

INTRODUCTION.

PERSONAL.

ABOUT fifteen years, not of irksome, unrequited toil, but of pleasant and profitable pastime, in the intervals of other duty, have been devoted to the preparation of this History. Not an hour of drudgery — not a cheerless hour — has ever been employed upon it! A conversation with the venerable Capt. Chase Perkins — telling his graphic story of Sanbornton's Revolutionary heroes, and giving substantially that picture of the "Square" which appears on pp. 224-228 — first suggested to the author that the "History of Sanbornton" was *worthy* of being written. He therefore began immediately to employ his leisure time in collecting material for such a history, which some one might eventually write. For several years this collection of material was all he aspired to, till at last a guiding Providence seemed to propose the issuing of these volumes.

The *pecuniary* profit of the enterprise has all been given to the public, as the low price of the History evinces; but the satisfaction which the author has taken in every department of the work, from first to last, the aid imparted to himself for his pastoral duties, and an increased knowledge of human nature in general, and of the good people in particular among whom his lot was cast as a minister of the gospel, have proved an ample compensation.

Though aiming at strict fidelity to all the documents and records coming to hand, yet the fact of not being "to the manor born" may well account for numerous mistakes and misconceptions respecting matters of its past history, of which a native of the town would have been informed. It must be continually borne in mind that seventeen years ago (May, 1882) the author was as ignorant of Sanbornton and its people as of a similar district in Kamtschatka.

On deciding to publish the History, its compiler promised to himself and others that the whole should be made so clear in arrangement, and be so copiously furnished with index and other facilities, that it might be readily consulted even by the youngest. Hence, in Vol. I. especially, there is more simplifying and dividing of the subject-matter than in most books of the kind; the tables of contents are all indented upon

the margins of the pages; and the fulness and variety of the indexes, it is confidently believed, will leave nothing to be desired in this department. The book, therefore, aside from the pleasure it may give to the citizens and absent sons of Sanbornton, is recommended as an educator to the *youth* of the town in present and future generations. This is on the principle now carried out in the primary schools of Germany, and some parts of our own country, of more readily interesting the minds of children in geography and history by beginning with the *very localities in which they reside*, exciting a taste for those branches in reference to familiar objects around their own homes, and afterwards letting the circle widen as their intellects expand. With this partly in view, the design of the author has further been to make the work before us purely a *local* history; alluding to other places and more general history, as of the State or nation, only in those points at which the town of Sanbornton or its people seemed to be connected with them. This will be seen noticeably in Chapter XV., on the Revolutionary War.

It might almost appear like a departure from this principle that more full accounts should not be given of the manners and customs of the early times, and of the natural history of the town, with lists of its fauna, flora, etc. But here a desire not to enlarge unduly upon things familiarly known, and not to repeat what has been so well and often told in numerous similar works, as well as in school text-books, gazetteers, and general histories, has prevailed in the author's mind. In these particulars he has almost wholly confined himself to the notice of such things as have seemed, in a sense, *peculiar* to the town of Sanbornton.

SOURCES OF MATERIAL FOR THE PRESENT WORK.

Previous contributions to the "History of Sanbornton" were both meagre and fragmentary.

The Hon. Samuel L. Knapp (see Vol. II. p. 423 [10]) is said to have commenced a history of the town, as his boyhood's home; but none of his papers have ever come to light. The most important "sketches of Sanbornton," and the only ones ever known to have been published, are alluded to on page 306 of this volume. They first appeared in the *Weekly Visitor*, 1824; were afterwards given under "Sanbornton" in Farmer and Moore's "Historical Collections," and were finally enlarged and published in a pamphlet of twenty-four pages by Charles Lane, Esq., being styled "Annals of the Town of Sandbornton, Belknap Co., New Hampshire, from its Earliest Settlement to the Year 1841; with Biographical Notices of some of the Earliest Settlers: by a

Citizen." That citizen was probably Col. Lane himself, who, before his death, kindly made over the free use of that pamphlet to the present writer, with a few supplementary manuscripts. The facts and statements of this valuable pamphlet—where not obtained from more original sources—are all woven into the following History, usually with a direct reference to the "Annals of 1841," or the "former" or "citizen annalist," and in a few cases, as on pp. 24 and 63, with quite extended quotations made from the same. The "Biographical Notices," promised on its title-page, were never published, with the exception of one or two in the shape of newspaper articles a few years later.

The "Town Records" consulted for this History have been the following:—

- (a) The "Proprietors' Records" (see p. 43).
- (b) "Town Records, Vol. I.," 1771–1794 (1800), an old flexible-covered volume seven inches by twelve, 260 pages, and the first fifteen pages missing.
- (c) "Town Records, Vol. II.," 1800–1821, same size as last, 364 pages.
- (d) "Town Records, Vol. III.," being largely births and marriages, with family records grotesquely scattered.
- (e) "Town Records, Vol. IV.," 1821–1846, the largest of the Town Books, ten inches by fifteen, 521 pages. And finally,
- (f) "Town Records, Vol. V.," 1846–1856, the most elegantly bound of the older town record books, 460 pages.

The above, with A. G. Weston's "Historical Facts" of Sanbornton (MS.), and a few published newspaper sketches, pamphlet addresses, gazetteer descriptions, etc., have constituted, together with the special sources of genealogical record mentioned in the Introduction to Vol. II., the chief literary storehouses from which the materials for this History have been drawn.

PLAN OF THE PRESENT WORK. (VOL. I.)

Starting with Cowper's beautiful distinction between "the country" and "the town," we have,

- (a) The *territory* of Sanbornton in its primeval or natural characteristics, Chapters I. and II.
- (b) The *anterior occupation* of this territory by wild animals and Indians, Chapters III. and IV.
- (c) Its first connection with *white men*, as "claimed," in part,

under the Massachusetts jurisdiction; and "planned" into a town by the proprietors before settlement, Chapters V. and VI.

The town being at last "made," we have,

(d) Its actual settlement and incorporation, Chapters VII. and VIII.

A letter from Prof. E. D. Sanborn, LL. D., of Dartmouth College, received at this stage in the arrangement of the chapters, contained the following most timely and valuable hint: "I think it would be a good idea in a town history to treat at some length on the 'cornerstones of American liberty,' as John Adams called them [the 'cornerstones of the Temple of Liberty,' as elsewhere quoted], viz., 'The Church, the School, the Town Meeting, and the Militia.'" Hence was suggested, in continuance of the plan,

(e) The Church, or ecclesiastical affairs, Chapters IX. and X.

(f) The School, or educational affairs, Chapters XI. and XII.

(g) Town Meeting Notes, and other "Annals" (the word *annals* being here taken as *yearly occurrences*, in a more literal or restricted sense than in the title of Vol. I.), Chapters XIII. and XIV.

(h) The Militia, or military affairs, chiefly in connection with each of the three principal wars of our country, Chapters XV. to XVII.

But little of a logical connection is attempted in the arrangement of the remaining chapters, XVIII. to XXXII., save that the last is quite appropriately devoted to the "Town Centennial Celebration" in 1876.

Those chapters were printed, for the most part, in the order of their being finished or prepared for the press. As the historian of Gilsun remarks, respecting those who may be fastidious in regard to the arrangement of his chapters, they "can easily satisfy their more logical minds by reading the chapters in the order of their own choice."

The appendix and supplementary matter, being chiefly for reference, needs no further explanation.

NEW MATERIAL.

Since the completion of the History, our attention has been called to two *apparent* allusions to events transpiring on Sanbornton soil, in "Osgood's White Mountain Hand-Book," edited by M. F. Sweetzer. The first is on p. 365. Speaking of Lake Winnisquam ("Beautiful Water"), it adds: "Farther to the S. is Little Bay, where the Provincial troops erected the *strong bulwark* of Fort Atkinson in 1746.

Near this bay was a *more ancient Indian fort*, with six walls. Both of these martial monuments have been demolished for materials to be used in building dams and other works."

The second is on p. 392, as follows: "In the autumn of 1746, after the destruction of the French *Armada*, Col. Atkinson's New Hampshire regiment was ordered into the Winnepesaukee region to form winter quarters and to defend the frontiers against the French and Indians from Canada. *They built Fort Atkinson in Sanbornton, at the head of Little Bay and W. of Union Bridge.* The earthworks remained for over a century, and were *generally supposed to have been Indian remains*; but the masonry was all carried away to build into a dam. The troops remained here for about a year in idleness, and under the lax discipline of the Provincial commanders. Much of their time was spent in hunting and fishing excursions among the mountains, and out on *Lake Winnepesaukee*, during which the character and capabilities of this hitherto unexplored country were minutely studied."

By the French "Armada" is doubtless meant the French fleet under Duke D'Anville, which had come to our shores in September, 1746, for the supposed purpose of recovering Louisburg and harassing New England, but in a signally providential manner was dispersed and in part destroyed, like the Spanish "Invincible Armada" nearly one hundred and sixty years before.

It is very probable that Col. Atkinson's men may have encamped temporarily at Little Bay; *but not at all that they*, rather than the earlier Indian warriors, originally built those large fortifications, as implied in the latter, though corrected in the former of the two quotations above. All former writers upon Sanbornton and the ancient fort (see Chapter IV.) are entirely silent as to its ever being occupied by Col. Atkinson's regiment. The *island* of the same name, near by, is supposed to have been called after Hon. D. C. Atkinson and his brother, who owned the mills and resided on the site of the fort. To the writer of this History it is still decidedly a matter of doubt whether the "Fort Atkinson" alluded to above, or the main fortification and encampment of Col. Atkinson's regiment, was not farther up, and nearer to Lake Winnepesaukee; which would have proved far more conducive to their fishing excursions on that lake than if their headquarters had been at Little Bay, twelve or fifteen miles distant from its shores.

Dr. Belknap in his "History of New Hampshire," Vol. II. p. 233, makes, as it seems, a more correct allusion to the same expedition of Col. Atkinson, in the following terms (the italic words, as in the two former quotations, are our own):—

"When the alarm occasioned by the French fleet had subsided,

Atkinson's regiment marched into the country to cover the lower part of the frontiers, and *encamped near the shore of Winnipiseogee Lake*, where they passed the winter, and *built a slight fort*. They were plentifully supplied with provisions, and had but little exercise or discipline. Courts martial were not instituted, nor offences punished. The officers and men were tired of the service; but were not permitted to enter on any other business, lest orders should arrive from England. Some were employed in scouting, some in hunting or fishing, and some deserted.*

Chapter XXIX. should have received an additional "specimen" (had it come to the author's notice in season), from the nineteen stanzas "composed by Jeremiah Ellsworth, of Sandbornton, on the sudden and surprising death of his three children, who perished in the dreadful hurricane, on Friday morning, January 19, 1810." They were printed on another "confined" broadside, ten inches square,

* Our attention is also called, while in press, to the following extract from the "New Hampshire Adjutant General's Report," Vol. II., 1866, p. 83:—

"Col. Atkinson's regiment [in October] was ordered to *Lake Winnepesaukee*, to guard the frontiers from attacks of the French and Indians. There they built a fort, in which they passed the winter of 1746-47, and tarried till October of the latter year, when the regiment was disbanded. This was the first fort built in the interior under orders from the government of New Hampshire. It was built on the north side of what is called *Little Bay*, near what is known as *Union Bridge*, in the town of *Sanbornton*. It has been called *Fort Atkinson*."

As the assertions of this paragraph (italics our own) are singularly destitute of cited authority, we see no occasion for changing or even qualifying the above statements in the text; and in this, our final conclusion, the Hon. George W. Nesmith, who is the best *living authority* on the old New Hampshire soldiers, fully concurs. He remarks that if Atkinson's men had been quartered on Sanbornton soil for a whole year, the fact would never have escaped the notice of such intelligent men of an earlier day in Sanbornton as Hon. Nathan Taylor, James Clark, Esq., and Col. Charles Lane; moreover, that some of those six hundred men would, in all probability, have been found among the future grantees or settlers of Sanbornton, and would not have failed to communicate this information to their descendants.

Judge Nesmith says he never knew that Atkinson Island was called by that name till Hon. Daniel C. Atkinson purchased it with the mainland and mill privileges adjacent. He thinks we should by all means follow Belknap rather than these more recent authors, although the whole matter of Col. Atkinson's expedition he regards as somewhat mythical.

It is morally certain, from Dr. Bouton's "Provincial Papers," Vol. V., that Theodore Atkinson was present at Portsmouth for nearly every meeting of the governor's council during 1746-47, so that he could not have been commanding his regiment in person; and it is by no means probable that the regiment itself stayed in the Winnipiseogee region any longer than through the winter, as Belknap represents. Indeed, of this expedition as a whole, the Provincial Records of 1745 to 1747 are ominously silent.

with the text. "Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?" and breathe a spirit of piety and resignation.

It is a matter of regret that some of the family records designed for the "Supplement to Vol. II.," at the close of this volume, were not received till after the printing was all done. This is true especially of the "Godfrey Family," p. 476, leaving that record far more imperfect than it would otherwise have been.

MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

The earliest map or plan of the town now supposed to be in existence was obtained by the writer at North Hampton, being "A plan of Sanborn's town, by a scale of thirty-five of Mr. Gunter's chains to an inch, A. D. 1763, p'r D. Samborn."

This was before any part of the "undivided land of about three thousand acres" at the north, or of the "common land" elsewhere in town, had been assigned by committee to the deficient second division lots, as per plan on p. 38.

Meredith, on this original plan, is called "New Salam"; Andover, "New Brittan" (Breton); and Salisbury, "Baker's Town."

Early in 1806, Master Joshua Lane, having surveyed New Hampton, Boscawen, and other towns the year before, completed his survey of Sanbornton. This was for Philip Carrigan's celebrated map of New Hampshire. The map actually drawn from this survey was on a scale of two hundred rods to the inch, and is still to be seen in the Secretary of State's office at Concord.

It represents the New Hampton boundary line as four miles and forty-two rods in extent; that of Meredith as six miles and seventy rods; and the highways, boundaries, and water-courses much as on the Carrigan map.

The town, however, seems to have retained its preference for the original plan, or that copy of the same still in its possession, in reference to which was the following vote, in 1817: "That the map of the town be deposited with the Town Clerk." It was still felt that improvements might be made upon this map; and hence, March 10, 1821, the selectmen were "authorized to procure a plan of the town," which was probably the origin of that executed by Joshua Lane, and copied on p. 38. On this last the disparity between the boundary lines of New Hampton and Meredith is even greater than upon the Carrigan map of 1806.

The map of Sanbornton, as it appears on that of Belknap County, published in 1859 was found to afford a convenient basis for the new "Historical Map," which, as the last of the series, accompanies the

present volume. This, together with the seven village plans, is designed to show Sanbornton both as it was and is. The original lots are clearly designated and numbered, according to the fuller descriptions on pp. 32-41, 364, and 378.

Topographical nicety or exactness is not claimed for the map, and especially for the plans, which partake more of the nature of diagrams than maps. A faithful *representation* is merely sought of the numerous building sites, new and old, and of the water-courses, highways, and lot lines, though several of the last may not be projected in *precisely* the right places with relation to houses, roads, or brooks; and indeed, it is now impossible to identify many of these lines, or determine just where they ran, — all traces of the same, if ever marked by walls or fences, having long since disappeared. Yet, with the degree of fulness attained, it is believed that the topography of the old town and its villages is as accurately delineated as it could be, except by the most elaborate surveys.

The final draughting of the map and plans was essentially aided and chiefly accomplished by the skilled hand of Mr. Arthur P. Ayling, artist and delineator, of Boston; the engraving was by Mr. George H. Walker, also of Boston.

The illustrations of the two volumes must speak for themselves. The portraits have nearly all been furnished either by the persons whose names they bear, or (more frequently) by their friends. Most of the private residences have also been inserted at the expense of their owners, though *solicited* on account of their historic interest, or as illustrating different styles and eras of house building. Map, plans, public buildings, and other objects of general importance, are paid for out of the towns' appropriations.

The contract for the steel plates, engraved expressly for this work, was very satisfactorily made with that excellent artist Mr. Frederic T. Stuart, who called to his aid Mr. J. A. J. Wilcox. Most of the smaller pictures were executed by the new photo-engraving process of Mr. E. A. Samuels, 25 Congress Street, Boston, and several of them from Mr. Ayling's original sketches. (See list of illustrations.)

It was found impossible to change the "gelatine proofs" of some of the latter pictures, as was attempted, from lack of time for the contract. A few slight defects must therefore be pardoned; and our friends of the First Baptist Church must accept their house of worship with its open blinds in front as perhaps more ornamental than natural.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The author would present his grateful acknowledgments to the artists just named, and to others who have aided in embellishing his work; but especially to Messrs. Alfred Mudge & Son, and *all* under their employ, for their excellent workmanship and for the uniform patience, courtesy, and kindness extended to himself during this long period of more than two years, while the History has been going through their press.

For the preparation of his work his thanks are supremely due to that Infinite One who only hath "made it to prosper"; also to many kind friends who have aided in various ways. Among these should be named his old instructor, Prof. Edwin D. Sanborn, of Dartmouth College, who has favored him with invaluable suggestions, and has furnished some of the best poetical and other mottoes or headings for the title-pages and several of the chapters; Hon. George W. Nesmith, to whom the final completion and correctness of Chapter XV., on the Revolutionary History, are largely due; Rev. Henry N. Kinney, now of Fergus Falls, Minn., who executed the diagram of the mountains, read for criticism the opening chapters of Vol. I., and rendered other literary assistance; and Hon. Charles E. Tilton, as by far the most liberal patron of this work, whose excellent portrait is therefore entitled to the place it occupies opposite the page of dedication. To these should be added the former contributors to a "History of Sanbornton," already named or alluded to, and all those mentioned in the Introduction to Vol. II. as having aided or encouraged the collecting the genealogies.

Above all should the late venerable Capt. John B. Perkins be recalled, for his assistance upon Vol. I. not less than upon Vol. II., faithfully continued to the last. Finally, the help "nearer home" should not be omitted in these acknowledgments, especially that of Misses Carrie S. and Kate B. Runnels in making and arranging the greater portion of the indexes, and of Miss Fannie H. Runnels in the selection of poetical quotations.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, the writer may as well crack the Ciceronian nut on the previous title-page, for the benefit of many of his readers: —

"History is the witness of the times, the torch of truth, the life of memory, the teacher of life, the messenger of antiquity."

He would simply add, as the expression of his hope, that the humble labors bestowed upon this History may have the effect to increase in

the minds of those interested their respect for that noble system of *Town Organizations* which is the glory of New England, and "has given birth to free soil, free speech, and free men."

Yet he would commend to all who may now or hereafter have occasion to consult these volumes the utterance of *Curtis*, that under every form of government, "virtue and intelligence are the only rulers by divine right"; as also this most suggestive passage from *Burke*, who says, while speaking of lawless freedom: —

"I do not rejoice to hear that men may do what they please, unless I know what it pleases them to do. Society cannot exist unless a controlling power upon the will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is *within*, the more there must be *without*. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters."