

A SKETCH OF KINGSTON, MASS.,

by

Rev. Zephaniah Willis.

1815.

The town of Kingston is the smallest of seventeen towns included in the county of Plymouth, Halifax and Hull excepted. It is situated on the southeasterly part of the county, on a small bay, a branch of the great bay of Massachusetts, round which are the towns of Duxborough, Kingston, and Plymouth; and is formed by a narrow beach, which extends from Marshfield southerly six miles, the head of which is a high knoll, called the Gurnet; *on which stands the light house* and another beach, which extends from the mouth of Eel River in Plymouth, northerly about a mile and a half. It is bounded on the South by Plymouth; on the West partly by Carver and principally by Plympton; on the North partly by Pembroke and principally by Duxborough; and on the East, two miles, by the sea; thirty five miles Southeasterly from Boston, and the same distance Northwesterly from Barnstable. It is irregular in form, extending about six miles north and south, and about four miles east and west, and would make an area of about twenty four miles, and contains about 10560 acres. The northerly half of the town is generally level. The southerly, broken and gravelly ridges. A large portion of the South part of the town is wood land; so uneven and unfit for cultivation that it will probably remain in the same state. The most elevated ground is Monks hill (313 ft. above the sea) in the South part, in the midst of the wilderness, and commands an extensive view, westerly and northerly of the surrounding towns as far as the high lands of Milton, &c, and on the easterly, of Cape Cod and the intermediate Bay ten leagues in width; and southerly of that great level forest of pitch pine woods, which extends from its base, over parts of Plymouth, Carver, Wareham, and Sandwich twenty miles to the *South* shore *and* of Buzzards Bay. ²

The soil of Kingston is generally thin and barren, a red loam intermixed with sand and gravel and round stones, in various degrees. In the southeast corner of the town there is a tract of two or three hundred acres of rocky stony grass land affording excellent pasture. About one half of the town is under cultivation, and very little is yearly added to that proportion -- 1815 -- The land is unproductive of grass, and there are not two hundred tons of English Hay cut in any year. On the mouth of Jones River are about one hundred acres of salt marsh, producing hay of different kinds and of good quality. Considerable quantities of low ground, and fresh meadow hay, are cut of ordinary quality. Pastures are poor, but like all those near the sea produce more nutritive feed than those distant. The land in general is of easy tilth, producing Indian corn from ten to twenty, and rye from eight to twelve bushels: of a good quality, per acre. There is no article of food produced, more than is consumed in the town, except rye. Probably one third the bread stuff consumed, is imported; flour from Boston; Corn, from the neighbouring towns; but chiefly from the Southern States. There is no farm in Kingston that keeps twenty head of cattle; and no dairy of ten cows. Sheep are not numerous but increasing. Though the soil is poor, the greater proportion of the inhabitants depend chiefly on agriculture, most of them however have some other trade, occupation; or business, connected with it.

There have been few, either vegetable or animal productions, extraordinary; worth notice. In the garden of the Hon. William Sever Esq. an accidental pumpkin seed produced twenty seven large ripe pumpkins, besides several that did not ripen. A small apple twig, planted by Jedediah Holmes Esq., produced, the eleventh year, thirty bushels of excellent apples. An Indian woman, in twenty two months, at three births, brought forth seven children: two and two and three.

The kinds of wood are, chiefly, red and white oak; pitch and white pine, and maple, on the low grounds. Some wood is yearly sent by water

to Boston market; and costs one third for freight, leaving the price here, two thirds what it produces there. The price at market in the fall of 1814, having been high, eight ~~dollars~~ and ten dollars per cord; a thousand cords were cut that season. The growth of wood is not equal to the consumption; and families must soon emigrate to that article.

In a certain enclosure of six acres, are the following kinds of wood naturally produced. White and red oak, White and Black Birch, White and pitch pine, Hemlock, Ceder, Hornbine, Iron Wood, Baberry, Sassafras, Poplar, Beech, Hazel, Dogwood, Fever Wood, Black and White Ash, Alder, Arrow wood, Apple tree, Holly, Withe Wood, Wild Cherry, Walnut, Maple, Willow, Sumach, Swamp pear, Swamp Whortle-berry, Upland do. 31 kinds. Some of the above are the vulgar, not the ^{scientific} names.

There is one article in which the town richly abounds, fair water. At the northwest corner of the town, and partly within its limits, is a pond, called Jones River pond, about two miles in length, and one mile in width, from which issues a small river, passing easterly through the centre of the town, four miles, to the sea, receiving a number of small tributary streams and the distance of one mile towards its mouth, dividing the town from Duxborough; meeting the highest tides two miles from the sea, intersected by five dams; from its source to the sea, descending about forty five feet. In the South west part of the town is Indian Pond, half a mile in extent, without an outlet, Crossed by the westerly line of the town. In the southerly part of the town is Smelt Pond, half a mile in extent, emitting Smelt Brook, running northerly one mile, to Jones' River, near its mouth. In the centre of the town is a small Pond, sending forth a small stream northerly to Jones' River. From a tract of fresh meadow in the southwest part, issues a stream, which entering Plympton, and passing some miles, reenters Kingston, and unites with Jones' River, one mile from its source.

The road from Boston to Plymouth passes through Kingston three miles,

on the easterly side, in full view of the sea, crossing four never-failing streams. There^{are} an endless number of Springs -- especially in the south part -- ponds, and brooks, of never-failing water; too many to be enumerated, in the most minute description of a small town.

There are in the town six grist Mills, four saw Mills, one Carding Mill, two anchor Works, one forge, three works for making shovels, spades, screw augers &c. Two cotton factories: one of \$25,000 capital, calculated for twelve hundred, now moves seven hundred spindles, and employs thirty hands, twelve looms, besides many in private families; another \$20,000 capital, calculated for twelve hundred spindles, moves seven hundred, employs thirty hands, and eight looms, besides many in private families; both erected in 1813. One Furnace, built 1735, formerly supplied with ore from this and the neighbouring towns, but in latter years principally from New Jersey. The art of casting iron vessels in sand, was invented or introduced, many years since, into this furnace, and into the Old Colony, by Jeremy Floro, an Englishman, an ingenious founder; previous to which, all iron vessels were cast on clay moulds. In that method, it was requisite, in the summer, or drying season, to construct as many moulds as there were vessels to be cast in the whole blast of a furnace. When the moulds were all used, the blast ceased, till another stock of moulds, with much time, labor and expense, were prepared. But by the art of casting in sand, the business was greatly expedited; and though the quality of vessels cast in clay was much superiour to that of those cast in sand, yet the greater expedition in the one case, vastly exceeded the benefit ⁱⁿ of the other. Jeremy Floro lived to nearly ninety years of age and died in Plympton, about the year 1755.

Kingston was set off as a Parish from Plymouth, in the year 1717 by the name Jones' River Parish. The river, and consequently the Parish, I suppose, received its name from Capt. Jones, of the Ship May Flower, which transported and landed our Fathers at Plymouth. In Morton's Memorial

there is mention made, that after they arrived at this place, they soon explored the neighbouring lands and streams, at which time, I suppose, this river received its name, as a compliment to the Captain.

In the year 1717, forty one inhabitants of the north part of Plymouth, near Jones' River, with a small part of Plympton and Pembroke, petitioned the General Court, to be set off as a Parish, which was granted. The Parish then contained forty eight families. The persons who petitioned were as follows. Israel Bradford, Hezekiah Bradford, John Bryant, Francis Cook, Elisha West, Judah Hall, Jacob Cook Jr., Perez Bradford, John Cushman, Ephraim Bradford, Joseph Holmes, Ebenezer Eaton, Caleb Stetson, Samuel Fuller, Isaac Holmes, John Washburn, Ebenezer Cushman, Benjamin Eaton, John Everson, Robert Cushman, William Bradford, David Bradford, Benjamin Bryant, Richard Everson, Jacob Mitchel, Peter Hunt, Elisha Stetson, Robert Cook, William Cook, Johnathan Bryant, Wrestling Brewster, John Bradford, Jacob Cook, Charles Little, John Gray, Joseph Sturtevant, Peter West, Elisha Bradford, Gershom Bradford, John Bradford Jr., Elnathan Fish.

The town of Kingston was incorporated 1726. The first Representative chosen, was Gershom Bradford --(1740)-- (It owes its separation to some difficulties about Schools in 1724. Ashburton was first proposed, probably because it is the name of a place near Plymouth in England; this the petitioners disapproved. Lieut. Gov. Dummer, the then Executive, proposed Kingston which was adopted.)⁷ C.A.B. See Thacher's Plym.) The first house for public worship was opened in 1718. Thomas Paine, father of the late Judge Paine, was the first candidate, who afterwards settled in Weymouth.

The Rev. Joseph Stacy was born at Cambridge, 1694, learned the Shoe makers trade, and was afterwards graduated at the College ⁱⁿ at that place, 1719, and was ordained first pastor of Kingston Nov. 3d, 1720. He was small of stature, remarkably abstemious, very sprightly and active, delighted in fishing and fowling; for which sport, there was, at that day, abundant opportunity. This amusement he did not pursue to the neglect of

his ministerial duties, in which he was very diligent and faithful.

He was a man of common talents, distinguished piety and happy in the affections of his people, and died of a fever, Aug. 25, 1741, aged 47.

The Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty was born in Boston, graduated at Cambridge, 1739, received a call to settle in Kingston, July 26, 1743, and was ordained the 2d pastor, the 3d of Nov. following, and was dismissed Nov. 3d, 1745. The circumstances attending his dismissal, were the following. The commotions, which were excited by Mr. Whitefield's coming into the Country, and by his censures of many of the standing clergy, alarmed the inhabitants of Kingston; and on Jan. 29, 1745, they chose a committee of eight persons to prevent itinerant preachers disturbing the peace of the town. Mr. Maccarty was a follower and admirer of Whitefield; and having appointed a stated lecture, it was reported in the town, that he had invited Mr. Whitefield, who was then in Plymouth, to preach the lecture. The report was erroneous, but operated as if true; and measures were taken to shut the meeting house; which Mr. Maccarty understanding did not attend the appointed lecture; and being highly incensed at the attempt to control the pulpit asked a dismissal. A Council was called on the occasion, the result of which I do not find, only that it was accepted by the Church. It ^{is} ~~was~~ said, that Mr. Maccarty afterwards asked leave to withdraw his request for a dismissal, which was refused; and his dismissal was voted. He preached his farewell sermon, Nov. 3d, 1745, precisely three years after his ordination; from the words, very pertinent to the occasion. Acts, xx, 31. "Therefore watch and remember, that by the space of three years, I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and the word of His grace which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified." The manner of Mr. Maccarty's separation from his people caused much speculation and altercation, some justifying the town, others Mr. Maccarty. Those who could not or would not, see the extravagances, excesses, and disturbances,

produced by the spirit excited by Whitefield, vindicated Mr. Maccarty. Those of different spirit and views exculpated the town, and condemned the pastor. About fifty years after Mr. Maccarty's dismissal, certain persons, influenced by sectarian zeal, and wishing apparantly, to cast reproach on the town, procured a copy of Mr. Maccarty's farewell sermon, which he left behind him in Kingston, in Manuscript, and published it, with a preface, suggesting that the inhabitants of Kingston, in their conduct towards Mr. Maccarty, were influenced by a spirit of opposition and enmity to religion and truth. The author of that preface was either ignorant, or wished to forget, that Mr. Whitefield, when he first came into this country, was very censorious and bitter towards those who did not unite with him; and encourage his measures; and that his hard and uncandid speeches excited that opposition which he met with in many places, and that in some of his last visits to this country, he became more candid and acknowledged the errors of his former conduct. (Note: In a company of gentlemen where Father Flymnt, who was a preacher, and many years later a tutor in Cambridge, was present, Mr. Whitefield said, "It is my opinion that Dr. Tillotson is now in Hell for his heresy." Father Flymnt replied, "It is my opinion that you will not meet him there.") Mr. Maccarty was afterwards settled in Worcester, where he continued in the ministry many years, and died July 18, 1785. He was tall of stature, slender of habit, a black, penetrating eye, ^{loud,} sonorous voice, solemn and rousing in manner of address, calvinistic in opinion and doctrines. After his preaching a convention Sermon, it was remarked, at a dining table, by an elderly clergyman of Boston, now living, that he never heard Father Maccarty preach either a very low; or a very brilliant discourse.

The Rev. William Rand, the 3d minister of Kingston, was born in Charlestown, Mass., 1700, graduated at Cambridge, 1721, and installed at Kingston, 1746. He had been minister at Sunderland, on the Conn: River, about twenty years. His connection with that people was dissolved by the contentions consequent upon Whitefield's coming into the province, and by

the intolerant spirit, which then prevailed in that neighbourhood. He continued in the ministry in Kingston thirty four years, and died of an apoplexy, 1779, aged 79. He was of middling stature, very spare habit, dark complexion, and strong constitution; of few words, disciplined in the school of affliction by the death of children, and the consequent derangement of his wife's intellects. He was liberal in opinions and doctrines, plain and unornamented in his discourses, pleasing to judicious and discerning, rather than to warm and superficial hearers. He was a scholar, highly esteemed and respected by the informed and learned in the Province, with whom he had an extensive acquaintance. Several of his sermons are in print, which contribute to his honor.

The Rev. Zeph^xeniah Willis the 4th minister in Kingston, was born at Bridgewater, Feb. 24, 1757, graduated at Cambridge, 1778, ordained Oct. 18th, 1780.

The first minister, 1720, received for his support, L 100 settlement, and L 80 Sal^xary. Indian Corn, in that day, was worth from four to five shillings, and Rye about six shillings, per bushel. As the currency was in these days fluctuating, his Salary was increased afterwards to L 120. The second minister, 1742, was to receive as a salary, L 160 for four years, and after that, L 200 per annum, and L 400 settlement. Indian corn was then worth twenty shillings per bushel. The third minister, 1746, was to receive L 66 13s 4d, corn worth two shillings and eight pence per bushel. The fourth minister, 1780, received L 133 6s 8d settlement, and L 80 salary, founded on corn at three and four pence per bushel; rye four shillings; beef two and an half pence per pound; and pork four pence per lb.; and twenty cords of oak wood.

The first house for public worship was erected on a small elevated plain, in the easterly part of the town, one mile from, and in full view of the sea; in dimensions thirty six by forty two feet, opened in 1718. It was enlarged in 1752, and some years after, 1764, a tower and bell were added. It was taken down in 1798, and the present house erected on

the same lot, and partly on the same site, in the same year. The present house in the outward form, was constructed with the worst possible taste, with two cupolas, with an ill-shaped roof, and gutters which are rarely made to shed water. It was built at that time when a perverse taste prevailed, threatening to amputate all those spires which give a sublime view to all our large towns, and which beautify the prospect of villages and parishes, through the country. The interior part of the house is convenient, having sixty eight pews on the lower floor. It was opened for public worship the 16th of Sept. 1798, but not finished till the following year.

The town of Kingston had been remarkable for peace, unanimity and concord, for a long course of years, till 1802, when there originated a great contention and bitter quarrel, which destroyed the peace and harmony of the town, and resulted in the formation of a new religious society, adopting the name, rites and formalities of a different denomination, from what had existed in the town till that period. The circumstances of this event were as follows. After the building of an house of public worship, in the year 1798, and discharging the expenses, which was done by the sale of pews, there was left a surplus of money, about eleven hundred - \$1100- dollars. Some of the most judicious and discerning men of the town, viewed this as a favourable opportunity to lay a foundation, and make a beginning, for an accumulating fund; which at a future period, might be sufficient for the support and maintenance of the public institution of religion, according to the Congregational order. A town meeting was called 1801, and an almost unanimous vote was passed, to appropriate the said sum, to the proposed object. In 1802, application was made to the legislature, and an act passed, establishing the appropriation, and incorporating the Rev. Zephaniah Willis, Ebenezer Washburn, Esq. Col. John Gray, Jedediah Holmes, Esq. Mr. John Faunce, Col. John Thomas, and Mr. Jedediah Holmes, Jr. Seven persons, as trustees for the management of said fund, and to fill up vacancies in their number. Soon after this, certain men of the town, seeking

popularity and exerting themselves to influence others, began to sow dissensions; alleging that the town had been circumvented in making the afore said appropriation, and obtaining said incorporating act, and by artfully addressing passions and prejudices, and by misrepresentations and falsehoods, they obtained so much influence, as to procure a town meeting, and obtain a vote to petition the legislature to repeal the incorporating act. A remonstrance against the prayer of the said petition was presented by a large number of the most respectable inhabitants of the town. A counter remonstrance was presented, signed by ninety of the inhabitants (written or changed to "habitations" → E.F.D.) influenced by various motives. As a great contention had arisen, and the peace and happiness of the town was destroyed, many voted for the petition for repeal and signed the counter-remonstrance, supposing that if the incorporating act was annulled it would be a means of restoring the peace and harmony which had been so unhappily interrupted. The petition for repeal, supported by the counter remonstrance, was not sustained; and the incorporating act by the wisdom and justice of the legislature was confirmed and established. The Hon. William Sever, Esq. who had generously subscribed one hundred dollars in aid of said fund, came forward in town meeting, and offered to pay to those who had petitioned and remonstrated for the repeal of the incorporating act, their whole proportion of the money which had been funded, together with the interest which had accrued, but through shame, or rage, or for some other reason, the benevolent and generous offer was not accepted. About thirty of the petitioners and counter remonstrants, mortified and enraged at the failure of their attempt, withdrew with their families, and formed themselves into a separate society, assuming the denomination of Baptists, and erected an house for public worship, 1806, and the Rev. Samuel Glover was ordained their pastor, 1810. The above said fund, by interest and donations, has accumulated to the sum of twenty seven hundred dollars. \$2700.

There are in the town, two hundred and forty dwelling houses; a great proportion of them low, poor, constructed of wood. There are few which can

be called good and handsome. About eighty of them stand within one mile of the meeting house. According to the census, the town contained in A.D. 1800, 1037 inhabitants; in A.D. 1810, 1137, both of which were below correctness. At this time, 1815, there are, 300 families, containing about 1250 souls, a fraction more than four in a family. Maj. John Bradford, soon after the parish was set off from Plym. gave the first minister, Mr. Stacy, two acres of land, on which he built an house; also for the use of the ministry, one acre nigh the meeting house, and a wood lot of eleven acres. Also to the town, two acres on which the meeting house stands; and a small lot for a school house in the centre of the town. (All the above lots, excepting the Schoolhouse lot, July 28, 1714, were conveyed in one deed, dated Jan. 5th, 1720/21,-- C.A.B.)

The local and natural conveniences of Kingston, are the following: A post road from Boston to Plymth, passing through the town and village, in which is a Post office, on which the stage passes and repasses every day in the week, sabbath excepted; A communication by water with Boston and other ports; Articles for the market at Plymth, from Bridgewater, Abington, and several other towns, passing through, affording a supply to those who are able, and wish to purchase; A good supply of Cod fish, Haddock, Halibut, and Mackerell, in the temperate season, by boats, which must go six miles at least, into the bay, between Cape Cod and the main; Alewives, frost fish, smelts, Clams, and abundance of eels in their season. The latter are chiefly taken during two months in the fall of the year, while they are passing up the streams to the ponds, springs, swamps and marshy places, where they remain through the winter, and return in the spring to the bay. In the month of June, myriads of their young pass down the streams; but how they are propagated, has hitherto escaped the researches of the most diligent and discerning naturalist. Not more than one half of the town being under cultivation, it has the best supply of wood of any town in the county, excepting Plymth. The town maintains one Grammer school the year round, at four school houses, in different

quarters of the town, with a permanent master, who has a salary of \$400 per year; and an English school about six months. The expense for supporting the poor has averaged, say for ten years, about \$600 per annum; but is increasing. The hard, not to say barbarous, practice, of disposing of the poor at public auction, to the lowest bidder, thereby throwing them into those families where they are treated in the worst manner, has not yet obtained; though with a view to lessen the expense, there are many advocates for it. The selectmen contract with private persons to take the poor into their families, where they are comfortably provided for, and do not endure cold, and hunger, and insult, in addition to the misfortune of being unable to minister to their own necessities. Orchards in Kingston have always been few in number, the soil being unfavourable. As the old ones decayed, the planting of others has been too much neglected. The few of the early planted trees, which remain show that, at that period, they arose to a much larger size, and different from those of modern times. The various kinds of plums that used to prosper; and the Kentish cherry which used to abound, have almost wholly disappeared.

Kingston is generally a dry soil, and a healthy situation. The extreme heat of summer is mitigated by the sea turns; the cool air flowing in from the east, during some part of the day, not extending far inland, and returning from the west at the close of the day. In the months of April and May, there is generally a long course of easterly raw winds, which retard vegetation and the bloom of the orchards, about one week, compared with the towns a little remote from the sea. Frosts in the fall are retarded by the sea air, about the same length of time. The disorders ^{most} prevalent, are pulmonary consumption, and putrid fever; of the former, seventy persons have died in thirty four years. The throat ail, which prevailed in many places in the years 1747 and 8, severely visited this town. More than forty persons, mostly children, died. In the family of Thomas Cushman, out of six, four died in eight hours, and were interred in the same grave. That disorder was a violent putrid fever, with sore

throat, not attended with eruption. The dysentery which prevailed in most parts of the United States in the year 1776, was very mortal in this place. When our Fathers arrived at this place, they found it in a great measure vacant, a pestilence having swept off the natives, but had been populous. The land which the natives cultivated was easily tilled, and aided by fish as manure, produced considerable quantities of Indian Corn. The bay abounded with fish and fowl; the shores and flats with shellfish; the streams with alewives, frost fish, smelts and eels, in their season; the woods with turkeys, deer and other animals; and the population was in proportion to the means of subsistence. The frequent places of their habitation are discoverable by shells, and marks of fire, arrow heads, and simple stone utensils, turned up by the plough; implements important to them who knew not the uses of iron, which is more valuable than silver, gold, or precious stones, having multiplied and civilized the nations of the earth, and produced conveniences and comforts which mankind enjoy. There was a large burying place of the natives on the plain, a little northeast of the spot where the meeting house stands; many years since obliterated by the plough. In ploughing and opening the ground, in many places, the mouldering bones of former unknown generations are frequently discovered. The landing place is on the bank of Jones' River a little more than one mile from the mouth of the river. At low water, there is only the natural stream, at the wharf, where the tide rises from eight to twelve feet. The landing is the only place where shipbuilding is carried on. The water is not sufficient for carrying out vessels exceeding 400 tons, and few of that size have been built there. Ship timber is nearly exhausted in Kingston, and is brought from Middleborough, Halifax and the back towns. At Rocky Nook, in the southeast corner of the town is a wharf, and the most convenient place for the business of navigation; it being of more easy access than the river, and has latterly been more used. The fishing, till the war, was, in latter years wholly carried on from that place. Formerly, fish were cured at Sunder-

land, so called, on Jones' River, one mile from the sea. Before the Revolutionary war, the fishery was more extensive than since. About twenty Schooners were owned in the town. At the declaration of peace, at the close of the second war with Britian, the navigation owned in Kingston, was as follows. At the landing, three Sloops, 150 tons; one Brig, 160 tons; At Rocky Nook, six Schooners, 445 tons; and two Brigs, 256 tons. At Rocky Nook are salt works, producing about two hundred bushels of salt in a season. Between the Revolutionary and the war now terminated, there have been built in this town, upon an average, about two hundred and fifty tons of shipping annually. About sixty men have been employed annually in seafaring business, and thirty in Shipbuilding. The morals of the people are generally good. There has been no public house for entertainment in the town for many years; but the traders, usually about five in number, have been in the practice of retailing spirituous liquors in small quantities, to the injury of many individuals, who there spend their time and money, which ought to be better employed. The exertions which have been made, in various parts of the Commonwealth, to check the consumption of spirits, and the formation of a society in the town for the aid of that purpose, have produced some benefit, retailers having ceased to sell drams. Though the general use of spirits is much greater than in former years, instances of extreme excess are less frequent. The distresses consequent upon the war have fallen heavily upon this small town; but the prospect of peace this day announced, diffuses joy; and though no object of the war has been obtained to compensate for the loss of thousands of lives and millions of property, we rejoice at deliverance from the evils which we have suffered.

Kingston Feb. 14th 1815.

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This paper was copied from the manuscript copy made by Mr. Cornelius Bartlett of Kingston, many years ago. I am adding notes appended to the copy, but I am by no means certain, what notes, if any, were made by Mr. Willis, and what by Mr. Bartlett. Nor am I sure that what I have copied is wholly Mr. Willis original paper, because of corrections in more than one handwriting. E.F.D. Feb. 14, 1935.

Notes on the Sketch of Kingston, by Rev. Zepheniah Willis.

Note 1. It takes its name from a place in the English Channel. The Light Houses are located here. The first Light House erected 1768; Burnt July 2d 1801. 1803 a new one was built two lanthorns. "During the Revolution, Capt. Talbot in the Niger Frigate fired at the Fort on the Gurnet when the Light House was pierced with balls. The Ship grounded on Browns Island but got off. 1814, July 3d A British tender with barges, cruising off Plymouth, one of the latter chasing a vessel in was fired at from the Gurnet Fort and sunk. The men were saved. The barge was taken by the Americans and brought un with her warlike equipments. Aug. 1st Capt. Epworth of the Nympe Frigate, burnt and sunk a fishing Sch. of 25 tons belonging to Plym. in avowed revenge of this transaction. The main anchorage in the Harbour, the Cow Yard takes its name from a Cow Whale once having come into it."

Note by C. A. B.

Note 1. (additional) The name is derived from the gurnet fish, which abounds on the coast of Devonshire Eng. Several headlands in the English Channel, &c. (This note may have been made by Mr. Willis and Mr. Bartlett, the preceding one. E.F.D.)

Note 2. The path from Patuxet to Massasoit's dwelling was near the south base of Monks Hill. C.A.B.

Note 3. Silver Lake.

Note 4. Furnace Brook, fed by springs, with two dams and works, uniting from the south, with Jones' River, two miles from the sea; and Blackwater Brook, uniting from the north with Jones' river, one mile from the sea, with two dams and works.

Note 5. The third day after they came into this bay with their Ship they "came round the shore to a river which they penetrated three English miles." Capt. Jones was probably with them, as he was the day previous, not coming to the river. C.A.B.

Note 6. June 16th, O. S.

Note 7. Explanation by E.F.D. Mr. Bartlett's copy encloses in parentheses "It owes its seperation --- which was adopted" and in a foot note he adds "C.A.B.--See Thacher's Plym." It seems as if the part in parentheses must be Mr. Willis' words and that Mr. Bartlett simply added the reference to Thacher as throwing additional light on the enclosure.

Note 8. This manuscript was procured from Miss Nancy Sampson. It was left with her Father Cornelius Sampson. Mr. David Beal and others had it published, in 1804. Some ascribe it to Dr. Baldwin. C.A.B.

Note 9. "March ye 14th 1779 aged 79 years wanting 7 days".

Note 10. See Coll. of Hist. Soc. Vol. X. p. 159. (This does not look like Mr. Bartlett's handwriting, and may have been the work of still another "editor".

Note 11. Where the Patuxet House stands. In digging the cellar for the stable different parts of the human skeleton were found. (This is certainly a note by a later "authority" for the Patuxet House was not founded by Josiah Cushman until the middle of the last century, long after Mr. Willis had died. E.F.D.)