



Saml Blodget

HON. SAMUEL BLODGET

THE PIONEER OF PROGRESS
IN THE MERRIMACK VALLEY

By GEORGE WALDO BROWNE



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THE PIONEER OF PROGRESS IN NEW ENGLAND.

A SKETCH BY GEORGE WALDO BROWNE READ BEFORE THE MANCHESTER HISTORIC ASSOCIATION, JUNE 16, AND DEC. 15, 1897.

Samuel Blodget, or Bloggett, as the name was then spelled, was born in Woburn, Mass., April 1, 1724, at a time when the American colonies, in addition to the privations and hardships of founding their scattered homes in the wilderness of a new country, were entering on the last half of what might not inappropriately be styled a Hundred Years' War, covering the most eventful period in the history of New England from the supremacy of King Philip, in 1662, to the Conquest of Canada, which ended the French and Indians Wars and brought the Peace of Paris, in 1763.

The old house in which his parents lived was torn down years ago, and no sign is left to tell where it stood, though there are sufficient records to denote nearly the site, which was on what is now known as the "Dow Farm," situated on the north side of Railroad Street, easterly from the central point of the city and a little more than five minutes' walk from the Public Library building. The Blogget estate at that time consisted of between thirty and forty acres of fertile land.

If one's progenitors count for aught the subject of this biography was especially fortunate, for it is difficult to find stronger branches of ancestry than those forming the tree of

THE BLODGET GENEALOGY.

1. Thomas Blodgett, who is the first of the family of whom we have a clear record, was born in Western England, probably in County of Cornwall, in 1605, married Susan or Susanna ———, born in 1598, and came to America in the "Increase from London," 1635, with his wife and two sons, Daniel and Samuel. He was a glover by occupation and settled at Cambridge; died in 1642, leaving, besides the sons named, a daughter Susanna, born June 1637, and a son Thomas, b. 7th August, 1639.*
2. Samuel Blodgett, 2d son of Thomas, was born in England, in 1633, and was brought to this country by his parents when he was 18 months old. He married, Dec. 13, 1655, Ruth Iggle den, of Boston; died July 3, 1687, and his wife d. Oct. 14, 1703. Their children were (1) Ruth, born Dec. 28, 1656; (2) Samuel, b. Dec. 10, 1658; (3) Thomas, b. Feb. 26, 1661, who married Rebecca Tidd, Nov. 11, 1685; (4) Susanna, b. ——— ———, m. to James Simonds, Dec. 29, 1685; (5) Sarah, b. Feb. 17, 1668; (6, 7) Martha and Mary, twins, b. Sept. 15, 1673. Martha m., in 1696, Joseph Winn.
3. Samuel, Jun., b. Dec. 10, 1658, m. April 30, 1683, Huldah, daughter of William and Judith (Hayward-Phippen) Simonds, b. Nov. 20, 1660. (Huldah was a sister to the James who married two years later Susanna Blodgett.) Samuel, Jun., who became known as Ensign Blodgett and who represented Woburn in the General Court, in 1693, died Nov. 5, 1743, and his wife died March 14, 1745-6. Among their children was
4. Caleb, b. Nov. 11, 1691, m. (1st) Sarah Wyman (3), b. Jan. 17, 1690-1. She was a sister of Ensign Seth Wyman, who was in "Lovewell's Fight" and in command of the company after Captain Lovewell was killed. Their children were (1) Seth S., b. Feb. 20, 1718; (2) Caleb, b. Dec. 1, 1721;

* His widow married James Thompson, of Woburn, 15th February, 1643-4; and his daughter Susanna m. Jonathan, son of the above-mentioned James Thompson, sen. Jonathan died 20th October, 1691, and his wife 6th of February, 1697-8. (?) This couple had eight children, the 2d, Jonathan, Jun., b. 28th September, 1663, m. Frances Whittemore, by whom he had nine children, the 6th being Ebenezer, b. 30th March, 1701, m. 27th September, 1728, Hannah Converse. They had four children, the eldest being Benjamin, b. 27th November, 1729, who married Ruth Simonds of Woburn, whose son Benjamin, b. 26th March, 1753, became in after years widely known as Sir Benjamin Thompson and Count Rumford. The father of Sir Benjamin died 7th November, 1755, in his 26th year, while he (Sir Benjamin) died at his villa in Auteuil, near Paris, August 21, 1814, in his 62d year. James Thompson was a member of the first board of selectmen [of Woburn.

(3) Samuel, b. April 1, 1724; (4) Susanna, b. June 19, 1727. Caleb m. (2) Elizabeth Wyman,* 2d cousin of Sarah, by whom he had a daughter, Elizabeth, b. Oct. 27, 1744.

MEMORANDA OF THE WYMAN FAMILY.

1. Lieut. John Wyman was born in England, but was a subscriber at Charlestown to Town Orders for Woburn, Mass., Dec., 1640, and was taxed at Woburn, 1645, married Nov. 5, 1644, Sarah, daughter of Myles Nutt, dying May 9, 1684. Among their children was
2. Seth, born August 3, 1663, m. Dec. 17, 1685, Esther, daughter of Major William Johnson (3). He, who was known as Lieut. Seth Wyman, d. Oct. 26, 1715. Among their children was†
3. Sarah, born Jan. 17, 1690-1, who m. Caleb Bioggett (4) and was the mother of Samuel Blodget.

MEMORANDA OF THE JOHNSON FAMILY.

1. Captain Edward Johnson, born in England, 1599, married Susan, or Susanna ———, who was b. in England, in 1597. He died at Woburn, Mass., April 23, 1672, and she in 1690. Among their children was
2. Major William, born in England, 1629 or 1630; died at Woburn, May 22, 1704. He m. at Woburn, May 10, 1655, Esther, daughter of Thomas Wiswall, a ruling elder of the church at Newton, Mass. They had
3. Esther, born April 13, 1662; m. Dec. 17, 1685, Lieut. Seth Wyman (2) she being Samuel Blodget's grandmother. She died March 3, 1742.

Note. Authorities consulted for these genealogies: Sewall's History of Woburn; Wyman's Charlestown Genealogies and Estates; Woburn Records.

The heroic part, performed by the Wymans in the early history of the colonies is too well known to need mention here, while the Johnsons were not less distinguished for their bravery and mental capacity. It was to one of them, Edward Johnson, belonged the authorship of that notable narrative, "Wonder-Working Providence of Zion's Savior in New England," which

* Daughter of Thomas Wyman (2) and granddaughter of Francis Wyman (1) who was a brother of Lieut. John.

† Ensign Seth Wyman, as he became known, was a son of this couple, b. Sept. 13, 1688; died in September, 1725, from effects of blood poison. (See Kidder's History of Lovewell's Fight.)

has been so frequently quoted by the writers of colonial days. He was a representative from Woburn for twenty-seven years, and a Speaker of the House in 1655. Nor were the Bloggetts behind these families as earnest and efficient defenders of the settlements against the depredations of the prowling beasts and savage denizens of the wildwood, or as upright, far-seeing citizens in those brief intervals of peace, which came so rarely like rays of sunlight struggling through the clouds on a rainy season, helping to lay the foundation and rear the pillars of that self-government which was to be the strength of a nation in after years.

Ensign Samuel Blogget was a man of prominence in the affairs of his time, having served one year in the General Court, as has been mentioned. One of his sons, William, an uncle to the subject of our sketch, was a soldier under Major William Tyng in his expedition to Canada during the summer of 1709.* Caleb Blogget, the father of Samuel, was a Captain of the Militia and a man of importance in town, which is shown by his appointment as one of the three trustees chosen by Woburn to receive and portion out its share of the \$60,000 loan raised by the State to remedy the scarcity of money then prevailing. Captain Caleb Blogget was active in securing grants allowed by the Massachusetts court in New Hampshire and he was among

* Mass. Archives, Military, 1704-1711. Vol. 71, page 635.

Received Sept: 25, 1709, Twenty Shillings of Mr. Samuel Blogget of Woburne on account of his son William Blogget who lay sick in the Queens Service at the house of Mr. Bond in Watertown under the command of Major Tyng. I say received by mee.

PHILIP SHATTUCK,
Physician.

Mass. Archives, Vol. 71, page 735.

To his Exelency The Governour, Her Majesties Council and Representatives in General Court assembled.

The petition of Samuel Blogget of Woobourn Humbly Sheweth that your petitioners son of William Blogget was taken Sick at wattertown while he was in Her Majesties Service under command of Majr: William Tyng in the Expedition for Canada ye last sumer, Viz 1709 and after he had lain Sick sum time there, Majr Tyng was pleased to order me to take my son whome to my house: and thinking he might be better lookt after there than where he was; so J took him whome And found nursing and watchers for him for the space of three weeks and J paid Doctor Philip Shattuck twenty shillings for Physick for my said son while he was Sick at water Town; for which J have had no Consideration, as yet, which is the Occasion of my moving at this time for such allowance as may be thought proper for me in the Matter the which being Granted will ingage me as J am in duty bound to pray &c.:

Your humble petitioner and servant SAMUEL BLODGET.

June ye 7th 1710

This May Certify whome it may Concern that William Blogget a souldjer De-

the grantees of the township of Washington, which, however, failed to prove very profitable to the early proprietors. He was also concerned in the claims of a grant of land in the Merrimack valley partly covered by Tyng Township, and he was afterwards prominent in the affairs of this unfortunate grant.*

Coming of such stock and reared amid the rugged scenes of those trying times, it is little wonder that Samuel Blodget gave early promise of those sturdy qualities which were to make him an important factor in the development of the natural resources not only of his native town but of that belt of productive country from whence the busy Merrimack receives its vast power, and which it has returned to its employers with wonderful increase, largely due to his inventive genius and untiring energy. August 23, of the year of his birth, that memorable assault was made by the colonists of northern New England under the leadership of Captains Moulton and Harman, of York, Me., upon the Jesuit stronghold at Norridgewock, when Père Rasle, the priest, and 80 of his Indian followers were killed and the mission destroyed. Though the Indians continued their predatory incursions against the settlers, often with fatal results, for another year, this overthrow of the Jesuits, followed by Lovell's expedition against the Indians and rout of the Pickwackets, culminated in the treaty of peace signed by the Abnaki chiefs at Boston on December 15, 1725,† thus giving to the overtried colonists the longest interval of comparative rest from contest that they knew during that century of conflict.

It was during this period of cessation from hostilities that

.....
 tained in Her Majesties Service, under my Command in ye year 1709 being Sick at Watertown, was by my orders Comitted to his father Samuel Blodget of Woburn; who Carried hime whom to his house, and provided a nurse and watcherst for him for the space of three weeks.

June ye 2th 1710

Wm TYNG.

[Endorsed.]

In the House of Representatives June 28: 1710. Read and Comitted & In answer to the within Petition.

Resolved That the sum of fifty Shillings be Allowed and Paid out of the public Treasury to Samuel Blodget the Petitioner Sent up for concurrence

In Council
 June ult. 1710.

JOHN CLARK Speaker.

Read and concur'd

JAS ADDINGTON Secry.

* State Papers, Vol. XXIV, page 158; Proprietors' Records of Tyng Township.

† Mass. Archives.

young Blodget passed his boyhood days. For the first time the inhabitants of Woburn had been able to give thoughtful attention to the matter of schools, and he received the rudiments of his education while the moving school system of the town was in its most popular stage, if a method intended to satisfy all and meeting the full expectations of none could be called "popular" at any period of its existence. But it was the best that could be done under the times and circumstances, and by its arrangements the town was enabled to have an average schooling of about two months in each of its half dozen districts. Samuel, when in his teens, was thus brought under the instruction of those well-known and popular Masters of the Three Rs (to say nothing of the fourth, the Rod), James Fowle and Ebenezer Flegg.* The latter was afterwards the noted pioneer minister of Chester, N. H. There can be no doubt of his aptness as a scholar, or that he improved every opportunity to acquire an education, thus obtaining more than an average knowledge of mathematics and philosophy, with a proficiency in penmanship that few could equal. Naturally of a studious, speculative bent of mind his application to study did not cease with the passing of his school days but continued through life, his text-book the great volume of observation and his master that stern disciplinarian—experience.

If the treaty of the Abnakis remained inviolate by them—and who knows of a covenant that they broke—the trouble between the English and the French began to foment, breaking out afresh in 1744, in what became known as "King George's War," during which the New England colonists, on June 17, 1745, won that remarkable military surprise the capture of Louisburg, that French stronghold on the island of Cape Breton styled respectively by friends and enemies as the Dunkirk and Gibraltar of America.

In this active campaign the name of Samuel Blodget appears for the first time in public papers, though until the rolls of the

* With the Chester records the spelling of this name, which had been Flegg until then, became Flegg, and has so continued since. He was settled in Chester as minister, June 13, 1736.

gallant men who conceived and carried out the audacious undertaking have been found and consulted, the capacity in which our hero served must remain in conjecture.* It seems to be the impression of those who have written of him that, judging by his subsequent career, he was connected with the commissary department.† As he was never what could be strictly termed "a fighting man," this deduction seems very plausible. Still it should not be forgotten that he was barely past his twenty-first birthday, with the "fire of youth" in his veins, and that he was not lacking in those qualities which would incite him to more active duties and the storm of battle, that taking into consideration the fact that thirty years later he stood musket in hand with the bravest of the brave on the sanguinary field of Bunker Hill,‡ is it not more than probable that by the side of his friends he scaled the ramparts of Louisburg?

Upon his return from the Louisburg campaign, having then reached his majority, he naturally looked for some means by which to earn his livelihood. He was not needed at home, and seeking the excitement of new fields, he went to Haverhill, Mass., where he engaged in traffic on the Merrimack between that city and Newburyport.

Samuel Blodget's business must have proved quite profitable, for at the last sale of land lying between what is now Water Street and the river, in 1751, he bought a lot for a wharf. The same year he also bought a farm in what was then Goffstown, but which later became a part of Manchester, N. H. This farm, which contained 317 acres, was situated on the south bank of Black Brook and about two miles west of Amoskeag village, between the Dunbarton and Goffstown roads. The

* Several Woburn men, among them Jonas Wyman, a relative, who died during the siege of Cape Breton, were in the company of Captain _____ Stevens of Andover, 2d (?) Mass. Reg. commanded by Col. Samuel Waldo, and it seems very probable that Samuel Blodget was with them. This, unfortunately, is one of the companies whose records cannot be found. See Hon. Chas. Hudson's list of soldiers published in the N. E. His-Gen. Reg. XXIV, 357-380; XXV, 249-269. From Mr. Hudson's list I find that Samuel's brother Caleb belonged to the 9th Mass. Reg., Col. Joseph Dwight commander, 9th company, Gershom Davis, Captain. A Nathan Blodgett belonged to the 8th company of this regiment, Captain Peter Hunt.

† An idea originating with Judge Potter and adopted by others.

‡ Chase's History of Haverhill, Mass.

house was one of the first built in town, and was a large, old-styled farmhouse standing under a row of stately elms in later years. This historic residence eventually became a prey to fire, and the second dwelling raised over its cellars was also burned, July 6, 1885. The site of these houses are still plainly seen, though the old elms are gone. Just what attracted him to this place is not known, but no doubt his speculative mind had anticipated the profit likely to accrue from dealing in the pine lumber which grew so bountifully in this vicinity. There was no mill in Goffstown at that time and we soon find him planning to have one constructed.

December 29, 1748, he married Miss Hannah White, daughter of Nicholas White of Plaistow, N. H., but then situated in the Haverhill District. Mr. White had served in the Louisburg expedition, and was a man of considerable prominence at the time. His brothers-in-law, Obadiah and John Ayers were among the proprietors of early Concord, N. H.

THE WHITE GENEALOGY.

1. William White, b. in England in 1610, came to Ipswich, Mass., in 1635, moved to Newbury the same year. In 1640 removed to Haverhill, being one of the first settlers of that town, and was one of the grantees of the Indian deed of Haverhill, dated November 15, 1642, said instrument it was said was both written and witnessed by him. He married Mary ———, who died February 22, 1681. He died September 28, 1690.
2. John, only child of William and Mary White, was b. 1640; m. in Salem November 25, 1662, Hannah French. He died January 1, 1669. She m. (2) Thomas Philbrick of Hampton, N. H.
3. John, Jr., only child of John and Hannah (French) White, was b. March 8, 1664; m. October 24, 1687, Lydia, dau. of Hon. John and Elizabeth (Treworthy) Gilman of Exeter, N. H., and a granddaughter of Edward Gilman, who came from Norfolk, England, 1638, with five children, to settle first in Hingham, Mass., second in Ipswich, and then, 1650, in Exeter. Captain John White owned and commanded a garrison house in Haverhill, Mass. He died Nov. 20, 1727.
4. Nicholas, the sixth of the 14 children of John, was b. in

Haverhill, Mass., Dec. 4, 1698; m. (1) Hannah, dau. of Samuel Ayers, who was killed by Indians in 1708. She d. January 25, 1732. He m. (2) Mary Calfe of Ipswich, and d. April 7, 1782.

5. Hannah, 2d child of Nicholas and Hannah White, was b. in what is now Plaistow, N. H., September 8, 1726, m. Samuel Blodget December 29, 1748.

With their second child a baby of a few months of age, he and Mrs. Blodget moved to their new home in a comparative wilderness soon after its purchase, though he did not abandon his interests in Haverhill. This was about four months before the granting of the Derryfield charter, though his farm did not come within the territory of the new township.

It soon proved that he had chosed an unpropitious time to begin farming, if he had any serious intentions of making that his occupation, for he had barely got his family settled here before the period of peace the pioneers had been enjoying ended, and what became known as the French and Indian War began.

Always among the first to offer his services he joined the New Hampshire regiment of five hundred men under Colonel Joseph Blanchard of Dunstable, and upon the organization of the expedition against Crown Point in 1755 he became sutler. In passing it is worthy of note that this regiment consisting of three companies commanded by Captains John Goffe and John Moore of Derryfield, and Robert Rogers of Starktown (now Dunbarton) was raised in this vicinity. The last named company, in which John Stark was a lieutenant, was chiefly employed in ranging and reconnoitring and soon became known as "The Rangers," being the original of what evolved into that redoubtable battalion of Indian fighters widely known as "Rogers' Rangers," and without which a different fate must have awaited the New England colonists.

While this expedition through a series of singular circumstances failed to accomplish the object of the campaign, the gallant defense against the attacks of the French and Indians under Earon Dieskau on the shore of Lake George and the

complete rout of the allied foes, raised the sinking hopes of the colonists and revived the courage of the English at home.

In the autumn Colonel Johnson, after having erected what was called Fort William Henry, disbanded his forces, with the exception of 600 men retained to guard the works, Rogers and his Rangers being among them.

The battle between the English and the French took place September 8, and it would seem that Samuel Blodget must have come home soon after, for we then find him engaged in trade in Boston, as well as the projector of a little enterprise connected with the recent engagement at Lake George. In the issue of *The Boston Gazette, or Country Journal* of December 22, 1755, we find the following advertisement :

THIS DAY PUBLISH'D,

And sold by SAMUEL BLODGET, at the South End of *Boston*, near the Sign of the Lamb, and opposite to Capt. *Smith's*. A prospective plan of 2 of the Engagements the *English* has with the *French* at *Lake George*, on the 8th of *September*, 1755 ; exhibiting to the Eye a very lively as well as just Representation of them; together with a Part of the Lake, the Camp, the Situation of each Regiment, with the Disadvantages attending them: The Appearance of the *Canadians*, *Indians* and *Regulars*, as they made their Approach to the Brest-works ; the Form of the Land and the Enemy ; together with the Advantage they had in their Ambuscade against Col. *Williams*. As also a PLAN of *Hudson's River* from *New York* to *Albany*; with such Marks as will be of great Service to *Navigation*: Likewise the River and Waggon Road from *Albany* to *Lake George* ; together with a plan and Situation of each of the Forts that have been lately built. All which is carefully and neatly struck off from a large Copper Plate.

N. B. There will be sold with each Plan a printed Pamphlet with Explanatory Notes, containing a full, tho' short History of that important Affair from the Beginning to the End of it.

 The above Map, together with the Pamphlets, may be had of the Printers thereof.

The pamphlet referred to was a quarto of six pages, entitled "A Prospective Plan of the Battle near *Lake George*, on the Eighth Day of *September*, 1755. With an Explanation thereof ;

Containing a full, tho' short History of that important Affair. By *Samuel Blodget*, Occasionally at the Camp, when the Battle was fought. Boston; New England. Printed by *Richard Draper*, for the Author. MDCCLV.**

An edition of this pamphlet was brought out in London by T. Jefferys in 1756. But it must soon have become scarce here, for in Thomas' "History of Printing" (second volume, second edition) it is stated that "Blodget's plan is rarely met with."

A second expedition being planned for the capture of Crown Point in 1757, Mr. Blodget again enlisted and was attached to the New Hampshire regiment under Colonel Goffe, who, after making his memorable march through the wilderness by the way of old Number Four (now Charlestown, N. H.) to join General Webb at Albany, N. Y., was stationed at Fort William Henry under the command of Colonel Munro of the British regulars and the Provincial troops. The important duty of sutler of the garrison was assigned to him immediately upon his arrival, and he held the position until the unfortunate closing of the defense of the garrison.

The importance of possessing this post, which was the key to the battlegrounds of that part of America, had already awakened the Marquis de Montcalm, commander of the allied forces of the enemy, to active plans in that direction. The winter before an unsuccessful attack had been made, its failure being due to the alertness and effective action of Rogers and his Rangers. But Lord Loudon had so far withdrawn his troops from the proper defense of the colonists that the auspicious time for the French commander to act seemed to have come. Quick to improve an advantage he proceeded up the lake toward Colonel Munro's little garrison. With the customary pusillanimity or cowardice of the British commanders in America at that time, General Webb, who then commanded the army in the region of Lake George, actually retreated to Fort Edward, leaving the objective point of the French and their allies,

* A copy of this rare pamphlet is now in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, which also has another pamphlet with a *fac simile* of the plan and explanatory remarks by Samuel A. Green, M. D., to whom I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness for these facts.

both numbering fully eight thousand men, defended by less than one-fourth of the number of the enemy.

Still, with full confidence that Webb, who was less than fifteen miles away with 6000 men, would come to his assistance in ample time to save him, Col. Munro prepared as best he could for his defense. Montcalm came, and for six days the brave Scotchman in command of Fort William Henry made a resistance as only he could have done supported by such men as came recruited from the clans of the Frazers, McKenzies, the Campbells and Grants, with the heroic Rangers of the Merrimack under the lead of Rogers. Disheartened but not daunted by the prolonged failure of Webb to appear, the inevitable was submitted to with as good grace as possible, until the last grain of powder had been burned, cannon bursted and the fortress no longer tenable. Montcalm, with that gracious manner so natural to him, promised the broken spirited Munro that he should be allowed to depart in peace with his men, on the condition they should not take up arms for 18 months. Nothing else could be done, and the battle-worn veterans marched out of the garrison, stocked their guns, and in an orderly manner started toward Fort Edward to seek refuge with their unfaithful commander.

So far Montcalm had acted the part of a magnanimous commander, but even he had not counted on the result. He had gained the consent of his red allies to accompany him by promise of shares in the plunder. Then, the moment they saw they had been robbed of their reward, they began to manifest an uneasiness. One more greedy than prudent rushed forward to snatch a shawl from one of the women, and then another sought to get possession of a soldier's cap. Resistance was made, when in the midst of the struggle a painted chief leaped upon a stump in the centre of the clearing and gave the wild warwhoop of the Huron! Its echo had not died away on the distant hillsides before the unarmed troops were attacked right and left. In vain Col. Munro called and implored for protection from his French conquerors. If Montcalm had acted a noble part in the terms of capitulation, he showed the opposite

now. Perhaps he knew better than the others his helplessness to succor the hapless men and women, who were slaughtered like dumb creatures on every hand.

It so happened that the New Hampshire men were in the rear and thus received the brunt of the massacre, dying like the brave men they were. Of the two hundred eighty fell victims to this inhuman treatment. The stories of the escapes of those who were fortunate enough to save their lives equalled in startling interest the inventions of the boldest romancer.

Among the unfortunates was Samuel Blodget, and like his companions having no means of defense he improved an opportunity to break through the yelling horde and reach the shore of Lake George, when he concealed himself under a batteau, until he deemed it safe to leave his place of concealment. Silence had settled upon the awful scene, where the dead lay strewn like driftwood on the banks of some overflowing torrent, but it proved the cunning red men still lingered about the desolate grounds. It may have been in the hope of finding some of the fugitives, for the moment he showed himself he was pounced upon by several Indians and quickly overpowered.

In their eagerness for plunder the savages swiftly tore the clothes from his person, intending then to put him to the torture. But the captors had counted "without their host." The captive slipped from their clutches, and running swiftly to the edge of the lake sprang into the water before they could recover so as to give effectual pursuit. After swimming a long distance, and then making a painful journey through the forest, he finally reached Fort Edward on the third day.

One of Mr. Blodget's biographers,* who has been largely quoted by all others in speaking of him, was inclined to the belief that soon after his escape from "the Massacre at Fort William Henry" he established himself in business at Boston. He was there for a short time, but returned to the army the following spring, and he remained at Fort Edward for nearly a year, as witness the following order, the original of which is in Wo-

* Judge Potter.

burn, Mass., Public Library, contributed to it by Dr. Samuel A. Green, Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical society:

"Camp at Lake George,
" October ye 4th 1758

"Sir :

Pleas to Deliver to Ephraim Severns a soldier In my Company In Col. Nichols Regiment, to ye Value of four Shillings, Lawful money out of your Stores, which I Promise to Stop out of his Pay on the Rools for you, for which this Shall Be your Voucher.

"EPHRAIM WESSON, Capt.

"To Mr. Samuel Blodget, Qr. Master.

"195 (Endorsed)

" EPHRAIM SEVERNS."

This shows that he held the commission of Quartermaster at the time, while the following statement from the Diary of Lieut. Samuel Thompson and Woburn Men in the French and Indian Wars shows the esteem with which he was looked upon by his fellow men :

"I Isaac Merriam at Fort Edward fell in sick Some Time in July & had a permitt to Com Down to albany In Company with a Number of other sick and at my arrival Did Apply to Comasary of the Kings Hospital for my Self & others was Refused. But Mr. Blodget arrived at Albany we all apply to him who Supplied us with Nessariys we wanted to our Great joy & Satisfac'n and did continue so to do Till I Left albany the 20th of October and of the Opinion that Great numbers would have suffered had it not ben for Mr. Blodget Supply, their being for Sum Time Neither Doc or Officer to Do anything for us & the Sick Sent almost every week and in Great Numbers——& for Near a Month Before I came away had Recovered so far as to becom helpful for Coming Necesssry to the poor helpless Creatures and always found m Blodget Ready & willing to Supply me with sutch things as I went for.

" ISAAC MERRIAM.

"Suffolk SS. Boston March 14 1760.

"The above Named Isaac Marion Personaly appeared and made Solemn oath that the above declaration by him Subscribed is Just and True.

" Coram John Phillips

"Just. Pacis."

It is shown by the above papers that he was on the frontier as late as October, 1758, but it is probable that soon after he

returned to his home, where he remained that winter. But the following spring he appears in Boston, engaged in the ready made clothing business, as shown by a receipt signed by Messrs. Chase and Russell, in May, 1759.* December 10, 1759, from an advertisement in the Gazette we learn that he was a trader on Marlborough Street, where he sold English goods, sugars, hats, etc., and also where "Officers and soldiers who have lately been discharged, may be supplied at the lowest Price, till their Muster-Rolls are made up," proving that he had relations still with the army.

Having seen enough of military life to satisfy him for a time, at least, he now gave his undivided attention to business, entering at once upon that career of success which won for him a wide-spread acquaintance and confidence of people. Not satisfied with doing one thing at a time, with that versatile capacity of his which seemed almost unbounded in its scope, he started into other branches of business, starting in September of the same year that he went to Boston one of the first "pot and pearl ash works" in the country at Haverhill, Mass., on the bank of Mill Brook. Taking in as a partner Mr. John Greene, of Haverhill, and finding the works extremely lucrative, he extended the business to Goffstown, New Boston and Hampstead, N. H. Haverhill was becoming a trading centre and foreseeing the profit likely to come from furnishing supplies to his workmen, as well as to the public at large, in 1765 he established a general store at Haverhill, and placed it in charge of Mr. Nathaniel Walker, Jr. This store was continued for seven years, or until 1772. Already he had begun in the lumber traffic and finding that profitable, January 10, 1765, he built a saw mill at Black Brook so as to manufacture his lumber himself. Buying a little later in the year large tracts of timber land in Goffstown and Hooksett, he soon after opened a general store in the former town. Still retaining his clothing business in Boston he may be said to have been at the height of his success as a business man.

At this time we find that he had interests and influence in

* Potter.

still another direction, for in 1764 his name, with those of his sons, then all minors, Samuel, Jr., Nathan, Caleb, and William, were among the grantees of Franconia.

In addition to the branches of business already mentioned he entered quite successfully into the fur trade, making large and frequent shipments to London of furs, pot and pearl ashes, Sir William Baker, Lord John Havergal and others of equal note being among his customers. His merchandise was exchanged for these commodities and thus he realized a double profit on all he handled. His lumber found a ready market in Haverhill and Newburyport, whence he moved it by river transit, running it over the falls at high water, or drawing it past those places by team. At this time, bearing the extra cost of this way of transport, he doubtless foresaw the great benefit likely to come from a system of canals on the Merrimack, though there is nothing to show that he contemplated then that which was to prove the master work of his long and energetic life.*

Speaking of him at this period Judge Potter said: "He became widely known throughout the country as a merchant of energy and great probity,—and by means of such extensive acquaintance was able afterwards to accomplish undertakings beyond the means of ordinary men. The people of Boston placed great confidence in him, and he was on terms of intimacy with some of the most distinguished citizens."

The truth of this wholesome flattery was borne out by the fact that he was chosen chairman of two committees of importance at a meeting of its voters of Boston, in Fanueil hall, March 14, 1768.

In 1769, after ten years of business in Boston, with the exception of about ten months in 1764 when he was in Medford, he sold out there and moved his family back to Goffstown, where he continued to carry on his other enterprises with renewed vigor. It is easy to imagine that he at once obtained a high place in society, and from his genial, courteous, enthusias-

* Mr. Everett, in his sketch of Samuel Blodget, says: "The idea once grasped by him became the ruling passion of his later years. But the breaking out of the Revolution prevented the consummation of his scheme at that time, though it was simply postponed, not abandoned."

tic manner became very popular. He was among the richest, if not the richest man, in this vicinity, and with interests so broad and widely scattered, for those times, took his natural position as a leading citizen.

In 1770 the governor appointed him Collector of the Excise of the Province of New Hampshire, and notwithstanding the general disfavor from the people that these officers met elsewhere, he retained the confidence and friendship of the public through two terms of the arduous duties of the position. Some thing of the straightforwardness of his character, as well as his method of procedure, is illustrated by the following petition, the original of which is still among the state papers :

Province of New Hampshire.

To his Excellency, John Wentworth, Esquire, Captain General and Commander in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of New Hampshire, and to the Honourable, his Majesty's Council for said Province :—

Humbly shews Samuel Blodget collector of the Excise of the said Province of New Hampshire for the present year. That during the last year he was collector of the Excise and that sundry persons who had sold spirituous liquors, drew out their Accounts in a very loose uncertain manner and made application to Richard Jenniss, Esquire, who administered oathes to them in such a loose way that the oath only included what they had sold during eleven months of the time without mentioning what had been sold by other persons by and under Them, and afterwards deducted Twenty per cent. out of what they had sold which makes near Eighty per cent. allowance for wastage, &c. instead of the twent per cent. allowed by law ; and one of these persons so sworn before said Jenniss and paid the Excise accordingly : by means of all which, Your Petitioner Humbly apprehends if the said Jenniss is suffered to continue swearing Those Sellers of Spirituous Liquors that his Majesty's revenue will be greatly Diminished and the Excise of the Government Rendered of very little value, wherefore your Petitioner most Humbly prays that your Excellency and Honors would take the matter under your wise consideration and Recommend to said Jenniss not to administer the oath to any person respecting their Excise for the present year, or to make such other order or determination thereon as to your Excellency and Honors in

This James Fowle will be remembered as one of his school-masters, and shows that he had kept in touch with him through all of those years. It also gives us a glimpse of the kindness and solicitation of his nature. We come now to one of the most trying situations of his life.

Benning Wentworth was succeeded as Governor of the Province of New Hampshire by his nephew under an appointment of August 11, 1766, and in addition to his commission of the office of his predecessor he was made Surveyor of the woods in North America, with the object of putting into execution the acts of parliament for the preservation of "the king's woods from trespass & waste and for the additional raising of revenue." This proved one of the most unpopular acts of the old country and tended to stir up contention wherever it was attempted to be carried out. Governor Wentworth chose his deputies wherever pines abounded, and these officers were the source of trouble and bitter feeling on every hand. Under the provisions of this act the owner of land growing pines must have one of the deputy surveyors survey his trees and mark all reserved for the king before he could fell one! The royal totem was a broad arrow carved in the bark of the tree or blazoned on the log if found cut down. Inability to meet the expense of this marking was no excuse, and whoever was found guilty of this offense had his logs confiscated immediately. Be they still in logs at the mill, hewn timber for house or barn, the deputy placed the king's mark upon them, when no one dared to touch them! The property was advertised and sold at public auction, the proceeds going into the royal treasury. All white pines ranging from fifteen to thirty-six inches in diameter were included in this reserve for the English navy.

Seizures were of common occurrence wherever pines abounded and mills had been built. In the winter of 1771-2 intense excitement was caused in this vicinity by an extensive visitation from the governor's deputies, nearly all of the mill yards on the Piscataquog being found with logs coming within the sizes of the king's reservation. The broad arrow was blazoned on every

one claimed by royal authority and the natural owner notified to appear in court and show if he could why he should not forfeit them. The citation at this time was published in the New Hampshire Gazette of Feb. 7, 1772, and read as follows :

All persons claiming property in the following WHITE PINE LOGS, seized by order of the SURVEYOR GENERAL in Goffstown and Weare, in the Province of New Hampshire, may appear at Court of Vice Admiralty to be held at Portsmouth, on Thursday the 27th instant at Ten of the clock a. m and shew cause why the same should not be declared forfeited, agreeable to all information filed in said Court.

200 White Pine Logs from 15 to 30 inches diameter lying at Richard's mill in Goffstown.

250 Ditto from 15 to 35 inches diameter at Patty's mill.

35 Ditto from 36 to 20 ditto at Dow's mill.

140 Ditto from 30 to 18 ditto at Asa Patty's old mill.

270 Ditto from 36 to 17 ditto at Clement's mill in Weare.

154 Ditto from 36 to 15 at Job Rowell's mill.

Also 74 bundles of Clapboards at Merrimack River. Portsmouth, Feb. 5, 1772.

JOHN SHERBURN, D. Rr.

Finding themselves in this unpleasant situation, and knowing that their chances would be improved by having some influential person confer with the governor's officers, Samuel Blodget was unanimously selected for the purpose. Accordingly he went to Portsmouth and succeeded in effecting a compromise, whereby the offenders were to pay a moderate compensation for the transgression of the law, when information against them was to be withdrawn. Judge Blodget was appointed the agent by the governor to settle with the offenders. At the same time he was appointed Deputy Surveyor for 34 towns in the Merrimack Valley. The following is a transcript of his commission :

To Samuel Blodget of Goffstown, in said province

(L. S.) Esq.

Whereas, His Majesty, by his Royal Commission, dated the 16th day of July, 1766, hath been graciously pleased to appoint me Surveyor General of all His Majesty's woods, in North America, with power to appoint deputies and under officers, to carry the said service effectually in execution ;

I do, therefore, by virtue of authority vested in me by said

commission, appoint and depute you, to preserve the King's woods from trespass or waste, and to put in execution all the acts of Parliament, and Statutes enacted for that purpose, and to do and perform all acts and things whatsoever, to the said office appertaining, in the following Districts, viz: — Goffstown, Bedford, Weare, Pembroke, Allenstown, Bow, Dunbartown, Merrimack, Amherst, Litchfield, Chester, Concord, Boscawen, Hopkinton, New Boston, Sanbornton, New Salisbury, Canterbury, Methuen, Wilton, Peterborough, Temple, Plymouth, New Chester, Alexandria, New Britian, Meredith, Lyndborough, Henneker, New Amesbury and Camden, all in the aforesaid province, and also Haverhill, Andover, Dracut, Chelmsford, and Ipswich, in the Province of Mass. Bay; Hereby authorizing and requiring you, the said Sam. Blodget, to forbid and prevent, by all lawful means, the violation of said acts, and to seize and Mark for his majesty's use, all pine timber that you may find cut and hauled from the King's woods, without license first had and obtained from me, and all offenders aforesaid, to prosecute and to punish, as to law and justice appertains. And you, the said Sam. Blodget, are hereby required to return to me an exact account of your proceedings herein, quarterly, from this date, or oftener, if occasion shall require, and for your encouragement to exert yourself with diligence and fidelity in the duties of the said office, you will receive such compensation for your services, as your merit shall appear to me to deserve, out of the fines and forfeitures only, that may accrue or be levied by your means. This warrant to be in force during pleasure only. Given under my hand and seal, at Portsmouth, the 11th day of February, 1772.

J. WENI WORTH.

Samuel Blodget, Esq.

To be Assistant Deputy Surveyor of the woods.

Upon his return from Portsmouth, Mr. Blodget sent a copy of the following letter to each of the offenders:

Goffstown, Feb. 24, 1772.

Sir; — The late seizure of White Pine Logs, has caused me a disagreeable journey to Portsmouth, at the special request of a number of my friends, to solicit the Governor in the behalf of them who have unnecessarily trespassed in cutting the King's timber, &c. His Excellency thought fit to depute me one of his Majesty's Surveyors of the King's woods in this Western District, thereby authorizing me to carry The King's laws into execution. As they are very severe, I shall be very loath to

prosecute unless obstinate or notorious offenders force it upon me; of which I give you this early notice, at the same time, acquaint you his Excellency has pleased to put it in my hands to make the matter easy to you.

SAML BLODGET.

Mr. Blodget's efforts were rewarded by a speedy settlement with all of the trespassers, who then obtained possession of their logs, with the exception of the owners of the logs at Clement's mills in Weare, at what is now called the Oil Mills. These parties resisted and when the sheriff came to serve a warrant on them he and his assistants were routed after being unmercifully beaten by the indignant inhabitants of the vicinity! Of course this conduct was rank treason and the affair produced extreme excitement far and near. Again Judge Blodget was called upon to use all of his persuasive powers to conciliate matters. Future events proved, if his conduct did not then, that his sympathies were with the oppressed colonists. It is true they were defying the law, but it was a law without reason or justice. As iniquitous as were the stamp act and the duty on tea, this was equally so, and though bearing it as well, or better, than might be expected, it served to get the province into a turmoil. Governor Wentworth soon saw his mistake in trying to enforce such an odious measure, but not till the seeds of discontent had been sown which was to bring a harvest of patriots of the pines which became whirlwinds to the red-coated soldiers of King George on the battlefields of Bunker Hill and Bennington. A writer* in speaking of this matter has said: "It is strange Mr. Blodget should have accepted an office to which was attached such disagreeable duties; stranger still that he could perform such duties and still retain the respect and esteem of his neighbors as he seemed to do." He was conversative enough in his views and aims to realize that an obnoxious law could be administered by kindly argument where a more arbitrary officer would raise fierce dissension, by which nothing could be gained by precipitation; and they knew it was the law and not its upholder in this case which was wrong. When the

* Henry Everett.

struggle came, as it did in a short time, he was found among the first with the loyal sons of the Merrimack valley at the front.

At the time of the battle of Lexington, his term of offices under the king having expired, he was engaged in trade at Goffstown.* But no sooner had the news of this opening of hostilities reached him than he again entered the service of his country. He was actively engaged in the Battle of Bunker Hill,† though belonging to the commissary department of the Continental army, later being appointed sutler of Gen. Sullivan's brigade, stationed upon Winter Hill. Mr. Blodget was not alone caterer to the common soldiers, but the following items selected from the accounts of the Commissary General Trumbull we find :

April 1, 1776, By Bread to Brig. Maj. Scammons,	435
General Sullivan's Table	249
B'g Q. M. G. Frazier	156
Genl Lee's Table	96

Upon the removal of General Sullivan's Brigade from Boston, Judge Blodget returned to his interests in Goffstown, having concluded that he had seen enough of conflict. He was then in his fifty-third year, and though not an old man by any means, nor broken in health, had less desire for the stirring scenes of war than in his younger years. But he never hesitated to lend his assistance in every other way to the cause and his pocket book was always open to its benefit. If he was not in active service the family was certainly to do its part, for he had two sons at the front.

At the raising of the three Continental Battalions his second son, Samuel, Jr., volunteered his services and November 7, 1776, was commissioned Captain of Company 8, in Colonel Enoch Poor's regiment. Nathan Hale of Rindge having been Colonel at time of muster, Colonel Poor afterward promoted. These were three years' men, but in December, 1777, for some reason unknown, Captain Blodget resigned, and went in-

* Potter.

† Chase's History of Haverhill, Mass.

to trade in Exeter, which proved a failure the following year, by which his father was involved to the extent 4219lbs-8s-2d. This amount Judge Blodget afterward paid with his usual good grace, the following statement being found at the front of the page containing his son's accounts :

"Boston, Oct. 11, 1788. This act, though attended with great loss is given up and a receipt given in full discharge ; it being consented to by the children then present, viz. : Nathan Blodget, Abigail Stickney, Polly Gilman and Caleb."

Caleb, the second son, only sixteen, was appointed an ensign in the Continental Army in 1779, and promoted to Lieutenant and Quartermaster in 1781. He was described in the enlisting papers as Caleb Blodget of Goffstown, light complexion, blue eyes, 16 years old, 5 ft., 6 inches tall.*

Something of Judge Blodget's generosity and public spirit may be learned from the following proclamation issued by him in 1777, for the purpose of encouraging the growth of wool and flax in town :

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

March the 1st, 1777.

Whereas Wool and Flax are scarce articles amongst the Inhabitants of Goffstown they not raising a quantity equal to their own consumption, and is probable their wants will Encrease ; as a small Incouragement to sd Inhabitants ; I do promise to give the following bounty on the above articles of flax ; and on Lambs for the increase of wool, and I do promise to give Every Freeholder and an Inhabitant of Goffstown in the State of New Hampshire the Following bounteys upon the Following condition ; that is to say ; two pence per head upon any number between ten and Twenty, and three pence per head upon any number between Thirty and forty, provided the Lambs survive the first day of next August, at the which time the bounty will be paid with this proviso ; that they neither Kill or suffer to be Killed, any sheep or Lambs either for sale or private consumption, between the last day of May and the first day of the aforesaid August ; the breach of this last proviso ; will be considered as a bar against the above bounty ; and

* War Rolls, Vol. I, p. 552. Ditto, p. 664, Vol. III, April 5, 1780, Captain Blodget attests to a soldier's certificate as a substitute in the sum of 200 lbs. for Mr Moses Eastman.

as Bears in this quarter; often destroy the sheep and Lambs, the aforesaid Inhabitants are Intitled to twenty shillings per head for every grown Bear they shall kill within the bounds of said Goffstown between the month of April and the month of October following; provided the head of sd Bear or bears be presented and delivered to me at my house in Goffstown within twenty-four hours after sd Bear is killed;—also a further bounty on Flax; that any Inhabitant aforesaid shall be Intitled to two pence per pound upon any quantity of well dressed flax above five hundred pounds; that he shall raise this present Season and upon his own farme within the Town aforesaid; provided he apply between the month of November next and the first day of March following;—be it Remembered, in case the severall number of Lambs, the Quantity of Flax; and the Beares, according to the severall Bounteys, shall not exceed the sum of one hundred dollars; the First applyance will have the preferance—N. B. the donor Excludes himself from any part of the aforesaid Bounteys.

As the above Bounteys are given with a Real design to Encrease the growth of wool and flax amongst us, the donor hopes no one will apply unless he is really Intitled to some of the aforesaid Bounteys according to the true intent and meaning of this Instrument, and willing to answer any Reasonable Question on oath that may be asked.

Dated March the 1st. 1777.

N. B. The Flax is expected to be dressed according to the usual custom of this place.

We have found no records to show who competed for these prizes. If none did so, or if he paid the full amount stipulated, it shows the generous nature and the public spirit of the man. That his popularity was general is shown by the fact that at the first session of the Honourable House of Representatives held at Exeter on the third Wednesday of December (16), 1778-9, Judge Blodget represented Goffstown and Derryfield, which were classed together.*

In 1780 he served as Town Treasurer of Goffstown, and the year following he was elected one of the Selectmen, and during his remaining stay in Goffstown he was continually in office, serving as Moderator several years. Besides being called up-

* From original volume in Secretary of State's office labeled "Members, etc., 1775-81." State Papers, Bachelior, Vol. VIII, p. 820.

on to do the business at home he was often appealed to from all over the county, was often the referee in important cases, Judge of Probate, before the County courts or the Legislature. A man of energy and character he was looked up to by every one. This may truly be said to have been the most prosperous period of his life, and quite as certain the most happy one. Those giant schemes which were to be productive of so much good and make his name more widely known, but which were to despoil him of his well earned fortune and break him down in health still slumbered in the chambers of his mind. But it must have been soon after, it not at that time, when he was studying upon his invention for raising ships or sunken bodies from the bottom of rivers, seas and other parts of water. His friends tried to discourage him in what they considered a fruitless expenditure of time, and his enemies poohed at the visions of an old man. (He was then 58.) But his nature was not one to be turned from its purpose, and laboring night and day, with such anxiety as only an inventor can know, he completed his "diving tongues," as the machine was called, in 1782. It would seem as if the golden opportunity to test the work was at hand, for the following year a vessel went down off Plymouth with a valuable cargo.

Judge Blodget lost no time in entering into such preparations as were necessary to test his invention. Reaching the spot in a small vessel he for the first time put his machine to use. After some delays and vexations he succeeded in raising the sunken ship intact! Besides receiving a good sum as reward he at once put himself in a way to insure a handsome competence. But he was not one to be satisfied with ordinary success. It was not enough that he should command. "A common man," says Judge Potter, "at the age of nearly three scores years, would doubtless have been content with a first success, particularly when favored with a competence; but Judge Blodget was an uncommon man, and at his advanced age of life he determined upon visiting Europe, to bring the value of his invention before the people of the old countries."

Accordingly he began to arrange for a trip across the ocean

at once. The better to carry out his plans, he formed a partnership with Mr. John Stoughton of Haverhill and Mr. John Codman, Jr., of Boston, Mass., furnishing one-half of the capital himself, the first of his partners one-third, and the other one-sixth. He had heard of a Spanish government ship which had been wrecked off the coast of Portugal, having for a part of its cargo a large amount of coin, he resolved to seek the opportunity to put his diving tongues to another test. Accordingly armed with papers of recommendation from the most distinguished men of New England, among them the Governor of Massachusetts, he set forth on his uncertain voyage, accompanied by Mr. Stoughton. Upon the margin of his passport, bearing date of June 20, 1786, was written in the governor's own hand the following :

I do hereby certify that the said Blodget is by good Judges, reputed to have great knowledge in ye mechanical powers, and he has distinguished himself by recovering from vessels wrecked, and sunk in deep waters, the goods and cargo with which they were laden, and that he is a gentleman of good education and character.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

Leaving Boston on the 25th, he and Mr. Stoughton eventually arrived at Lisbon, to find that they were too late to display their invention upon the Spanish government ship, as its treasures had been mostly recovered and the ship "gone to pieces." But upon being advised of a vessel having sunk off the Spanish coast, going down with a cargo of bars of copper, they resolved to repair thither, under the direction of General Munzo, to whom they had been introduced by the Ambassador of Spain. Here they would have been successful but for a quarrel among their Spanish helpers, and desertion of a part of their number. Finding that their efforts were likely to go unrewarded if successful, the two men then returned to England, out of the pocket and with but poor promise ahead. However, Judge Blodget soon conceived the idea of raising the English naval ship Royal George, which had gone down with such dramatical effect several years before. His invention had met with a fav-

orable report, and finally successful in bringing the matter before the Lord Commissioners of Admiralty, he received the courteous invitation:

Admiralty Office, 23d Nov. 1786.

Sir: — Having communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, your letter of the 13th inst, informing them of your having discovered a mode of applying fastenings to bodies under water, by which means you can take up ships from any depth, not exceeding twenty five fathoms; I am in return commanded by their lordships to desire you will attend them at this office next Tuesday at 12 o'clock.

I am, Sir:

Your very humble servant,

P. H. P. STEPHENS.

To Samuel Blodget Charlton St.

At this meeting Judge Blodget was shown every respect possible, but his offer to raise the hulk of the Royal George was refused upon the rather peculiar ground that "she was not needed." A new vessel already christened by that name was in process of building, and it would be awkward to have two Royal Georges on hand. As there was no other opportunity for the inventor to prove his claims, he was forced to retire, his experiment having proved a costly venture. Unwilling to return under the cloud of his failure, and somewhat broken in health, he spent the following seven months in sight-seeing, visiting many parts of the Kingdom. It was during this, the first and only vacation of his life, that he wrote home the following memorandum:

MEMORANDUMS FOR S BLODGET JUNR CONCERNING THE EDUCATION OF HIS CHILDREN.

London, May 16, 1787.

Hon Sir

Please to write as often as may be convenient & to be very Particular respecting my children.*

If Billy should be in Boston when you arrive there Please to advise his being sent to me as soon as may be convenient, tak-

* Judge Blodget's grandchildren and his wards.

ing the necessary care in providing for him every essential to make his voyage comfortable.

Also I am sure everything will be done by M Gilman to forward the Education of my little Girls. Yet I should like to have your opinion of the Genius, situation & the Progress they make in Learning to read, write, draw, Dance, &c , &c.

Dancing I believe to be very essential to give them confidence and a graceful deportment, as well as to their health. Therefore I wish they may be sent to the Best schools in Boston. In short I would have no reasonable expense saved for in comparison with the general advantage which may be gained. By their constant application to useful Learning, a little money can be no object.

& Pray let their day be divided into Particular hours so as to allow a sufficient time for each employment. They may work with their needle 2 hours, write 2 hours, dance 2 hours, play on the Guittar or piano forte 2 hours, & so on through the day & let their hours be fixt by a weekly arrangement, so that they may know what to do before their time comes. — In fine weather let all the little children that may be in Town go into the common together either early in the morning or in the afternoon. This will give them a free enjoyment of the air & contribute much to their health. I would have the Children dressed neatly & clean, but not fine. I mean not in Rich or Gaudy colours. In London the Girls all wear white with Blue or Pink sashes & have no other Colours in their dress — Boys are dressed in Green or Scarlet & this method of Dress pleases extremely.

I am an advocate for particular attention to Children & wish my little girls to be treated as if they were women and never to have them Punished if it is Possible to flatter them or reason them into their duty, nevertheless I am willing to leave Mrs. G. to her own method, which I dare say will be in most respects similar to mine.

Above all things I would have them love each other & consider Betsey Gilman & the Little Stickneys as Brothers and Sisters for this must be of great Importance at some future time. Therefore anything that may tend to increase their affection & friendship for each other must not be neglected.

I have no particular directions for the Boys, but to have them employed every hour at something, when they are not at school. Pray insist on their Playing, but do not be very rigorous in anything except when you command them not to be idle. You may let them choose their employment whether at

work or play as often as may be proper for them they will see that they are among friends & contract a degree of love and respect for you. Pray don't neglect to make all the Children sensible that their own good is the Principle or only object in all your conduct toward them, for if they are fully convinced of this Important truth, they will (by Imitation) contract the most amiable habits & be forever what we all must wish they will be Beloved and respected by every one who may be honoured with their acquaintance.

You will please not to mention any thing you have seen or that I have told you respecting our embarrassments to any Body (Caleb & Mr. Gilman excepted) It requires but a small extra exertion to relieve me & they surely will not neglect me when they know our future fortune depends on their exertions.

This memorandum may be shown to Mr. Gilman Mrs. Gilman & Caleb if you please but not to nobody else ———

It will be a great mistake if I am not Immediately relieved in the manner pointed out ——— Nothing but absolute madness can Prevent my being placed in a very different situation from that I have remained too long ———

But as I know Mr. Gilman has done everything he thought Prudent, I bear every disappointment patiently for I consider the evils I have suffered as unavoidable — But they may be prevented in future, & will be I am sure, as I know Mr. Gilman will not fail to exert himself to the Purpose ———

Tell Mr Gilman that my health is much better than for 18 months Past that I hope soon to be Intirely recovered ———

I wish you to send a few foxes flying & Gray Squirrels, yellow Birds & wood Ducks, &c., &c. — for which I will pay whatever they may cost in trouble, &c., as several Persons who have befriended me in my distress have a right to expect some return, and I am very anxious to make them a present as soon as I have an opportunity. I should like to begin by Presenting them with some Curiosity of our Country. Cushing, Davis, Barnard or any friend of ours will bring them for me.

Pray let your letters to me be as full as Possible as the smallest occurrence whether Political or of whatever nature — the smallest trifles are Important to me. In Particular remember all our domestic concerns of every nature. If you should write Nathan remind him of his neglect to write me or remit me — ask him what I have done to forfeit his friendship.

After giving an estimate of a bridge across the Merrimack River at Haverhill to Newbury, and a few minor items refer-

ring to accounts with others, he closes his Memorandum with the following :

With respect to our American Paper I should be glad to hear from time to time of its value & with you to have the opinion of Mr Gilman on the Propriety of a considerable speculation. I wrote to Mr. Gilman on the Subject but told him not to mention it to any Body. He may how ever consult who he Pleases as I mean to be entirely governed by him in all the measures I take——*

Returning from his trip abroad in the summer of 1787, he opened a general store in Haverhill, Mass., Sept. 1, 1787, soon after supplying his son William, who was still running the store at Goffstown, with a bill of goods. He continued in this store for three years, though his active mind would not allow him to confine himself exclusively to trade. In 1788, he established a stage line between that town and Boston, which was run regularly for two or three years, under his control. This appears to be the first coach line in that vicinity and one of the first in the country. Meeting with good success in that venture, he with others established another line, connecting Haverhill with Concord this state, though this did not become permanent.

In the three years in trade there he had so far recovered his shattered fortune as to start a duck manufactory in 1790. That was the same year that Slater and his company of pioneer manufacturers were establishing their cotton mills at Pawtucket, though little dreaming of the countless number of men, women and children their industry was destined to give employment. It is worthy of note that it was this year, 1790, that the invention by the English divine, Dr. Cartwright, of the power loom, which was to be such a potent factor in the development of Manchester, was first tried in that city for which it was named, and the invention destroyed by an exasperated mob, but labor saving machinery was sure to come, and the power loom foremost in the list.

Judge Blodget was successful with the making of duck, and respected by the people at large, he was elected representative

* The original of these memorandums is now in possession of Mrs. Eunice K. Brown a descendant.

to the legislature from Haverhill in 1791. He was again at the height of prosperity, but his restless, ambitious spirit was not satisfied. The proposition of the Middlesex canal, which had originated with Hon. James Sullivan, was an absorbing theme of conversation everywhere in business circles. That was a period of rapid improvement. Boston was becoming a thriving town of twenty thousand inhabitants, and there were suburbs that only needed the stimulus of trade to give them place and power. The valley of the Merrimack, far up into New Hampshire, even the country into Vermont, if sparsely settled, promised a rich harvest of trade to the centres which could draw it. Better means of communications was thus the great question of the day. Turnpikes, under the control of corporations, were the main arteries of business. Moved by slow-going ox-teams, over these priced highways, the transportation of the country produce, lumber, firewood and building material became at once tedious and costly. Once such a maritime highway as the Merrimack offered was opened and producer and the consumer must both be benefited by the result. Judge Blodget realized that the Middlesex canal was a foregone conclusion, and he believed it was time for him to carry out the pet project of his life. Though he had arrived at that age when most men are laying aside the cares and responsibilities of business, he formed his plans with the sanguineness of a young man with the world all before him. In fact it was his happy belief that he was yet in his prime. He had lived a perfectly abstemious life, and with a careful husbanding of his strength he confidently looked forward to a hundred years of activity.

In 1793 he moved back to Amoskeag, taking up his residence on the east bank of the Merrimack. He purchased the land about the Falls and laid every calculation toward performing his herculean task, confident it could be done within his own means.

May 2, a date worthy of remembrance, along with that of another May-day thirteen years later, he opened work upon his canal, making considerable progress during the season in blasting and constructing a dam to afford a pond. Work was not

begun upon the Middlesex canal until September 10th, of the same year, so he was over four months ahead of Sullivan's enterprise. In September of 1794, he leased his "Duck Factory standing in a lane near Kimball Carleton's in said Haverhill to David Blackburn of the same town, weaver, James Alexander late of Newburyport, weaver, and Isaac Schofield of Newburyport, weaver." This lease was for two years, but he continued to let this property until 1799, when his affairs became so deeply involved it was set off on execution in favor of Samuel Parkman of Boston. With the leasing of his business in Haverhill Judge Blodget may be said to have concentrated all of his energy and capital in pushing the work on his canal. On May 18th, 1795, he had so far advanced with the stone work that Colonel William Adams of Londonderry, a skilled carpenter, was employed to begin upon the woodwork.

WINNEPESAUKEE TRIP.

During the year of 1795, with every prospect of a successful ending to his work on Amoskeag canal, Judge Blodget proposed the scheme of making the Merrimack navigable to Lake Winnepesaukee, thus preparing a direct highway, or rather waterway, of commerce through the then most populous section of New Hampshire, affording a direct intercourse with Boston. The plan seemed to meet with favor wherever it became known, and it was so far developed that Col. McGregor of Goffstown, and Major Duncan of Concord consented to construct the locks and canals around Hooksett Falls, while other equally reliable men of this state and Massachusetts were to complete the work above that place. In order to satisfy himself of the perfect feasibility of the project and to prove the same to others, accompanied with two or three others, he made a trip of examination. Happily he kept a journal of the journey, with his deductions of same, of which the following is a copy:

BLODGET'S JOURNAL TO WINNIPISSIOKE POND, 1795.

Oct 4th 1795, Began my Journey to Winnipissioke Pond from Canal at Derryfield.

From S B Canal to Isle Hooksett is 8 miles the fall is 40 Rods about 20 feet fall, to be Canal'd by Esqr. McGregor and

Majr. Duncan. To the next falls, which are called Garvins falls is 4 mills, 80 Rods in length & 25 feet falls, must be canal'd. Turkey River fall is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above but need no Canalizing. From thence to Concord is 4 miles and Smoother water; from Concord to the Crotch of the River, is 18 miles, but two pair of falls in this distance which will need no canalizing. From this Crotch of the River we ran up the East Branch towards Winnipisioke Pond—the First Mills we came to was a grist and saw mill $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from said Crotch, on the north side of the stream the property of Jeremiah Sanborn and others; their dam Extends but half across the stream which is about 3 mill water running in it and about 6 Rods wide, so that a sett of mills and the canal may be placed on the south side of the stream & do excellent service without doing any damage to these other mills——by the advantage of a canal running up the stream fifteen or Twenty Rods fifteen feet head may be obtained. Here is a long fall of water for more than two miles & is by far the greatest on this stream. In this distance I presume the distance is near 100 feet fall—here I remark that whether I have Judged well on the fall of water or not—yet I am well assured of some very good privileges—there is 3 or 4 hundred acres of land well cloathed with Tall White pines & to be sold lay adjoining to these Rapids—the proprietors of it are Capt. Clark, his Br. ther and others; they are very urgent that this canal should be opened & as an Incouragement, offer to give gratis five Rods of their land on each side of the stream for the use of the canal, this I find is the case with many others.

At the head of these falls is still water for one mile which reaches within a few rods of Hancock's and other mills, they consist of one grist and one saw mill standing on the south side of sd stream, the Priveledge good but the mills bad.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile above Handcocks mills & on the north side of the stream stand a grist and saw mill, the property of Ebr Morrison and others. Both mill and Priveledge are poor.

Half a mile Farther up stands on the south side of the Stephen Chace's Fulling mill. He offers his landing freely for the use of the canal, which adjoins to Sandborn Bridge the stream continues the same.

4 miles further up stands Jacob Burfords & other Grist, saw, and fulling mills. They stand on the north side of the stream, about one mile of this is shole & small rappid the other is a Bay. These mills have from 7 to 8 feet head and fall. About half a mile up the stream stands Smarts Grist & saw mills with

the same head & fall, & on the same side of the stream — between Bumfords & Smarts mill, the bottom smooth, graveley Bottom Interspersed with Loose stone — all these mills are poor things scarce worth owning; here I observe on the south east side a canal may be opened without doing any damage to the above mill & their owners — and take advantage of 13 or 14 feet fall for a valuable set of mills, the land on the east side being the property of Gen^l. Badger, who I presume will cheerfully give the land for the use of the canal.

Smart's mill dam flows and mostly covers the rocks and sholes of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile till it reaches Sandbornton Bay which is very large and spacious — $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles across the south end of this Bay brings us to the narrows and rappid, on which stands a Grist, saw and fulling mills, the property of Collo. Sam^l Ladd all standing on the south side of the stream. From sd mills to the before mentioned Bay, is about 60 Rods, a smooth, Graveley Bottom, a few small loose stones, a gradual descent, of abt 8 feet fall & 1 to 2 feet deep. About 80 Rods above these mills is another large Bay between which and the aforesaid mills is Rocky & shole ground, but the dam may be flowd so as to cover these Rocks I observe.

The canal may be carried very easily by Colo Ladd's mills (which by the way are miserable) without doing him the least damage & make a very good sett of mills. He is the owner of the land but seems to be disposed on the whole to Incourage the business.

One mile and a half above said Rocky shole, carries us across the sd Bay to the narrow stream again, & Rappid, for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, on the north side of which stands a Grist mill & saw mills the property of Abm. Foulson & have abt 8 feet fall. These Rapids have a smoothe graveley Bottom interspersed with loose stone — here a canal can be opened on the south side without doing any damage to the owners of these mills.

One mile and a half from these Rappids, brings us cross another Bay to another and last Rapid being abought $\frac{1}{4}$ mile more brings us into Winipisioke Pond — these Rappeds are a descent about 5 feet & 12 to 14 Rods wide from 1 foot to 18 inches deep. The Bottom graveley & considerable stony, but few of them large, not more than two of them will require power to move them. I rode my Horse across stream at the out let of the Pond — it appears by the large rock in the pond that the pond does not at the highest water exceed two feet. —

I farther observed that by the banks of the stream at any place the highest water does not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ Feet.

In a summary he estimates the distance in an entry in the journal as follows :

Octr. 4th 1795.

A 6 days Route to examine the River from my Canal to Winnipisioke Pond.

	miles
From S. B Canal to Isle Hookset	$8\frac{1}{2}$
From Isle Hookset to Garvin	4
From Garvin to Turkey R fall	$0\frac{1}{2}$
From Turkey R Falls to Concord	4
From Concord to the Crotch of the River	18
	—
	35

From Merrimac River up The East Branch into Winnipisioke Pond.

From the Crotch of the River to J Sandborns mill	$0\frac{1}{2}$
From Sandborns mill to Handcocks mills	3
From Handcocks to E. Morrisons do	$0\frac{1}{4}$
From Morrisons to Chases do	$0\frac{1}{2}$
From Chases to Jere Bumfords do	4
From Bumfords to Smarts do	$0\frac{1}{2}$
From Smarts to Colo. Ladds do	$5\frac{1}{2}$
From Ladd to Abm. Fousloms do	$1\frac{1}{2}$
From Fousloms to the Pond	$1\frac{3}{4}$
	—
	$17\frac{1}{2}$
	35
	—
	$52\frac{1}{2}$

The following is the association paper, with the list of subscribers :

We the subscribers agree to associate for the Purpose of clearing the Fall u on the Merrimac River from Isle of Hooksett Falls to the entrance of the east branch of said River and from thence to construct such Canals up the East Branch of said River to Winnipisioke Pond, as shall make the Navigation for Boats and Rafts safe and convenient from said Pond to Isle of Hooksett Falls aforesaid. The Fund for the Undertaking to be divided into three hundred shares, & subject to such Regulations as the Company of associates shall hereafter

agree upon. And we reciprocally promise each to the other to take Respective Shares annexed to our names.

May 4

1795.

Saml Blodget fifty shares	50
Saml Phillips Kidder Ten Shares	10
William Blodget Ten Shares	10
Benjm. Blodget Ten Shares	10
Peter Gilman, Twenty Shares	20
His Honor Moses Gill Esqr five shares	5
Thomas Russell Twenty shares	20
William Tudor Ten Shares	10
James Sullivan twenty shares	
Abiel Smith fifteen shares	
Perez Morton Twelve shares	
Nathan Bond Ten Shares	
Wm. Harper Esq Sandbornton Five shares	
Nathan Hoitt, Esq. — Moultonborough one share	
Joseph Barrell twenty five shares	
Willis Hall three shares	
Robert Fletcher Five shares.	

According to this paper two hundred and thirty one shares were sold, or within sixty nine of the full number desired. But as his work at Amoskeag soon demanded all of his attention and means, Judge Blodget was obliged to abandon the project. As he was the soul of the enterprise nothing further was done, except that a few years later the river was rendered navigable for boats as far north as East Concord. At that time the matter of opening the way as far as Judge Blodget had planned was discussed, but sufficient funds were not forthcoming and the project again collapsed.

According to Judge Potter, in his biographical sketch, "A line of dams were constructed from rock to rock, upon the east side of the channel of the river, from a point about fifty-seven rods above Amoskeag bridge, down the river, very near upon the line of the stone dams and bank wall of the stone basin of the Amoskeag Company, a distance of about thirty-three rods below the Amoskeag bridge to a point nearly opposite the house now occupied by Samuel P. Kidder, Esq.; thence it was extended east to the shore, making a basin about ninety rods in

length, and from four to six rods in width. This basin was intended to answer the purpose of a canal and mill pond. On the west bank of the basin, and about half-way of the same, stood the mill 'Industry,' having a grist mill below it, and above it a saw mill belonging to William Blodget. Out of the south-west corner of the basin, the water passed through a slip of three hundred feet in length by twenty feet in width, to the lower canal, commencing above, and running immediately west of the 'Blodget house,' which part of the canal is now entire — to a point just below said house. From thence the canal followed the shore of the river down to a point just above the 'boiler shop' of the Amoskeag Company, where it passed into the river. The west embankment of the canal from the Blodget house downward, was of cobble work, filled with stone and covered with a spiling of plank. At convenient distances along this canal check gates were placed, so as to raise the water above them, a foot or so, making as many slight reservoirs as there were check gates."

Here comes in the invention of the judge's which cost him in its failure a sheer twenty thousand dollars and the labor of four years, but for which he might then have seen his way clear to a success which would have won him a good return for his expenditures and accomplished the dream of his life. Rather than blame him, however, we should admire him for the resolute energy which could rise above such a disappointment as few men meet, and in his old age cause him to begin anew. But for the explanation rather than the anticipations. These check gates described were fastened by a hasp and opened down stream. He had calculated that the raft or boat passing through the stream from the reservoir would gain a velocity sufficient to open the gates and pass on through the entire length of the canal unaided. But the project proved a failure. The velocity which he had counted upon as an assistant was his destroyer as well. The speed attained by the rafts or boats was such as to smash the one and "stave up" the other. The merchandise on the boats was scattered along the banks, while the logs had to be re-raftered. It was decided that the trouble

lay in the great velocity of the courses. To remedy that two locks were to be made where there had been but one, and another season occupied in doing the work. "The upper one, of one hundred and fifty feet in length, was built upon the surface of the ground. The posts at the sides were tenanted into the cross sills, while their tops were held together by cross cap-timbers, and were still farther secured in their places by braces, extending from near the top of each post to the cross sill beneath." Confident that the extra precaution would insure them success this time, the projector and his engineer, Colonel Adams, announced the day for the trial, when a large crowd of spectators gathered to witness the novel sight. But again man had erred. The water now entered the canal with a power which tore the locks from their fastenings and tossed them on its foaming current! Worse than before, the work of a year was a wreck! This was late in the autumn of 1798, and the following June, an unusually high freshet completed the ruin of nearly five years' labor and the loss of \$20,000 by washing off the canal below the locks.

His own fortune now depleted, and his years of anxious planning and working come to naught, Judge Blodget must have been an uncommon man to have found the heart to still persevere. But he was not one to give up. It was the ambition of his old age, stronger perhaps than it would have been in the prime of his manhood, when it was not too late to seek some other enterprise. In December, 1798, after the destruction of his locks, he obtained a charter for his canal, in order to more readily dispose of stock to secure the necessary capital to go ahead. He also employed a surveyor to select the most feasible route and to estimate the cost of completing the work. Colonel Loanmi Baldwin, who superintended the construction of the Middlesex canal, made the survey, and evidently in sympathy with the project made a favorable report, placing the prospective cost at \$9000. He recommended a route farther removed from the river's bank, in order to escape the high freshets, and what was of equal importance, if something of a sting to the man in his disappointment, that "there were certain es-

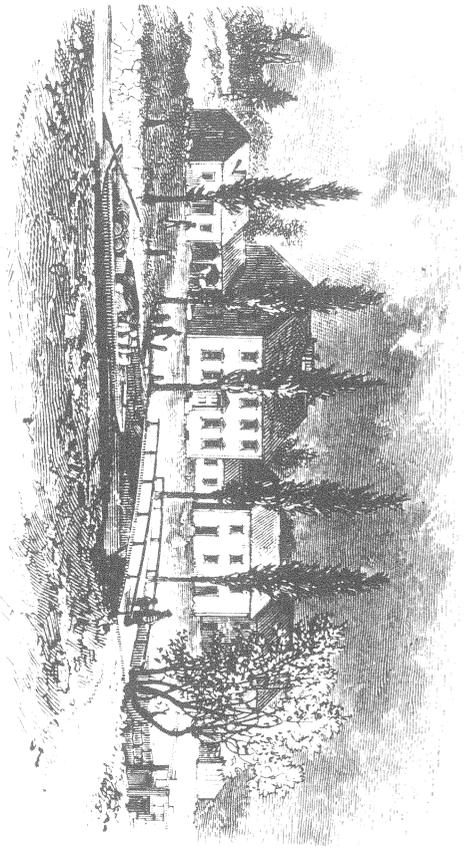
established principles which it would be well not to depart from, nor presume much on new theories, or to introduce works of speculation into canalling."

Judge Blodget published the report of his surveyor, and immediately began to try and raise the money to proceed. He was so successful that he sold of stock and raised from other sources \$7000. In December he had secured from the legislature of New Hampshire the power to raise \$9000 by lottery for the purpose of completing "Blodget's canal," on which he raised \$5000. These amounts making \$12,000 he expended in work on the canal, without being able to finish it. In this dilemma he was granted in 1802 authority to raise \$10,000 by another lottery. But the previous lottery, while it had been instrumental in raising him over half of the sum it was expected to afford, brought him trouble and embarrassment.

As has already been shown the temperament of Judge Blodget would not allow his ambition to be circumscribed. It was not enough that he should build a canal around the falls, but he must add to the enterprise with an invention of his own, which he fondly believed was to improve the situation. Even while working this scheme he was not so hedged by its accomplishment as not to foresee the broad and expansive result that it must in time bring. Not only would it afford an easy way of getting merchandise up and down the river, but it would assist in compassing the great hydraulic power afforded by the falls in the interest of man. "In his mind's eye, this site was destined to be the 'Manchester of America,' and he could see the brick upon the canal as plainly, if not as substantially, as we, who occupy his place half a century later." Proof of this is apparent in the fact that he bought at Hooksett a large lot of land containing clay beds, for the purpose of building factories at Amoskeag. It is still another curious fact that these clay banks have since furnished a large proportion of the brick used in the construction of our buildings.*

In 1795 he built him a fine residence, since known as the

* These clay banks were afterwards owned by Richard H. Ayer.



THE BODGEE HOUSE.

ERECTED IN 1795; TORN DOWN IN 1870.

Blodget mansion, and standing by the side of the canal in the rear of the Amoskeag Ax Company's buildings. It was a two story, old-fashioned farm house, with a front entrance on the east side, and a bulkhead on the south. In later years a barn, connected by a shed was built on the north end, and an open shed and one story building on the south. This last was the famous red store and was a scene of activity during the boating days. A highway at the time ran from the Falls road bending to southwest and after passing two houses, in one of which Mr. S. B. Kidder afterwards lived, came to the Blodget house, where the judge lived during his trying period of work on his canal, and where he died. It was also the birthplace of Samuel B. Kidder, December 26, 1756. The old house was torn down in 1870 by the Amoskeag Company, it being then occupied by the eccentric "Cy" Warner, who refused to vacate until the building was pulled down over his head. Judge Blodget had another house, which he called his sleeping house, and which he had probably lived in until his new one was completed. This stood a few rods east of the other, until it was finally moved to the bank of the canal and converted into a mill. Drinking water was obtained by this little group of houses from a spring bubbling up where the upper Langdon mill now stands, the water being carried to the dwellings in logs. A row of Lombard poplars stood in front of the house.

His speculation in clay beds, his acquisition of lands about the scenes of his operation and the building of this commodious dwelling gave those who were jealous of his possible success an opportunity to declare that he was using funds raised for another purpose and to his individual gain, that he was neglecting work on the canal and locks to advance his personal profit. Unfortunately the management of the lottery had fallen into unfriendly hands. As has been shown only \$5000 had been paid him from its proceeds, where he had expected much more, and what was even worse the managers had paid this slowly and refused to explain why the rest was not forthcoming. Thus the legislature in granting him a second lottery, 1802, ap-

pointed a committee to look after the settlement of the first, granted in 1798.

If the managers of the lottery and his enemies outside accused him of misappropriating the money that should have been applied to the furtherance of the canal, he as boldly and unhesitatingly charged them with gross mismanagement of affairs. He declared that, while the legislature had allowed them to receive "reasonable charges" for conducting the drawing of the lottery they had charged five dollars a day as their regular pay; that they had charged for expense during the drawing at the rate of three dollars a minute; that they had shown two sets of accounts differing from each other; that their lists of prizes were false and misleading; that they refused to let him see the books; that they had burned many of the books and lottery tickets, so as to make an investigation impossible. Serious charges in all truth, and warranting an investigation on the part of the state. But the committee chosen to look into the matter did not attend to that duty until a short time before the meeting of the legislature in June, and then while Judge Blodget was away from home, and without sending him notice of even their appointment. As a result they learned only one side of the question—that of the managers of the lottery, and their report accordingly did not afford the meed of fairness belonging to the defendant, who had ever desired a settlement by arbitration.

In reply to this report he repeated his grave charges, and on December 6, 1803, gave a public statement of the situation from his point of view, showing in detail the progress of work on the canal, using in part the following language:

"It has been a misfortune, that within a few weeks past, the interruptions by rocks and ledges, from the Head of the Falls to the Canal, has had such an effect upon strangers, that they dare not venture into it without the aid of a pilot. The proprietors have therefore been to an expense of cutting a new canal from the head of the Falls in the old canal, by the eastern bank of the river and nearly parallel with the same. This work is so well executed, that the waters shoot directly into the old

Canal ; and such are the natural monuments on each side of this channel, that the stranger cannot fail, and will enter with ease and safety into the Canal.

“ There has also been erected, at a very great expense, during the last season, below the second guard gate, a Basin to receive all loose logs, drift stuff, &c., so that a stranger, without the aid of a pilot, can pass from the head of the Falls directly into the Basin below the mills, without interruption, and in less than half the usual time. From this Basin to the lower Canal, are two locks of 100 feet each, through which we pass in twenty minutes. About thirty rods below these locks, there is a gate erected for the conveniency of stopping the water, by which we expedite the passage through the locks at half the usual time. By these alterations, business is done with great despatch, besides the saving of much labor, and the expense of a pilot. The last rafts that passed the Canal, have experienced all this. The Canal below the last mentioned gate is every way complete, as far as the slip through which the lumber passes in the Merrimack River again. From this slip to the river, requires four locks to be put down, of 9 feet lift, and 100 feet in length each, including that which must be placed in the river. Three of these locks are of 100 feet each, are framed, and have lain at the spot over two summers, and are unavoidably in a mouldering condition.

“ At the time I petitioned to the Legislature of New Hampshire, for a Lottery, to raise nine thousand dollars, my sufferings proved much more ; for by taking a new route, which was recommended to me, and complied with, out of this 9000 dollars, exclusive of necessary charges, I have received only 5000 dollars ; all which ; with many thousands more, have been actually expended on the Canal, besides 1300 dollars of toll received the last season : so the reports now circulating, of my being indifferent whether I complete the canal or not, and that I have made use of a Lottery money to build a house, &c., are both false and without foundation. So far from making use of the money I received from the Lottery, I have expended more than 7000 dollars upon the Canal, besides the 5000 dollars

received by the Lottery. This I am ready to prove when called upon on."

Anxious to utilize the water power at the falls, he improved every opportunity to meet that object. He had built a saw mill in connection with John Stark soon after the Revolution, probably 1782, upon these falls just above Amoskeag bridge, the large rock or ledge there remaining forming a part of the western side of the canal, being the foundation of the west side of said mill. This mill was purchased by Judge Blodget and the privilege flowed out, in forming the pool or pond for his canal and for his "great mill, the Industry," which was located upon the river bank a few rods below the "guard locks" of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company.

Judge Blodget's saw mill "Industry" ran three gangs of upright saws, circular saws being unknown then. William Blodget, his son, had built a saw mill about one hundred feet north of this, and nearly west of the house where Samuel B. Kidder lived so long. Near to his big saw mill on the south the judge had a grist mill.

At this time there was or had been on the west side of the Falls, in Goffstown, a mill owned if not built by a Mr. Patterson, and known as the "Patterson mill." This mill probably stood upon the same place where afterwards was built the Pollard or Harvey mill. It is not known which was built first the Patterson or the Stark mill. A man by the name of Whittaker erected the third mill at these Falls, long known as the Whittaker's saw mill, and which stood just below the Blodget house.

With the inevitable result that his far-seeing mind could realize he always had in view the future possibilities, and was impatient to see begun those enterprises of manufacture so soon to follow. He secured control of the land about his canal, and projected the establishment of a nail factory, and thought to use a building which he was then utilizing as a store house, and which was afterwards made into a barn. He tried to interest Boston capitalists in the scheme. Among others that he sought was the Hon. William Gray, better known as "Billy"

Gray. The following is the transcript of a letter to him.*

Haverhill, Sept. 24th, 1803.

Dear Sir:

I have never had the happiness of being particularly acquainted with you, if I had, I cannot say whether it would have been advantageous to both, or neither of us; but it does not follow but that even at this late hour of life with me, I may be able to show you some wordly good, or at least show you a project that if put into execution will terminate agreeably to your interest, if pursued on a large scale. It is a business which you are well acquainted with; it is the nailing business I mean. If you were here, with me I should expect to be asked a few questions, and something like these. Where is the place you propose the nailing to be erected? At Amoskeag Falls, at the Canal. Have you a convenient place to set the sitting mill and other water works? A good fall and a plenty of water at all seasons of the year, with wood cheap and plenty. Have you ore in plenty in the vicinity of the place where these works are to be erected? What is the distance from Amoskeag to Boston? Sixty miles via Middlesex Canal. What vent do you expect for the nails? The traders and other inhabitants on the east and the west side of the Merrimack River, together with the inhabitants of a considerable part of Vermont state. Their pay will be in lumber, beef and other produce. Are there any nail works now erected in this great country? None of any consequence. It is presumed that nails can be transported by water from Amoskeag, *via* the Middle canal, to Boston, cheaper than they are transported from Bridgeport into Boston. But the wood at either of these places, costs more than three times the sum at Amoskeag. But it is not necessary to say much more on paper.

Sir, whatever has been my study and examination into the business, you are the only one that I have communicated it to in writing. If this sheet contains anything in worthy of your attention, I should be happy to hear from you, and meet with you upon the subject at Amoskeag Falls, upon the premises, which are twenty eight miles from Haverhill Bridge, laying in the town of Derryfield.

Yours, &c.

S. Blodget.

There is nothing to show that Mr. Gray took any notice of

* According to Potter.

this suggestion, and Judge Blodget's troubles pressing so thick and fast upon him, he was obliged to abandon all attempts of improving the water power, though he never lost a chance to expand upon the benefits likely to come to him who should do so.

From this plain statement it appeared that not only had he expended the \$5000 afforded by the lottery, but he had actually used \$7000 besides, which had been put in from his own property and the subscriptions of friends. If crippled in his own means and at odds with those who had in a considerable measure his fortune in their hands, the public was in sympathy with him. In fact, however visionary his schemes may have seemed, however obstinate his enemies may have been against him, and however straitened his circumstances, the common people were always his friends. They advocated his project now and everywhere sounded his praise. For him to fail would, in their minds prove a public calamity. If New Hampshire was indirectly against assisting him, the legislature of Massachusetts, realizing that that state was going to receive great benefits from trade through the completion of Blodget's canal, voted in March, 1804, the grant of a lottery to raise \$10 000 to be expended under the direction of Colonel Baldwin, who had made the survey for the new route in 1798. The following June the New Hampshire legislature passed "An act to extend the time which was allowed Samuel Blodget for drawing a lottery," granted July 18, 1802. It now began to appear certain that Judge Blodget had fallen into the hands of those who hoped to profit by his failure, men who hoped through his age and many setbacks he would be obliged to give up his project, and leaving it in an unfinished condition, make the way for them to get possession at a low rate. They had misjudged their man. While the Massachusetts lottery gave slow and uncertain returns, allowing Col. Baldwin to make slow progress through the year 1805, the judge kept persistently and everlastingly at it. September 4, 1805, work had to be entirely suspended, but he roused new interest that winter by the publication of a document setting forth

in convincing terms the good to result from the completion of his canal in the following comparison with the business of the Middlesex canal :

“It will be acknowledged by all enquiries into canaling business, that the canals are and will soon be of inconceivable advantage to the public at large, especially when the Blodget Canal, so called, by his charter (but by an old Indian name Namoskeag) is completely finished; here are the locks that command an immense property of a great and a goodly country of many hundred miles in circuit, round the lakes and heads of streams, that empty into and form the Merrimack before they reach the locks at Blodget Canal; this goodly country abounds with beef cattle upon a thousand hills and all kinds of produce, and lumber in abundance, with wealthy inhabitants suitably interspersed all over it, who wish a commercial intercourse with the prospering inhabitants of the commonwealth of Msachusetts.

“As the committee of the Middlesex Canal has published the particular articles, that passed through their canal the last season the amount of which was 9405 tons of various articles, the toll of which amounted to 11,832 dollars, it may not be amiss to inform the public the particulars and the quantity of each article that passed through the locks and slip at Blodget’s canal the last season, which is as follows, viz :

941,647 feet pine boards,	1134 tons
1,333 feet oak boards,	3 “
49,881 feet 2 inch oak plank,	249½ “
13,000 feet 5 inch pine plank,	75 “
13,800 feet 2 inch pine plank,	38 “
15,250 clapboards,	L-15 “
343,500 shingles,	68 “
116,430 hogshead staves,	204 “
35,750 barrel staves,	35 “
122,578 hogshead hoops,	245 “
1,513 tons 3 feet oak timber,	526 “
1,434 tons 27 feet pine timber,	1230 “
62 tons 20 feet ash and elm timber,	62 “
240 empty hogsheads,	12 “

1,030 empty barrels,	25 tons.
294 shooks	5 "
2 empty boats for the Middlesex canal	60 "
	<hr/>

Amounting in the whole to 3989 tons

“Eighth tenths of the above lumber was carried through said canal and slip, in two months, viz., from the 5th of April to the 5th of June, 1805—after which a very small quantity of Lumber passed through the canal, owing to a failure of water and the Dam that is to be built to turn the water into the head of said canal not yet being erected—the Toll amounting to only 1082 dollars being fixed at the low rates of sixteen cents per ton for pine timber and other articles in proportion which, is done to encourage the business, the locks at the lower end of said canal, being yet in an unfinished state, those people who come down the river with lumber are obliged to break up their rafts in order to pass through the slip and then re-take said lumber, which not only subjects them to an extra bill of cost, but often detains them so long that they are obliged to haul up their rafts and wait until another rise of water, before they can proceed down the river to the Middlesex canal,—it is worthy of observation that the whole amount of every article that passed through the Middlesex canal both up and down the last year was

9405 tons

The whole amount of every article that passed
Blodget’s slip at Amoskeag the last season
was

3989 “

5416

Deduct the articles of wool and cider which was
carried through the Middlesex in boats
amounting to

5405

II

Then there passed through the Middlesex canal only ten and a half tons more than passed through Blodget’s slip the last season.—What may be expected when the Locks are completed at Blodget’s canal—how must the merchants and the people of all descriptions in the country and in Boston and its vicinity rejoice to see that day?”

The result was most satisfactory. March 14, 1806, the Massachusetts legislature granted a second lottery in aid of the Blodget canal. Active men taking hold this time the avails of this summer were sufficient, with what had been raised by the New Hampshire lottery, to warrant the resumption of work in the latter part of the summer. Encouraged in every respect work was pushed with such vigor that a few days before Christmas, in December, 1806, Blodget's locks and canals were a reality! After twelve years and almost eight months of such trials, hard work, expenditure of money and disappointments as few men, younger than he, could have battled so bravely to the end Samuel Blodget had triumphed over enemies and such obstacles as must have crushed a less determined and enthusiastic spirit.

As it was then too late in the season to open the canal, May Day of the coming year was set for the happy affair. During the winter he busied himself with straightening his accounts and in preparations to meet the managers of the first New Hampshire lottery by a board of arbiters. Thus he was allowed no rest, though he was borne up by the thoughts of that day which was to witness the public acknowledgment of his triumph.

The morning of May 1st, 1807, the proudest day of Judge Blodget's long and eventful life, and the grandest day in the history of our proud city, came with the smiling sky and genial atmosphere of the fairest season of the year. At an early hour the people began to collect about the scene, eager, curious, expectant. Those came out of mere curiosity to see the man of whom they had heard so much for and against, those came to see the wonderful locks and the canal which he had devised to set at defiance the great laws of Nature, those came to scoff and to jeer at the visionary schemer who had squandered his own patrimony and sunk in an enterprise as vain as it was wild of conception the money of friend and stranger, those came to praise and admire the brave, courageous promoter of the public welfare and prosperity, and to laud his name to the sky should his dreams at last prove true, few came with a dim, vague gleam of the swift, marvelous transformation—the matchless perseverance of one man was to bring to the unpromising

scene about them, many came to cheer when convinced by their own eyes that it was not all some mad hoax, as many came to express their contempt in yells of derision should it after all prove a failure.

In the midst of the impatience of the spectators, the venerable projector of the great work, showing traces of the care and trouble through which he had passed, but with head erect and an eye undaunted, a man with a wonderfully vigorous bearing for one in his 84th year, Judge Blodget rode upon the scene in his old styled, two-wheeled carriage. There was a general uncovering of heads, as he drove to the head of the canal, and alighted. Then, a deep silence fell on the crowd, while he stepped upon the raft with a few friends. The gate was opened, and while friend and enemy looked on with spellbound interest, the rude craft with its human freight glided safely down the passage-way and out upon the river below. The silence then was broken, tumultous applause rang on the air, the most adverse unable to withstand the happy outburst of spirit, until the huzzas fairly drowned the roar of old Amoskeag! Modest in his triumphs, yet with a heart overflowing with thanksgiving, Judge Blodget rode down to his home, saying as he stepped down from his chaise: "I am well paid. My canal is complete. I have but one object to live for now. Let my difficulties with the managers be settled before the arbiters, and I die content."

The settlement of his accounts with the lottery managers was to take place in Haverhill, July 1. and until then he kept as busy as ever getting ready to support his claims. On that day he appeared before the arbiters as keen and firm in his manner as ever, to be met with the respectful attention that he deserved. But it was his last appearance in public. Riding home on the third, the weather being extremely cold for the season and he thinly clad, he took a severe cold, so that upon reaching his home he was obliged to seek his bed. As this was the first severe illness of his life, so was it his last, for on September 1, 1807, he sank into that sleep which he had so well earned. His funeral according to his own request was

simple, after which he was borne to the ancient cemetery near the Falls, his grave marked by a plain headstone. Later, when the encroachments of a growing city required it, the remains were removed to a place of sepulture in the south-west corner of the Valley cemetery, a plain, enduring granite monolith marking the spot. On its west face is this inscription :

To the Memory of
HON SAMUEL BLODGET,

Born at Woburn, Mass.

April 1, 1724.

Died at Manchester,

(Then Derryfield,)

Sept. 1, 1807.

The north face has this : The Pioneer of internal Improvements in New Hampshire. The Projector and Builder of the Amoskeag Canal.

The south side has this explanatory note : Erected by His Great-Grandson, Joseph Henry Stickney, of Baltimore, Md., 1868.

The children of Samuel and Hannah (White) Blodget were an active and noted family.

Sarah, born in Haverhill, Mass., October 27, 1749, married Captain Stephen Perkins of Amesbury, where she lived and died.

Abigail, born in Haverhill, Mass., April 20, 1751, married Thomas Stickney, of Haverhill, where they lived and died. Their son, Thomas, managed the Blodget estate after the death of the judge, and no doubt would have carried out the business at the canal successfully had his health permitted.

Nathan, born in Goffstown, N. H., February 9, 1753, was for a time a merchant in Boston, in company with a brother-in-law, but afterwards went to Philadelphia, where he died.

Mary, born in Goffstown, December 1, 1754, married Samuel Gilman, who was in business with Nathan, 1780-90, in Boston.

William, born in Goffstown, July 6, 1756, died in infancy.

Samuel, Jr., born in Goffstown, August 28, 1757, married for his first wife Dorothy, daughter of Gen. Nathaniel Folsom. After a brief military career he went into business in Exeter,

N. H., but which did not prove successful. He next engaged in the East India trade in Boston, which proved profitable, and in 1789 he moved to Philadelphia, where his wife died the following year. Here he established the Insurance Company of North America, and in 1792, married Rebecca, a daughter of Rev. William Smith, D. D., Provost of the Philadelphia University. In 1791-2, he bought a large tract of land in the future territory of Washington, D. C., building in 1795, at the same time his father was building his mansion at Manchester, the first house in Washington, and which was occupied for a time by President Adams and family while the White House was being completed. He also built another house of historical note, which he named the Union Pacific Hotel, which stood on the site of the present Post Office department, and which was bought by the government in 1810 and used as a "general post-office," until 1836, when it was burned. After the burning of the capitol by the British in 1814, Congress met in it for a time. He was interested in many schemes to benefit the National Capital and generously gave a large fortune to help build up the future city. He died in 1814, leaving a large property in trust for his family.

Caleb, born in Goffstown, August 17, 1759, served as Ensign in the Continental army in 1779, and Lieutenant in 1781; was lost overboard from a "Gunning float near Hogg Island," August 9, 1789, and was buried in Boston. He was unmarried.

Elizabeth, born in Goffstown, January 12, 1761, died unmarried, December 23, 1778.

William, born in Goffstown, December 18, 1762, married Sarah, daughter of Major General John Stark.

Benjamin, born in Goffstown, July 6, 1768. He was concerned with his brother Samuel in the Washington purchase; died at Derryfield unmarried.

Upon the death of Judge Blodget, his grandson Thomas Stickney, a promising young man then living in Boston, came to Derryfield to complete the work of opening the river to better facilities for navigation. In 1810 the New Hampshire legislature granted a lottery for the benefit of the Blodget heirs that they might finish the work begun by him. Thomas Stick-

ney started the first manufacturing industry, other than the saw and grist mills, on the Merrimack at this place, and in 1810 was chairman of the committee to change the name of Derryfield to Manchester, out of respect to the oft repeated prophecy of his grandfather that this would be the "Manchester of America." Had he had his health and lived to carry out his intentions, he might have realized some of the benefits likely to accrue from the efforts of Judge Blodget, but he was suffering from an acute disease which terminated his life in 1814, July 13, and he was buried in Granary Burial Ground in Boston. This left no one to look after the family interest, and the canal passed into the possession of the Merrimack Boating Company organized in Boston. Its first boat came up in October, 1814.

In summing up the life work and character of Samuel Blodget we must take into consideration, to do him entire justice, not only the result of his long and arduous toils and trials, but the peculiar condition and circumstances of his surroundings. Capital was not easily found to advance any enterprise of the most simple order, the spirit of progress had not been awakened in the hearts of a people which had not fully recovered from such a period of struggle for their civil rights as had necessarily put in the background all thoughts of bettering their financial condition. The art of mechanics was not understood and engineers were lacking to attempt a work of the kind. There had been no undertaking of the sort worth mentioning in the country, and those naturally looked with askance upon it who did not understand it. What modern resources, with modern knowledge of mechanics have done, with modern corporations to carry on the work, Samuel Blodget, alone and unaided, with such capital as he had individually accumulated in a time when big estates were unknown, set himself resolutely to do. If he was a visionary schemer, as his enemies delighted to style him, he was of that nature which has given us all of our great pioneers of progress. If a dreamer he was of the kind of Gouverneur Morris, who in 1806, suggested the Erie canal, scarcely of more importance than the Amoskeag canal, nor of greater magnitude of enterprise when the time of its construction and the wealth behind it are placed in comparison

with Blodget's project. If he was ambitious of success, it was that ambition which made him a public benefactor without rebounding to his personal greed or gain. In the light of later ideas of the fitness of things, some have tried to detract from his honor and the glory of his motives, by the means which were employed to procure the money necessary to accomplish his plans. Again must we place ourselves in the associations of that period. The lottery seemed the legitimate, and it might as truthfully be said, the only way of raising money for public enterprises. It had the sanction of church and state, and all classes of people patronized it. Says James Parton on this subject: "Chatham street, New York, was almost entirely occupied by lottery offices, the flaming bills of which made a great show on both sides of the way. Every device was employed to dazzle and lure the passer by. On certain days in the week, the drawing took place publicly in the space behind the front office, where a little girl, clad in spotless white, blindfolded, stood upon a platform, and drew forth the tickets in the presence of a breathless crowd." Every large city in America and Europe had at that time its Chatham street. In London, the sacred precinct of the west gate of St. Paul's cathedral was chosen as the place of drawing. The agent to do this was one of the smallest and prettiest of the Blue coat School boys, selected from drawing to drawing, to remove the tickets, one after another, from the revolving wheel, and hand them to another little bright-eyed innocent, who passed them on to the manager, who announced their numbers in a high key of voice. There are plenty of instances to show how prevalent this custom was down to 1833, when Massachusetts abolished such methods and other states soon followed. The legislature of Massachusetts in 1786-7, in trying to encourage and stimulate the starting of the first cotton manufacturing in this country at Beverly, did not hesitate to resort to prohibitory duties, Eastern land grants, lotteries and the like, granting six tickets in the land lottery of 1787. Again in 1789 the legislature granted 500 pounds to be paid in eastern lands and invoked congress to assist by a national lottery. Nashua, this state, in 1745 or 6, petitioned to the General Court for privilege to raise money by

lottery to build a bridge over the Nashua river. As late as 1811, the New Hampshire legislature inaugurated a lottery scheme to raise money to build the road through Dixville Notch. But Samuel Blodget needs no vindication of this kind. The record of his whole life is ample evidence that he never wronged any one. In fact if he had a fault, if that which borders upon a virtue can be styled a shortcoming, it was in placing too much confidence in others. In his own open, free-hearted, hospitable nature, he believed others to possess the honesty of purpose which was the ruling star of his life. He is described as having a sturdy figure, a little over five feet and nine inches in height, a full, round countenance inclined to floridness, blue eyes and brown hair, a fluent talker, genial in his intercourse and a man of strong personal magnetism, which never failed to draw about him a large circle of warm friends. He was rigidly temperate in his manner of living, using no ardent spirits, active in his pursuits, and usually lodged in a large room with windows open on both sides of his bed, regardless of the weather, and was always sanguine of success in whatever he undertook. By following these simple rules he believed he should live to be one hundred years old. No doubt they did sustain him through his arduous work, but that scantiness of clothing in which he believed was one cause of catching cold on his last ride from Haverhill, which in his over-taxed condition of body and mind, resulted in his death at a time when he was on the eve of seeing realized the prophecy of his dreams. But if others were to carry out the work he had planned, to reap the harvest of the field he had sown, it was his far seeing brain, his long life of devotion to the laying of its foundation, his accumulated means, his undaunted spirit which made it all possible. The golden years of his life were a sacrifice for our beautiful city ; his memory should be revered in every heart that has love for our growing institutions his name should be fixed imperishably with her history ; and his sturdy figure in bronze or granite stand on one of our public squares as a perpetual reminder of him who has been fitly described as the Pioneer of Progress.

