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*CHICOPEE*  
*ILLUSTRATED*  
*1896*

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J. STEVENS ARMS AND TOOL COMPANY, CHICOPEE FALLS.



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The publisher feels indebted to Chicopee residents who have assisted in furnishing data for this sketch of the city. The historical papers are especially appreciated. Mr. John White, city clerk, has been most courteous in giving information, and the support of the manufacturers of Chicopee Falls has made the production of this fully illustrated book possible. Though millions of dollars are represented in the manufacturing interests of Chicopee Centre, none of the officials had any interest in assisting in the publication of a book showing the influence of the city in the past and present development of industrial or artistic labor. The absence of any "Centre" manufacturers, therefore, is not that they were overlooked. The fine photos furnished are by W. J. Wood, of Exchange street, Chicopee Centre. The engraving is by the Boston Engraving and McIndoe Printing Company, and Springfield Photo Engraving.

L. L. JOHNSON.



## OLD CHICOPEE.

"**HICKKUPPY**" RIVER, known and loved by the Indians, found favor with the first white settlers, also, and on the banks of this stream was started the permanent settlement in what was then a part of Springfield. William Pynchon may be called the father of the town as a whole, for in 1636 he removed from Roxbury, and from that time left his impress on the growth and life of the young settlement.

Geographically, the present city of Chicopee occupies the north-western portion of Hampden County lying west of the Connecticut river, and is separated from West Springfield by the same "Long river." Hadley and Granby are on the north, Ludlow on the east, Springfield on the south. The Chicopee river enters at the southeast angle, flows westerly through the city and enters the Connecticut river at the southeast angle. The fall of this river is 70 feet, furnishing at Chicopee Falls and at the Centre vast water power, used for manufacturing purposes. The mills at Chicopee appropriate 36 feet of the entire fall, and at the Falls 27 feet. The remainder of the 70 feet is above the village. The soil is chiefly a sandy loam, suitable for fruit growing. There is to day a background of New England customs and ideas which force the retention of a part of the city as a strictly Yankee possession, where the thoughts of the fathers have taken such firm hold that the influx of foreign elements has been powerless to dislodge them. A walk through the lower streets of the old town forces the idea upon a casual visitor that it is modern in all its details and entirely given up to manufacturing enterprise. Go up some of the hills, or take the "Springfield road," and every trace of crudeness is effaced. These houses were built to stay, and they have carried out the intention of their builders. Honest they are from roof to cellar. Good reliable timber forms the frame work of some which have stood the storms of a century at least, and others bear the marks of



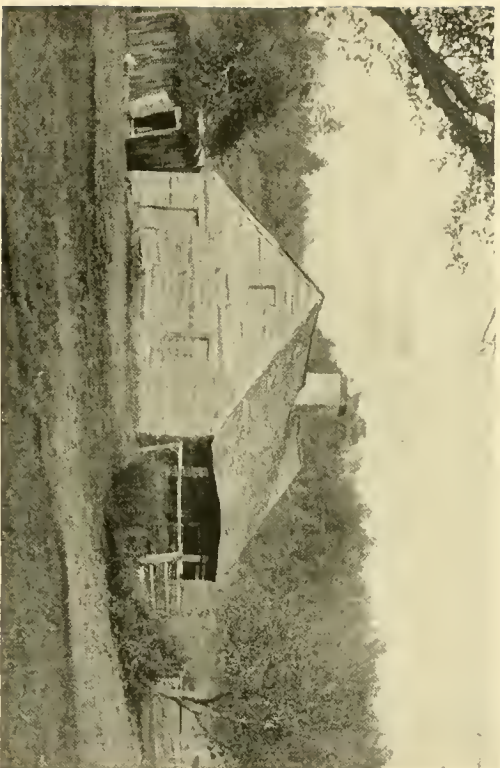
WILLIAM PYNCHON.

much longer service. The oldest of the old is the house in "Johnny Cake Hollow," which has been in the Snow family for many years. Sturdy wooden hinges are used for the doors. Nothing frivolous or unstable was put into this antequely respectable construction. The wavy lines of the roof mean not weakness, but forced submission, a graceful yielding to the inevitable march of years, not to say centuries. Deeds which have been in the possession of the occupants show dates of two hundred years ago, and these do not reach back to its very early history; it had a youthful day before that. It seems fitting that such an historical dwelling should lead a quiet, retired existence, and so it does. It is located in one of the easily missed, but beautiful places of picturesque Chicopee, or, more exactly speaking, in the tenth or eleventh ward of that city. Because you have been lucky and have found "Johnny Cake Hollow" once, it is no sign that you will ever be able to repeat the agreeable experience. It is like an oasis dropped down in the midst of that barren tract known locally as "the plains," the distinctive features of which are common to all parts of this unsettled territory, one place resembling another to the perfection of duplication. If Mr. Snow is not on some of his out-lying acres he will show you over the house, where all is as sedate and proper as it should be in a building so historically beyond reproach. Mr. Snow lives alone and apparently enjoys it. After showing the house, with an air of humble apology he takes you to the shed. This, he feels, has no right to be there, for it is not more than a hundred years old and was built as a concession to modern demands, rather than an improvement to the original house. Within this shelter stands a large barrel of corn meal, and this suggests the wish to know why this charming place should have been given so prosaic a name. The host laughs and tells you it was because "Johnny Cake" was a staple article of diet, and also because corn in its various forms was the food best suited to the purses of the first inhabitants. Even now popping corn, the best, is part of the crop from which Mr. Snow realizes a neat sum yearly. The "Hollow" is a delightful surprise. It comes when one is tired of the monotony of level ground, and in comparison is like a piece of paradise with its clear flowing stream and pleasant fields. "Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood stand dressed in living green," quotes the poet as he ascends the next hill.

This old house might have been standing when Deacon Samuel Chapin bought and gave to two of his boys, Joseph and Henry, a large tract of land in what is now Chicopee, in the year 1646, and let the youngsters go to work clearing up what was then an unbroken wilderness. In the good Deacon's family were four sons and three daughters, and this was increased when the sons married and brought home wives. Henry, the eldest, married Bethia Cooley, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Cooley, of Longmeadow, and their marriage festivities were celebrated Dec. 5, 1664.



JOHNNY CAKE HOLLOW AT SUNRISE.



OLD HOUSE AT JOHNNY CAKE HOLLOW.



Previous to his marriage Henry Chapin had entered into this contract with John Pynchon, of Springfield :

" March 9, 1659, sold to Henry Chapin 200 acres of land on ye Chickkuppy river, to run fro ye hills on ye east side to the Great river on ye west, and on the south it is to be bounded by and to join the Chickkuppy river ; only one twenty-five acres, or thirty, being by Chickkuppy river, about the place which shall be judged best for a warehouse, is to be taken out and excepted out of the parcel ; yet so as to be 200 acres is to be made up there together. Also, Henry is to have half of ye upper Island, which is to be as equally divided as can be ; and, also, he is to have five acres of its mowable meadow at the lower end of the Mux meadow.

" For all which he is to pay and allow me the sum of 20 pounds, in wheat at current prices, at four several payments, viz. : five pounds by the first of March, 1661, and another five pounds in 1662, and the last five pounds ye first of March, 1663—all payments to be in wheat, at prices current at the several times of payment. This is the joint agreement betwixt us this 9th day of March, 1659, as witness our hands.

HENRY CHAPIN,  
JOHN PYNCHON.

" *Memorandum*—I promised Henry that if I did part with the 25 acres, or 30 acres, or with the Islands, he should have the offer of them."

This same Henry was present at the great battle with the Indians at Turner's Falls in May, 1676, and this memorandum of the event was in an old account book :

" I went out Voluntere against ingens the 17 of May, 1676, and we ingaged battle the 19th of May, in the morning before sunrise, and made great spoil upon the enemy, and came off the same day with the Los of 37 men and the Captain Turner, and came home the 20th of May."

Thomas Chapin, son of Japhet, was one of the original grantees of the large tract of land allotted in 1736 to the officers and soldiers concerned in this battle and to their descendants. This tract is now the town of Bernardston.

Though Henry Chapin purchased land on the north side of the Chicopee river, he built his house on the south side, on the north side of what is now Ferry street, at its junction with West street, in the village of Chicopee, near the large elm. This house was burned in 1762. The house formerly owned and occupied by William Chapin, one of Henry's descendants, was on nearly the same ground. He was a prominent man connected with town affairs, and representative to the General Court in 1689.





CHICOPEE MEADOWS.

An old story has it that he was impressed into the British service on board a man-of-war, and there remained seven years, during this time engaging with the Dutch in naval combat.

He afterward commanded a merchantman, and made several voyages between Boston and London, and finally settled in the former city. From there he went to Springfield in 1659, or near that time, and then purchased land in Chicopee.

Following these two main lines of the Chapin family we find that Henry died August 15, 1718, Bethia his wife on December 11, 1711. Their children were Henry, born June 1, 1666, died April 29, 1667; Sarah, born March 3, 1670, died November 6, 1732, never married; Bethia, born February 19, 1672, died ——; Henry, born March 9, 1679, died September 15, 1754; and Benjamin, born February 2, 1682, died March 27, 1756. Japhet was born in 1642, the same year his parents removed to Springfield. July 22, 1664, he married Abilenah, daughter of Samuel Conley, of Milford. She died November 17, 1710, and was buried in the old burying ground at Springfield, where a stone marks her grave. He afterwards married Dorothy Root of Enfield, Conn., who survived him. He died February 20, 1712, and was buried beside his first wife. March 9, 1666, Deacon Samuel Chapin purchased of John Pynchon a tract of land which included most of the river flats lying between the "Chickuppee" river and "Willimansick" brooks; and April 16, 1693, his father conveyed to Henry a large part of the land so purchased. He probably removed from Milford as early as 1666, and joined his brother in the wilderness. He built a house at what is the end of Chicopee street, a little north and west of the house owned by Joel Baker, where is had a charming view of the great river and hills beyond.

Japhet had nine children, the eight sons of Japhet and Henry each had large families aggregating eighty-seven grandchildren, and the eight men died at an average of eighty years. The times in which the Chapins settled in the wilderness tried men's souls and only the sturdy material of which the pioneers were made, animated by brave hearts, could have withstood the trying days and nights of fear. At the time Japhet and Henry settled here, the Indians had become hostile and were a constant source of alarm. The white men continually carried arms, even when they attended divine service in the "meeting house." To reach this building there was no royal road, but a track through the wilderness where streams which had to be forded were frequent incidents, for the nearest church was six miles distant. The massacre at Deerfield in 1704 was the culminating point, the natural outcome of the hostile feeling indulged by the Indians, until, no longer capable of the semblance of control, it burst into fearful atrocities at Deerfield. It is related of Hannah, second daughter of Japhet Chapin, and who married John Sheldon

in December, 1703, that on the night of that memorable attack at Deerfield, she jumped from a window for safety, but having sprained an ankle was captured and with eleven other captives, among them John Williams and family, she was taken to Canada and after two years redeemed.

An illustration of the fervent religious spirit of this time is found in a letter written by Josiah to Japhet Chapin at the time of Hannah's capture :

“MENDON, April 8, 1704.

“DEARE BROTHER :—I cannot with my pen express the concernedness of sperit that is in me for you and my dere cusen that is led captive by the barbarous heathen. God is by such dispensation trying the faith and patience of His children ; it is therefore my dayly request that God will support her in body and sperit, and her bodely captivity may prove to her speretual enlargement, and that God will please give you comfort in hope, knowing that God is able to find out a way for escape, tho no way appears to us.” The letter closes with assurances of love and sympathy, but not a word of complaint at the dealings of Providence.

The first cultivation of the land was begun in 1645, on the south side of the river, and in 1750, the first parish of Springfield being about to build a new meeting house, the people in the north side of the town on both sides of the Connecticut river were incorporated into a separate parish, called Fifth Parish or Chicopee. The general boundary on the east side of the Connecticut river was the Chicopee river.

The settlement of “Skipmuck,” about a mile east of Chicopee Falls, began first in 1660 and for the most part was on the south side of Chicopee river. The most prominent settlers in this part of the town were Stephen Horton, Gad Horton, Phineas Steadman, Ariel Cooley, Dudley Wade and a few others, whose names are not recorded. They were often annoyed by the Indians and were frequently driven to the old fort at Springfield for refuge. Several inhabitants were at one time captured but no trace of them could be found. It was a favorite pastime of the red men to ambush on “Sand Hill” and pick off the white settlers as they appeared on the opposite bank. Ariel Cooley, a man of considerable worth and notable characteristics, settled first on the north side of the river. He was a contractor on the Fairmount water works, Philadelphia, and the original proprietor of the lock and canals at South Hadley Falls. Caleb Wright is said to have built a house upon the upper terrace at Skipmuck in or near the year 1704. A story told of the time says that the Indians surrounded the place one night, took Mrs. Wright prisoner and scalped or partly scalped a child lying in the cradle. Moreover, that this child, Hannah, recovered and lived to a good old age. Mr. Wright then moved to Chicopee street, where the Chapins had settled, and put up a cabin first

south of the old cemetery. In Dr. Holland's version of the Wright difficulties of 1708 he says that Indians attacked the house of Lieutenant Wright at Skipmuck, killed "old Mr. Wright," took Henry Wright's wife captive and probably killed her. In 1665 Rowland Thomas and Nathaniel Ely laid out a highway at what is now the centre of



BRIDGE ACROSS CHICOPEE RIVER.

Chicopee, they having owned land on the south side of the river as early as 1664, as shown by documents in the possession of the Van Horn family. The ford was at that part of the river where the Dwight mills and grist mill of Edward Wood afterward stood.

Born Van Horn settled in Springfield as early as 1713, probably some time before. Because of a highway dividing his land, the same having been opened since his acquirement of the property, the "Proprietors of ye Inward Commons," granted him, "March 22, 1713-14" another such piece in exchange as "would for conveniency bring his land together." They subsequently granted him, "January 22, Anno Dom., 1718-19, one or two acres of land lying between Thomas Tery's Home Lot and the Hill for a home lot." On the back of this instrument is written this curious prescription: "Give a portian of the Reed Root every morning for 3 mornings going; every night going to

bed give him 2 or 3 spoonfuls of black water according as he can bear; on or about 11 or 12 o'clock, in the day, give him a portian of Tumeric, about as much as will ly one a Shilling at a Time, and wash it down with a Decoction of agrimony, Elder-blooming, or Hysop." How many lives were preserved by using this formula is not recorded.



The family of Born Van Horn probably settled at what is now designated as Chicopee Falls as early as 1739-40. Summer Van Horn has carefully preserved an original document, 4x8 inches, which reads thus :

“ SPRINGFIELD, March 17th, 1742-3.

“ Of the Proprietors Pursuent to a Grant of the common land in Springfield, March 18th, 1739-40, laid out to Born Van Horn, of Springfield, 27 acres & 1-2 of Land in the East Precinct in said town, equil in value to 8 acres of the land at Goose Pond, as mentioned in said Grant, lying in two Pieces ; one contains 2 1-2 acres, & is bounded, as follows :”

The document then gives the boundary lines, and is signed by the committee—Eben Hitchcock, Josiah Day and John Munn.

Azariah Van Horn was a surveyor of highways in the town of Springfield in 1770. His district embraced the territory south of Chicopee river, including the present sites of Chicopee and Chicopee Falls.

Ariel Cooley, Sr., settled near Chicopee Falls before 1786. In this year he conveyed lands to Byers and Smith. He owned large tracts within the town, and had numerous descendants. “Cooley Brook” derives its name from this family, but few descendants bearing the name of Cooley live in this vicinity. The first dwelling of which any account remains was that erected by Henry Chapin, and the tavern left no positive evidence of its origin. The inn described as standing at the north end of Chicopee street and that occupied by Japhet Chapin on Springfield street were both of uncertain origin. It is safe to divide honors between them.

Many and very pleasant are the reminiscences of the Chapin Inn, for many remember “Uncle Austin” and his kindly hospitality, and who finally took in his sign when the typhus fever raged in the village. There were several



OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

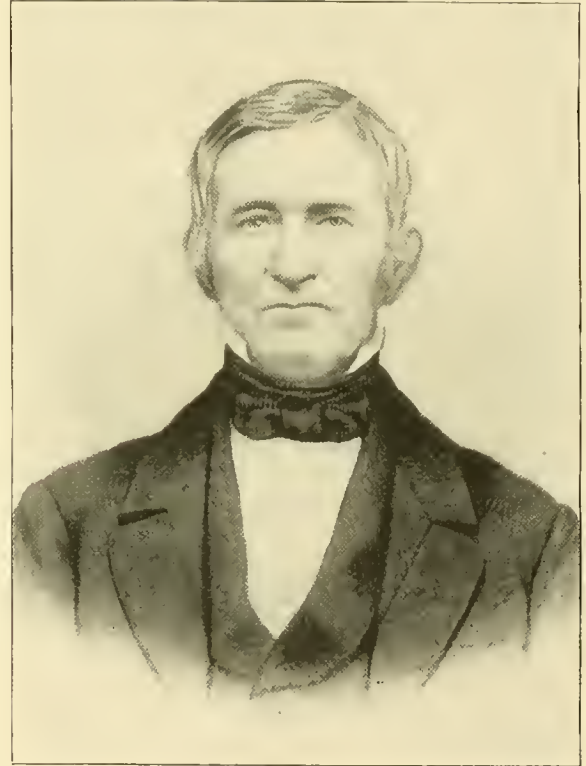


THE CHAPIN INN, "TODDY ROAD"

members of the Chapin family ill when Captain Moore came up the street with his men fresh from rafting and hungry as pirates, and fairly longing for the hospitable welcome which was a part of "Uncle Austin's" mission as innkeeper. From the open door came a voice, for the first time, discouraging the wanderers. They were not to enjoy the old inn's comforts that night. "If you knew how sick my family were, you would not ask it, Captain Moore," said Mr. Chapin. "We cannot entertain you to-day, nor to-morrow, unless there is a change for the better." In vain the men urged that they would be satisfied with bread and milk. They finally left, and returned next morning to find the house closed, the sign taken down, and "Uncle Austin's" days of tavern keeping were over. After the death of one of the daughters Mr. Chapin had no heart in his work, and during the last years of his life was unable to keep open house. The picture presented was taken when he was in failing health, but is considered a very faithful portrait. The hotel was burned in 1872, when unoccupied, the fire probably originating in one of the sheds.

All through the history of Chicopee are found friendly allusions to the old hotel and the good times enjoyed there. It is recollected that great feasts were served on July 4th, and so fervent was the celebration one year that the glass was broken and shaken from the window frames by the force of the cannon salutes fired in honor of the day.

Japhet Chapin, born in 1750, married Lorena Wright, and their family was made up of ten children, Olive Whitfield, Japhet, Atlas, Pliny, Francis, Austin, Veranus, Sidney and Milton. Olive, the only daughter, died at the



"UNCLE" AUSTIN CHAPIN.

age of 28 years. Whitfield was the father of eight children, among them the late Charles O. Chapin, a man much respected in Springfield, where he lived, and Elizabeth, beloved wife of the late J. G. Holland. Japhet died early in life. Atlas Chapin had three children; one only survived, Mrs. Chandler, of Springfield, Mass. Pliny had six children, one only living. Francis Chapin had several children, none living. Austin Chapin 2d was born in 1798, and died in 1863. He was instrumental in building up that portion of the town known as Cabotville. He held many important offices, viz.: School Commissioner, Selectman, Highway Surveyor, Tax Collector, and at 37 years of



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

age, when the village was part of Springfield, he was sent as Representative to Boston. This was the year when Edward Everett was Governor of Massachusetts. Many cases were tried by the late Judge John Wells before Austin Chapin as Justice of the Peace, at the house where the latter made his home for nearly sixty years. He was the father of six children, three living: Margaret M. Nealley, residing on a part of the homestead, Spruce street; Henry M., living in Boston, Mass., and Elizabeth M. Denison, of Springfield.

Veranus Chapin lived on land opposite Austin, where now is a prosperous settlement built up by Tuke and Humphrey. Dea. Sidney Chapin was the father of four children, one only living at the old home in Chicopee street. Milton had three children. A son in Brooklyn, N. Y., and Mrs. Ellen Flagg, in Washington, D. C., survive.

In connection with the schools of the town the following paper has been kindly furnished by Miss Adeline E. Howard. It is fair to say that it was not written for this sketch of Chicopee, but was read in the Third Congregational chapel May 30, 1892, with others by the ladies of the church, some of which have been kindly furnished to the publisher of this book.



## OUR SCHOOLS, PAST AND PRESENT.

We find early mention of schools in connection with Springfield. In 1654 "a tract of land on the west side of the Great river was appropriated by the town, either for the helping to maintain a school, or to bear any other town charges." This land was let out and the income expended for schooling. In 1677 William Madison was hired as a schoolmaster and was to receive three pence per week of those whom he taught to read and four pence of those whom he taught both to read and write, the parents and persons being to allow not more, but for his encouragement for that year he was to be allowed the rent of the town lands at Chicopee.

The first schoolhouse in Springfield was built in 1679, and was 22 by 17 feet. In 1682 the selectmen agreed with Goodwife Merrick to teach children to read, she receiving three pence per week for each child.

The defect in common school education for the first forty or fifty years was very apparent in the number of persons who could not write their names and the very large number of bad writers and spellers, Miles Morgan, whose statue adorns Court Square, not being able to write, but making his mark, which was an anchor. From the beginning of the present century the interest increased rapidly.

The first school started in Chicopee was in a log house which stood where Mrs. Ames now lives, kept by a man named Shevoy, who was a minister and preached to the settlers on this side of the river. It was said that he was a good mathematician and gave out all the problems from memory, as there was no arithmetic in the school at that time.

The first schoolhouse in town was built on South street, a little west of the brook. It had but one room with a large fireplace in one end that would hold wood enough to last a stove a week. The scholars cut all the wood and made the fires. About 1812 a new schoolhouse was built on South street at its junction with Springfield street, standing nearly where the pumping station now stands, but facing south. The chimney was a monstrous affair, and many were the fogs carried in by the boys. This house was used for many years. The teachers were paid from \$8 to \$17 per month. Copies in writing were set and goose quill pens made by the teacher until the scholars had learned the art. Miss Elizabeth Southworth taught here with skill and ability soon after the mills were started, when the scattered settlers were formed into the village of Cabotville. Here the boys and girls sought knowledge. Here studied the Mosman brothers and Stewart Chase, Mary Chase and Margaret Chapin. The boys and girls, with one exception, went their several ways with only memories of their former teacher, but one, Mr. George Mosman, remained beside her to still enjoy her companionship. He has but recently left us to join that great company whom no man can num-

her. The old building has never lost its interest for me, as there I received my first and only public chastisement at the hands of a primary school teacher, which punishment, as has been the case with all children from time immemorial, I *didn't deserve*. This building was removed in 1861 or '62, and, having been renovated and reconstructed, is now occupied by Mr. Terrence Hogan on Centre street.

A schoolhouse was erected at Skipmuck as early as 1812. It was 20 x 30 feet, inclosed by rough clapboards, had two small windows and a huge fireplace. The seniors had wide boards for desks, placed against the sides of the



OLD HIGH SCHOOL.

room at a proper angle, and in front of these were three long seats with legs like a milking stool. Their horizon was more limited than that of the younger ones who occupied similar benches in the centre of the room. The schoolhouse at Chicopee street was the largest in town, and stood a little south of the church near where Mrs. Palmer's house now stands. This building had two rooms. In 1825 a brick schoolhouse was erected where the present building now stands on Church street at the Falls. In 1845 it was replaced by the present one. There Clossen Pendleton and Dr. Alvord taught. Mr. Bildad B. Belcher taught on the north side of the river.

The best building in town for a long time was the one on Springfield street at the Falls, which was erected in 1875 and 1876. The building is now

learning in childhood's days. It served its day and generation well, and like the schoolhouse of our Quaker poet's childhood, displayed within :

"The warping floor: the hattered seats;  
The jack-knife's carved initial;  
With many frescos on the walls;  
Its door's worn sill betraying,  
The feet that creeping slow to school  
Went storming out to playing."

This building was torn down in '75, and the present one erected. The old high school building on Grape street was built in 1842. Mr. N. P. Ames gave the bell (tradition says "a fine-toned bell"), and Mr. John Chase gave a thousand dollars toward the cost of the building. The basement was fitted up as a primary school, and in that subterranean spot Miss Mary Ann Fitz was said to teach the "Model School." The upper floors have been somewhat modified in recent years, and all the rooms are now large and pleasant. Other schoolhouses than those mentioned were erected as necessity demanded, the last being the new high school building, of which the city is justly proud. Years ago a school was kept in Mechanics' Hall, which was the upper story of an old building which stood where H. S. Martin's furniture rooms now stand. There the sister of one of our ladies was sent at the tender age of three years because she plagued the baby at home. A very select school was kept in the vestry of the old Congregational church, by Mr. Granger, who walked with a crutch. This crutch was heard from if the children were unruly, and now the thought of the old teacher always brings with it the thought of the old crutch.

While seeking to gain a practical knowledge of the three R's in the day schools, music was not neglected by those who had an opportunity to cultivate their voices, Mr. Reed, a music teacher, being quite an institution in town. He held singing schools in the Congregational vestry, which was filled with eager learners of the divine art. As Mr. Reed led the choir, and filled it from the ranks of his school, if one did well he had some hope of being advanced to a position in the choir.

The modes of punishment in the early days were unique, a remedy applied for the prevention of whispering being a short wedge inserted between the upper and lower teeth, thus keeping the mouth open. For restlessness a book was placed on the head. The child was expected to remain motionless, so that the book might not fall. In my mother's school days a child was sometimes obliged to stoop over and hold his finger on a crack in the floor for a specified time. A more severe form of the same punishment was to require the pupil to stand on *one foot only* and hold down a nail in the floor, and if the teacher felt so disposed he would step to the rear of the child and lay on the

ruler with no gentle hand. Sometimes the pupil must hold several heavy books on the palm of his hand, extended at arm's length. Gradually the arm would relax and droop lower, when the teacher would give a whack on the elbow with her ruler. A favorite and effective punishment for bad boys and girls was to blindfold them, tie their hands

behind them, and stand them in the corner. The nose was sometimes clasped in a cleft stick.

The first school committee's report was in '49. The next year the committee says that "the houses are all in good repair, except one small primary schoolhouse which is wooden and bare enough. Eggs might be cooked on the sunny side of it in the summer, and some attention is needed before another summer else the children may be cooked." They say some of our schools "are truly ragged schools and as dirty as ragged," and add the remark that "those who come to our shores are heartily welcome to a share of our privileges, but we do wish they would take with the rest a share of our soap and water." The old district system was abolished in 1869. In 1879 our



GRAPE STREET SCHOOL.

town voted to place our schools under the supervision of a school superintendent, which has been of great advantage to them.

Formerly children entered the grammar school at a very early age, one lady who is with us tonight having





FRONT STREET, CHICOPEE CENTRE.

entered at the tender age of six years and two months. The pupils remained in the grammar school for a longer or shorter time, and were eventually asked how many of them would like to go to the high school. The desire for promotion seemed general, and a solid vote was usually obtained in favor of advancement. The late Dr. P. Le B. Stickney, of Springfield, did a most excellent work in connection with our high and grammar schools in grading and classifying. In these schools many of us passed happy years, and tender memories of the old high school building will dwell with us as long as life shall last.



NEW HIGH SCHOOL.

Many are there of the excellent and honorable whose names may be found here enrolled either as teacher or pupils. The name that comes first to our lips is that of the man whose state has been honored by his acceptance of the gubernatorial chair, whose public and private life is without reproach, who, always and everywhere, has the love and respect of those who had the good fortune to be his pupils in the Chicopee High School—Ex-Gov. George D. Robinson.

Some of the pupils went their way out into the world to make for themselves a career, while others have remained among us to live their lives, and do their service near the home of their youth. One of our long-ago pupils, Zenas Moody, has been the Governor of Oregon. Another, William Walker, was for years on the staff of a Chicago newspaper. A third,

Hon. Thomas B. Stockwell, has for years been prominent in educational circles in Rhode Island. Others, lawyers, doctors, ministers, and artists, have done faithful work in administering justice, in saving bodies and souls, in cultivating the beautiful, and thus placing before us high ideals of art and character, while many have joined

" The choir invisible  
Of those immortal dead who live again  
In minds made better by their presence."



GROUP ON FRONT STREET.

## CHURCHES.

On the same day and at the same place was read this very pleasantly written paper on the early churches by Mrs. Mary F. Smith, who has allowed it to be used in this connection :

In May, 1636, we find the following agreement, which was signed by eight of the twelve settlers who first came :

“ We intend, by God’s grace, as soon as we can, with all convenient speed, to procure some Godly and faithful minister, with whom we purpose to join in Church covenant to walk in all the ways of Christ,” and in 1645 the first meeting house was built. In 1749 Chicopee had nearly 40 voters, and entered a petition for a separate minister in January. The petition was dismissed. In the autumn the Chicopee people asked again. The answer was that the people were more than compensated for the extra fatigue of the Sabbath by being so far from the center. The ride on horseback for a half day was equal to some more than a half day’s labor. But on the whole they lived with less fatigue than those in the center, who were obliged to build and maintain three large vessels to transport the produce of their lands to the store, besides managing their business through the week. But Chicopee persisted, and a church was organized at the north end. The Rev. John W. McKinstry was the first pastor, who began his first term of service in September, 1752. The meeting house was completed in November, 1753, and when the committee was appointed for the delicate task “ of seating the meeting house,” they were granted permission to seat men and women together. The seating was regulated according to the tax list. One of our oldest townsmen says the first tax he ever paid was a church tax of 16 cents. After this church was built nearly all the residents in what is now Chicopee attended the service there, instead of in Springfield, as they had done before. The Methodist Church at the Falls was organized about 1825, and the Baptist Church at that place in 1828. The Second Congregational Church at the Falls was formed in 1830. The Third Congregational Church was the first church constituted in Cabotville. The society was organized in March, 1835, with 18 members. They held services in the schoolhouse on South street, and afterward in Chapin’s Hall. Their first church edifice was dedicated in 1837. The first pastor was Sumner G. Clapp.

The Universalist Society was constituted in February, 1835, and the church organized with 39 members. They held services in the schoolhouse on School street. It is said that the Universalists used it three Sundays in the month and the other societies the rest. Their church edifice was dedicated in 1836 and was the first one in Cabotville. The first pastor was Charles Spear. The society was weakened by the withdrawal of the Unitarians in 1841. Many of its





THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

strongest supporters moved away and death took many more. It ceased to exist several years ago. The building is now used by the Presbyterian Society. The Central Baptist Church was organized in July, 1835, with 21 members, very soon after the Universalist. They were publicly recognized as a Baptist church by a council in August, 1835. Their first services were held in the house on Front street occupied by Mr. Wheeler, afterward on Spring street, and



THE OLD UNITARIAN CHURCH.

after this in Chapin's Hall. Their first church was dedicated in 1839. Their first pastor was Dr. Warren. The Methodist Church was organized in 1838 with 18 members. They also held services in Chapin's Hall. Their first church building was erected in 1839 on Perkins street. Their first pastor was Edmund S. Potter. It is now owned by the St. Joseph Temperance Society, and their church edifice is on Center street. The Unitarian Society was formed and legally organized in March, 1841. The church was constituted with 16 members. Their first services were held in Chapin's Hall. The church edifice was built in 1842. The first regular pastor was John A. Buckingham. The Episcopal Church was organized in April, 1846, with 18 members. Their first services were held in Chapin's Hall and afterward in Ferry's Hall. The church building was completed in 1848 and partially burned in 1872. It has been repaired recently and services resumed. The Second Adventists have for a long time existed in the city. Some of their first gatherings were held in a public house in Cabotville and in a private house at Chicopee Falls. A society was formed in 1870 in Chicopee Falls and a chapel built in that village.

The Catholics commenced holding services in a house between the canal and river, which has since been washed away. Afterward their service was held in a room in the Ames Company shop. The church was gathered and an altar erected in a house on Pleasant street, in 1838, and their first church was erected in 1840 on the same



METHODIST CHURCH, CHICOPEE CENTRE.



METHODIST CHURCH, CHICOPEE FALLS.



street. Their present church edifice was dedicated in 1857. The first pastor was John Brady. We see that in thirteen years, between 1835 and 1848, there were seven churches built in the village of Cabotville. Every denomination at some period in its early existence had held services in Chapin's Hall, but never together. The first Episcopalians that came here were called very good people, but Episcopalians. The Universalists and Unitarians took the lead in many a good work and ranked high in their trades and as citizens, but they were Universalists and Unitarians. It is said that one minister prayed that the Universalist Church might be carried by a high wind, shingle



EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

by shingle, into yonder river. The Methodists were very strict about their dress. One prominent man brought his bride here without a bow or jewelry of any kind because his religion forbade it. The Baptists thought the river the only proper place to administer baptism. The Congregationalists were called blue, orthodox, and the hill on which their church was built was called Brimstone Hill. Yet each church was organized on the same basis and with the same intention as the church way back in 1636, "To procure some godly and faithful minister and to walk in all the ways of Christ"

The date of the beginning of a pronounced interest in manufacturing was May 17, 1786, when John Hitchcock, Stephen Hitchcock, Ebenezer Morgan, Israel Chapin, Lemuel Stebbins, Dudley Wade, Gad Horton, Stephen Horton, Phineas Steadman and Ariel Cooley leased, in perpetuity, "two acres of land and the water privilege on the south side of Chicopee river at Skenungonuck Falls," to James Byers and William Smith, of Springfield. The conditions of the lease required that within two years the lessees should erect "iron work" for the manufacture of hollow ware of that metal. The ore to supply the furnace was taken from the south bank of the river, about 80 rods above the present dam, at the Falls, and at other places. The ore was very lean, but a ton of iron lasted then a long time. The property was purchased in 1801 by Benjamin Belcher, Abijah Witherell and William Witherell, and then commenced the real activity of the concern. In 1805, May 22, Mr. Belcher bought the interest of his partners and continued in business alone until August, 1822, when he sold the entire property to Jonathan and Edmund Dwight. The property consisted of nearly or quite all the land where now stands the village of Chicopee Falls, and a blast furnace. A



"KNUCKLE DOWN."

considerable portion of this land had been purchased by Mr. Belcher from Stephen Wright and Levi Hitchcock, who had settled at that place before the erection of the iron works. These gentlemen removed from the Falls after making this sale. The early activities of the Dwight Brothers, both socially and in a business way, have left very pronounced results in Chicopee. Not the least of their many thoughtful acts was the planting of many of the magnificent elm trees which add so much to the beauty of the present city. The streets where corporation buildings were erected and those where the mills were built were treated like the up-town streets, and are alike to-day as regards shade trees.

Oliver Chapin was probably the first settler on the north side of the Chicopee river at the Falls, and in 1806 he sold the privilege on that side of the river to William Bowman and Benjamin and Samuel Cox, who erected there a paper mill and carried on the manufacture of paper for fifteen years. When David Ames became owner of this industry he introduced paper making machinery which greatly facilitated the production. In 1809 a small mill was erected near the upper dam, above the grist mill on the Chicopee river, by William, Levi and Joseph Chapin, who bought cotton and made yarn from which cloth was made by handlooms among different families in the town. The increased competition caused by the importation of imported goods so reduced the business that the firm abandoned it in 1815. The water power privilege was sold during David Ames' lifetime to the Chicopee Manufacturing Co. The land and water power at Chicopee Falls was purchased in the year 1822 by Jonathan Dwight of Springfield for himself and brother Edmund of Boston, who subsequently, with other gentlemen of Boston and Springfield, entered business with them. Their attention having been drawn to the erection of a cotton mill at this place by Mr. Joseph Hall and Mr. Joseph Brown, a company was incorporated in January, 1823, under the name of Boston and Springfield Manufacturing Co., with \$500,000 capital. J. Dwight was the first president and Joseph Hall first agent.

The publisher is indebted to Miss A. T. Howard for a very entertaining paper, which, after stating that "in 1825 the Springfield and Boston Manufacturing Co. bought the water power and land adjacent to where now stands the city of Chicopee," says:

In 1831 a new company was organized and called the "Springfield Canal Company." This company purchased the Cabotville property, and secured John Chase as agent. At this time (1832) he was 44 years of age, and from this date his career as a mechanic and builder is traced in the manufactories of Chicopee. When he assumed the agency of the "Springfield Canal Company," the ground now occupied by this city, with its immense factories and numerous dwellings, was covered with bushes and much of it was of a swampy character. There were but three or four dwellings in the neighborhood, and a lady of this city who came as a young girl to Cabot



RESIDENCE OF EX-MAYOR GEORGE S. TAYLOR.



with the Chase family, tells me she used to gather cranberries in the neighborhood of the common near West street.

In 1832 John Chase drove from Chicopee Falls, where he had been superintending the erection of mill No. 4, with George Prayer, to survey the Cabotville property, and when Mr. Prayer drove the stake at the place where the upper end of the canal was to be, John Chase told him :—" He could tell the people he was the man who drove the first stake for a new Lowell."

We instinctively try to picture Cabotville as it was when John Chase first came here. The old farm-houses here and there : the Armourers troubling the Puritan mind of Col. Lee because they traveled the "Toddy Road" to Japhet Chapin's tavern so often ; the children roaming the fields hither and yon for the treasures of wood and field, and when the shadows of night began to fall, hastening to the shelter of their homes, as with their imaginations they saw the Indian still wandering among his native haunts—his implements still to be found in the vicinity.

Then Capital and Energy utilizing the great water-power, and one by one, rapidly as the years came, the great factories and busy workshops rising like Aladdin's palace almost by magic, calling men and women from every land, of every nationality, to become the makers of Chicopee and to take part in the drama of joys and sorrows, successes and failures, that is enacted in the history of every village and town.

The Canal Company, by Mr. Chase, began the construction of the canal on the banks of the Chicopee, which leads the water to the mills, and this canal, one-third of a mile in length, was completed in the autumn of 1832.

Mr. West tells me that the first foreigner who came to Cabot was an Irishman, Tom Brainard by name, and that he was a very nice man. The second foreigner was a Scotchman who came to Chicopee Falls ; he has not left his name, but he left some poetry which would seem to indicate that he was not quite satisfied with his lot in life. These are the pessimistic lines :—

If money the gift of life could buy,  
The rich would live and the poor would die.

It seems that the building of the canal brought more Irish to Cabot, and I am told they were paid 75 cents per day and three jiggers, the "jiggers" being something very nice to drink. This same year, 1832, a dam was completed across the Chicopee river at the head of the canal. A second dam, which receives the overflow from the upper one, was completed in 1834. Mr. Charles W. McClellan contracted with John Chase as agent of the Canal Company to build these dams. Mr. Chase was busy surveying and laying out the lands of the Canal Company, and it is said that when J. K. Mills, the treasurer of the company, came to Cabot to see what had been done, he said to Mr. Chase :—





THE JUDGE WELLS HOUSE, FORMERLY THE DWIGHT PLACE.

"Mr. Chase, one thing is clear in the laying out of this town." "And what is that?" said Mr. Chase. "That you were drunk," said Mr. Mills, "when you laid it out." Mr. Chase laughed and said he laid it out with a view to securing the greatest number of corner lots. When Mr. Chase first came to Cabot, he boarded for a time at Austin Chapin's tavern, but later the company built for him a brick house situated where the town hall now stands, and known to my

younger days as the Elliot house, and his office was close by where the new depot now stands.

This company disposed of portions of its property and water-power to corporations which from time to time were successively formed and whose mills were all built by the Canal Company. The Cabot Manufacturing Company was the first one formed and was incorporated in 1832. Their first mill was completed in 1834 and their second in 1835. The completion of these mills was celebrated by balls to which came everyone from far and near. Mr. Chase and his wife were fine dancers and generally opened the ball. Mr. Henry West attended the first ball, coming from and returning to Chicopee Falls (his home), in Mr. Chester W. Chapin's stage, which was quite an institution in those days. In 1832 machine shops were built to construct proper machinery for mak-



BAPTIST CHURCH, CHICOPEE FALLS

ing cotton goods, and the Canal Company supplied the new company largely with the needed machinery. These shops were small and stood where the western portion of the buildings of the Ames Manufacturing Company now stands. Isaac Bullens came to Chicopee about this time and worked as a machinist for this company.

The opening of these mills and shops called many of Mr. Chase's friends from New Hampshire, his native state, to join him in his work of building a new Lowell at Cabot, and if we may believe tradition, they were not the "dull boys who take all work and no play." I do not know the names of all who came to help him in his work, but among them are William Clark, Charles French, Simeon and Calvin Chase, J. D. White, Mr. Cronk, Mr. Dow, Moulton Taylor, Mr. Samuel Eastman and brother Charles Eastman, Mr. Woodman, James Smith, Capt. D. M. Moore and Orrin Dudley. Early in the thirties, Thomas (?) Humphrey came here to work for Capt. McClellan, superintending the work on the canal. I have pleasant memories connected with this name, as a daughter of this man was a favorite teacher of mine. They retain their interest in their old home and have a memorial window in their new Baptist church. Josiah Smith, Lewis Bosworth and the Denison family came to Cabot about 1830. Mr. John Denison, for most of his life a resident of this town, and his friend Mr. Childs (afterwards Dea. Childs of Holyoke) were among the early workers here. Mr. Denison teamed for the company, brought and carried goods from Boston and other cities, and once he nearly met with a fatal mishap in crossing the Connecticut river on the ice with his loaded team. The ice gave way and he lost his goods, but was fortunate enough to escape with his life and team.

For the Perkins Company, incorporated in 1836, the Canal Company put up two mills — 3 and 4 — one in 1836 and the other in 1837. For the Dwight Company they built three mills, completed in 1840, 1842 and 1845. (All united in 1856.)

Mr. Chase's faith in the Canal Company was great. His bookkeeper, Mr. Huntington, gave up his situation because he thought he had a call to enter the ministry. "Enter the ministry," said Mr. Chase. "How much salary do you get?" The sum he named being much less than he was receiving from the Canal Company, Mr. Chase said: "And how do you expect to live on that?" Mr. Huntington said: "I shall trust Providence for the rest." "Hum!



BAPTIST CHURCH, CHICOPEE CENTRE.

trust Providence," said Mr. Chase; "I should a dumb sight rather trust the Springfield Company." He is said by those who worked for him to have been exceedingly faithful to the interests of his employers—to have kept a very close watch upon all the works entrusted to his care.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS.

There is much said nowadays about having the courage of your convictions. John Chase always had the courage of his convictions, telling the minister at one time "to be as brief as possible, as some of them were getting pretty tired."

The house so long occupied by him at the lower end of Grape street was built for him by the company. They gave him the choice of lots—the front lot, where James T. Ames afterwards built, or the lower lot, and he chose the lower one—a source of regret to his wife, who was a daughter of Gen. John Stark, of Revolutionary fame.

He was a member of the Mechanics' Association, who built the Universalist church in 1836 and presented it to the society. In this year (1836) the Catholic cemetery is said to have been given to the Catholics by the Canal Company.

Mr. Bacon, a friend of his, and for most of his life a resident of this town, told me he went through the shops every day looking after the work. He had one finger which had been maimed in some way, and the workmen said "if there was any imperfection in their work, Uncle John's stub finger was sure to light upon it."



FRENCH CATHOLIC CHURCH.



It seems at one time there must have been some jealous feeling between Springfield and her outlying districts, for about 1836 some of the out-of-town folks were bound to put down the Springfield high school. Both villages of what is now Chicopee turned out in full force to help vote it down. Uncle John Chase said "his shop could not start



THE OLD JUDGE CARTER PLACE.

till that school was put down," so the old Town Hall of Springfield was filled with voters. But Judge Oliver Morris carried the day for the schools. He said: "Here, sir, the poor have the same rights as the rich. Yes, gentlemen,



I glory in this, for I am a Republican, and know my rights, the greatest of which is freedom, after which, our public schools, at the head of which is our high school." He carried his audience with him. Mr. Chase's objection could not have been to high schools in general, as in 1842 he gave \$1,000 toward the completion of a high school building on Grape street.

The First National Bank of Chicopee began its existence in 1845, with a capital of \$150,000, and John Chase was chosen its first president March 8, 1845, and continued its president until he resigned, Oct. 6, 1849. While he was president there was a run made upon the bank, instigated by some one who had a spite against it. This man collected all the claims against the bank possible and presented them for gold payment, and incited or frightened others into doing the same. Uncle John was worried, but no one knew that he was. Finally he dressed himself in the oldest and most weather-beaten clothes that his garret afforded, to avoid recognition, and was driven to Springfield in the evening, and there took the cars for New York. No one knew that he had gone except Gilbert Walker, the cashier. He came back the next night, walked up from Springfield with a bag of gold on each arm, and reached home about 9 o'clock in the evening. So they weathered the storm successfully.

At this time Cabot was apparently at the very zenith of her prosperity. Enterprise and industry seemed indeed in a fair way to make Cabot "a new Lowell." Already some of her manufactures had acquired an almost world-wide fame. But in looking back into these years of prosperity, the building up of this city is not all that we see, nor the din of machinery all that we hear. We see *men* fighting vigorously for their opinions. We see one man intensely opposed to the division from Springfield and the next one as intensely favoring it, and *all* so faithfully backing up their convictions that in 1843 the town failed to secure a board of selectmen. We also see, by the reports that come to us from those distant days, that *then*, as always, "orthodoxy is my doxy, and heterodoxy is your doxy," and they were even more willing to prove it by "apostolic blows and knocks" than we are. Look more closely, and you will see fermenting those bitter differences of convictions that finally culminated in the great Civil War. And the outcome of all this clashing of thought and word and deed is *individuality*, which gives such zest and interest to life.

Intimately associated with John Chase in the work of building the town, was Charles W. McClellan, who took contracts and built most of the masonry and stone work of Chicopee's mills, dams and public buildings. He is noted in many states for his faithful and enduring work, and was beloved and respected by all who knew him. His public spirit led in 1845 to the construction of the first works for supplying the town with water through pipes. Associated



MAIN STREET, CHICOPEE FALLS.

with him in this work was Robert E. Bemis. Water was first supplied from the springs and wells at a higher elevation just south of the village. After the death of Mr. Bemis it became wholly the property of Mr. McClellan. In 1876 a dam was erected beyond the east line of Chicopee in Springfield for a more satisfactory supply of water, and in 1877 the Chicopee Water Company was formed with Mr. McClellan as a stockholder. In 1850 the four large corporations, Ames, Cabot, Perkins and Dwight, erected gas works with a capacity sufficient to supply the mills and meet the ordinary wants of the villages. At some date, of which I can find no record, the Canal Company became merged in the Ames Company.

Mr. Chase's labors were not confined to Chicopee and vicinity. He was sent for to superintend the building of dams, canals and mills in New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, South Carolina and other states. He was a man whose word was considered as good as his bond. For the last ten years of his life (so I read in the account given of him in the *Springfield Republican* at the time of his death), he made it a rule not to increase the amount of his property, but to give his income, over and above that needed for his own use, where it would do the most good. Exact, exacting and methodical in business, but genial and affectionate at home. He died May 11, 1866.

Mrs. Luther White kindly contributes a carefully prepared and interesting paper on the Dwight Manufacturing Company, which is another of the group of historical papers read on that memorable day in the chapel of the Third Congregational Church.

#### THE DWIGHT MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The subject assigned to me has none of the interest for people in general which attaches to the old houses and prominent families. A corporation is impersonal, and the chief points of interest are found in the growth of the cotton manufacturing interests in our town and in brief mention of some of the more prominent of the families who were early connected with its development.

The mills which are now owned and operated by the Dwight Manufacturing Company were originally built for three separate corporations. Those which are known as No. 1 and No. 2 were originally the property of the Cabot Company, and on this account the name of Cabotville was given to the village, a name which it retained until the incorporation of the town. The mills known as No. 3 and No. 4 were owned and operated by the Perkins Company. The remaining mills were, from the time of their first erection, run by the Dwight Company. But neither of the corporations developed the water power which the river afforded, nor did they erect the buildings. This was done by the Springfield Canal Company. The latter company was formed mainly through the agency of George Bliss of



THE T. W. CARTER PLACE.



Springfield, who bought all the land which he thought desirable for a town site and which he could get in accordance with his ideas of value. The preliminary work necessary to the formation of a factory village was begun in 1828 and '29, and the first cotton mill began operations in 1832.

In the olden time, for most of us are supposed to be young enough to call the beginning of our village the olden time—no mill was considered ready for the machinery until it had been dedicated by a grand ball. If tradition



RESIDENCE OF THE LATE GEORGE M. STEARNS.

can be trusted the posters were right in giving such imposing name to the social occasion. Uncle John Chase, agent of the Springfield Canal Company, and consequently chief man of the village, led the grand march, and, of course, all the beauty and chivalry of Cabotville were gathered there by the light of the lanterns and the sperm oil lamps to celebrate the occasion. When the Cabot Company was ready for manufacturing, R. E. Bemis was appointed agent. He built the house which is now occupied by Mr. Carter on Front street and located it so that he could conveniently overlook the mills, as at that time there were no intervening buildings. Mr. Whitter, father of the recent paymaster of the Dwight Company, was agent of the Perkins Mills most of the time during which they had a separate corporate existence.

The Dwight Company was organized in 1841, and very shortly after that time Sylvanus Adams came from Lowell to take charge of its mills. He continued to be agent for twenty-seven years, and during all of that time actively looked after the interests of the corporation which he represented, and was also interested in other business enterprises in the town and vicinity. He was a public-spirited man and took a great interest in the Cabot Institute, the public schools, in the religious organization with which he was connected, and in many ways made his influence felt and respected in the community. He had a large family of beautiful and bright children and his home was a center of social influence and power.



In 1856 the Dwight Company bought the property of the Cabot Company and the Perkins mills. The whole of the cotton manufacturing interests were then, and ever since have been, carried on by the Dwight Manufacturing Company.

The consolidation was at that time the occasion of much talk about the growing power of great corporations, and the opposition was very similar to that which we hear now on the same subject. But the work of manufacturing has gone on with increasing prosperity and with no detriment to the public. After a long term of service Mr. Adams was succeeded by Mr. Budlong, whose death soon after his removal to the town was greatly lamented. Gen. Nye then took charge, and his connection with the company and his residence here with his family are remembered with much pleasure.

The manufacture of cotton cloth was begun in this locality under such circumstances as would now be fatal to such an enterprise. The raw material and the finished product had to be transported by teams, or by the equally slow water navigation of the Connecticut river. The only means of artificial light was by sperm-oil lamps. Since then improved machinery has increased very greatly the product of the mills, and at the same time reduced the hours of labor and the number of laborers, while the wages have been nearly doubled.

In those good old times the operatives had to work 14 hours a day. Then the best overseers did not get over \$2.25 per day, while now they receive more than twice that sum. Now a mule spinner does the work which two did then and gets three times the pay, and I am informed that the wages of the other operatives are also very much higher than they were 50 years ago. The product of the mills has also been more than doubled. In the year just preceding the consolidation of the companies the united product of all the mills did not exceed 14,000,000 yards



RESIDENCE OF T. C. PAGE, EAST STREET.

a year, while at the present time there are over 30,000,000 yards turned out every year, or an average of more than 100,000 yards for each working day.

The greatest apparent change, so far as it affects the social life of the town, is not, however, in the mills,

methods of manufacture or wages, but in the personnel of the employees. During the first years of cotton manufacturing the help came almost exclusively from the surrounding towns, excepting a few skilled workmen from Lowell. It was a homogeneous mass of people, which cultivated New England traditions. The first foreign laborers who were introduced here came to dig the canal. They did no skilled work and tended no machinery, but were the forerunners of a vast multitude of various races and nationalities, so that now in order to understand the language of the street one must speak nearly all the tongues of Continental Europe.

The change which the advent of foreigners has made in the New England town is too apparent to require comment, and we are too intimately affected by it to pass unbiassed judgment thereon.

MRS. LUTHER WHITE.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. MARGARET M. NEALLEY.

One of the best known of the early settlers was Deacon Silas Mosman, of whom Mrs. Melzer Mosman, thus pleasantly writes :

I suppose the intention was to commence our narrations some time previous to the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock, but as the Mosmans at present settled in Chicopee trace their family descent back to the time of

“Bloody Mary,” and as a Mosman was her clock maker, I must commence there. This link also connects the Mosman family to a valuable property consisting of castles and treasure in the Bank of England, and is so conclusive that a lawyer has been employed to reinstate us in our lawful rights. When we are once in the ancient strongholds we shall be happy to receive at the castle and talk over old times with the friends present to-day.

The first track made by a Mosman on Chicopee soil was in 1829, when Deacon Silas Mosman walked from Warwick to Skipmuck and secured employment for himself and sons in the cotton mills and elsewhere. On his way to and from he lodged at a farm house in Hadley and was charged a ninepence (12 1-2 cents) for his entertainment. Later he moved his family there, consisting of a wife and seven sons, Silas, Abner, David, George, Dexter, Nathan and Martin, and one daughter, Mary.

In a short time Deacon Mosman and the older sons were employed in the Ames shops in the manufacturing of cutlery, Mr. Mosman as grinder and two of the sons as polishers and the others in various ways. They removed with the Ames works to Lower Chicopee in 1834, where they were engaged for many years. At this time, when Chicopee was a mere hamlet, Deacon Mosman and his two eldest sons, then married, bought the land south of the high school and built two houses, those now owned by Mrs. Dexter Mosman and Mrs. Pepper, which were occupied by Deacon Silas Mosman and Silas Mosman, Jr., for years. They with their wives were four of the eighteen members of the little church which was organized the



THE WHITTEMORE PLACE

year they came here, 1834, and was known as the Sixth Congregational Church of Springfield. This church was dear to the whole Mosman family, and time, labor and money were cheerfully given for its welfare. The brothers were prominent in aiding in the church music, which consisted of mixed voices and an orchestra that is worthy of mention here, as it was famous in all the region. It had various make-ups, but for a long time was as follows: Flutes, Dexter Mosman and Elijah Harwood: double bass, Silas Mosman, Jr., ophicleide, George Mosman. Mr. Henry

West has a record in the early church as flutist and janitor. He swept the meeting house, built the fires and shoveled the snow for \$25 a year.

The ladies' meetings, such as sewing societies and mothers' meetings, were always encouraged and supported by the presence and talents of Mrs. Deacon Mosman, and the status of society was a vital question with her, who was a Puritan by birth and breeding, and who, with her large family and a house full of boarders, had a heart larger than all her cares and duties. The first break in the family was the death of David, twenty-four years of age, and just one year from the day of his marriage with Margaret Pease of Chicopee street. He died of Cabot



VERANUS'S CASINO

fever, a fearful scourge that took its name from the town where it raged exclusively in 1839, and on the day of his burial nine dead lay unburied in this small village.

Deacon Mosman was an important factor in the new and growing community and was once elected and served as representative. He died in 1854, and five years afterwards his wife. Silas Mosman was elected to represent the town, or district (as it was a part of Springfield), in 1848, and it was owing to his tact and unusual ability that the bill was passed allowing Chicopee to be set off from Springfield and to aspire to the dignity of a town by itself. He has a well-known and well-earned reputation for work done under his superintendence for the Ames Company. The fine



presentation swords of General Grant, General Butler, Gov. Oglesby and others, costing \$2,000 each, which were made here, and also the bronze statuary department, were under his management and direction. Among the notable bronze works are the bronze doors made for the Capitol at Washington, costing \$57,000. The finish of the work is declared by experts to be distinctively American—neither an imitation of the French fiddle or of the German finish, but equal to either in beauty of treatment or execution. During the war three of the Mosman Brothers, Silas, George and Martin, were in the Ames shops at work upon war implements. The other three brothers, Dexter, Abner, and Martin, were government inspectors, and three of the third generation, William, Mulzar and Emory, responded to Uncle Sam's call and went to the front. Two of the last survived the honor of having been soldiers, but Emory, a boy of 17, volunteered to undertake a hazardous mission inside the enemy's lines at Port Hudson and was personally commissioned by Gen. Banks. He was never seen or heard from afterward. Of the seven brothers who came to Chicopee Falls in 1829, all lived to mature age and married. And with the exception of David, who died at 24 years of age, all became closely identified with the best interests of the town and were useful citizens and prosperous men.

Mary, the sister, is renowned for her purity and her faith. She is the apostle of the faith cure and brings about wonderful things; she has a faith home at Ocean Grove. George, Nathan and Mary are still alive, and seventeen of the third generation—with nineteen of the fourth generation. Had she lived in Mediæval times she would doubtless have been canonized as a saint.

The name of Elder Hiram Munger has been associated with Chicopee too many years not to be a familiar combination to most people throughout the Connecticut Valley. Mr. Munger is now in his 90th year, and retains his interest in the busy life of to-day. You may find him sitting at his sunny window reading or writing, or, perhaps, preparing to attend some convention in some distant city, where he is going to preach or give an address. Life is still worth living, and has many attractions for him. Mr. Munger is best known, and will always be remembered, as he



CASINO AUDITORIUM.



appears on the street in an ordinary business suit and soft felt hat. His response to a request for something original from him is found in the following short sketch :

CHICOPEE FALLS, Oct. 24, 1895.

A short and condensed account of the growth and enterprise of Chicopee by Elder Hiram Munger, in his 90th year, and over 75 years in Chicopee, called by King Philip "Skammganuk," which means "fish river."—As I have been requested a number of times to give an account of Chicopee on different points, I give this in a general condensed way, as follows :

When I came to Chicopee in 1820 there were no factories, but one meeting house, one doctor, four schools, and no lawyers. About 1000 inhabitants in 1822. The first cotton factory was built in 1822 at the Falls, and one at the lower village in 1832, and both have increased ten fold. Now we have 17,000 inhabitants, over a score of meeting houses, schools, doctors and lawyers, and the enterprise in manufacturing increasing. I know of no place of the same size that has invented so many important patents as the mechanics of Chicopee. The world is indebted to Chicopee for two of the greatest inventions of the age, viz., the friction match by Philips and the great rotary paper machine by John Ames, and many others. The inventors were my most intimate friends.

HIRAM MUNGER.

P. S.—King Philip's army of Indians was camped on Chicopee river when they burnt Springfield, then massacred many at Bloody Brook, Greenfield.



ELDER HIRAM MUNGER

The Springfield *Republican* writes thus pleasantly of Elder Munger :  
"Elder Hiram Munger, now in his ninety-first year, is one of the original and forcible Yankee types that are said to be disappearing as time goes on, but which, nevertheless, are likely to be repeated for a long while yet, if not



THE ERASTUS STEBBINS PLACE, SPRINGFIELD STREET.

with just the vigorous flavor of the generation of Mr. Munger, yet with enough of the true Yankee character to warrant their kinship. Mr. Munger has been all his life a hard-working man : he began to earn his living in a factory while he was a child, and grew up, turning his hand to whatever offered itself ; he ran a grist mill, invented a water wheel,



LOOKING UP HILL AT DEPOT.

became a millwright, built dams as well as wheel-pits ; but principally, after he was twenty-five years old, he worked in the field of religion, in his own peculiar way, preaching and praying, taking charge of camp meetings, first of Methodists, then of Second Adventists : dealing with "the Cain family," and often making Christians of them ; awakening consciences, filling "the anxious seats," converting hard old fellows and confirmed shrews to temperance of appetite or tongue, and everywhere using a shrewd perception of individual human nature and a masterly way of dealing with it to accomplish results that few men could bring about. Hiram Munger has lived almost all his life within a few miles of this city, and has seen it grow from a village. No man can picture its changes better than he ; he

has his opinion on every public subject, and it is apt to be a strong and sensible opinion. As the years go, he ripens, and his age is as much wiser than his youth as age ought to be. He is the same blunt, plain-spoken, unpolished man he used to be in the 40's, but he has vastly broadened and strengthened in thought, and while he does not think



JUNCTION OF SPRINGFIELD AND WEST STREETS.



now any more than then that education will save a man's soul, he appreciates its value more. Few men have done more solid good than Elder Munger, and his equal for vigorous originality of character may be sought far and near in vain."

The merchants of the town was the subject of Mrs. A. H. Stebbins' paper, and she thus interestingly describes them :

### THE MERCHANTS.

In looking up the names of the merchants who were engaged in business in Cabotville, or Lower Chicopee, as the place was called in its early days, I had access to several numbers of the Cabotville *Chronicle* printed in 1842, '44 and '45, edited by Thomas D. Blossom, also the Cabotville *Mirror* of '49 edited by Henry Russell, the Chicopee *Telegraph* of '51, edited by J. C. Stoeve and printed in a room under the Cabot hall, and the Chicopee *Journal*, edited by J. C. Haven and G. V. Wheelock. It was the same weekly paper with a different name.

Before 1840 there were only a few stores, but they increased as the times demanded. The first merchants were Moses Christy and Samuel Harthen, who were partners in dry goods and groceries and occupied the store which they had built, near where the post office is now. The first postmaster was Moses Christy and he kept the office in the same store. The room over the post office was occupied by Amos W. Stockwell as a land office. Later, Squire Stockwell, as he was called, was postmaster. On Merchants' row were Jerome Wells & Co, Daniel W. Millard being the company, Shumway, Dexter Wells, the news room of E. F. Brown, Nathaniel Cutler, Wells & Goodwin, later Bagg & Goodwin, H. Hutchins, Volney Mitchell, J. T. Dow, C. P. Kimball, with John B. Wood for a clerk, M. Cavanaugh, and T. H. Ringgold, a colored barber. This Ringgold was a run-away slave and found his way to this place. Some of the citizens here by subscription raised the sum of \$500, his owner's price, and bought his freedom. I have heard that his son George was in line to shake hands with Gov. Robinson when he took the office of governor of the state, and in passing with the hand shake said : "Here's for Chicopee." The Governor was surprised, but immediately recognized him. Under the Universalist church were the stores of Orrin Lawrence, M. Lingman & Son, and Sterling & Paige.

Exchange street was called Ferry street and extended down to the ferry, which here crossed the Connecticut river. A two story frame house, owned and occupied by Benning Leavitt while he lived, was on the corner of Center and Ferry streets. That building later was made into stores and is still standing there. Mr. Benning Leavitt was





RESIDENCE OF HENRY A. BAILEY, CHICOPEE FALLS.

engaged in the manufacture of bobbins for a number of years. He was a man highly respected by all who knew him. His son, Daniel Leavitt, was another prominent citizen. Wentworth's block next had a number of stores, occupied by William E. Wentworth, afterward Wentworth & Taylor, Milo & B. F. Brown, and E. T. & T. H. Taylor. Other merchants were William G. Bliss, S. F. Williams, Smith and Amory Doolittle, J. S. Robbins, ticket agent at the depot, with David Folsom at his right hand, C. F. Kent, E. B. Haskell, William H. Clark, John Parshley, Asel Sherman, Mrs. Wait, millinery, Asa Remington, J. B. Underwood, Lewis Cutler, Elisha Bullens & Co., J. Marshall, Shaw & Woodworth, gold and silversmiths, Wright & Culver, and Isaac Bullens & Co., three brothers being the company.

This family came from Newton in 1836-8 by stage and, being machinists, worked for a while at the Ames shops. In a short time Isaac and Ira M. opened a meat market in Ferry's block, and Amaziah was employed there. Later they bought the land between Cabot and Miller streets, and built a brick building on the corner of Cabot and opened a dry goods, groceries and boot and shoe store, also crockery—for the merchants at that time kept a general assortment of everything needed in a family. Later they built a frame addition on Cabot street, and had a market; but Robert & Burgess soon succeeded them in that business. Elisha had a store for drugs and medicines. He built his house on a part of this land, and lived in it until he was ready to erect the large brick block which is now owned and occupied by C. A. Bullens and others. Ira M. withdrew from the store of Isaac & Co. and opened a boot and shoe store, with books and stationery. He was one of the assessors for several years; also was one of the first to petition for the act dividing Springfield, so that Cabotville might be incorporated a town of itself.

Mention may be made here of some of the clerks employed by Isaac Bullens & Co., as many of the names are quite familiar. F. F. Steadman, James L. Burgess, the late Elbridge Brigham, of the firm of Tinkham & Brigham, Springfield; the late Mahlon E. Spaulding, of Boston; also John A. and Justin Spaulding, J. A. Carter, John Babcock, Aaron Goodell, the late Andrew Hunter, afterwards postmaster, and Oliver Pond.

Isaac, Ira and Amaziah bought land adjoining the old cemetery and laid it out in lots for burial, selling them as they were needed. They gave it the name of Maple Grove cemetery.

George F. Pease, in the building known as the Arcade, west of the Eagle hotel, sold stoves and tinware, and later Philander Streeter occupied the same store. Further down were Mrs. Collins, millinery, Mr. Tucker's variety store, Benjamin E. Ballord and Wheeler & Claggett.

On the north side of Ferry street, and next to the Cabot hall building, J. P. Searle kept a harness and trunk manufactory. The livery stables of Alonzo Wait, with William Wheeler and Winkley & Ingraham, then Albert Wait,



RESIDENCE OF MRS. SAMUEL BLAISDELL.

were next. In a little one-story building, painted green, Richard Collins had a small store. Below Cabot street W. L. & J. W. Hitchcock made and repaired boots and shoes, and George P. Baldwin sold dry goods in the same building.

On Cabot street in the building of the Dennison market, were C. V. & L. Lane and Branch & Skeele. Later, in the little brown building next, the book and stationery store of C. V. Lane. Clark Albro, with his son Emilius, sold groceries in their little store under the Baptist church. Mrs. Hutchins had millinery in her parlor opposite the Unitarian church.

Center street had its share of business. The furniture wareroom of Moses G. Whitney was first door south of the Universalist church in a two story brick building known as Mechanics' block. Afterwards the firm name in this business was Chapin, Whitney & Gowdy. Mr. Whitney was the undertaker and Mason D. Whitaker owned and always went with the hearse. The first hall was in this block and was called Mechanic's hall. Near by was the meat market of W. W. Johnson and later of J. W. McClench, the blacksmith shop of S. Crouch and the paint shop of S. & H. Churchill. On the opposite side of the street were Frost & Robinson, carriage and harness manufacturers, and Moore & Miller, livery stable. D. M. Moore, familiarly called Capt. Moore, was also an auctioneer. G. M. Bigelow soap works and Ladd Brothers bakery. This business, since the Ladds left it, has been successfully carried on by W. C. Wedge, and his invention of the rotary oven is praiseworthy.



CHICOPEE STREET—THE OLD CHAPIN HOMESTEAD.

On Springfield street, George H. Chapman with Fred Atkins made money in their brush factory. Jonathan Pease represented dry goods, using part of his house for a store. Miss Hancock, later Mrs. Dr. Dennison, had a dress-maker's establishment, and a busy place it was. Half way up the hill was James Lyon's apothecary store; a picture of the Good Samaritan on his sign gave the proprietor the same name. R. B. Inshaw, engraver and gunsmith, was located in this vicinity. The Cabot House was represented by the Chapins, lately of the Massasoit, then by Madison Kendall, who also owned the stage line between Chicopee Falls and Springfield. The brick block west of the Cabot



House, called Chapin's block, was occupied by T. S. Morgan, J. H. Dickinson and Liberty Jenks, father of A. J. Jenks. The upper room or hall was used for meetings, entertainments and balls. I have recently seen an invitation, for a gentleman and his partner, to a blowing out ball to be held in Chapin's hall, March the 20th, commencing at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the names of the managers were Erastus Stebbins, Orrin Dudley, Henry Goff, Wm. P. Winkley and others. The lighting up and blowing out balls were the events of the season. The mills from September 20th until March 20th were lighted, and run until 7.30 o'clock, and a ball at the beginning and ending was in order.

Dr. Bemis was the first physician. Dr. Amos Skeele lived in Chicopee street. His charges for visiting a patient were moderate, 12 1-2 cents for the visit and 10 cents a mile for the distance he had to go. Dr. Perry also lived in Chicopee street, but came over to this side of the river and built the house now owned by Mrs. Charles Smith on the ground where ex-Governor Robinson's house now stands. A story is told of Dr. Perry which is amusing and, perhaps, encouraging. A patient was talking with him of the unhealthy season of spring. The doctor straightened up and said: "My friend, I have always observed that if I lived through the month of March, I did not die that year." Drs. Ellis, Bridgman, Dennison, Jacobs and Pearsons soon located here. Dr. J. H. Williams and Dr. Tyler were dentists, Dr. Lovejoy and Dr. Morgan coming later. Dr. Porter has been in business some thirty-eight years here, a longer time than any one still doing business, with the exception of John McKeon, near the Junction.

The first daguerreotype taken in the United States was taken here by A. S. Southworth, who is now an expert in handwriting in Boston. The first case of daguerreotypes ever hung out in Boston was taken here. They were hung there on the day that Harrison was inaugurated President in 1841. L. G. Blaisdell gave lessons in music for a long time in a room in Cabot hall block.

Many merchants of later years might be mentioned who have died, removed from town, or retired: Josiah Whitney, M. L. Younglove, L. Temple, Avery and John A. Dennison, Joseph Stackpole and C. H. Merrick. Moved from town: D. F. Hale, Springfield; R. T. Oakes, Holyoke; Isaac and George Allen, Boston; G. Marsh, Ware, and H. Rice, Belchertown. Mr. Oakes was very active in church work, making a great specialty of the Sunday school, of which he was for a long time superintendent. During this time he published a church paper called *Our Monthly*, and which contained interesting historical sketches by old residents, Silas Mosman, Hiram Munger, W. L. Bemis and others. Samuel Parshley and J. M. Lane have retired from business.

The Inshaw place on Springfield street is one of the most picturesque, as well as an old landmark, and the pictures of the house and former occupant are excellent.





RICHARD B. INSHAW.

About the year 1836 Richard B. Inshaw and family came to Cabotville from New York city to take charge of the fine engraving of the then flourishing N. P. Ames works. He was one of the best silver engravers in the country, a man of rare ability and taste in his artistic line. Among the many fine pieces of work was the splendid presentation sword given General Winfield Scott at the close of the Mexican war. He was a very generous, social man, fond of hunting and sports, quite authority in such matters. The story goes that at one time he kept forty fine sporting dogs—and what with rare birds and choice animals made his home a great attraction to the villager, and possibly a nuisance to his immediate neighbors. Both he and his wife, Mary Pool, were English, and the little picturesque cottage was a typical English home, built in then a rich farming community, with a quaint, old-fashioned cider mill on the ground beside it. The dwellers of the sleepy hamlet felt indeed fine when the first oil lamp flashed upon the “down street” favored folks. Then slowly came camphine, fluid, kerosene, gas, and now the brilliant electric light and cars seem more of a necessity than a luxury. There were no bridges and the Chicopee was forded and the creeping horse boat was run to West Springfield down at Ashley Ferry where now is the Connecticut bridge. The house remains much as when built, the door plate just the same—but grand houses and much wealth quite overshadow “the little yellow cottage.” The youngest son, Richard B., with his family, and the oldest daughter, Ann Inshaw Wing, are now living there and often tell of the then and now. The



RESIDENCE OF THE LATE RICHARD B. INSHAW.



NATHAN P. AMES.

family were strong Episcopalians and the forming of Grace Episcopal Church under Rev. Charles Fisher was in a great measure due to their efforts, which denomination was hardly the proper thing at that time, as the Puritan feeling was still very strong in New England, and to be a "Piscopal" was a thing to be spoken of in tones of derision, but times and ideas have changed since then, and under the care of Rev. Newton Black the little church is again in a prosperous condition.

#### THE AMES FAMILY AND COMPANY.

More than 100 years ago (in 1791) Nathan Peabody Ames, a hard-working blacksmith who put thought into his work, was plying his trade at Chelmsford, on the Merrimac, where since has grown the busy city of Lowell. He is said to have been the first to use the water power at that place, making edged tools and cutlery. In 1810 the shop was burned, and he started a nail factory in Dedham. Here his son, James Tyler Ames, was born. We quote from a letter of Mr. Simon Southworth: "In 1829 the cutlery business was again begun in Chelmsford, being transferred to Nathan P. Ames, Jr., who made a tour of the country as far as Washington, returning by way of the Hudson and stage to Boston. There was a midnight supper and change of horses at the Springfield tavern, and but two passengers that night to leave Springfield—Mr. Ames and Edmund Dwight, of Boston—the former a young man of 28, the latter already a capitalist engaged in manufacture at Chicopee

Falls, his country home. The Dwight mills and streets in Chicopee and Holyoke were named in his honor. Mr. Ames had an expression of intense honesty, which always inspired confidence at sight, and before morning a contract was made by which the Ames brothers were to come to Chicopee Falls and start their old business of tools and cutlery, Mr. Dwight furnishing a shop, machinery and water power where the Lamb Manufacturing Company is now situated. No rent was ever accepted. This lasted about four years, when the 'Lower Privilege,' afterward Cabotville and now Chicopee, began to be improved. In 1834 the Ames Company was organized, with James K. Mills and Edmund Dwight and a capital of \$30,000, and buildings erected on the present site. The following year N. P. Ames subscribed \$5,000 towards the first building of the Third Congregational church, it being at that time one-half of his personal estate.

"Small tools of steel—hatchets, knives and chisels—were made first, and the workmanship earned such a reputation that counterfeits of cast iron were made in England and sent here to be sold. Coming with the Ames brothers from Lowell were Madison Kendall and James K. Fletcher. The first tempering of sword blades was done by them, and continued for many years.

"Among the early comers was Ethan Chapin, who afterwards kept the Cabot House, and later made the Massasoit House famous.

"The first regulation army and navy swords were made by the company, many of them being on exhibition at Homer Foot's store. Exquisite presentation swords were made for officers of the Mexican and Civil wars, and many historic names have been engraved on jeweled hilts sent from the shop by the river, and now are among the cherished relics of the heroes who gave all of life to their country.\*

"Gun machinery was made for England and Germany, and late in the 30's they began casting bells for public buildings. The City Hall bell, New York, weighing over 8,000 pounds and 6 feet high, was hung with a great



ORIGINAL WORKS, AMES MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 1828.

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\* Among them being Generals Scott, Grant, Butler, Worth, Taylor, Banks, Caleb Cushing and Zachary Taylor.



celebration, and another was the Episcopal church bell in Hartford, at that time being the 'largest and best bell in New England,' and those of the Third Congregational church and old high school, the latter being presented by N. P. Ames. In 1836 the founding of bronze cannon was begun, and the manufacture of leather belting, military accoutrements and artillery harness and turbine water wheels came later.



JAMES T. AMES.

In 1840 N. P. Ames went to Europe with a commission from the United States Ordnance Department to visit the arsenals and gun factories, with a view to introducing the best to be had into the United States armories. While witnessing the funeral of Napoleon Mr. Ames contracted a cold, which, aggravated by poisoning from amalgam paste, cost years of suffering, and death came in 1847. He was succeeded by his brother, James Tyler Ames.

"In 1853 it became the turn of the British government to send out a commission to learn the latest improvements in gunmaking machinery. After a careful examination of the best devices in use in the United States, a large contract was made with the Ames Company to furnish improved machinery for the English armories. The same year a venture was made which not a few of the most sanguine friends of the company predicted would result in disaster and ruin its almost unrivaled reputation. This was nothing less than the attempt to introduce into the United States the founding of bronze art work, and workmen were brought from Europe. The signal success which followed proved the farsightedness of Mr. Ames and his advisers. The bronzes were immediately recognized as possessing unmistakable artistic merit and, placed in competition with the best European products, all criticism was silenced, and the demand grew rapidly.

"The first bronze statue cast by the Ames Company was that of Benjamin Franklin, placed in front of the Boston City Hall. The workmen went to the unveiling ceremonies in a special train by the Boston & Worcester



and Western railroads, and it was an occasion always remembered by them. Other well-known works were the equestrian statues of Washington in Boston Public Gardens and Union Square, New York City, the Lincoln monument, Springfield, Ill., statue of the "Minute Man," at Concord bridge, and the bronze doors at the Senate wing of the Capitol, Washington. It was at the Ames Company that the process of electroplating was introduced into the United States, and Mr. Charles B. Woodworth was the pioneer plater of this country. The silver services for the Tremont House and many other hotels were made here.

"In 1858 Mr. Ames visited Europe as agent of the United States to examine machinery for rolling gun barrels. The mission proved a remarkably successful one, and he made purchases for Harpers Ferry and Springfield armories. During the war a force of over 700 men worked day and night making cannon, swords and sabres. Some days as many as 1,000 swords were turned out. Without the improvements thus introduced only a small portion of the guns required by the war could have been furnished. The bronze tablets at the entrance of the City Hall were made here. During the Franco-Prussian war the company received orders from the French government for about 100,000 sabres, and from the Turkish government for 236,000 sabres to equip their army for the Russian war. Until 1880 the business was conducted as a department of the Ames Company, but the magnitude of the sword business made it desirable to form a separate interest of it. A new corporation was formed by the stockholders, and they purchased adjoining property, into which the sword business was moved and established as the Ames Sword Company, and was for many years under the management of Mr. Justin P. Woodworth. Mr. James T. Ames retired from the management of the business in 1874, and was succeeded by his son-in-law, Hon. Albert C. Woodworth, for more than ten years, and during this time the Victor bicycle and Eldridge sewing machine were manufactured by the company. Mr. Ames died Feb. 16, 1883.

"The Ames brothers were men of great genius, untiring energy and high Christian character. The highest



RESIDENCE OF THE LATE JOHN CHASE.

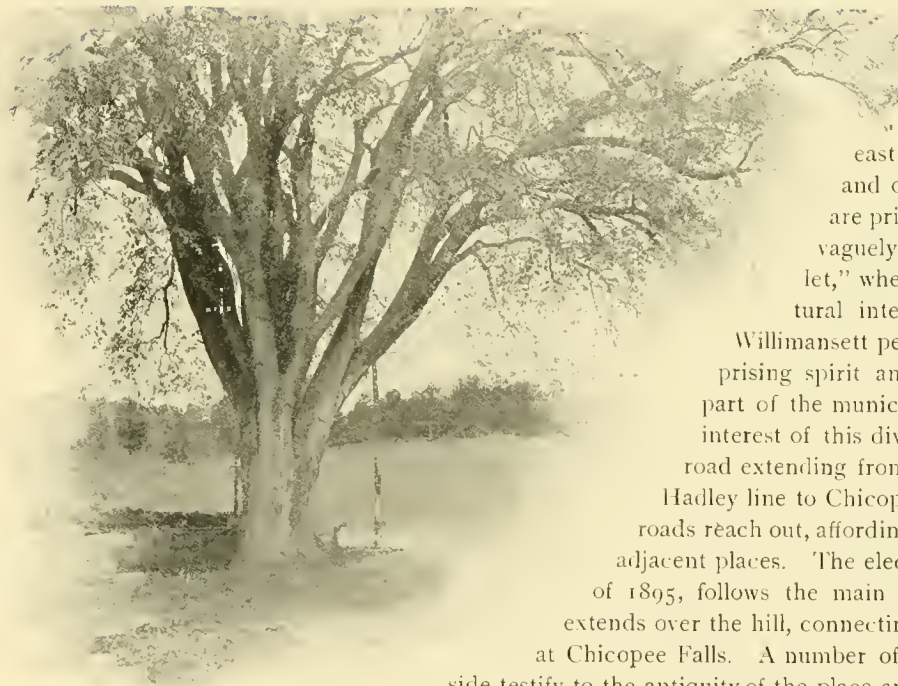
interest of the church was always dear to their hearts. They were earnest teachers in the Sunday School. Devoted lovers of art and natural science, they collected many valuable minerals, and presented specimens to the British Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Harvard, Yale and other colleges and schools. In the old quarry were found rare specimens of fossil tracks, which President Hitchcock, of Amherst, came to gather up. The plaster casts of the Capitol doors are also in that collection. The degree of Master of Arts was conferred by that institution in 1868."

The influence of the Ames family on the early life of Chicopee cannot be too highly estimated. The young town was largely shaped by them in company with other leading spirits of the time. That their interests and best efforts were identical with those of the town they so ably represented was fortunate for all concerned. If any move helped Chicopee, that was sufficient for the Ames family; they were ready to aid and abet it to the best of their ability, of which they had a large share. In business, social life, religion, in public interests, it was always their willing hands which gave the new idea its first impetus.

The old home at the corner of Front and Grape streets, beautified by the hand of the original owner, who collected rare plants which have received the kindest care from his descendants, is one of the most attractive places in Chicopee. The same hospitable spirit characterizes the place, the same wish to aid Chicopee in all her ambitions. The present occupants are Mrs. James T. Ames, a venerable lady, Mrs. A. C. Woodworth, her daughter, and Mrs. G. H. Hale and her little daughter, making four generations living in the old home.



## WILLIMANSETT.



WILLIMANSETT, generally defined, "is a small hamlet at the northerly end of Chicopee street on the east side of the Connecticut river, and opposite Holyoke ; its interests are principally agricultural." This but vaguely describes the ambitious "hamlet," where, while it is true that agricultural interests have and do hold sway, Willimansett people have manifested an enterprising spirit and proved themselves a worthy part of the municipality of Chicopee. The main interest of this division of the city follows the old road extending from the new bridge and the South Hadley line to Chicopee street, and from which other roads reach out, affording excellent communication with adjacent places. The electric road, opened in the spring of 1895, follows the main road through Willimansett and extends over the hill, connecting with the lines to Springfield at Chicopee Falls. A number of houses standing by this roadside testify to the antiquity of the place and the eminent respectability of its inhabitants. Here, near the station, and occupied by the family of J. B. Stratton, whose wife is a daughter of the house, stands the pleasant, large house used by Joseph Griswold for a tavern in the days when its hospitality was known up and down the road for many miles. An old sign, still treasured,



RESIDENCE OF J. B. STRATTON.



shows the name and object of the building. The house is at least 105 years old, and was kept as a tavern until Captain Griswold's death in 1822. The Griswold family has an honorable historic record, and can trace their descent directly to the first governor of Connecticut.

The next man to entertain the public was Clossen Pendleton. His tavern was on the opposite side of the street, farther down the road, and in the north front room is unmistakable proof of its antiquity, the useful "corner" cupboard. Later, the Pendleton family moved into the present family homestead just above the old inn. In the Pendleton house live the two daughters, Miss Helen Pendleton and Mrs. G. Tourtelotte, who worthily maintain the prestige of the place.



"DEESTRICT SCHOOLMARM."

What more can they or anyone desire?

Upon the hill called Prospect, and with good reason, once stood the first schoolhouse erected in Willimansett district, which was the joy or aversion of the youth of that time as their individual tastes dictated. Of this building



THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE.

Tall trees guard it in front, a fringe of forest trees extends along the river bank, across the sheen of water sparkle the lights of a modern city, before it hum the electric cars, and the old places accept the changes with dignified indifference. The innovations and methods of the present time are nothing to them. They know and have seen important things in their lifetime. If they could speak what tales they could tell. Sometime they will move back from the old street and will become an insignificant part of some new building, or, perhaps, will merge their individuality into some thoughtless modern structure. Still, they have served their day and generation, and by a kindly dispensation of the fates their usefulness has extended far beyond the period allotted to their original owners.





MAIN STREET.

very little has come down through the village history. No picture of it was extant, and the cut presented is taken from a wooden model which was sketched, then photographed, then engraved, and the result gives the regulation school building of 1700.

Still standing are the old residence of Deacon Newton Day, whose last occupant and member of the family was the late Mrs. Laura Day, the Amos Skeele place, the Orange Chapin place, the old Chapin home on Main street below the village, and which was the property of Lawyer Chapin up to the time of its sale, and the old Abbey home, now occupied by Joseph Stone.

Later, the schoolhouse of brick stood at the foot of the hill, and when the Connecticut River Railroad Company desired to run its glittering new rails before its very door in 1842, the management bought it for a station, giving the town another brick building in the south, which, after two additions, became the present creditable structure used for educational purposes, and which stands just opposite the



WILLIMANSETT STATION.

Stratton house. The trees in the yard were planted under the superintendence of Deacon Orange Chapin, one of the most faithful citizens, who served his generation well in many capacities, especially as justice of the peace.

The first white settlers of the village were Abel Chapin and his wife, Hannah Hitchcock. He was the great grandson of Samuel Chapin and grandson of Japhet, who settled in Chicopee. He lived in a house which stood on Mrs.



OLD PENDLETON HOME.

Bannister's land nearly between her two houses. The first item regarding industries which seems to be authentic is that relating to the establishment of a saw mill, and very probably a grist mill, which stood below the hill and was run by power gathered by damming the brook very near the place where James Emerson built his dam in 1875 for the water works connected with Mr. Bardwell's house. The traces of a dam were easily recognizable, and inquiry disclosed the fact that these works belonged to a generation living at the time of the war of 1812. The site of the powder mill, which was quite a prosperous business 63 years ago, is still kept in mind by Powder Mill Brook Station, where are now two brick yards. The greatest prosperity was enjoyed during 1830-40. At that time Mr. S. C. Bemis, resident of Springfield, and her war mayor, was quite largely engaged in the manufacture of hardware, using three forges, and employing 100 men. This was of the best kind, specimens of which can be seen in some Willimansett homes to-day. Later, Willis Phelps run a woolen mill here. The most prosperous business was during the war, when Jared Beebe gave the "Valley Mill," as he called it, the credit of laying the foundation of his fortune. This manufacturing plant was twice burned down. Otis Skeele had a shoe shop in what is now the double tenement house, this being joined at its eastern corner to the western corner with the other part of the house, which was then used as a hotel.

The river, besides its fishing interests, was utilized for freighting by the Valley Company and another corporation organized among the farmers of the western side of the river. At one time Mr. John Mulligan of the C. R. R. R. and Mr. Horace Wright worked on the same boat.

The post office was removed from Chicopee street in the thirties. As Chicopee Centre had become a manufacturing place it was established there. Mr. Sylvester Allen was the first postmaster, followed by Clossen Pendleton, Paschal J. Newell, O. C. Towne, and the present incumbent, Michael Fitzgerald, has served for a number of years.

The first boat landing was built in 1751. This was for the accommodation of freight boats, and was succeeded by another built in 1812. The South Ferry was established in 1812 or 1813, and then commenced the effort of carrying the bridging of the river to the lower location, the first attempt to get a bridge across to the Holyoke side being made in 1857.

When the first anti-slavery vote was cast at the annual election, out of 16, possibly 17, votes cast, Mr. Sylvester Allen was one and Mr. Newton Day another, who in 1848 moved here from Holyoke, who cast abolition votes. During the exciting days that attended the Fugitive Slave bill, Mr. Otis Skeele's house was a station on the underground railroad to freedom and Canada. Large delegations were sent to settle Kansas in the Free State issue, and a good complement went to the civil war. The Ladies' Aid also did good service.



Ever since the days of Horatius, bridges, their location and possession, have called forth heroic efforts and gallant defense. The proportion in favor of the Willimansett bridge in its present site, and those opposed to it, occupied very much the same relation to each other as did Horatius, his immortal three and the opposing force. The fight was long and earnest, and the right won, as proved by the great usefulness of the bridge where it stands, a thing of beauty and utility. The greatest success possible is the increasing benefit of the project or idea as shown in the light of the future, and the Willimansett bridge, though young, has existed long enough to attain the distinction of having others see it from its projectors' standpoint.

Early in the contest a bridge association was formed with Deacon J. B. Stratton as president, and this office proved to be no ornamental one, for the president was always one of the most active workers, and to him is the building of the bridge largely due.

January 14, 1886, the first subscription of \$400, "for the purpose of furthering the object of a bridge from Willimansett to Holyoke," was got under way and from this time subscription lists were handed around as the needs of the cause called for. Since the establishment of the railroad bridge by the Connecticut R. R. R., a passenger walk at the side of this had been the only accommodation, and for this privilege a toll of two cents was exacted except on Sunday, when the inhabitants might attend divine service free of cost in Holyoke.

The first agitation of moment in the Legislature was begun by Geo. D. Eldridge, then representative, and he proved a most devoted champion, and through his efforts the opposition, based at that time on a difference of opinion as to the site, was thoroughly aired. Representative John Hildreth, from Holyoke, arrayed himself on the other side and fought Willimansett with the energy born of personal interest. He said Holyoke could not afford it, and his arguments ably advanced kept the County Commissioners back when they were disposed to build. This delay was extended over one year. The next objection was the crossing of the spur track on the Holyoke side at Cabot street. Ex-Governor George D. Robinson, council for the opposition, placed an injunction on the building until it could be proven that it was allowable to cross the track at that point. The Railroad Commissioners then decided that they could not nullify an act of the Legislature and prevent its crossing. The next representative was Eugene O'Neil, of Chicopee, who espoused the bridge cause with such effective earnestness and worked so efficiently, that his name is mentioned with gratitude and his services never forgotten by Willimansett people. He made it his particular business to see that the bridge was built.

When all Holyoke and its allied powers joined in one grand effort to move the location farther south, the



conclusion of the whole matter was that the Legislature passed an act mandatory requiring the bridge to be built, and this gave any citizen the right to take the cause to the Supreme Court in case of further delay. Lawyer W. H. Brooks, of Holyoke, added to his already established reputation by his gallant protection of Willimansett's interests. Opposed to him and in the interests of Chicopee, were ex-Governor George D. Robinson, the late George M. Stearns, and ex-Mayor McClench. The blows dealt out by Lawyer Brooks came straight from his powerful shoulder and told every time. There was no wavering, every argument at command was used and made the most of, the array of legal talent massed against him was beaten back and defeated. T. J. Flannagan used time, influence and money very generously both in Holyoke and Boston, and his interest is gratefully recognized. All through the fight, the House at Boston was largely in favor of Willimansett and the Senate was the real battle ground.

When the act ordering the building of the bridge was passed, in the year Eldridge was representative, Willimansett let itself go in one grand burst of enthusiasm, and Messrs. Stratton and Eldridge were placed in a carriage and drawn about the hamlet by the hands of willing enthusiasts. The completion of the bridge in 1893 was grandly celebrated, a part of the grand time being a lawn party at the hospitable home of H. M. Senior. Among the many interesting events of that evening was this speech given by J. B. Stratton :

*Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

The bridge between the cities of Holyoke and Chicopee at our beautiful village is now substantially completed. The announcement may seem superfluous to most of us who have been crossing and re-crossing at "our own sweet will" for two weeks or more, or to a larger number who have witnessed the progress of the work from the beginning to its completion at the present time.

The bridge has found a quiet resting place ; no more, like Noah's dove, it "flits between rough seas and stormy skies," but safely anchored, it takes an honorable place among the family of bridges up and down the beautiful Connecticut river, well able to bear all the proper burdens and responsibilities of the new relation.

We recall the fact, somewhat reluctantly, that there did exist some difference of opinion on the question of a bridge at this place—not really about the need of another bridge near this point—and also some little difference about the time when it should be built. Unlooked for delays settled the time question for all, and the bridge, materialized, proves it not an untimely birth, nor in the wrong place.

If time allowed we would speak more fully of matters of interest pertaining to the history of this famous "Willi-

mansett bridge question," but we forbear. This is not like a camp fire, where the soldier lives over again in vision the times that "tried men's souls," and meets again, as it were, in deadly encounter (metaphorically) on the field of strife. Now is the time for the exercise of charity toward all and malice toward none. Yet the curious can refresh their memories by looking backward over the musty files of the local dailies for the past four years, and be assured that there was a wordy war much beyond anything occasioned by any question of like character in the past of the state, except, perhaps, by that "great bore," Hoosac Tunnel.

But peace has her victories as well as war. To-day, in the joy over the happy realization of our high hopes and ardent desires, we may fail to honor all to whom honor is due, but we would not omit any. Willimansett has borne an honorable part and her citizens are not insensible to the kindly recognition of her services. We were "solid" on the bridge question, but we do not lay the flattering unction to our hearts that "we got the bridge." Willimansett could not have succeeded alone; but like our revolutionary fathers in their struggle for independence, being sure we were right we went ahead, and we, like them, were favored with allies. All over the state we found strong friends and supporters who rendered very efficient and timely service.

To such, one and all, we would say: Look at the fine structure spanning the Connecticut between Holyoke and Willimansett and see a beautiful monument in commemoration of your service.

It is "the people's bridge, built for the people by the people."

Allow me to adopt, as a fitting expression of our feelings to-night, the language of one of our own New England poets:

Parcel and part of all,  
We keep this festival,  
Fore-reach the good to be,  
And share the victory.

And as farther on we look, we say:

Ring, bells, in un-reared steeples,  
The joy of unborn peoples.  
Sound, trumpets, far off blown,  
Our triumph is your own.

We feel the earth move sun-ward,  
We join the great march onward,  
And take by faith while living,  
Our free-hold of thanksgiving.

Chicopee street is famous as being the place where the friction match was invented by Philips, and here the manufacture was carried on for some years. The farms are truly New England in type and occupied by the genuine New Englander. Some buildings are quite old and bear the dignified marks of age.

Beulah Chapel, an offspring from the Second Baptist Church, Holyoke, was dedicated Jan. 24, 1888, and organized as a church in 1893 with a membership of 57. Though the first Baptist church in Willimansett, Beulah is the second of that denomination in Chicopee. The first was organized in Chicopee Falls, and being most convenient for all the Baptists of South Hadley Falls and Willimansett, they first met in the schoolhouse then standing in Prospect street and then completed the beginning of the new church. Deacon J. B. Stratton, who has discharged the duties of deacon in his church at Grafton, and later in the Second Baptist and in Beulah, in company with others, conveyed the land for the chapel, and with his son, Homer, has ever been most active in its support.

Rev. Edward Smith Ufford, pastor of Beulah Church, is widely known throughout this and other countries by his famous song, "Throw Out the Life Line," and when he came to Willimansett his fame rested on the remarkable success of that composition. Since then, his bicycle sermons have attracted much attention and have been criticised and commended. To those privileged to know Mr. Ufford intimately, he is a valued friend and faithful pastor. His work as a preacher has a peculiar value, as he so readily adapts his line of argument to the acknowledged standard that "sounds which address the ear are lost and die in one short hour, while that which meets the eye lives long upon the mind," and illustrates his topics freely. His course of Sunday evening sermons for this year, 1895-96, takes up the history of Joseph with original illustrations.

Rev. Mr. Ufford's connection with Beulah Baptist Church began October 1, 1893, and his stay in the little village of Willimansett promises to be one of the most successful of any of his pastorates. He went to Willimansett from Hingham, a preacher with nothing to characterize him except as the composer of "Throw Out the Life Line," a



BEULAH CHURCH.

song extensively used by both Moody and Sankey. He was a minister whom the committee of the church thought they would like for his evangelical spirit and his experience in this line of religious work. While in Hingham, Mr. Ufford's friends sent him to London to attend the World's Sunday School Convention in 1889. There he was received by the lord mayor at the Mansion House, and later attended a party given by the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen and also a farewell breakfast at Crystal Palace. He was requested to address a Swedish Sunday school in Liverpool and was obliged to converse with the school through an interpreter. While in London he visited many places of interest and spent much time in the "slums" of the city, from which he later wrote his lecture, "Darkest London." He has given a number of lectures on "Darkest London" and "The Clay Eaters, the Poor Whites and the Crackers of North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee," and these lectures have been illustrated with calcium lights. In his lecture courses he has come in contact with ex-Governor Long of this state and Rev. Dr. F. E. Clark, the founder of the Christian Endeavor society.

Mr. Ufford married Miss Julie J. Ames, daughter of Mark Ames, of Appleton, Me. They have three children, one son and two daughters. Rev. Mr. Ufford has had newspaper experience and has worked on the Bridgeport *Standard* and New Haven papers as a compositor and has contributed to the Maine papers. His sister, Frances E. Ufford, is connected with a school in North Carolina. To his wife's help he attributes much of his success in his chosen calling.

Orange Chapin Towne, an active citizen of Willimansett, is a native of Belchertown, and was born March 20, 1823. He is the son of Jonathan and Delia (Rumrill) Towne. His first ancestor in America was William Towne, who was born in England in 1600, emigrated to this country in 1664, came to Salem and later moved to Topsfield. One of his sons, Jacob, of Topsfield, was born in England in 1633, married Catherin Symonds in 1704. Their son John was born in 1658, married and reared a family of ten children. He died in Oxford, Mass., in 1740 at the advanced age of 82 years. His son Israel was born in 1684, settled in Oxford, Mass., in 1712 and died in 1771, aged 87 years, and had ten children. His son Israel, the great-grandfather of O. C. Towne, was born in 1728. At the age of 22, he purchased a farm in Belchertown upon which he settled, being one of the first to make his home in that section. He died in 1805, 78 years old, having had a family of ten children. O. Chapin Towne was adopted into the family of Orange Chapin at 23 years. He married Miss Eugenia Sophia Tenney, of Gill, and has two children, Miss Florence E. and Frederick M., the latter representing the firm of F. Bredt & Co., of N. Y. Mr. Towne became station agent soon after his marriage, and in his time the method of taking freight from the cotton mills on the Holyoke



ORANGE CHAPIN TOWNE.



side of the river was to board a freight train, load up the car and trust to the grade to bring it back again to the Willimansett side. Mr. Towne remembers the various stages of the growth of Holyoke, having seen the remarkable progress since its beginning. His home on the Main street of Willimansett is a truly hospitable place, delightful to visit, for the ladies of the family vie with each other in making the chance visitor welcome. Frederick Towne married Miss Amy Howard of Chicopee and has one daughter, and by reason of his descent from early settlers is eligible for membership in distinguished societies made up of descendants of famous Revolutionary heroes. The Towne family is one of the best known and influential in Willimansett.

Quartus Judd Smith, a civil engineer and general farmer of Chicopee, was born at South Hadley Falls April 1, 1828. His father, Luther Smith, was born in the same town, of which his grandfather was, so far as is known, a lifelong resident, following agriculture as a vocation. Luther Smith resided with his parents and assisted in the farm duties until after his marriage, when he purchased a farm located in the northern part of Chicopee, which he conducted during the remainder of his life. He died at the age of 65 years. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of Quartus J. Smith, was Susan Rumrill. She was a native of South Hadley, and daughter of Asa and Rhoda Rumrill. Mrs. Susan R. Smith died at the age of 77 years, having reared four children, viz., Quartus J., Luther, Delia and George. Quartus Judd Smith made the best of his opportunities in boyhood while acquiring an education, and at the age of 20 years commenced the study of civil engineering in a practical manner with Deacon Orange Chapin, under whose instructions he obtained a thorough knowledge of the art of surveying, and whom he shortly succeeded as the recognized civil engineer of these parts. At the death of his father he became the owner of the homestead, and later purchased the Wright farm adjoining it, a portion of which he divided into house lots and sold to good advantage. His home farm consists of 40 acres, and he also owns 51 acres on the plains near by and 20 acres at Fairview, where he is building a house. In 1869 he was united in marriage to Miss Irene L. Atkins, who was born at Holyoke Aug. 11, 1840. She was the daughter of Reuben Atkins. Their union has been blessed with three children, as follows: Anna V., wife of Frederick Kidder, Homer F. and George E. A fourth, Frank, died in infancy. Mrs. Smith is one of the constituent members of Beulah Baptist Church. Mr. Smith is known as a thorough, reliable and expert surveyor, having been for years quite extensively engaged in that line. Being a constant reader, he is well posted on general subjects, as well as the various important issues of the day. A portrait of this intelligent and progressive citizen accompanies these meager notes of a life of useful, manly toil and untiring activity of hand and brain.



QUARTUS JUDD SMITH.



CHICOPEE CITY HALL.

## MODERN CHICOPEE.

A PLACE of so much enterprise and thrift could not long remain an insignificant part of another town. It must have a separate existence, and "Cabotville" and "Factory Village" were merged into the town of Chicopee. Of course this change could not be made without some strong arguments for and against. On the side opposed to the dismemberment of the old town as a whole were very decided sentiments expressed. A meeting was called in "Cabot Hall" on the 17th day of May, 1848, at 1 o'clock p. m. Rev. Crawford Nightingale offered prayer, Timothy W. Carter was chosen moderator, and William L. Bemis clerk.

Mr. Carter made the decisive address which soothed in a measure the feelings of the opponents to the establishment of a new town. His topic was the duties of the residents under the new regime, the act incorporating the town having been passed April 25, 1848. In fact he said: "We are now invested with powers and duties which as good citizens we are bound to exercise for the good of the whole. Shall we not enter upon these duties regardless of past differences of opinion, with a determination that the new town of Chicopee shall sustain as high a character for good government, order, and respectability as the distinguished town of which she has heretofore formed a part? We commence a career among our sister towns not a feeble organization first struggling into being, but at once endowed with all the elements of vigor and maturity, with a population and valuation second to but one within the limits of the four western counties of this Commonwealth. In the exercise of strict economy in all our expenditures, carefully regarding the rights of those who are to contribute to the government and the various interests of the town, we shall be enabled to provide amply for the public convenience and all needful improvements, and bestow upon the poor that assistance to which by their misfortunes they are entitled at our hands; and, above all, liberally to endow the children and youth with such means of education and moral improvement as shall accord with the advancing spirit of the age. From this time forward our destiny, under God, is in our own hands, and praise or disgrace will be ours as we shall discharge or neglect the duties we owe to the present and the future. Let us then step forth upon this new theatre of action with high purposes of good toward ourselves and of benefit and blessings toward those who shall succeed us, that, when two centuries of our history shall be written we may have proved a worthy descendant of our distinguished ancestor."

At this meeting five selectmen, three assessors, and three school committeemen were chosen by ballot, viz: Select-



MAIN ENTRANCE TO CITY HALL.



men, Sylvanus Adams, Harmon Rowley, Ezekiel Blake, Amos W. Stockwell, Adolphus G. Parker ; assessors, Sylvester Allen, Amaziah Bullens, Harmon Rowley ; school committee, Rev. Jonah G. Warren, Rev. Eli B. Clark, Rev. Robert Kellen. By the town regulations adopted in 1849 the selectmen, school committee, overseers of the poor, surveyors of highways and treasurer are required to make reports which are annually published.

The schools early earned and ever afterward creditably sustained an enviable reputation for thoroughness and liberality in the administration of their affairs. The first indebtedness of the town was created in 1849, when a farm was purchased and an almshouse erected, amounting to \$5,061.72. This farm was sold in 1860. In 1877 \$15,000 were appropriated by the town for the purchase of land and the erection of buildings thereon suitable for an almshouse. J. R. Wilbur, Madison Kendall, William H. West, John Dixon and William R. Kentfield were made a committee to effect the objects of the appropriation. Their report shows that 18 acres and 9 square rods of land a half-mile southwest from Chicopee Falls, were the same year purchased of the heirs of R. E. Bemis, deceased, for \$2,708.67, and that a brick house was erected thereon, 60x38 feet with two l's 21x18 at a cost of \$7,860, besides other structures costing \$1,504. The remainder was expended in obtaining water supply, furniture, farm stock, etc. Since 1876 the selectmen have performed the duties of former overseers of the poor. The house was opened Oct. 1, 1877, and in the five months following 41 persons were admitted.

The important work of erecting a town hall was started in 1871. This building, standing on the east side of



THE VILLAGE, NORTH OF THE RIVER.



FRONT STREET, LOOKING TOWARDS BLAISDELL'S CORNER.

Market square, is an imposing structure of brick with stone trimmings having a recessed entrance, at each end of which is a memorial tablet of bronze, set in relief work of Gothic form, and bearing the Rebellion's necrology of Chicopee's gallant soldiery. The picturesque feature of the building is the tower, which forms a land mark up and down the river. In this tower hangs a great bell, used on public occasions and for fire alarm.

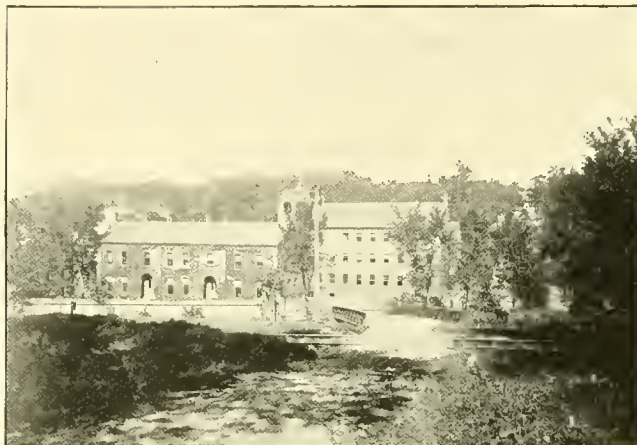
Custom still prevails of ringing a nine-o'clock bell, which is undoubtedly a survival of the curfew. The steps leading to the main entrance are imposing and form a fitting approach to the main door. The building is used for city offices and the police department is located in the basement. The hall, handsomely frescoed and having stained glass windows, has a seating capacity of 900 persons. The building committee was made up of the following gentlemen: James T. Ames, E. O. Carter, Erastus Stebbins, Ezekiel Blake, Emerson Gaylord.

The total cost, including land and furniture, was \$101,360.38. The building depends for picturesque effect on the tower, which is a noticeable feature for miles around.



FARM HOUSE, CHICOPEE STREET.





ALONG THE CHICOPEE.

The Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society was instrumental in erecting the tablets to the memory of the soldiers, as this document will show :

At a meeting of the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society of Chicopee, held Oct. 15, 1865, it was voted to give thirteen hundred dollars toward the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of those soldiers belonging to the town who have fallen in defence of our national liberties. Mrs. James T. Ames, Mrs. Simon G. Southworth and Mrs. George M. Stearns were appointed a committee to see that the money was appropriated for that purpose. At a meeting of this committee the following gentlemen, Mr. James T. Ames, Mr. Cory McFarland and Mr. Emerson Gaylord, were invited to take charge of the money and adopt such measures as they may deem expedient to carry out the plan, hoping it may be dedicated the fourth of July, 1866.

ELLEN H. AMES,	} Committee.
SARAH L. SOUTHWORTH,	
EMILY C. STEARNS,	

The money was used for the memorial tablets, and the dedication took place Dec. 21, 1871, under the charge of the G. A. R.

Though Chicopee boasts of no newspaper at present, there have been energetic laborers in the field in former years. The first newspaper published within the limits of Chicopee was issued in January, 1840, by Thomas D. Blossom, who came from Hingham, Mass. He was assisted by Rev. A. A. Folsom. The paper was called the *Cabotville Chronicle and Chicopee Falls Advertiser*. Messrs. John L. Hall and O. Butterfield took the office under a lease from Mr. Blossom and continued in business but a few months, but long enough to change the name of the paper to *Mechanics' Offering*. Mr. Blossom then gathered up the reins of government again and sustained it under the new name until the spring of 1846, when it went into a rapid decline owing to a withdrawal of patronage consequent upon the publication of certain offensive articles, among which was the "Mysteries of Cabotville." The *Mechanics' Offering* then appeared with Harvey E. Bowles as publisher and James M. Cavanaugh as editor. In August of the same year Harvey Russell, Amos W. Stockwell, and Mr. Cavanaugh purchased the paper, and in the second week of the September following issued the initial sheet of the *Cabotville Mirror*. Stockwell and Cavanaugh, the editors, made it a Democratic organ. Bad luck came to the paper Jan. 8, 1848, when the establishment was destroyed by fire. With some assistance, publication was resumed the first of the March following. In November, 1849, the subscription list was transferred to the Springfield *Sentinel*, which issued it under the head of Chicopee *Mirror* until Feb. 2, 1850.



The *Chicopee Telegraph*, a weekly paper, was first issued on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1846, by J. C. Stover & Co. in Cabotville. It was devoted to agriculture. It ceased May 25, 1853. A newspaper, 18x24 inches, was issued Saturday, June 4, 1853, called the *Chicopee Weekly Journal*. This had a medallion of the village in the head. J. R. Childs, who had assumed the management of the *Telegraph* on the first day of May preceding its discontinuance, was editor and publisher of the new paper. It contained local, but not general news and selected matter, and was Whig

in its sentiments. The second volume was narrowed one column per page and appeared as the *Weekly Journal*, dropping *Chicopee* from its title. July 15, 1854, David B. Potts became proprietor and James C. Pratt editor. William G. Brown followed Mr. Pratt as editor April 19, 1856, and then Mr. J. C. Havens, who became a well-known figure in the life of the place, bought the paper and admitted Mr. Pratt as partner. They continued the publication for two years, when George V. Wheelock was admitted. March 12, 1859, Mr. Brown sold his interest to J. C. Havens. Havens & Wheelock sustained the paper until Dec. 27, 1862, when it was discontinued with No. 30, Vol. XVIII, which contained, among other valedictory words, these :

“We are not dead yet, it is true, or quite reduced to the starving point, and but for the papermakers’ exorbitant demands we should continue to dispense ‘blessings’ to this community every week and, mark it! but for the scarcity of advertisements we should never have allowed a ‘break’ in the chain of publication.”

Mr. Wheelock has since continued in the job printing business, and has been for years chief librarian of the *Chicopee Library*. Mr. Havens, distinguished as being the last of the line of *Chicopee* editors up to the present date, had a remarkable facility in expressing himself, as these sentences, which are taken from

one of his editorials, will sufficiently show :

“The harvest of flowers, what shall we say of that? It seems as though it had culminated in the mass of fragrant gems, each one a rival of the other, which, formed with cunning hands into a magnificent pyramid, comes blushing with a thousand charms from the hands of Mrs. Dexter Snow to our table. Every petal is redolent with perfume, and the whole mass would be a fitting ornament for a center table in Heaven.”



J. C. HAVENS

Mr. Havens' great liking for flowers made him specially favored in the distribution of these favors. Among other positions of responsibility, Mr. Havens acted as postmaster, and finally moved to a milder climate, hoping to benefit his failing health. The change only delayed the inevitable result, and he died while yet in his prime.

The old Philharmonic Society was one of the musical powers of the day in war times, and had enjoyed a successful career long before that time. "We don't hear such music now," say some of the older inhabitants. The members sang with spirit and enthusiasm, particularly when their united energies took up the old war and campaign songs. At first, ladies formed part of the membership, but later the club was composed of men, and these are their names, as the wife of one of the members remembers them: Ezra Heath, leader, George D. Robinson, Dexter Snow, Harrison Seaman, Melzer Mossman, John White, William and Charles Blackmer, William Heathcote, James Pease, Gannett.

The Chicopee schools have always maintained the high standard which their early days promised. There are now in the complete list of schools, the high school, Center grammar, School street, Spruce street, Grape street, Church street, Alvord school, Sheridan street, Willimansett, Chicopee street, Plainville, Clough district. The teachers are: William C. Whiting, Emma L. Mitchell, Mary B. Raynor, Fannie A. Ober, Adeline E. Howard, Mary D. Chapin, Lucia A. Coleman, Jennie E. Livermore, Rosa E. Burns, Fannie E. Burgess, Geneva M. Tracy, Ida J. Rich, Mary G. Walsh, Nellie S. Harrison, Mary E. Buttrick, Harriet C. Buttrick, Susie B. Bartlett, Emma B. Houston, Alice E. Thomas, Lucy A. James, Georgie



A "SK P" HOME.

F. Drake, Florence M. Crowther, Carrie L. Warner, Rosa A. Trumbull, Emma E. Gorton, Mamie T. Leary, Jessie M. Rycroft, Florence E. Noyes, Florence M. Clark, Effie H. Southwick, Sarah F. Connor, Anna E. Barry, Mary E. Sullivan, Ellen E. Dooley, Mildred M. Kelley, Margaret A. O'Brien, Edna S. Herrick, Bridget E. Hannifen, Emma B. Gilligan, Annie L. McQueen. Special teachers, Michael J. Sullivan, music; Anna P. Brown, writing and drawing.

In the death of R. Hamilton Perkins, the schools lost a devoted friend and valuable promoter. Mr. Perkins' attainments are too familiar to need recapitulation, he was brilliant, systematic and a thorough-going worker. In his last report he says: "In connection with the opening of the Alvord school it is fitting to speak of the presentation of a handsome flag by Mrs. Alvord, wife of the late Dr. Alvord, for whom the school was named.

"The presentation took place on the 21st day of June and the event was celebrated with most appropriate exercises. The superintendent of schools presided, James H. Loomis, Esq., made the presentation address on behalf of Mrs. Alvord and Mayor Mellin in an appropriate address accepted the flag for the school and city. Interesting remarks were made by ex-Mayor Taylor and L. M. Pierce, a former principal of the Falls high school. In conclusion, gentlemen, let me thank you, collectively and individually, for the courtesies extended me during the year. In seasons of sunshine or of shadow and seasons of certainty or of doubt you have always treated me, in your deliberations, with that courtesy which is ever due from man to man, and for which I thank you.

"And in this connection I cannot forbear to add a word of tribute to James H. Loomis, Esq., who retires from this board to-night after a service of nearly twelve years, during the most of which time he has served as chairman;—ever interested, faithful and energetic, he has devoted much time to the interest of the schools; the citizens of Chicopee may well be grateful to him for many of the important details in the construction of the high and Alvord schools for which he planned and insisted."

It is interesting to note that Mr. Loomis was chosen to fill Superintendent Perkins' place while the city was without a superintendent of schools.

The total number in attendance in the day schools last year was 2,159; of these 1,089 were males and 1,070 females. During the year the population decreased to a small extent, but the daily attendance was increased by 31 pupils. In the evening schools there were in both divisions, the Center and the Falls, 348 pupils.

The total expenditures of the schools inclusive of repairs on buildings, has been \$30,582.42; the total enrollment of pupils in day, evening and draughting schools has been 2,588, making an expense of \$11.40 for each pupil enrolled, or ninety cents greater than for last year. The average daily attendance in all the schools has been

1,780 pupils, and on this basis the expense for each pupil has been \$16.65, or an increase of eighty-eight cents over last year for each pupil.

There were graduated from the high school last June fourteen pupils. The class poem by Miss Gertrude De Witt was so creditable that it is reproduced here :

CLASS POEM.

Our harbor we're leaving; each sail we unfurl;  
Bright hopes for the future within us abide,  
That escaping the reefs where the white billows curl,  
Our bark o'er life's ocean in safety may glide.

Our ways may all differ o'er seas still untried;  
In the sunlight these sails on the billows will sport;  
In mists of the ocean the others will ride;  
The voyage howe'er varied at last leads to port.

In the sunlight, the mists and the storms of the main,  
May we sail all securely, outriding each gale;  
Completing our voyage, on our records no stain,  
We shall reach that fair Haven where peace will prevail.

The first city government was inaugurated January 1, 1890, the town having long passed the limits required by law when it is entitled to the rights of a full fledged city. The popularity and acknowledged worth of George S. Taylor were shown in the general expression of a desire to make him mayor, and the election was an enthusiastic one.

The city at present is divided into seven wards, though the extent of surrounding country opens up all sorts of possibilities. Chicopee has room enough to grow in and will doubtless improve her chances.

George S. Taylor, Chicopee's first mayor, well deserved the distinction, for his life has been spent in one incessant effort to benefit his town. Whatever was for the good of Chicopee, that cause Mr. Taylor has always given himself up to, and when the ambitious town became a city, his was the first hand which guided its affairs. During his administration of public affairs great unity between both boards and the executive prevailed, and affairs moved along with great smoothness.

George Sylvester Taylor, son of Sylvester and Sarah Eaton Taylor, was born in South Hadley, March 2, 1822. With his parents he came to Chicopee Falls when only six years of age. He attended the Chicopee and Springfield schools and laid the foundation for his successful business career. He entered upon business life with Mr. Shockford under the firm name of Shockford & Taylor, continuing in this business nineteen years and then formed a co-partnership with Bildad B. Belcher in the manufacture of agricultural implements at the "Falls." In 1864, the firm was changed into a corporation, with Mr. Taylor treasurer, and Mr. Belcher agent. In 1868 the latter resigned and, at



GEORGE S. TAYLOR.



that time, Mr. Taylor took an additional office as agent and treasurer. The corporation has always been noted for its honorable dealings and the high character of the men connected with it. At present Mr. Taylor is president of the Chicopee Falls Savings Bank, also of the Chicopee Falls Building Company, whose praiseworthy purpose is "to aid a good class of citizens to procure homes by small payments and fair interest." This company is under the auspices of Andrew Gale, James E. Taylor, Austin O. Grant and Joshua Stevens, who are its directors, with George S. Taylor as president and F. N. Withrell clerk, all men of known ability and wide influence, and accustomed to succeed in their undertakings. At the time of the Civil War, Mr. Taylor was in the Legislature, a member of the Senate, and in his busy life has served his town as selectman, assessor, special justice of police court, representative, mayor, and has given time and influence to the establishment of a board of trade, is president of it and the Y. M. C. A. at the "Falls," has acted as superintendent of the First Congregational Sunday School for twenty-five years, and has been very active in church as well as secular matters. He is also a member of Belcher Lodge, A. F. and A. M., Unity Chapter, of Chicopee, and Springfield Commandery, in short, is in everything which helps Chicopee. Mr. Taylor married Miss Asenath B. Cobb, of Princeton, November 25, 1845, and in November, 1895, celebrated his golden wedding under the most delightful conditions. The pleasant home was thronged with people who came to offer their heartiest congratulations.

Nearly 400 people dropped in during the day and by word and token helped to make the day one of joy. Men were there who had known Mr. Taylor when a boy, and women who had attended his wedding. Young men, whose earliest recollections gave Mr. Taylor a prominent place as their example, and whom he had seen grow and mature into manhood, were present and joined heartily with their elders in the congratulations. People attended who had a shorter acquaintance with the couple, but had learned to respect and love them.

It was shortly after 1 o'clock when some sixty-three employes in the Belcher, Taylor concern, marched up to the Taylor residence and were admitted. In the hand of one was a gold-headed cane, their token of love. Louis Osborne headed the party, and in presenting it said: "As old friends and shopmates, we have come to celebrate your golden wedding. We congratulate you on your long, happy, prosperous and fruitful married life, and as members with you of one common fatherhood and one common brotherhood, as citizens of this new-born city of Chicopee, as old friends and old neighbors and old shopmates, we have come to present you a token of our love and respect, and with this token of our love we ask you to accept our very best wishes, and we pray that the same kind hand that has led you in the past and is so abundantly blessing you in the present, may continue to lead you." Many other valuable



EX-GOVERNOR GEORGE D. ROBINSON

gifts were received and numerous telegrams and letters from different parts of the country came replete with congratulatory words.

Ex-Governor George Dexter Robinson, whose influence has been a power outside the city where he makes his home, is a member of one of the oldest families in the state, the records showing his ancestors prominent in the history of Lexington, and his relatives participated in the Lexington Common fight, April 19, 1775. His mother, Mrs. Mary Davis-Robinson, is of the Davis and Hosmer families of Concord and Acton, many of whose members fought for liberty at Concord. George D. Robinson is a native of Lexington, was born there January 20, 1834. The Robinson home was on a farm somewhat remote from neighbors and the two brothers, George D. and Charles, Jr., attended the district school. At the age of sixteen George entered the Lexington Academy, and after one year's study he commenced a course at the Hopkins Classical School at Cambridge, the design of his father being to give him a thorough education without special reference to a collegiate course. The rapid progress of the young man induced the principal to advise his father to send him to Harvard College, and in July, 1852, he passed a highly creditable examination, entering without conditions, the only member of a large class who passed so well. Mr. Robinson also took high rank in college, standing first in a class of ninety-two members. During the winters of his junior and senior years he taught school in Lexington, and September 20, 1856, assumed the principalship of the Chicopee High School, a circumstance which has always



RESIDENCE OF EX-GOVERNOR ROBINSON.

been regarded as particularly happy by his pupils. The school averaged 125 members, and Mr. Robinson resigned his duties after a most successful service in 1865, to commence the study of law in the Charlestown office of his brother, and after eleven months' study was admitted to the bar at Cambridge, April 1, 1866. He returned to Chicopee and entered upon a career in the courts which has made his name widely known and his legal abilities respected.

The Republican side in politics has always had Mr. Robinson for a staunch supporter. He was in the Massachusetts Legislature in 1874 as a member of the House of Representatives, serving on the judiciary committee. In 1876 he was a member of the State Senate, serving as chairman of the committee of the judiciary, probate and chancery and constitutional amendments. In 1876 he was elected representative to the Forty-fifth Congress of the U. S. from the Eleventh District to succeed Hon. Chester W. Chapin, and in that body was assigned to the committee on the improvement of the Mississippi river and the committee of expenditures in the department of justice. In the fall of 1878, Mr. Robinson was re-elected to Congress and in 1883 was elected governor of Massachusetts.

Mr. Robinson has ever been most active in advancing the interests of his town and city and receives the greatest honor, love and respect in the place where he is best known. He is a Unitarian and has ever been active and thorough in promoting the interests of his church.

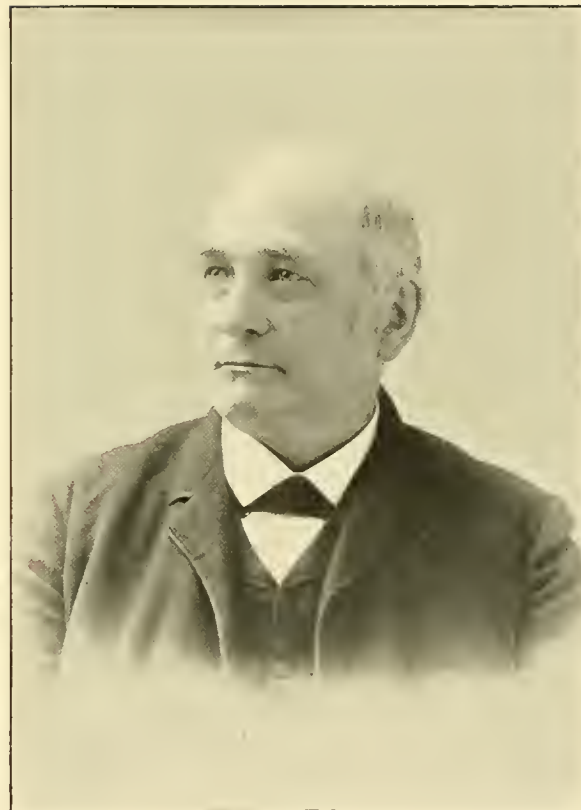
George M. Stearns, Chicopee has been proud to call her own, and so share in a large measure in the pride Western Massachusetts has felt in her justly celebrated lawyer, strong at all points, who has been a notable figure in all the court rooms of the four western counties for many years. His death on the last day of 1894 cast a gloom wherever his presence had been felt and a deep sadness among his intimate associates. The Stearns family had removed to Brookline, hoping to find conditions more conducive to good health and rest. Mr. Stearns succumbed to a severe attack of congestion of the lungs and the end came unexpectedly to his Chicopee friends, who were waiting for good news from him.

Mr. Stearns was born at Rowe on the 18th of April, 1831. His father was the minister of the Unitarian parish of that town, and George was the typical minister's son. He had a bright mind and made his way quickly through the schools at Rowe, and finished his education at the Shelburne Falls Academy. He taught school for a while and then came to Chicopee about 1849 to enter the office of John Wells, afterward judge of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, to study law. He was admitted to the bar in April, 1852, and immediately began practice as a partner of Judge Wells. This partnership continued for several years, until the judge removed his office to Springfield. Some years later Mr. Stearns himself opened an office in Springfield with the late E. D. Beach, who was his partner for

some time, as have also been since Judge Marcus P. Knowlton and Charles L. Long. In 1878 Mr. Stearns removed to Chicopee again, where he had his office until his recent removal to Brookline.

Of his home life in Chicopee it is only necessary to say now that since his marriage in 1855 to Emily C. Goodnow it has been almost an ideal one. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stearns, Mary C., who married Frank E. Tuttle and died some years ago, and Emily S., who died at the age of twelve.

Mr. Stearns had always been a public man, but had held but few public offices, refusing over and over again nominations to Congress, which were almost equivalent to an election, and several times declining to be his party's candidate for governor. He was always a Democrat, and was elected by that party to the House of Representatives in 1859, and was a member of the committee which revised the Public Statutes in 1860. In 1871 he was in the Senate. In 1872 he was elected district attorney for the Western District, but resigned at the end of two years. The same year he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Cincinnati and favored the nomination of Horace Greeley, and has been repeatedly a delegate to National Conventions since. In 1886 he was appointed United States attorney at Boston, but resigned the position in less than two years. He was a candidate for lieutenant-governor on the Democratic ticket with John Quincy Adams, and later, when the Democrats nominated Charles Sumner, was nominated lieutenant-governor with him



GEORGE M. STEARNS.



also, but on Sumner's refusal Mr. Stearns followed his example. Mr. Stearns' counsel in political matters has been frequently sought by party leaders and men of position and influence, and always most highly valued. It is well known that few men in the country were more cordially welcomed at the White House than he. He was a shrewd observer, a careful student and an accurate judge of men and events. He had few axes to grind, and his advice on public matters, when given, was given with the public good as its object, and so was valuable and influential.

His standing as a lawyer is well established and acknowledged in this community. He was easily at the head of our local bar, and almost equal to the oldest members in length of practice. His practice was most extensive, covering all branches of the law and taking him into the highest courts of the country.

The wit of George M. Stearns was well known and distinctive, like his methods, it was all his own. With all his shrewdness he was great enough to have a tender, sympathetic side, and this was as pronounced to those who knew him well as his other qualities. He was truly one of Chicopee's great men, and his former home on Springfield street will always be associated with pleasantest memories of his life and service.

Ethan Samuel Chapin was born in Somers, Conn., in 1814, a direct descendant of Deacon Samuel Chapin, one of the earliest settlers of Springfield. His school days practically ended at 9 years of age. Early in his teens he came to Cabotville to begin the battle of life for himself, and learned the habits of patience, industry, economy and self-reliance, which made him a strong man.

While working for the Ames Manufacturing Company he developed a wonderful genius for machinery, and made many inventions. His services as designer and executor of ornamentations for swords and scabbards and gun and pistol handles were highly prized. Two books on philosophy and chemistry fell into his hands at this time and became the foundation of all his future studies. He kept them near him while at his work. At less than 19 years of age he was made overseer, and when he left was considered the most skillful workman in the establishment. A brother, Marion Chapin, purchased the Cabot, now the Kendall House, and for seven years Ethan was his assistant. In 1843 they moved to Springfield and started the well-known Massasoit House, famous throughout the country. During the war the Chapin brothers were loyal citizens, and always served refreshments and a royal welcome to regiments passing through the city. Mr. Chapin was connected with the "underground railway," and concealed and cared for parties of slaves on their way to Canada before the war broke out. He contributed liberally to the City Library, French Protestant Church, School for Christian Work and Springfield Hospital, besides founding a home in India for girls and widows as a memorial to his daughter Alice. With J. G. Holland and G. M. Atwater he was a

founder of Memorial Church, and for 20 years a pillar of it. He was an earnest Christian and a great lover of science, publishing several valuable works, perhaps the most prominent being "Gravitation the Determining Force." He was a true nobleman, and his death in 1889 was a public sorrow.

Hon. Albert Charles Woodworth was born in Chicopee street, and when two years old went with his parents to Ohio, then the Far West, by way of the Erie canal. They were pioneers in the state, and his father, Charles B. Woodworth, was a "'49er." Fifteen years later they returned to Chicopee, to take charge of the electroplating at the Ames Manufacturing Company. In 1865 he went to New York, and was connected with the Gorham Silver Company. In 1868 he made a business trip to California by steamer, as the railroad was not then completed. He went to Europe in 1874, and on his return succeeded his father-in-law, James T. Ames, as head of the Ames Company. Mr. Woodworth was for some time in politics, and received the nominations for lieutenant-governor and Congress, being elected to the Senate in 1882. In 1890 he went to Denver, Col., and there constructed the first cotton mill west of the Mississippi river.

Emerson Gaylord, son of Josiah Gaylord and Lucinda Smith Gaylord, was born in South Hadley, Sept. 2, 1817. His father died when Emerson Gaylord was quite young—seven years of age—and the boy was early left to depend upon his own exertions. At the age of seventeen years he was apprenticed to Seth Nym, of Amherst, to learn the harnessmaking business. Finding there were many other duties required of



A. C. WOODWORTH.



EMERSON GAYLORD.

him beside his legitimate work, young Gaylord went back to South Hadley and began the shoemaker's trade with George Kilbourn. He afterward purchased "his time" of Kilbourn for \$50. The determination to succeed was characteristic of him from the beginning, and at the age of twenty-one he had saved \$40, having as part of his education paid Mr. Ely \$1 per week for teaching him the art of making a first-class gaiter boot. In the year 1841 Mr. Gaylord came to Chicopee and entered the employ of the N. P. Ames Company. His first work was making harness for the Texan trade, and he rose so rapidly that in 1843, when the health of the foreman failed, Mr. Ames wished him to take charge of the shop, but instead of longer continuing as an employe, he contracted with the Ames Company for furnishing the leather goods. He continued in this business until January, 1856, when he purchased that part of the business, and added to it the manufacture of leather hose and machine belting. In 1856 he received orders from the War Department for infantry accoutrements, and continued filling orders for the same until 1861. Prior to the breaking out of the Rebellion he furnished first-class military accoutrements to these Southern States—Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi—never thinking of the purpose for which they would be used. On the day when Fort Sumter fell Mr. Gaylord had a lot of goods for the South on hand, and on the afternoon of the same day received a dispatch from Colonel Thornton, commanding at Governor's Island, N. Y., to ship to the government all goods on hand and all in process of construction. Soon after, a



DEACON J. B. STRATTON, WILLIMANSETT.

(This cut arrived too late for insertion in the proper place.)

messenger arrived with the same request from Governor Andrews of Massachusetts. Mr. Gaylord decided to divide them equally between government and state, and did so. Before night of the same day a noted speculator arrived and offered Mr. Gaylord \$5,000 more than he would otherwise have. The shrewdness of the manufacturer took it in



DEXTER SNOW.

at a glance. In the hands of this man they would go south, and Mr. Gaylord, with true patriotism, refused to sell goods for the benefit of the Southern States. The demand for this line of goods from the government now became large, and to fill it large buildings were immediately erected, and the working force increased to four hundred and fifty men. In 1861 Mr. Gaylord contracted to furnish the government with leather mail bags for a term of four years. In April, 1863, Mr. Gaylord organized his establishment into a stock company. In 1866 Mr. Gaylord was a member of the Legislature, and in 1881 was in the Senate from Hampden county. He is a staunch Republican and has served his party faithfully. His wife was Miss Jane Burnett, of South Hadley, whom he married in 1844. They have one son, A. F. Gaylord.

Dexter Snow, one of the best known and deservedly popular men of Chicopee, has, ever since 1855, carried on a successful florist's business on Grape street, where he was ably assisted by his wife. He was everybody's friend, respected and loved by all, devoted to his home, honest and kind hearted. One of his greatest pleasures was the distributing of flowers from his summer garden wherever he thought they might do good. His sudden death last June (1895) was a widely felt grief.

His first success in the horticultural business was with verbenas, and really his wife was the first to grow the verbena well. Mr. Snow continued to grow and improve the verbena until his stock was sought by the leading florists of that day. The price then was one dollar a dozen for plants in two and a half inch pots, and it was with regret



that he saw it drop as the cultivation became more general. No florist in New England had a more complete collection of ferns than Mr. Snow; he sought not only our most rare natives, but exotics from all climes. At one time he did quite a business in mailing pressed fronds to all parts of the world.

Mr. Snow was a great lover of music and sang in his church choir upwards of twenty-five years. He was also a Mason, and one of the oldest members of the Hampden County Horticultural Society of Springfield, having been identified with it over thirty years, and was a director at the time of his death. Mr. Snow was a native of North Brookfield, and he married Miss Alvira R. Mansfield, a native of New Hampshire, who, with two daughters, lives in Chicopee.

The late Jerome Wells, of the First National Bank, was one of the leading spirits of his time, and had a powerful influence on the life of Chicopee. He bore the financial storms and came out successful, and has always been regarded as a sound and careful financier. When the Savings Bank was organized in 1854 he was made its president, and remained such until 1874. He was also a director and president of the old Cabot Bank, and president of the National Bank on its organization in 1865; he was also interested in mercantile pursuits. Politically he was a Republican. In 1868 he was elected to the House of Representatives, and was chairman of the committee on banks and banking. Mrs. Georgiana L., wife of Captain Fred B. Doten, is his only daughter.



THE DEXTER SNOW PLACE.



CHICOPEE RIVER, LOOKING FROM FALLS TO CENTRE.

While one of the younger lights of a city which has sent out its full quota of celebrated men, and has been a center of intellectual and mechanical activity, there is no name in Chicopee so widely known as that of Edward Bellamy, whose "Looking Backward" touched a more responsive chord than even its author knew when he first sketched the plot and worked in the coloring with artistic skill. The success of the book has been the truest tribute to its value. It was the fertile seed in ground well prepared for its speedy germination. Mr. Bellamy is now working up a novel about which he does not say a great deal, but the public is anxiously waiting its appearance. At home Mr. Bellamy is surrounded by a charming family, and his house, just off the electric car route in Chicopee Falls, is a modest, two-story modern structure, shaded by handsome maple trees. Mr. Bellamy's first literary work was in the form of short stories, a number of which were published before he was out of his teens. Some of these are to be found in the files of *Scribner's Monthly*, back in the seventies, when it was edited by Dr. Holland. He spent two winters in New York doing outside work for the *Evening Post*, but at the age of twenty-one accepted a position on the Springfield *Union*. Preceding "Looking Backward" by two or three years, he published a successful novel, entitled "Miss Ludington's Sister," which won the attention and high praise of such a critic as W. D. Howells. His publishers had for some time been asking him for a new book, when the "Looking Backward" manuscript was finished, and it was at once put on the market. Its sales in this country have run up to over 400,000, and abroad about half a million copies have been sold in Germany alone.



EDWARD BELLAMY.

The discovery of Veranus and its opening for residence purposes are to be accredited to F. E. Tuttle and J. L. Humphrey, two wide-awake and enterprising citizens, who purchased a fifty-acre farm originally owned by Veranus Chapin, one of the pioneer Chicopee farmers, lying between Springfield and Hampden streets. For the past few





RESIDENCE OF F. E. TUTTLE.



MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.



years they have been assiduously improving it by grading, filling and building avenues and dwellings thereon, until it has now come into prominence as one of the most delightful and desirable localities for suburban residence in Hampden county. Here, among other natural attractions, is afforded one of the finest views in the state; while in the laying out of avenues and building plots, though certain restrictions are adhered to, the rigidity of straight lines is avoided, so far as they may conflict with the prospect and the desires of those purchasing homes. Thus, in the construction of Stearns terrace, which enters the grounds near their northern extremity, on Springfield street, and on which several homes are already built and occupied, a serpentine route is pursued towards the southwest, affording a number of fine residence sites that cannot fail to please the most fastidious home seeker. The avenue finally finds its way to the wildest and most romantic portions of the plateau. Everywhere the prospect is varied by the happy mingling of numerous elevations, groves, ravines and running streams.



DAVID BOYNTON.

In 1849 the matter of lighting the town came under careful consideration. The result was the organization of a gas company at Chicopee Centre, in which the four large manufacturing companies united. This included the Ames, Cabot, Perkins and Dwight. Gas works were erected in 1850, with a capacity sufficient to supply the mills and meet the ordinary wants of the village, and included a retort house for 15 retorts, a purifying house, and a gas-holder 60 feet in diameter and 20 feet in height. The "main" was laid 4,000 feet, and gas was introduced into the mills early in May of the following year. Since that time the company has interested itself in the progress of electric lighting, and is now well equipped in this regard. David Boynton held the office of superintendent for nearly twenty years, proving himself a most conscientious and efficient man. Last year, 1894, Mr. Boynton resigned, and is now living in his own home in Florida. C. H. Nutting, the present superintendent, is carrying out the plans of the company. New buildings are being put up and every arrangement made for the perfection of the city lighting.

In 1845 Charles W. McClallan and R. E. Bemis constructed the first works for supplying water through pipes to the village of Chicopee, then Cabotville. For this purpose water was taken from springs and wells at the higher



THE OLD AMES RESIDENCE, FRONT STREET.

elevation just south of the village. The works answered a temporary purpose, and in 1847, after the death of Mr. Bemis, became by purchase wholly the property of Mr. McClallan. In 1876 arrangements were made for a more satisfactory supply from spring-fed brooks beyond the east of Chicopee, in Springfield, and there a dam was erected. The following year a company was incorporated, with a capital limited to \$75,000. Mr. McClallan's interests were purchased by this company, and he remained a stockholder. The incorporators were Charles McClallan, Emerson Gaylord, George A. Denison, C. H. Hyde, Erastus Stebbins and William C. McClallan. It was organized as the "Chicopee Water Company," April 18, 1877, with \$50,000 capital. Since that time the mains have been extended, making the general service very satisfactory. "Cooley's brook" forms the main supply. "Bemis brook" supplies the vicinity known locally as the "Junction."

Maple Grove Cemetery, or "Cabotville Burial Ground," as it used to be known, was a small tract of land lying between Elm street and the brow of the hill, containing about one and one-half acres, and was deeded by the Springfield Canal Company in 1839 to James K. Fletcher, Benning Leavitt and Austin Chapin 2d, in trust, for the sum of \$450. An additional half acre was deeded to them and their successors for \$225. The lot ran between the land of Nathan Parks and Joseph Chapin, and a narrow strip back of the old high school was later included. The upper part was purchased later from Amaziah Bullens. The oldest deeds were signed by Jas. K. Mills and approved by Edmund Dwight.

In 1878 an act was passed to incorporate the "Proprietors of Maple Grove Cemetery" as follows: Silas Mosman, John B. Wood, R. E. Robertson, L. H. Brigham, James T. Ames, Geo. M. Stearns, Emerson Gaylord, Amaziah Bullens, J. B. Fuller, and L. A. Jacobs, and the trustees, Silas Mosman, John B. Wood and R. E. Robertson, conveyed to said corporation all the real estate and rights of property which they held as successors to Messrs. Fletcher, Leavitt and Chapin.

Section three of this act states that the corporation may receive and hold any gifts, grants, donations or bequests for the benefit of the cemetery, and the years since have brought so many changes by deaths and removal that at present such benefactions are sadly needed to preserve this lovely spot.

The oldest cemetery is in Chicopee street, south of the old church, and here are some unique devices on the memorial tablets. The Springfield Canal Company gave twenty acres to the Catholics, which is located in the southern part of the city. This was opened in 1836. The new cemetery, Fairview, is situated in the southern part of the city, near the Springfield line. It was purchased in four parcels from R. E. Bemis, estate of Ruel Van Horn, George W.





MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY.

Paine and Michael Conway. The first interment was in the spring of 1870, being the burial of Mrs. Lydia A. Hyde, wife of Chauncey A. Hyde.

At Chicopee Falls there is a burial ground extending from East street to Springfield road. It is less than three acres. It originated in a lease of one acre made by Benjamin Belcher to the Chicopee Manufacturing Company for 999 years, to be used by School District 16 for burial purposes. The contract required that a fence be built and maintained. An addition made later carried the ground out to East street.

The First National Bank of Chicopee began its life as the "Cabot Bank," which was chartered Jan. 24, 1845, with a capital of \$150,000. John Chase was the first president, and F. B. Doten is now the cashier.

The Chicopee Savings Bank was organized in 1854. Jerome Wells was the first president, and was succeeded by George D. Robinson.

The Chicopee Falls Savings Bank was chartered March 20, 1875, with forty-one incorporators. H. J. Boyd is the treasurer.

The first bridge across the Chicopee river at Chicopee was built in 1778, and crossed near the present one. The expense of this in part was defrayed by a lottery sanctioned by law. The old toll bridge at Chicopee Junction was erected in 1848-49 by the Chicopee and West Springfield Bridge Co., but long ago was made a free bridge. The length between the abutments is 1,237 feet. The piers of sandstone are six in number. The present handsome bridge at Chicopee Falls was built in 1895. It is of iron, strongly built, on the site of the old covered bridge.

The veterans of the rebellion, and Chicopee sent out a goodly company of soldiers, have formed themselves into the Otis Chapman Post No. 103, W. P. Warner, Commander.

The railroad connections consist of the Boston & Maine line, which enters the city at the Junction, with a branch road up to the Falls, which follows the course of the picturesque Chicopee river. The then C. R. R. R. opened the main line in 1845 and the branch road in 1846. The former passes just west of Chicopee Centre, crossing the Chicopee river near the mouth, and crossing the Connecticut river at Willimansett.

The Public Library is an outgrowth of the old Cabot Institute, a literary society formed and organized in 1846. During the first seven years of its existence it acquired 900 volumes. The first books, 651 in number, were purchased in 1847, with funds subscribed by corporations and individuals. At a meeting held in Cabot Hall, April 4, 1853, it was voted to accept the proposition made by the society to donate to the citizens of the town these books, provided the latter would appropriate \$100 each year for ten years. The supervision of the library was vested in a committee





AGENT CUMNOCK'S RESIDENCE AND OTHER VIEWS IN CHICOPEE CENTRE.

annually chosen by the selectmen. On the completion of the Town Hall in 1871 the books were transferred to the room in that building set apart for library purposes, and the brick house near the City Hall is now used, pending the building of a new library proper. George V. Wheelock is librarian.

The Father Mathew Total Abstinence and Mutual Benevolent Society has an honorable history, the organization dating from Sept. 29, 1869. The meetings are now held every Sunday afternoon in Father Mathew Hall, the use of which is given by the Chicopee Manufacturing Company. In connection therewith are flourishing dramatic and literary societies and a lyceum. The one hundred members are earnest and devoted. The charter members were: Daniel Dunn, Edward O'Keefe, William O'Neil, Jerry Mahanna, Thomas Carmody, Patrick M. Shea. Of these, Daniel Dunn is the only one still retaining his connection with the society. The others have fallen out through removal and change of location. Mr. Dunn is putting the same heartiness into this which characterizes his attention to other interests, having proved himself one of Chicopee's most devoted citizens. Ex-Alderman Henry F. Moriarty was the first agitator and enthusiastic promoter of the Father Mathew idea in Chicopee.

The Chicopee Falls Young Men's Christian Association was organized as a branch of the Chicopee Centre Association in October, 1890, and continued as such until June 8, 1892, when by vote of the Board of Directors it became an independent organization. Rooms were opened March 21, 1891. Mr. M. L. Dinsmore was its first general secretary, but remained only until June 15, 1891. September 1, 1891, E. A. King accepted the call as general secretary and remained until June 1, 1892. The association was without a general secretary until the following November, when J. S. Raymond, of Yarmouth, N. S., came to fill the position, but he remained only three and a half months. April 1, 1893, the present general secretary, W. C. Rollins, accepted the call of the Board of Directors. Lines of work which before it had not attempted were taken up, and, while it has been hindered by not having a well appointed building of its own, it has been enabled to do much good work. The membership has steadily increased until at present it has a hundred



SECRETARY ROLLINS, Y. M. C. A.



MEMBERS OF THE BOYS' CLUB.

BOYS' CLUB IN CAMP.





and thirty-one seniors and twenty-three juniors. The Ladies' Auxiliary has done very efficient work in assisting the association. The present membership of the Auxiliary is fifty. The following are the officers and directors of the association : Geo. S. Taylor, president ; R. R. Reeder, vice-president ; M. L. Dinsmore, recording secretary ; Frank O. Cook, treasurer ; C. J. Seaver, auditor ; Dr. L. M. Berry, L. N. Lyon, Arthur H. Fay, D. S. Warner, D. P. Ballard ; W. C. Rollins, general secretary.

The Parish House of Grace Church was opened in the early part of 1893. The purpose of such a house is to provide a place where the various activities of the parish may be properly carried on, and especially to provide a place where the men and boys could pass the day and evening free from the often harmful influences of the streets. This last phase of the work has been very successful, and more than one hundred men and boys are members of the clubs connected with the house. Pool tables are provided for the older boys and men, and the latter are allowed the further privilege of a smoking-room in connection with their club. Various other games and abundant reading material is furnished for all members, young and old, also baths and a well equipped gymnasium, which is constantly being used, especially by the boys. Outside sports in their season, such as canoeing, swimming, skating, tobogganing, football, baseball, etc., receive their full share of attention from the boys. An athletic field has been in use for two years, and a fleet of four canoes (which is expected to be enlarged next summer) has given pleasure to those who could be trusted on the water. Last summer a camp was inaugurated for boys over twelve years of age, and nine boys, under the care of the rector, paddled in the canoes from Chicopee to Shepherd's Island, opposite Northampton, a distance of fifteen miles, and spent two weeks under canvas, enjoying the pleasures of swimming, fishing, bull-frogging, logging and canoeing, free from the restraints of city life. At the end of the stay the party returned as they had gone. Other boys went to camp for short stays, the largest number present at one time being fifteen. The boys were mostly good swimmers and had become quite expert in the handling of the paddle, so that they could be well trusted, and all returned without an accident of any kind. The Parish House is opened every day and night, with the exception of during the time of services on Sunday.

In December, 1895, the Republicans were successful in electing their candidate, Mr. Grant, for the mayoralty of Chicopee. The tax rate of the city is not heavy, being \$13.80, the population is 16,500, and altogether Chicopee looks forward to a period of unexampled prosperity.





WORKS OF THE OVERMAN WHEEL CO.

## MANUFACTURES AND ARTS.

### OVERMAN WHEEL COMPANY.

The Overman manufactory is one of the most imposing in Chicopee, and fully illustrates the energy and push which have characterized its development. Albert H. Overman, president of the company, has brought to bear on its interests a clear intelligence, and has studied the making of bicycles so thoroughly that the manufacture, under his careful management, is fast becoming a science. Very properly their wheel is named the "Victor," the wheel itself proving that there is something in a name. For fourteen years the Overman Wheel Company has been manufacturing bicycles, starting in a small way, in a little shop, which has been growing and extending, until to-day their works are said to be the largest and most complete in the world. They have not been content with making wheels; for fourteen years they have been striving to make the best, and to produce from day to day one better in every respect than those previously made. For this purpose the establishment has invented and devised nearly all of the machinery used by them. The great aim of the bicycle manufacturer has of late been to secure light draft machines. Light draft and light weight are not quite synonymous terms when applied to bicycles. Different men should have different machines, and 225 pounds avoirdupois should not attempt to ride the wheel of the man weighing 145 pounds. The means should be a condition to the end. In speaking of the 1896 model the other day, Mr. Overman said: "We build the Victor this year with three different heights of frames, and in that variety a man is sure to find one suited to his requirements. So our 1896 models are practically all special, and, in reality, a man selecting a Victor has his wheel made to order. We claim that it costs more to build a Victor bicycle than any other bicycle on earth, and this has never been disputed by any one who could be considered an authority in the matter.

"Instead of hiring men to ride our bicycles, we put that money into the construction of the wheels themselves, and make them good enough for the people to pay our price to ride them. Once convinced that the manufacturers of the Victor bicycle put into the material and construction of the wheel money which other manufacturers spend in cheap advertising by hiring racing men to ride their wheels, the discriminating purchaser wishing a first-class wheel will buy the Victor, just as the discriminating buyer of a carriage asks for a Brewster. Other vehicles have four wheels, a top, and look very much like a Brewster, but compare them a year after each has been subjected to the same usage, and you will have no difficulty in picking out the superior carriage. The faith which people have in an article with a reputation for being first-class is shown by the comparatively high prices brought by second-hand articles of standard make.

"Our factory is the only bicycle plant in the world where a complete bicycle is made from handle bars to tire. The man does not live who can come to us and say that he made a piece of the Victor bicycle. We do not incorporate into our bicycles tires or saddles or other parts made by other manufacturers and say to a man who buys a Victor, 'We believe



A. H. OVERMAN.

these goods to be first-class,' but we manufacture everything on our own premises, and can guarantee a Victor throughout, because we know what is in it.

"We have recently invented an instrument, which we call the 'dynamometer,' which enables us to determine with mathematical accuracy the power required to drive a bicycle. In this way the question as to whether a seven-tooth sprocket wheel requires less power to drive the machine than an eight-tooth sprocket wheel ceases to be a question of logic and becomes one of pure mathematics, and on all these mooted points we have records carefully figured out and are able to say, 'We know.'

"We keep men in our employ who every day, except Sunday, do nothing but ride our wheels, for testing different devices and new parts. For instance, if the wheel of our experimenters runs out of oil, the man reports here in minutest detail how many feet from the factory the cycle gave out, how long since it had been oiled, etc. So we are pushing further and further into the unexplored regions, and gradually bringing the debated questions of cycle construction to a scientific solution." So the development of this interest goes on until the newest model will enable its rider to speed along with the wings of the wind.

#### THE MOSMAN FOUNDRY.

One of the particularly interesting places in Chicopee is the Mosman foundry. Here Mr. Melzar H. Mosman, a genius in his own right and the inheritor of artistic understanding and ability, creates and sends out modelings of historic and classical subjects with such success that, though a young man, he has gained a reputation seldom achieved by a man on the sunny side of fifty years. The work done by Mr. Mosman has been largely in producing figures of heroic size. One of the later has been the reproduction in bronze of the plaster model by E. S. Woods, of Hartford, showing the Revolutionary hero, Colonel Thomas



"TRIUMPH OF IMMORTALITY OVER DEATH."

Knowlton. Though busy, Mr. Mosman courteously put aside his work for a time and talked with the visiting reporter. "For the past few years," said Mr. Mosman, "I have made a specialty of bronze reproduction in preference to my sculpture work. You know there are a great many sculptors in this country to-day, but very few good founders. I have been able to select the best work because I am well known among the sculptors and I have been fortunate in pleasing them. Here is my last piece of work, which only reached the shop ten days ago from the studio of W. O. Partridge, the sculptor, who modeled it in Milton. This statue is to be erected by the Union League Club, of Brooklyn, and, as you see, it is an equestrian figure of General Grant. It is to be dedicated on Grant's birthday, April 27, 1896, and we shall need all the intervening time to get the bronze work finished. The statue is to be twice life size, the height of the whole figure being 16 feet and the length of the horse's body 10 feet 4 inches."

Mr. Mosman's studio will show some of the work of the past twenty-five years. Here are the designs showing him a sculptor of high ability. Everyone in the vicinity, and wider than that, has heard of Silas Mosman, the sculptor, who made the Ames Company famous throughout the world, and his son is a worthy representative of the present generation. He was born and educated in Chicopee, and as there were not a dozen persons in New England at that time working in sculpture and no teachers, all his instruction was received from his father. Mr. Mosman went abroad in 1867 to study, and again in 1874, when he remained in Rome for a year for the purpose of modeling the statues for the soldiers' and sailors' monument in Seaside Park, Bridgeport, Connecticut. This was wrought in 1876, while Mr. Mosman was with the Ames Company, and cost \$30,000. There are three bronze figures modeled by Mr. Mosman and cast at the Ames Works, while in the arch of the statue is a figure of the Goddess of Liberty, which was modeled and cut in marble in Rome by Mr. Mosman and exhibited at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition.

Among monuments made by Mr. Mosman are the soldiers' monuments at Bridgeport, Conn., Middletown and Skancateles, N. Y. He made the handsome firemen's monument at New Haven, Conn., the Tenth Massachusetts Regiment monument at Gettysburg, Pa., and soldiers' monuments at Westfield, Gloucester, Kingston, Danielsonville, Conn., Delaware, O., and the one on Court Square, in Springfield.

At the right of the door on an easel is a mold of the bronze bas relief of Rev. Burton W. Lockhart, which has been placed in the church at Chicopee where he was settled from 1888 to 1893. Opposite the minister on another easel is a cast of J. B. Lippincott's head, the bronze of which belongs to his daughter, Mrs. Goodwin of Hartford; near by is a bust of Graham, the inventor of shorthand. Above a cabinet of odds and ends stands a statuette of the Minute Man, done by Daniel French; it is similar to his famous Concord Minute Man, but is much better done, Mr. Mosman said. This statuette was cast in bronze at Chicopee and presented by the town of Concord to the United States gunboat Concord in 1892. Another statuette is of Garfield, done by Rebisso, the famous Italian sculptor, who is now teaching in the Art School and Museum of Cincinnati.

Mr. Mosman regards the celebrated Grant monument which is now on the Lake Shore drive in Chicago as one of his best pieces of work; this was also molded by Rebisso and cast at Chicopee. No small part of Mr. Mosman's business is

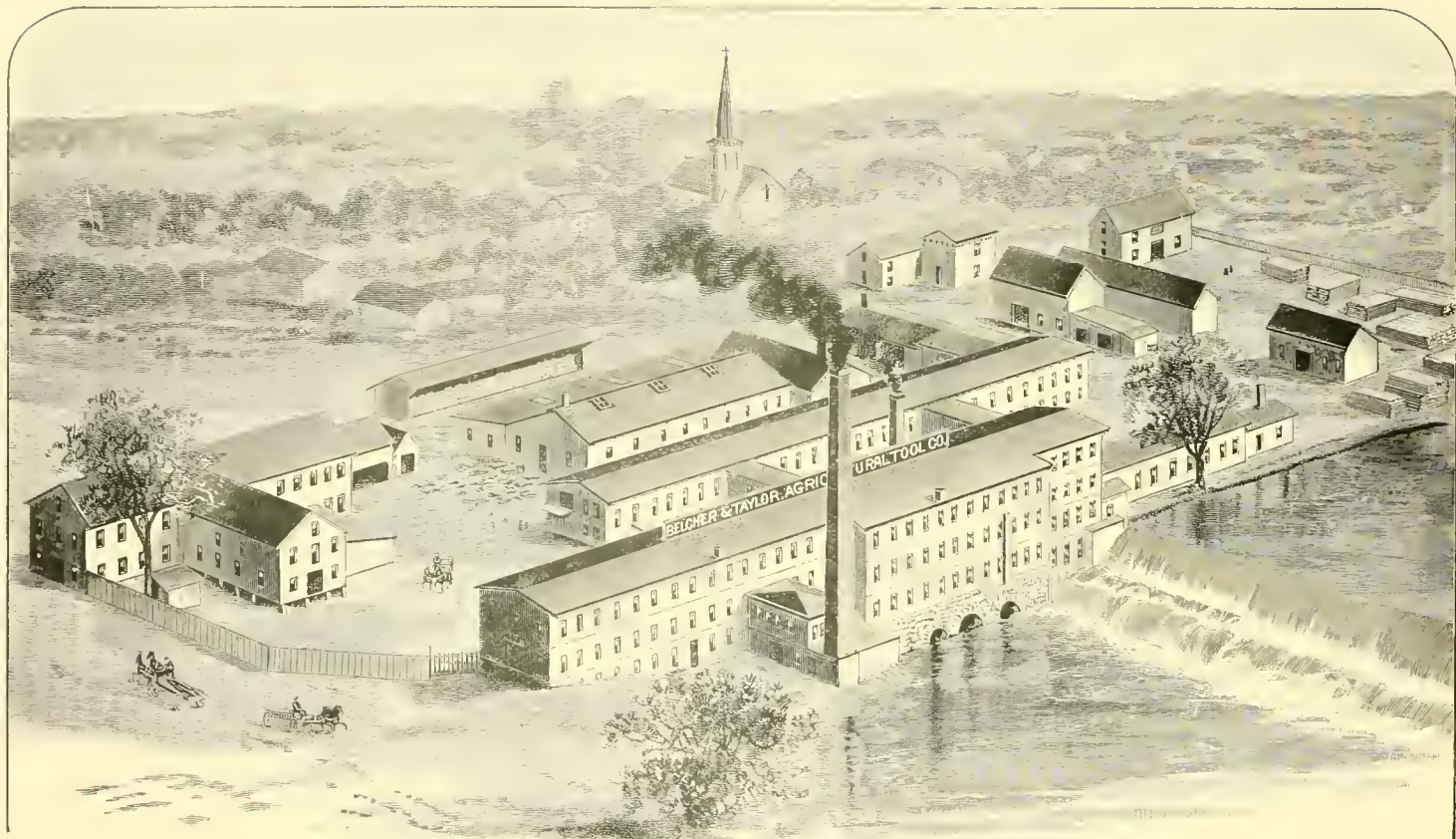


the making of bronze vases, urns, tablets, coats of arms and ornamental pieces, and among the casts lying about the store room next to his den is a model of a handsome flower vase which is now in the Capitol grounds at Washington.

Here also is a part of the plaster model for the equestrian statue of Gen. William H. Harrison, which he did for the city of Cincinnati, O. The base of this was 10 feet in height and the figure, seated on a magnificent charger, was 14 feet high. It cost about \$25,000 and it was intended at first to ship the monument to the World's Fair at Chicago, but the Harrison committee disagreed and Mr. Mosman received orders to set it up in Cincinnati according to the original contract. The artistic subject, "The Triumph of Immortality Over Death," here represented, may claim the Mosman studio as its birthplace and has never before been published.

#### THE BELCHER & TAYLOR AGRICULTURAL TOOL COMPANY.

In the year 1849 an ingenious mechanic invented and patented a feed cutter, which he called the "Yankee Blade," and, as it deserved, it was popular from the first, and about the year 1852 Bildad B. Belcher, Bailey West and George Dunlap bought the right to manufacture it, and continued together for two or three years. In the spring of 1855 Mr. Belcher bought out his partners, and commenced soon after to manufacture a corn sheller. In 1860 he purchased of J. M. C. Arnsby, of Worcester, Mass., a set of plow patterns, and then began to manufacture plows. In the spring of 1863 Mr. Belcher, feeling the need of more money, induced George S. Taylor to come into the business, which was done March 2, 1863. At that time Mr. Belcher had in his employ seven men. The business (as it was during the war) increased rapidly, and the demand for more room and more machinery became urgent on account of the increase in business, and in the fall of 1864 the stock company of the Belcher & Taylor Agricultural Tool Company was formed, with Judge John Wells, president; George S. Taylor, treasurer; James E. Taylor, secretary, and Mr. Belcher as agent. George S. Taylor has been treasurer of the company since its organization, and agent since 1867. This company in 1868 bought out the Robinson Company in Concord, N. H., which made the famous Lion plow, then the Cylinder Plow Company at Greenfield, then the Conical Plow Company at New Haven. In 1868 it bought the Bullard tedder business, for most of the United States, of the inventor, E. W. Bullard. It bought of the inventor, Warren Gale, the right to manufacture the Gale Lever Cutter, and since it has acquired the right to manufacture several of his inventions. Sometime in the seventies it bought the right of Mr. Bullard to manufacture his rake, and also of Mr. Stoddard, as well as Mr. Nye, to manufacture rakes under their patents. In 1886 they bought of Mr. Ladow the right to manufacture the Ladow Disc Harrow, which was improved and is now made under the name of the Yankee Pulverizer. For the past ten or twelve years they have made and sold large numbers of a sulky plow invented by William Strait of New York. In 1889 this company bought out the business of B. & J. W. Belcher, and soon after the business of John R. Whitmore, and in 1894 it bought out the business of the Baldwin Cutter, which had previously been made in New Haven, Conn., by Pierpont & Co. This company manufactures, or has patterns for the manufacture, of over 190 different sizes and styles of plows. They manufacture twelve styles of feed cutters, and probably have made and sold more cutters than any other manufacturer in this country, or,



THE BELCHER & TAYLOR AGRICULTURAL TOOL CO.'S WORKS

perhaps, in the world. They manufacture all kinds of tools save mowers and reapers, and the reputation of the tools manufactured by the Belcher & Taylor Agricultural Tool Company stands high, not only in the United States, but throughout the civilized world where good tools are sold and used.

#### TAYLOR, BRAMLEY & CO.

One of the most interesting places among the manufactories of Chicopee Falls is the establishment of Taylor, Bramley & Co., just off Grove street. Here the finest underwear is turned out, and new ideas and designs in this line are constantly being evolved. The partners are enterprising, and they intend to lead, and carry out their intentions. The business to-day is an illustration of the survival of the fittest, for it has been built up by the exercise of courage and push. The proprietors are young men, but their own energies have brought their manufacturing up to its present high standard.

The firm at first was Taylor & Bramley, and was organized in 1888. Men's underwear was then made by the personal labor of Albert E. Taylor and Walter Bramley. They started in a small way, and were located in a room in the Lamb Manufacturing Co.'s building on Main street. Mr. Taylor did the travelling, and it was not uncommon for him to secure special orders and come back, when Messrs. Bramley & Taylor would make the garments ordered, for they were accomplished in several directions. Only a few suits were manufactured each week. The business increased so that larger quarters were taken in 1889, and here they remained until 1891, when H. Lee Mallory, of New York, was taken into partnership, and the three-story brick building now in use was built. In 1892 the New York office was opened, and the manufacture of ladies' and misses' underwear, also bloomers and gaiters, was taken up, making the finest grades of worsted and silk goods. This shows a gratifying increase each day, and the newest novelty turned out is the *recherche* lady's sweater, a garment ornamental enough to be worn by any stylish woman on the promenade, and warm enough to keep the circulation up to the right point. The distributing office is at 80 Franklin street, New York.

Albert E. Taylor, son of ex-Mayor Taylor, promises to carry out the good intentions and public-spirited policy of his father. He is a pronounced Republican, representing Ward Four as councilman in the city government of 1895. He is master of Belcher Lodge A. F. & A. M., an officer in Unity Chapter, member of the Springfield Council and Springfield Commandery, also member of Pyramid Temple, Mystic Shrine, Bridgeport, Ct., and is active socially. He has a pleasant home in "Sunny Side," built in 1895.

Walter Bramley, one of the leading business men of Chicopee Falls, is a native of Loughborough, England. He received his education in England, came to America with his father and mother, and worked in Newton Lower Falls. He returned to England in 1870 and entered a factory, remaining until 1878. He went back to Newton Lower Falls and was employed two years, then went to Springfield, where he took charge of the knitting department of W. G. Medlicott Co. Eight years after he removed to Chicopee Falls and there became associated with Mr. Taylor in their enterprise. He is a Republican, a member of Belcher Lodge A. F. & A. M., and of Unity Chapter, R. A. M. He also has a pleasant home at "Sunny Side." H. Lee Mallory resides in Brooklyn, N. Y.

## LAMB MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Among Chicopee's important industries is the Lamb Manufacturing Company at Chicopee Falls. About 800 hands are employed, and over 45,000 knitting machines have been made and sold, in addition to the other business, in the last twenty-five years. The company are also the manufacturers of the Tuttle knitting machines, which are specially adapted for ribbed and plain work, and under the name of the Massachusetts Arms Co. they manufacture the celebrated Maynard patent breech-loading rifles and shotguns, which are unexcelled in all the qualities demanded in fire-arms.

The works, which are in the engraving on next page, cover an area of two acres, and are finely equipped for the work required of them. The company was incorporated in 1867, with a capital of \$200,000, and the present officers are: A. G. Spalding, president; Emerson Gaylord, vice-president; T. C. Page, treasurer.

The widely known and superb Lamb knitting machine, which has revolutionized the art of knitting, is constructed upon the novel and simple principle of employing two straight parallel rows of needles sufficiently near to each other to connect the two rows of knitting at either end, but far enough apart to allow the fabric to pass down between them as it is knitted. The needle is automatic or self-knitting, its principle being such that, when fed with yarn and moved forward or backward, it forms the stitch by its own action. It is the only plan yet devised by which any size of work, both tubular and flat, and either single, double or ribbed, can be produced, and narrowed and widened. It is the only machine that knits a regular, right-angled heel, such as is knit by hand, that narrows off the toe, that knits a sock or stocking complete, that knits mittens and gloves of any size without a seam, that forms genuine ribbed or seamed work, that knits the double, flat or fancy webs, that knits an elastic seamed stitch suspender with buttonholes, that knits the afghan stitch, cardigan jacket stitch, fancy ribbed stitch, the raised plaid stitch, the nubia stitch, shell stitch, unique stitch, tidy stitch, etc. Though it combines greater capacity and speed than any other knitting machine, yet it is the simplest, most reliable and easiest to learn. It knits hosiery, gloves and mittens of all sizes, shaping and completing them in a superior manner. It makes the following garments: Shawls, breakfast capes, hoods and muffs, nubias, sacks, undersleeves, scarfs, girls' and boys' suits, undershirts, cardigan jackets, drawers, cradle blankets, carriage afghans, sashes, wristlets, leggins, smoking and skating caps, snowshoes, suspenders, purses, petticoats, infants' shirts, counterpanes, tidies, watch and curtain cords, mats, etc. It also produces the most elegant trimmings for all its own articles, such as plain ruffle, double ruffle, collars, borders, fringes, etc. In brief, it is the only standard machine for manufacturing, and the only family knitter which has practically demonstrated its utility. The notable lack of complication, which destroys the efficiency of any mechanism, makes the Lamb knitter not only the best machine of its kind, but the easiest to operate. When we take into consideration the amount of inferior knit goods with which the market is flooded, and the work involved in hand knitting, the popularity of the Lamb knitter is easily accounted for, as by its adoption the production of knit garments of twenty different kinds is facilitated and perfected to such a degree that a valuable saving of time, labor and money is inevitably effected: this statement applies equally well to either families or manufacturers.





THE LAMB MANUFACTURING CO.'S WORKS.



The trade in knit goods is rapidly increasing. Hand knitting is becoming more obsolete each year, and good, well-made knit goods, that will take the place of those made by hand, are not produced in sufficient quantities to supply the demand; as a consequence we find many woolen manufacturers who are now utilizing knitting machines to convert the scraps and ends of yarn that accumulate in their factories into hosiery and mittens. Wherever the Lamb knitting machine hosiery has been introduced it has superseded or taken the preference over every other hosiery in the market, because it is precisely the same as hand knitting.

In 1893 A. G. Spalding & Bros., of Chicago, New York and Philadelphia, became interested in this company, and in addition to the old line of goods the company has, since the connection with the Spaldings, added bicycles, gymnasium goods, skates, golf, and, in fact, all the iron and many of the wood goods required for their immense business, and the company, during the year 1895, will turn out from 18,000 to 20,000 high grade bicycles, and an immense quantity of all the other goods enumerated.

#### THE J. STEVENS ARMS AND TOOL COMPANY.

The J. Stevens Arms and Tool Co., one of the features of Chicopee Falls, and the reputation of whose manufactures is world-wide, is located where the busy Chicopee river makes a detour from its erratic course and gathers force for the next jump over the dam below. On this site Hiram Munger and a Mr. Cady owned and operated both saw and grist mills. J. Stevens, Asher Bartlett and William B. Fay bought this property in 1864, and for a time operated the grist mill and sometimes rented it. Finally the old machinery was thrown out and the present buildings erected.

Joshua Stevens, the founder of this business, is an ingenious, practical mechanic, and in 1858-59 was in the employ of Samuel Colt, of Hartford. What is known as the Wesson revolver is his invention, and he came to the "Falls" in 1849 to engage in the extensive manufacture of that article. For this purpose the "Massachusetts Arms Co." was formed, with a capital of \$70,000. This company purchased of the Ames Manufacturing Co. the property afterward occupied by the Lamb Manufacturing Co., and there conducted the manufacture of pistols for a few years; then Mr. Stevens, having invented a small, single-shot pocket pistol, commenced its manufacture at its present location. The mechanical part under such able management, and the office and other detail work under Mr. Taylor's careful administration, soon caused the business to expand, and Mr. Stevens continued inventing useful and important additions to modern arms, also the tools for their manufacture. The patents cover double-barrel breech-loading shotguns, single shotguns, sporting rifles, "Hunter's Pet" rifles, pocket shotguns and pocket pistols; also small machinist tools, spring calipers and dividers, and double-lip counter-sinks.

The history of firearms is full of interest to those who, putting aside sentimentality, note the influence of invention upon the progress of the human race. The victories gained for civilization over barbarism during the past five centuries would have been impossible without gunpowder, for the vanguard of enlightenment has ever been few in numbers, and only by force of superior arms and discipline has it been enabled to gain a foothold among savages and plant upon the soil

of new continents the banners of progress, culture, intellectual and moral freedom, and even of religion. But the clumsy flint-lock blunderbuss, musket and rifle of even so recent a date as the beginning of the present century are already antiquated, and specimens are sought and treasured as curiosities. The era of vital improvement in firearms may be said to have begun about fifty years ago, and has steadily advanced until the latest styles of rifles and shot-guns of our time may be safely pronounced practically perfect as regards range, precision, penetration, ease and rapidity of manipulation, strength, durability, lightness, and beauty of workmanship, while prices are remarkably low, excellence considered, as is exemplified in the Stevens arms.

The Stevens target and sporting rifles, pistols, and shot-guns are too well and favorably known to require detailed description. They have been before the public for a long term of years and have never failed to render satisfaction. Improvements have been made in the method and style of construction from time to time, until these arms may be fairly pronounced the marksman's and sportsman's *ne plus ultra*, used everywhere in this and foreign countries, and the most perfect weapons for practice and sporting purposes ever devised.

In January, 1896, Mr. I. H. Page bought the stock held by Messrs. Stevens and Taylor, the latter gentlemen retiring, and Mr. Page assumed entire control, acting as president and treasurer. Associated with him is Charles P. Fay, son of William B. Fay, one of the founders of the business and inventor of the Fay Caliper and Divider, who acts in the important capacity of master mechanic. Mr. Page has been connected with the business for seventeen years, eight of which as secretary, and his recognized business ability insures the continued success and prosperity of the firm which has so long and honorable a record. [See frontispiece for illustration of buildings.]

#### THE SPAULDING & PEPPER COMPANY.

The youngest manufacturing company in Chicopee is the Spaulding & Pepper Co., manufacturers of general rubber goods, with a specialty of pneumatic tires for bicycles, and other rubber parts used in the cycling trade. This company was formed early in the spring of 1895, and in June commenced the erection of their factory, which is located at the foot of Oak street, in Chicopee Falls. The plant consists of a brick building three stories in height, 100 x 50 feet in dimensions, together with a one-story building, 100 x 40 feet. The mechanical equipment consists of a 200-horse power Slater engine, two Hennessy boilers of 150-horse power each. They also have a washer, three mixing mills, 40 x 16 feet, one mixer, 60 x 26 feet, one three-roll calender, four hydraulic presses, one vulcanizer, and their own machine shop. The rubber machinery was furnished by the Farrel Foundry & Machine Co. The mill is thus thoroughly equipped with all appliances for making at least 1,200 tires every working day. The work in the mill was started about the middle of September, and has been in active operation on orders since.

The president of the company, Mr. Thos. H. Spaulding, of New York, is well and favorably known in the trade, being connected, as he is, with the large steel house of Spaulding, Jennings & Co., of Jersey City, and also proprietor of the Spaulding Machine Screw Co., of Buffalo. He is an able, energetic man, of large business experience. The treasurer



THE SPAULDING & PEPPER CO.'S WORKS.

of the company, who is also manager, Mr. C. L. Pepper, is a Chicopee boy, having been born on Grape street, in Chicopee Centre. He commenced his business career as office boy in the Ames Mfg. Co., and served in that capacity for some years; was afterwards paymaster, and then acting agent of that company. He was employed by them for something like eighteen years, and left them to accept the position as superintendent of the Overman Wheel Co. when they started their factory at Chicopee Falls. When he assumed his position with the Overman Wheel Co. they employed four men. He served them in the capacity of general superintendent for eight years, and when he left them the company employed something over twelve hundred people. The superintendent is Mr. H. A. Middleton, who is well and favorably known in the trade.

The factory is running on a line of single tube tires of six or eight different styles. They are making a specialty of the puncture proof tire, the combined invention of Messrs. Pepper and Middleton, which they consider will prove to be very taking with the trade. They have also arranged with the L. C. Smith Tire Co., of Syracuse, for the control of the production and selling of the celebrated L. C. Smith detachable tire, and have taken a license from the Gormully & Jeffery Co. to make the G. & J. detachable tire.













