

"Voted the Rev^d mr. Timothy White Chall be the minister of the town of Chester."

A salary of £120 was voted, and a committee, consisting of Deacon Ebenezer Dearborn and Messrs. Nathan Webster and John Calfe, chosen to treat with Mr. White and receive his answer.

At an adjournment held November 27, 1735,

"Voted, that whereas there was 120 Pounds Voted for Mr. White's Salery per annum, so long as he should Continue the minister of the town, it is Intended by it that the money Shall be accounted at the same Value that paper money was when the agreement was made with mr. Hale."

The money to pay the minister and all other purposes had been voted and raised by the "Proprietors," by the "Proprietors and inhabitants," and now "the Freeholders and inhabitants" are warned to meet. The proprietors of the common and undivided land held separate meetings distinct from the town after this time; but the money to support the minister was raised from the whole town.

In building the meeting-house and supporting Mr. Hale, the Presbyterians were active; but they now have their own minister, and claim that a proviso in a certain statute legally exempts them from paying a minister tax, and at the meeting of Nov. 6th they enter another protest, signed by thirty-one men.

At a meeting, held June 23, 1736,

"Voted, That the Rev^d Mr. Ebenezer Flagg shall be the minister of the town of Chester.

"Voted, that there shall be one Hundred and twenty Pounds Paid to the Rev^d Mr Ebenezer Flagg, as silver at twenty shilings an ounce, per anum, During his ministry in Chester."

The following protest of the same tenor, and more numerously signed than those before mentioned, was entered:

We the Presbeterian Congregation and Propriators, Inhabitants and Freeholders of Chester afforsaid, do Enter

this our Protest and Desent against hiring, calling, or settling, any other ministers or minister in this town other than the Rev^d Mr John Wilson our Pastor, and also we protest against paying any charges or charge or salary that shall arise from or by such hiring, calling or settling any other minister then we have as afforsaid, or giveing or settling any Lands for that or any other uess. given under our hands the day and year above. and farther we Insist upon the Benefit of the Province Law with Respect to the suport of the ministry, and also we declare this meeting Ilegall.

James Wilson,
Robert Grimes,
Elexeandr Crage,
William Wilson,
John Carswell,
William Carswell,
John Sheralala,
Thomas Smith,
Robert Wilson,
Robert Gillcreast,
William Wilson,
Andrew Crage,
Joseph Neill,
John moore,
Charls moore,
Robert mills,
John aiken,
John Dickey,
Paul mcferson,
John mills,
Patrick melven,
Hugh Wilson,
archebald Canigham,
James Campbell,
John Wadell,

James Wilson,
James Quanton,
James Whiting,
John Boid,
James Croset,
William Craford,
William White,
Thomas Glen,
Robert Grames,
James Farson,
Robert Boyes,
Joseph Steel,
John Steel,
Thomas megee,
James Wilson,
Thomas Colwell,
John macmurphy,
John mills,
John Tolford,
Thomas Horner,
John Ramsey,
William Patterson,
William Tolford,
Samuel Brown.

Rev. Ebenezer Flagg was ordained Sept., 1736. The selectmen continued to rate the Presbyterians and some rates were collected, and the Presbyterians presented the following petition to the General Assembly :

To his Excellency Jonathan Belcher, Esq. Gov^r and Commander in chief in and over His Majesty's Province of New Hamp^r, the Hon^{ble} His Majesty's Council, & House of Representatives for the Province aforesaid.

The Petition of sundry of the Inhabitants of Chester in the Province of New Hampshire, Humbly Showeth :

That your Petitioners, though at present Inhabitants of Chester afor^{sd}, formerly belonged, most of them, to the Kingdom of Scotland & Ireland, where they were educated in the principles of Kirk of Scotland, for which they have a great Veneration: That while Mr. Moses Hale was the Minister of the Town, your Petitioners paid taxes towards his Support, tho' they went many of them to Londonderry to meeting, & most if not all of them constantly to receive the sacraments, not then being in a Condition to settle a minister of the Presbyterian order; After Mr. Hale's misfortunes had necessitated him to lay aside the work of the Ministry, the Town being Destitute of a Gospel Minister, your Petitioners proceeded to call & ordain a Minister of that Denomination among them, tho' Scarce able to pay the charge, that they might worship God & enjoy the ordinances of the Gospel in a way (which they apprehend) more agreeable to Script^e & the primitive pattern, at least more agreeable to their consciences than they could among the Congregation-
alists: That during the time that y^e Town was Destitute of a minister of the Congregational order, your Petition^{rs} often invited the Brethren of that Denomination to join with them, if not longer at least till they were better provided for, & that such Conformity should be no Expense to them, for that your Petition^{rs} would support their own Minister themselves; But they refused to accept the offer: That about two years after Mr. Hale had left Chester those of the Inhabitants who Differ in Sentiments from your Petition^{rs}, in conjunction with the non-resident Propriet^{rs}, proceeded to call and settle in the town a Congregational Minister who is still there: That your Petition^{rs}, apprehending that those who had called & settled such a minister would be for supporting him by a tax on all the Inhabitants, representing to them in their Public meeting & to the Selectmen of the Town that it was highly unreasonable and unkind, all things and circumstances considered, to oblige your Petition^{rs} to pay towards the support of a minister they did not call, nor hear when settled, &c., & prayed they might be Exempted, & the rather because they conceived themselves to be such Persons as were Intended

and Exempted by the Proviso in the Law of the Province, Entitled an Act for maintenance & Supply of ministry within this Province. But all would not prevail; the Selectmen of said Town rated all the inhabitants without Exception of any sect, & have Distrained & Imprisoned some of your Petitioners for such Rates. Your Petition^{rs} therefore pray the aid of this Court as the Dernier Resort of the Distressed, that you would be pleased in your Great Wisdom and Goodness to explain the Proviso in the afores^d act & say whether your Petition^{rs} are Exempted thereby from being taxed to the Settling & Support of the said minister. And if your Excellency & the Hon^{ble} the other Branches of this Court shall not think the law already made excuses your Petition^{rs} from the aforesaid charge, that you would be pleased to Commiserate the case of your Petition^{rs} (being as it now Stands they must either act against their own Judgment, or dearly purchase the Liberty of the Contrary) and make a special act whereby they may be Discharged & Exonerated from any part of the Burthen of Settling & supporting any minister except their own, & from paying the afores^d Rates already made; and that such may have their money allowed them from whom the Same has been distrained by virtue of the afores^d Rates. And yo^r Petition^{rs} in duty bound shall ever pray.

Alexander ^{his}+ Crage,
mark.

James Campbell,
Andrew Crage,
William Whit,
Franciss Cooks,
Robert Mills,
William Colwell,
James Wilson,
John Carswell,
Samuel Brown,
John Waddel,
Robert Graham,
John Boid,
John Karr,
Robert Wilson,
James Quenton,
Paul McFerson,
James McFerson,
William McFerson,
Samuel McFerson,

William ^{his}+ Poul, [Powel]
mark.

Joseph Nill, [Neal]
William Carswell,
Robert Kilerist,
John Dickey,
Thomas Colwell,
Hugh Willson,
David Crage,
William Graham,
Thomas Glen,
James Whit,
John Akan,
Thomas Smith,
John Smith,
James Whiting,
Samuel Ingalls,
William Crafford,
Robert Dayer,
William Patterson,
William Willson,

Robert Knocks,	John Tolford,
Robert Grimes,	John Mills, Junr.,
John ^{his} + Pouel,	John Mills, Senr.,
_{mark.}	
James Crossett,	John Sheral,
Robert Campbell,	Charles Moore,
James Willson,	John Waddall,
James Willson, Junr.,	John Boid, Junr."

The petition was received in Council March 23, 1736-7, and sent to the House, who voted an order of notice, which was served on the selectmen of Chester by John Sheral. It was postponed to the next session, when the parties were heard. The House voted to dismiss the petition; the Council non-concurred, being of the opinion that the petitioners are within the saving clause of the act of this province, "Entitled an act for the Maintenance and supply of the ministry within this Province," in which the House concurred Oct. 19, 1737, and Gov. Belcher assented Oct. 20. So the Presbyterians had the decision in their favor.

The act referred to was passed 1714, and provided that the freeholders of the respective towns in this province in town meeting might choose a minister, and agree upon a salary, and he should be considered the settled minister of the town; and the selectmen shall make rates and assessments upon the inhabitants of the town, for the payment of his salary, &c.; "Provided always that this act do not at all interfere with her Majesty's grace and favor in allowing her subjects liberty of conscience; nor shall any person under pretence of being of a different persuasion be excused from paying towards the support of the settled minister or ministers of such town aforesaid; but only such as are conscientiously so, and constantly attend the public worship of God on the Lord's day according to their own persuasion; and they only shall be excused from paying towards the support of the ministry of the town."

The following is the reply of John Calfe, John Tolford, Ephraim Haselton and Enoch Colby, selectmen of Chester, to the Presbyterian petition:—

"That after the Rev. Ebr. Flagg was Settled in s^d Town a considerable No. of persons petitioned the Gen. Court for an explanation of the law of Liberty, Supposing they, being Presbyterians, were exonerated from paying Mr. Flagg, which was explained in their favor. Since which time they have proceeded in a cordial manner, and have endeavored to take the best method the circumstances will admit of to Raise money for the Respective ministries as follows: at a Town Meeting warned for that purpose they voted separate for Mr. Flagg's salary, and the Presbyterians voted a Salary for the Rev. Mr. Jno. Wilson their minister, and the selectmen Signed the Respective Warrants to y^e Constabel or Collectors to collect the same.

"If this method were not agreeable to the G. C. they pray for particular directions.

"It was ordered Aug. 6, 1740, that the two congregations act separate."

The tradition is that John Tolford and James Campbell were imprisoned for their minister rate, and that they sued for false imprisonment and recovered. That somebody was imprisoned is made nearly certain by the words, "some of your petitioners have been distrained and imprisoned," in the Presbyterian petition. But I have examined the court records pretty thoroughly, and cannot find any lawsuits there.

There was a petition, dated Aug. 20, 1735, preferred to the selectmen, representing that "Whereas it often happens that Business of Importance Requires Consideration Relating to the Common or undivided Land in Chester which Cannot be so well accommodated at a general town meeting as by the Respective Proprietors of said Lands distinct." The petition is signed by seventy-three individuals with their respective interests attached to their names in rights and quarters of rights. They represent sixty-seven rights and three quarters. Of these seventy-three, so far as I can tell, thirty-eight were residents and thirty-five were non-residents. They asked to have a meeting called, which was done by John Calfe and Samuel Emerson, selectmen of Chester, and held at the meeting-house Oct. 16, 1735. I have already given, under the heads of Settling the Lines

and Laying out of the Lots, what they did on those subjects ; I shall now follow them to the close of their corporate existence, before taking up the town of Chester. Mr. John Calfe was chosen moderator, and Samuel Emerson proprietors' clerk. Esq. Emerson held the office until his death. The last record that he made was the first Monday of September, 1793. On the second day of June, 1794, his son, John Emerson, was chosen clerk, and held the office until his death. When he was superseded as town clerk in 1817 by Lemuel W. Blake, he claimed to be proprietors' clerk and held the books during his life, when they went into the town clerk's office.

The Proprietors' Records are contained in two volumes, and have often been called into court in the settlement of controversies about land. These volumes were nearly out of their binding, and otherwise injured by continual examination, and in 1853 were in court in Hillsborough county, and the Hon. S. D. Bell took them into his possession, carried them to a binder, and at his own expense had them put into substantial binding, and otherwise repaired. He also, with great labor, prepared a copious and valuable index, which greatly facilitates the examination of the records, and prevents their wear. The town of Chester, and everybody who shall *ever* have occasion to examine these records, should hold Judge Bell in grateful remembrance, — and nobody more so than the writer.

At the aforesaid meeting it was

“ Voted, that the Proprietors' Clerk be impowered to warn meetings for the Present at the Request of twenty or more of the Proprietors of the undivided land in Chester, they Setting forth the occasion of the same, and the time when and where ; and for the warning of such meeting it shall be accounted sufficient warning to have Notifications posted up, one at Chester, one at Portsmouth, one at Hampton, one at Newbury, and one at Haverhill, at sum Publick Place, fourteen days before said meeting ; and the present Petitioners for every meeting shall be at the Charge of setting up the Notifications for the said meeting.”

Some of the home lots fell short of measure, and Capt.

Samuel Ingalls, Samuel Emerson and Ephraim Haseltine were chosen a committee to examine them and report.

John Calfe owned two home lots and a half, and the lot-layers had laid out eighty acres between the ponds at Massabesic, which the proprietors refused to accept; but at an adjournment they reconsidered and accepted, and also

“Voted, that Mr. John Calfe have Liberty to build a fulling mill at massabesick brook between the two Ponds, agreeable to his own Proposals.”

What these proposals were does not appear, but he built a fulling mill there, opposite Nathan Griffin's barn. (See History of the Calfe and Blanchard Mills.)

It was also

“Voted, That for settlement of the Rev. Mr. Timothy White, or the Next Lawfully Settled minister, their shall be given two Hundred acres of Land in the Next division, or two Hundred and fifty pounds of Land fairly appraised.”

Mr. White not being settled, it was given to Mr. Flagg; lots No. 20 and 21, second part of the second division.

At a meeting held May 16, 1739,

“Voted, That Mr. John Macmurphy, his heirs and Successors, have Liberty to set up and Erect a grist mill at massabesick River below the Greate Pond in two years, not hendring Iron Works or saw mill if the town shall see it needful to have them or either of them built,” &c. (See History of the McMurphy or Webster Mill, on a subsequent page.)

The proprietors held many meetings for the transaction of their business, which consisted in laying out the different divisions and making amendments, and about their lawsuits, and selling land to pay expenses.

A vote was passed the first Tuesday of November, 1785, choosing Dea. Jonathan Hall, Capt. John Underhill, and Robert Wilson, Esq., a committee “to sell all the common land in this town that Lays scatring about in sundry places, to any Person or Persons as the Committee shall Judge Best.”

November 14, 1794, Stephen Chase, who had been chosen in the place of Robert Wilson, deceased, and Samuel Underhill in the place of John Underhill, advertised all the undivided land belonging to the proprietors at auction, which was sold to Stephen Chase, Esq., for one pound seventeen shillings.

March 16, 1795, they adjusted their accounts, and had a balance of £2 17 8, which was divided between William White, Stephen Chase, John S. Dearborn, Samuel Wilson and Thomas Shirley, representing one right each, and John Emerson, representing eight and a half rights.

Thus ended the affairs of the Proprietors of Chester.

CHAPTER VI.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CHESTER FROM 1737 TO 1773.

1737. At an adjournment of the annual meeting April 7, 1737,

“Voted, That their shall be a sufficient Pound built with Loggs thirty foot square, Six foot High, with two posts, a good gate, and a Lock and Key, and set on the Left hand of the way a Little to the southward of John Boid’s, and Completely finished by the first Day of July next.

“Voted, That their Shall be five Pounds Raised to pay for building a Pound agreeable to the foregoing Vote.

“Voted, That Capt. Ingalls Shall build a pound for five Pounds and finish the same as hath been before mentioned.”

There had been a vote passed in 1735 to build a pound, and Jonathan Blunt in 1733 was chosen pound-keeper, but probably without any pound.

John Boid lived between where John Haselton and Edwin Haselton now live. The first road laid out in town was through John Boid’s lot toward the meeting-house. In 1748 the road was laid out from there, “Beginning at the

bridge by the Pound where the Highway is laid out across James Boid's home Lott originally," and extending southerly to Ephraim Haselton's. This fixes the location of the pound.

"Voted, That their shall be fiveteen Pound Raised to Purches a town Stock of ammunition for the town's use."

1738. The Presbyterian parish records commence this year.

"Jun. y^e 19, 1738, at a meeting held at Liftenant Thomas Smith's of mr. wilson's Congregation, Capt. Samuel Ingalls chosen moderator; James Quenton Chosen Clerk.

"1. Voted, Ther meeting hous is to be seet on mr. Wilson's lot over against mr. wilam Powel's hous.

"2. Voted, That s^d meeting hous shall Buildd 38 foot long & 33 foot wide with a 20 foot post.

"3. Voted, Capt. Samuel Ingalls & John Tolford & wiliam wilson, Lift. thomas smith & John Kar shall be y^e Comitee to oversee the building of s^d meeting hous."

William Powel lived on lot No. 14, at the southwest end, and the meeting-house stood southwest across the way on No. 119, which Mr. Wilson purchased in 1735.

Sept. 18, 1744,

"Voted, John Moor, John Tolford & Andrew Craig a Comity to take a deed from y^e Rev. mr. John wilson of the land wher y^e meeting hous stands, or half an acre in all, for a burying place of y^e s^d Congregation."

The town this year voted to raise five pounds to add to the town's stock of ammunition.

1739. At an adjourned town meeting held April 4,

"Voted, to Rais Sixty Pounds to pay for the Supplies in the ministry we have had in time past, and for mending the glass of the meeting house, and for other necessary uses.

"Voted, that two hundred and forty Pounds be Raised on the Presbyterian inhabitants towards building a meeting house for the Rev^d mr. John Wilson."

At the Presbyterian parish meeting Jan. 3, 1739,

"1. voted, that Capt. samuel Ingalls, mr. James Campbell & John Aiken, Chosen a [committee] to sess mr. wil-

son's Celery for this present year; likewise to sess y^e money for building the meeting hous, for the first hundred pound.

"2. voted, y^t John Moor & John Shirlee & John Smith & Robert mils & Andrew Crage, Chosen for a Comite to Chus a workman with the undertakers of the work of s^d meeting hous; & likewise to give security to y^e undertakers for y^e money for Building s^d hous, providing y^e Congregation Give security to them for s^d money; & likewise to take security of the undertakers for their performance."

1740. In the warning for the annual town meeting March 27, 1740, is an article (6) "To take Effectual means and methods to prevent the killing of fish as they Come into massabesick Pond, any more than what is for family support," &c. There is no action on it recorded.

At an adjournment of the meeting April 8th, it is recorded,

"Whereas at the Settling of the Rev^d mr. Ebenezer Flagg in the work of the ministry at Chester a number of Inhabitants Entered their desents, alledging that they were of a different Persuasion, — Presbyterians according to the Kirk of Scotland, — and supposed the Law freed them from Paying; they applyed themselves to the general Court where the Law was explained in their favour, the Rev^d mr. John Wilson being their minister, and they have Paid mr. Wilson distinct from the Rest of the towne, separate from mr. Flagg's herers. But now it happens that the fifth article inserted in the warning for the Present meeting is to Settle a Sallery upon the Rev^d mr. John Wilson; the moderator not thinking this meeting Proper for that affair, they insisting to Have Sumthing done upon it, the Rest of the town being first withdrawn from mr. wilson's Herers the moderator addrest himself to them in the following manner: If it be your minds that the Rev^d mr. John Wilson, minister of the Presbyterians, shall have one Hundred Pounds money for his sallery for the year Ensuing, to be Paid by the presbyterians his herers, manifest it by holding up your hands; they that are of a Contrary mind, manifest it by the same Signe.

"Passed in the affirmative by mr. Wilson's Hearers."

The following act was passed by the General Assembly Aug. 7, 1740, constituting two parishes; which quieted the controversy :

Province of } Anno Regni Regis Georgii Secundi, mag-
New Hampsh^r. } næ Britainæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ,
Decimo Quarto.

Province Seal. An act of inable the Two Congregations in the Town of
Chester in the Province of New Hampshire to raise
money to pay their Respective Ministers' Salary, &c.

Whereas the Inhabitants of the Town of Chester in the Province of New Hanp^{sh}r have represented to this Court that they labour under great difficulties with Respect to raising their Ministers' Salary and collecting the same, and have petitioned the Court for Relief :

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Govern^r, Council and Representatives convened in General Assembly, and by the authority of the Same, That Each Congregation in Said Town be and hereby is authoriz^d and impow^{er}ed to Act Separate and Distinct from each other as to Parrish affairs, and that Each Respective Congregation be and hereby is authorized and Impow^{er}ed to Raise Money to pay their Respective Ministers' Salary, for the defraying the charges of Building and Repairing their Respective Meeting houses and other Parrish charges, and to chuse Wardens in each Congregation to assess the Persons and estates of Each Congregation as shall be rais^d by them Respectively for the ends & purposes afores^d; And to Chuse Collectors to Collect the Same, which collectors Shall have the Same power and Authority as Constables in this Province by Law have to gather or Collect Rates; and that Such Wardens Chosen as aforesaid be and hereby are authorized and Impow^r^d to give a warrant to Such Collectors as fully and Amply to all intents and purposes as Selectmen are authorised and impow^r^d to do.

And that John Calfe, Ephraim Hazeltine and Enoch Colby be and hereby are authorised and impow^r^d to call the first meeting for y^e Congregationall Parish, And Capt. Sam^l Ingalls, John Tolford and John Carr to call the first meeting for the Presbeterian Parrish, and the said Congregations shall have power to Chuse all officers necessary to manage & Transact Parrish affairs, as other Parishes have or ought by Law to have within this Province.

Aug. 7th, 1740, Read three times in the House of Representatives and Passed to be enacted.

Andrew Wiggins, Speaker.

Eadem Read three times at the Council Board, and
Die. Voted a concurrence.

Richard Waldron, Sec.

Same day I assent to y^e foregoing Bill.

J. Belcher.

Coppy Ex.

Theodore Atkinson, Sec^r.

The Congregational records commence with a copy of the act. A warning to call the first meeting, dated August 27th, 1740, the meeting to be held on the second Wednesday in September, is signed by John Calfe, Enoch Colby and Ephraim Hazeltine. John Calfe was chosen moderator, and adjourned to the 17th. At the adjourned meeting, John Calfe was chosen clerk; Benj. Hills, James Varnum and Eliphaz Sanborn, wardens, and Paul Smith, collector.

At a parish meeting, November 7, 1740, a committee was chosen to repair the meeting-house (but not to glaze it), and to sweep the meeting-house and buy a burying-cloth.

1741. At the annual town meeting, the last Thursday in March, "John Tolford and James Varnum were chosen Invoice men, to take the Invoice of the heads & estates of the Whole town." They took and returned to the Secretary's office an inventory of the town. Chester had not hitherto paid any province tax, but a new proportion was now made, and Chester was required to pay. This inventory is given under the head of "Rates or Taxes."

At the annual meeting of the Congregational parish, March 25, 1741, it was

"Voted, that the "Rev^d Mr. Flag's Salary shall be raised one third part on the poll if there be no law to the contrary."

Cattle above one year old, and horses above two years old, were to be rated, "if there be no law to the contrary."

A committee was chosen to "underpin the meeting-house, mend y^e glass, Doors, and Seats, &c., as need Shall require."

The Presbyterian parish meeting, March 10, 1741, is said to have been the first according to law, though called by the wardens, and not by the persons named in the law. One hundred pounds is voted to Mr. Wilson, and that one-half be raised on the poll, and the other half on the estate.

"Voted y^t John Tolford's money which he laid out at y^e Law be laid on this parish by Rat, which is £18 4s. 8d.

"Voted y^t 5 pounds shall be laid on this parish by way of rate, to defray y^e Charge of a debate y^t hapned between John mill, Sener, & this parish."

1742. At the annual meeting, March 25, the selectmen were empowered to exchange a piece of land with Jonathan Blunt, so as to accommodate a decent burying-place, and let him have a part of the ten-rod way by his house. They did not make the exchange. They began to bury on the ten-rod way behind the meeting-house. It is the uniform tradition that Sampson Underhill was the first person buried there, his estate being appraised in May, 1732. Many years since I was shown a grave, as his, just inside the wall, opposite the meeting-house. The town sold Jabez French five rods of the ten-rod way, and there were graves further north-west, which fell in the road as now fenced.

March 10, 1742, the Presbyterians "Voted 1000 of Joyces & 1000 of boards for the gallery," and two years later appropriated £20 for the gallery, "and that John Tolford shall do the work."

1743. March 31, The town voted "to Purchis a Book to Record births, marriages and deaths in."

"Voted, That Whosoever shall Kill a grown Wolfe in this town this year shall have twenty shillings Paid him by the town, old tennour, and ten shillings for a Woulfe's whelp."

The Congregational parish, in consideration of the dep-

reciation of money, voted to give Mr. Flagg thirty pounds old tenor in addition to his salary.

"Voted, That Samuel Emerson, Deacon Dearborn, John Calfe, Jacob Sargent and John Robie shall be a Committe to sell to the highest bidder belonging to this Parish all the places for Pews in this meeting house," &c.

"Voted, that three windows In the Galleries Over Each Door and the two long windows on the back side shall be wholly taken out and Don up with Bords and Claboards.

"Voted, That messrs. Jacob Sargent, Benja. Hills and Enoch Colby Shall be a Committe to take Care of, and Dispose of all the old Ledd and Glass that is In the meeting house, as well as they Can for the advantage of the Parrish, and take care and Glase the meeting house with new Sashes and Glass; and Do any thing Elce to said meeting house that they shall Judge to be for the benefit and advantage of the Parish, and make, Do and Complete Said work by the Last day of September next, and make return to the Parish for their recompence."

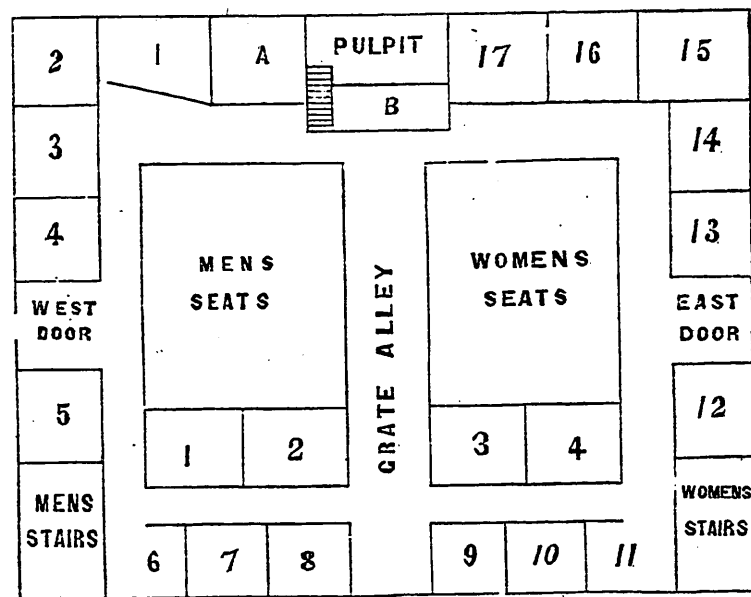
The glass was the diamond glass, similar in form to that of the Episcopal and Catholic churches in Manchester. There was a wooden sash outside and lead between the panes inside. It was now glazed with square glass. Whether the space in the meeting-house which was now to be sold for pews was ever seated, does not appear, and we have no certain knowledge of how it was seated. But in the new meeting-house the depth of two pews on each side of the broad aisle, from in front of the deacons' seat (which was in front of the pulpit) back half way to the front door, was seated with long seats made of plank and high backs. These were "common seats." In 1784 two of these seats on each side of the aisle were taken out and the space made into pews, which were sold for the purchase of a bell. The last of those seats were removed in 1820. Probably the old house was seated in this manner, and the gallery too; the west end for men and the east end for women. April 21, 1743, the committee proceeded to sell the ground for seventeen pews, which are so recorded and dimensions given that, with the aid of the diagram in Dr. Bell's history, I give a ground plan of the old house.

March 28, 1753,

"Voted, That the hind seats upon Each side of the *Grate alley* that goes from the south Dore to the Pulpit be taken away, and that there shall be previledges for Building four pews, two on each side of the alley," &c.

It was sold March 28, 1754. November 7, 1753,

"Voted, that if any Number of young persons in this parish, Sufishant to fill any seat on the Back Side of the seats in the Galleries, Shall agree to Build them into pews, they shall have Liberty to do it."



A GROUND PLAN OF THE OLD MEETING-HOUSE AS SEATED IN 1754, WHEN THE GROUND OR THE "SECOND TIER" OF PEWS WAS SOLD.

- A. Minister's pew.
- B. Deacons' seat.
- 1. James Varnum.
- 2. Francis Towle.
- 3. Jacob Sargent.
- 4. Winthrop Sargent.
- 5. Henry Hall.
- 6. Abraham Bachelder.
- 7. John Calfe.
- 8. Ben. Hills.

- 9. Sylvanus Smith.
- 10. John Robie.
- 11. Sam. Robie.
- 12. Peter Dearborn.
- 13. Anthony Towle.
- 14. Jonathan Blunt.
- 15. Lt. Eben Dearborn.
- 16. Samuel Emerson.
- 17. Dea. Eben Dearborn.

THE SECOND TIER, SOLD 1754.

- 1. Nathan Webster.
- 2. Sylvanus Smith.

- 3. Jona. Moulton.
- 4. Sylvanus Smith.

1744. In 1741 an inventory of the heads and ratable estates had been taken and sent to the Secretary's office, and a new proportion of taxes made, in which Chester is called upon to pay rates to the province, and with our ideas of taxation and representation we might infer that Chester should be represented as a matter of right, but such were not the ideas then. There was a continual contest between the prerogative of the crown and the rights of the people. The crown called assemblies as a mere favor or grace. The Governor, as the representative of the crown, claimed the right to send writs of election for representatives to such towns as he chose, which, almost as a matter of course, would be to such as he supposed would favor the prerogatives of the crown. A writ was sent to Chester and a meeting called to be held January 21, 1744, "To make Choyce of a man to Represent the said town in General assembly." Mr. Benjamin Hills was chosen. Mr. Hills appeared at Portsmouth the 24th, and I copy from the printed journal the proceedings in the case at full length:

A JOURNAL

Of the House of Representatives, at a General Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New-Hampshire in New England; Begun and held at Portsmouth, in said Province, on Thursday the 24th Day of January, Anno Domini 1744.

At Twelve of the Clock in the Forenoon were present in the Court House the Representatives of Portsmouth, Hampton, New Castle, Rye, Exeter, New Market, Greenland, Stretham and Newington, in all 14 Members; Besides Five Gentlemen who said they came to represent some Places that never sent any Representatives to this Court before. After One o'clock, all the above members withdrew, hearing nothing from His Excellency the Governour or Council. At three of the Clock met again, and were present at the same Place all the above Representatives, and also the Representatives of the Towns of Dover, Durham and Kingston, 19 in number.

All these Members waited till Five, and then the Secretary came and told them that his Excellency the Govern-

our sent him to tell them that he had adjourned the General Court till To-morrow, Eleven o'clock ; That the Sheriff had but just returned the Precept, and the Council were adjourned. Upon which it was tho^t proper to send Nathaniel Rogers, Esq., and Major Ebenezer Stevens, to inform his Excellency how many Members had been waiting, and how long ; Who returned, and informed that his Excellency told them that the Sheriff had but just returned the Precept, and that he did send the Secretary to adjourn the General Court till To-morrow, Eleven o'Clock.

Friday, January 25th.

Met at Eleven o'clock, all but the Representative of Durham. Mr. Secretary Atkinson came to the House and said, That his Excellency sent him to see if the House were together ; And immediately after the Hon. Theodore Atkinson, Richard Wibird and Samuel Smith, Esqs., came down from the Council Board, and acquainted the House that they were appointed by his Excellency the Governour to administer to the Members present the Oaths appointed instead of the Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance, and see them subscribe the Declaration : Which being done, they withdrew. And besides the above-mentioned Members, the Oaths were administered to Col. Benjamin Rolfe, of Rumford ; Mr. Henry Saunders, of Methuen and Dracut District ; Mr. Joseph Jewell, of South-Hampton ; Mr. Benjamin Hills, of Chester ; Capt. Nicholas White, of Haverhill District ;—Places that never were entitled by the House or General Court to send a Representative to sit in the General Assembly of this Province. Soon after the administration of the Oaths, &c., the Secretary came down and told the House that his Excellency required the House to choose a Speaker, and present him. Upon which one of the Members observed that there were several Persons present more than used to be in former Assemblies, viz : Col. Benjamin Rolfe, Mr. Henry Saunders, Mr. Joseph Jewell, Mr. Benjamin Hills, and Capt. Nicholas White, from the above-mentioned Places ; Who being asked how they came there, answered, That the Places from whence they came were required by the high Sheriff's Writ to choose and send Representatives to attend and serve in this Court ; and that agreeable thereto, they were chosen and sent. Whereupon a Motion was made, and unanimously agreed, to send Col. Peter Gilman and Nathaniel Rogers, Esq., to his Excellency the Governour, with the following written Message, Viz. :

May it please your Excellency:—

The House having received a verbal Message from your Excellency, by Mr. Secretary Atkinson, requiring them to choose a Speaker; And observing that five Gentlemen, viz., Col. Benjamin Rolfe, Capt. Nicholas White, Mr. Joseph Jewell, Mr. Benjamin Hills and Mr. Henry Saunders, appear among them as Members of the House, who, upon Enquiry, are found to come from Rumford, Haverhil District, South Hampton, Chester, and Methuen and Dracut District,—Places which have no Power, by any Law or Usage of this Province, that we know of, to send any Person to represent them at this Court,—therefore pray, that (before they proceed to the Choice of a Speaker) your Excellency would be pleased to inform them by what Means those Places are authorized to send Members to this Court.

Mr. Secretary Atkinson came down and said that he was directed by his Excellency to acquaint the Members (in answer to their Message) That the Members Enquired after were called here by the King's Writ, which was issued by the Advice of the Council. And soon after Mr. Secretary Atkinson came and told the House that his Excellency had adjourned the General Court till four of the Clock in the Afternoon.

The House met according to Adjournment, and present as before. While they were preparing another written Message to send to his Excellency, Mr. Secretary and Mr. Solley came and told the House that his Excellency required them immediately to choose a Speaker. But before they had Time to choose a Speaker, or send the Message which was preparing, Mr. Secretary came and adjourn^d the House till To-morrow, ten of the Clock.

Saturday, ten o'Clock, Jan. 26th, 1744.

Met according to Adjournment, and after some Debate the Question was put, Whether the five Gentlemen, viz., Col. Rolfe, &c., from Rumford, &c., should have a Voice in the choice of a Speaker. It pass^d in the Negative by a great Majority, only two Members (viz., Greenland and Newington) voting in the Affirmative, and two others not being clear did not vote at all. Then the House proceeded to take a list of the Members' Names, which are as follows:

Portsmouth — Nathaniel Rogers, Esq., Eleazer Russell, Esq., Mr. Henry Sherburne, Jun.

Dover — Thomas Millet, Esq., Capt. John Winget, Thomas Wallingsford, Esq.

Hampton Falls — Samuel Palmer, Esq., Mr. Joseph Phillbrook, Mr. Meshech Weare.

Exeter — Col. Peter Gilman, Mr. Zebulon Gideons.
 New Castle — William Frost, Esq.
 Kingston — Maj. Ebenezer Stevens.
 Stratham — Moses Leavitt, Esq.
 Newington — George Walton, Esq.
 Rye — Mr. Jonathan Lock.
 Greenland — Clement March, Esq.
 Durham — Capt. Jonathan Thompson.
 Newmarket — Capt. Israel Gillman.

The House proceeded to bring in their Votes for a Speaker, which being examin^d it appear^d that the Hon. Nathaniel Rogers, Esq., was chosen Speaker of the House by a Majority of Votes, and was accordingly conducted to the Chair.

Then the House proceeded to make choice of a Clerk, and Mr. Henry Sherburne was chosen, Nemine Contradicente, to be Clerk of this House, till another should be chosen and sworn in his Room. And the Oath proper to said Office was administered to him by Ebenezer Stevens, Esq.

Voted, That Major Ebenezer Stevens, Col. Peter Gillman, Capt. John Wingett, and Mr. Henry Sherburne, jun., be a Committee to wait on his Excellency, and inform him that the House had made choice of Nathanael Rogers, Esq., to be their Speaker, which Message they delivered; And Mr. Secretary Atkinson and Richard Wibird, Esq., came down and told the House that his Excellency sent them to enquire Whether all the Members that were qualified voted in the Choice of a Speaker. Upon which

Voted, That William Frost, Esq., and Mr. Henry Sherburne, jun., go up with the following Message to his Excellency, viz.:

May it please your Excellency:—

In answer to your Excellency's Message by Mr. Secretary and Mr. Wibird, all the Members which represent the Towns and Parishes which heretofore used to send Representatives to sit in the General Assembly of this Province voted in the choice of a Speaker, and none other.

Mr. Secretary and Mr. Wibird soon came down with the following Message:

Before his Excellency can approve or disapprove of the choice of a Speaker, he desires to know why those members were excluded from a Vote in the Choice of a Speaker.

The House immediately sent up Mr. Sherburne and Mr. Gideons, with the following verbal Answer :

If your Excellency means; in your Message by Mr. Secretary and Mr. Wibird, the Persons which told the House they came from Rumford, Haverhill District, Methuen and Dracut District, South Hampton and Chester, the Reason why they were excluded in the choice of a Speaker was because the House do not know any Law or Usage of this Province by which those Places are entitled to the Privilege of sending Members to represent them in this Court.

Mr. Secretary Atkinson came down with the following Message from his Excellency :

His Excellency sent me to acquaint the House that the Members were called in by the King's Writ, agreeable to former Practice; That his Excellency knows of no other way; That if the House knew of any other Precedent of their being called in any other way, his Excellency desired they would acquaint him, that the public business may not be hindered.

Upon which the following Message was immediately voted, and sent up by Mr. Sherburne and Mr. Wingett.

May it please your Excellency :—

The House in the short Time they had to search, find upon their Records, in the Year 1714, a Vote, entitleing the Town of Kingston to send a Member to sit in this Court. In the Year 1726, a Vote, that a Precept should go to the Town of New-Castle requiring them to choose a Representative for Rye. In the Year 1732, '3, a Petition from the Parish of Greenland, praying the Privilege of having a Representative, which was granted. By all which it appears to the House, that no Town or Parish (not before privileged) ought to have a Writ sent them to choose a Representative, without a Vote of this House, or Act of the General Assembly.

Voted, That Capt. Israel Gillman, Mr. Meshech Weare and Mr. Jonathan Lock be a Committee to go to Mr. James Jaffery, the late Clerk of the House of Representatives, and demand of him all the Books, Records and Files that belong to this House, and bring them directly to this House.

Mr. Secretary Atkinson came down and told the House that his Excellency had adjourned the General Court to Monday next twelve of the Clock; That his Excellency will furnish himself with Precedents, and desires the House will do the same.

Monday, Jan. 28th 1744.

Some of the Members being present, Richard Wibird, Esq., came to the House, and by Order of the Governor, adjourn'd the General Court to four of the Clock in the Afternoon.

Four o'Clock. Met according to adjournment; And Richard Wibird, Esq., came into the House, and said 'Twas his Excellency's Order that the General Court should be adjourned 'till To-Morrow half an Hour past Ten.

Tuesday, Jan. 29th, 1744.

Met according to Adjournment. Present, all but Mr. Stevens. And sent up Mr. Weare and Mr. Gideons to inform his Excellency that there was a House.

Mr. Wibird came down and told the House That his Excellency desired to know if there was any Law of the Province supporting the setting aside any Members, called in by the King's Write, from voting in the Choice of a Speaker.

The House immediately sent up the following Message by Clement March, Esq., and William Frost, Esq. :

May it please your Excellency:—

On your Excellency's desiring us to produce some Precedents of the Right's being in the House or General Court, to grant the Privilege to any Towns or Parishes of sending Representatives to sit in the General Assembly, we Informed your Excellency that we found in the Records of the House, that in the year 1714 a Vote was passed in the House, entitling the Town of Kingston to the Privilege of sending a Member to sit in this Court; In the Year 1726, a Vote that a Precept should go to the Town of New-Castle, to choose a Representative for Rye; In the Year 1732, a Petition from the Parish of Greenland, praying the Privilege of having a Representative, which was granted. Since which, on further Examination, we find, that in the Year 1725 a Vote was passed and concurr'd above, desiring his Honour the Governour to send a Precept to Londonderry, requiring them to send a Person duly qualified to represent them in this Court.

And for further Instances of the Power's being in the General Assembly, we would refer your Excellency to several Acts in the Secretary's Office, by which New-Market and Durham were entitled to the Privilege of sending Members to sit in the General Assembly; and also to the Acts by which Brentwood, Epping, &c.. were incorporated into Parishes, which plainly infer the Right to be in the General Court.

And therefore, that such as are called in from Places that are not privileged by the General Court, ought not to vote in this House in the Choice of a Speaker. But the House ought to exclude them as much as if they came from another Province.

Soon after this Mr. Wibird and Col. Downing came to the House and read the following Message from his Excellency, and carried the Paper they read it out of away again, viz.:

In the present Situation of Affairs in Respect to the War, his Excellency thinks it for His Majesty's immediate Service not to

enter further into the Dispute with the Members called by the King's Writ, and qualified as the King commands, touching the rejecting the Votes of several Members in the choice of a Speaker, which he esteems invading the Prerogative of the Crown, and therefore submits it till his Majesty's Pleasure shall be known thereon.

His Excellency therefore, that no further Delay in the Publick Affairs may happen, approves of the choice of Nathanael Rogers, Esq., for their Speaker, and Commands the Attendance of the House of Representatives in the Council Chamber.

The territory which was claimed by Haverhill and Amesbury, which was north of the province line, as run and settled in 1741, was called the "Haverhill district," and included Hampstead, Atkinson, Plaistow and Newton. That taken from Methuen and Dracut was called the "Methuen and Dracut district," and included Salem and Pelham. Rumford was old Pennacook, modern Concord and Bow.

The Governor laid the case before the King and received the following instructions :

BY THE LORDS JUSTICES.

Gower, P. S.
Bedford,
Montagu,
Pembroke.

Additional instruction to Benning Wentworth, Esq., his majesty's governor and commander in chief, in and over the province of New-Hampshire, in New England in America, or to the commander in chief of the said province for the time being.

[Seal]

Given at Whitehall, the 30th day of June, 1748, in the 22d year of his majesty's reign.

Whereas it hath been represented to his majesty, That you, having in his majesty's name, and by virtue of your commission, issued a writ to the sheriff of the province under your government, commanding him to make out precepts, directed to the selectmen of certain towns, parishes and districts therein mentioned, for the election of fit persons qualified in law to represent them in the general assembly, appointed to be held at Portsmouth, within the said province, on the 24th day of January, 1744-5; by which writ the towns of South Hampton and Chester, and the districts of Haverhill, and of Methuen and Dracut, and the district of Rumford, were empowered to choose repre-

sentatives as aforesaid; the said general assembly did refuse to admit the persons duly elected to represent the said towns and districts to sit and vote in the choice of speaker: And whereas the right of sending representatives to the said assembly was founded originally on the commissions and instructions given by the crown to the respective governors of the province of New-Hampshire, and his majesty may therefore lawfully extend the privilege of sending representatives to such new towns as his majesty shall judge worthy thereof:

It is therefore his majesty's will and pleasure, and you are hereby directed and required to dissolve the assembly of the province under your government as soon as conveniently may be, and when another is called, to issue his majesty's writ to the sheriff of the said province, commanding him to make out precepts directed to the selectmen of the towns of South-Hampton and Chester, the districts of Haverhill and of Methuen and Dracut, and the district of Rumford, requiring them to cause the freeholders of the said towns and districts to assemble to elect fit persons to represent the said towns and districts in general assembly, in manner following, viz.: One for the town of South-Hampton, one for the town of Chester, one for the district of Haverhill, one for the district of Methuen and Dracut, and one for the district of Rumford: AND it is his majesty's further will and pleasure, that you do support the rights of such representative, when chose; and that you do likewise signify his majesty's pleasure herein to the members of the said general assembly. [Douglass' Summary, Vol. 2, p. 35.]

1745. The town was this year divided into school districts. (See History of Schools and School-houses.)

"Voted, that the town's stock of ammunition shall be Kept and taken Care of by Messrs. Jonathan Blunt, John Robie and William Tolford as a Committe."

1746. At the annual town meeting March 27,

"Put to Vote whether to Petition for an assembly man; Past in the Negative."

"Put to Vote whether to set off a parish in that part of the town Called Harrytown; past in the negative."

The ungranted land between Chester and the river above Londonderry was called Harrytown.

Rev. Mr. Flagg receipts for £240 pounds, old tenor, in full for his salary.

1747. At the annual town meeting, March 26,

“Voted, that the whole of this meeting shall be Carried on by hand vote.”

The Congregationalists voted Mr. Flagg twenty-five pounds, old tenor, to purchase firewood, giving every person the privilege of paying his part in wood at twenty-five shillings a cord, if delivered in season. The Presbyterians voted one hundred and forty pounds to Mr. Wilson; “also To build a Session house 18 feet in length, 16 feet in width and 7 feet post,” and chose John Moor and John Aiken a committee “to see what way will be most proper to build it.”

“Voted y^t the people at the long meadows is not to have any sermon up ther till further orders.”

By an act passed in 1701 a penalty was inflicted for profane swearing, of sitting in the stocks not exceeding two hours, and for a second offence not exceeding three hours; for drunkenness to sit in the stocks three hours. Theft might in some cases be punished by whipping, not exceeding twenty stripes. The stocks and whipping were legal penalties, by an act passed in 1791, and in force in 1815. So the stocks and whipping-post were a part of the police of the town, and would naturally be erected near the meeting-house. In the selectmen's account for 1747 is, “Paid unto William Turner, for making the stocks, £3 00 0.” The guide-post at the Centre has, within my recollection, had staples and rings in it as a whipping-post.

1748. A leaf is lost from the town records, containing the warrant and a part of the proceedings of the annual meeting.

“Relating to the third artikell In the warning of Said meeting, Put to Vote whether to Set of [off] a Parish at the Southwest Corner of the town, agreeable to Petition, or not; past In the ” [not said how, but probably in the negative].

They voted not to petition for the privilege to send a representative.

“Voted, That Capt. John Tolford and Capt. Thomas Wells be Impowered to Prefer a Petition to the Governor and Council, In order to Stop and Save any men from being Sent out of town Into the Service ; and further, when their may be a Convenient opportunity Regularly to Proceed, to have a Suitable number of men Put and kept in the Service In our own town.”

There seems to have been more fear of the Indians this year than in any other. There were several garrisons kept in town. The house now occupied by Benjamin Hills still has the port-holes through the boarding. Lieut. Thomas Smith's, Maj. Tolford's, Abel Morse's and others, tradition says, were used for that purpose. Mr. John Butterfield said that they used to go from there (the Lane district) to town to garrison. The old Gault house in Hooksett was a garrison. There was a man killed by the Indians near Head's mill in Hooksett this year.

The three following petitions to the captains of Chester were from different parts of the town, and accompanied the petition of Messrs. Tolford and Wells to the General Assembly :

To the honorable Captins of Chester, Greeting :—

Whereas there is a Considerable number of families scattered in the wilderness in the out skirts of Chester, some lives four miles and a half, some three and a half ; We are so scattered that we think we are very unfit to live as we dund, nevertheless we would be willing to imatat something of the spirit of the people of zebulan an naptlem who joperded there lives on the high place of the field ; and whereaś we have a velue for our loss liberties, we Earnestly beg that your honours would look upon us in our Distress, and help with some suldiars, a certain number ; we are not willing to arm, yourselfs Knowing our surcumstances and how it is with us. believes you will help us this way now, then we with prudence could arm, and in so doing your poor fellows will ever pray. if no help

comes we must leve our houses and homs and go lik scattered sheep.

James Basford,
David McCluer,
Joshua Prescott,
Jabez French,

Jonas Clay,
John Clay,
David McClure,
Jacob Basford.

To the honorable Cpts. of Chester, greeting :—

Whereas we y^e subscribers live remote from the town, and for some years past have been obliged to leave our places for want of a sufficient number of men to Keep a garrison, which has been greatly to our damage, and we being desirous to live here if we can have three or four men to help surport a garrison. We remain yours to serve.

Thomas Carly,
Zachariah Butterfield,
Stephen Webster,
Alerson [Aaron] Butterfield,

Philip Grifen,
Allet Bery, [Berry]
Joshua Hall.

To the Captins of Chester :—

we the subscribers earnestly Request your aid and assistance in petitioning the General Court for some help, yourselfs knowing how we are Scattered and how far a Distance from the Meeting House, some 7, some 8, some 9 miles from it. Gentlemen, we are your humble servants,

William Allet,

Walter McFarlan,

William Gimel, [Gambel,]

William McClinto,

Nathneal Boyd,

Micheal McClinto.

To his Excellency Benning Wentworth, Esq., Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of New Hampshire; the Honorable his Majesty's Council and House of Representatives in General assembly convened, the Tenth day of May, 1748: .

The petition of John Tolford and Thomas Wells of Chester, in the Province of New Hampshire, in behalf of the inhabitants of s^d Chester, most humbly shews, that the s^d town of Chester exposed to the Indian Enemy, and finding of the Dwelling houses in s^d Town so exposed that unless there be more men to defend them than the Town itself can afford they will unavoidably be obliged to leave them and their lands also; that thereby the Enemy will

gain an advantage and the Frontier be bro't nearer the Center; That Sundry Persons who live in the out Skirts of said Town have prey'd for help, as by their respective Petitions hereunto annexed and herewith presented may more fully appear. Wherefore your Petitioners most humbly pray Your Excellency and Honors to allow such a number of men for the Defence and protection of s^d Town as in your great wisdom shall be tho't reasonable.

John Tolford,
Tho^s Wells.

In Council May 11, 1748, read and sent Down to the Hon^{ble} House.

The^o Atkinson, Secretary.

It does not appear that any soldiers were granted.

The Presbyterians "Voted, two hundred pounds old tenor of yearly Celery to y^e Revt. mr. John wilson as long as he Dispenses y^e Duty of a presbyterian minister amongst us." The money used was bills of credit issued by the province, and it depreciated in value, hence there is in both parishes a continual fixing of the minister's salary. June 29, they

"Voted, that y^e Long meadow people shall have their proportionable share of the Gospel according to their payment.

"Voted, y^t the preaching is to Be held at andrew Craggs howes. [Andrew Craig lived at what was the Presbyterian parsonage, where John Ray now lives.]

"Voted that their meeting howes is to be Buildd at y^e Crotch of the Road between andrew mcfarlands & peney Cooke Road on peney Cooke Road. [Where the Congregational house now stands; but it was built where the Rev. Mr. Holmes' house stands, the opposite side of the main road.]

"Ther was a vot tried if the parish would refund the money y^t the long meadow pepole laid out to Build this meeting howes, But y^t vote did not Cary.

"Lift. Thomas Craig, John Shirlla, wilam Gilcrist, Each of them Enters their protests against mr. wilsons preaching up at the long meadow, likewise against settling two hundred pounds Celery to the rever^t mr. John wilson; likewise adem dickey Enters his protest against mr. wilsons going up to the long meadow to preach ther."

The Presbyterians who then lived at the Long Meadow had helped build the Presbyterian meeting-house, and had thus far gone there to meeting; but now that they were to have preaching a part of the time, and were about to build a new meeting-house, they wanted their money refunded.

"The Little Meeting House," as it was called, was probably built by subscription, as there is no mention of building it on the records. The first that there is any intimation that there is one is in a warning for a meeting, February, 1754, at their "first meeting house."

1749. A town meeting was called, to be holden January 2d, "in obedience to a precept Directed to us by the Sheriff of Said Province, to elect and choose one man to represent this town in General Assembly." Capt. Abel Morse was chosen. The House had not ordered the writ issued, but the Governor, as before.

"Capt. John Tolford and Matthew Forsaith Desents against the Elegallness of this meeting." But Mr. Morse was promptly at his post, for in the House, January 4, a "Message from His Excellency to enquire whether all the members that were returned had taken the oath, particularly Abel Morse, of Chester."

The Governor disapproved of the choice of a Speaker, and the question arose whether Mr. Morse should vote.

Jan. 17th, the Governor directs that the members from the new towns have a vote. Mr. Morse had his seat. Chester had been taxed some five years, and not represented.

At the annual meeting, March 30,

"Voted, that the Selectmen, or major part of them, shall be a Committee to Sell off from all the ten Rod Highways at any time, near the old meeting house, as they shall think fit and Proper, without Infringing any nearer Said house than the fences now stand and are already made, nor to make Said Highway Less than five Rods wide; and so purchases a Burying place from mr. Jonathan Blunt for Said town, and to build a Pound."

There had been several attempts to exchange land with Mr. Blunt, but without success. But now they sell the land and purchase a burying-place. At the annual meeting, March, 1751,

“Voted, that messrs. Jonathan Blunt, John Robie, and Capt. Abel morss, Shall be a Committee to fence the Burying place with Bords as they Shall Judg Suitable and Hansom.”

Mr. Flagg acknowledges the receipt of three hundred fifty-five pounds, old tenor, in full of salary and wood.

John Mills, Archibald Dunlap and William Kilchrist, former collectors of the Presbyterian parish, were in arrears, and a committee was chosen to look them up, and “proceed according to law.”

“Voted, that the present wardens is to rais as much money as they see needful to defray law charges.”

John McMurphy lived in Londonderry, but was a proprietor in Chester, and a large landholder. He signed the Presbyterian petition in 1737, as being aggrieved in being taxed for the support of Mr. Flagg. The Presbyterians taxed him for the support of Mr. Wilson.

Mr. McMurphy complained to the Court of Sessions by petition, saying that he lived in Londonderry, and ought not to be taxed in Chester. Entered September term, 1746. An order of notice was served on the selectmen of Chester, who not being parties, the Presbyterian parish was notified. The case was heard, September, 1748, and a verdict given for the parish. The complainant appealed, and the judgment in the court below was reversed, and therefore Mr. McMurphy was released from taxation.

1750. In the warning for the annual town meeting, March 29, is an article, “To see if the town will appoint, Chuse and Impower a Committee to Sue, Receive and Recover of the Last year’s Selectmen the town Booke Called the Selectmen’s Booke; and also what money they have which belongs to said town of Chester: To prosecute them

to final Judgment and Execution." Put to vote, and passed in the negative. The book is lost.

The Congregationalists voted Mr. Flagg twenty cords of wood yearly during the whole of his ministry, or money equivalent.

1751. In the warning for the annual town meeting, March 28th, is an article, "To see if the town will vote that a Certain parcel of Land Laying at the south west corner of the town, Containing four miles and a half in length and about two miles and three Quarters in wedth, beginning at the South East corner of the 134th Lott in the fourth Division, and Running north four miles and a half to the north East corner of the 71st Lott in Said Division, then went north west to the head Line of the town,—may be adjoined to a part of Londonderry and the Lands about ammoskeag not Incorporated into a parrish, or otherwise as the town shall then think and Judge Best."

"Relating to the Second artikell in the warning,

"Voted, that the Land may be Set off as a parrish upon the following Conditions (viz.): That any Person that has any Land fall within Said Tract never pay any Taxes for the same until they make Settlement upon the Same; and that this Vote shall be of none Effect unless they obtain a Grant of the Governor and Council to be Incorporated into a Parrish, taking in Land not Incorporated into a township by amoskeeg and part of Londonderry, as is Set forth in a plan presented in meeting this day.

"Capt. John Tolford, Archibald Dunlap, William Crawford, Robert Wilson, Decents against the foregoing Vote, because it Cutts of part of the Parrish alredy set of by the General Court, and further Cutts them of from a Priveledge to their own land."

The territory was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly, September 3, 1751, into a township by the name of Derryfield. It will be seen that the following boundaries do not correspond with the vote of the town:

"Beginning at a Pitch Pine Tree Standing upon the w n line between Chester and Londonderry, marked (134), being the bound of one of the Sixty acre Lotts in said

Chester, being the South East corner of said Lott; Thence running South into the Township of Londonderry one hundred and sixty rods to a stake and stones; thence running West to Londonderry North & South Line; thence running upon Londonderry Line to the head line of Litchfield to a stake & stones; thence running upon the head line of Litchfield to the Bank of merrimack river; thence running up said river as the river runs Eight miles to a stake & stones Standing upon the Bank of the said river; thence running East South East one mile and three Quarters through Land not Granted to any Town untill it comes to Chester Line; thence running Two miles and a half and fifty Two Rods on the Same Course into the township of Chester to a Stake & Stones; thence running South four miles & a half to the bound first mentioned."

There is a tract between Chester line and the river, extending above this tract to Martin's Ferry, since annexed to Derryfield.

John McMurphy was to call the first meeting, which was done, and held at the house of John Hall, September 23, 1751. John Hall was one of the most active men in town; was paid £251, old tenor, for time and expenses in procuring the charter. He was the first town clerk, and his records are a literary curiosity, as may be seen by the return of some roads in this work. Also

"Voted, to Rase 24 pounds, old tenor, to be rased to paye fore Preeching for this present year."

The members of the Presbyterian parish lived from Walnut hill to Dea. William Leatch's and John Orr's at Massabesic pond, a distance of nine miles. They had voted in 1747 to have Mr. Wilson preach at the "Long Meadow," a part of the time; but there seems to have been some uneasiness, and an effort was made to move the meeting-house to a more central location. At the annual meeting March 12, 1751,

"Voted, Capt. John Tolford, Hugh Crome, Thomas Crag, William Leatch & James Quenton a Comite to Examin and try to find out a Convenient place to move the meeting house to."

At a meeting June 27th,

"Voted, y^e meeting howes is to be moved to a proper senter.

"Voted, no money to be Raised to move the meeting howes.

"Voted, the proprietors is not willing to give up their Rights of the meeting hows, Because those that has lately Come into the parish is not willing to give any more towards y^e moving of said meeting house than those that Build it.

"Voted, mr. Wilson is not to preach any more at y^e long meadow.

"Voted, No Comittee Chosen.

"Voted, The parish Except of the Comittee's report for the senter Between Capt. John Tolford & Wilam Leatch's for to set the meeting howes."

1752. It appears that the small pox was in town this year.

"It was voted to pay £5 5s. old tenor for taking care of Thomas Grear's family."

1753. The Congregational parish March 28, 1753,

"Voted, That the hind Seat upon Each Side of the Grate alley that goes from the South Dore to the Pulpit Shall be taken away, and that thair Shall be preveledges for Building four Pues, two upon Each Side of Said alley. Each Pue Shall be four feet and Eight Inches wide and as Long as halfe the Seat; the Platforme for Said Pues Shall be but eight Inches high from the meeting house flore.

"Voted, Capt. abel morss, John Robie, nathan webster, Shall be a Committee to Sell to the highest Bider Belonging to Said Parish the Preveledges that was voted for Bulding four Pues in the old meeting house, and that the vandugh Shall be on the fust wensday in april next, at three of the clock in the afternoon, at the old meting house."

November, 1753,

"Voted, That the money that the Last (pewes) was Sold for Shall be put to the parish youse to Defray charges this present year.

"Voted, That if any Number of young persons in this parish Sufichant to fill any Seat on the Back Side of the Seats in the Galleries Shall agree to Buld them into pews, they have the Liberty to do it."

An attempt is made this year to divide the Presbyterian parish. An article was inserted in the warning for the annual town meeting to see if the town would vote to set off a parish, including nearly the same territory as the present town of Auburn, which was voted. Seventeen Presbyterians protested against it because it would ruin the parish. It did not come to a head until 1771. The Presbyterians chose William Tolford, Andrew Jack and Samuel Aiken a committee "To see Dissatisfaction of some people in the Parish." The same committee was to "Build one pair of Stairs against the fall sacrament."

Their collectors were in arrears, and one of the articles in the warning was, "The Collectors from John Mills to this present time are to meet at Capt. John Tolford's the Eighteenth Day of September next, to make up their accounts with the Comity upon their Perile."

1754. A parish meeting was called Oct. 8th, to make an addition to Mr. Flagg's salary, but the parish refused to do it. The Presbyterians voted to add forty pounds old tenor to Mr. Wilson's salary.

1755. The Congregational parish at a special meeting voted to pay the collector eighteen pence old tenor for gathering the rates (on the pound.) The Presbyterians voted to raise twenty pounds to repair their meeting-house.

This year was noted for the most violent earthquake ever known in North America. It occurred Nov. 18th at about 4 o'clock A. M., and lasted four minutes and a half. In Boston about one hundred chimneys were leveled to the roofs of the houses, and about fifteen hundred were injured.

1756. Mr. Flagg's salary was raised to £640 old tenor, including wood. The Presbyterians voted to raise £200 to repair the meeting-house.

1757. Mr. Flagg's salary was £800, and £60 for wood. The Presbyterians voted to raise £100 old tenor to build a pulpit.

1758. In the warning for the annual town meeting was an article "To see if the town will pay the Damage of flowing the Land Round Massabesick pond, so called, by Capt. Alexander McMurphy's mill." "Past in the negative."

The Presbyterian parish "voted one hundred pounds old tenor Be Raised to Repair the long meadow meeting house."

The town was called upon for jurors, and Jonathan Blunt was chosen grand juror, and Jacob Chase petit juror, to the May term of the Superior Court. These were the first called for. Lieut. Thomas Heseltine and Mr. Zephaniah French were chosen petit jurors to the Inferior Court of Common Pleas at the September term. "Insin" Enoch Colby was chosen grand juror, and Capt. Thomas Wells, petit juror, at the November term of the Superior Court. The selectmen have a charge "to making a staff for Constable Bean £1 5," old tenor.

1759. There were articles in the warning for the annual town meeting, to see if the inhabitants should be required to return an inventory to the selectmen, and whether they would doom tradesmen and shop-keepers. Passed in the negative.

The Presbyterian parish voted Mr. Wilson six hundred pounds, old tenor, salary, and voted money to repair the meeting-houses.

1760. Mr. Flagg acknowledges the receipt of £1060 in full of salary and wood the year past, and the parish voted £1200 the year ensuing.

The Presbyterian parish voted to add £50, old tenor, to Mr. Wilson's salary, and to raise £300, old tenor, for finishing the two meeting-houses.

They "Voted to major John Tolford six foot in length, five and a half in width, of ground in their old meeting-house on the right hand of the south Door."

"Voted, The meeting house is to Be seated with long seats."

1761. Samuel Dudley, who lived in Raymond, was chosen surveyor of highways in 1760, and he built a bridge near Raymond Centre across the Lamprey river. The selectmen refused to pay him and he sued them.

In the warning for the annual meeting was an article to "To See if the Town will Chuse a Committee To Defend a Case or Cases Now Depending at Law Between Sam^l Dudley, Plaintiff, and this Town, Defendants, or to act and Do what may then be thought Proper and Needful."

The old selectmen, who were sued, were made agents and attorneys with power to prosecute the suit "to final judgment and execution." Dudley recovered.

There is also an article "To See if the Town will Vote that the North Parish Shall be Set off by the authority as set forth in a Petition to the Selectmen by messrs. Jethro Batchelder, Daniel Lane, Benjamin Smith and others." "Past in the negative."

1762. At the annual meeting March 25, 1762,

"Voted, That the following Tract of Land may be Incorporated into a Parrish, being about five miles and a Half in length, and about four miles in width. Bounding Northerly on Nottingham Line, Easterly on the old Hundred acre Lotts, so called, Southerly on the Long medow Parrish, so called, as that is voted alredy, and westerly on the forty acre Lotts."

The Long Meadow parish, as voted in 1753, was from Londonderry line to the northwest corner of the 43d lot, then west-northwest to Tower-Hill, and then to the corner of Derryfield.

(For the petition for Candia, see a sketch of the history in this work.)

1763. At a meeting Jan 26, 1763,

"Voted, That that part of the Town of Chester Called the North parrish, or Freetown, as much as was laid out in Parrish forme, Shall be set of as a Town or Parrish."

This includes the Old Hundreds or North Division.

March 31,

"Voted, That it be Left with the Selectmen to Inquire

into and See how much is justly Due the North Parrish, so Called, for their proportion of the school money Raised in this Town for three years past ; and if they have not had their share, they Deliver the same to them, Provided they Lay out the same for schooling among themselves ; and also all the other parts of the Town that have not had their proportion of the schooling, nor money as above mentioned, shall be Considered and have their proportion on the same Condition.

“ Voted, That a work house be Built or Provided by the Selectmen To Putt and keep those Persons in that Idle, Pooer, Disorderly and Lasey, and will not work ; and to provide a master to Take Care of all such Persons as shall be Committed to said house, that they may be Kept to work and be Proceeded with as the Law Directs.”

Probably this was never carried into execution.

1764. It was “voted that James Fullerton’s Rates be given him for the year past. The Congregational parish also abated their tax against him. He lived in Raymond. “It was on account of his house being burnt.”

John Robie, Nathan Webster and Andrew Jack were chosen a committee to settle about highways in Raymond and make return. They made return March 6, 1766.

“This day agreed upon by us the Subscribers, being Chosen by the Town of Chester and Parrish of Raymond as Committees to settle the Debates about the Highways and all things that was Debatebell from the Beginning of the world to this Day : viz., that Raymond is to have all the Reserves that is left in that Parrish for Highways to convert them to that use, and to Pay all Demands made and to be made for Highways in Said Parrish ; and Likewise that the Parrish of Raymond is to Have their proportion of money that was in Bank when they were Incorporated as a Parrish. as Witness our hands. The line between Chester and Raymond is Excepted.

“ John Cram,	} Committee for Chester and Raymond.”
Ezekel Lane,	
John Robie,	
Nathan Webster,	

“ Voted, That the Parrish of Candia shall have the Priviledge to Dispose of all the Common Land left for

highways within the said Parrish as they see Cause as fully as the Town authority to do, on Condition that the Said Parrish shall Pay all the Demands for the Highways already Laid out in Said Parrish, and Lay out and Support all for the future; and that the selectmen of Chester take Security of the selectmen of Candia for their Performing the above mentioned."

1765. "Voted, That the Parrish of Candia shall Have their proportion of the money that was in Bank when they were Incorporated by the Court act Into a Parrish."

There were votes passed by the Congregational parish respecting seating the meeting-house, and the singers sitting together, for which, see the Ecclesiastical History.

The Presbyterians voted to fence their graveyard.

1766. The town voted that the parish of Candia should have their proportion of the money that was in bank when incorporated.

Standard weights and measures were obtained this year at a cost of £6.

Mr. Flagg's salary, wood and all, was £60 lawful money.

Samuel and Daniel Martin's taxes abated. They lived at Martin's Ferry.

Appended to the warning for the Presbyterian parish meeting was, "The Parish is desired to Consider what they will do In Regard to some Person to take Care to sweap the meeting-house and shut the Doors for time to come." Mr. Wilson's salary was to continue to be £800, old tenor, or £40 lawful money. Mr. Wilson was to preach at the Long Meadows, as formerly.

"Voted, that william White, Junior, John Moors, James mills, Robert mills, Thomas White, James Graham, mark Karr, Hugh Shirlee, James Grims at the long meadow, John mac farland, moses mac farland, Daniel witherspoon, Alexander witherspoon, Joshua moors, Jonathan moors, David wilson, Joseph Dunlap, James Dunlap, Charles moors, Robert fursyth, John wilson, william Shirley, John frair, is to have Liberty to Build Saits or Pews In the Gallery Beginning at the north Corner, & from thence all along the west Eend next the wall, Clear a Cross to the south west Corner, from thence along the south side next