and improvements to the mansion he adapted it to the demands of a generous hospitality which he always extended to the refined and cultivated society in which he moved. He was a gentleman of the old school, and a man of public spirit. He married Martha Pintard, the only daughter of Lewis Pintard, before mentioned. His children were, Lewis P. Bayard, an Episcopal clergyman of New York city, who built Amity church, visited Europe, and went to Jerusalem, took a fever at Beyroot and died on his voyage to Malta; Susan Bayard, deceased; Samuel J. Bayard, the father of the late gallant Gen. George Dashiell Bayard,



deceased, now living in Camden, N. J.; William Bayard, deceased; Julia, (Mrs. Washington,) deceased; and Caroline, wife of the late Professor Albert B. Dod, still living and much venerated for her noble virtues and gentle manners.

Judge Bayard was the fourth son of Col. John Bayard, by his wife (Miss Hodge). Lewis Pintard, Captain Pintard and Elias Boudinot, their cousin, all married sisters of Richard Stockton, the signer. Elias Boudinot was commissary in the Revolutionary army, and Lewis Pintard acted for him as deputy. Both the Pintards and the Bayards were Huguenots and of distinguished ancestry. Lewis Pintard was a merchant, born in New York, but his father was a French Huguenot. Col. John Bayard, the father of Samuel, was born on the Bohemia Manor, between Maryland and Delaware, but he lived in Philadelphia. Late in the night before the battle of Princeton, Gen. Joseph Reed and Col. John Bayard crossed the Delaware and stopped at Mr. Coxe's mansion, near the old Trenton bridge, expecting the battle would take place there in the morning, not aware that Washington had decided to retreat to Princeton. Their servant called them in the morning as the British were crossing the Assanpink. They mounted their horses and hastened to Princeton, and reached there just after the battle was won.\*

We have given so extended a notice of Judge Bayard, because for over thirty years he was one of the most active, honorable and useful citizens of Princeton—always filling some post of public duty—almost constantly a member of the common council, the first mayor of the borough, so far as the records of council show, and was succeeded in that office by Col. Erkuries Beatty, in 1818. He served as assistant alderman from 1821 to 1827, except the year 1824. He was a ruling elder in the church from 1807 to 1840, and a trustee during the same period till 1838. He took an active part in the general benevolent associations of his day. He died May 12, 1840, and was buried in the old Princeton burying-ground. He left a will with many liberal bequests, but his estate did not prove adequate to fulfil them all.

*The Princeton and Kingston Branch Turnpike Company was*

\* Memoir of Gen. Bayard.

incorporated December 3, 1807. Its corporators were Joshua Wright, David Brearley, George Bullock, John I. Craig, Ebenezer Stockton, Erkuries Beatty, and John Gulick. The commissioners to lay out the road were Israel Harris, John Bayles, and Andrew Howell. The charter required a raised artificial road not less than thirty-six feet in breadth. This road was built, and became the direct road to Trenton, diverting the stage travel from the old Lawrenceville road, and formed a competing stage line with the straight turnpike leading from Trenton to New Brunswick through Penn's Neck, which had been chartered in 1804. This branch road entered Princeton from Trenton, by Mercer Street, and there took the old road through the Main Street, in course to Kingston, whence it intersected the straight turnpike before mentioned; but afterwards connected with the Georgetown and New Brunswick turnpike at Ten-Mile-Run, and thence through Six-Mile-Run to New Brunswick. Col. Beatty was a zealous advocate of this road, and was elected President of the Company. The Kingston families of Bayles and Gulick were prominent stockholders and directors of this company until the stage travel was superseded by a more rapid transit.

In those days as well as before and since, the travel and the transportation of freight between Philadelphia and New York chiefly passed through Princeton. The business gave life and bustle to the community, and afforded a good market to the farmers in the neighborhood for hay, grain, and provisions. The whole route was lined with stages day and night. The hotels were employed to the utmost of their capacity, in entertaining and feeding passengers and horses. Hundreds of horses could often be seen at one time in the streets, upon the arrival and departure of coaches. The dust in dry weather filled the air along the whole route, and in winter the roads were so cut up as to become at times almost impassable. Kingston, which was the half-way stopping place, was a very different place from what it is at the present day. The travellers of those days who still survive, will remember the hotels of Gifford, Joline, Stryker, Follet, Van Tilburg, Withington and others on the road, where the great throng of passengers, including distinguished public men, were accustomed to stop for meals and

lodging. The racing, the accidents and incidents on this old way of travel across the State, made a memorable chapter in many a person's life. The scene of the stage coach ride and the picnic, described in the recent novel "*Annette*," laid in this vicinity, is but an illustration of a multitude of similar scenes and experiences, which attended this time-honored mode of locomotion. In tracing the advance from the beginning to the present time of our history, how marked are the strides of progress! The old Indian trail through the forest—the zig-zag horse path—the king's public highway for wagons—the incorporated turnpike for stage coaches—the modern steam cars on railroads—following in succession, are like milestone monuments on the historic march of progressive civilization!

*The New Jersey Bible Society*, the first one of the kind ever organized in this State, was organized at Princeton in December, 1809. An address "to the Publick," was issued in behalf of the object, signed by Elias Boudinot, its first President. Among its first officers were Messrs. Boudinot and Wallace, of Burlington; Samuel Bayard and Isaac V. Brown, of Princeton; Rev. Dr. Clark, Chief-Justice Kirkpatrick and John Neilson, of New Brunswick; Rev. Peter Studdiford, of Readington; Rev. Dr. John Woodhull, of Freehold.

The British and Foreign Bible Society, established in 1804, sent £100 to the New Jersey Society in 1811, to aid in supplying this State with Bibles. The Philadelphia Bible Society was the first one established in this country.

## CHAPTER VII.

1812-1830.

Nassau Hall Bible Society—Dr. Ashbel Green succeeds Dr. Smith, as President of the College—The Theological Seminary established in 1812, with the Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander and Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, Professors—The Presbyterian Church burned in 1813, and rebuilt—Princeton Incorporated—Visit of General Scott—The War of 1812—Bainbridge and Stockton distinguished in Naval Battles—Religious Revival in 1815—Princeton Sabbath School Association—Female Benevolent Society—Nassau Hall Tract and Education Societies—New Jersey Colonization Society organized in Princeton—Visits of General Lafayette—A new Printing Press introduced—Biblical Repertory and other Periodical Publications commenced in 1825—A remarkable Public Meeting in behalf of the New Jersey Domestic Missionary Society and Common Schools—A Great Work accomplished—The State explored and supplied with the Bible. *Biographical*—Dr. Van Cleve, F. D. Janvier, John Harrison, Thomas White, Dr. Ferguson, John S. Wilson, John Passage, Robert Voorhees, Hart Olden.

WE are now entering upon another interesting period in the history of Princeton; one which exhibits an increased activity and power in the development of moral and religious influences, as related to the college, the town, and the theological seminary just established here. At the close of our last chapter, we noticed the organization of the "New Jersey Bible Society" in this place; and here we must note in the year 1813, the formation of the "Nassau Hall Bible Society,"—an institution of the college and seminary students which has made quite a history for itself, and which has dispensed a portion of its benefits upon this community through a period of many years, suggesting, undoubtedly, after a few years of its existence, the organization of the citizens' "Princeton Bible Society,"—both of which societies are maintained at the present time in a healthy condition.

Upon the resignation of President Smith, the Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., was elected president of the college in 1812. Dr. Green, like his predecessors, took a lively interest in the

prosperity of the town, as well as of the church and college. Imbibing the spirit of the Revolution in his youth, and associating with the leading statesmen of the country, he had cultivated an interest in public men and public measures; and his public spirit was a prominent feature in his character through life. It made him a very useful citizen while in Princeton.

The establishment of the theological seminary of the Presbyterian Church in Princeton, in 1812, was a most valuable accession to the prosperity and influence of the place. Dr. Archibald Alexander and Dr. Samuel Miller, who were elected professors of this institution at its commencement, the former coming from Philadelphia in 1812, and the latter from New York in the next year, both men of attractive preëminence in the church, and of great personal popularity, gave an impulse to the cause of learning and religion; and the seminary of course exerted a wholesome influence upon the growth and society of the village. There was an increased demand for both public and private buildings, requiring a large appropriation of money for this object, and for equipping the institution. The presence of a large number of students of divinity, in addition to the students of the old college, soon had an influence upon the home-market, and tended to draw an increased population to the town. These two eminent theological professors, who gave their services to the seminary for about forty years, exerted jointly a more general and happy influence by example and teaching, than any other two men who ever lived here.

In the month of February, 1813, the Presbyterian Church edifice, the only one in the village, and which had been occupied by the armies in the Revolutionary war, but fully repaired, took fire from a deposit of hot ashes in a closet, under the stairs, on Saturday afternoon; and on Sabbath morning following, the whole building was *reduced to ashes*. It was a melancholy event to the villagers, who had struggled so hard to secure its original erection and subsequent restoration. This occurred during the pastorate of the Rev. William C. Schenck. A subscription was immediately opened, and within the ensuing year, a new building, with improvements, occupied the ground of the old one. The congregation in the meantime worshipped in the college chapel.

The prosperous condition of the college and theological seminary, which were bringing to the village a large number of young men yearly, led to the application for an Act of Incorporation of the town, in order to secure good order and public tranquillity. A borough charter was granted, in 1813, and a borough government was organized, which has continued until the present time. Such a government for so small a village would not have been asked for, nor granted, probably, if the institutions had not rendered it necessary. That necessity was the greater because the main street divided two counties, and the municipal ordinances assumed jurisdiction and force over the inhabitants of the whole town in both counties. By this, a more efficient government was secured.

In 1814, Gen. Winfield Scott, with five or six hundred soldiers, passed through Princeton en route for the war, and encamped on the ground where Dr. Samuel Miller's late residence stands. It was a rainy day, but his tall and elegant appearance excited much admiration among the people of Princeton. After the close of the war, he happened to return through Princeton, on the day of the college commencement. He was taken up and seated on the stage in the church, where the trustees sat. The valedictorian, Bloomfield McIlvaine, was seen to retire from the stage, as soon as Gen. Scott made his appearance, but soon returned. In the course of his valedictory oration, he turned suddenly on the hero of Lundy's Lane, and apostrophized him as the Patriot soldier, fresh from the battles for his country, with the laurel of victory on his brow. The effect was electric on the hero and the audience. The General said he was more appalled than if he had been confronted by a British regiment on a field of battle. We have not a roll of those persons who enlisted from Princeton, in the war of 1812. The most of those who were drafted were in service at Sandy Hook, under Colonel John Frelinghuysen, for a short time, called there to resist an invasion of the State by the enemy. But New Jersey was not the theatre of that war. Our victories were won on the sea rather than on the land; and in our gallant navy, one of Princeton's native sons—Captain William Bainbridge, having command of the navy-yard at Charlestown, Massachusetts, when war was declared,—

soon after was appointed to the command of the *Constellation* frigate, and thereafter the captain of the *Guerriere*, was thence transferred to the *Constitution*, (Old Ironsides,) with which, after a fight for two hours with the British frigate *Java*, on the coast of Brazil, he captured her, with a slaughter of the captain and sixty men—besides one hundred wounded. The *Constitution* had nine killed and twenty-five wounded; among the latter was the commodore himself. Another son of Princeton—Robert F. Stockton,—had just entered the United States navy, and was on board the “*President*” under Commodore Rodgers. He distinguished himself for his bravery and dash, in efforts to defend Baltimore, and in 1814 was made lieutenant. In 1815, in the war against Algiers, Lieut. Stockton was on the *Spitfire*, under Captain Dallas, and increased his reputation for naval skill and bravery, which continued to rise rapidly in his subsequent career in the navy.

Richard Stockton, the father of Captain Robert F. Stockton of the navy, was a member of Congress, from New Jersey, from 1812 to 1815.

In the year 1815 the college and the community of Princeton experienced a gracious revival of religion—the fruits of which are visible in the church at the present day. It greatly increased the number of candidates for the ministry, drawing many of the most talented students in the college to the theological seminary, and through it to the ministry. An account of this revival will be given in another chapter; but its effect was so visible in this community, that it should be noted here as a partial explanation of certain developments, which were manifested for several subsequent years in the town and in the institutions.

A Sabbath School Association was formed in Princeton in this year, principally through the efforts of John S. Newbold, Charles P. McIlvaine, Nicholas Patterson, E. W. Gilbert, and other students. They had a fund invested for the object.

The Female Benevolent Society of Princeton, was organized in 1816. Its object was, at first, to relieve the sick and poor; but in 1817, it incorporated in its constitution the additional object of educating the children of such poor persons. The plan adopted was to divide the town into three districts, and

from each district two or three children could be sent to some school in the town, at the expense of the society. The institution was so successful and developed so largely, that in 1825, it established a school of its own; and with the aid of the Presbyterian church, it procured a school building, in Wither- spoon Street, where it has maintained a school from that time to the present day, though depending almost entirely on vol- untary annual subscriptions and gifts, to defray its expense. Some of the pupils admitted of late years, when able, have paid a small tuition fee.

The managers have always demanded an inexorable com- pliance with the rule that requires the Bible to be read and recited, and the catechism to be learned by the pupils. Har- riet Nicholson was the first teacher of the school; and the present teacher, Miss Lockart, has kept it since 1840. It is a popular and useful school, and has had at times nearly a hun- dred pupils attending it, and sometimes an assistant teacher.

Mrs. Doctor Samuel Miller was its chief originator, and most constant and efficient supporter, till her decease. There is no other unincorporated society in Princeton that has flour- ished with such constancy. The original managers are perhaps all dead. Mrs. Salomans and Mrs. John G. Schenck, both de- ceased, were Mrs. Miller's special assistants in obtaining money to build their schoolroom. Mrs. James S. Green, Mrs. Woodhull, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Hodge, Mrs. Dr. Al- exander, the Misses Maclean, Mrs. Lowrey, Miss Craig, and many others, were among the earnest friends and supporters of the institution in the first quarter-century of its history. It is still flourishing, notwithstanding the free and well advanced condition of the public schools of the town.

The Nassau Hall Tract Society was organized in January, 1817, by the students of the college and seminary.

The Nassau Hall Education Society, to help indigent youth to an education without reference to their future pursuit, was organized in 1821.

The ladies of Princeton, as early as 1822, organized the "Princeton Female Society for the support of a Female School in India." They adopted a written constitution; and through the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions



and the Society of Inquiry, in the Princeton Seminary, they employed this association for many years, with great success, in fulfilling its object.

The same Christian spirit which prompted these efforts for the children in India, did not neglect the ignorant and degraded population in the Pine region and other destitute parts of New Jersey.

The New Jersey Colonization Society, had its origin and organization in Princeton. A large and respectable meeting was held in pursuance of public notice, in the church, in Princeton, July 14, 1824. Robert F. Stockton, of the United States navy, a gallant son of Richard Stockton, a native of Princeton, who had, in 1822, effected the purchase of Mesurada, from the natives, by great tact and courage, presided at the meeting and made an address. Professor John Maclean, of the college, acted as secretary, and the Rev. George S. Woodhull submitted a constitution, which, after speeches in its support, by James S. Green, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Miller, Rev. Dr. Green, and the Rev. George Boyd, the agent of the American Colonization Society, was adopted. These addresses were published in a pamphlet of the proceedings of that meeting, with the constitution and officers. The society was organized in aid of the American Society. The officers elected were :

ROBERT FIELD STOCKTON, *President.*

JAMES S. GREEN, Esq.,

JOHN POTTER, Esq.,

L. Q. C. ELMER, Esq.,

Dr. JOHN T. WOODHULL,

Gen. JOHN FRELINGHUYSEN,

WILLIAM M. MILLER, Esq.,

} *Vice Presidents.*

ROBERT VOORHEES, Esq., *Treasurer.*

Professor JOHN MACLEAN, *Secretary.*

Dr. JOHN VAN CLEVE,

RICHARD M. GREEN, Esq.,

Mr. GREENLEAF W. RIDGELY,

Mr. DANIEL PERRICK,

THOMAS WHITE, Esq.,

JOHN N. SIMPSON, Esq.,

Professor CHARLES HODGE,

Rev. GEORGE S. WOODHULL,

Mr. GEORGE SHERMAN,

Mr. DANIEL FENTON,

Dr. A. P. HAGEMAN,

Mr. JOSEPH OLDEN,

} *Managers.*

The annual meetings of this society were continued for several years, in Princeton, and interesting addresses were made at those meetings, by Robert F. Stockton, James S. Green, Stacy G. Potts, Peter D. Vroom, Theodore Frelinghuysen, Dr. Augustus R. Taylor, Samuel J. Bayard, Rev. Joseph Holdich, Rev. Symmes C. Henry, Rev. Dr. Green, and others, most of which addresses, with long and interesting reports, were published in full, in the annual proceedings of the society.

The origin of the American Colonization scheme is justly ascribed to the Rev. Dr. Robert Finley, a native of Princeton, who, after frequent conferences with the Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander and other philanthropic gentlemen of Princeton, set the enterprise in motion, and effected the formation of the present society at Washington, and several State auxiliary societies. The prominent public men who had early become the friends and laborers in this cause, adhered to it during their lives. Dr. Alexander wrote its history, and was its zealous advocate to the end of his life, and Dr. John Maclean, perhaps the oldest survivor of its early founders, still holds up its colors, here on the original battle ground.

There had been local colonization meetings held in Princeton before the formation of the national or State societies. Col. Erkuries Beatty is said to have presided in the Princeton church at the first colonization meeting ever held in this country, the precise date of which we are not able to fix.\* And it is generally conceded that the American colonization enterprise may be traced to Princeton, and makes a part of its history. The colony of Sierre Leone, had been planted some years before 1815—Granville Sharpe is regarded as the original projector of the scheme.

In 1824, General Lafayette, while making a tour in this country, was received at Princeton, where the honors and the hospitalities of the place were extended to him and the escort who accompanied him under the direction of General John

\* Dr. Alexander made an address. The meeting was small—professors chiefly. It must have been in 1816. It was before the first Washington meeting, 21st Dec. 1816, when Henry Clay presided. The American Colonization Society was organized Jan. 1, 1817, with Bushrod Washington, President.

Heard, one of the cavalry officers in the Continental army of the Revolution. A sumptuous breakfast was prepared for him in the college refectory by the college and the public authorities. After breakfast he visited the college buildings, and then was publicly received in the campus in front of the college, where a covered platform had been erected for the purpose, and where he was welcomed in an address by the Hon. Richard Stockton, after which he received from President Carnahan, a diploma of Doctor of Laws, which had been conferred upon him in 1790, and was signed by Dr. Wither- spoon, then President. The General acknowledged these civilities in appropriate replies.\* His son George Washington Lafayette accompanied him, and the concourse of the people anxious to see the noble Marquis who had volunteered, at so much risk and self-denial, to aid in achieving the independence of this country—was very large and enthusiastic.

Gen. Lafayette spent a night in Princeton, also, in July, 1825, when the best supper the village could afford was tendered to him, and a number of ladies and gentlemen were presented to him. He seemed much fatigued and retired as soon as possible. The next morning, the 16th of July, he set out for Point Breese, to break his fast with M. le Comte de Survilliers.†

In the year 1824, a new printing press was introduced into Princeton, and a newspaper entitled "*The Princeton Religious and Literary Gazette*," was established by the Rev. Robert Gibson, but soon gave place to the *Princeton Patriot*, which was published by Borrenstein in 1825. The *Biblical Repertory*, was also established in 1825, in Princeton. A *Series of Tracts*, a religious publication, issued monthly by the Princeton press, ran through two volumes, in 1824-5. "*The American Magazine of Letters and Christianity*," a monthly, published by T. C. Gibson, was started in Princeton in 1826.

The introduction of the printing press into the village, in 1824, seems, from the use made of it, to have been prompted by an awakened spirit of benevolence and Christian activity among the citizens and students. Within a few years after

\* Dr. Maclean's Hist. of the College, vol. ii. p. 257.

† Dr. Alexander's Familiar Letters, vol. i. p. 82.

this event, we find associated Christian effort exhibited as it never had been before, and perhaps never since. There seems to have been a blaze of philanthropic zeal breaking out here and spreading over the whole State. The Bible cause, the Colonization scheme, the Sunday schools, the cause of popular Education—the Tract cause—the Missionary cause, were all espoused by organized association, and received the aid of the new press. The Philadelphian Society in Nassau Hall, a religious association, was organized in 1825, and still exists with increased influence.

There was a remarkable public meeting of the inhabitants of Princeton, held on the 13th day of December, 1827, at which these two resolutions were adopted :

1. *Resolved*—That in reliance on Divine aid, and with the coöperation of other friends to knowledge and religion, we will use our utmost efforts to assist in raising, within two years from this date, the sum of *forty thousand dollars* for the support of missionaries, and the establishment of schools in the destitute parts of the State.

2. *Resolved*—That the funds so raised shall be placed under the control of the Domestic Missionary Society of New Jersey, on condition that said society will appropriate these funds to the purposes specified.

A committee was appointed to execute the enterprise ; and the coöperation of the Presbyterian churches in Newark, was requested, and pledged. Agents were appointed to apply to the eighty or ninety different Presbyterian churches in New Jersey for help ; and young men were to be sought out and fitted for teaching. The whole territory of the State was to be explored to ascertain the destitution of schools.

The Rev. Robert Baird was one of the most efficient agents employed in this enterprise. He excited among all classes an interest on the subject of common schools. He visited every county—held public meetings, and set forth the advantages of a good system of public schools. He wrote and published a series of very valuable essays on the subject, and did more than any other person to produce that state of public feeling which, at the next ensuing session of the Legislature, secured an Act which appropriated, annually, twenty thousand dollars for the support of common schools.

Schools were established in every county, and teachers, male and female, were provided for them. Sunday schools

were also established. In Somerset County, Miss Sarah Gray of Princeton, taught for six months at the Rock Mills, on Sourland Mountain; number of pupils forty, or upwards. Miss Harriet Nicholson taught a school for eight months and a half on Amwell Mountain in Hunterdon County. Mr. Archibald Campbell taught a school for six months near Dutch-Neck, in Middlesex County. The largest proportion of schools were established in the destitute parts of Monmouth County. The ladies of Princeton distributed among the poor children in the schools on Sourland and Amwell Mountain, and at Goshen, two hundred and nineteen articles of clothing, besides a donation of sixty-three dollars and eighty-nine cents, from the Princeton Female Missionary Society.

This vast undertaking, though not carried out, accomplished much good. Not more than one-eighth of the forty thousand dollars was paid in; a much larger proportion was subscribed.

The number of persons who were educated for the business of teaching was twenty-one; and the report of the committee, signed by Dr. Samuel Miller and the Rev. Mr. Woodhull, in January 1830, expressed the "deep conviction of the importance of some institution being established in New Jersey to educate young men for the occupation of teaching. Without such an institution, we cannot expect to have such teachers and such numbers of them, as will secure to our citizens all the advantages to be derived from a good system of common schools."

One of the direct benefits of this enterprise was a new impulse imparted to the State, on the subject of common schools, and which, in some measure, superseded the necessity for continuing this private scheme, to do what the State should have done, and has since done. It should be observed that Princeton contributed more money to the cause than any other town or locality in the State, and certainly the chief part of the labor and directions of the plan devolved upon the men and women of Princeton.

The committee who were appointed to execute this great work, of what was called the "New Jersey Missionary Society," were:

Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., *Chairman*; Rev. Geo. S. Woodhull, *Secretary*; Robert Voorhees, Esq., *Treasurer*; Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., Samuel Bayard, Esq., Rev.

James Carnahan, D.D., Hon. Charles Ewing, Rev. Luther Halsey, Rev. Job F. Halsey, Rev. Symmes C. Henry, Dr. John T. Woodhull, Rev. Eli F. Cooley, Dr. Gilbert S. Woodhull, Dr. James English, Lucius Q. C. Elmer, Esq., Rev. Isaac V. Brown, Rev. John Maclean, Rev. Joshua T. Russell.

The Bible cause in New Jersey received a notable impulse from Princeton, in 1827. The great destitution in Monmouth County induced the friends of the Bible to supply that county within a year.

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Nassau Hall Bible Society was held on the 31st of July. The meeting was large and respectable. The Rev. Mr. Christmas, of Montreal, and the Rev. Mr. Patton, of New York, delegates from the American Bible Society, made addresses, as did several young men from the college and seminary. Reports of the destitution in the State stirred the hearts of the assemblage. Rev. J. F. Halsey, and Dr. John T. Woodhull, attended as delegates from Monmouth. They proposed that the society should *resolve to supply within one year from that meeting, every destitute family in New Jersey with a Bible.*

The magnitude of the proposal provoked warm discussion for and against it. Thirty young men present agreed to spend their succeeding vacation in laboring to effect the object. A high enthusiasm took possession of the meeting, and the object appeared to be feasible. The resolution was amended by Dr. Alexander, so as to meet the objections of its opponents, and unanimously adopted thus: "That, in reliance upon Divine aid, if possible, every destitute family in the State of New Jersey shall be supplied with a copy of the Holy Scriptures within one year, by this society, in coöperation with the other Bible Societies in this State." The sum of four hundred dollars was subscribed at the close of the meeting. Delegates were appointed to appeal to the Bible Societies in the different counties for aid and coöperation. These appeals were nobly responded to throughout the State.

An extraordinary meeting of the Bible Society of the Borough of Princeton was held on the 3d of August, at which it was resolved to coöperate with the Nassau Hall Society in supplying the State. The New Jersey Bible Society also co-

operated heartily in the object ; and the aid and sympathy of all the leading laymen and clergy of the State were enlisted in the work, which was successfully accomplished.

The result showed that *seven thousand families* were found in the State destitute of the Bible ; and over thirty thousand souls without a copy of the Sacred Scriptures. The number of persons found unable to read or write was appalling. In reviewing the progress of education in common schools, and in Sunday schools, for the last half century, we cannot fail to recognize the marked influence of this Bible distribution movement, emanating from Princeton, and inspired mainly by the students and professors.

We have a number of the third volume of the "*New Jersey Sabbath School Journal*," bearing date March, 1829, which, though nameless as to the place of its publication, we judge, from its contents, was issued from the Princeton press. It was a monthly publication, containing sixteen duodecimo pages. There was a Sunday School Union organized in Princeton at that time, which was very energetic and prosperous.

During the period of eighteen years now under consideration—a period, as we have seen, of awakened activity in benevolent and philanthropic enterprises—being the natural outgrowth of Christian culture and education, the influence of the college and theological seminary, combined with the strong religious sentiment of the native population of Princeton, gave tone to the manners and type to the Christian faith of the community. Connected with the institutions were the families of Dr. Smith, Dr. Green, Dr. Alexander, Dr. Miller, Dr. Lindsley, Dr. Maclean, Dr. Carnahan, and others, most of whom were rising in their influence and strength. These will be noticed in connection with the institutions.

We have, in former chapters, referred to several of the prominent families of the town, who were not connected with the institutions of learning, such as the Stocktons, Bayards, Beattys, and others who were active in the church, as well as influential in social life. But during this period there were several other families in Princeton, of varied degrees of prominence, following various business pursuits, some more honora-

ble than others, yet all worthy of notice in the history of the past generations of the town. Some of these were professional men; some merchants; some mechanics.

DR. JOHN VANCLEVE was one of the most respectable physicians of Princeton. He was a native of Maidenhead, in Hunterdon County, a few miles from Princeton. He was graduated at Nassau Hall in the class of 1797, and practiced medicine in Princeton during his life. By his skill and high attainments in his profession, combined with an excellent Christian character, he won the confidence and respect of the community, with a large practice, and retained them till his death. His residence and office were upon ground now occupied by the University Hotel, in Nassau Street—the house once owned and occupied by Jonathan Deare, and recently removed to Bayard Avenue. In person he was tall and slender, with agreeable manners. His wife was a Miss Houston; and they had an interesting family of three sons, C. Houston, Horatio and John, and two daughters, Mary Anna, (who was married to Professor Gibbs of New Haven,) and Louisa. C. Houston Vancleve studied law and was admitted to the bar of New Jersey, in 1830, but soon after removed to the west, and has been dead several years. Horatio entered the army through West Point, and is still living.

Dr. Vancleve was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church of Princeton, from 1805 until 1826; and also a trustee from 1816 to 1823. He was a trustee of the college from 1810 to 1826; and he filled the chair of chemistry, in the absence of Dr. Maclean, in 1812; and just before his death, the friends of the college had expressed a desire that he should take charge of the medical department, and Richard Stockton of the law department, and give lectures therein, but the proposed establishment of those departments was not consummated.\*

He was president of the New Jersey Medical Society in 1815; corresponding secretary in 1810-1812; recording secretary, 1820-23—and was an active and prominent member of that association.

He died Dec. 24, 1826, aged forty-eight years, and was

\* Maclean's History of the College, vol. ii, p. 265.



buried in the Princeton burying ground. His death was greatly lamented.

FRANCIS DE HAES JANVIER, a coach-painter, was one of the most remarkable men in Princeton. In 1824, the Rev. James W. Alexander wrote a sketch of him in the fifteenth chapter of the *American Mechanic*, published by him under the name of Charles Quill. He did not at that time disclose the name of Mr. Janvier, but gave him the assumed name of "August." He introduced the description of him with a passage from Wordsworth, beginning :

\* \* \* \* "Strongest minds  
Are often those of whom the noisy world  
Hear least ; else surely this man had not left  
His graces unrevealed and unproclaimed."

He then describes him thus :

"It is now more than twenty-three years since I became acquainted with a coach-painter in a village of New Jersey. At that time he occupied a very small shop adjacent to a large building which was used by the coach-maker. Even in early youth I was led to observe something in the manner and countenance of this man, indicative of superior reflection. I shall conceal his name under that of August, which will point him out to many who knew him. As I advanced in life, I gained access to his painting room and his dwelling ; and as he was particularly kind to young persons, I passed in his company some of the pleasantest hours which it is my fortune to remember. August was then in the prime of his life, and his habits and character were then fully unfolded. In looking back upon the acquaintances of many years, I can declare with sincerity, that I have never known a more accomplished man. In his trade he was exemplary and approved. His taste led him to make excursions beyond the sphere of his daily work ; and I call to mind a number of portraits and fancy pieces, which ornamented his own house and the apartments of his friends. I am not prepared to say, however, that he was eminent as an artist. But there were various other walks of his life in which he was a master. He was fond of reading, to a degree which wholly interfered with the care of his business and his hearth. Indeed he was a devourer of books. Attached to his easel one was sure to find an open volume ; and sometimes he caused a favorite boy to read aloud while he was grinding his colors. I well remember that, on a certain day, when he had to walk five miles to do a piece of work, he travelled the whole distance book in hand ; it was a quarto volume of *Hobhouse's Travels*. There was nothing in the wide circle of English literature, so far as it is traversed by most profound scholars, with which August was not familiar. He had made himself master of the French language, spoke it with some facility and had perused its chief treasures. Among other evidences of his application he put into my hand a laborious translation from the French, of a work by *Leatude*, detailing the events of his long and cruel imprisonment—a narrative not unlike that of *Baron Trenck*. . . . I have vividly before my mind the scene, when August was busy with his palette, in a rude loft, and a little boy, seated on a work-bench, was pouring into

his delighted ear the early fictions of the author of *Waverly*. Sir Walter himself would have been repaid by the spectacle.

“Such tastes and habits gave a richness to his mind, and a refinement to his manners. August was fully suited to mingle with any group of scientific or literary men. His love of talk was unbounded and his hilarity most genial. I remember no acquaintance whose discourse was so stimulating or instructive. Many an hour of summer days I whiled away in his shop, listening to the sentiment, humor and wit, which would have graced any company I ever met. All this was without a trace of self-conceit or arrogance. His conversation was the easy overflowing of a full mind. It was always animated, and always arch; there was a twinkle of unutterable mirth in his expressive eye, which won regard and awakened expectation.

“August was a musician. This delightful art had been his solace since childhood. He played on several instruments, but the clarionet was that of which he had the greatest mastery. Often have I heard its clear melodious tones for successive hours on a summer evening. He seemed to use it as the outlet for those musings which found no vent among his ordinary associations; for most of his performances were voluntaries and fitful *capriccios*. Yet he was a sight-singer, and read even intricate music with ease. It was one of his whims to have a number of flageolets lessening by degrees, until the smallest was a mere bird-pipe with the ventages almost too near together for adult fingers. Such is the power of association, that to this day, I sometimes amuse myself with that feeblest of all instruments, a French flageolet, in affectionate recollection of poor August.

“I have heard that he sometimes wrote verses, but have never been so fortunate as to alight on any specimen. August was a man of poetic tendencies, living habitually above the influences of a sordid world, and seeking his pleasures in a region beyond the visible horizon of daily scenes. In this connection, I ought with great seriousness to mention, that during the years of my acquaintance with him, he was an open professor of Christian faith, which he exemplified by a life of purity, patience and benevolence. His family was a religious household. When he came to enter the valley of poignant trust with which his life terminated, he is said to have evinced great joyfulness of confidence in the propitiation and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Mr. Janvier was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church at Princeton from 1807 to 1824, the time of his death. He lived in the house on Mercer Street, now the residence of Miss A. M. Hageman; a house which Dr. Archibald Alexander and his family first occupied, at the commencement of the theological seminary, before the Alexander brick house and the seminary building were erected. The students recited to Dr. Alexander in the wing of this house, which was his study at that time. He died March 21, 1824, in the fiftieth year of his age. Mary Thompson Janvier, his wife, who was a daughter of Professor Thompson, of the college, died in 1829. Both were buried in the Princeton burying ground. They left sev-

eral children, viz. : William, Francis De Haes, Elizabeth, wife of Rev. John Newton, missionary to India ; James Thompson, and Margaret Janvier ; they are all deceased.\*

JOHN HARRISON was a merchant in Princeton, but not a native of the place. He came here after the Revolutionary war. He settled at Queenston and bought the farm which is now owned and occupied by Mr. Seger—known as the Harrison farm. If we have been correctly informed, he first opened a store at Queenston, but afterwards brought his business up to the property which A. L. Martin now owns, and which Thomas White occupied after Mr. Harrison, opposite the President's house. He succeeded Isaac Snowden, Jr., as treasurer of the college, and held that office from 1791 to 1794, under Dr. Witherspoon's administration. He was a trustee of the church of Princeton from 1796 till his death in 1816. He made a confession of his faith in 1814. He was also treasurer of the church, and in his will bequeathed a legacy of five hundred dollars to the trustees, for the use of the church, which was paid.

THOMAS WHITE came to Princeton from Virginia, and doing business as a merchant, resided here for many years. He was a good citizen, of much personal popularity ; with a family, which commanded the respect of the community, and which received the warmest friendship and admiration from a circle of young people who were recipients of their hospitality. He was attentive to the students of the college, and received a large share of their patronage, especially after he took the store in the brick house, which had been vacated by Robert Voorhees (now the Martin house, where Thompson's book

\* Francis D. Janvier's father's name was John ; he was a descendant from a French Huguenot family, and married in a Holland family by the name of De Haes. They had six sons and one daughter, viz. : John, of Cantwell's Bridge ; Francis D., of Princeton ; Sarah J. Briscoe, of Delaware ; Peregrine, a teacher who resided in Princeton, and afterwards in Baltimore, where he married and died ; the Rev. George W. Janvier, D.D., of Pittsgrove, New Jersey, who was the father of the late lamented Levi Janvier, D. D., a graduate of Princeton college and seminary, and missionary in India, who died there in 1864, from personal violence at the hand of a Sikh fanatic, leaving a widow and a son, C. A. Rodney Janvier, now in Princeton ; William, a merchant of Philadelphia ; and Levi, who died young, while a student in the sophomore class in Princeton College.

store is kept). He frequently served the public in local offices of the township of Montgomery, and of the borough.

Mrs. White was a Hamilton. They had four daughters, Cornelia, who was remarkable for her personal beauty and loveliness, Margaret, Mary and Elizabeth; and two sons, Thomas and Hamilton, but none are living in this State.

Thomas White served as a trustee of the Presbyterian church in Princeton from 1831 to 1837, when just before his death he resigned.

*DR. JAMES G. FERGUSON* was a physician in Princeton, contemporary with Dr. Van Cleve and Dr. Stockton. He studied medicine under Dr. Stockton, and began the practice under his auspices; and when towards the close of Dr. Stockton's life he withdrew in great measure from the practice, he recommended his patients to Dr. Ferguson. His father was Josias Ferguson, a native of Pennsylvania, who was a captain of a militia company in the Revolution. He married Mary Grier, who was honored for her piety. He was a justice of the peace in Princeton, for many years, and died in 1836, aged eighty-nine years, leaving his widow and four children surviving him, viz.: James, Matthew, Polly, and Grier.

Dr. Ferguson was a good physician—a man of sound judgment. His office and residence were next west of the Nassau Hotel—a property which he or his father obtained in exchange with Mr. Stryker, for his tavern property, and through which Jackson, Green and Quarry streets were laid out by a company who bought the land. He died in 1831, after his wife. They had one son, James G. Ferguson, who is now living in Princeton.

*JOHN S. WILSON*, who kept a store for many years on the corner of Nassau and Washington Streets—still known as Wilson's Corner—is remembered by many, as a very useful and respectable citizen of Princeton in his day. He filled many of the local public offices in the township, and was a member of the common council. He was an upright and religious man, and served in the office of ruling elder of the Presbyterian church in Princeton from 1821 to 1836, when he died. He was also a trustee of the church from 1826 to 1831. His wife

survived him several years. She was greatly respected for her devout and holy life. They were both buried in Princeton. They left two daughters, Maria, who was married to the Rev. E. D. G. Prime, and Sarah, who was married to the Rev. Frederick Knighton ; and one son, Dr. Joline Wilson, a physician, who went to Georgia to live, but died while a young man.

JOHN PASSAGE was long a citizen of Princeton, and widely known in his business relations. He came here after the Revolutionary war, and kept a bakery until he retired on a farm beyond Stony Brook. He was the master of his business, and had a reputation for making the best crackers in the United States. He made sales of them in large quantities, and sent them to New York and Philadelphia, and to the West Indies. They always had Princeton and his name impressed upon them. Gerardus Skillman, his successor, kept up the reputation of the bakery for many years, but there are no crackers manufactured at the present day equal to those of Mr. Passage.

Mr. Passage was of French extraction ; he was, a kind and obliging neighbor, with industrious habits. In politics he was a strong democrat. His wife, who survived him a few years, was noted for her benevolent and kindly nature, which made her to delight in opening her hand to the poor.

They had a large family ; four sons and five daughters. The sons were Thomas, Christopher, William and Joseph. They are all dead. The daughters were Margaret, who was married to the Rev. Francis C. Usher, who graduated at the seminary here in 1833 ; Marian, who is still living in Princeton unmarried ; Caroline, who was married to David Crawford, of Washington, who graduated in college in the class of 1824, and then settled in Alabama—a lawyer of fine promise, but who died young ; she also has been dead many years ; Adelaide, who was married to Alfred W. Clifton, now deceased ; she is living with her sister Marian, in Princeton ; and Catharine, who was married to the late Judge Pearson, of Illinois.

Mr. Passage first carried on his business in a house which stood where the Mansion House now stands, and his perma-

nent residence was on the lot now occupied by Miss Passage. It was burned down in 1839.

ROBERT VOORHEES was one of the most successful merchants of Princeton, and left, at his death, a considerable estate, accumulated in his business. He came to Princeton at the beginning of this century. We find his name among the liberal subscribers in the church to a fund for the Rev. Mr. Kollock, in 1804. He was elected a trustee of the church in 1815, and continued such till 1837. In 1826 he was appointed treasurer; and he was a ruling elder from 1835 till his death in 1838.

He was active in obtaining a charter for the Princeton Bank, and was its first president, from 1835 to 1838. He was a man of strict integrity; and in all financial matters he was responsible and trustworthy. He was liberal towards religious and benevolent societies, and was not, perhaps, as genial as he was conscientious. He bought the property, now the residence of Philip Hendrickson, after the death of Grace Little, the widow of Captain John Little, who had owned it and lived there. His place of business was for a long time in the house where Thompson's book-store is kept. He afterwards bought a property and built a store of large dimensions, where the post-office and printing office are now kept. Here he kept a large and first-class store of dry goods and groceries. At his death, he was the owner of a large number of dwellings in the town, and of a little farm on the west side of Witherspoon Street. His wife was Sally Norris, a native of Princeton—an aunt of the Rev. Dr. Edward Norris Kirk, of Boston, lately deceased, whom Mr. Voorhees had the honor of educating. The Princeton bank building was erected on the site of the old Norris residence. They had no children, but his kindred gathered around him, and after the death of his wife, his cousins, the Misses Anna and Susan H. Voorhees—(the former became Mrs. Bishop, and the latter Mrs. Dwight, by marriage,) and their brother, John Huron Voorhees, now of Washington, D. C., lived with him and were kindly remembered in his will.

Mr. Voorhees died in 1838, leaving a will, bearing date 1837-8, with his nephew Abram O. Voorhees, of New York,

who was a son of David Voorhees of New Brunswick, and his old clerk and friend, John Van Doren, his executors. His bequests to his kindred amounted to about fifty thousand dollars, of his personal estate—besides his real estate, which went chiefly in the same direction. He gave to the Foreign Missionary Society, two thousand dollars; to the American Bible Society, Home Missionary Society, American Tract Society, Presbyterian Education Society, each one thousand dollars; to the American Sunday School Union, five hundred dollars; and two thousand five hundred dollars to the Rev. Edward N. Kirk, to be distributed to such religious objects as he judged worthy and proper.

HART OLDEN, who has been mentioned in our sketch of the Olden family, was a merchant, who, except when in Trenton for some years, kept a store, first at Stony Brook, and subsequently for many years in Princeton. He purchased the Enos Kelsey brick property in Nassau Street, and there his family resided and he kept his store, till his death in 1841. His son Charles S. Olden, who became Governor of New Jersey, was trained in the mercantile business, but never carried it on in Princeton. His son Job G. Olden, was with his father and carried on the business at the old stand, after his father's death, for many years, and until he removed upon a farm near Princeton, in 1843.

Hart Olden was a man of the strictest integrity. He retained his connection with the Society of Friends till his death—though his children, especially his daughters, became identified with the Presbyterians. The family are all dead and buried in the Quaker burying ground at Stony Brook. Job, who married Miss Maria Boggs, of New Brunswick, died in 1876, and left one son, Charles H. Olden, who lives in Princeton, on the original Olden tract, and three daughters, Mrs. Dr. Abbott, Mrs. Rev. Peters, and Mary, who is unmarried. Mrs. Henry Clow, a daughter of Hart Olden, died after her father, leaving one daughter surviving her, and Mary, another sister, died unmarried, and Ruth, who was married to the Rev. Mr. Stebbins, died, leaving three daughters surviving.

There were many other families, who could properly be introduced here, as having occupied a place of some prominence in the business and social circles of Princeton, during this period, but we shall be obliged to refer to them in a subsequent chapter.



## CHAPTER VIII.

1830-1840.

Extraordinary Development of Material Interests—Construction of Delaware and Raritan Canal, and Branch Railroad—Controlling Influence of Princeton Men—The Cholera in 1832, and the Heroism of Wm. C. Alexander as Nurse—Rapid Strides of the Growth of the Village—New Streets opened and built up—Presbyterian Church in 1835 burned, and rebuilt—Princeton Bank organized—It stimulated Enterprise—Formation of Mercer County in 1837, changed the Relations of Princeton with Places of Revolutionary Associations—No moral Retrograde, with material Advancement—Various Associations formed—Visit of Drs. Reed and Matheson from England—*Monthly Journal of Education*, published—New Jersey Lyceum organized in Princeton—Its Influence on the Cause of Common Schools—New Jersey Agricultural Society organized at Princeton—Financial Reverses of 1837—Death of three Physicians, Dr. Horatio Sansbury, Dr. Samuel L. Howell, Dr. Alfred A. Woodhull—Rev. Dr. Rice succeeds Rev. Mr. Woodhull as Pastor—New Families added to the Society of Princeton in this Decade.

As in the last decade we noted an awakened activity in Christian benevolence and educational movements in Princeton, so now in the decade immediately following, we meet with an extraordinary revival and development of the material interests of the town.

The great work of constructing the Delaware and Raritan Canal, which passes so near this place, and which reflects so much credit upon the men who projected it and the capitalists who built it, as well as upon the State which has fostered it and received such large revenue from it, was commenced in 1832. It was finished in 1834. The public travel across the State in the old stage coach had now become, in a great degree, superseded by the Camden and Amboy Railroad, which formed a route from Philadelphia to New York by Camden and Amboy. For a short time, and until the branch railroad from Trenton to New Brunswick on the bank of the canal as far as Kingston, was built, the travelling route from Princeton

to the cities of New York and Philadelphia, was by the way of Hightstown, and thence by rail. The railroad on the canal bank, by Princeton, was ready for use in 1837, and it introduced a new era.

These two great public works—the canal and the Branch railroad,—may be said to have emanated from Princeton, which was the central source of the power and capital that created them. John Potter and his sons, James and Thomas Potter, and his son-in-law, Commodore Robert F. Stockton, James S. Green, Richard S. Field, John R. Thomson, and others, of Princeton, were prominently identified with these enterprises, both in their construction and management. Mr. John Potter invested largely in the capital of the company, and Commodore Stockton was the soul of the enterprise; and the official and controlling direction of the works was chiefly in the hands of these Princeton men. The basin at the canal and the railroad depot there, soon built up a prosperous business at that place and contributed largely to the material growth of Princeton.

In the year 1832, when the canal was being dug, that terrible scourge, the Asiatic cholera, broke out among the laborers, spreading consternation among all classes of the people. There were two or three hospitals improvised in the village, one of which was in the town-hall at the old market in the street where the late Col. William C. Alexander, then a young lawyer, voluntarily gave himself up, with true heroism, to the attendance as nurse, upon the dying victims, night and day. Very few of the native population were attacked by the disease.

We look back with wonder at the stride which the growth of the town took in those years. Edgehill High School, under the admirable government of Professor Patton, made its appearance and took rank among the best institutions of the country, and added much to the reputation and prosperity of the place. Old Jug-town, awaked from its sleep of years, and under the energy of John C. Schenck, assumed an air of business both mercantile and mechanical, and multiplied its houses and shops, with a hotel, chapel and factories, and had a large trade in pork, hay and produce.

Canal Street was opened and buildings were rapidly erected upon it. A tract of land of the estate of Dr. Ferguson, lying on the west side of Witherspoon Street, was bought by James S. Green, William Gulick, and William Cruser; and Jackson, Green, and Quarry Streets were laid out upon it; and lots were sold and houses built, with the rapidity of a western town. Prior to 1830, all the houses in the town, with few exceptions, were on Nassau and Witherspoon Streets. There were only three or four on Mercer Street, besides the seminary and the professors' houses.

There was no architect and builder in Princeton who gave so many years and so much capital to the erection of buildings, public and private, as Charles Steadman. He gave half a century of years to this business in this place. He bought land and built houses on it, and sold them as they were demanded. He owned more houses than any other man in Princeton. He built every house on Stockton Street, except the barracks, Mr. Tulane's and the original part of Morven, and perhaps one or two small ones; every one on Steadman Street; many on Mercer, Canal, and other streets. He built the seminary chapel—the Society Halls of the college—the Mansion House—the old bank—the James Potter house west of the bank—the first Episcopal church, and many others. He built the court house of Mercer, in Trenton, and several other buildings there, including the residence of Chancellor Green. He also had the contract for the House of Refuge at Kingston. He was a careful builder, and while his style of architecture has been succeeded by a more tasteful one, some of his largest and best structures are numbered among the first-class houses which adorn Princeton at the present time. His own residence was where Professor C. W. Hodge now lives. He died August 4, 1868.\*

The Episcopal church, a handsome Grecian building, was erected in 1833, on the lot now occupied by the present Episcopal church.

In 1835, the Presbyterian church, which had been burnt and rebuilt in 1813, was again laid in ashes, by a fire from a rocket

\* Henry W. Leard was the most prominent builder next to Mr. Steadman, and has erected some of the most imposing and beautiful structures in the town.

which had been set off in the celebration of the fourth of July of that year. It was promptly rebuilt, in an improved form.

In 1835, the Princeton Bank was organized, with a capital of ninety thousand dollars, a full account of which is hereinafter given. This institution was to the material, what the printing press was to the moral, interests of the town. It stimulated enterprise and improvement. It furnished capital to buy real estate, and build houses. It imparted unusual activity to business. The common council inaugurated public improvements in the borough. Pavements of sidewalks were laid through the main streets. The brick-yards of Whipple and Hartwick, on both sides of Rocky Hill Mountain, furnished an abundant supply of good bricks for paving and building; and a well-supplied lumber yard was opened in Canal Street. With plenty of money and material, the growth of the town was rapid for several years.

In 1837, the erection of a new county, called Mercer, in honor of Gen. Hugh Mercer, including Princeton and a portion of Montgomery township, with its capital at Trenton, was effected. This caused a great change in the ancient relations of Princeton to Somerville and New Brunswick. Lawyers, jurors, witnesses and parties, who had so long been accustomed to drive across the country to Somerset court, and in like manner to Middlesex court at New Brunswick, had to forego the pleasure of these court journeys and scenes, which had been attended with many amusing incidents and anecdotes. It was no unimportant change in the habits of the people of Princeton to be suddenly disassociated in business and intercourse with those two old counties, with which their fathers had been so intimately connected in Revolutionary times. It cut many strong ties, though it was a necessary step in the progress of things.

It was during this period when the Mansion House was built by Elijah Blackwell, for a hotel, and when the Whig and Clio Halls and East and West Colleges were erected. The college prospered under President Carnahan, and an able corps of Professors, Dod, Henry, Maclean, Alexander and Torrey; and the seminary was reaching its meridian splendor under

Professors Alexander, Miller, Hodge, Addison Alexander, and John Breckinridge.

With the material advancement of Princeton, there was no retrograde movement in its moral and intellectual forces.

In 1831, a society of young men was formed in Princeton "for mutual instruction and moral and intellectual improvement." The first lecture of a course on the evidence and authenticity of revelation, was given by Dr. A. Alexander. A scientific lecture on the "Compound nature and chemical properties of water," was given by Dr. George M. Maclean.

An association for the study of Natural Science was urged also—little attention being paid, at this time, to Botany, Geology, Mineralogy, etc.

In the same year, the ladies organized a society, called "The Female Society of Princeton for ameliorating the situation of housekeepers and the character of servants." The first article of the constitution, was—that the ladies composing the society, shall do, as far as possible, their own work. Other articles referred to the character of servants; one disapproving of their going out without leave, especially at night. This association never accomplished much good. It only arrayed the serving classes in hostile attitude towards the housekeepers; and yet, possibly, labor was dignified by such a society. The reform was short lived.

The Rev. Drs. Reed and Matheson, delegates from the Congregational Union of England and Wales, to the American Churches, in 1834, while travelling through this country, made a short visit to Princeton, which is described in vol. i, page 211-215, of their Narrative. They were the guests of Rev. Dr. Rice. Dr. Reed writes :

It was no sooner known that we had arrived, than Professors Alexander, Miller, and Dod, with other friends, very obligingly called on us; and throughout our short stay, showed us the kindest attentions. On the morning of the Sabbath, I worshipped at the theological seminary, and Mr. Matheson preached for Dr. Rice. I understood that Dr. Alexander was to preach to the students; he is much esteemed as a preacher, and I was desirous of hearing him. The service was in the lecture room; there were from eighty to one hundred young men present. It was an interesting occasion. I was glad to worship with a body of pious youth who were devoted to the ministration of the word of life; and to hear that worship led by so good and competent a man as their revered tutor.

I had declined preaching in the morning, on condition of occupying the pulpit

in Dr. Rice's church at night. In the evening, therefore, I walked abroad in the fields to meditate. In my way I passed by a number of cottages, tenanted by colored people. The doors and windows were all open. In one of them the father with his wife and children sitting around him, was reading with broken utterance, as if learning to read by reading. I was desirous of ascertaining what he was reading, and as I passed slowly along, I heard him utter the words, "show us the Father, and it sufficeth us." I scarcely know how it was, but the words from those lips were very touching. The old man seemed like the representation of his oppressed race craving in the midst of their wrongs, only one thing, and that the noblest. My thoughts glanced spontaneously to Him who is the common Father of us all; and I could not suppress the desire that whatever was denied, he might have the blessedness of that relationship.

Jersey is a free State, and of course the colored people who dwell here are free or in course of freedom. Much is said everywhere about the superior state of the slaves in habit, character and comfort, over these emancipated people. Certainly so far as the instance before me, the position must be reversed; for these people appear better, dress better, have better dwellings, and bring about themselves more of the comforts of life.

I closed my walk as the evening shut in, and hastened to the church. It was very full and the galleries were occupied entirely by collegians and youth. It was a serious and I would hope a profitable service. The heat was to me very oppressive here. . . .

Princeton is situated in a pleasant part of New Jersey, and is both rural and collegiate in its appearance. It is rural from the cottage style of the houses and the abundance of trees in the streets and elsewhere; and it is collegiate from the predominance of the colleges over the other erections. The means of religion are here abundant as compared with the population. . . .

On Monday they were introduced to the college, and attended the class examinations of President Carnahan and Professor Dod, and then they inspected the institution; the Narrative continues:

There is nothing special to remark except that Professor Henry promises to do much honor to the department of Chemistry. He has constructed a magnet of great capacity, which has raised a weight of three thousand five hundred pounds. The library is considerable and good. We saw here a set of the works which had been recently sent by our government to this and most of the colleges in this country. They are rare and expensive books, and a worthy expression of national regard. . . . Our attention was next engaged by the theological institution. It is entirely distinct from the college. It accommodates about one hundred and ten students; it is full, and the students are considered to be the subjects of true piety. Its provisions for their comfort are respectable. The library is small, but as a theological school, it is in good repute.

The burial-ground is an object of attraction here. It would be so, if for no other reason than that it contained the remains of President Edwards, Davies, etc.

We dined this day at Judge Bayard's. This worthy gentleman has passed some time in England as a Commissioner from the American government, and he had

strong partiality for the English. I met here again Drs. Miller and Alexander, and continued some profitable conversations on the state of religion.

The evening was spent at Professor Dod's, and in the society, I believe, of all the professors of the two institutions and some of their ladies. It was a delightful party, such as one does not meet in the common walks of life. It was refined, without being ceremonious; affectionate, without obtrusiveness; and well informed, without pedantry. Good taste prevailed in our accommodations and repast; and the conversations, while they were free as air, were rational, intelligent and elevated. Before we separated we all united in an exercise of social worship, which was such as most of us will, I dare say, long remember.

The next day we parted from our friends, and from Princeton, with great regrets that we could not stay longer. Nowhere had we met with more unaffected kindness; and it was increased by the eminence of the persons who expressed it.

The *Monthly Journal of Education*, published by Moore Baker and edited by E. C. Wines, made its first appearance in Princeton in January, 1835. It was neatly printed and ably edited, and contained about sixty-five pages in a number. While its general object was to promote education, it seems to have given special attention to the history and advancement of common schools. It probably grew out of that awakened interest in the discovered destitution of schools and need of teachers, which had been kindled in Princeton a few years before, and which was mentioned in the previous chapter.

The cause of common schools in New Jersey has always numbered among its leading advocates and promoters, Princeton men. This would, however, naturally be expected of such an educational town.

An association known as the *New Jersey Lyceum*, formed in 1834, subserving the cause of common school education, after the manner of the American Lyceum, was organized and sustained chiefly by citizens of Princeton. Rev. E. C. Wines, Prof. A. B. Dod, Prof. J. W. Alexander, Col. John Lowrey, James Vandeventer, were the executive committee of the association. Mr. Wines was the recording secretary, and Prof. James W. Alexander, corresponding secretary. Prominent citizens in other sections of the State were elected members. The lyceum held a special meeting at Trenton, in January, 1835, during the session of the legislature. Col. John Lowrey of Princeton presided in the absence of the Rev. Dr. Weeks, the president. And in the evening session a report of the executive committee was read by Mr. Wines, on the subject

of the common schools of the State, and the needed legislation. A series of resolutions was offered: among them, That it was the duty of a free State to provide for the education of her citizens: That it was indispensable that teaching should be made a distinct profession: That seminaries for the education of school-masters, were the only adequate means of supplying our State and country with competent teachers. These resolutions were ably and eloquently supported by Prof. Dod, R. S. Field, Esq., and Hon. Charles Kinsey of Bergen, and unanimously adopted. Mr. Field proposed a plan requiring a board of education, a superintendent of common schools and two seminaries for the education of teachers, with proper details, to be enacted by law.

It thus appears that the early agitation for a system of common schools, in the State, and for a normal school, originated in Princeton; and it is known that Mr. Field, by his persistent advocacy of the cause, lived to see the present system adopted, and the State normal school established, himself being its first president. In the preceding chapter we stated that Robert Baird, who was a tutor and teacher in Princeton, and afterwards became the distinguished secretary of the Evangelical Alliance, was one of the earliest and most efficient promoters of this cause in the State.

Speaking of the school system in 1829, then recently adopted in New Jersey, Dr. James W. Alexander, in a letter to Dr. John Hall, said, "It owes its passage to the zeal and labor of a single man, the Rev. Robert Baird, who has been keeping the subject before the minds of the people in newspaper essays for some months." Professor John Maclean engaged heartily with Dr. Baird in the same noble cause. Speaking of him, he says, "And to no one man was the State of New Jersey so much indebted as to Dr. Baird for the establishment of its system of common schools."

The paternity of the *New Jersey Agricultural Society* belongs to Princeton. It was a case of evolution. The Princeton Agricultural Society, which had existed for several years, and then began to aspire to a wider field of influence, proposed to change its name to the New Jersey Agricultural Society, and gave notice to the citizens of the State, who were



interested in the formation of a State Society, to attend their meeting for that purpose at Princeton, on the 10th of August, 1839. That meeting was held and a constitution for a State Society was adopted upon a report of R. S. Field and Charles S. Olden; and the officers of the Princeton Society were to act as officers for the State Society until the annual election in October. The society then adjourned to the chapel of the seminary, to hear an address by Judge Buel, of New York, which was delivered, after prayer by the Rev. Dr. Miller. The officers of the society, were Abraham Crusier, President; Caleb Smith Green, William Gulick, Peter Voorhees, John S. Van Dyke, Vice Presidents; Richard S. Field, Corresponding Secretary; George T. Olmsted, Recording Secretary; Emley Olden, Treasurer; Josiah S. Worth, George T. Browning, James H. Rogers, Charles S. Olden and Isaac V. Brown, Executive Committee.

This institution has maintained a thrifty and useful existence, from its formation till the present time. Its annual meetings at Trenton, in January, draw together the honorable citizens of the State who sustain it, and its annual reports attest its growing importance.

Princeton still maintains a local "Farmers' Club," which meets monthly, and is held in high esteem by its members.

The great financial revulsion in 1837, which spread so much desolation throughout the States, by depreciation of property and general bankruptcy, affected Princeton much, though not so much as it did many other communities. It arrested the march of improvements, which, for a few years before had been unprecedented. Though property changed hands, and failures took place, the improvements remained.

The scholarships and investments of the institutions, especially the theological seminary, became in many instances impaired.

The banks were by law relieved from paying specie. The currency consisted of depreciated and often worthless bank notes, and certificates issued by municipal corporations and private individuals. The slow process of collecting debts, by the tedious proceedings in the courts, was rendered more indulgent to debtors by stay laws. Business was paralyzed,

real estate depreciated, confidence destroyed,—and the result was a general bankrupt law, which was too unpopular to be tolerated longer than a year or two.

In the years 1834, 1835 and 1836, three practising physicians of Princeton died in early life greatly lamented. We notice them briefly in the order of their death.

*DR. HORATIO SANSBURY*, was a son of Ralph Sansbury, who had long been a respectable citizen of Princeton; who was for many years steward of the college, and a justice of the peace, which last office he held until his death, and while holding it, was a prominent scrivener, as is fully attested by the frequency with which his peculiar signature in capital letters is met affixed to deeds and legal documents drawn and executed in Princeton. He acquired, while steward in college, means to purchase a considerable real estate, and vested them in small farms or tracts of land. He was the owner of the property, now belonging to James Haffy, of New York, where Hallerman's saloon is kept, on Nassau Street, though his speculations did not ultimately succeed. He had several children; one of his daughters was the first wife of Henry Clow, and one of his sons was the above mentioned *Dr. Horatio Sansbury*, a native of Princeton.

*Dr. Sansbury* had been in practice only a few years when his health gradually failed, and the cherished hopes of his friends were blighted by his early death, November 4, 1834, in the forty-second year of his age. He left kindred still surviving him, in Princeton and its vicinity.

*DR. SAMUEL LADD HOWELL*, one of Princeton's most accomplished physicians and gentlemen, came to this place in January, 1826, and offered his professional services to the public, in the office of the late *Dr. John Vancleve*. Comely in person, affable in manners, universally polite, and plausibly challenging, among the best educated classes, a reputation for science and skill in his profession—with an attractive young family growing up around him, he rapidly took the first place in the affections and esteem of the citizens of Princeton. Without abandoning his large practice, he accepted a professorship of

Anatomy and Physiology in the college, and gave lectures therein, from 1830 till his death; and he had several students in his office at the same time, among whom were Alfred and John Woodhull.

The house now occupied by Professor Stephen Alexander, opposite Nassau Hotel, and next to the first Presbyterian church, was the residence of Dr. Howell at the time of his death. He bought it of John C. Schenck, who, in 1830, had bought it of Walter M. Skelton.

Dr. Howell adhered in his practice to the old school remedies of calomel and bleeding with unyielding tenacity; even in cases of cholera, when his patients were all dying under his treatment, he was reluctant to adopt such new remedies as the experience of other physicians had demonstrated to be absolutely necessary to arrest the fatal progress of the disease.

In the autumn of 1835, the home of Dr. Howell was invaded by a malignant fever, which prostrated several members of the family, and defying all medical remedies, suddenly terminated the life of both Dr. Howell and his son, William Meade Howell, then a student in college. The son died on the 4th of October; and the father on the 1st of November, aged forty-eight years. They were buried in the Princeton cemetery, where monuments were erected to their memory. There was great lamentation over this afflictive visitation of death.

The Rev. Dr. James W. Alexander, in a letter to Dr. John Hall, published in his *Familiar Letters*, vol. i, page 233, bearing date, Princeton, Nov. 3, 1835, said:

I have just come from the funeral of Dr. Howell, the best physician and one of the best friends I ever knew; and never has there been so sincere a general mourning in our village. The church was verily a *Bochim*. The doctor was signally a gentleman and a man of science. His integrity, his generosity, his public spirit, his delicacy, and his sensibility, were uncommon. He was a model of uncalculating liberality, and chivalrous honor; and all his failings were the running over at the brim of these virtues. Though bred a hickory Quaker, he was growing in religious knowledge, and has given to my mind, unequivocal evidence of faith in Christ, during his late trials. His son William preceded him a few weeks; his eldest daughter lies ill now, his second daughter is slowly recovering; his wife has had the early symptoms (typhus fever) as has his eldest son. Such a house of grief I never saw, and it has fallen chiefly on me to minister to these minds diseased. Out of this house, I know of no cases of the complaint, in this place.

Besides William, whose death has been mentioned, Dr.

Howell had two other sons, John and Harrison. The latter became a man of rare excellence, whose death within a few months past, inspired an obituary in the *Presbyterian*, paying a beautiful tribute to his character. He also had two daughters; Anna, noted for her beauty and loveliness, was married to Mr. Dodge, and is still living in Georgetown, D. C., and Sarah, who, we believe, was never married.

The late Richard L. Howell, an honored member of the New Jersey Bar, was a brother, and Mrs. Janeway, wife of the Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Janeway, was a sister of Dr. Howell. Dr. Benjamin Howell of this State is another brother.

DR. ALFRED A. WOODHULL was a son of the Rev. George Spafford Woodhull, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Princeton—a graduate of Nassau Hall, in the class of 1828, a student of Dr. Samuel L. Howell and a brother of the late Dr. John N. Woodhull, of Princeton. He was a lovely character, and a young physician of much promise, with the advantage of a fine personal appearance. He was just stepping into the practice of the late Dr. Howell, when in the year of 1836, he died, greatly lamented. He was at the time of his death a trustee of the Presbyterian church of Princeton. He married Miss Anna Maria Salomans, a granddaughter of President S. S. Smith. They left one child, who bears the name of his father, and who was graduated at Nassau Hall in the class of 1856,—Alfred Alexander Woodhull, M. D., a surgeon in the United States Army, a young man of much merit.

The Rev. George S. Woodhull who became pastor of the church in Princeton in 1820, and for twelve years thereafter as such filled an influential place in the community, resigned, and removed to another place in 1832. And thereupon in 1833, the Rev. Benjamin H. Rice, D. D., a brother-in-law of the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., was installed to fill the vacancy in the pulpit caused by Dr. Woodhull's resignation. Dr. Rice, a genial man, and Mrs. Rice, a superior and influential woman, with their family of bright and interesting sons and daughters, were a valuable acquisition to the society of Princeton. And during the decade now under considera-

tion, there were many other prominent families who came to Princeton, and took up their permanent residence here ; among them were the families of Professor Joseph Henry, Professor Stephen Alexander, Professor Albert B. Dod, Professor James W. Alexander, James Potter, Richard S. Field, John R. Thomson, Rev. John Breckinridge, Rev. E. C. Wines, Professor John S. Hart, Dr. William Forman, Col. Alexander M. Cumming, Rev. George E. Hare, Dr. Jared I. Dun, Louis P. Smith, Miss Theodosia Prevost, and a few others who designed to take only a temporary abode here.

These, with the old families previously planted here, constituted a large, intelligent and influential society, with grave responsibilities, in the presence of the large number of youth gathered here for literary and theological culture.

## CHAPTER IX.

1840-1850.

The Presidential Campaign—Funeral Ceremonies of General Harrison in Princeton—Robert E. Hornor appointed Postmaster—Decapitated by President Tyler—Issues a Manifesto—John R. Thomson Candidate for Governor under New Constitution—Defeated through the Enthusiasm for Clay and Frelinghuysen—Lenox Hall built by James Lenox and presented to the Seminary—Change of Commencement from September to June, made in 1844—Its wonderful Effect—Case under the Fugitive Slave Law—Trial by Jury—Slave remanded—His Liberty purchased by a Lady, and set free in Princeton—Delegates from the Free Church of Scotland—Centennial of the College in 1847—Law School established—Building erected—Railroad Disaster near Princeton—The Wounded nursed at the Basin—Deaths and Notices of Peter, John and David N. Bogart, Col. John Lowrey, Professor A. B. Dod, Dr. William Forman—Removals.

THE year 1840 was memorable for the great political presidential campaign, in which there was an uprising of the people to elect Gen. Harrison President. Princeton, with its log-cabin headquarters in the centre of the village, did not escape the contagion of that aroused spirit which swept over the States. The financial condition of the country was greatly depressed, finding relief in a bankrupt law which was retained in force only a short time.

Gen. Harrison having been elected President, died in about a month after his inauguration. He had made a short visit to Princeton, while a candidate; was introduced to the college, and was presented to the assembled people, on the steps of the college library, where he made a very short address. His sudden death was a mournful event especially to his political friends. His funeral ceremonies observed in Princeton, were solemn, and very generally attended, and were both civic and military. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller preached a funeral discourse on the occasion, to a crowded audience in the Presbyterian church.

President Harrison, while in office, appointed Robert E. Hornor, who had been a very active Whig in the Harrison campaign, postmaster in Princeton. When Mr. Tyler became President, upon the death of President Harrison, and became estranged from the Whig party, he effected many changes among the office-holders, who did not sympathize with him in his new departure. Among those who were decapitated, was Mr. Hornor, the Princeton postmaster. The *Princeton Whig* issued an extra sheet, one page of which was filled with Mr. Hornor's statement of the manner he had been treated by President Tyler and a few Tylerized politicians of Princeton, whom he arraigned as the responsible actors in the scene. The narrative was filled with letters and certificates of the most distinguished persons in the town, including professors of the college and seminary. The appointee who superseded Mr. Hornor was Dr. A. J. Berry, a democrat. Mr. Hornor was clearly shown by the evidence, to have been an unexceptionable officer; and his removal was the exercise of arbitrary power, such as had been used before that time, and has been since, under other administrations. But in this case the officer removed obtained access to the files of the post-office department at Washington, and by his pertinacity and industry, made up a record that excited much public interest for him, but with no remedial result.\*

A new constitution for the State of New Jersey was adopted in 1844, superseding the old one which had been formed July 2, 1776. John R. Thomson of Princeton, had exerted himself by public lectures, and newspaper articles, to obtain a State Convention to frame this new constitution; and he and Richard S. Field were elected members of that convention. So prominent had Mr. Thomson been in procuring the change, that the democratic party, to which he belonged, nominated him as their candidate for Governor of the State under

\* President Tyler and suite, viz: Wickliffe, wife and two daughters, Spencer, etc., visited Princeton, and remained over Sabbath there, in June, 1843. They were guests of Com. Stockton. They left on Monday morning with music and a great cortège following them. As the cavalcade passed the residence of J. S. Green, Dr. Ashbel Green came out; on which Mr. Tyler rapidly dismounted from his chariot and four, and uncovered himself to the old man,—the only impressive scene in the melodrama.—*Familiar Letters of J. W. Alexander, D. D.*

the new constitution. The contest being blended with the Presidential contest, in which Clay and Frelinghuysen were warmly supported by the Princeton people and by the whole State, receiving a majority of votes, Mr. Thomson was defeated by his opponent Mr. Stratton.

The financial condition of the country had now improved ; and there was evidence of it in some improvements in the town, prominent among which was Lenox Hall, the beautiful Gothic structure erected by James Lenox of New York, and presented to the theological seminary for a library building, on a beautiful lot of land on Steadman Street, extending from Mercer to Stockton. It cost not less than thirty thousand dollars.

A case under the Fugitive Slave law of the United States, exciting no little interest, occurred in Princeton in 1843. A slave belonging to Mr. Philip Wallis of Maryland, escaped from his master and came to Princeton. He was recognized here by Mr. Thomas—a student in college, from the neighborhood of the owner. Information was given to the owner by Mr. Thomas. The writer was retained professionally on behalf of the claimant, and the papers were prepared according to law to secure the recovery of the slave. The proceedings were instituted before Col. John Lowrey, a Justice of the Peace, who issued a warrant to Ralph Gulick, constable, by virtue of which the slave, who was known by the name of James Collins, (now residing here and known by the name of James C. Johnson,) was arrested and brought before the magistrate. He appeared with William C. Alexander as his counsel, who denied the right of the claimant, and demanded a trial by jury under the State law. The son of the claimant, S. Teakle Wallis, an eloquent and accomplished lawyer of Baltimore, still residing there, appeared, and assisted in supporting the claim. He made an able argument denying the constitutionality of the State law which gave a right of trial by jury in such cases, and supporting his motion by a United States judicial decision applicable to the case. The defendant's counsel appealed to the Justice to stand by the State law, which he did, and allowed a trial by jury to proceed. A jury of good and reputable freeholders was summoned and sworn,



and the case was tried at the city hotel, amidst great excitement, caused especially by the southern students, who feared that opposition to the Fugitive Slave law would be so great as to defeat the claim of the owner. They also apprehended that an effort would be made by the colored men of the town to rescue the slave if he should be remanded to the owner. Marshal Jeffries of Baltimore, was on the ground to take possession of the slave in case the claim of the master should be established.

The evidence produced was clear and irresistible. The case was submitted to the jury after arguments by all the counsel in the case, and the jury rendered a verdict for the claimant, upon which the Justice made an order, handing over the slave to the marshal who was authorized by the owner to receive him and take him to Maryland. The excitement now became very high. The fugitive was taken and held in close custody in an upper room in the Nassau Hotel, for that night and the next day, during which an effort was made by some of the good people of Princeton to purchase of the owner the liberty of the slave. The price demanded by the owner was five hundred and fifty dollars, and this price was paid by Miss Theodosia Prevost—a lineal descendant of President Witherspoon—a lady then living in Princeton, but having formerly lived in the south. Captain Thomas Lavender aided and facilitated the purchase of the liberty of this remanded slave, but it was really the act of Miss Prevost and she is entitled to the credit of it. She paid the money and set the captive free. The expenses in recovering the fugitive, amounted to about half of the price obtained for him. But the case stands as a testimony somewhat rare, where an unpopular and odious law was sustained by an independent court and jury, one of the jurors being a Quaker, (Josiah S. Worth,) and others of Quaker descent, in a community where the colored population is estimated at five hundred, without a riot or arrest for disorder; and yet here such a case was novel and peculiarly revolting to the moral sense of the community. It was homage to law—to the constitution of the United States, and not a want of sympathy for a poor slave seeking his liberty, that is notable in this case.

It is proper to state, as a part of the history of this case, that the redeemed slave, upon gaining his liberty, applied the wages of his industry as fast as he received them to the payment of the money advanced by Miss Prevost for him. He shows with pride the book opened for him, in which his ransom was charged on one side, and his work credited on the other side of the account, until in the course of three or four years, he cancelled the debt, and reimbursed his generous benefactress.

In the year 1844, a change in the time of holding the commencement of the college was adopted which produced a notable effect upon—almost an obliteration of—a kind of saturnalia, which had been maintained in Princeton since the college had become thoroughly established here. Previous to this time the annual commencement had been held in the fall of the year—the latter part of September,—and it was the great public holiday of the year, attended by thousands of people, many of whom took no interest in the college exercises, but came for amusement and to see the sights. The town was filled with vehicles and horses and all classes of persons. The main street, in front of the college and church, was filled with booths and wagons from which were retailed liquor and refreshments. Politicians invariably made this occasion a time for political caucusing and electioneering in anticipation of the elections which came soon after that time. The old road, now Stockton Street, was on such occasions a race course, where the speed of horses was tried in the presence of a great crowd. Princeton commencement was New Jersey's gala-day—a day in the calendar, by which time was calculated by the common people. Farm hands within a circuit of twenty miles distant from this place, were stimulated to finish their sowing of wheat in time to go to commencement.

President Maclean, in the 2d volume of his *History of the College*, pages 80, 81, refers to a resolution the trustees adopted in 1807, viz: "That no person whatsoever be permitted to erect any booth or fix any wagon, for selling liquor or other refreshment, on the day of commencement on the ground of the college, except on that part of the road to the eastward of the middle gate of the front campus," and then adds:

It is probable that the custom here referred to had prevailed from the establishment of the college in Princeton, and it grew out of the circumstance that the day of commencement occurring in the autumn, a season of comparative leisure to the people of the State generally, it came to be regarded as a public holiday for all classes of persons residing in Princeton, and in the adjacent country for miles in all directions, most of whom came together on commencement occasions, not to witness the college exercises, but to hold, as it were, a kind of saturnalia, in which everybody felt at liberty to take part in any amusement or entertainment he thought fit. Hence the street in front of the college and of the church, where the commencement exercises were held, was wont to be crowded with wagons and tables and with hundreds of men, women and children bent upon nothing but amusement, and by their boisterous merriment in the vicinity of the church, disturbing, not indeed of set purpose, but almost of necessity, the public speaking of candidates for degrees. This no doubt was the occasion of the adoption of the above resolution, limiting the erection of booths and tables to the eastward of the middle of the college grounds on the main street of the village, as it then was, or borough as now.

Eating and drinking, dancing and fiddling, playing for pennies and testing the speed of their horses were the amusements in which no small numbers of those assembled on such occasions were wont to indulge. And when a lad, the writer once witnessed a bull-baiting on the college grounds, while the exercises were going on in the church. No permission was asked or deemed necessary by those engaged in this cruel sport. But from all these unhappy accompaniments of the commencement exercises, the college was entirely relieved by simply changing the commencement from the last Wednesday in September, to the last Wednesday in June.

It is true, indeed, that idle sports were held in check and greatly diminished by the borough authorities after the incorporation of the village in 1813 or 1814, but not until the change in the time of holding commencement did they wholly disappear.

There is but little resemblance between the commencements now held in June, when strangers who attend come by railroad, and admittance to the exercises is by ticket, and the ancient commencements when everybody came by every mode of travel, except by rail, and no limitation by ticket excluded from the church.

In the spring of the year 1844 and the winter preceding, Princeton was favored with visits from several distinguished delegates from the Free Church of Scotland, while in this country. They came to awaken sympathy and obtain aid, in behalf of that grand and costly movement of that body known as the Free Church of Scotland. Our Princeton Presbyterians extended to them their warm sympathy, attested by the accompanying gift of five hundred dollars to their cause. Dr. Cunningham and Dr. Burns, who ranked among the eminent

preachers of Scotland, preached several times on different occasions in Princeton, to crowded and delighted audiences. Mr. Lewis of Dundee, also preached with much acceptance. Mr. Fergusson, an elder, a merchant of Dundee, delivered an eloquent address in the first church, of an hour and three-quarters long, to a captivated audience.

There was a centennial celebration of the college of New Jersey in the year 1847. Dr. James W. Alexander delivered the centennial oration, which was a valuable and eloquent historical sketch of the college and families of Princeton. The address was delivered in the Presbyterian church, but the alumni and strangers dined under a tent in the campus, where there were many speeches made in response to toasts. James S. Green, one of the trustees, presided. There was an unusually large concourse of people assembled. The address and proceedings were published in pamphlet. The honorable Henry W. Green, Chief Justice, Professor elect in the Law Department just established by the college, also delivered an address on the occasion, in reference to that enterprise, which was published in the centennial pamphlet.

The Princeton *Law School* was instituted and connected with the college in 1847, and the stone building on Mercer Street at the head of Canal Street, now Ivy-Hall library, was erected by R. S. Field for offices and law lectures by the professors of the law department. The building cost about five thousand dollars; and after the discontinuance of the law school in 1855, it was used for the offices of the joint companies. When the sceptre of Camden and Amboy departed from Princeton, the building was sold by the companies and bought by Mrs. John R. Thomson, its present owner, who generously appropriates a portion of it for the free use of Ivy-Hall library.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1847.

In 1849, a terrible railroad disaster occurred between Clarksville and the Princeton depot, a few miles from Princeton, on the bank of the canal, the train running off the track upon the switch, which had been carelessly left open. Cars were smashed and passengers were killed, wounded or fright-

ened. They were not overturned into the canal. A portion, perhaps a dozen of those who were badly wounded, were carried to the Princeton depot, and there in the canal office building, were attended by nurses, physicians, and ministers of the gospel from Princeton.

Dr. James W. Alexander, in one of his Familiar Letters, dated Princeton, August 11, 1849, refers to the accident as follows :

The only critical case among the car-wrecked people is that of Walters. Mr. Schenck, Dr. Maclean and Dr. Hodge, have been daily with the afflicted. Three of them have chiefly fallen under my notice; one of them is a black woman, a seemingly pious Baptist. Another—dreadfully hurt in the legs—wounds a hand's breadth deep with iron screw in bottom of one—is a good looking German tanner from Magdeburg. He cannot speak a word of English. This morning it occurred to me to quote the beginning of the hymn, "O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden;" he immediately repeated the whole fourteen stanzas of eight lines each; it was evidently to him an act of devotion. He also repeated two other long hymns, highly evangelical but new to me. What an instance of the good of hymns got by heart! Next to him lies a New York Yankee, who, perhaps, does not know one, though the more intelligent and possibly the more pious of the two. The company spare no pains; indeed no pains or price can neutralize the effect of the testimony before the coroner. Our lives have all been at the mercy of a switch-tender, who may be miles away. I think it a kindly Providence that the sufferers are where they can receive so much soothing and useful truth.

There was nothing to mark any special advancement in the growth of Princeton during this decade. It was slowly recovering from the general depression prevalent throughout the country, at the beginning of this period. Real estate was gradually rising from its sudden depreciation, but very few new buildings were erected. The institutions of learning were keeping even pace with the slow progress of the times. The Necrological Report would seem to indicate rather that the community had lost, by the death of its citizens, more than it had gained by the accession of new families. Without adverting to those prominent men, whose death occurring during this period, was noticed in previous chapters, it is proper to note some cases which have not yet been mentioned; and the first that meets our eye is the family of the Bogarts.

PETER BOGART was long a citizen of Princeton—the head of a respectable family—a merchant in the earlier years of his residence here. He was for several years steward of the theo-

logical seminary, and in the closing years of his life he was notary public and assistant teller in the bank. He lost his wife, Ann Nevius, Dec. 27, 1832. He became a member of the Presbyterian church a few years before his death. He died March 4, 1849, seventy-three years of age, and was buried in the Princeton cemetery.

JOHN BOGART was a son of Peter Bogart. He was a printer by trade, and followed that occupation in Princeton. He lived only till he was thirty-one years old, and died May 25, 1842. His wife, Phebe Stoddard, died September 24, 1848.

DAVID NEVIUS BOGART, was also a son of Peter Bogart. He was graduated at Nassau Hall in the class of 1827; read law with James S. Green, and opened an office in Princeton. He married Sarah Disborough, a daughter of Judge Daniel Disborough, of Millstone, in Somerset County. He belonged to the democratic party in politics, and was an amiable man with agreeable manners and a respectable practice. He was a trustee of the Presbyterian church from 1838 till his death. He died May 5, 1844, thirty-five years of age. His widow and two sons survived him and reside in the city of New Brunswick.\*

The death of Mrs. Dr. Benjamin H. Rice, March 6, 1844, was much lamented by the whole community. She was a woman of the highest excellence, a wife of the pastor of the church in Princeton, and a sister of the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D. This event was followed by the resignation of the pastorate of Dr. Rice, in 1847, which was soon followed by the whole family removing from Princeton. The Rev. William E. Schenck succeeded Dr. Rice.

COL. JOHN LOWREY came to Princeton from Philadelphia when a young man. He was a tailor by trade, and became one of the public citizens of Princeton, always occupying some official or public position in the town. His taste for military

\* Eliza, a daughter of Peter Bogart, was married to the Rev. William Neil of North Carolina. There was another sister known as "Pink" Bogart, who went to reside with Mrs. Neil at the south. Gilbert Bogart the oldest son of Peter Bogart, after graduating at Nassau Hall in 1824, went to the south and engaged in teaching. William, the youngest son, lives at Savannah, Georgia.

life early interested him in the State militia, and he was for many years captain of the "Princeton Blues," a fine volunteer company of infantry, which he trained to be one of the most attractive and efficient companies in the State. He afterwards received military promotion and became colonel in the militia. He was Mayor of the borough, Judge of the Common Pleas, Justice of the Peace for many years, and served the public in various local offices of the township and the borough. He served a year in the board of trustees of the Presbyterian church, and was a ruling elder from 1826 to 1845. He was an obliging man, and was confided in by the whole community. He was elected a member of the House of Assembly of New Jersey, from Mercer County, and held that place at the time of his death, January 19, 1845. His residence was next east of James Vandeventer's drug store, and has become the Mercer Hall property. He was twice married. By his first wife, Miss Nicholson, he had two children; his last wife, Miss Elfry, still survives him. They have two children, Susan, (Mrs. De Graw,) and John, who graduated at Princeton college, and at the seminary in 1857, and is a Presbyterian minister of much ability, at one time occupying the Throop Avenue church in Brooklyn.

The death of Professor Albert B. Dod, Nov. 16, 1845, though more fully noticed in connection with the college, may here be noted in its bearing upon the community. Professor Dod was more than a professor and more than a clergyman. He was an active, vigilant, patriotic citizen,—taking an interest in public matters—in local as well as in general elections—mingling with the people at town meetings—advocating and voting for appropriations of money for the public schools, and other objects according to law. Though a Whig in politics, he was never blind to the claims of justice and good government. He was a strong man before the public on all occasions; he was quick, courageous and magnetic. He was ready and eloquent in speech, and a safe counsellor in matters of public interest. For these manly qualities and helpful services, Professor Dod, as a citizen, was greatly beloved, and his death was deeply deplored. He occupied the house where Professor Stephen Alexander now lives.

DR. WILLIAM FORMAN was a learned and skilful physician, recognized as such by the most distinguished members of the New Jersey Medical Society, of which he was an honored member, having filled its highest offices. He had a high enthusiasm for his profession; and in order to a good foundation for success, he entered a drug store in Philadelphia, where he mastered the subject of pharmacy. He then studied medicine under the Hon. Dr. Holcombe, of Allentown, in Monmouth County, and graduated in the Medical University of New York. He first commenced the practice in Paradise, Pennsylvania, and then removed to Allentown, New Jersey, where he lived and followed his profession for many years. Dr. Samuel L. Howell, of Princeton, during his last sickness sent for Dr. Forman to attend him professionally; and upon the death of Dr. Howell, Dr. Forman was urged by some of the most influential of Dr. Howell's friends and patrons, to come and settle in Princeton, pledging him a certain salary for his professional services in their families. Though his health was infirm, he yielded to their request and came to Princeton in 1835.

Dr. Forman's practice in Princeton was not very extensive, but it embraced most of the influential families of the town. He did, however, attend, when his health permitted, the poor and the wretched, without any hope of remuneration. His patients had great confidence in his knowledge and skill, though he was not perhaps, the most popular physician in Princeton.

Dr. Forman had a brilliant mind and was well informed; possessing fine conversational powers and a literary taste. He owned and occupied at the time of his death the old historic mansion of Dr. Vancleve on Nassau Street, which the University Hotel pushed into Bayard Avenue.

In the early part of the year 1848, a malignant typhoid fever prevailed in several prominent families upon whom Dr. Forman attended as their physician. He was very faithful to his patients in these cases; and by his exposure and overwork added to his delicate health, he took the fever himself, and died February 22, 1848, about fifty-two years of age. His only son, Alexander Reed Forman, who graduated in college, with the class of 1842, and had been studying medicine, died



at home with the same fever, about two weeks before the father's death.

Dr. Forman married Eleanor Quay, a daughter of Samuel Quay, an Irish gentleman who lived in Allentown; her mother was a Scotch lady, a Miss Montgomery. The Quay family was one of the most respectable families of Monmouth County. Mrs. Forman had two maiden sisters who removed to Princeton with her, both having died here. Dr. Forman left his widow and three daughters surviving him. Mrs. Forman is now dead, but the daughters, viz: Caroline, who was married to Professor Stephen Alexander, Lucy Montgomery, and Eliza, who are unmarried, are all living in Princeton.

The resignation of Dr. James W. Alexander, Professor in the college, and his removal to New York in 1844, was a felt loss to Princeton, for he adorned every place which was honored by his presence. In like manner the removal of Professor Joseph Henry in 1847, to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, following so soon after the death of the lamented Professor Dod, intensified the painful sense of Princeton's loss by such events. This distinguished professor who is one of nature's noblemen—a philosopher devoted to the investigation of the laws and mysteries of nature, and to the application of the physical sciences to the arts—was nevertheless a citizen who, with the greatest simplicity and Christian humility, coöperated with his fellow citizens, in supporting the interests of religion and civil government—holding office in the board of trustees of the Presbyterian church, and other benevolent associations in the community.

## CHAPTER X.

1850-1860.

The *Princeton Magazine*—Introduction of Gas-light—Market-House Controversy—Two Great Lights extinguished in the Death of Dr. Miller and Dr. Alexander—Tragic Death of Dr. Dunn—Professor John Maclean elected President of the College in place of President Carnahan—Nassau Hall again burned in 1855, and rebuilt—Printing Office, Machine-shop and Foundry of Mr. Robinson burnt—College Horn-sprees—Students indicted for assaulting Officers—Battle of Princeton celebrated by Sham Fight, in 1858—Rev. Dr. Nott preached in Princeton—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's first Lecture—John P. Stockton appointed Minister to Rome—Charles S. Olden elected Governor of the State—*Princeton Standard* established—Several palatial Residences and other Buildings erected.

THE period now under consideration is more notable for important events and changes affecting the history of Princeton, than the last preceding one. The first issue of the *Princeton Magazine*, a monthly journal edited by William C. Alexander, bears date January, 1850. It was printed at the Princeton Press office by John T. Robinson. The Rev. Drs. Archibald, James and Addison Alexander were contributors. It will be further noticed in a subsequent chapter specially devoted to that class of subjects.

It was during this year also that a gas-light company was organized in Princeton, under a charter for that purpose. The company erected their works on a part of the old Dr. Wiggins property, in Witherspoon Street; and the introduction of this light into the houses and streets of the town marked very decidedly the advance of enterprise in Princeton.

In the year 1850 an effort was made, through the common council, to erect a market-house in the main street. The one which had been there since the incorporation of the borough, if not before, had been for many years removed from the street. Public sentiment was almost equally divided on this

question, and the opposition to the erection of the market house was very decided. As the erection of the building had commenced, Mrs. Henry Higgins filed a bill and obtained an injunction in chancery, restraining the workmen from proceeding. Testimony was taken and the case was argued before Chancellor Halsted in Mercer Hall, in Princeton, upon a motion to dissolve the injunction.

The chancellor avoided the question raised, whether there was power under the charter to provide by taxation the means to build a market-house and whether such a building could be lawfully erected in the public highway or street, but held that the dwelling house of the complainant, though rendered less eligible as such thereby, was not so injured as to make this a case of nuisance which would authorize the interposition of a court of equity, and dissolved the injunction. The case is reported in 4 Halst. Chancery Reports, p. 309.

The market-house was finished, and for a few years it was patronized generally by the butchers under a stringent ordinance, but it did not continue long before it was abandoned; and finally the building was sold and removed out of the street.

It was on the 7th day of January 1850, that the Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., who had been the Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Church Government in the theological seminary since 1813, died in his eighty-first year; and in the following year, October 22, 1851, his distinguished colleague, the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., who had been Professor of Theology since the origin of the seminary in 1812, followed him, being in his eightieth year. The death of these two great men, who had been planted here together at the formation of the seminary, and now, after nearly forty years of coöperative labor in the same institution, transplanted above almost together, cast a heavy gloom over the institutions and society of Princeton. It was the putting out of two great lights. For, not only in the seminary lecture-room but in the pulpit, in church courts, and in public assemblies, in the streets and in private life, in printed volumes and in little tracts, these men had exhibited so much wisdom, and such model character in their lives, that their departure was sincerely

mourned, and left a vacuum not easily filled. They will be more specially noticed, however, in the chapter on the seminary.

The Rev. James W. Alexander, D. D., who had been absent from Princeton in New York since 1844, now returned to Princeton, to fill the chair which Dr. Miller had occupied.

In January, 1851, the community was not a little shocked by the death of DR. JARED IRWIN DUNN, one of the principal physicians of Princeton, who had been settled here for about twenty years. Dr. Dunn came from Washington, and married a daughter of Robert Bayles, of Kingston. He was a very handsome man, with gentle manners, and was a very skilful and successful physician. He had a large practice and the implicit confidence of his patients. He took much interest in public affairs; was a strong democratic politician, and served as a member of council. He had many warm friends, and he rendered a large amount of professional service to the poor families for which he never received recompense. His last residence and office before his death, were in the Captain Moore house. He attended the Episcopal church.

Dr. Dunn attended the inauguration of Governor Fort at Trenton; and in the evening of that day at about nine o'clock, he started from the Trenton House in his sulky to go home,—a distance of ten miles. His horse was one of high mettle, but had been used so much by the doctor, that he was supposed to be safe and manageable; but when about half way home, the horse started and ran away dragging the doctor for some distance, and leaving him dead on the road. He was found and brought to his home, and was buried in the Princeton cemetery, amidst a sympathizing and sorrowing community. He left a widow and two daughters—the older, Virginia, Mrs. Prof. Langlotz, lives at Trenton; the other, Georgiana, was married to the Rev. Mr. Coyle, now at Bridgeton, New Jersey. He left two sons, who went to the south: one is living.

In May, 1851, Robert E. Hornor, who has been mentioned before, died in Princeton. He was a lineal descendant of John Hornor, one of the first settlers here in 1696. Robert was a son of Isaac Hornor. He kept a store at Queenston when a young man, but subsequently established a newspaper in the

town, called the *American System*, and afterwards, the *Princeton Whig*. He was one of the most active politicians in the State, and was well known among the prominent politicians at Washington, and throughout the United States. He was an obliging citizen and felt it to be his duty to be vigilant over public interests generally. He would take more trouble to keep up a party organization in the community than any other man; and since he died, no one has been found to fill his place. He was a Quaker, of the Hicksite school. He left some property, and left Charles S. Olden executor of his will. He never married. He was buried at Stony Brook.

The Rev. James Carnahan, D. D., who had been President of the college since 1823, resigned, and was succeeded by the Rev. John Maclean, D. D., in June, 1854. Dr. Carnahan retired from the presidential mansion to his farm on the east side of Witherspoon Street, where John Murphy resides. He afterwards removed to Newark and lived with his daughter, Mrs. McDonald, and died there March 2, 1859.

The Rev. James M. Macdonald was installed pastor of the first Presbyterian church in Princeton in 1853.

Peter I. Voorhees, who had been a merchant in Princeton for fifteen years and upwards, and had been a trustee of the first Presbyterian church, died April 22, 1853, leaving a widow and several children.

Josiah S. Worth of Worth's Mills, a descendant of Joseph Worth, one of the first settlers—a public man, useful and respected in this part of the State—died in June, 1854, leaving a widow, but no children.

The town was visited by a serious calamity on March 10, 1855, by the burning of Nassau Hall. The fire originated in the room of one of the students, while he was absent, at about nine o'clock in the evening. The weather was very cold, the wind high; the citizens, students and fire companies, exerted themselves to the utmost of their ability to suppress the flames, but all efforts were futile. The whole structure, save the old walls which had withstood the fire of 1803, was consumed. The most of the furniture in the rooms was rescued. The old bell went down and was ruined. The spectacle

of the fire was sad and sublime, and was seen for many miles distant on every side. The exclamation was general: Nassau Hall in flames! Nassau Hall in ruins!

The structure was rebuilt upon the old walls without delay, and made fire-proof and rather more ornamental. Gov. Price in a proclamation or message to the Legislature of New Jersey, recommended an appropriation by the State, to aid the college in rebuilding, but no aid was granted.

It was June 21, 1855, when another disastrous fire occurred in Princeton. The printing office and machine shop driven by steam, connected with the foundry of John T. Robinson, editor of the *Princeton Press*, took fire in the night and were totally consumed. The shops were established principally to manufacture the Robinson patent power presses—three of which were consumed and destroyed in the fire; also all his patterns, type, etc. Mr. Robinson's loss was heavy but he rebuilt immediately and reestablished his printing office, and the machine shop and foundry, which were kept up for several years thereafter, until his death.

A college horn-spree, in the year 1855, in the public street, was so disorderly that constable David Hullfish, with three deputies, attempted under the direction of the Mayor, to quell it and arrest any who should resist them in the discharge of their duty. Officer Hullfish was stabbed by one of the students and had his hand cut and permanently disabled by the injuries he received in attempting to keep the peace. The grand jury indicted two students and one townsman who joined them. One of the students indicted, stood trial before the Mercer Oyer and Terminer, Chief Justice Green presiding, and was convicted, when the other two came in and pleaded *non vult*. They were fined twenty dollars and costs. A civil suit also grew out of the affray, between one of the deputies and a citizen who interfered with the police.

On the 3d of January, 1858, the battle of Princeton was celebrated by a sham fight, in which several military companies engaged. Gen. Washington was personified by Major Napton, of Trenton. The exercises of the day were closed by an address delivered by Mr. David Naar, of Trenton, editor of the *True American*.

In April of this year, the venerable Dr. Nott, President of Union College, nearly ninety years of age, visited Princeton and preached before the Society of Inquiry, in the First Presbyterian church. He also preached one sermon for Dr. Macdonald. He was listened to with rapt attention, and he preached with the strength and fervor of his earlier life.

In the same month the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher was advertised to deliver a lecture in the Methodist church, on "Success in Life." A writer in the *Press* inquired by what authority such announcement had been made, and who was responsible for it. The editor disclaimed all knowledge of it, and said the handbills had been printed in Trenton. The lecture was delivered, but his audience and reception at that time were very different from those which were extended to him after the late civil war, when he was invited by the young men of the seminary to preach before the Alexander Society, and still later when he accompanied the Evangelical Alliance from New York to Princeton.

John P. Stockton, the present Attorney General of this State, then a citizen of Princeton and occupying the house which is now occupied by Paul Tulane, was in the year of 1858 appointed and confirmed United States Minister to Rome, and left Princeton upon that mission.

In the year 1859, Charles S. Olden, of Princeton, was nominated for Governor of New Jersey, by the Republican and American parties, and was elected.

The *Princeton Standard* was established in the year 1859.

Much was done in the improvement of the town, during this decade. At the commencement of it, Mr. Thomas Potter tore down the old stone house at Prospect, and also the old academy which stood near it on Washington Street, and began to erect his large and beautiful house which now stands as an ornament to Princeton as well as to Prospect—a house and situation unequalled perhaps in the State.

The house of John P. Stockton, now Mr. Tulane's, on Stockton Street, the house of Mrs. Slidell, on Bayard Avenue, built for Mrs. William A. Dod by Com. Stockton, and the residence of R. S. Field, at Woodlawn—all grand palatial establishments, were also built during this period, and contributed

much to the beauty and interest of the place. Professor Duffield's house in Canal Street, now Mr. Norris's, was built in 1859, and so also was Mr. Hendrickson's new store next to his house. A plank road to the canal was laid in 1855.

The public school district number one, was incorporated with a Board of Education in 1858, and the new public school building was erected immediately thereafter.

We have now reached the year 1860, the year of Abraham Lincoln's election to the Presidency of the United States—an election characterized by great excitement, manifesting itself in heated discussions and predictions of disunion and war, and which was followed by the darkest chapter in the history of our country.



## CHAPTER XI.

### PRINCETON IN THE LATE CIVIL WAR.—1860-1866.

The late Civil War not to be passed in Silence—The Attitude of Princeton—The Attitude of Parties—Sketch of the Life, Services and Death of Gov. Olden—Loyalty of the *Princeton Standard*—Strong Article in the *Princeton Review* by Dr. Charles Hodge—Response of Citizens to the first War Message—Flags and Processions—First public War Meeting in Mercer Hall—Committee to procure Volunteers—First Offering of two thousand Dollars by the Misses Stevens—Com. Stockton's Position and Letter—Excitement among the Students—National Colors over Nassau Hall—Taken down, but put up again—Southern Students did not return in the Fall—Disorderly Patriotic Demonstrations in College—Three Students dismissed—They are drawn to the Depot by Students with Music and Banners—President Maclean's Letter—Union League—Second War Meeting—Daily Union Prayer Meeting—What the Ladies did for the Soldiers—Miss Breckinridge and others—Quotas of Soldiers fully supplied—Disturbance threatened and averted—Capture of Richmond celebrated—How the Assassination of President Lincoln was received at Princeton—Peace and Magnanimity of the Victors—Roll of the Volunteers from Princeton.

AFTER having devoted so long a chapter to the Revolutionary period, in the early history of Princeton, it would be quite unjust to the patriotism of the present generation, to pass in silence the great civil conflict, which arose out of the attempt of the Slave States to secede from the Union, and to set up by force of arms a separate Southern Confederacy.

This great struggle, unparalleled for its expenditure of blood and treasure, has been so recent, and its facts are so fresh in our memory, that it is not difficult to recite a truthful record of it. Indeed its history is already written, and it is only to exhibit the attitude of Princeton in its relation to the national government, and to the Union, that we deem it necessary to adduce here, the part which its citizens took in this war.

Nor are we called upon to trace the history of the causes which induced the rebellion. The defence and propagation

of African slavery constituted, in a word, the irrepressible political conflict, which precipitated the Slave States into the rash and stupendous blunder, not to say the most terrible crime, of attempting to destroy the national Union by a civil war, which, it must have been seen, would, of necessity, become the most bloody and destructive one in the annals of civilization.

The election of Mr. Lincoln, in 1860, as President of the United States, was the culmination of that political conflict which broke out in an armed rebellion against the Constitution and Union, which the President elect had sworn to uphold.

The National Republican party, with very few exceptions, were solid and united in supporting the President whom they had just elected. It was alike a dictate of their patriotism and of their political predilections, to defend their country in its unity, and to repel the treason of secession by military force.

But it was not so with the Democratic party, which became divided in sentiment after the election of Mr. Lincoln; one portion joining with the Republicans in rallying around the national flag, to save the constitution and the national government, while the other portion gave their aid and sympathy to the secessionists. It was a severe test to which the War Democrats were subjected, when they were called to separate from their life-long political friends and join with their political adversaries to make common cause with them, in a war upon their old political allies of the South. It was just here where the War Democrats were entitled to special commendation, in that they withdrew their adherence to the majority of their own party in the country, and joined with their political foes in defence of the Union. Let them have credit for this; notwithstanding it is plainly the duty of every citizen always to prefer his country to his party, when he must choose between the two.

Princeton had been, in its political complexion, Federal, while the old Federal party was in existence, and Whig, while the Whig organization was maintained; but through the disintegrating influence of the Know-nothing, or American party, the Democrats gained the ascendancy, and gave a majority vote for Buchanan and Breckinridge in 1856.

Educational towns are usually conservative, and are slow

in adopting any policy which tends to revolution or violence. The college, having a large proportion of its students from the Southern States, at first maintained silence on the great issue, but favored the Peace Convention at Washington, hoping for some benefit from it, while the more decided Republicans of Princeton gave that body no countenance, not having any confidence in its probable action as a remedy for the threatened evils.

CHARLES SMITH OLDEN was a native of Princeton, a son of Hart Olden, a merchant in Princeton, a lineal descendant from William Olden, one of the early settlers who came to Stony Brook in 1696. He did not graduate at college, but he acquired a good English education in the best schools of Princeton and at the Lawrenceville high school. While a boy at school, he was noted for his amiable and orderly character, and especially as a peace-maker among his school fellows when a quarrel arose among them. He devoted himself to mercantile life, and attracted the attention of Matthew Newkirk in Philadelphia, in whose mercantile house he was employed, until 1823, and in 1826 he went to New Orleans. There he established a high character for business, and accumulated property. He returned to Princeton in 1832 and built a handsome residence on a part of the original Olden tract of land, on the old road from Princeton to Worth's Mills, just out of the limits of the borough of Princeton, where he lived until he died. Giving attention to agricultural pursuits he led a quiet unostentatious life, taking part in the ordinary public business of the neighborhood, until, under the new State constitution, he was elected by the Whig party State Senator from the County of Mercer, which office he held for two consecutive terms, and he proved to be one of the most valuable and reliable members of that body. His successor in that office was Col. William C. Alexander, of Princeton.

In 1859, Mr. Olden was elected by the united Republican and American parties, Governor of the State of New Jersey, and was inaugurated in January, 1860. The Democratic candidate was Gen. E. V. R. Wright, of Jersey City. Governor Olden was no orator, but he was an exceedingly popular man with the masses, especially the agricultural classes, and received

the support of many farmers who belonged to the opposite party. He was treasurer of the college of New Jersey, and an influential director in the State Bank of Trenton. He attended as a member the Peace Convention at Washington, which tried to avert the impending civil war.

When the rebellion broke out, it was fortunate for the State and for the country, that Gov. Olden was at the head of the State government. He rendered preëminent service to the national cause—laboring arduously and heartily, in recruiting and equipping the full complement of volunteers demanded by President Lincoln. He was loyal, prudent, economical and indefatigable in discharging his duty without bluster and excitement. He was well sustained by the Attorney General of the State, Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, who never allowed the Governor's faith to falter, or his courage to fail. He did all that duty required of him, for the support of the war and the honor of the State; and he did it in a manner which secured the confidence and coöperation of some men who, under some governors, would have been arrayed in opposition to the war.

Being a Princeton man, patriotic and watchful over the financial interests of the State, his influence as Governor was salutary in Princeton, as it was throughout the State, giving a moral as well as official support to the war.

Governor Olden was remarkable for his strong common sense, his unquestionable integrity, and his discriminating knowledge of men. He withdrew from the Society of Friends, of which his parents were members, and became a member of the Episcopal church, but at and for several years before his death, was a regular attendant, supporter and communicant of the Second Presbyterian church of Princeton. He was a tall and good-looking man, but very modest and retiring in his manners. He had a large estate, having received by will a prominent portion of the estate of Dr. Charles Smith, of New Brunswick, whose name he bore, and who was a relative of him. He held several offices of trust in the State, and until a short time before his death, he was a lay Judge of the Court of Errors and Appeals. He died April 7, 1876, at the age of 77 years, leaving his widow (Phebe Ann Smith) surviving him. They had no children. He was buried at Stony Brook.

The *Princeton Standard*, the only newspaper published in Princeton during the war, was firm and unwavering in its loyalty to the Union, and in its support of President Lincoln and the national cause, from the beginning to the close of the rebellion. No personal influence, however strong—no pecuniary temptations, however great—no threats or promises from friend or foe, ever swerved its fidelity to the Union cause an iota. It comprehended the various grades of loyalty among its readers. The timid counsels and the temporizing policy of some, and the rash and extravagant opinions of others, did not affect it. It sought to enlighten, guide and enlist public sentiment in support of the war for the defence of the Union. Its weekly columns throughout the years of the war, would make a volume of inspiring patriotic editorials and communications, which would indicate the influence which this paper must have exerted on the community; and that influence was much greater in degree, than has ever probably been conceded to it. It uttered its voice every week; and it is refreshing to recur to its columns, to be reminded what a steadfast and unflinching organ of loyalty it was.

Another patriotic contribution, emanating from Princeton, which tended to enlist and deepen the public conscience in adhering to the integrity of the Union, even at the expense of a civil war, was made by the Rev. Charles Hodge, D. D., Professor in the theological seminary at Princeton, in an article for the *Princeton Review*, in January, 1861, but which was published in advanced sheets, and widely circulated throughout the country, especially among the religious classes and the clergy. It was a clear, calm and convincing survey of the state of the country, in its relation to the threatened secession of the Slave States—showing carefully that such secession was unjustifiable, in the light of any of the reasons which had been assigned for it; and that a disruption of the Union would be a dire calamity, and its attempt a probable failure.

This frank and well-considered article had much influence upon the leading minds of the church, as well as upon Christian statesmen at the North. But it was bitterly condemned

by those who were bent upon a destruction of the Union and the establishment of a Southern Confederacy.

What an ocean of blood and misery would have been saved to the country, if this earnest and righteous appeal had been heeded by the Christian men of the South!

When the Proclamation of President Lincoln, followed by that of Gov. Olden, announcing the existence of war and calling for volunteers to maintain the general government, reached Princeton, a favorable response was, at first, almost confined to the Republican party. The national colors were hoisted over the *Standard* office, and over private residences. Soon they appeared over the Theological Seminary and Nassau Hall. Volunteers were called for by recruiting officers. A call for a public meeting at Mercer Hall, on Monday the 22d of April, was published in the *Standard*. The appeal rang out:

“ Arise, ye freemen, in your might,  
Crush this foul treason out of sight,  
And rally round these gleaming stars,  
Those streaks of white and crimson bars,  
The Stars and Stripes.”

In the mean time, a procession of citizens, headed by the Governor's Guard, a military company which had been revived in the town, marched with fife and drum from the Mansion House, first to the residence of U. S. Senator Thomson and saluted the national flag which had just been raised over his mansion. The Senator appeared and responded in a patriotic and loyal speech, and avowed his purpose to stand by the colors and to do all in his power to preserve the Union and the constitution. He was loudly cheered.

The procession then passed on to Gov. Olden's, and cheered him and the national colors which floated on the breeze over his house. He responded with assurances that New Jersey would do more than her share in defence of the Union. Thence it moved to Woodlawn, where R. S. Field, an earnest Republican, warmed up and made an earnest appeal in behalf of the Union. Morven did not escape a visit from the procession. Adjutant-General Robert F. Stockton was then its occupant, the Commodore being absent. The General was unwell but finally came out, and declared sentiments that were

satisfactory to his visitors. Other families were visited in like manner; and it became evident that Princeton would stand by the President in defence of the government, although there were a few families who were open and avowed secessionists.

It now became necessary to act as well as to talk, and to send forth the quota of soldiers required by the general government.

In order to effect coöperation among the citizens, a public meeting became inevitable; and one was called as we have stated for the 22d of April, in Mercer Hall, for the purpose of giving aid to the government in maintaining the Union. No speakers were announced. This was the first public meeting of the kind called in Princeton; and it was remarkable for the absence of many of those prominent citizens who were naturally expected to be leaders in such a crisis of the country. It is often more agreeable to respond to an enthusiastic crowd at a private residence, than to take the responsibility of originating and executing aggressive measures in a public meeting, where perhaps a large portion of the audience may oppose and deride the incipient steps of a great movement.

On this occasion Mercer Hall was filled, but not a few present were opposed to coercive measures to preserve the Union. The *Standard* of that date states, that Crowell Marsh, with four vice-presidents, presided over the meeting, and A. B. Jerome was secretary; that John F. Hageman, the Rev. J. B. Hutchinson and the Rev. A. S. Colton, at the request of the chairman, responded to the call of the meeting, in calm, patriotic and deeply earnest speeches. After which Messrs. Ludlow, Drake, Ward and Decker, students of the college, spoke briefly, amid loud applause as they were called out by the audience. The speakers were all loyal to the government and advocated a prompt defence for the Union, and the recruiting of soldiers for that object without regard to cost. A committee, consisting of John W. Fielder, Henry D. Johnson, George T. Olmsted, Martin Voorhees and S. Alexander Hamilton, was appointed to procure volunteers to answer the call of the President, and they entered promptly upon their work. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Colton; and at the close, the Star Spangled Banner was

sung by a choir of ladies on the porch of the City Hotel, opposite the hall. A procession then visited many of the families of the town and demanded a show of colors and declaration of sentiments.

Thus was inaugurated the first organized popular movement in Princeton in support of the war. It gave strength and unity to loyal sentiment and action, and introduced a series of successive efforts in the sad but noble struggle.

The enthusiasm began to increase among the people, though secessionists were not silent. The two patriotic sisters, Miss Sophia and Miss Esther Stevens, each gave, as their first offering, one thousand dollars to Governor Olden, to aid in the national defence.

Commodore Robert F. Stockton, who at this time was opposed to coercive measures to prevent secession, having warm personal as well as political sympathies with the South, and who, nevertheless, had always been a gallant defender of the old flag, was severely tried in the present issue of the country. While others were volunteering to uphold the Union and the flag, what position would this patriotic Jerseyman take at Morven? The eyes of the country were upon him, and he felt that he could not be silent.

He wrote a letter to Gov. Olden, bearing date, Princeton, April 20, 1861. After expressing his sorrow that the efforts made by him and by the Governor of the State of New Jersey to preserve the peace of the country had failed—he saw that war was upon us—civil war then raging in Baltimore. He then says :

“ I will therefore take the liberty to suggest, that after you have complied with the requisition of the National Government for troops, you consider the best means to preserve our own State from aggression. You remember that it is only the river Delaware that separates New Jersey from the Slave States. If you should see fit to call upon me for any aid that I can render, it is freely tendered. This is no time to potter about past differences of opinion, or to criticise the administration of public affairs. . . . I will hoist the star spangled banner at Morven, the former residence of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence,—that flag, which, when a boy, I nailed to the Frigate President, etc.”

The confederate army did not cross the Delaware; and Governor Olden, understanding that the Commodore's tender of his services was limited to the defence of New Jersey,



had no occasion to call upon him for his assistance, and he remained a silent and sad spectator, throughout the struggle.

The enthusiasm had now become almost irrepressible among the students in the college. The national flag, which was first hoisted over Nassau Hall, gave offence to some of the Southern students, and soon came down. It had been raised without the knowledge and consent of the Faculty, and was not well secured. The act was regarded as disorderly, and was disapproved.

The Professors were guarded in their speech and sought at first to repress all patriotic demonstrations among the students, whether loyal or disloyal.

But the flag was again raised over Nassau Hall, a feat difficult and dangerous; it was performed by Captain John H. Margerum amid the enthusiastic cheers of the students, who presented him with a pair of pistols for it. The wind at the time blew so hard, that it bent the rod so that the vane became immovably fixed, *pointing to the North* through the whole of the war. The Faculty now acquiesced in having the old flag of Witherspoon—the national colors, floating over the college, as it was over the seminary.

The fourth day of July of that year, was celebrated with a lively patriotism. An oration was delivered by the Hon. Richard S. Field, in the First Presbyterian church, in which he contended that our government was a nationality and not a confederation; and that a secession of States was revolutionary and unconstitutional—using the occasion to denounce the old Virginia Resolutions of 1798, and the present attempt to enforce them. The address was published in full in the *Standard* and in pamphlet. The festive ceremonies in the afternoon were presided over by James S. Green, Esq.

At the reopening of the college in the fall of that year, none of the Southern students returned, but they remained at their homes beyond the lines. There were some, however, from the North, who were secessionists in sympathy at least, and who made themselves offensive by their disloyal utterances. One of this class, whose conduct had become intolerable, was taken by force from his bed at night, by three or four of the loyal students, to the college pump and there

they pumped water on him. This made a clear case for college discipline ; and three of the students who were charged with the offence, were arraigned and suspended by the Faculty, and ordered to leave town. Two of those implicated were sons of Governor Reeder, of Pennsylvania.

"They took their departure," the *Standard* says, "last Saturday afternoon, being drawn in a barouche imbedded in the national colors, by the students in long procession, preceded by martial music, and exciting on the way to the depot the wildest enthusiasm. Animating cheers made the town ring and aroused the curiosity of the whole population. At the depot the three heroes took leave with stirring speeches. The act of discipline excited, for a time, joy among the secessionists and rage among the Unionists. The people of the town sympathized with the latter, and the college authorities were censured for making such a demonstration against these young men, who were only sympathizing with their fathers and brothers, who are arresting traitors or meeting them on the battle field.

"The excitement increased. The students understood the Faculty to announce the neutrality policy, which forbade all expressions of national loyalty, that might be offensive to the disloyal students, and *vice versa*. This was denounced bitterly. Union meetings were held, and the college was in danger of being deserted. But there appears to have been a misapprehension of the views of the Faculty, or a modification of the policy. For the excellent letter of the President published to-day, protects the Union cause and forbids the utterance of secession sentiments. It properly forbids mob law.

"It is evident that secession or treasonable sentiments will not and should not be tolerated in the college of New Jersey, either among the students or the Professors.

"It is time that the education of American youth is guarded on this subject ; and the college rostrums, as well as Society Halls and the play-ground, should resound with outspoken eulogies on the Union and the Federal government. Our sons must not be dead to the struggle in which their fathers are now engaged."

The letter of President Maclean referred to, was dated Sept. 16, 1861, and addressed to the *Newark Advertiser* ; its concluding sentence is as follows :

"On the one hand, the Faculty will allow no mobs among the students ; and on the other hand, they will not permit the utterance of sentiments denunciatory of those who are engaged in efforts to maintain the integrity of the national government ; nor will they allow of any public expression of sympathy with those who are endeavoring to destroy that government."

The Princeton Troop was presented, in October of the same year, with a beautiful flag by Miss Rutherford, of Kingston, with a short speech, which was received and a response made by Captain A. M. Cumming.

An article appeared in the *Princeton Review* written by Professor McIlvaine, of the college, on American Nationality, opposing the secession doctrine.

A *Union League* was organized in Princeton, in the early stage of the war, with its headquarters for the most of the time, in the large and attractive room over P. Hendrickson's new store, on Nassau Street.

In August, 1862, a second war meeting was held in Princeton to encourage recruiting. Martin Voorhees presided; Gen. Joel Parker, Professor Moffat and Professor Stephen Alexander addressed the meeting. Professor Duffield, Crowell Marsh and J. T. Robinson reported strong anti-secession resolutions, which were adopted.

When the war had become appalling in its aspects, the *Standard* expressed the desire of all religious denominations that a daily UNION PRAYER MEETING should be held; and suggested that if the churches in Princeton would not organize and take charge of such a meeting, the people irrespective of their pastors would do it. The churches not moving in the matter, such a meeting was called and opened in the League Room, a very central and convenient place.

These meetings were conducted by professors, ministers and laymen in rotation. As many as eighteen clergymen resident in Princeton, attended and took part in conducting them, besides several laymen. The meetings were thrown open for volunteer remarks and prayer. A portion of the hour was usually occupied by one or more persons, in short addresses on a pertinent topic—generally in relation to the war—to the soldiers, and to the duty of the hour, interspersing them with reading war intelligence from the papers, from private letters or from special telegraphic dispatches.

These prayer meetings were well attended, and their effect upon those who were accustomed to wait upon them was manifestly good. While they enlightened the people upon the great question at issue, they promoted a hopeful trust in the final result. Strangers visiting the town would often attend them. Among others, Dr. Edward Kirk, of Boston, while on a visit here, attended and made a happy address at one of them, heartily endorsing them. They were held daily, except on Sunday in the League Room over Mr. Hendrickson's store for eight months, from May 1864, to January 1, 1865, when the room was required for other uses. The

truly loyal people who resort to prayer in such circumstances, delighted to be present at these meetings. So deeply interesting and impressive were they, that we cannot omit to refer to them as a marked feature of that sad period of the war, which can never be erased from the memories of those who devoutly attended upon them.

The LADIES OF PRINCETON attested their love of country and their sympathy with the suffering soldiers by their liberal and constant contributions, through Aid Societies, to the United States Sanitary Commission, the Christian Commission, and directly to the army hospitals, during the whole period of the war. It is unnecessary to give a full statement of their operations in this line of patriotic and benevolent effort. They prepared and transmitted a large number of boxes of valuable things to different parts of the country, for the use of sick and wounded soldiers, and they received thankful acknowledgments and certificates for them. The columns of the *Princeton Standard* were filled with the record of these grateful services.

We have already mentioned the first liberal offering of the Misses Stevens. The first concerted action of the ladies in the cause was rendered under an association formed to aid directly the first volunteers as they left home. Of this association Mrs. Tuthill was the President ; and they furnished the Princeton volunteers in Co. B, of the First Regiment N. J. Vol., as they left home, 182 flannel shirts, 140 pair of drawers, 144 pair of hose, 144 pocket handkerchiefs, 28 towels, 52 India rubber blankets (the gift of Mrs. John R. Thomson) and 82 havelocks. These were duly acknowledged in a letter of Captain Van Syckle, May 23, 1861, to the President, Mrs. Tuthill.

The ladies continued their efforts on a larger and more general scale, under a new organization through the summer and winter following. In a report published April 4, 1862, it was stated that since September, 1861, they had forwarded twenty boxes to Washington, Cairo, Louisville and Paducah. Two of them were filled with reading matter ; one with home-knit stockings and mittens ; six with home-made wines, jellies, cordials, syrups and other delicacies ; the remaining eleven, with bedding of all kinds, wrappers, flannel and other gar-

ments, slippers, pads, cushions, books, games, stationery, groceries, fruits, sewing materials, etc. Mrs. Gov. Olden presented to the Fourth Regiment, 1,000 soldiers' prayer books, 260 needle and thread cases, and many warm socks, which were acknowledged by Adjutant Studdiford.

The foregoing will suffice to illustrate the character of those services, which were continued by the ladies of Princeton through the years 1862, 1863 and 1864, with augmented results. Besides the personal labors of the ladies in knitting, sewing, making and buying suitable things for the sick and wounded, they availed themselves of musical concerts, public lectures, addresses, festivals, and collections from house to house and in the Union Prayer Meeting, to raise money for their patriotic and humane purposes.

In 1863, a musical concert in Mercer Hall under Prof. Langlotz, with volunteer musicians from Trenton, was given for the benefit of this cause. And in September, 1864, the ladies called a public meeting at Mercer Hall, to aid their finances. The hall was crowded. The Rev. Dr. McGill of the theological seminary presided, and made a beautiful and touching address, in which he alluded to the recent death of Miss Breckinridge, and of Captain Charles B. Dod, both Princetonians, who had died of disease contracted by them while in their country's service. The Rev. Dr. Moffat, of the seminary, and Robert Voorhees, of the town, also made eloquent addresses on that occasion. The cause had been presented by other gentlemen at other times, at the instance of the ladies.

Such is a meagre outline of what the patriotic women of Princeton did, chiefly by associated effort, for the volunteers, and for the sick and wounded soldiers in camps and in hospitals during the war. If the whole could be summed up, it would exhibit large streams of benevolence and sympathy flowing out from this place, to bless and comfort the defenders of our country, in the years of its extreme peril.

The colored people, through the Witherspoon Street church, also sent hospital stores to the soldiers, and deserve to be remembered for their contributions in this department of loyal coöperation.

It would be invidious, if not impossible, to attempt to designate among the many noble women, who constituted this band of patriots, any one who excelled the others in sincere love and devotion to country. There was, of course, a disparity in the several contributions, of time, labor and gifts, bestowed by those who carried on the work, as there was a diversity in the means possessed by them. Some were able to volunteer all their time to the cause, while others were compelled to divide it between their households and their country. Again, some were quickened by the tie of near kindred to those who were in the ranks of the army, and liable at any day, to need the very appliances prepared for the wounded and the sick soldier. Aside from outward circumstances, there is a diversity in our nature—in our emotions, which demonstrates itself in outward action. Hence in every popular movement, some individuals seem necessarily to become more conspicuous and prominent than others, who share their counsels and labor at their side.

Numerous families opened their houses to the bands of workers, for consultation and work, and for packing the boxes. No house was so much used for working up material, supervising the selections, and becoming a depository of the goods sent in, and from which the things were expressed to the army hospitals, as the central residence of Miss Julia Smith, who, with her then invalid sister, Elizabeth, were alike entirely devoted to this noble work. These ladies were entirely absorbed in the execution of the commission. They were liberal in giving their time and money. They were fertile in devising appropriate plans and ways to secure complete success. They became the head of the Bureau, directing its correspondence and issuing its reports; and Miss Julia, the survivor, now holds vouchers and letters, which, if compiled, would exhibit the magnitude of the work, and the names of the co-workers, many of whom have departed this life.\*

In this connection, we feel that we would be chargeable

\* Mrs. Prof. Hope, Mrs. Job G. Olden, Miss Breckinridge, Mrs. J. F. Hageman, Miss Elizabeth T. Smith, Mrs. A. M. Cumming, Miss Sarah Cumming, Mrs. Prof. Jacob Green, Mrs. Dr. Moffat, Mrs. Dr. Sheldon, who have since died, were most earnest co-workers in this patriotic and humane cause, with others who are still living.

with a want of a due sense of the fitness of things, if we do not mention Miss Breckinridge, who, though now among the dead, was not only the most intense in her devotion to the country, and was foremost in organizing soldiers' aid societies here and elsewhere, but she left her home and friends to spend her time in the military hospitals, and sacrificed her life in trying to assuage the sufferings and to save the lives of the poor soldiers who were fighting for the good old flag.

MISS MARGARET E. BRECKINRIDGE, daughter of the late Rev. John Breckinridge, D. D., and granddaughter of the Rev. Samuel Miller, D. D., of Princeton, has been designated by some of the prominent journalists of the country, as the Florence Nightingale of America. She certainly was the most zealous, heroic and self-sacrificing of this noble band of loyal Princeton women. Her numerous letters to the Princeton *Standard*, written from Niagara Falls, St. Louis, Lexington, Kentucky, on the hospital ship of Grant's army on the Mississippi, and other places, evinced her intelligent and soul-stirred patriotism, and rallied her friends in Princeton and elsewhere around the flag. Stung with mortified pride, because some of her prominent kindred were preëminent in the secession movement, while others of them were giving their lives for the old flag, she could not look upon the struggle with indifference, but threw her whole soul into the Union cause, and consecrated her time and talents, her happiness and life to her country. By the ministries of her varied gifts, by her voice, by her pen, at home, abroad, in camp and in hospitals, on land and on water; by the ministry of religion—tenderly nursing and comforting the sick and the dying soldiers, teaching them and reading to them, and bearing to their distant friends, precious, dying messages and memorials;—thus, and in every possible way, she earned a martyr's crown. She broke away from that fastidious timidity and delicate reserve, for which she was so eminently remarkable in private and peaceful life, and adapted her nature and her culture to the exigencies of this new destiny. She contracted a disease in the service, which terminated her life before the close of the war. Her biography has been briefly sketched by loving friends, and published in a small volume, and we can do no more than to

leave her hallowed name and example as a legacy to the patriotic women of America. She died at Niagara Falls, in 1864, and her grave by the side of that of her accomplished sister, Mrs. Col. P. A. Porter, is there marked by a beautiful marble monument to her memory.

It will be taken, as a matter of course, that when the war was first precipitated upon the country, and the militia laws of the State were revised, the local military spirit immediately revived. In place of the old Princeton Blues, which company had become nearly extinct, a new military company was organized, called the Governor's Guard, with William V. Scudder, Captain, until he went to the war. A horse company, with forty men, called the Princeton Troop, was also organized, with Alex. M. Cumming, Captain, until he went to the war.

Professor J. H. McIlvaine delivered an oration at the celebration of the 4th of July in the first church, in 1862; and Professor Stephen Alexander delivered one in the same place, in 1863, both of which were published in pamphlet.

Princeton township promptly responded to the several calls of the government for volunteers; so that when the enforcement of the draft was made in New Jersey, the quota of Princeton unfilled was only *twelve*. By a supplemental call for one hundred per cent to be added, the number was increased to twenty-four. The draft took place at Trenton. Among those who were drafted, were the Rev. Professor Giger, of the college, the Rev. Dr. Mann, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, Edward D. Ledyard, valedictorian in college, and several other students. The township provided substitutes for all those who were drafted, except where, in some instances, those subject to the draft provided their own substitutes privately.

The whole number of volunteers who had been enrolled from Princeton, before the enforcement of the draft was five hundred and forty-three. Some of these enlisted several times in different companies which would reduce the number of men. The township gave a liberal bounty to its volunteers, especially after July 20, 1864, when to those who enlisted for



three years, it paid five hundred and fifty dollars, in addition to what the National and State Governments paid. The money was raised by township bonds, authorized by a vote of the taxpayers, and subsequently made valid by Act of the Legislature. These bonds were paid as they fell due.

There was no demonstration of violence or unlawful resistance to the recruiting operations in Princeton. There was, however, among those who sympathized with the secessionists, an expression of disloyal sentiment and hatred towards the National Government, which, as the enforcement of the draft took place, caused some anxiety for the public tranquillity. In the month of July, 1863, a little wave of the riotous turbulence of the city of New York was felt here, and aroused the angry and disloyal feelings of some of the Irish population of this place, especially of the laborers on a section of the railroad, building at Penn's Neck. Those men left their work for a day or two, and sauntered through the town in groups, muttering threats against persons whom they supposed to be Republicans or war men, and against the negroes. The bloody riots in New York threatened to reproduce themselves throughout the northern cities and towns. And for a night or two, there was some fear of a rumored assault upon the colored people and upon some of the republican white families of the town, by the Irish. At this time the college and schools were in vacation, and the muskets which were at Edgehill school were removed secretly from the armory at that place to the college, in order to prevent their being seized and used by the mob. The nights were very rainy, and this interfered with the assembling of men in the street; but the most effective check given to the mob spirit, was a threat made by a well known and courageous colored man, to a few Irish householders, to the effect, that as soon as there was a riotous attack made upon them, or on their dwellings, they, the colored people, by concert of action, had resolved to set fire to every Irish habitation in the town. There were as many colored people in the town as there were Irish, and each class has about an equal number of dwelling houses belonging to them.\*

\* Among other incidents we might mention the following, as an illustration of the inflammable state of feeling at that time. The Rev. Dr. Joseph T. Duryea, of

But the mob spirit had a quietus put upon it, on the Sabbath following, if not before, by Father O'Donnell, the Roman Catholic priest then in charge of the parish at Princeton. He was loyal to the government. In his discourse to his congregation, he denounced the New York riots which had just occurred most vehemently, and warned his people of the consequence of a riot here, in which he said he would lose all of his property; that the rioters would be punished; that the draft was legal and right, and that the rebellion must be put down. There was a remarkable change in the tone of feeling and conversation among his people after that Sabbath discourse.

THE CAPTURE OF RICHMOND was the occasion of a joyous celebration in Princeton, on the 4th of April, 1865, under the management of persons who were connected with the college, none of the prominent public men of the town taking part in the exercises. In the selection of speakers, care was taken to select clergymen and professors, and not the public political men of the town, who, it was feared, might be too intemperate in speech, and utter some expression that might hurt the feelings of somebody.

The celebration arose in this way. When the news of the capture of Richmond reached Princeton, the students were ju-

Brooklyn, was spending a few days in Princeton at his father-in-law's. He happened to be at the drug store of his brother-in-law, Dr. Baker, when Peter Lane, a colored man, came in for something, having with him an old gun or musket. Lane and Dr. Duryea were well acquainted with each other, and had been since Dr. D. was at college here. Lane mentioned to the doctor that there were threats made here by the Irish to treat the colored people as those in New York had been treated, at the riot there a few days before. Dr. D. endeavored to quiet the fears of Lane and told him to be careful to excite no breach of the peace, but to remain at home; and if the rioters should attack his house and family to use his old gun in defence, and the white people would go to their assistance. These words of Dr. Duryea, perfectly proper, spoken publicly in a store, were repeated and perverted—and exaggerated—until it was proclaimed through the streets and among the Irish, from house to house, that a New York abolition clergyman had come out to Princeton, to put arms in the hands of the negroes to make an attack upon the Irish that night, and the whole Irish population was aroused. Word was sent into the country and many came into town excited, and Dr. Duryea was threatened to be mobbed that night, and his friends would not allow him to stay at his father-in-law's, but secured other lodging for him.

bilant. It was Monday, and while Professor Cameron was in his lecture room towards evening, the students having met near the chapel, called on him for a speech, which he made at some length amid much applause ; in the course of which he referred to the call, which a procession of students and citizens had made upon him about four years before that time, to ascertain his sentiments on the Union question, in which he had asserted his loyalty, although a Virginian. His little speech was enthusiastically received and reported in full in the *Standard*.

Arrangements were then made for a more general celebration on the next night, under college auspices. The tutors and students with the aid of some young men of the town got up a torch-light procession, and procured fire-works, and kindled a fire around the big cannon, and paraded the streets with music from the college Glee Club. There was a general illumination of the college, the seminary and the town, and the jubilation was noisy and brilliant.

The meeting was organized on the steps of the north college. The Rev. Dr. Hodge, of the theological seminary, was called to preside. He was deeply moved by the occasion, and regarding the war as closed and the country saved, he made a short address, ascribing thanks to God for victory, and then uttered this characteristic sentence: "We have conquered our enemies, it remains for us to conquer ourselves."

The Rev. Dr. John Maclean, President of the college, offered prayer and thanksgiving. After which the Rev. Dr. McGill, Rev. Dr. McIlvaine, Rev. Dr. Moffat, Rev. J. B. Hutchinson and Professor Stephen Alexander, all made patriotic and congratulatory speeches, which were published in full in the *Princeton Standard*, at that time.\*

The announcement of the ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN, on the 14th of April, 1865, shocked the community as it did the whole country. It is impossible to express the anguish which the friends of that much loved and greatly honored man, suffered, when they became assured of his

\* Rev. J. B. Hutchinson had appeared as a speaker at the first war meeting in Princeton, in 1861.

tragic death. With broken hearts and tearful eyes, the people assembled for prayer in the churches and in the seminary; and from their sad countenances as well as from their dolorous words, there was no mistaking the deep and inconsolable grief which the cowardly murder of their President had produced. Even those who had hitherto manifested a bitter hostility to Mr. Lincoln, were, by this dastardly act, transformed into admiring and sympathizing friends of the martyr.

The habiliments of mourning were soon visible in public places, and in many private dwellings. The First Presbyterian church, by order of the trustees, was heavily draped both within and without, with much taste. So, too, were the stores, the hotels and the college chapel and literary halls. The students of the theological seminary wore crape on the arm in respect to the memory of the dead. The ministers took occasion to deliver in their churches, eulogies and memorial sermons on the deceased President; among others, the Rev. Dr. Macdonald, of the First church, preached a discourse which was published. Judge Field, of Princeton, delivered a commemorative address before the Legislature at Trenton, by request of that body, which was published.

It is needless to add that PEACE, obtained by the triumph of the Union arms, and effected without a disruption of the glorious old Union, was hailed with thankful joy by the citizens of Princeton. There had not been a unity of feeling on the subject of the war, among the people of Princeton, from its beginning to its end. A large majority were loyal to the Union and to the National Government; and there was no open resistance to the governmental measures adopted to maintain the Union by a terrible war in its defence. But there was a minority, a portion of which did not conceal their sympathy with the secessionists; and it was a painful experience of those who were laboring to sustain the government, to raise an adequate army, and to preserve our free institutions, carrying the cause to God in agonizing prayer, to encounter not a few intelligent and Christian men and women, in the social circle and in the church, who, in words and acts, gave their sympathy and influence

against the National Government and the National Army, and thereby showed, at least, their willingness that this great country with its rich legacies of liberty should perish, and that all that was grand and noble in its history should be blotted out. Such a painful experience could not readily be forgotten. Yet so great was the sense of the goodness of God, in giving success to our national arms, and a restoration of national authority over all the States and territory of our country, that the most loyal of patriots became the most magnanimous towards the disloyalists. The sense of a country saved, without their aid, and contrary to their wish, was esteemed punishment enough of itself for any Northern secessionist to endure.

#### THE ROLL OF HONOR.

The following is a list of the white volunteers from Princeton who enlisted in the Union army, some for a longer and some for a shorter time. Some of them re-enlisted several times. We place their names alphabetically, but without designating the companies to which they belonged, or the offices they held. A few of them were not citizens of Princeton.

Charles E. Asay,	Leffert Davis, died of fever.
Samuel Beeks,	Edward Davis,
Sidney Bergen, died in service.	Thomas Davis,
Samuel C. Blue, killed.	William Develin,
William Blackwell, killed.	James Develin,
Clayton Blackwell, wounded.	Daniel Drake,
Michael Boyles,	Capt. Charles B. Dod, died in hospital.
Frederick T. Benjamin,	Lake Davison, wounded.
Alexander Brown,	Lieut. Edward Field,
James F. Brown,	William G. Ferguson,
Isaac Bulman,	Charles Ford,
Joseph B. Brewer,	William Frew,
Michael Boyle,	John Garrigan,
Henry Cain,	Charles George,
King Campbell,	Charles Girton,
Joseph Carrington,	John Glackin,
John Clark,	Charles Green,
Andrew Cocks,	John Wesley Green, wounded.
Charles Conover,	James Green,
Ezekiel Compton,	Lutiker Grethler,
Nicholas Culp, prisoner in Andersonville.	William Gwin,
Tunis Covert,	Barney Gwin,
Benjamin Crusier,	Henry Harris, died in camp.
Col. Alexander M. Cumming,	George C. Hedden,
Patrick Curran, wounded.	Joseph Henderson, wounded.
John Conover,	William Henderson, lost an arm.

John Henderson,	Christopher F. Pomeroy,
George M. Hendrickson, died in hospital.	Joseph C. Powell,
Jasper Hendrickson, died in battle.	Edward Power,
Peter S. Hibbits,	Elijah L. Pullen,
George Hill,	Joseph Prince,
William Henry Hill,	Nelson Potts,
John Hodge.	James J. Quackenboss,
Johnson Holcombe,	Timothy Reagan,
George Holcombe,	Abram Robeson,
Robert Howell,	Robert Ross, jr.,
John Hollingshead,	William H. Rue,
Martin L. Hollingshead,	Ezekiel Runyan,
Thomas Hubbard,	Morris C. Runyan,
Clark Hutchinson,	Richard Runyan,
William F. Hutchinson, died of fever in hospital.	John Ryan,
John N. Hullfish, wounded.	John A. Robinson,
William T. Hunt,	Joseph P. Saums,
Dr. John H. Janeway,	William Sault,
John Jeroloman, jr., wounded.	Stephen Scales,
John Joline,	Isaac Scales,
David Johnson,	Capt. William V. Scudder,
A. Brainerd Jerome, wounded.	Harrison A. Skillman,
William Kane,	Van Dyke Skillman, wounded.
Thomas Kane,	Joakim Skillman,
Thomas Keefe, died of fever in hospital.	John G. Skillman,
John Kennedy,	Martin Schlieff,
James Leggett,	Edward H. Simmons,
William Lloyd,	Charles Spires,
Richard Lloyd,	Dunbar Snook,
Abraham Lott,	John Smith,
Edward B. Long,	Henry Staats, ball shot through his arm.
James Lyon,	Major Samuel W. Stockton,
John Madden, lost his arm.	Henry V. Stryker, died in hospital.
Henry Maple,	John S. Sullivan,
Edward Moffat,	Napoleon B. Smith, died in Anderson-
Capt. John H. Margerum,	Jonathan N. Smith, [ville prison.
William A. Margerum,	Joab Taylor.
Mitchel Martin,	Miles C. Taylor,
John Myers,	Cornelius Terhune,
William Matthews,	Robert Terhune,
Michael Mulligan,	John Terhune, killed in battle.
John McGregor, wounded.	Albert R. Thomas,
John Morrison,	Gideon L. Updike,
Dr. George M. McGill,	William Van Acker,
Joseph Ogborn,	John Van Acker, wounded, and in Libby
Peter P. Packer, jr.,	Alexander Vandewater, [Prison.
James Parker,	William C. Vandewater,
John H. Pigott,	William L. Vandewater,
	William H. Van Duyne, taken prisoner.

Jacob S. Van Dike,  
 Robert Vanderhoof,  
 John S. Van Kirk, died.  
 William Van Sickle,  
 William H. Veighte,  
 William H. Voorhees,  
 John Warner, died in hospital.  
 Peter Wall,  
 Alfred Walsh,  
 John H. Warren, killed in battle.  
 Francis Ward,  
 Ebenezer Wright,

Samuel Webster,  
 Alexander Wesley,  
 Charles Westcott,  
 Zacheus Weston,  
 Thomas Whitaker,  
 George Whitlock,  
 Jacob Whitlock, wounded.  
 John Whitlock,  
 William Williams,  
 Charles C. Worch,  
 Stephen Wynkoop.

COL. ALEXANDER M. CUMMING volunteered and went as Major in Col. Halsted's First N. J. Cavalry Regiment. He was in service in Virginia, but his age and infirmities unfitted him for the severe duties of the place he had assumed, and he was compelled on this account to resign.

CAPTAIN CHARLES H. DOD, son of the late Professor A. B. Dod, entered the army as First Lieutenant, in the Second N. J. Cavalry; he was in the laborious campaign of 1863-64 in the south west, and was afterwards transferred to the army of the Potomac, as Assistant Adjutant-General, with the rank of Captain, on the Staff of Major General Hancock. While in the discharge of his duties in the neighborhood of Petersburg, he became prostrate by disease, and died on the 27th of August, 1864, in the hospital. He was buried in Princeton. He was a young man of high accomplishments and of much promise.

MAJOR SAMUEL W. STOCKTON served as Aide on the staff of his uncle, Major Gen. David Hunter, through the war, commencing at the first battle of Bull Run. He saw much exciting service in all parts of the country, and escaped many perils without wounds.

LIEUT. EDWARD FIELD, son of Judge Field, first enlisted in the First N. J. Cavalry; then entered the regular army, and became attached to Gen. Hancock's Corps, and rendered distinguished artillery service under him, in the battles in front of Richmond. He continued in service through the war, and is still in the regular army.

LIEUT. A. BRAINERD JEROME was employed in the Signal Service, and passed through many perils and hard experiences of war, being several times wounded. He joined the regular army.

EDWARD MOFFAT, son of the Rev. Professor Moffat, was Orderly Sergeant, in Company K. of Sharp-shooters, Ninth Regiment, and rendered much aid in the Signal Service.

Dr. GEORGE M. MCGILL was Surgeon in both Gen. Custer's and Gen. Kilpatrick's Cavalry, when they made their daring raids upon Richmond. He became a surgeon in the regular army and remained such till his sad death in the far West, on his way with a detachment of the United States troops, to give protection against the Indians, in 1867. He was brave and accomplished as a soldier and a surgeon, and universally loved.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM V. SCUDDER enlisted as Captain of Company E., Second N. J. Cavalry. He was in the southwest campaign; suffered many privations, but did not have much fighting to do. The regiment was commanded by Col. Kargé, now professor in Princeton college.

CAPTAIN JOHN H. MARGERUM enlisted as Captain of Company G., Twenty-Second N. J. Volunteers, (nine months men.) This company was recruited in Princeton; many of these men reënlisted. William C. Vandewater was Second Lieutenant under Captain Margerum, and afterwards was Aide to General Paul.

LIEUT. FRANK S. CONOVER of the United States Navy, late Mayor of Princeton, while commanding the "Isaac P. Smith," was captured, with his vessel and crew, on the South Carolina coast by the confederates, in the early part of 1863.

The foregoing list has been prepared with much difficulty, and it is unquestionably very imperfect. But we feel that a debt of gratitude is due from the community to those patriotic men who braved suffering, sickness and death, to save



this great nation; and we feel, too, that these old veterans, scarred and broken down by the hardships of soldier life, are too often forgotten and neglected in the community in which they live; therefore we desire to do them justice as far as we can, and publish, for the benefit of the present generation, as well as to perpetuate their names among future generations, as perfect a roll as we can obtain, promising, in future editions to make such additions and corrections as truth and justice shall require.

We have also been desirous of doing justice to the *colored* volunteers, who were recruited in Princeton, and enlisted chiefly in the Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment. The number of these is estimated at about fifty. We have procured the names of forty-five, and they are the following:

Alfred Baird,  
 Aaron Baird,  
 Abram Benson, died.  
 Martin Bray,  
 Urias Blackwell,  
 Capt. John Beaumont, wounded.  
 James Cade,  
 Moses Cudgoe, died in camp.  
 George Cudgoe,  
 Jeff. Conover,  
 George Cooper,  
 James Dickinson,  
 Edward Dillon,  
 Joe Doughty,  
 Addison Gordon,  
 George Harris, wounded.  
 Augustus Hendrickson,  
 Charles Hubbard,  
 Charles Johnson,  
 Bob Johnson,  
 David Jones,  
 Henry Kershow  
 Aaron Lake,

John Miller, Jr.,  
 Peter Miller, Jr.,  
 Aaron Miller,  
 Joe Oncque, killed, bearing the flag in  
 battle.  
 Zack Pierce,  
 James Rose,  
 Fred Rouse,  
 Alex. Singers,  
 John Salter,  
 George Scudder,  
 Jacob Scudder,  
 Parris Scudder,  
 Charles Simpson,  
 Bill Smith,  
 Moses Van Zandt,  
 Albert Williamson,  
 Solomon Williams, killed.  
 Elijah Little,  
 Benjamin Wolley,  
 Charles Scudder,  
 Peter Schenck,  
 Charles Kimball.

These soldiers were brave and true. Some of them were killed in battle and some died in hospitals or at their homes, from diseases received in the service.

John W. Fielder and Henry D. Johnson were on the recruiting committee of Princeton, and Josiah W. Wright was entrusted by the Freeholders to pay bounty to the volunteers.

Let the closing words of this chapter be a plea for all surviving volunteers, who left their homes to defend our country, subjecting themselves to the perils of war, to the hardships of camp life, to the malarial fevers which usually lurk around the tented field, to imprisonment and to death ; that they shall not be forgotten, nor treated with neglect nor disdain, though some of them may have been demoralized by the war, and upon their discharge, may have fallen into dissolute vagrancy.

## CHAPTER XII.

1860-1870.

The general Excitement preceding and during the War—Efforts for Railroad Facilities—Death of Professor Addison Alexander—Semi-centennial of the Theological Seminary—Notice of the Life and Death of John Potter—James Potter—Thomas F. Potter—John R. Thomson—James S. Green—The Murder of James Rowand, the Jeweller—Charles Lewis, the Murderer, arrested, tried and executed—An Extraordinary Case of Circumstantial Evidence—Biographical Sketches of Commodore R. F. Stockton, Dr. John N. Woodhull, and others—Inauguration of President McCosh—A New Era in Princeton.

THE preceding chapter has been devoted to a subject of most thrilling interest, covering a large portion of the years now under consideration. The events and history of the late civil war exceed in magnitude all the other subjects worthy of notice, in the ordinary course of time. The political excitement preceding the war, and during its progress, was in Princeton, as it was throughout the country, intense and absorbing. The elections, mass meetings, processions with banners and martial music, public speaking, increased taxes, recruiting and equipping soldiers, praying and fasting, and all the machinery employed to arouse the people to arms in defence of the Union, and to provide the sinews of war, reached every family, and tested the patriotism of every citizen who acknowledged allegiance to the National Government, and who desired the Republic to live. The inflation of the currency, the abundance of money, the rise in the price of labor and commodities, in land and in salaries, seemed for the time to mitigate the evils of the war, and tended apparently to enrich rather than impoverish the people. There was work for every one to do, and the remuneration stimulated every one to work. But there was another side to the picture, where the wail from the bloody battle-field, and from the hospitals of the wounded and dying soldiers, was heard with lamentations

for the maimed and the slain. The agony of widows and orphans, of hearts crushed, and families broken up forever, pierced the very heavens as it followed the ascending smoke of the holocaust of husbands, brothers and sons. Such dreadful scenes, by their shock, broke down many a strong man, and brought many to a premature grave.

During this period there were but few public improvements made in Princeton. Brown Hall, a large and handsome stone dormitory of the theological seminary, a gift of Mrs. George Brown, of Baltimore, costing thirty thousand dollars, was built in 1863-64; and towards the latter end of this period, John C. Green purchased the City Hotel property and others adjoining it, and prepared the way for building Dickinson Hall and the College Library. The Halsted Astronomical Observatory was also erected by General N. N. Halsted during this period, occupying several years in its completion—and was the first munificent gift of the kind to the college. Mr. James Lenox was about to commence to build a new library for the theological seminary just as the war began, but he postponed it on account of the war. There were several respectable private dwellings erected after the war, and a good many small ones.

A strong popular excitement on the subject of railroad facilities began in 1860, and was kept up for several years. The straightening of the railroad between Trenton and New Brunswick involved the removal of the track from the bank of the canal to what was called Bear Swamp, which would put the road three miles distant from Princeton, instead of one mile. Several public meetings were held, and a great deal was said and written on the subject. Applications to the legislature for charters for new roads, which should come through or near Princeton were made, but though designed for local use, they encountered strong opposition from the joint companies, and all were finally defeated. The result was, however, that a spur or branch road from Princeton to intersect and connect with the Camden and Amboy road, beyond Penn's Neck, at what is now Princeton Junction, was built, which put Princeton in connection with the rapid through trains on the Grand Trunk road between New York and Philadelphia. A dummy engine was at first used on this branch road, but the travel be-

came so great, and the grade of the road was so heavy, that a locomotive of full power was substituted, with commodious cars; and numerous improvements have, from year to year, been effected in the cars, depots and arrangements, which go to make up for the want of a road passing directly through Princeton.

The Presidential campaign of 1860, in which Mr. Lincoln was elected President, was, in Princeton, as everywhere throughout the country, one of profound excitement and discussion.

The death of the Rev. J. Addison Alexander, D.D., Professor in the theological seminary, which occurred suddenly on the 28th day of January, 1860, made a profound and sorrowful impression upon the community. He was a rare and wonderful prodigy in literary acquirements and biblical lore; a genius of the first magnitude,—a preacher who always preached to crowded audiences—a man unlike any other man who ever lived. Princeton was proud of him, and felt impoverished by his lamented death. His biography has been published, and an extended notice of him will be found in a subsequent chapter.

His brother, the Rev. James W. Alexander, D.D., who was one of the choice sons and ornaments of Princeton, though at intervals absent from the place, died on the 2d day of the preceding August, in Virginia, while on a visit from his pastoral charge in New York. The Rev. Matthew B. Hope, D. D., who succeeded him as Professor of English literature in Princeton College, also died in the close of 1859, like the Alexander brothers, greatly beloved and lamented. The Presbytery of New Brunswick recommended humiliation and fasting in connection with the exercises, on the day of prayer for colleges, on account of these deaths.

The semi-centennial celebration of the theological seminary, on the 30th day of April, 1862, was an occasion of great interest in Princeton, and drew together a large number of distinguished clergy and laymen to witness the exercises. The Rev. Dr. Sprague, of Albany, was the orator of the day, and was fully adequate to the occasion.

It is doubted whether in any period in the history of Princeton, there were so many deaths of distinguished and

prominent citizens in the midst of their years, and not serving in the war, as occurred during this memorable decade. Some of them were so identified with the honor and history of Princeton, that we cannot withhold a somewhat extended sketch of their lives and character.

Having briefly noticed the death of Dr. J. Addison Alexander, in 1860, and of his brother, Dr. James W. Alexander, and Professor Hope just before that time, we come to the death of James Potter, in 1862; and not having previously noticed the life and death of John Potter, nor Thomas F. Potter, we will here notice them all together briefly.

JOHN POTTER was born at the residence of his grandfather, John Stewart, of Baltimoran, County Down, Ireland, April 12, 1765. He emigrated to Charleston, South Carolina, December 15, 1784. On his voyage the vessel was wrecked, and he lost all the property he possessed. He began business in Charleston, as a salesman of small wares and commodities, on a very small scale. By industry, perseverance and good fortune, he achieved success, and became a prominent merchant with a princely fortune. He had one daughter and three sons, William, James and Thomas F. Potter. William died young and was a very bright and promising young man. The daughter was married to Robert F. Stockton, of Princeton, New Jersey, then a dashing young lieutenant in the United States Navy. The result of this marriage was the removal of Mr. John Potter and his family to Princeton in 1824. He purchased the farm of John I. Craig—that beautiful place known as Prospect,—a farm which had been owned by Col. Morgan, and before him by Jonathan Baldwin, and before him by Benjamin Fitz Randolph, who purchased it of Richard Stockton, before the year 1700. Here Mr. Potter resided till a short time before his death, when he and Mrs. Potter moved into Morven, with their daughter, Mrs. Commodore Stockton, and died there. Mr. Potter was very wealthy, but precisely how large an estate he had, we have never learned. He invested largely in the Delaware and Raritan Canal, and gave fortunes to his three children, Mrs. Stockton, James Potter and Thomas F. Potter, while he retained a large fortune for his own

use. He owned valuable plantations in the South, and so did his sons, retaining them till their death, and generally spending the winter there. Mr. Potter attended the Presbyterian church when in Princeton, until an Episcopal one was established, which was effected principally by his money and energy. He was a man of strong religious feeling, and a very regular attendant upon public worship. Both he and Mrs. Potter were highly esteemed for their pure and excellent religious character. He was a close dealer, strict and exacting, though honest in making a bargain. He had learned the value of money. He built the Episcopal parsonage and gave it to the church, and gave some endowment besides. He did not lay out much of his capital in improving Princeton, though it was a power in the place. His impatient spirit often worked a prejudice against him, and led men to misunderstand his real kindness of heart. His wife died in 1848, after a union of fifty-seven years, and he died on October 24, 1849, and both were buried in the Episcopal ground prepared by himself for his family.

JAMES POTTER, a son of John Potter, was born in Charleston, in 1793, and graduated in Yale College, and married Miss Sarah Jones, a daughter of Dr. John and Catharine J. Grimes, of Savannah, Georgia. They came to Princeton prior to 1840, and he purchased the handsome property of Commodore Robert F. Stockton, on the corner of Nassau Street and Bayard Avenue, west of the old bank, and that was his summer residence till his death. Mrs. Potter was a lady of unequalled personal beauty and loveliness. She died in 1847. Mr. Potter was very wealthy, and owned valuable rice and cotton plantations at the South. He was a true Christian gentleman, of unbounded liberality, giving cheerfully and gracefully to every appeal made to him. Everybody respected and loved him. He knew how to enjoy his property, and to make its use for charitable and benevolent purposes, a luxury to his large soul. He was a communicant member of the Episcopal church. He was greatly distressed by the late civil war; and he went to his southern home at Savannah before the lines were closed against him and remained there till he

died from an affection of the throat, January 25, 1862. Their family of children, consisting of six daughters and one son, inherited the noble virtues and graces of their parents. The daughters, Mrs. Poullain, Mrs. Langhorne, Mrs. Higginson, Mrs. Richard Conover, Mrs. Cuyler and Mrs. Hodgeson, are all living except Mrs. Langhorne; and the only son, John H. Potter, enlisted in the Confederate army, and lost his life in the war, July 26, 1864—leaving a young widow and one child surviving him. The beautiful homestead in Princeton is still owned in the family, but none of the family reside here.

THOMAS FULLER POTTER, the youngest son of John Potter, was born in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1806, and was graduated at Yale College, and studied medicine. He was very wealthy and very liberal, always ready to help those who were in want or distress. He received from his father by will the old homestead of Prospect, and built the magnificent house upon it which he occupied till his death, and which, after his death, was occupied by his widow till her death.

Mr. Potter's first wife was a Miss Jenkins, by whom he had two children, John and William Potter, both living at the present time. His second wife was Miss Sarah Jane Hall, of Sunbury, Pa., a lady of great elegance, dignity and force of character, and who admirably graced her position at Prospect. He had by her three children, two daughters, Mrs. Ashurst and Mrs. Lippincott, both living in Philadelphia, and an infant son, James Potter, who died in the fourth year of his age.

Mrs. Potter died suddenly, May 1, 1877, greatly lamented by the church which received so much aid from her and her daughters, and by the community in which she was a personage of much prominence. Her death was the more impressive and lamented, because this Potter family, who have for so many years been an honor and a strength to Princeton, seem with her, to have departed from this place. Prospect, though still owned in the family, is closed, and has ceased to be the representative of that wealth and social position which had belonged to it for half a century.



JOHN RENSHAW THOMSON was a native of Philadelphia, having been born there, Sept. 25, 1800. He was in Princeton College, but left before graduating, and entered into the mercantile business in Philadelphia. He then went to China and became Consular Agent for the Government of the United States. After spending some years at Canton, where he became an experienced merchant, he returned to his native city, in 1825, and married Miss Annis Stockton, a beautiful and accomplished daughter of Richard Stockton, and sister of Commodore Robert F. Stockton. After his marriage he settled in Princeton, and built his handsome residence opposite Morven, (the Stockton mansion,) and continued to reside there till his death. He became a director of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company, which had its headquarters at Princeton, and held the office of Secretary of that company, and afterwards of the joint companies, till his death, attending assiduously to his official duties, except when his political duties in the United States Senate demanded his attention.

Mr. Thomson became the wheel-horse in the regular business transactions and operations of that great power in New Jersey—the Camden and Amboy railroad monopoly, and was intimately associated with Commodore Stockton, John Potter, James S. Green, James Potter, Richard S. Field, and other leading directors of that company. His official position in the oversight and management of the great works, especially in the transportation of freight, gave him an advantage in making investments of capital; and when he died, his estate, unlike the case of most Princetonians, proved to be surprisingly larger than the public had estimated it.

Mr. Thomson was always allied to the democratic party, though he never appeared as a partisan leader until 1844. He had written and delivered lectures in favor of a convention to frame a new State Constitution for New Jersey, and when such a convention was called he was chosen a member of it. His friends claim that he was the father of the clause in that instrument abolishing imprisonment for debt.

In 1844, Mr. Thomson was the Democratic candidate for Governor under the new constitution, against Mr. Stratton, the Whig nominee. The contest was a very severe one, inten-

sified to the prejudice of Mr. Thomson, by the Presidential contest in which Clay and Frelinghuysen swept the State, and Mr. Thomson was defeated.

In all the vicissitudes of party, he was uniformly steadfast and true to it, until the national flag was dishonored, and then he stood by the national colors. In 1851, when Senator Dayton's term in the United States Senate expired, Mr. Thomson's election to fill that high office was warmly pressed by his party; but after repeated ballots, in which he failed to secure the entire vote of the democratic members, the name of Commodore Stockton was substituted, and he was chosen. The Commodore held the office for one session of Congress and then resigned; whereupon Mr. Thomson was chosen for the unexpired term, and at its expiration he was reappointed, and retained the office till his death, which occurred a few months before that term expired.

Mr. Thomson was not conspicuous in the debates of the Senate, but he was very efficient in the business of the committees, and very regular and attentive to all of his senatorial duties. He was well read, and possessed a literary taste with much culture. He entertained handsomely at Washington and at Princeton. He was not a popular man, but was true to his friends, and they were true to him.

Though he advocated and voted for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and was a warm personal friend of President Buchanan, he deserted him and his party when they permitted the capture of Fort Sumter by the secessionists. He raised the stars and stripes over his residence at Princeton, and avowed his loyalty to the Union. But his health failed, and on the 12th of September, 1862, he died at his home, and was buried with honors by a large company of his distinguished personal friends, who, after appropriate service in the Episcopal church, deposited his remains in the Princeton cemetery, where a beautiful monument has been erected to his memory. Having lost his first wife, he married Miss Josephine Ward, a daughter of Gen. Aaron Ward, of Sing Sing, New York, for his second one, who survived him. He left no children, but a large estate, and he exhibited in his will a praiseworthy gallantry towards his young widow, who, appreciating his confi-

dence and affection, still remains the occupant of his elegant house and embellished grounds, made more elegant and attractive by her cultivated taste and admirable management.

JAMES SPROAT GREEN, counsellor at law, was a son of the Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D., President of Princeton College, by his first wife, Elizabeth Stockton. He was a graduate of Dickinson College, read law with Thomas P. Johnson, in Princeton, was admitted to the bar in 1817, and opened an office in Princeton, where he continued to reside and practice law till his death. He married Miss Isabella McCullough, of Philadelphia, a sister of his father's third wife.

He soon acquired a large practice, and attended regularly the county circuits held at Flemington, Somerville and New Brunswick, in those early years when lawyers went about in sulkies and remained the whole week at court. He was a fine looking, genial man, a pleasant speaker, and popular with the masses ; he was a good lawyer and had many clients.

Mr. Green was a decided Federalist in his political affiliations, until he espoused the cause of Gen. Jackson for President, and ever after that he belonged to the Democratic party. He was frequently a member of the legislative council of New Jersey, under the old constitution, from Somerset County.

He was appointed by President Jackson United States District Attorney for New Jersey, and held that office till President Taylor appointed William Halsted in his place. And thereupon he was appointed Law Reporter of the New Jersey Supreme Court, in place of Mr. Halsted, and as such, he published three volumes of Green's Law Reports, extending from 1831 to 1836. He was seldom without students in his office reading law with him.

Mr. Green was a trustee of the college for thirty-four years up to the time of his death, and as such, he presided at the Alumni dinner given at the centennial anniversary of the college in 1847.

He was treasurer of the board of trustees of the theological seminary of Princeton, from 1845 till his death, and also the treasurer and trustee of the First Presbyterian church for nearly as long a time. He also held the office

of one of the managers of the New Jersey Lunatic Asylum, for several years before his death. He was always willing to bear his part in the public duties of the township and county, and frequently served in the township committee, and in the board of county freeholders, as well as in the common council of the borough of Princeton. For about twenty years he was a director in the Princeton Bank.

When the law school was established in Princeton, in 1847, Mr. Green was appointed one of the professors or lecturers, and continued such while that institution had an existence.

When the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company began their public works, Mr. Green became a director and acted as their counsel, and was a director in the joint Companies of the Canal Company, and Camden and Amboy Railroad Company, and became much absorbed in them till the close of his life.

His residence and his office were on the corner of Wither-  
spoon and Nassau Streets until about the year 1837, when he bought the house in Mercer Street opposite the Episcopal church, where he lived in a plain and unostentatious way till he died.

Mr. Green, though a very regular attendant upon the public worship of the Presbyterian church, and for many years a teacher in the Sabbath school, never made a public profession of religion by applying for admission into full communion.

He died Nov. 8, 1862, after a short illness, and only two months after the death of his intimate friend, John R. Thomson. His widow, who had been a precious wife to him, and a pious and active Christian woman in the church and community, survived him only a few years. They left five children, viz: Anna, the wife of Mr. William Mactier, of Philadelphia, Ashbel Green and Robert S. Green, both lawyers of prominence with offices in New York, though residents of New Jersey, and Isabella, wife of Dr. John H. Janeway, Surgeon in the United States Army, and Dr. James S. Green, a skilful physician, who is settled in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Mr. Green was buried in the cemetery at Princeton, after very interesting funeral services in the Presbyterian church. His death was much lamented for he had many warm friends,

and had long been a well known, prominent and highly esteemed lawyer and citizen.

On the 13th day of November, 1862, a diabolical murder was committed in Princeton, which, for its atrocity and the mysterious circumstances connected with it, has scarcely a parallel in the annals of crime in New Jersey. The shock which it produced in the community was wholly unprecedented. There had never been, in the history of the town from its first settlement, a case of cool, premeditated, unprovoked manslaughter, before this one. And it was the only crime that has been committed in Princeton, which was followed by capital punishment.

James Rowand, a jeweller and watchmaker, who had lived in Princeton for more than twenty years, was an industrious, amiable and much respected citizen, a member of the First Presbyterian church, a most quiet and inoffensive person, without a personal enemy in the world. He was very small in stature, and in delicate health, weighing but little over a hundred pounds. With his wife and her sister, Miss Berrien, and his only son John Rowand, he resided in a neat little cottage, tastefully surrounded with trees, shrubbery and flowers, in Witherspoon Street, opposite the Witherspoon Street Presbyterian church, and a little beyond the graveyard, and kept his store and place of business in Nassau Street, on the corner of what is now Baker Street.

At the hour of nine o'clock in the evening of that fatal day, as was his uniform custom, he closed his store, and with the safe-key in his pocket and a little carpet-bag in his hand, he started for his home alone, and was met on his way by one or more of his fellow-citizens who recognized him. Not arriving at his home at the usual hour, his family waited, and waited for him till midnight, and till morning, wondering and worrying over his long delay in coming. Inquiry and search were made for him early in the morning, but no trace of him could be found. His store door was found closed but not locked. The iron safe appeared to have been untouched, but there was some ground to believe that there had been an unlawful entry during the night. A public interest was soon awakened in the case, and the citizens held a public meeting

in Mercer Hall, and then undertook a thorough search for the missing man. At about ten o'clock in the morning, the body of Mr. Rowand was discovered by Marcus H. Krauskopf, in the graveyard in Witherspoon Street, lying between two graves, about thirty feet from the brick wall which encloses the ground from Witherspoon Street, his head nearest to the street—with heavy gloves on his hands. Near his body were his hat, his valise and a large club, apparently a small piece of cord-wood, besmeared with blood and hair. His skull was crushed in, and his wounds were such as must have been inflicted by the club and caused his instant death. An immense crowd of citizens soon gathered around the body and became intensely excited, as it became evident that poor Rowand had been stricken down on his way home, and thrown over the brick wall and dragged thirty feet, and then robbed of his keys and pocket-book.

The body of the deceased was taken charge of by John Fenning, a Justice of the Peace, acting as Coroner, and an inquest was held over it at the Mansion House, continuing in session four days, having examined sixty-one witnesses. Suspicion was soon directed towards a certain stranger who had been in Princeton at different times within a month previous—sometimes stopping at the Nassau Hotel for several days—sometimes boarding a few days at Kingston, with no apparent business, but well dressed, fine looking, very muscular, and registering his name, or being known as Charles Lewis. His movements in and around Princeton had excited observation, and as soon as his name was suggested as the probable murderer, the proof was multiplied, as many different persons stated what they had seen him do and heard him say: and though he had been absent from Princeton a week or more, he had been seen here on the evening of the murder, prowling about the streets, watching the store of Rowand, following him down Witherspoon Street, with his overcoat collar turned up, and afterwards returning walking rapidly.

A public reward was offered by the Mayor, James T. L. Anderson, for the arrest of the supposed murderer; and William E. Payran and Edward Holcombe, jun., taking the handbill for their authority, started together in search of this suspected

man, and went to Rocky Hill and thence to Millstone, in Somerset County. They found him at the public house of Mr. Wortman, in East Millstone, which was kept by Joseph A. Curtis. Having seen him in Princeton they both recognized him as the man for whom they were searching. They arrested him by virtue of the Mayor's proclamation, and having pinioned his arms, brought him in a one-horse wagon to Princeton that evening, the 14th, arriving here at about eight o'clock, after dark. Ruloff Van Dyke, of Millstone, at the request of Holcombe, came with them. The prisoner was taken to Mercer Hall, and a large number of citizens were present to see him. The excitement became very great when the arrest and presence of the supposed murderer was announced.

There stood the prisoner, six feet high, dressed in a brown surtout with a black velvet collar, a velvet vest and valuable gold watch, a silk hat, fine linen, with dark side whiskers; and no man present was better developed physically, nor better dressed, and appearing more like a gentleman of refinement and education, with wonderful self-possession, than this man whose hands were still tied with a fancy cord of several colors, and upon whose face the gas-light was made to shine brightly. He was held in custody through the night, and the next morning was taken before the jury of inquest, and identified by several witnesses. He refused to be examined, or make any answer to the charge, except that he was not guilty and had not been in Princeton on the night the murder was committed. He was, at his own request, committed to the Mercer County jail, by Justice Mount, on the evening of that day. It was a great relief to the people of Princeton, who had been thrilled with terror by the horrible crime committed, to know that the man who perpetrated it was not one of their own inhabitants still concealed among them, but was a stranger who was discovered and lodged in jail.

The courageous services rendered by Messrs. Payran and Holcombe, both small and frail men, compared with the uncommon muscular strength and determination of the prisoner, in arresting and bringing him to justice, were entitled to most honorable commendation. If they had known fully the desperate character and strength of this man, they would have

been reckless to execute the arrest and expose themselves as they did; and the only explanation of the prisoner not ridding himself of his feeble guard, on the dark road to Princeton, was, that he felt confident that no proof could be adduced against him to convict him. He was heard to say before his execution, that the only mistake he made in the case, was to allow himself to be taken by those young men from Millstone to Princeton.

At the January term, 1863, of Mercer Court, an indictment was found against him for the murder of Rowand. He pleaded not guilty. The trial began at Trenton in the Oyer and Terminer on the 9th of February ensuing. Justice George H. Brown, of the Supreme Court, presided. The State was represented by the Prosecutor of the Pleas, (the writer,) who resided at Princeton, and had taken charge of the case before the coroner's inquest, and prepared the evidence with great care, and he was assisted on the trial by the Attorney General, Frederick T. Frelinghuysen. The defendant was represented by Edwin James, of New York, a distinguished English criminal lawyer, who had formerly acted as Queen's counsel in Great Britain, assisted by his partner, Thomas Dunphy, of New York, and by J. D. Banghart, of Jersey City.

The jurors who were selected and sworn to try the issue were, William L. Ashmore, William H. Phillips, Joel Jemison, William T. Hart, Henry S. Booze, John L. Gibson, Joseph Snediker, William C. Anderson, Clark Hooper, Charles Megill, Edward Jewell and Charles T. Blackwell. The trial occupied eleven days. Seventy-seven witnesses were examined on the part of the State. The defendant put in no defence. The case was argued before the jury by the Prosecutor and the Attorney General for the State, and Mr. James for the defendant. The jury, after an elaborate charge by Judge Brown, were out about an hour and a half, and then returned a verdict of "guilty of murder in the first degree." The case excited great interest in Trenton and throughout the State. The large court-house could not admit the excited throng of people who surrounded it. It was packed during every day of the trial. The prisoner was without friends and without sympathy, and he seemed to desire neither.



An application was made on behalf of the defendant to Chancellor Green, for a writ of error, which was refused, and he was sentenced to be hung on Friday, the third day of April next ensuing. Through all the proceedings of the trial, from his arrest to his execution, he was entirely composed. He betrayed no emotion, when the most damning evidence was adduced against him, nor when the verdict was rendered. He had made some attempt to escape from jail, and perhaps to destroy his life. He was executed at the time fixed in the sentence, by Robert L. Hutchinson, sheriff of the county, and his body not being claimed by friends, was given to the surgeons.

There was much that was peculiar and mysterious hanging over this case, that made it interesting, though it was Satanic.

The prisoner was an extraordinary man, intelligent, self-reliant and without an accomplice and without personal friends. He had with him government bonds to the amount of sixteen hundred dollars, besides some money, and a large trunk full of underclothing. He travelled under different names, and perhaps his true name was not given at all. There was some reason to believe that his name was George W. Symonds, and was related to a family by the name of Symonds, in Templeton, Massachusetts. He was recognized by officers from other prisons, as a former convict, under different names. He avoided being known, and would not recognize a woman who claimed to be his wife.

The evidence disclosed that he had compassed the murder of other prominent citizens of Princeton, whom he had regarded as wealthy; and though he had watched and dogged them at night, he was thwarted in his designs, and turned his fiendish purposes towards poor Rowand the jeweller.

The case was one which illustrated marvellously the convincing force of circumstantial evidence, for it was upon such evidence alone that he was convicted. This proof was more reliable and satisfactory to the court, the jury and the community, than the positive testimony of witnesses alone could have made it. Though he had laid his hellish plans with the utmost deliberation and craftiness, every step he took in the plot, in its conception, its execution and its concealment, con-

spired to testify against him, and fix the charge upon him. The evidence of a multitude of circumstances was so woven together into a net of his own making, that he could find no way through it. It was as conclusive as a mathematical demonstration. The corroboration of one fact by another and the accumulation of facts, all strengthening and lengthening the chain, as the trial progressed from day to day, were as exciting as the performance of a tragedy on the stage. Passing by the testimony which established his purpose of mischief in Princeton and especially towards his victim, before the night of the murder, his denial of having been in Princeton on that night was contradicted by a score of the best of witnesses, who identified him by his dress, even to a rent in his overcoat, by his voice and his face as seen in drug stores, and in Rowand's store, with his coat collar turned up, and his hat over his eyes to avoid recognition, and mysteriously crossing streets in the mud to avoid meeting persons who knew him, and being noticed following Rowand in Witherspoon Street, when on his way home. Witnesses who had spoken to him that night and talked to one another about him, came forward and established his presence in Princeton on that night, about the time the murder was committed, beyond all possible doubt.

Then came the proof from Millstone as to his strange acting, his hiring a wagon and horse to drive to Kingston that night, and inquiring the way and distance to Princeton, preferring the night to the day, and yet not stopping at Kingston at all, returning to Millstone after midnight, remaining up in his room all night, the next day hiding a bunch of keys under the stoop of a school-house, which were found and among them the key of Rowand's safe, and other keys which had been stolen and seen before in the prisoner's possession; the whole identified with great particularity.

And then after the report of the murder of a watchmaker had been made against him, the chambermaid who cleaned up his room in Millstone, remembered having seen among bits of papers torn up and left in the ewer of his room, a piece of a card with a picture of a watch on it, and mentioned this circumstance, which led to a search of the papers which had been carried out to the cess-pool, where was seen first the

little card with the face of the watch with the name of Rowand upon it turned up floating, and other bits of torn papers taken from his room, identified as papers belonging to Rowand, and having been in his possession a few days before the murder, such as a promissory note, a receipted bill, and the pedigree of his horse given by Gov. Olden. These things which had been taken from Rowand's pocket and pocket-book on the night of the murder, and found at Millstone connected with the prisoner, necessarily connected him with being in Princeton, and with Rowand that night. Then there was found blood on his overcoat, and on one of his shirts, which he could not explain.

Such is a mere outline of the proof against him. To all the evidence of the State against him he made no defence, no explanation. The community felt relieved when the arrest, the trial and the judgment were followed by the execution, which placed the unfortunate man beyond the pale of human society. This crime was committed to obtain money—gold; and yet, though he waded through the blood of the innocent to get the key to unlock the jeweller's safe, he lost the little pick out of it in the street, before he entered the store; and without it the key would not unlock the safe. The life of Rowand was taken; the contents of the safe were untouched; the spoils captured were about thirty cents; and the murderer's own money and watch were given to his lawyers, to see him tried and executed. No human being was known to have shed a tear over him.

COMMODORE ROBERT FIELD STOCKTON was one of the most illustrious sons of Princeton. He was born at Morven, in 1795. His father was the Hon. Richard Stockton, LL. D., the distinguished lawyer whom we have noticed in a former chapter; his mother was Mary Field. He was a grandson of Richard Stockton, the signer of the Declaration, and a great grandson of John Stockton, to whom the Morven plantation was devised by Richard Stockton, the first settler by that name at Stony Brook. In his boyhood he was characterized for his personal courage, a high sense of honor, a hatred of injustice, with unbounded generosity and a devoted attachment to his friends. These traits of character "grew with his growth and strengthened with his strength," and were fully developed in him,

as a chivalric and intrepid citizen and soldier through all his life.

He entered Princeton College in the freshman class when in his thirteenth year. He exhibited much aptitude for the languages and mathematics, but particularly excelled in elocution. In a year and a half he would have completed his collegiate course, but the impending war with Great Britain, and the fame of Nelson on the sea, then in its zenith, fired his young heart, and impelled him to emulate the great exploits of the great British Captain. He relinquished his college pursuits for the navy, sought a midshipman's warrant, and received his commission bearing date September, 1811.

Soon after receiving his commission, Mr. Stockton was ordered to join the frigate *President*, in command of Commodore Rodgers, and sailed on a cruise along the coast, where a number of British frigates were hovering. He remained with the Commodore while in command of a squadron consisting of the frigates *President* and *Congress*, the ship-of-war *Hornet*, and the brig *Argus*, and through all the perils and battles of that service, the coolness and military deportment of young Stockton attracted the admiration of the Commodore. The enjoyment which he seemed to derive from the perils of battle, and his ardent hopes of soon again participating in its excitement, won for him the significant *sobriquet* of "*Fighting Bob*," an appellation by which he was long remembered by many an *old salt*.

In 1815, upon the declaration of war against Algiers, he sailed with a commission of Junior Lieutenant on board the *Spitfire*, under Commodore Decatur, for the Mediterranean, with a large squadron. During the several years spent on the coast, and in the Mediterranean, in command of the *Spitfire*, the *Guerriere* and the *Erie*, under Commodores Rodgers, Decatur, Bainbridge and Chauncey, Lieut. Stockton displayed great dash, bravery and skill in naval warfare.

After having been ten years in the service of the navy, he returned to Princeton, not yet satisfied with the fame he had won in the path of danger. He became interested in the American Colonization cause, and through the urgent solicitation of Judge Washington, Francis Key and others at Wash-

ington, he applied to Secretary Thomson for command of a new schooner, the Alligator, and obtained it, though such an appointment was not due him, as older officers had before asked for it.

With the consent of the Navy Department, Lieut. Stockton acceded to the wishes of the Colonization Society, and agreed to go to the coast of Africa, to secure a more eligible site for the American Colony than Sherbro, which had proved too unhealthy. He sailed on this expedition in the fall of 1821, with full discretion to acquire such a site on the coast as he would judge suitable for the American Colony.

After having visited the British Colony of Sierra Leone, on the western coast of Africa, and consulted George McCarty, the Governor of the colony, who referred him to a site a hundred miles north of that place, high and healthful and well adapted for the colony,—though he thought it could not be obtained by peaceable cession from the ferocious natives, as many efforts had been made by different nations to obtain it, but without success. Lieut. Stockton sailed up to Mesurado, the place referred to, and was satisfied that it was in every respect a suitable one for the American Colony.

Lieut. Stockton, accompanied by Dr. Ayres, the agent of the Colonization Society, went ashore at Cape Mesurado in a quiet way, as if to traffic with the inhabitants, and soon ingratiated himself with the head men, and through the aid of interpreters, he unfolded the advantages to them of having a colony of civilized Africans on their coast with an important commerce which would spring up there; and many of the chiefs expressed a desire to realize the advantages which had been enumerated.

After thus preparing the minds of the chiefs, and especially of King Peter as he was called, the chief who had the greatest influence over them, Stockton proposed directly to King Peter, the cession of a certain district of country around Cape Mesurado. This proposition was not pressed at first, but it was left to operate on their cupidity for some time; and then King Peter, completely won over by the attentions and frank deportment of Stockton, agreed to the proposition as made; and a day and place were designated where they should meet to execute the agreement.

At the time appointed, Stockton, and Dr. Ayres and Mr. Nicholson, a seaman of New Jersey, with a Croo interpreter, all apparently unarmed, repaired to the ground selected for the interview. But when arrived there, King Peter was not there but had gone with all his people twenty miles into the interior. He had left word for Stockton to follow him "if he dare." A mulatto who had seen Stockton at Sierra Leone, and who was a slave-trader, had misrepresented the mission of Stockton to Peter. After some deliberation, Stockton resolved to pursue Peter and hold him to his agreement at all hazards. It was a hazardous undertaking, involving a journey through swamps and jungles frequented by wild beasts, and inhabited by ferocious savages, and through which the white man had never passed. But Stockton was equal to the emergency, and struck boldly into the wilderness, reaching, after a fatiguing march, the village where, from the numbers collected, he believed that King Peter could be found. Numerous groups of naked negroes, generally pretty well armed, were lounging in the shade of the palm-trees, or collected in groups, and gazing with surprise at the appearance of Stockton and the two men who accompanied him. As soon as the object of Stockton was made known to the principal men, a concourse of negroes exceeding five hundred in number, upon a signal, assembled in a large palaver-hall which seemed appropriated for such convocations. Places were assigned and mats spread for the strangers. After they were seated one of the head men came forward and shook them by the hands formally. When Peter entered, he took no notice of them, but frowning and scowling he took his place at the farthest seat from them.

One of the chiefs with whom Stockton had been before acquainted, arose and formally presented him to the king. Peter was cold and in ill humor, and demanded of Stockton, who now sat by his side on the throne, in an angry tone, the business of the strangers and why had they dared to penetrate so far into his dominions, where white man had never before been seen. Stockton was now fully convinced that the object of his agreement to purchase this strip of land, had been misrepresented by the mulatto slave trader, whom he saw in the crowd before him, and he entered frankly into an explana-

tion of his position as connected with the United States Navy, and the object of the American Colonization Society. While he was proceeding to show the advantages which the natives would gain by having such a settlement of civilized population in their neighborhood, the mulatto suddenly rushed up, and with clenched fist, denounced Stockton as an enemy to the slave trade, and as having already captured several slave traders.

At this instant the whole multitude of armed negroes rose, and with an awful yell clanged their instruments of war together and seemed awaiting a signal from their chiefs to rush upon Stockton and his party and cut them to pieces. It appeared to Dr. Ayres that the hour of martyrdom had arrived, and in silent prayer he lifted up his thoughts to heaven. Stockton instantly, with his clear, ringing tone of voice commanded silence. The multitude was hushed as if a thunderbolt had fallen among them, and every eye was turned upon the speaker. Deliberately drawing a pistol from his breast and cocking it, he gave it to Dr. Ayres, saying, while he pointed to the mulatto, "shoot that villain if he opens his lips again." Then, with the same deliberation, drawing another pistol and levelling it at the head of King Peter, and directing him to be silent until he heard what was to be said; and then he proceeded to explain the true object of this treaty, and warned the king of the consequences of his refusal to execute it, threatening the worst punishment of an angry God if he should again fail to perform his agreement.

During this harangue, delivered through an interpreter, the whole throng, horror-struck with the danger of their king and awed by the majesty of an ascendant mind, sunk gradually, cowering prostrate to the ground. If they had believed Stockton to be an immediate messenger from heaven, they could not have quailed and shrunk and humbled themselves to more humiliating postures. Like true savages, the transition in their minds from ferocity to abject cowardice was sudden and involuntary. King Peter was quite as much overcome with fear as any of the crowd, and Stockton, as he perceived the effect of his own intrepidity, pressed the yielding mood of the king only with more sternness and vehemence.

King Peter, with all his chiefs and head men, agreed and

pledged themselves to execute the treaty on the next day at the place formerly agreed upon, and they were this time as good as their word. The treaty was executed with all due formalities.

The territory thus acquired by Lieutenant Stockton is now the flourishing republic of Liberia. The American Colonization Society, as soon as practicable after the cession, took possession of the country, and established their settlement of colonists near Cape Mesurado, on St. Paul's River. The colony increased by immigration and spread over several hundred miles along the coast; and the republic now embraces several hundred thousand people, subject to its free and Christianizing influences. The name of Stockton has thus become associated in history with the names of the founders of this prosperous State; for its original acquisition must be ascribed to his prudence and valor.\*

Soon after this, Lieut. Stockton sailed for the United States. While on the coast of Africa he captured several vessels engaged in the slave trade under false colors; one, the *Marianna Flora*, and another was the *Jeune Eugenie*. The right of capture was tested in the courts of the United States and justified. The first case is reported in 11 Wheaton, p. 50, and the other in 2 Mason's C. C. Reports. Judge Story delivered the opinion of the court, and Mr. Webster was Mr. Stockton's counsel. After this, whenever Stockton discovered a piracy to have been committed, he made pursuit of the perpetrators and followed them to their dens and hiding-places.

In 1823-4 he was ordered south, with a party to survey the southern coast of the United States. While there engaged, he was married at Charleston, South Carolina, to Miss Maria Potter, only daughter of John Potter before mentioned.

In 1826, after nearly sixteen years of service without furlough or leave of absence, he settled at Princeton, and though not on furlough, he was permitted to remain at home for some time. Here he promoted the organization of the New Jersey Colonization Society, and was elected its first President.

\* We have drawn this narrative from Samuel J. Bayard's Biography of Commodore Stockton. The facts were furnished by Dr. Ayres, and fully confirmed by the Commodore himself.



At this period of his life, he indulged in the pleasures of the turf, and imported a fine stock of blooded horses from England, among them were Trustee, Langford and Diana. Langford, one of his favorite horses, won a produce-stake of ten thousand dollars on the Washington course, over a good field of horses, among which was the famous racer of Gen. Jackson, while he was President. A passion for good horses seems to have been hereditary in the Stockton family. The Burlington County Stocktons, the descendants of Richard Stockton, the father of the first Richard Stockton of Stony Brook, have always been celebrated for being the owners of good and valuable horses; and the same testimony can be borne of the Princeton Stocktons, at least as far back as the signer of the Declaration and down to the present generation.

In the choice of a successor to President Monroe, Captain Stockton took an interest in favor of Mr. Adams, but afterwards espoused the cause of Gen. Jackson, because Mr. Adams had proscribed the Federalists. He appeared before political conventions and mass meetings as a political speaker, and his elocution and personal magnetism gave him great popularity and influence with the people.

In 1828, the subject of internal improvements in New Jersey claimed the attention of Captain Stockton, and he stepped forward, when the work of the Delaware and Raritan Canal was likely to fail for want of capital, and subscribed for stock to save the charter, and pledged the capital of himself and his friends to ensure it. He also went to England to effect a loan of money, which the capitalists of New York could not effect, and he succeeded. He became prominently identified with that great work, and with its union with the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company. With the gigantic power of these joint companies, Captain Stockton's name and influence were enlisted in its defence; and he felt obliged frequently to appeal by letters and addresses, to the public and to the legislature of the State, to protect and defend its chartered rights. In this way he was drawn to the seat of legislation, and to the arena of the lobby, sometimes to defeat adverse legislation and sometimes to secure new grants of power, which brought upon him and his coadjutors severe censure of the press and

of the public. It is not difficult to trace the origin and growth of that undue political power which this vast corporation with its large capital exerted on the politics and the legislation of the State. And the observing statesman must be blind, if he cannot discover in these railroad struggles, the germinating seeds of bribery and corruption which have developed into a shameless prostitution of public virtue and political purity, in our elections and in our legislative halls.

In 1838, Mr. Stockton, in command of the flagship Ohio, of Commodore Hull, sailed to the Mediterranean, but the next year he was promoted to a post Captain and was recalled. And now he enters the political campaign against Mr. Van Buren and in favor of Gen. Harrison, aiding the Whigs in defending the Great Seal of New Jersey, or Broad Seal as it was called. He appeared throughout the State, and addressed large public meetings in nearly every county, exciting great enthusiasm by his popular oratory and dash. He supported President Tyler in his departure from the Whig party, which elected him; and he was tendered the Secretaryship of the Navy, which he declined.

The Navy Department permitted him to construct a steamship-of-war. It was commenced in 1842 and completed in 1844, and was named *The Princeton*, and was an object of universal admiration, for her speed and sailing qualities, her admirable model, the impregnable security of her motive power (being placed below water-line), and her powerful armament. On her visit to the Mediterranean, she attracted the attention of the skilful engineers of every European naval power. She carried both sails and steam, with the engines in the bottom of the vessel out of reach of the enemy's shot. She was armed with twelve forty-two pounders each, and two tremendous pieces of ten tons' weight each, carrying a ball of two hundred and thirty pounds for two miles with the precision of a rifle. These two great guns were called the "Peacemaker" and the "Oregon."

On the 28th of February, 1844, the President, Cabinet, and a large number of members of Congress and distinguished strangers in Washington, went on board the Princeton for an

experimental excursion down the Potomac. The day was fine, the company was joyous and gay, and the steamer performed her part to the satisfaction of all on board; the big guns were fired with perfect success. All were now around the festive board wild with delight, and Captain Stockton was complimented and toasted in extravagant terms.

While the Captain, with a wine glass in his hand, was toasting the President, an officer informed him that some of the company desired one of the great guns to be again discharged. The Captain shook his head, saying, "No more guns to-night," when soon afterwards the same request was made by the Secretary of the Navy. This the Captain could not refuse, and went on deck to fire it. "He placed himself on the breech of the gun, aimed and fired. Feeling a sensible shock, stunned and enveloped in a cloud of smoke, for an instant he could not account for his sensations. But in a few seconds as the smoke cleared, and the groans of the wounded and shrieks of the bystanders who were unhurt, resounded over the decks, the terrible catastrophe which had happened was revealed. But in that appalling hour, he alone, of all the crowd, seemed to retain possession of his faculties. Calmly but clearly his voice pealed over the elements of confusion and disturbance; and a few brief orders recalling his men to a sense were given—the dead and the wounded ascertained, and all proper dispositions respecting both being made, when, as he turned to leave the sad scene, he fell into the arms of his men exhausted physically, and was borne insensible to his bed.

The unfortunate sufferers by the explosion who were killed, were the Hon. Abel P. Upshur, Secretary of State, the Hon. Thomas W. Gilmer, Secretary of the Navy, Captain Beverly Kennon, United States Navy, Hon. Virgil Maxey, of Maryland, and the Hon. David Gardiner, father-in-law of the President.

A naval Court of Inquiry was called, to inquire into the conduct of Captain Stockton, in relation to the experiments and proof of the great gun which had exploded, and he was acquitted of all blame.

Captain Stockton continued in the naval service, and in 1845 was ordered to the frigate Congress, and sailed to the

Pacific, conveying the American Minister, Mr. Ten Eycke, to the Sandwich Islands; and while at Honolulu he made an address to the congregation of the Rev. Mr. Armstrong, in the presence of the king, commending the study of the Bible and the practice of Christian principles—the Rev. Mr. Armstrong interpreting as he spoke.

Thence he sailed to California, and reported to Commodore Sloat, who, being unwell, relinquished the command of the squadron to Stockton. This was just as hostilities were breaking out between Mexico and the United States, and it was necessary for the sailors of the squadron to render military service on land.

The history of Commodore Stockton's exploits and services in California during the Mexican war, alike brilliant and valuable, is minutely written in his Biography. It is fully illustrative of the force and genius of his character, and corresponds with his whole life. His conquest of California, and his establishing a civil government over it, before the Mexican war was closed, secured it to the United States when peace was agreed upon. The Commodore established the first printing press and the first school house in that territory. The history of his return home across the Rocky Mountains, with a few guides and companions, and his perils among the Indians on the route, was as full of romance as some of the adventures of Kit Carson and General Fremont.

In 1849 Commodore Stockton resigned his command in the navy. He next appears in the Senate of the United States about the middle of December, 1851, having been elected by the democratic party of New Jersey, to succeed William L. Dayton in that body. It was not the purpose of the Commodore to hold his seat long in the Senate. The place had been sought by his brother-in-law, John R. Thomson, but he could not command the whole vote of his party necessary for his election, while the recusant members were willing to vote for the Commodore; and he accepted the appointment with an intention to resign as soon, at a future day, as Mr. Thomson could secure a vote to elect him.

Senator Stockton was not a silent Senator. He took an interest in the debates of the Senate, and made several

speeches. One of his best was in support of a bill to abolish flogging in the navy. He opposed the Kossuth resolutions and favored non-intervention. He made one on the Compromise Measures, and one on the death of Mr. Webster; one on the efficiency of the army and navy, and three or four others. His style of oratory was better adapted to popular assemblies, than to a body of dignified and experienced Senators. Yet he was a useful, able and honorable member of that body.

After he withdrew from the Senate, he gave his attention to his private business and to the interests of the Joint Companies of which he was President. It was not in his nature to adhere permanently to any one political party. He was born to lead, not to follow. He now became interested in the American movement, and identified himself heartily with the Know-nothing or American party, and loomed up as an aspirant or probable candidate for the Presidency of the United States, but his friends failed to secure the nomination for him. The civil war was precipitated upon the country, and the Commodore, with warm sympathies for the South, and for the doctrine of State Rights, and yet cherishing a patriotic love for the old flag of the Union, after the failure of the Peace Convention, in which he labored to avert the storm of war, remained in his retirement, a silent spectator, until the National Government triumphed, and then death ended his eventful and brilliant career. He died at Morven, his residence in Princeton, after a short illness, October 7th, 1866. His wife, (Maria Potter,) a pious and excellent woman, devoted to her home and children, and most highly esteemed for her sterling worth, had died a few years before him, and his last surviving sister, Mrs. Harrison, died on the 9th of August, preceding his death.

The Commodore, though about seventy-one years of age when he died, was full of vigor and energy. No infirmity of body had given a premonition of his death. His spirit was always buoyant and hopeful. His health had been preserved by his abstemious habits of life and general care of himself. He had received a large estate from his father, and a still larger one, perhaps, from his wife. He improved and embellished Morven, and was profuse in the use of money to carry

out his purposes, whether private or public. He was affectionate and indulgent to his children, encouraging them to take out-door exercise; and, furnishing his sons and daughters each with a handsome, well-bred horse, took great pleasure, when at home, in riding with them on horseback.

Commodore Stockton was a man of strong religious sentiments, an open and acknowledged believer in the sacred scriptures. This was not only manifested at home, but abroad, in his intercourse with his sailors, and on public occasions, in his public speeches. It was perhaps the result of his education at home; for through all the generations of the Stockton family in Princeton, strong Christian faith and a reverence for true religion have characterized every successive family, whether Quaker, Presbyterian or Episcopalian. The influence of Princeton society has, doubtless, had some effect upon their character; but noble and Christian women, as wives and mothers, have not failed to impress their strong character upon their children, from one generation to another.

This is but a feeble portrait of one who has been distinguished throughout this country, and the world, as a sailor, a soldier, an orator and statesman. He was impulsive yet self-possessed; brave and chivalric; generous and noble, with a wonderful magnetism over men when he came into personal contact with them. He was buried from Morven, in the old Presbyterian burying ground, with the service of the Episcopal church, to which he belonged in the later years of his life. He left three sons, all lawyers; *Richard Stockton*, who was treasurer of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company, and who died in 1876, leaving a large family surviving him in Princeton; *John Potter Stockton*, who is the present Attorney General of New Jersey, and was late United States Senator; and *General Robert Field Stockton*, who is Comptroller of the State and is now residing in Trenton. He also left six daughters, viz: Mrs. Rev. William A. Dod, Mrs. Admiral Howell, Mrs. Wm. R. Brown, Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. Frank D. Howell and Miss Maria Stockton, who is unmarried. All the daughters are living except Mrs. Dod, who died a few years after her father, and shortly after her husband. She was a woman of rare excellence, and her children are residing in Princeton.

Since the death of the Commodore, Morven has been sold, and has passed out of the Commodore's family, but not out of the Stockton family. It is owned and occupied by his nephew, Major Samuel W. Stockton, the son of his deceased brother, Lieut. Samuel W. Stockton, of the United States Navy.

In the death of Commodore Stockton, and the removal of his large and interesting family from Morven, Princeton has sustained a very serious loss in its prestige, and in its social and public life.

DR. JOHN NEILSON WOODHULL, a prominent and widely known physician of Princeton, was a son of the Rev. George Spafford Woodhull, a former pastor of the Presbyterian church in Princeton, and a grandson of the Rev. John Woodhull, D.D., a pastor for many years of the old Tennent church. His mother was Gertrude Neilson, a daughter of Col. John Neilson, of New Brunswick, a Revolutionary officer of some distinction. He was born in Cranberry, New Jersey, July 25th, 1807, graduated at Princeton College with his brother, Alfred A. Woodhull, in the class of 1828, and at the Pennsylvania Medical University in 1831. He began to practice medicine at Cranberry, but upon the death of Dr. Howell in 1835, he came to Princeton and entered into partnership with his brother, Dr. Alfred A. Woodhull. He was a man of very fine personal appearance, with pleasing and popular manners, but never married. He was wholly devoted to his profession, with a strong and determined will to succeed in his practice, and he did succeed. He had more patients and patronage than any physician who ever lived in this community. He was remarkable for his industry and attentiveness to his business. He kept a good supply of fine and fast horses and drove day and night, in all weather, however bad the roads, or far distant his patients might reside from his office. He went everywhere and went incessantly. He understood human nature well, and possessed a fascinating power over all who availed themselves of his professional services. In the later period of his life he adopted a plan which Dr. Clarke, of Clarkesville, had in his day adopted—that of setting apart one or two days in every week, when he would remain in his office

to receive patients from a distance for consultation. The number of visitors on such occasions was very large, and he would distribute a great deal of his medicines on such days. His patients had unbounded confidence in him, and in cases of fevers, he was considered eminently successful. He fully appreciated the importance of good nursing and attention, in effecting a cure. It was almost impossible for him, with the large practice he had, to read much, and keep himself abreast the advancing science of the profession. He learned more by experience and observation, than he did from what others wrote. Nor was he much inclined to intimacy with the fraternity, or to aid and promote the organized medical societies of the counties and State. But whatever might be the opinion of the learned members of the profession, as to Dr. Woodhull's familiarity with the science of the healing art, it is undeniable that he was a popular and successful practitioner. He attempted, a few years before his death, to withdraw from ordinary practice, and attend chiefly to consultation practice at his office; and to effect this he retired to a farm at Stony Brook, and devoted much attention to agriculture and office practice, and was quite successful in both. But he returned to town and had his office and residence on the property now owned by the college, near the School of Science, till his death.

Dr. Woodhull was a Presbyterian and usually attended the First Presbyterian church, and was a liberal contributor to its funds. His last days were not his best days. He died January 12, 1867, greatly lamented by the hosts of admiring friends and patients, upon whom he had, through a period of thirty years, bestowed the most kindly and often gratuitous professional attendance in their sicknesses. He had acquired an estate estimated at about sixty thousand dollars, and he bequeathed it principally to his nephew, Spafford Woodhull, and to the college of New Jersey, in about equal proportions. A scholarship in college bears his name. He never held a political or public office. He was buried in the old Princeton burying ground.

Soon after the death of Dr. Dunn, in 1851, Dr. WESSEL



T. STOUT came from Allentown and commenced practice in Princeton. He was regarded as a young man of more than ordinary skill and ability in his profession. He died Feb. 26, 1862.

MAJOR JOHN A. PERRINE was a well known citizen of Princeton, an active democratic partisan, who was appointed postmaster to succeed Miss Fanny Morford when she resigned. He obtained the appointment from President Jackson, and continued the office where it had long been kept, on the corner of Nassau and Witherspoon Streets, until 1840, when he was superseded by Robert E. Hornor, the appointee of President Harrison. He was, at one time, Captain of the company of Princeton Blues, and took much pleasure in military parades. He had a place in the Custom House in New York for a short time. He died in Princeton, January 11, 1864, leaving a widow and three children surviving, two daughters and one son. His son, Henry Augustus Perrine, was a volunteer in the Mexican war, and also in the late civil war. He was wounded in the late war, and has since died at Jamesburgh. Mrs. Major Perrine and one daughter, (Mrs. Joseph Priest,) are living in Princeton. The older daughter is married and resides in Detroit.

WILLIAM L. ROGERS, a sea captain from Virginia, removed to Princeton prior to 1836, and bought the Van-Pollen house at Queenston. He was an upright man and a good citizen. For many years he was Recorder of the borough, and at the time of his death, and for many years previous, he was President of the Princeton Bible Society. He was a zealous member of the Episcopal church, and was the father of the Rev. John M. Rogers, late pastor of the Presbyterian church at Middletown Point, Monmouth County, but at present, chaplain in the State prison at Trenton, with his family residence in Princeton. Captain Rogers died July 27, 1866.

HENRY CLOW, whose Reminiscences of Princeton in 1804 have been inserted in a previous chapter, emigrated to Princeton from Scotland in that year. He was steward of the college, having succeeded Mr. Ralph Sansbury, whose daughter

he married for his first wife. He continued to be steward until the Refectory was abandoned, and he was the most popular of all stewards with the students. His breakfast rolls were celebrated, and many of the families of the town made arrangements to be supplied with them regularly.

Mr. Clow was well informed, and possessed a literary and poetic taste, and sometimes he indulged in writing fugitive pieces of poetry. He was a steadfast democrat, was often a member of common council, and had been Mayor and Recorder. His second wife was a daughter of Hart Olden, by whom he had one daughter, Mary (Mrs. Burke). By his first wife he had four sons and two daughters. Robert Clow, the former postmaster of this place, is the only son living in Princeton. Mr. Clow lived to an advanced age, and in the last feeble years of his life, he made a confession of his faith, and was received into the communion and fellowship of the First Presbyterian church of Princeton. He died in November, 1867.

There were many other well known citizens who were public officers, or had been in some way before the public, and who had died during this period; such as John T. Robinson, David Hullfish, A. M. Hudnut, Martin Voorhees, Emley Olden, Thomas Lavender, Abner B. Tomlinson, and others, whose names will occur hereafter in connection with subjects which will be considered in their proper order.

The year 1868 marks the beginning of a new era in Princeton. The Rev. John Maclean, D. D., who had been the President of the college since 1854, having resigned that office, was succeeded by the Rev. James McCosh, D. D., who is the present incumbent of that honorable position. Dr. Maclean was born in Princeton, and has spent his life here. As he identified himself with the interests of the community, and always stood up with manly courage and generous sympathy, in the defence and promotion of the public welfare, he came to be esteemed as one of the truest and most reliable friends of the town as well as of the college. His kindly nature endeared him to all who knew him. He was distinguished for his love

of justice, and at the same time for that tenderness and gentleness of spirit, which seemed often to weigh down the scale, when justice and mercy appeared to be in conflict. No man living in Princeton to-day is as much beloved among all classes of men—the rich and the poor—the high and the low—without respect to color or nationality, as ex-president John Maclean.

The arrival of Dr. McCosh the President elect, as successor of Dr. Maclean, in 1868, was just one hundred years after the arrival of Dr. Witherspoon, a former President of this college. His inauguration was attended by a large concourse of alumni and friends of the institution, and gave a powerful impulse to new and projected improvements to the college, both as to new buildings and a higher standard of study. Those improvements in the buildings and grounds especially affected the town. Old landmarks were effaced. The City Hotel, which stood on the corner of Nassau Street and College Lane, which had been kept as a public inn for the past century, and in the Revolutionary period by Col. Jacob Hyer, with all the houses between it and Washington Street, fell into the hands of the college, through the purchase made by John C. Green, of New York. And under the will of Dr. John N. Woodhull, the houses on William Street and on Washington Street were devised to the college, giving to that body the whole block. Nearly all of those houses, about twenty in number, have been removed, and the land has been incorporated into the campus of the college, upon which Dickinson Hall, the Chancellor Green Library, and the Scientific School have been erected. The old house of the Vice President, so long occupied by Dr. Maclean, was taken down, besides other buildings, and the President's house was renovated, all which made a great change in the aspect of the old town.\* While these changes have affected the appearance of Princeton, they pertain chiefly to

\* It is worthy of note, that while so many dwellings were being removed and destroyed by the college, in order to secure ground for great college structures, the Rev. George Sheldon, D. D., in 1868, removed his father's homestead dwelling, from Northampton, Mass., to Princeton, taking it down piece by piece, and setting it up on a portion of Dr. Miller's lot, in Mercer Street, and which is now the handsome residence of Dr. Sheldon.

the college, and a fuller notice of them must be reserved, until the history of the college shall come under consideration in the next volume.

The present Second Presbyterian church was erected and dedicated in the year 1868, and the original Grecian structure of the Episcopal church was taken down and the present beautiful one was commenced in the same year.

## CHAPTER XIII.

1870-1876.

*Biographical Sketches.* Life and Services of Richard S. Field—Of Col. William C. Alexander—Of Rear-Admiral Thomas Crabbe—Of Rev. William A. Dod, D.D.—Visit of Professors Eadie and Calderwood from Scotland—Dr. Calderwood's Lecture on the Philosophy of Mental Science, in the College Chapel—Delegates to the World's Christian Alliance in New York visit Princeton—Dorner, Christlieb, Hugh Miller, Sheshadri the Brahmin, address the People—The whole Alliance visit the Place—The Dean of Canterbury and others make Addresses—Preparations for the National Centennial Year.

THIS short period chronicles the removal by death of several other prominent and distinguished citizens of Princeton, who, for more than a generation past, had lived here and had shed upon the reputation and history of the place, peculiar honor. It seemed as though that galaxy of influential men who, by their education, talents, and social position, had gained official honors and a wide public reputation among their fellow men for more than thirty years, were now to disappear from the streets and habitations of their honored town forever. As in their lives they were united almost as one family, so now they are removed to the city of the dead in closé, unbroken procession. No person acquainted with these men will fail to recognize the loss which Princeton, as well as the whole State and country, sustained in their death. And yet nearly all of them had attained unto " threescore years and ten." For the last forty years, in the history of Princeton, no public men have been more identified with its political and municipal prosperity and enterprise than Richard S. Field and William C. Alexander, legal gentlemen of high social, civil and political distinction throughout the country.

RICHARD STOCKTON FIELD was born in Princeton. His father, Robert Field, was graduated at Nassau Hall in 1793,

and was the son of Robert Field, of Whitehill, in Burlington County, N. J., who, in 1774, was chairman of a public meeting of that county, which sent delegates to the State Convention held in New Brunswick in that year, to devise means to resist British oppression, and favored both a Provincial and a Continental Congress. The family were English, and trace their honored ancestry back to Field the Astronomer, of Ardsley, in England. Robert Field, jr., married Abigail Stockton, the youngest daughter of Richard Stockton, the signer. She was then living with her widowed mother in Princeton, boarding in the house standing on the western corner of Nassau and Washington Streets. After their marriage they resided at Whitehill, and her mother, Mrs. Stockton, accompanied her and lived with her there until her death. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Field returned to Princeton, and with her four children lived in what was known as Rose Cottage (now incorporated with the grounds of Mrs. John R. Thomson), until she exchanged that place for the property, which she occupied till her death, in Stockton Street, nearly opposite Bayard Avenue and where her daughter, Mrs. Olmsted, resides.

Richard Stockton, the brother of Mrs. Robert Field, married the sister of Mr. Robert Field. Commodore Robert Field Stockton and Richard Stockton Field were cousins.

Richard S. Field graduated at Princeton in the class of 1821, and studied law with his uncle, Richard Stockton, who was then in the zenith of his professional success and honor. He was admitted to the bar in 1825. He commenced the practice of law in Salem, in this State, where he married Miss Mary Ritchie, and resided there until the year 1833, when he returned to Princeton and opened a law office. He bought of Mr. Steadman the property now owned by Prof. Green on Stockton St., opposite Morven, and for many years lived there. In 1837 he was elected a member of the House of Assembly, from Middlesex, and was prominent in erecting the new county of Mercer, and in 1838 he was appointed Attorney General of the State, and held that office till 1841. As that office was then constituted with only a nominal salary, it was customary for the incumbent to prosecute the pleas in such counties as he might select. Attorney General Field did so in several counties and

with marked success. In 1844 he was, by compromise of the two political parties, chosen one of the members, from Mercer, of the convention to form a new State Constitution, and took an active part in that body.

In 1847 he was elected a Professor in the Law College of Princeton, and in order to further the interest of that department of the College, he erected on his own ground, and at his own expense, the stone building on Mercer Street, opposite Canal, for that institution; but it was afterwards sold to the Joint Companies, for offices, and now belongs to Mrs. John R. Thomson, and is used for Ivy Hall Library. The College of New Jersey conferred the title of Doctor of Laws upon him in 1859.

Mr. Field was, for many years, a Director of the Joint Railroad and Canal Companies, and was one of their counsel, with James S. Green, until Joseph P. Bradley was retained specially as such. He was President of the Princeton Gas Light Company for many years.

He attended to professional business in Princeton until he was appointed Judge of the U. S. District Court. He possessed a superior legal mind, was a very plausible speaker, and his good language and style, with deep earnestness, notwithstanding a rather unpleasant drawling which characterized his delivery, always secured to him attentive hearers. He was among the first lawyers of the State.

In 1862 he was appointed, by Gov. Olden, to fill a vacancy in the United States Senate, caused by the death of John R. Thomson, which position he held for six weeks only, as the Legislature, being democratic, did not reappoint him. While in the Senate he delivered a eulogy on his predecessor, Mr. Thomson, when his death was noticed, and he also made a speech on the right of President Lincoln to suspend the Habeas Corpus Act, and justified him in having done so.

In 1863, upon the death of Philemon Dickerson, Mr. Field was nominated by President Lincoln and confirmed by the Senate, to fill his place as Judge of the United States Court for the District of New Jersey—an office which he filled with ability until his late sickness, when he signed his resignation and died, and Judge Nixon, the present incumbent, received the appointment.

Mr. Field was instrumental in procuring a charter for the Princeton Bank in 1834. He was a Director and Attorney for that institution during its chartered existence, and after the death of Robert Voorhees, its first president, he became president, and continued as such for about sixteen years.

Judge Field was among the original founders of the New Jersey Historical Society, and was its president at the time of his death. He read a paper before that body on "The Provincial Courts of New Jersey," which that society published in 1849, in a volume of 200 pages. It was a valuable contribution to the history of New Jersey. He also read before that society memoirs of the late Chief Justice Hornblower, and of James Parker. He always manifested a warm interest in the success of that institution.

At the request of the Legislature of the State, Judge Field delivered a eulogy on President Lincoln before that body, in Trenton, which was a production of merit and has been published.

His address before the American Whig Society of the college, at its Centennial celebration in 1869, was a scholarly production, and brought to him many complimentary letters from highly esteemed scholars and friends. It has been published with the proceedings of that interesting occasion.

It is said to have been the misfortune to the judicial reputation of Lord Eldon that he utterly relinquished literature from the time he began to study the law; that he had forgotten his modicum of classical lore, and remained wholly unacquainted with modern authors; and that in his latter days he could neither speak nor write grammatically; while the celebrity of Lord Mansfield and Lord Stowell as judges was, in no small degree, owing to their having continued to refresh and to embellish their professional labors by perusing the immortal productions of poets, historians and moralists.

But Judge Field was preëminent among the members of the New Jersey Bar for his love and study of literature. He was familiar with modern authors; and while his library was well supplied with the most valuable law books, it was also furnished with the choicest classics and the rarest productions of modern scholars. Everything around him bore testimony to his fine literary and æsthetic culture.



No citizen of the State labored more persistently and successfully than Judge Field, for the improvement of the public school system of the State, especially for that branch of it known as the Normal School. He was the President of the Board of Trustees of both the Normal School at Trenton and the Farnham School at Beverly, at the time of his death. He was equally interested in the subject at home, always taking a leading part in promoting the public schools in Princeton, and persevering with wonderful zest in overcoming difficulties in the way of their success.

He was always ready to help any enterprise or institution, which asked his assistance, either with money or personal co-operation, whether educational, religious, agricultural, literary, political, municipal, or social. He stood ready to help everybody and everything.

For thirty-five years he was a liberal and active citizen of Princeton. His footprints here will be seen for many years to come. He was a man of warm impulses and enthusiasm, with a generous nature, and what the world would call a high tone of honor. In social life he was genial, refined, polished and hospitable. He was always ready to extend to distinguished strangers who might visit Princeton, as well as to the citizens of Princeton, elegant entertainments at his beautiful home, which he had built. His late residence at Woodlawn, at the west end of Princeton, is widely known for its beautiful mansion, extensive lawns and forest grove; for its unsurpassed variety of evergreens, hedges, rhododendrons, Italian walks, and a display of floral beauty meeting you at every step in passing through the acres of his elegant grounds. He threw these grounds open almost as a public park, and the pleasure which the public experienced in passing through them was not greater than that which he experienced in being able to afford such pleasure. His taste was severely cultivated, and it became almost a standard for the town; and it might be said of him that, at least, in arboriculture and landscape-gardening *non tetigit quod non ornavit*.

Judge Field was a Republican in his politics and had been a Whig before the present Republican party was formed. He was an uncompromising supporter of the National Govern-

ment, during the late secession war, giving all his influence to sustain the Union army; yet, with his unreservedly outspoken sentiments on the subject, he seldom allowed his politics to disturb his social relations with families who differed with him.

The judicial office which Judge Field occupied assumed new importance, by reason of the business in Bankruptcy proceedings and also in the enforcement of the Revenue laws, during the war. His official duties were quite onerous, and his courts were almost constantly in session at Trenton.

As a Judge he was painstaking and impartial. There was occasionally heard, among the older members of the bar, who were sometimes drawn into his court, a murmur of complaint that he was imperious and over rigid in enforcing the laws, especially in view of the fact, that an appeal from his decisions was so severely restricted. But this objection was found, rather in the rigid and severe provisions of the United States laws themselves, far exceeding in this respect the laws of the State. The penal code of the United States is much severer than that of the States; and the Bankrupt law in all our Federal courts has received such a radical and far reaching construction, that its execution is severe in comparison with the more liberal laws and decisions of the States. His opinions were well prepared, and as far as they have been published in the law Journals and Reports, reflect honor upon his judicial ability.

We have alluded to Judge Field's liberality and readiness always to advance any enterprise that promised to be useful, by furnishing capital if required to give it success. He seemed ever to have it in his power to afford help. It was seldom that any of his neighbors or fellow citizens who applied to him to help them out of pecuniary trouble or to start in business, were ever denied or disappointed. He had the control of large funds, as trustee, to invest, and also facilities at the bank, which enabled him to accommodate his fellow citizens when in need.

His wife, who was a woman of singular prudence and piety, and less ambitious than domestic in her taste, died about 1855. Her death was a great loss to him. He never again married. His life was lonely, and doubtless was under a constant strain

and abnormal excitement. With heavy fiduciary responsibilities resting upon him, as trustee of a large estate, with a recent loss of his supporting and cheering friends and wealthy associates by death, with a supposed miscarriage of some of his investments, and called upon suddenly to account for the trust reposed in him, his proud and sensitive nature, and his fearful foreboding of the necessity of his surrendering his cherished and idolized "Woodlawn," unnerved him to meet a crisis, which he could and ought to have met, and bewildering his brain, prostrated him, in his weakness, beyond recovery.

On the 20th of April, 1870, while holding his court at Trenton, he was taken suddenly and singularly ill, the result, in the opinion of the physicians who were summoned to his side, of extreme mental and physical exhaustion. He had been unwell for a week before and was reluctant to leave home on that day. He had scarcely opened the court, when his powers of mind and body gave way, and he fell to the floor, and was carried out of the court room, amidst the excitement and grief of all who witnessed the sad event. He rallied so as to be able to ride home in the afternoon. For about a week he refused to see physicians and grew worse. No permanent relief could be obtained. He became unconscious, and under circumstances which have never been fully revealed to the public, he died on the 25th day of May, 1870, nearly sixty-eight years of age.

His funeral was largely attended by citizens, students and professors, and by a large number of strangers representing the Bar, the Historical Society and the Normal School of the State. The burial service of the Episcopal Church was read by the Rev. Alfred B. Baker, assisted by the Rev. A. S. Colton, and his mortal remains were deposited in the cemetery by the side of his wife and other kindred.

He left three children surviving; his son, Lieut. Edward Field, in the United States army, and his daughters, Mrs. Frank Conover and Miss Annis Field, of Princeton.

His only surviving sister is Hannah, the widow of George T. Olmsted, deceased, who resides in Princeton. Two of his sisters married Dr. Dunbar, of Mississippi, and are dead. In the settlement of his estate his beautiful residence at Wood-

lawn was sold for forty thousand dollars to Mrs. David Brown, its present occupant, a sum below its real value.

Judge Field was the last of the prominent and distinguished public men who belonged to the Stockton family, residing in Princeton. His death, following so soon after the death of Commodore Stockton, leaves a vacuum in that honorable circle in Princeton society, which has hitherto kept some illustrious son before the public in past successive generations.

*WILLIAM COWPER ALEXANDER*, the second son of the Rev. Archibald Alexander, D. D., and Janetta Waddel, was preëminently a Princeton man, though not born here. He was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, May 20, 1806. He came to Princeton with his father's family in 1812, and from that time till his death he was a resident of this place, and deeply interested in its honor and prosperity. He was graduated at Nassau Hall, in the class of 1824, at the early age of eighteen. He read law in the office of James S. Green, and was admitted to the bar of New Jersey as attorney in 1828. He opened an office in Princeton, and attended to professional business here for about thirty years. He never applied himself assiduously to the study or practice of the law, and never took his license as counsellor. He possessed extraordinary talents; he was humorous, witty and brilliant in conversation, richly endowed with the graces of elocution, inheriting that wonderful fluency of speech which distinguished his grandfather, the Rev. James Waddel, the eloquent blind preacher of Virginia. When a young man he was very prepossessing and attractive in appearance, and grew large and fine looking in advanced life. He was a great favorite with the community, especially when he was first entering public life. He belonged to the company of Princeton Blues and became a colonel in the militia. The blandishments and compliments that were bestowed upon him were quite enough to seduce him from a course of studious application to business. He early became the ready orator for every public occasion which required an address to be made. He was early drawn into politics, and was sent to the Assembly of the Legislature, from Middlesex County, before Mercer County was formed. He was steadfastly identified

with the Democratic party, and was one of its leaders in this State.

Col. Alexander's forte was in making extempore speeches. In the trial of causes, his address to the jury was always plausible and clear, and his influence over a jury was very captivating. With such extraordinary literary influences and advantages as he enjoyed at his home, he became himself more and more literary in his taste and culture as he grew older. He was a great reader of literary volumes and magazines, and there was nothing for which he was more noted than for his wonderfully strong and retentive memory. He frequently delivered popular lectures, and always commanded good audiences.

At the expiration of the second term of Charles S. Olden's State Senatorship, from Mercer County, Col. Alexander was elected to that position, and was chosen to preside over the Senate. His reliable memory, his readiness of speech, his self-possession, with his capacious intellect, and full knowledge of his duty, combined to give him eminent success as a presiding officer of that body. And his experience and success there caused him to be much sought after to preside over other deliberative and popular assemblies. He was once presented by the Democratic party as a candidate for Governor of New Jersey, against William A. Newell, and was defeated. Some of his enthusiastic friends and partisans mentioned his name in connection with a nomination for Vice President of the United States, and also for the United States Senate, but it is said that he withheld the use of his name to advance the aspirations of others, whose ambition led them to desire the same honor.

In 1850, he with his brothers in Princeton, started the *Princeton Magazine*, a literary monthly, of which he was the editor. It was a rich and racy magazine and was continued only one year. The numbers are now in demand. For the last fifteen years of his life, Col. Alexander was connected with the Equitable Life Assurance Company, of New York, as its first President. That institution was commenced under his administration, and he devoted himself to its successful progress, deriving therefrom a remunerative salary.

Col. Alexander was an ardent alumnus of the college, and was president of the Alumni Association at the time of his death. He presided at their annual meetings with great tact and humor. He was once chosen by the Whig Society to deliver the annual address before the societies at Commencement, which he did, with great pleasure to his audience; and in his address delivered without manuscript, he exhibited, in giving statistical dates, numbers and names, the prodigious power of his memory. His acquaintance among the friends and graduates of the college and seminary, made with the successive classes, through a whole generation, drew towards him a peculiar interest on the anniversary occasions of the institutions, when he seemed to know everybody, and everybody knew him. He received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Lafayette College.

Col. Alexander took great pleasure in pleasing children; and his gallantry towards the ladies, though in his later years he seldom visited them, never deserted him. He was an entertaining conversationalist, and the life of the company which gathered around him.

The death of his father and mother, followed by a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, by which he was laid aside from his ordinary labors for a long time, seemed to make a deep impression upon him. He was very fond of his mother, whom he resembled very strongly, and she was very fond of him. In 1858 he made application to the session of the First Presbyterian church, for admission to full membership, upon confession of his faith. He asked to be excused from appearing before the session in person. He was unanimously received by the session, and seldom has there been an accession to that old and time-honored church, which awakened more pleasure among the membership, than this one of Col. William C. Alexander. His life ever after was consistent with his profession then publicly made, and he retained his connection with this church through the remainder of his life; always attending upon public worship, when he was at home, and contributing with great liberality towards its support and its charities. He was never married.

Col. Alexander died suddenly at the Sturtevant House,

New York, his city residence, on Sunday night, August 23, 1874, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. He had attended divine service at the church of his brother, the Rev. Samuel D. Alexander, D. D., in his usual good health on that day. He died alone while preparing to take a bath. He was buried in the family plot at the cemetery in Princeton, his funeral services having been rendered in the Presbyterian church, by Dr. Macdonald the pastor, who preached, and by Dr. John Hall, of Trenton, who offered prayer, with music, and a profusion of white flowers upon the coffin, given by the gentlemen who were connected with the company of which he was president. There were fifteen pall-bearers, principally his associates in business, but including some of his personal friends in Princeton.

His manly form will be seen no more in our streets, his eloquent voice no more heard in our assemblies on earth. Four of the family preceded him, namely, his venerable father and mother, and his distinguished brothers, James and Addison, and four survive to follow him, namely, Archibald, Samuel, Henry and Janetta. A happy reunion awaits them in the future life.

REAR-ADMIRAL THOMAS CRABBE, who resided with his family in Princeton for about thirty years prior to his death in June 29, 1872, became a thorough Princetonian, though he was born in Maryland, December 19, 1787. In 1809, at the age of twenty-two, he entered the navy, and continued in it for more than sixty years, a long period of faithful and honored service. During the war of 1812 he was on duty at Norfolk, Virginia, in charge of the picket boats, when he was stricken down by disease from which he long suffered. After an interval he returned to the service, and passed through various grades up to the high position occupied at his death. He was at one time first lieutenant on a line-of-battle ship in the Mediterranean with Commodore Crane. He was successively commander of a sloop-of-war, captain of a steamship and commodore of our squadron on the coast of Africa, his whole service being of a most honorable character. He received a commodore's commission in 1862, and that of rear-admiral in 1866.

He served his country well, but for the last ten years of his life his health was feeble, and during the late war he took no active part in the naval service at sea, but as a member of the naval courts of adjudication sitting in Philadelphia, chiefly, he served to the utmost of his strength. He had outlived all his contemporaries and fellow officers and early friends. Even the distinguished Farragut, who had served as a midshipman under him long years ago, passed away before him. Admiral Crabbe's residence in Princeton was in Steadman Street, opposite the seminary library, and which is still owned in the family. He joined the Presbyterian church in 1844, while Dr. Rice was the pastor, by profession of his faith. He served as one of its trustees for a year or more from 1845. He also served as one of the trustees of the Mount Lucas Orphan and Guardian Institute. He was a man of fine and dignified appearance, and in the later years of his life, his appearance grew more venerable, by reason of his long white flowing beard, and his erect and soldierly bearing. He was loyal, in the late civil war, to the national flag which he had upheld and unfolded through his long service in the navy.

He was in the eighty-fifth year of his age when he died. He died at his home in Princeton, greatly respected. He had been deeply afflicted in the loss of his only son, Thomas Crabbe, a youth of promise just entering college, and afterwards in the death of a beautiful daughter, Virginia, who was just budding into womanhood. His wife, Jane Louisa Craven, who survived him less than a year, was remarkable for her gentleness and refined manners. His sister, Miss Mary Crabbe, was member of his family, and has died during the present year. Only two daughters have survived the Admiral and Mrs. Crabbe, their parents, namely, Helen, who is unmarried, and Martha, (Mrs. Mitchell,) both of whom are living in Princeton.

The funeral services of Admiral Crabbe were held in the First Presbyterian church. The pall-bearers were Commodore Emmons, Purser Gulick, of the navy, and residents of Princeton, Col. A. M. Cumming, Major S. W. Stockton, Gen. Joseph Karge and Professor Stephen Alexander. The Rev. James Macdonald, D. D., the pastor, preached a discourse on the Im-



mortality of the Soul, paying a proper tribute to the patriotic and religious life of the deceased. The Rev. Dr. P. A. Studiford, of Lambertville, where Commodore Crabbe had formerly resided, offered prayer. He was buried in the cemetery at Princeton.

REV. WILLIAM ARMSTRONG DOD, D. D., was a younger brother of the Rev. Albert B. Dod, D. D., Professor of Mathematics in the College of New Jersey. He graduated at the college in the class of 1838, and lived with his brother in Princeton, until he had graduated at the theological seminary in 1844. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Philadelphia as an evangelist, in 1850, and then became pastor of the church at Port Richmond. In 1855, he was elected Professor or Lecturer on Architecture in Princeton College, and resigned in 1859. At the same time, he was pastor of the Second Presbyterian church in Princeton for several years, and then he withdrew from the Presbyterian, and received orders in the Episcopal church, and was made rector of Trinity, in Princeton. His health failed him after a few years, and he was obliged to resign his rectorship. He died January 4, 1873. He was a close and well read student, and a devout Christian. After his graduation at college, Mr. Dod for awhile studied law, before he entered the seminary. His wife, who was the oldest daughter of Commodore Robert F. Stockton, survived him about two years. They left several children, who are still residing in Princeton. The Rev. Alfred B. Baker, the present rector of Trinity, succeeded Dr. Dod.

In May, 1873, the Rev. Dr. Eadie, Professor of Theology, and Rev. Dr. Calderwood, Professor of Moral Philosophy, of Edinburgh, delegates from the Free Church of Scotland, to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, made a short visit to Princeton. The former made a religious address to the students of the college in the college chapel, in the evening of May 6th, and on the following day Professor Calderwood delivered in the same place, to students and citizens, an uncommonly brilliant lecture, on "The Philosophy of Mental Science," which delighted his appreciative

audience, and which impressed indelibly upon them a sense of the superior style and masterly ability in which he presented his abstruse subject, fully sustaining his distinguished reputation.

In October, 1873, the World's Evangelical Alliance held their Council in New York, and the occasion brought many of the most distinguished ministers and biblical scholars in the world, to this country: and Princeton, by reason of its history, and its institutions and distinguished professors, attracted the favorable notice of that great body, which resulted not only in the visits of some of the members to this place, at different times, but the whole body came to pay their respects to it.

Rev. Dr. Dorner, of Berlin, and Rev. Dr. Christlieb, of Germany, with a few other foreign delegates, visited Princeton, on the third day of October. They were received in the First Church, and introduced to a crowded audience by the Rev. Dr. Hodge, when they made speeches in English and German.

Again, on the ninth of the same month, Dr. Hugh Miller, of Scotland, formerly of Bombay, with Naryan Sheshadri, a Brahmin convert and preacher, both delegates to the meeting of the Alliance, made a visit of a few hours to Princeton, and addressed the people in the First church. The Brahmin wore his turban and native costume, and he preached with great ability and eloquence, in the English language, characterized by its purity and correct pronunciation. He made a very favorable impression upon his audience.

A few days after this, the thirteenth, the whole Alliance, two or three hundred members, made a visit to Princeton, on their way to Philadelphia. They were met at the depot by a procession of students and professors, and were escorted to the college and theological seminary, around the beautiful triangle, and down to the Second Presbyterian church, where an audience of about fifteen hundred people greeted them as they entered the building, some of the delegates being accompanied with their wives and families. Dr. McCosh introduced them and Dr. Hodge presided. Very interesting addresses were made by the Dean of Canterbury, by Dr. Arnott, of Scotland, and Dr. Riggs, of England, and Prockett, and others from France, Italy and Germany, including a Waldensian rep-

representative. The most of them spoke in the English language. Rev. Henry Ward Beecher followed in a humorous address to the waiting congregation, while the members of the Alliance retired to lunch. The day was pleasant, the town appeared well, and the foreign visitors seemed much delighted with the gorgeous brilliancy of the fading maples, whose falling leaves were gathered up by the ladies and taken home with them as a memento of their pleasant visit to Princeton.

As the year 1776 was approaching, the desire to celebrate it as the Centennial Anniversary of American Independence was very general throughout the United States. The Republic was just one hundred years old, and the experiment of self-government had been fully tried, and the government of the people, for the people and by the people, had been tested in the late civil war, with the greatest possible strain, and had proved itself stronger than the strongest among the nations. Movements were made on every hand, in anticipation of centennial enthusiasm. The idea of making that year the occasion of a World's Fair, in Philadelphia, and bringing all nations, the old and the new, to exhibit their progress in all branches of industry, education, religion, science and civil government, though opposed by many, because it would exhibit our young Republic to a disadvantage in many things, nevertheless prevailed, and the energy and resources of the American people were applied to the utmost, to make the centennial jubilee, a year to be remembered a hundred years.

Princeton remembered how, one hundred years ago, her sons were enlisted in the great Battle of Freedom, and what a halo of glory shone around our Revolutionary forefathers, and around Princeton in that day. And there was life enough remaining in Princeton at this day, to give a prominent celebration of that old time-honored year with its great events.

We shall reserve the history of the centennial year, 1876, for the subject of a future chapter. We shall, for the present, pause in the general history of Princeton, and take up in the next volume special subjects, tracing the history of the church, the college, the theological seminary and other institutions, incorporated and unincorporated, and the cemetery,

from their beginning down to the present time; and it will only be when all these special institutions shall be unfolded, in their relation to what has been already hereinbefore written, that the true and complete history of the place shall have been presented.

END OF VOL. I.

