

TURNER'S PUBLIC SPIRIT.

G. B. Tellingham
State Librarian
Boston

Forty-Sixth Year

Ayer, Mass., Saturday, December 27, 1913

No. 16. Price Four Cents

IT'S YOUR Business

It's "up to you" to place that contract for wiring your property for electricity—for the installation of fixtures, etc.—with US if you desire to secure SAFE, high-grade work and materials.

Bear in mind that cheap, "skipped" work carries with it that terrible hazard—FIRE.

Our work will pass perfectly the most exacting

FIRE INSURANCE INSPECTION

and still have a healthy margin of safety besides.

Good work—good materials—close figures

Electric Shop

THE ONLY ELECTRIC SHOP IN TOWN

Robert Murphy's Sons Company

Phone 86-3

AYER, MASS.

ATTENTION

It will pay you to look into our monthly payment plan for House Wiring and Fixtures. Also, our rental of Wiring and Fixtures to tenants. Small monthly payments will secure you Electric Lights in your home or tenement. Write or telephone

THOMAS E. WHITAKER, JR.,
Shirley, Mass. Tel. 26-4.

J. M. WALLACE,
Ayer, Mass. Tel. 123-2.

HARVARD.

News Items.

Thirty of the young people of the town gave Mr. and Mrs. Edward Coke a surprise call on Monday evening. They brought with them as a present to the young couple a very nice art square, William J. Kerley, in behalf of the visitors, in a few well chosen words, presenting the gift. Ice cream and cake was served, the party enjoying a very pleasant evening.

Jonathan Davis has a gang of men at work clearing off the lot above the slaughter house which he recently bought of W. P. Farwell.

The King's Daughters will hold their regular meeting at the Congregational church parlor on Thursday afternoon, January 1, at 2.30 o'clock.

Friends of Lawrence Bevan will recall his buying a farm in North Leominster this fall. He was doing splendidly, living there with his father and mother. News was received on Tuesday of a fire which totally destroyed his farm buildings, tools and household furniture. The fire occurred late in the evening and gained considerable headway before being discovered. Although fairly well insured Mr. Bevan does not feel that this will cover his loss.

W. H. Davis, of Colon, Neb., was a guest this week with Miss Susie A. Davis, his cousin.

Miss Mary Davis is expected home this week for a two-weeks' rest from the hospital where she is training. She has had tonsillitis and is in need of a rest.

Miss Helen Bailey is home from Keene, N. H., visiting with her mother in town.

Mrs. E. P. Watson, of Newton Highlands, spent Thursday of last week in town with friends.

The vesper services held at the Unitarian church on Sunday evening were attended by the people of the town, every available seat being taken. A chorus of twenty voices, assisted by Mrs. H. H. Atwood, of Worcester, soprano, gave a very fine musical program. Rev. L. H. Morse, of Still River, assisted the pastor, Rev. C. S. Bodwell, in the devotional exercises. Christmas tree exercises of the society were held at the town hall on Wednesday evening at 7.30, the exercises being in charge of Miss Helen Dickson.

The Christmas tree and exercises of the Orthodox church were held on Wednesday afternoon at the church vestry. Miss Annie Reed had charge of the festivities.

Music lovers of this town are very much pleased over the interest shown in the revival of an old English custom, that of the "Christmas waltz." This custom once so popular but of late years being neglected, is still observed on Beacon Hill and in other cities and the musical people of our own town are glad to see Harvard lead the country towns in the revival of this quaint custom. On Christmas eve a company of singers, clad in cloaks and masks, passed about the town singing carols. Many of the houses were illuminated with candles. This movement was started here by Mrs. Fiske Warren, who very gener-

ously furnished the music and costumes for the evening. Once started Harvard will see that the custom is revived yearly.

Dr. and Mrs. Will Howell of Boston are camping at Bare Hill for over the Christmas holidays.

Ed Crowell left town on Wednesday for a few days' visit with friends at South Dennis.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Adyette are guests with Mr. and Mrs. Fiske Warren at Tahanto farm.

Robert M. Grey of the Boston University school of theology, who has so acceptably conducted the services at the Congregational church during the past two weeks, has been engaged as a regular supply during the illness of the pastor. He will preach at the morning service on Sunday. The meeting of the Endeavor society in the evening will consist of an illustrated missionary lecture, "Every-day life in Japan." The pictures will be of unusual interest.

On Sunday morning at the Unitarian church, the service will be conducted by the pastor at 10.45. Form the valuable habit of church attendance. Sunday school at twelve. A class for everyone. The little tots are being taught by Miss Blanche Davis, who has had Normal school training. Ranging up from that age the classes include one for women and one for men. The men are discussing the single tax under the leadership of the pastor. Everybody heartily welcome.

Miss Katherine Waters is at home for a two-weeks' vacation from her school duties at Northbridge Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip O. Dickson have engaged passage by boat for a trip to Jamaica and the canal zone. Mr. Dickson, who is out of health, resulting from twenty-five years of devotion to business, is now taking a vacation. The doctor's orders are rest and Mr. and Mrs. Dickson are going to take a real one. They are anticipating a very delightful time.

Miss Ruth Whitney is to be home from New York city for a few days and is expected Saturday.

Harry Stearns, of Conway, is visiting for a few days this week with Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilder and Lewis Ripley were Christmas guests with Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Ripley.

Misses Oressa and Christine Webster, of Springfield, and Miss Pearl Webster, of Montreal, Quebec, are home for the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Webster.

A. L. Haskell has just arrived with a carload of cows from Vermont. They are new milch and springers.

See advertisement of the great reduction sale of the stock of the late George L. Davis at Ayer.

Miss N. T. Harshorn will close her school with a reception and dance in the town hall on Thursday evening, January 1.

Complimentary Club.
The annual meeting of the Harvard Complimentary Ball club was held at the selectmen's room on Thursday of last week. The following officers were elected: Albert H. Bigelow, pres.; Philip O. Dickson, v. p.; W. Fred Dickson, treas.; John Edward Maynard, sec.; Messrs. Bigelow and Ker-

Mid-Winter Clothing

We still have a good variety of patterns and a good many different styles in our HART, SCHAFFNER & MARK Fall and Winter Clothes. Suits of Cheviot, Worsted or Serge, with the long soft roll or the stationary lapel, in a wide range of colors.

Overcoats, with or without Belts, all prices from
Other Makes from

\$18.00 to \$30.00

\$10.00 to \$18.50

COMPLETE LINES OF FURNISHINGS, HATS, CAPS, SHOES AND RUBBER WEAR

Everything to Wear for Man or Boy

Fletcher Bros. AYER - MASS.

Opposite Depot

NOTICE—Store Closes Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Evenings at 6.30

Geo. F. Brown
RELIABLE CLOTHIER AYER, MASS.



Overcoats

Handsome, Stylish Overcoats in smart designs and newest fabrics. Overcoats that you will take pleasure in wearing. Every man will find here something to please him as we have a big variety of styles and fabrics to select from. Dressy Overcoats in Black and Oxford Kerseys, made with Velvet Collars and cut 46 inches long. The popular CHINCHILLAS and Fancy Mixtures, made with Shawl Collars and Belts. Some are made from the popular double-breasted goods and others have heavy Serge Linings. Then you will find here the big, long, roomy Overcoat cut 52 inches long and made with large convertible collars.

Our Overcoats are really handsome garments and are well made and correct in style.

Come in and look them over as that is the only way to fully appreciate them.

MEN'S REGULAR OVERCOATS	\$10.00, \$12.00, \$15.00 and \$20.00
MEN'S FANCY MIXTURE OVERCOATS	\$10.00, \$13.50, \$15.00, \$18.00, \$20.00 and \$25.00
YOUTHS' FANCY MIXTURE OVERCOATS	\$8.47, \$10.00, \$13.50, \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00
BOYS' FANCY MIXTURE OVERCOATS	\$5.00, \$7.47, \$8.47 and \$10.00

FUR-LINED OVERCOATS

You will find here a good assortment of very dressy and very warm Fur-lined Overcoats. The shell, or outside of coats, are made of Astrakhan or Kersey, and the lining in Dogskin, Marmot or Muskrat. The Collars are Muskrat or Persian Lamb.

Prices—\$30, \$35, \$50 and \$60

FUR OUTSIDE OVERCOATS

A good assortment and all at extremely low prices for the quality. Dogskin, Horsehide, Calfskin and Angoras. All made with large Storm Collars and with Heavy Quilted Linings; also, some first-quality Genuine Raccoon Coats.

Prices—\$20, \$25, \$30 and \$35

SHEEP-LINED COATS

The outside made of Heavy Corduroy, Mole-skin or Leather and lined with Heavy Sheep Pelts. Some have Corduroy Collars and some have Fur Collars; also, Duck Coats and Corduroy Coats with Heavy Blanket Linings.

Corduroy Coats, Sheep-lined	\$5.00 to \$7.50
Leather, Sheep-lined	\$5.00
Leather and Corduroy, reversible	\$5.00
Blanket-lined Coats	\$2.50 to \$4.50

HEAVY DRIVING COATS

Many different kinds. Some made of Astrakhan Cloth and some of the Heavy Montana Buffalo Cloth. They are made heavy, with large Storm Collars and are wind and storm proof.

Prices—\$15, \$18 and \$20

WINTER UNDERWEAR

Everything in Warm Underwear that a Man or Boy may need you will find here.

Men's Heavy Double-breasted, fleeced-lined, the celebrated High Rock make	50¢
Men's Derby Ribbed Underwear	50¢
Men's Heavy Cotton and Wool	50¢
Men's Wool Underwear, the celebrated Glantonbury make	\$1.00 to \$1.50
Wright's Health Fleece Underwear, known everywhere	75¢ and 95¢
Men's Union-Suits in Heavy Derby Ribbed in Cooper's and Carter's makes	\$1.00 to \$2.00
Boys' Heavy Fleece	25¢, 29¢ and 50¢
Boys' Wool	50¢
Boys' Union Suits	50¢, \$1.00 and \$1.25

SWEATERS

All the popular colors in Gray, Crimson, Tan and Navy. Some are made Plain Coat Style and some have Collar and Pockets. Some splendid values for the money.

Men's Coat Sweaters	\$1.00, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00 and \$6.00
Boys' Coat Sweaters	50¢, 98¢, \$1.50 and \$2.00
Women's Coat Sweaters	\$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00 and \$6.00
Children's Coat Sweaters	50¢, 98¢, \$1.50 and \$2.00

CALENDAR WEEK

We shall present to every customer who makes a purchase at the store a beautiful Osborne Art Calendar for the year 1914. These calendars are reproductions of high-class original paintings by well-known American artists. We feel sure that you will be pleased and find it worth having and keeping.

STORE OPEN MONDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENINGS

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE
GEORGE H. B. TURNER, Publisher
JOHN H. TURNER, Editor

We publish the following papers:
Turner's Public Spirit, Ayer, Mass.
The Groton Landmark
The Peppercorn Clarion-Advertiser
The Littleton Guide
The Westford Warbler
The Harvard Herald
The Shirley Oracle
The Townsend Tocsin
The Brookline (N. H.) Beacon
The Hollis (N. H.) Homestead

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Ayer, Mass.

Saturday, December 27, 1913.

WESTFORD.

Center. Christmas greetings and good wishes of the season to the readers of the column.

Dr. Sparks, the well-known veterinarian and Veterinary stable owner of Lowell, while driving a spirited pair of black horses in town on Thursday of last week, met with a runaway accident. While going down the Boston road the pole to the buggy broke, throwing the occupants out. Aside from a shaking up no serious injury was done and later the horses were recaptured.

George E. Gould has a record of moving forty-six families in one year in this town. Of course these were not all in Westford village, although there have been a larger number of movings than usual here. In the forty-six are included some in Forge Village, Graniteville and the out-lying districts. Mr. Gould has also made moving trips to Newton, Waverley and Weston and has a trip planned to Boston shortly.

News came to Westford last week of the sudden death of Mrs. Guy L. Rockwell at her home on C street, Lowell, Friday evening, December 19, after a short illness, aged thirty-nine years. Mrs. Rockwell was the adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Bicknell of this town, receiving her education in the public schools here and at Westford academy. Mrs. Rockwell's death was particularly sad for her bereaved parents, as her husband she leaves a family of young children—three sons, Webster, Clifford and Percy, and one daughter, Blanche. The funeral services were held from her late home in Lowell on Monday afternoon at two o'clock and was held at the family lot in Fairview cemetery, Westford, conducted by Rev. David Wallace, of the Union church.

The Lowell and Fitchburg railroad officials arranged for a late car from Westford on Christmas eve, the time schedule being the same as for the Saturday evening trip. The mild, open weather has made good traffic for the line by the holiday shoppers and visitors.

Miss Rachael Wallace, at the Congregational parsonage, observed her fifteenth birthday anniversary on Monday, and in honor of the event her parents gave a pretty birthday party for her and a group of her young friends. The young people enjoyed games and music and a delicious birthday supper. Those present were Misses Frances and Alice Wright, Jennie and Rachael Kimball, Edna Day, Florence Wilson, Elmer Colburn, Mabel Prescott, Elva and Edith Judd and Lillian Roby, as well as the young hostesses, Misses Pauline and Rachael Wallace.

Christmas services at the Congregational church on last Sunday were especially appropriate both morning and evening. The pastor preached an earnest sermon at the morning service, his theme being "The message of the Christ child." This was the first Sunday Miss Hazel B. Hartford was in charge of the organ and her capable playing at both services with special musical programs won her much appreciated commendation. Those who sustained the place from morning services were Mrs. Charles D. Colburn and Miss Lillian Sutherland, and in the evening Mrs. Cyril A. Blaney and Miss Adrith Carter.

About Town. This also is discouraging to the ice crop—ploughing on the Read farm, corner of Main street and Stony Brook road as late as Thursday, December 18.

A mad dog fringing both shores of the Tadnuck brook, near the confluence of the river into Westford, was maddened and waving by the signals of the blowing breezes for some one to be thoughtful enough to mow it. The owner thinks he will obey the signals and later on mow it on skates.

The funeral of William Rappson, who was killed on the railroad at Wakefield, took place from the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Rappson, on the Lowell road, on Thursday afternoon of last week. Rev. David Wallace conducted the service. The bearers were Francis W. Banister, Charles W. Whitney, Ralph Bridgeford and Charles Roby. Burial was at Fairview cemetery. The deceased was twenty-three years old and besides his parents he is survived by a married sister in Lowell. Having never married, he was an almost continuous length of time his acquaintance was not extensive, but with this limited acquaintance the floral contributions at the funeral were liberal and beautiful.

The next debate of the West Chelmsford society will be held the first Tuesday evening in January. From present known arrangement the debate will take place first and after the debate has closed the subject will be announced like digging for gold without any clue to its whereabouts.

Westford had a chapter last week. A runaway at Parkerville, a runaway at Westford Center, a runaway at Graniteville in which sad to relate Nelson T. Provost was killed. Young Rappson was killed on a freight train. George E. Gould had his new Ford auto badly damaged in a turnout at Littleton and the runaway of Hon. H. E. Fletcher was badly mutilated in a mixup with other wheels not his own. Nevertheless we must be true to the instincts of formalism and above these liabilities of earthly conditions give forth the usual "Merry Christmas."

Fortnightly Club. The Fortnightly club held one of its well-aimed gatherings in searching for truth. The truth to be searched for was hidden in the resolution "The international marriages are a detriment to American society." Owing to the absence of one of the affirmative speakers, one of the negative speakers shifted to the affirmative so that the lineup for the boxing contest which that unit member, the tongue, only could be used, with Horace A. Gould, Harry H. Ingalls, affirmative; Samuel L. Taylor, negative. The battle opened with Gould

at the bat. He batted high and fast and the negative got dizzy watching in so many fast directions for a chance to make a catch. At the call of "time" the negative began to cluck like a ruffled hen whose brood had been disturbed. A flutter for awhile looking for a place to land. Ingalls, the affirmative, and sure of aim, adopted the clucking of the negative in searching and trying to land knockouts for truth.

The question opened to the audience sent Mrs. Alice Lambert and Charles S. Edwards with well directed punches at the sight-seeing apparatus of the negative, who had his hands full to keep from being what is called in pillistile contests "groggy." The negative side-stepped and side-tracked in a foot dodging bout at the hands of so many well directed affirmatives which nearly sent him down several times for the count. Owing to the use of electric transportation on the negative was fortunate in getting away from final danger before the debate closed, but was informed that the audience as referred to decided in favor of the negative on the merits of the arguments, and in favor of the affirmative side on the merits of the question.

The writer is of the opinion that the referee must have mistaken the fluttering of noise for an argument. But who wins is unimportant. The practice is equally as good in a defeat as in a win.

Wedding. A very pretty church wedding occurred at 12.30 Tuesday, December 23, in St. John's Episcopal church, Framingham, when William Reuben Taylor, of this town, and Miss Elizabeth Richardson Cushing, of Framingham, were united in marriage by Rev. Reginald Percival, rector of the church. The church was beautifully and appropriately decorated with flowers.

To the strains of the bridal chorus from Lohengrin, played by a cousin of the bridegroom, Mrs. Helen Hamlen Taylor, of Lowell, the bridegroom, accompanied by his brother, Prof. John Adams Taylor, of the University of North Dakota, as best man, walked slowly to the altar, where the rector in the white surplice of the Episcopal church, awaited them before the white marble altar. The ushers, Frederick Allen Snow, of West Chelmsford, brothers-in-law of the groom, and Charles J. Olney, Jr., of Waltham, a cousin of the bride, led the procession to the altar. The bride, dressed in a white gown, awaited them before the white marble altar. The ushers, Frederick Allen Snow, of West Chelmsford, brothers-in-law of the groom, and Charles J. Olney, Jr., of Waltham, a cousin of the bride, led the procession to the altar. The bride, dressed in a white gown, awaited them before the white marble altar.

The bride was lovely in her pure white crepe de chine gown with empire train and trimmed with seed pearls and rare duchess lace. She wore a sheer lace veil arranged with duchess lace and orange blossoms sent by her brother from Florida, and carried a shower bouquet of white roses and lilies-of-the-valley. The maid of honor, who is a graduate of the Framingham Normal school, class of 1910, was charming in a pale blue satin gown, trimmed with silver lace, and carried a silver lace hat and carried pale pink roses.

The impressive service of the Episcopal church was used, each reverent plighting their troth. The bridal procession then came down the aisle to the altar. The strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march. A short reception was held in the spacious parlors of Crocker hall, one of the buildings of the Normal school on the campus closely. The newly-wedded couple, assisted in their departure by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Dyer Cushing, and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Law Taylor, received the congratulations of their relatives and immediate friends.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Dyer Cushing, of Framingham, and granddaughter of the late Dr. Charles Wesley Cushing, D. D., LL. D., a former principal of Lasell Seminary, and of the late Josiah Richardson, one of the pioneer merchants of Faneuil Hall square. She is a graduate of the Boston Girls' high school and of Framingham Normal school, class of 1906, and has been a successful teacher in Westford, Lincoln and Chelmsford.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Taylor, of Boston, and has been strongly identified with the best interests of his native town, holding several positions of trust and honor. He is a graduate of Westford academy and was a student at Mt. Hermon Normal school. For many years he has held a responsible position with the Abbott Worsted Company, of Graniteville.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor will take a short wedding trip. After March first they will be at home here in Westford in the circle of their friends, who will give them a most cordial welcome. Many beautiful presents have been received—cut glass, silver, substantial checks, a dinner set, etc., representing the affection and good will of friends and relatives.

Forge Village. The sympathy of the village people is extended to the bereaved relatives of Nelson Provost, who was fatally injured in Graniteville last week. The aged father and mother in this their time of sorrow.

The annual reunion of the Blodgett family was held recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Blodgett, of Boston road. An unusually large gathering was present, including their nine grandchildren. A bountiful dinner was served, after which music and games were enjoyed.

Electric lights are to be installed immediately at St. Andrew's mission. There will be about thirty lights altogether. The chapel will have six side lights, a central light and three lights in the chancel and in addition a special shaded pulpit light.

Miss Eva F. Pyne is spending a few days with her aunt, Mrs. E. B. Guyer of Savin Hill, Dorchester.

Albert Collins of a Boston electrical school is home for the holidays.

Christmas Exercises. On last week Friday afternoon the Christmas exercises were held at Cameron school and this year the children certainly did especially good work. At 1.30 o'clock the exercises began in the lower primary of which Miss Pyne is the teacher. A large Christmas tree was the principal attraction. The little tots sang and spoke excellently and did their teacher great credit. At the conclusion of the exercises each child received a gift and a pretty bag of candy.

The pupils rendered three-part songs due to the music teacher, Miss M. B. Raynes, as well as Miss Ward. After the singing the Christmas play, entitled "Little Jack's Christmas," was given which was acted in an excellent manner. The program was the best ever given in the school for children acted their parts in an able manner and showed careful training. Great appreciation was shown by the visitors to the teachers and pupils, as both to be congratulated on the good work done. Seats for the visitors were loaned from St. Andrew's mission through the courtesy of William Burnett.

Little Daisy Precious, of the sixth grade, who is quarantined at her home with scarlet fever, was remembered by the teachers as well as her two sisters, Caroline and Mildred, who were absent for the first time.

Graniteville. A very pleasant program of Christmas was held in the Sargent school on Friday afternoon of last week, it being the last day of school before the Christmas vacation. All fifty odd governments in the civilized world were present. All the children received some pretty gifts from the teachers, and in return the teachers received many presents from the children.

J. Omer LeDuc has recently returned here from his duties as teacher in Charleston and will spend the Christmas vacation at his home in this village.

At a meeting of Court Graniteville, F. of A., held in the rooms of the society on last week Thursday night, all fifty odd governments in the civilized world were present. All the children received some pretty gifts from the teachers, and in return the teachers received many presents from the children.

The funeral of Nelson T. Provost, whose sudden death on Friday as a result of an accident caused much deep sorrow to his wide circle of friends a few days ago, took place from his late home at one o'clock last Sunday afternoon. The body was taken to St. Catherine's church, where the committal services were held and were conducted by the pastor, Edmund T. Schofield. The regular choir, under the direction of Miss Mary F. Hanley, was in attendance, the singing adding greatly to the solemnity of the service.

The church was filled with sorrowing relatives and friends who came to pay their last tribute of love and respect to one who they loved so dearly. People from all stations and walks in life were present on this sad occasion, a great number being present from out-of-town. Those who attended the services in the church also marched in a body to the grave and there was deep sorrow on every side. It was one of the largest funerals held in this village for a long time. Just previous to the funeral, Nelson Provost and was pleased to call him friend. The floral tributes were unusually beautiful and testified to a marked degree to the high esteem in which he was held in the community. The bearers were Henry J. Healy, James O'Brien, P. Henry Harrington, A. R. Wall, William H. Healy and Lester McLenna. Burial was in St. Catherine's cemetery.

LITTLETON.

At There Westford. In reply to the anonymous communication published in the paper, we will call Westford for want of a name, we will submit some thoughts and a few figures which we trust he will consider with open mind in which case he will not doubt arrive at just conclusions as to why we are not a more prominent town. His arguments cannot fail to see a point when called to his attention.

Westford says France came out \$12,000,000 behind in operating her railroads last year, which is not correct. That is nearly one-ninth as much as free Americans paid the Standard Oil Company and its subsidiaries which till dissolution of the supreme court constituted the oil trust. The gain for last year are given at \$11,000,000 dividends on \$100,000,000 authorized capital.

The New York Call of November 27, says the Missouri state public service commission has just authorized the St. Paul Railroad Company to issue bonds for \$10,000,000 at six percent to run ninety-nine years. Annual interest \$28,200,000; for the ninety-nine years \$2,791,800,000. Dividends on stock must also be earned of course.

Miss Ruth Prescott, who has taught very successfully in Ringde, N. H., for a year past, has been engaged by Supt. Hill to teach the primary grades in Carlisle, beginning shortly after the Christmas vacation.

Richard L. Hartwell has been transferred in his business to New York city.

Rev. H. L. Packard is the president of the Middlesex-Norfolk Temperance Union instead of Rev. H. L. Caulkins as reported last week. Mr. Packard was present at the Good Government rally held in Maynard on last week Wednesday.

Miss Bridget McNiff, of Worcester, whose death and burial were reported in the Ayer column last week was for many years a resident of Littleton, making her home for so many years with Mrs. John A. Kimball that she was generally known as Bridget Kimball. She had many friends in town who were pained to learn of her sudden death. While at work over the kitchen stove her dress caught fire and she was very severely burned. Although she was taken immediately to a hospital and received every attention, her burns were fatal in the end. Miss McNiff was a modest, retiring woman, of estimable character and much beloved by all who knew her. Mrs. Patrick McNiff and her son Edward, of this town, attended the funeral in Worcester on Tuesday.

Henry Works, of Worcester academy, and Edwin Eston, of Tufts college, are spending Christmas vacation at home. Miss Grace Conant, of Decatur, Ill., arrived home on Sunday morning. She and her mother, Mrs. A. E. Conant, have visited with William Conant and family in Arlington Heights this week. Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Kimball attended the wedding of Miss Cushing and W. R. Taylor in Framingham on Tuesday. Miss Frances Wallace, of Chelsea, is the Christmas guest of Rev. and Mrs. H. L. Packard.

ernment ownership this is unanswerable. Westford says: "It is the law of business the greater the wealth the more the more extravagant is the management." This being the case the individual must be able to do business at a better profit than the partnership or partnership then the corporation, and the corporation then the trust. Why then is the trust? That may be a good argument, but what a kick to it.

The parable of the ten schoolhouses leaves interesting but hardly convincing. It is the exception that proves the rule. We could, without much research, name ten towns who have not built schoolhouses they sorely need. We think of three "right off the reel" Littleton, Boston and New York. All these good old arguments have been in use at different times for a hundred years against the substituting publicly owned highways for unripe, the establishment of government owned and operated railroads of rivers and harbors, the adoption of the public school system and the parcel post, and they are just as good as they ever were. Inasmuch as some fifty odd governments in the civilized world own and operate their railroads in whole or in part, government ownership is past the experimental stage. If it works as unsatisfactorily as friend Westford would have us believe, why don't some of these governments hand the business over to private enterprise?

Westford accuses us of hating prosperity. The prosperity of the railroad wrecking magnate of Wall street who freezes out the small stockholder for private gain, of the brother of the produce exchange who corners the market in food and other necessities of life and robs the producers and consumers at one operation, of the manufacturer who exploits his help, and of the landlords who live off little children into profits when the law will permit—the prosperity of these gentlemen and the whole tribe of blood-sucking parasites who feed on the labor of honest laboring men we have with all our strength, but no man shall ever hear us say aught against the prosperity of anyone who renders to society a just equivalent for that prosperity. We hope that makes our position clear. We have not exhausted the subject but we have exceeded our space limit.

When you feel like it Westford, send us your fatherless waif and we will care for it the best we can. "The worst is yet to come." V. T. Esten.

The article of the Westford scribe essentially accuses me of hating prosperity. The prosperity of the manipulator of railroad stocks, who so works the game as to freeze out the small investor by depressing the prices so that he can gobble up the stock when low, re-organize and boost the price to sell at great profit, then works the same game over again; of the manufacturer who works his help at starvation wages and under unsanitary conditions, who would if he could grind the neck of little children into profits; of the robber who risks the poisoning of the whole nation by putting on the market adulterated food and drugs for the money there is in it; of the manipulator of corners in food stuffs, robbing the producer on the one hand and the consumers on the other; the prosperity of these and the whole tribe of parasites that live off the labor of their fellowmen without even so much as the courtesy of giving them a honest day's work for their strength, but no man shall ever hear me say aught against the prosperity of any one who renders to society a just equivalent of service by hand or brain for that prosperity. I trust I make my position clear. V. T. E.

The foregoing article was received at this office the first of the month in reply to an article published under the name of "The worst is yet to come." The article has not been published before.—Ed.

News Items. Miss Hazel Bradlee, teacher in the West grammar school, entertained her two sisters from Hudson, N. H., last week Friday and returned with them to her home for the Christmas vacation.

Schools closed last week Friday with Christmas exercises appropriate to the season in all the grades. Many parents and other friends availed themselves of the opportunity to attend and were much pleased with the programs presented. The children of the fifth and sixth grades of the Union school, under the direction of their teacher, Miss Woodbine, learned very pretty Christmas carols which they sang at the homes of the parents and in the school. The children of the Common, leaving little packages of confectionery and happy Christmas greetings—a delightful attention that was greatly appreciated by all who were visited by these little people.

Miss Ruth Prescott, who has taught very successfully in Ringde, N. H., for a year past, has been engaged by Supt. Hill to teach the primary grades in Carlisle, beginning shortly after the Christmas vacation.

Richard L. Hartwell has been transferred in his business to New York city.

Rev. H. L. Packard is the president of the Middlesex-Norfolk Temperance Union instead of Rev. H. L. Caulkins as reported last week. Mr. Packard was present at the Good Government rally held in Maynard on last week Wednesday.

Miss Bridget McNiff, of Worcester, whose death and burial were reported in the Ayer column last week was for many years a resident of Littleton, making her home for so many years with Mrs. John A. Kimball that she was generally known as Bridget Kimball. She had many friends in town who were pained to learn of her sudden death. While at work over the kitchen stove her dress caught fire and she was very severely burned. Although she was taken immediately to a hospital and received every attention, her burns were fatal in the end. Miss McNiff was a modest, retiring woman, of estimable character and much beloved by all who knew her. Mrs. Patrick McNiff and her son Edward, of this town, attended the funeral in Worcester on Tuesday.

Henry Works, of Worcester academy, and Edwin Eston, of Tufts college, are spending Christmas vacation at home.

Miss Grace Conant, of Decatur, Ill., arrived home on Sunday morning. She and her mother, Mrs. A. E. Conant, have visited with William Conant and family in Arlington Heights this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Kimball attended the wedding of Miss Cushing and W. R. Taylor in Framingham on Tuesday.

Miss Frances Wallace, of Chelsea, is the Christmas guest of Rev. and Mrs. H. L. Packard.

The next meeting of the Choral society will be next Thursday evening.

Charles M. Thayer was taken by Dr. Hopkins to a hospital in Boston on Monday for an operation.

Littleton people are very happy to welcome back to town Mr. and Mrs. Charles Watts, who arrived here from Holliston on Tuesday.

Mrs. A. M. Parker and Miss M. H. Kimball attended the funeral of Mrs. Elisha Stone in Ayer on Monday afternoon.

Gardner W. Prouty has built an ice house back of his barn for home use.

Albert J. Knights, who is at home from the Mitchell Miller school, will entertain a party of his school friends at the Overlook for the week-end.

See advertisement of the great reduction sale of the stock of the late George L. Davis at Ayer.

Presented with Picture. An incident of Christmas Sunday at the Unitarian Sunday school was the presentation by Rev. and Mrs. William Channing Brown of a picture beautifully framed for a place in the vestry. The picture is a large one, 36x48 inches, of striking beauty as well as being historically interesting.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

The original picture of which this is an admirable reproduction was painted by the Hungarian artist, Kriesch Aladar, by invitation of the town council of Torda, when Hungary, in 1856, was preparing to celebrate its thousandth anniversary. The incident which the picture commemorates that of Francis David pleading for liberty and toleration in religion at the Diet of Torda, Hungary, in 1568, is an event which lights the close of the great Reformation days, somewhat as Luther's deed at the Diet of Worms lighted their beginning.

This appeal for religious tolerance and the equal rights of all the churches of the land, made by Francis David, the first bishop and vestry member of the Unitarian churches of Transylvania, led to the earliest legislation in christian history in behalf of religious freedom and toleration. As such it is an event of profound religious significance and this picture, the heroic figure of Francis David will serve to symbolize the contribution which the liberal faith has made to christianity and the spread of the Christmas spirit of good will.

other nations and there is at present little need of fear of war. The various means and methods of work now in process for the preservation of peace and the leaders in this movement were thoroughly discussed by Mrs. Duryea, who believes that through the brotherhood of co-operation our ambition for world-wide peace will be realized.

In ten years of this new century, 110 cases have been settled by arbitration. An investigation of the development in the movement must impress one of the strong tendency towards universal peace and faith in the process for the settlement of all national and international strife and misunderstanding by methods that shall be conducive to harmony and prosperity for all concerned. Mrs. Duryea prophesies that in the course of five years we shall have reached that stage in peace development when even all fears of hostility will have vanished forever. The lecturer represents the World Peace Organization and goes about all New England and especially Massachusetts in his interest. The audience gave Mrs. Duryea a rising vote of thanks. A vocal solo was given by Mrs. Mattie Priest, accompanied by Mrs. Young.

New Advertisements. North Middlesex Savings Bank ANNUAL MEETING The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of this Bank will be held at its rooms in Ayer, Mass., on Monday, the 24th day of January, 1914, at 2 o'clock P. M., for the election of officers and the transaction of any other business that may legally come before the meeting. E. A. RICHARDSON, Secretary. Ayer, December 27, 1913. 1116

A. B. FARWELL TEACHER OF PIANO AND HARMONY Tel. 52-4 Groton, Mass. Piano Tuning Tone and Action Regulating WILMOT B. CLEAVES, Harvard Telephone 20 Ten Years, Aeolian Co., New York PIANOS FOR SALE

Christmas Plants AT FELCH'S GREENHOUSES, AYER Try Felch's Food for House Plants For Sale by Grocers NOTICE The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the First National Bank of Ayer will be held at the Banking Rooms in Ayer, Mass., on Monday, January 12, 1914, at one o'clock P. M. for the purpose of acting upon the following business: To choose a Board of Directors to serve for the ensuing year, and to transact any other business that may come before the meeting. CHAS. A. NORMAN, Cashier. Ayer, Mass., Dec. 10, 1913. 4114

MY SPECIALTIES RIGHT DOWN TO ROCK BOTTOM PRICES Apple, Peach, Pear, Plum and Cherry Trees, Strawberry Plants, Shrubs, Shade and Ornamental Trees California Privet A few more of those standard Pear Trees left at 25c. each. Try a dozen of the J. H. Hale Peach and make a fortune. 3m13 Henry W. Robbins P. O. Address Littleton, Mass. Collector's Notice Will all the tax payers of and for the Town of Groton settle their 1913 tax promptly so as not to embarrass me in my duty. Your attention is called to the following vote passed at the Annual Meeting, April 7, 1913: Article 6. Voted that all single poll taxes be collected before the first day of September and all other taxes on or before the first day of November; and that interest at the rate of six percent per annum be charged and collected on all unpaid bills after that date. WILLIAM A. WOODS, Collector of Taxes for the Town of Groton 4115

Reed's Best All White Enameled 11, 12, 13-inch Wash Basins 2, 3, 4-Quart Milk Fans 2, 3, 4-Quart Pudding Fans 2, 3, 4-Quart Round Bowls Your Choice 23c. Each Ayer Variety Store H. J. WEBB OPTOMETRIST Opposite Depot Ayer, Mass. Eyes Tested Glasses Fitted 10 Prescriptions Filled

Her Christmas Stocking



I'm specting such a lot of stuff,
My stocking won't be big enough,
And so before I go to bed
I'll just hang mamma's up instead.

THE BEAUTIFUL SANTA MYTH.

Don't Undeceive the Little Ones About St. Nick.

If your daughter is just six or seven years old and you are beginning to feel your conscience pinch you at deceiving her any longer with the beautiful myth of Santa Claus, just silence that conscience and wait until she finds out the truth for herself.

If your daughter has any illusions left in this day of disillusion, let her keep them. She will feel more resentment toward you for shattering them than she will for deceiving her. You do not think it necessary to tell your grownup girl all the things you have discovered about love and matrimony and thereby terminate her dreams that those myths are all they seem to be. Do you?

After all, the sweetest part of a girl's life from babyhood up is the dream part. Some day she will find out that there is no Santa Claus, and then she will find out that there are no fairies, and then she will find out that romance doesn't last, and then that matrimony has its thorns, and then that women grow old, but why open her eyes to these things?

Let a child believe in Santa Claus just as long as he or she will and pluck the delicious fruit from the mythical Christmas tree to her heart's content. It is bad enough to discover the sawdust in the doll of life when it begins to fall out without being told about it when you thought it was really flesh and blood.

If any mother's conscience is troubling her about the Christmas fib telling just now, let her sit down and try to remember that awful day when she first discovered that there was no Santa Claus, and that conscience will shut up tight and never open its mouth again.

The Glastonbury Thorn.

A famous old English tree was the Glastonbury thorn. According to the old monkish legend, St. Joseph, while resting, fixed his staff in the earth, where it immediately took root and ever after blossomed forth on Christmas day. Curiously enough, when the change of style took place no blossom was seen on the tree until old Christmas day came round. The probable truth is the tree was one brought from Palestine by some of the pilgrims, there being a species of thorn, a native of that country, which blooms at Christmas.

Devonshire's Yule Log.

In Devonshire the Yule log was represented by the "Ashton fagot," which was brought in and burned with great glee. The fagot was composed entirely of ash timber, hooped round with nine hands, and while it burnt merrily on the spacious hearth sports and fun were the order of the night. For every crack which the bursting of the hoops made the master of the house was expected to furnish a fresh bowl of liquor.

SHIRLEY.

News Items.
Misses Annie and Nina Holbrook spent Christmas with relatives in Brookfield.

Lester Porter, who operates the ice and coal business in town, has bought the house at the junction of Center and Main street owned by Thomas L. Hazen and Mrs. Love families.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wheeler entertained Christmas day his grandmother, Mrs. Susan Wheeler, of Ashby, and his father, Edward L. Wheeler, and family, of Fitchburg.

Mrs. Hattie Shearer is this week wiring her residence for electric lights.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Brockelmann entertained over Christmas Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lenox, of Windsor, Conn., and Master Fred Hudson, of the same place.

At the congregational church last Sunday morning, the pastor, Rev. G. Edwin Woodman, preached a sermon in keeping with memories of Christmas. The decorations of the church were very beautiful and special music was very effectively rendered by the choir. In the evening at seven o'clock a Christmas service was held in the vestry under the auspices of the C. E. society with appropriate music. Large audiences were present at both services.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pomfret spent Christmas day with their son, George Pomfret in Hudson.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bedard of Leominster, Mrs. Arcade LeBlanc of Madison, Me., and Alphy LeBlanc of Charlestown, spent last Sunday at the home of Joseph Landry.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Felch and family spent Christmas day with Mr. Felch's brother in Gardner.

Stanley G. White, of Yale college, arrived last week Friday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. White, for two weeks.

A large number of young people are planning to attend the reception and ball given by Mrs. C. R. White for her Littleton dancing classes to be held in the town hall, Littleton, on Saturday evening, January 3.

Mrs. Mary M. Nickless has installed electric lights in her home.

Odd Fellows' hall was well filled on last Saturday evening by an appreciative audience to witness the many clever impersonations of the Pierces, who appeared under the auspices of the Odd Shirely chapter, D. A. R. The entire performance was most enjoyable.

Following their usual custom the C. A. Edgerton Mfg. Company gave turkeys to their employees for Christmas.

Miss Arline Wilbur, of Cushing academy, is spending Christmas holidays at her home on Center road.

Lenten Ward, of the University of Maine, is spending the holidays at his home on Clark road.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Harris and family spent Christmas day with Mrs. Harris' mother in Leominster.

George Thomas left town on Monday for a few weeks' vacation at Rogersville, N. B., for his health.

Walter W. Manning and family, of Upper Montclair, N. J., are spending Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Conant.

Kenneth Horton, of Holderness school, Plymouth, N. H., has arrived at his home in Littleton on Christmas day and will return to school on January 14. The last week of his vacation he will spend with friends in Malden.

See advertisement of the great reduction sale of the stock of the late George L. Davis at Ayer.

List of Contributors.

The following is a complete list of the societies and independent contributions to the Clinton hospital fund, with the delegates of the different societies:
Aurorian club \$25.00, Mrs. Lucy J. Merriman; J. C. Ayer lodge \$25.00, Walter Knowles; Fredonian lodge, I. O. O. F., \$50.00, Dr. Charles J. Pelree; Guild of St. Mary's, \$20.00, Mrs. J. H. Shirley; chapter, D. A. R., \$50.00, Mrs. Thomas Hazen; Brotherhood \$50.00, Rev. G. Edwin Woodman; Congregational Ladies Circle \$50.00, Mrs. J. H. Shirley; Brook; Congregational King's Daughters \$50.00, Miss Nina Holbrook; Congregational S. S. society, \$50.00, Stanley Wells; Baptist Ladies Aid \$20.00, Mrs. Charles Brusco; Universalist Ladies Aid \$50.00, Mrs. B. S. Binney; Catholic church \$50.00, Rev. J. H. Shirley; Joseph Allen; Assumption society \$50.00, Sylvester Thomas; C. F. Edgar; \$10.00, J. P. Tolman; \$10.00, Thomas D. Morin \$50.00.

The societies that have not as yet taken action are Union of St. James, Artesians, Mary A. Livermore Rebekah lodge, Shirley grange.

Christmas Exercises.

The high and grammar schools held their Christmas exercises in the high school room on last week Friday afternoon when the following program was rendered, the special and pleasing feature being the address of Rev. C. A. Knickerbocker: song, high and grammar schools.

The intermediate and primary grades held exercises appropriate to Christmas in the primary schoolrooms on the same afternoon, when the following attractive and lengthy program was presented:

Song, "Why do bells of Christmas ring?" school recitations, "The toys he didn't like," Richard Holden; "Christmas," Ada Eisner; "How dolly spoke," Rose Donnelly; song, "Jingle, jingle, 'tis Kris Kringle," first and second grades recitations, "Christmas is sleepy head," Earle Pomfret; "Who is it?" Norbert Pierce; "No stockings to wear," Louis Cutler; "Christmas stockings," Harlan Richards; "Shopping Santa Claus," Eva Cutler; song, "Chorus dreams," Ruth Lynch; recitations, "Santa's cake," Moody Parker; "Christmas," Virginia Wheeler; duet, "Someone comes on Christmas eve," Edna Loomer and Moody Parker; recitations, "The turkey's lament," Doris Knowles; "Christmas," Edna Loomer; Penneau; song, "Bethlehem star," Hazel Loomer; recitations, "Baby's first Christmas," Edna Loomer; Edna Loomer; "Gifts for the king," Clara Herom; "Christmas worry," Anna Ward; song, "Little Bethlehem," junior; story, "Don't Campbell," recitation, "My doll," Elizabeth Dodge; song, "Ada Eisner; recitations, "Telephoning Santa Claus," Everett Barnard; "My little partner," song, "Kris Kringle," Francis Herom; recitations, "Which made the best present?" Oma Wolff; "A note to Santa Claus," Leonard Jubb; "Bad boy's letter," Norman Farmer; "Mother Good," Christmas, Alice McCullough; "A Christmas stocking," Lynch; song, "Upon the nose-ton," first and second grades; recitations, Washington's Christmas, surprise, Irene Bassett; "Santa," Thomas Daley; Malaky; "Santa Claus," autos; "Santa Claus on a strike," Kenneth Clark; "Santa Claus on a strike," Kenneth Clark; "A Christmas stocking," first and second grades; recitations, "Johnny

thinks," Albert Dearden; "The tree that saved the town," Mildred Hart; "Bells or stockings," Grace Doble; dialogue, "After Christmas," Ruth Hooper; How to spend Christmas, "Penneau; song, "Three cheers for our Santa Claus," third and fourth grades.

Baptist Church Notes.

The voices of the young people in chorus and solos added much to the value and enjoyment of the Christmas services, morning and evening, at the Baptist church, Tuesday afternoon Christmas tree exercises. Besides the tree a table was arranged to receive gifts to be sent to Boston for distribution among the children of immigrants at the wharves. This table seemed to create as much interest with the children as the tree itself. Two children, Esther Robinson and Louise Caulkins, received bibles for regular attendance for a year. Eight children who had been absent but three of four Sundays also received bibles and fifteen other bibles were distributed to the children.

A "home for the holidays" concert and entertainment will be given in the Baptist vestry on Wednesday evening, December 31, chiefly by the young people who are at home from school and college. A program of instrumental music, violin, cello, piano, with solos, vocal and instrumental, and readings will be given. Candy, ice cream and cake will be on sale.

The young people's meeting will be a mission study class on Sunday evening, beginning at six o'clock. Subject, "An immigrant inventory."

Sunday, January 4, will be the first Sunday in the new year. Begin the year right. Many will make a special effort to attend some church that day. It is a good custom. Everybody at church January 4.

Deaths.

Alexander Bulger, forty-one years of age, passed away at the tubercular hospital, Fitchburg, last week Friday morning from the effects of tuberculosis after an illness covering a period of about three years. Mr. Bulger had been confined in the Fitchburg hospital about three weeks and had not been working for over a year. He worked for the late Grandville Fairbanks for ten years. The deceased came to Shirley twenty-one years ago from Canada, and in 1899, was married to Melaine Cyr.

His survivors are a father and brother who reside in Rogersville, N. B., and two sisters, Mrs. James Gionet and Mrs. Timothy Thomas; also, a wife, one son and five daughters, the oldest a girl twelve years of age. The funeral services were held in St. Anthony's church, Rev. Rosario Richards officiating, and mass of high requiem was celebrated on Tuesday morning at seven o'clock. The bearers were William and Charles Gionet, Michael Bulger and Timothy Thomas. Burial was in St. Anthony's cemetery.

Center.

The Girls' Sewing Guild held its regular meeting on last Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. H. F. Grout. The next meeting will be held with Miss Ruth M. Graves.

Miss Vera Bradford returned home last week from the Emerson School of Oratory for a two-weeks' vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Bradford.

Miss Priscilla Sweetser is spending a few days with relatives in Reading.

Miss Marlon L. Holden is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holden, for a short vacation from her duties as teacher at Green-

Miss Gertrude Haskins, of Gardner, has been visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haskins, at the North.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hill and family moved last week from the house at the North owned by John Stickney and recently vacated by the Wildman family. Hill went Saturday to Pepperell for a two-weeks' stay at the home of her mother.

Miss Ruth M. Graves arrived home on Saturday for a two-weeks' vacation from her duties as school teacher at Royalston. Her mother, Mrs. N. C. Graves, who spent the latter part of the week in Royalston with her, returned home on Saturday also.

The next meeting of the Matrons' Aid will be held with Mrs. Arthur G. Dunn, as was stated in this column last week.

The well-borers from Chelmsford have practically completed their work at the home of William Boutillier and it is reported they will go to the home of E. J. Miller, where they will drive a well. They are also assisting in installing a system at the home of Mrs. Grace E. Winslow to be run by electric motor, to furnish her house with running water.

At the next meeting of Shirley grange, Tuesday evening, January 13, the officers-elect for 1914 will be installed by Mrs. Ella D. Rice, of Leominster.

Sidney Hines has given up his position with the C. A. Cross Company at Fitchburg and has entered the employment of Ralph I. Evans at the portable mill.

The Center primary and grammar schools are enjoying a week's vacation this week. The teachers, Miss Margaret Walsh and Miss Mary McCurtain, have gone to their homes in Ayer and Waltham for the week.

A large crowd of young people went the rounds of the Center on Sunday evening singing Christmas carols and hymns before the different homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sweetser and daughters spent Christmas at the home of Mrs. Sweetser's mother, Mrs. Tarr, in Gloucester.

Charlie C. Longley, of Millbury, spent the week-end at the home of Mrs. Charles Longley.

Robert H. J. Holden, of Harvard university, is at the home of his mother, Mrs. Hattie P. Holden, for a vacation of two weeks.

The work of installing the electric light system at the Center has been at a standstill for about two weeks. The main trouble seems to be the difficulty of finding someone to undertake the blasting of the holes for a few of the poles along Center road, since a large bond is required from whoever undertakes the job.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Bradford and family spent Christmas day at the home of Mrs. Bradford's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Woodard, at Fitchburg.

Mrs. Dakin, of Boston, spent Monday at her summer home in town.

Mrs. Hattie P. Holden and Robert H. J. Holden spent Christmas at the home of Mrs. Holden's son, Harrie P. Barnard, at the village.

Frank J. Lawton spent last Saturday in Cambridge with his wife and daughter, Miss Shirley Lawton.

The portable mill has been set up on the lot adjoining Mrs. E. W. Holden and work was commenced this week cutting out slabs.

On account of the poor weather the

attendance at the dance on Tuesday evening was small. Music was furnished by Mrs. Waldo Farnsworth, of Woodville. The dance was given by Mrs. Mildred Evans and Everett Duxton.

The Sewing Guild at their last meeting prepared a large number of Christmas baskets of fruit, candy, etc., to be distributed this week to the shut-ins about town.

Miss Christine G. Longley, of Mt. Holyoke college, returned home last week for a two-weeks' Christmas vacation with her mother, Mrs. M. W. Longley.

Large crowds of young people have been enjoying the fine skating on the F. J. Lawton meadow during the past week.

Christmas Tree.

The Center primary and grammar schools under the direction of Miss Margaret Walsh and Miss Mary McCurtain, held their Christmas exercises and Christmas tree at the school on last week Friday afternoon. The following program was given by the children:

"Under the Double Eagle," Victrola record; "Why do bells of Christmas ring?" grammar school; recitation, "Santa Claus," Olive Harriman; "Jolly Old St. Nicholas," primary grades; "The message of holly," Phyllis Farrar; "A Christmas lullaby," Zada Seymour; "A letter to Santa Claus," Marion Wood; "O little town of Bethlehem," Eleanor Longley; violin solo, William Tracy; "A Christmas problem," Edna Acres; a Christmas exercise; "Santa Claus brought me selections," Mildred Carson; Victrola selections, "All kinds of Christmas songs," "Everywhere, everywhere Christmas tonight," "Silent night, holy night."

At the close of the exercises Herbert Woods, as Santa Claus, distributed the presents from a well-filled Christmas tree.

BOXBOROUGH.

News Items.

About thirty of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Burroughs' neighbors succeeded in giving them a surprise party last week Thursday evening. During the time the couple were given a sum of money, Rev. F. H. Viets making the presentation speech. Both Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs responded and others made remarks suggested by the joyous occasion. Cake and ice cream brought by the guests were served. The Burroughs homestead has been greatly changed by new arrangement of rooms, new floors, the opening of an immense fireplace in the living room; a spacious piazza on one side and various other changes, making it a most inviting country home.

Annie Sherry, who has been substituting in a school in Mills, has accepted a very flattering offer to become a regular teacher and will return there after the holidays.

Corra Hartwell will spend the winter here with her brother's family.

Rev. F. H. Viets and Mary Hager were the representatives from here at the temperance meeting in Maynard last week.

A new lot of books, including some latest fiction, will be ready for distribution at the library on Saturday.

Lucy Porter has returned from the hospital in Boston where she has been for several weeks and unlike most patients says there were several girls of her age and they had a lovely time while there.

Robert Bland is home from Amherst for two weeks.

Rev. Pennock, of Acton, preached for Rev. F. H. Viets last Sunday.

S. D. Salmon, 3d, concluded his jury duties last Saturday. Alfred Cobleigh will finish this week.

Mrs. Charles Libbie won the Amherst scholarship given by the Pomona grange in the poultry contest.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Y. Nelson and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lawrence and family, of Silver Hill, made up family party at George Burroughs on Christmas. Arthur Nelson and wife went to Greenwood. The Livermores spent the day with relatives in Waltham. The Steeles, with Mr. and Mrs. Dodge, went to the Hagers in Clinton.

Miss Mary Nadeck, of Worcester, came down to the Christmas tree and entertainment given by her niece, Grace Nadeck, to the children of No. 1 school on last week Friday evening.

STOMACH TROUBLES DISAPPEAR

Stomach, liver and kidney troubles, weak nerves, lame back and female illis disappear when Electric Bitters are used. Thousands of women would not be without a bottle in their home. Eliza Pool, of Dewey, Okla., writes: "Electric Bitters raised me from a bed of sickness and suffering and has done me a world of good. I wish every suffering woman could use this excellent remedy and find out as I did, just how good it is." As it has helped thousands of others, it surely will do the same for you. Every bottle guaranteed, 50c and \$1.00. All Druggists, H. E. Bucklen & Co., Philadelphia or St. Louis.

New Advertisements

Cows Do Their Best
only when they are in perfect condition. They will pay you in the milk pail if you care for their comfort and health.

Pratts Disinfectant
keeps the stable sanitary—makes everything sweet and clean.
Pratts Animal Regulator
increases the appetite, strengthens the digestion, keeps the bowels active, improves circulation and, naturally, increases the flow of milk. 25c. pkg. to \$1.00. At all drug stores.

A. E. Lawrence & Son
Ayer
I. J. Rowell
East Pepperell
Shattuck Store Co.
Groton
Conant Bros.
Shirley
Wright & Fletcher
Westford
Gale, Dickson & Co.
Harvard
Conant & Co.
Littleton
Clarence Stickney
West Townsend
C. W. Lane
Townsend Harbor
Bixby-Webber Co.
West Groton

1913 FORD RUNABOUT FOR SALE
—In Excellent Repair and fully equipped—Master Vibrator, Presto Tank, Curtains, Windshield, Etc. Party is to buy touring car the only reason of selling. BOX 153, Ayer, Mass.

The Osteopathic Method of Treatment is now represented in Ayer by
DR. WHITAKER
an assistant of Dr. Ellis of Harvard and Boston

Dr. Whitaker has a temporary office at the home of Howard D. Bowles or Highland avenue, Monday and Thursday Afternoons two to five o'clock. 13

HUB-MARK RUBBERS

See that the Hub-Mark is on the rubber before you buy. It is your insurance of Standard First Quality Rubber Footwear for every purpose
SOLD BY

BIXBY-WEBBER CO. West Groton
I. P. SHERWIN & CO. West Townsend
WHIPPLE & TOWER E. Pepperell

Dr. F.R. MacGrail

Dentist

Cor. Lowell and Groton Streets
EAST PEPPERELL, MASS.
Telephone Connection 17

AYER FRUIT STORE

Mead's Block, Ayer

AN EXCELLENT DISPLAY OF
FANCY BOXES OF
CHOCOLATES
25¢ to \$5.00

IS TO BE FOUND AT THE
AYER FRUIT STORE

ORANGES, GRAPES, DATES,
FIGS, NUTS, GRAPE FRUIT
FINE LINE OF CIGARS, CIGARETTES, AND SMOKERS' ARTICLES

Take home some of our celebrated Ice Cream to go with your Christmas dinner.

10,000 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S POST CARDS AT One Cent Each 10c. Dozen

Geo. Poulius & Co.
Ayer, Mass.
Telephone Connection

FOR HIM OR FOR HER

You may find the
GIFT
that pleases at
BROWN'S DRUG STORE.

Selected and Complete Lines

Christmas Cards
Brass Goods
Pocketbooks
Manicure Sets
Brushes
Foundation Pens
Smokers' Articles
Confectionery
Perfumery
Stationery
Toilet Sets
Thermos Bottles
and others

JUST LOOK IN AT
BROWN'S

PRESCRIPTION DRUG STORE

Main Street Ayer, Mass.

S. H. HOUGHTON

Dealer in

NEW, SECOND-HAND AND

Antique Furniture

NOVELTIES OF ALL KINDS

GROCERIES

DRY GOODS, KITCHEN UTENSILS

Phone 14-2 311
Harvard, Mass.

CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHS

A SUGGESTION

Why not have Portraits of yourself for Gifts to friends. Nothing better. Let me make some for you now. Telephone, write or call for a sitting. 3m

The DEMPSEY STUDIO
Tel. Con. Ayer, Mass.

WEST GROTON BLACKSMITH saves you money on Farm Wagon and Tip Cars. We build Wagon, Wagon, installed power to do Wheel work. L. O. STRAND.

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

All Advertisements Appear in All the Town Papers We Publish

Items of local interest are solicited and must always be accompanied by the name of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith, and will be considered strictly confidential.

"'Tis to the Pen and Press we mortals owe All we believe and almost all we know."

Saturday, December 27, 1913.

GROTON.

News Items.

Carl A. P. Lawrence, senior at Dartmouth college, came home last week Friday for the holidays.

Lewis M. Knapp of Amherst college came home Tuesday night for the holiday vacation.

Mrs. David Gibson had the family gathering at her home on Christmas day. It was the same gathering that met at the home of her sister, Mrs. William Gleason, on Thanksgiving day.

Mrs. Carl Balcom with her little son and her mother, Mrs. Clough, from East Weare, N. H., are Christmas guests of Mrs. Harry Clapp and family, remaining for a visit after Thursday.

Born Tuesday, December 23, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Mitchell.

Miss Gladys Mason, teacher at Malden, came home Tuesday night for a two weeks' vacation.

Miss Mildred Brown, junior at Simmons college, is home for a vacation of two weeks.

Miss Elsie Shattuck, teacher at Milford, N. H., is spending her vacation at home.

Miss Mary Dunphy, teacher at North Attleboro, is home for a week's vacation. Her sister, Miss Kathleen, teacher at Stockbridge, is home for a two weeks' vacation.

Miss Lucy E. Raddin, teacher at Everett, came home for the holiday vacation.

The Boy Scouts are getting ready for a minstrel show. Date not yet announced.

Mrs. Goble is spending a few weeks in Groton at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Aitken. Dr. and Mrs. Goble are having their house freshened up, ready for their occupancy, a few weeks hence.

The twenty-sixth annual dinner and roll call of the Congregational church will be held on Wednesday, January 7. Dinner will be served at twelve o'clock, followed by the roll call. Business meeting after the roll call.

On Tuesday, January 6, the Baptist church will hold the twenty-seventh annual Christmas gathering with business meeting at an o'clock a. m. and dinner at twelve, followed by the roll call. In the evening at 7.30 o'clock there will be a public meeting in the main auditorium with sermon by Rev. James L. Campbell of the First Baptist church, Cambridge. Everybody cordially invited.

Mrs. Lillian M. Shattuck has been appointed by the state board of charity as their official visitor to the Groton town farm.

Different churches in town united in giving the means to make a brighter and more Christmas for those who are living at the town farm. Candy bags were filled and amongst the other things provided for their comfort, hot water bags were given to those several members.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis of West Upton spent Christmas with his sister, Miss Agnes, for several days.

The following is taken from the Boston Journal of December 25: In the hope of playing on the Princeton baseball team several years hence, Fowler McCormick, grandson of John D. Rockefeller, and son of Harold F. McCormick, is studying the art of throwing curves, during his Christmas vacation. Mordecai Brown, major league baseball pitcher, is his instructor. Young McCormick attends Groton School and expects to enter Princeton in the fall.

Charles B. Baldwin met with a fall one day last week and was unconscious for a short time afterward. He is not covered entirely from the effects of the fall, but is recovering. Mr. Baldwin is one of our oldest citizens.

There was a good attendance at the Baptist church on last Sunday evening, the pastor speaking on "Foreign Missions." There was also a missionary and Christmas concert.

The Ladies' Benevolent society of the Baptist church felt those who pleased with the financial returns from their sale of last week Thursday. They cleared about eighty dollars. The society is not large and they had not been long in making preparations for the sale.

The high school dance held on Friday evening, December 19, was a success. Many of the former high school pupils were in attendance, as were also other friends of the class and school.

Miss Genevieve Hodgman, teacher in the West Springfield high school, at home for the Christmas vacation, took part in the vesper service at the Unitarian church on Sunday evening and rendered one of the solos.

It will perhaps be an item of interest to the Groton friends of Herbert F. Williams, of Brooklyn, N. Y., to learn that he was the family physician who attended William C. De Witt through his illness from embolism and hardening of the arteries, causing his death two or three weeks ago. Mr. DeWitt was one of Brooklyn's most distinguished citizens. A great lawyer, a partner of the late W. M. Everts, a clean politician of influence, a man who had figured prominently in the history of Brooklyn.

Charles B. Campbell, from Washington, D. C., is taking his Christmas vacation, spending some of it with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Berry, and the remainder with his parents at Nashua, N. H. Mr. and Mrs. Berry went over to Nashua for Christmas day.

We have just learned that William N. Souther, going about three weeks ago, spending the winter at Seattle, Wash., instead of his accustomed winter locality in Florida.

Frank H. Palmer got another fox last week, making eight he has secured so far this season.

Rev. Endicott Peabody, D. D., of Groton School, assisted at the marriage at Mattapan on Saturday, December 20, of George W. L. Meyer,

son of the ex-secretary of the navy and of Mr. Frances Saltonstall, daughter of Mr. Philip Saltonstall, on-stall, of Milton. The bridegroom is a graduate of Groton School.

Frank Dilbert is on the American Express delivery team during the Christmas rush, assisting G. F. Sampson, who is kept busy at the express office.

The vesper service at the Unitarian church was largely attended and gave much pleasure to all listeners. The musical program, finely rendered, was of a high order. The volume of music, organ, trombone, violin and voices made the old church ring. It is not easy to particularize when all was so excellent. Rev. Mr. Cressey spoke on the difference between keeping and observing Christmas in the spirit of "Peace on earth, good will to men."

Mrs. John Lawrence made the children of the Groton sewing school very happy last Saturday by the Christmas party in the town hall. There was a beautiful Christmas tree with candles and decorations and well-laden with the cornucopias filled with candy. At the foot of the tree were the dolls and other presents for the children. They all sang and danced. Miss Alice Hodge playing the piano. Two kinds of ice cream and cake were served. They all had a delightful time. There were a few visitors present.

George A. Culver is quite ill and has been confined to the house for about two months now, with not much of an improvement in his condition.

C. B. Baldwin, who has been handling the Sunday Globe, Herald and Post for several years past, has given it up, owing to ill health, and until further notice F. G. Carpenter will have them for sale at the railroad station.

Mrs. Dudley P. Moors, her daughter, Miss Ethel Moors, and Mrs. J. R. Stone are coming to live in Groton. They have hired the other tenement of the house on Court street, where Mrs. Ella P. Woolley lives. Mrs. J. R. Stone is the mother of Mrs. Moors and Mrs. Woolley.

William Gay of the Goodrich Rubber Store Co. of Boston is home on a vacation.

Wyman Gibson, who entered the sophomore class at Dartmouth college last September, came home last week Friday for the holidays.

Frederick W. Gay and family of Methuen motored over to Groton last Sunday to spend the day with his brother, H. H. Gay and family.

Miss Helen Gay is spending the holiday vacation with her sister, Mrs. J. W. Simmons, at her home in Brooklyn.

The next Unitarian church social will be held on Thursday evening, January 1. Supper at 6.30, followed by an entertainment consisting of the play, "Pa's new housekeeper," at 7.45 o'clock, of which the following is the cast of characters: Pa, Jackson, Mr. Powers; Mattie, Mrs. Powers; Jimmie Jackson, Henry L. Bruce; Jack Brown, Dr. Branigan; Molly Holbrook, Miss Edith Waters. A candy table with home-made candies on sale will be an attraction for customers during the evening.

The second number in the Luther Blood free lectures will be held on Tuesday evening, December 30, and will be given by Peter MacQueen on the subject of "The New South American Problem of the day and the day thereafter," a travelogue with 175 views in color. Lecture at eight.

Mrs. Fannie M. Forbes is entertaining her friend, Mrs. Lawrence, from Brookline, and Miss Eleanor Jenkins, from Leominster, a Fitchburg Normal school, and her daughter, Helen, for part of the Christmas holidays.

Leut. George Timmins of the U. S. cavalry stationed at Fort Oglethorpe, South Carolina, was married on Wednesday, December 17, to Miss Elizabeth Gilbert, of Gilbertville. Mr. Timmins, when a lad, lived in Groton and later was a student at Groton school. His mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Prescott Leonard, with her son, Master Robert Leonard, and her daughter, Miss Edith Timmins, attended the wedding last week Wednesday. Lieut. and Mrs. George Timmins, who went on a wedding trip after the ceremony, will arrive in Groton on December 27, for a few days' visit at his mother's home.

Sunday evening, December 28, the cantata, "Holy night," is to be given by a chorus of sixteen voices in the main auditorium of the Congregational church. This will be a grand musical treat which everyone will enjoy. The public is invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnard, with their little daughter, from Dorchester, were here mother's, Mrs. Needham, for Christmas and Mrs. Mrs. Albe Blood, of Beverly, were with his mother, Mrs. M. J. Blood, and Woodbury K. Howe was home from Woodsocket, R. I., to spend Christmas with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. G. M. H. Wood.

John Bradey, of Amherst Agricultural college, is home for the holiday vacation.

The Christmas tree festivals at the village churches on Wednesday evening all passed off pleasantly.

See advertisement of the great reduction sale of the stock of the late George L. Davis at Ayer.

Clipping.

The following extract will interest members of the Baptist church here where Mr. Rohrbach preached several times during the past year:

H. Herbert Rohrbach, pastor of the First Baptist church of Hartland, Me., was formally ordained to the ministry last week Friday evening, the ceremonies taking place in the vestry of the Clarendon-st. Baptist church of Boston. The principal feature of the exercises was the preaching of the ordination sermon by Dr. Julius Rohrbach, pastor of the Charlottenburg Baptist church of Berlin, Germany, father of the young pastor. Dr. Rohrbach discussed the importance of the christian ministry.

The young pastor, who is twenty-seven years old, was born in Berlin and received his early education in the public schools of Germany, later studying in England. He came to this country about four years ago and spent three years at the Newton Theological institution, from which he graduated last June. He is continuing studies at Colby college.

A Correction.

The short item giving notice of the death of Dudley P. Moors in this column last week, was incorrect in the statement that he was a son of Chas. Henry Moors. He was a son of Joseph Moors and a cousin of Charles Henry Moors, whose father was Rufus Moors. The birthplace and boyhood home of Dudley Moors was his father's home, the place now owned and occupied by the Dr. Rork family. Here he was born on October 2, 1850, and was named Dudley Phelps, in memory of Rev. Dudley Phelps, in memory of his parents' pastor at the Congregational church. The Moors family

was one of the old, sturdy Groton families, their ancestral home being the so-called Culver place, now owned by Messrs. Stor, Seligson and Barker on the Ayer road. This was the home of Benj. Moors. One of his sons, Rev. John F. Moors, was a highly successful minister for years in Greenfield, so widely beloved by members of every denomination and so influential was he that the title, "The bishop of the Connecticut valley," was given him. He used at times to preach in Groton, even as late as in the sixties. The Charlestown Enterprise of December 20 thus speaks of Dudley P. Moors:

"Mr. Moors was one of Charlestown's most respected and esteemed citizens. He was not a native but for over thirty-four years a resident here. He was not a man given to joining organizations or participating in public affairs yet he became a member of Dearborn lodge, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and always took a deep interest in local affairs, happy ever in every demonstration and so influential in business, politics or social life. He was broad, generous and unselfish and was pleased the most when he could do something for others."

Fiftieth Anniversary.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Warner Souther was pleasantly and appropriately celebrated at their home on Saturday, December 27. It was an event for the home gathering of the children and grandchildren. From three to five in the afternoon and from seven to nine in the evening neighbors and friends were welcomed. The book wherein the names were written showed numerous callers from Leominster, Groton and Fitchburg. Good cheer prevailed and refreshments of sandwiches, several kinds of cakes and cocoa were served by the two daughters of the family, Misses Mabel and Florence Souther, Mrs. Howard Souther pouring.

Gifts in gold, silver, checks and bills, china, flowers, pictures, four dining-room chairs, candy, a nice table cover and other articles made up a list of suitable remembrances of the day.

Among the pieces in gold was a twenty dollar gold piece from John Haskell Butler, a well-known Boston lawyer, a cousin of Mrs. Warner Souther.

During the afternoon there were selections from a graphophone and the Leominster Glee club. In the evening from the Mandolin club.

Four of the papermill at Leominster, Fred L. and Morton A., a farmer in this town, being one of the three Groton men who served in the Spanish war in Cuba were present. The other son, Arthur E., of Mattapan, a traveling agent for the C. S. Bird Co., of East Walpole, and a very progressive man, was unable to attend on account of illness in his family. Another member of the family, Mrs. Cynthia Butler, ninety-three years old, who did not feel quite equal to meeting all the callers, was interested and in spirit with all the proceedings. It is not common that a lady lives to enjoy a daughter's golden wedding. The youngest person attending was little Miss Una, about one and a half years old, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Souther.

Another of those attending in the afternoon was William Souther, a Groton and only living brother, Thomas Gilson, a soldier of the Old Sixth that went through Baltimore, was another of the afternoon callers. Miss Catherine Hovey, at the time of her marriage, remained at Groton with Mr. Souther and family motored over and the reunion continued through Sunday.

Warner Souther was born at his parents' home in Littleton on May 15, 1839, but has lived in Groton the greater part of his life. He enlisted in 1862 in the Groton Co., under Capt. George R. Shattuck and Col. Follansbee of the Sixth Mass. Regt., which he went to Norfolk, Va. He served his term of enlistment, was honorably discharged and returned to Groton. Although he passed through his war service without being wounded, it was not long after his return that he was severely hit by a dart from Cupid's bow and a few weeks later in marriage with Miss Mary Haskell Butler was the result.

They were united by Rev. Crawford Nightingale at his home on December 30, 1863. Miss Butler was a sister of John Butler, then superintendent of Hollingsworth mill.

Mr. Souther worked in the papermill for some thirty-five years, but for a number of years past has been employed by the Groton road commissioners. He is a member of E. S. Clark post, G. A. R.

Time has not laid his hand heavily upon either Mr. and Mrs. Souther and it seems altogether likely that they may pass many more years together. Their married life is fully described in verses, written for the anniversary by Mrs. Ellen A. Barrows, an old friend and neighbor. No anniversary of this kind here would seem quite complete without her original poem. Mrs. Barrows, by request, read during the afternoon the following:

We bring our congratulations To this golden wedded pair That so manly their blessings Are still your mutual share.

The Golden Anniversary. A happy gala day. Parents, children, grandchildren and guests Unite in festive way.

Fifty years ago today The wedding no was tied Which terminated happily And now has golden pride.

The Rev. Crawford Nightingale Pronounced the nuptial bond. To this sacred obligation Your love proved true and fond.

Blessed with congeniality. Affinity all right. True love has been your marriage guide Away from sin or spite.

No incompatibility. No search for legal flaw. But perfect satisfaction In good old-fashioned law.

Nine loving, pretty children Were welcomed to your home; But two have passed the boundry line Where only angels roam.

You have shared your joy and sorrow. Been one in thought and deed. Which to matrimonial happiness Is the essential need.

God's blessing rest upon your lives. Bless parents' children dear. Prosperity be with you all Through every coming year.

After this golden wedding day May diamond wedding come. And all the present happiness Predominate your home.

Oath of Allegiance. Oath of allegiance of citizens of Dracut, Middlesex county, Mass., March 4 and April 2, 1877: We, the subscribers, do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess and declare that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is and of right ought

to be a free sovereign and independent state and I do swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the said commonwealth and that I do defend the same against traitorous conspiracies and all hostile attempts whatsoever and that I do renounce and abjure all allegiance, subjection and obedience to the King, Queen or government of Great Britain (as the case maybe) and every other foreign prince prelate state or Potentate hath or ought to have any jurisdiction superiority prominence authority dispensing or other power which is or may be vested by their constituents in the Congress of the United States.

and I do further testify and declare that no man or body of men hath or can have any right to absolve or discharge me from the obligation of this oath declaration or affirmation and that I do make this acknowledgment declaration denial renunciation and obligation heartily and truly according to the common meaning and acceptance of the foregoing words without any equivocation mental evasion or secret reservation whatsoever.

So help me God J. B. Varnum, William Hildreth, Thos. Hovey, Isreal Hildreth, Parker Varnum, Bradley Varnum, Joseph Varnum, Jonas Varnum, Peter Park-Whitney, Russell, Joseph Stevens, Thomas Coburn, James Harvey, Richard Hall, Samuel Barron.

Middlesex S S April 2, 1877 Sworn to before me Parker Varnum Justice of Peace J. B. Varnum, Thos. Hovey, Isreal Hildreth, William Hildreth, Jr., Bradley Varnum, Kendall Parker, Jr. Middlesex S S March 4th, 1877 Justice of Peace Sworn before me Parker Varnum Middlesex

Parker Varnum was the father of Mrs. Caleb Butler, was a farmer and lived in Dracut then, now Varnum avenue, Lowell.

Wm. H. Lynds, Lowell.

West Groton. Twelve of the young men of West Groton are running dances each week in Squannacook hall. The next dance will be held on December 27.

Mrs. Margaret Kane is spending the winter with her daughter, Mrs. D. J. Welsh, of South Boston.

J. P. Brennan spent the holiday at his home in East Walpole.

The Misses Katherine, Nellie and Annie Cronin are spending the holidays at their home.

It is understood that the Allen Construction Co., of Walpole, has the contract for the new store of P. W. Kane, corner of Mill and Groton streets.

Mrs. Robert Grimes, Mrs. Hattie Seams, Mrs. Carroll Kean and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Hill spent Saturday in Lowell.

Harry Kemp spent Thursday of last week in Boston, looking over the new models in automobiles. He has decided to buy a Cadillac in the early spring.

Mrs. Andrew Taylor and Miss Ruth Kane spent Friday of last week in Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Draper and little daughter Ellen, of Bennington, N. H., are guests of Mrs. Draper's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Fallon.

The many friends of little Victor Duquette are very pleased to hear of his recovery after a severe attack of appendicitis.

TOWNSEND. Miss Margaret Struthers of Fairhaven, Conn., is at home on a vacation from her school work.

The children and young people of the M. E. church gave a Christmas concert at the church last Sunday evening. There was also a choir and the appropriate exercises were of their usual pleasing order.

The M. E. church held a Christmas supper, tree and Christmas exercises last week the night before Christmas.

There was a friends gathering and Christmas exercises in charge of Mrs. Emma Joselyn and Mrs. Emma Seaver at the Congregational church on Wednesday evening.

The Townsend A. A. announces a reception and dance in honor of the baseball boys to be held in Memorial hall on next Tuesday evening.

See advertisement of the great reduction sale of the stock of the late George L. Davis at Ayer.

Harbor. On Wednesday evening Christmas exercises were held at the Harbor

church. From six till seven supper was served to over sixty guests, following which was an interesting program. The first part included readings, vocal and instrumental music. Then came the handsomely decorated Christmas tree, which possibly to the younger people was the most interesting feature. There was an abundance of presents and the expressions of happiness with which they were received was ample evidence that the latter part of the evening's program included many lively games in which the older folks joined with the younger ones in equal zest. Great credit is due the committee for the successful and enjoyable evening. Mrs. Adney Gray had charge of the supper, while Joel C. Oke ably assisted by the Misses Warner, provided the tree, decorations, and literary and musical program.

Fatal Accident. Last Sunday morning E. D. Wharf met with a fatal accident in the barn belonging to what was formerly known as the Hezlie Spaulding place. Previous to last fall, at which time Mr. and Mrs. Wharf moved to the Old Homestead, this place had been their home. On the morning mentioned Mr. Wharf came with his team for some hay, all of which had been removed. While filling a bag on the high beams he stepped on some rotten boards and fell to the floor below, which caused a compound fracture of the upper arm.

As no one was living on the place Mr. Wharf had to walk to R. B. Adams, the nearest neighbor, before help could be summoned. The family physician was called and upon removing Mr. Wharf's coat two pieces of bone fell to the floor. The doctor took him at once to the Emergency hospital in Nashua, where his arm was taken off about four inches from the shoulder. Word was received on Thursday evening that Mr. Wharf died at 7.15.

LITTLETON. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Conant and baby son Gilman, of Watertown, and Richard Conant, of Boston, were at W. E. Conant's for Christmas.

The lecture given by Mr. Underwood before the lyceum on Tuesday evening on his hunting expedition, with stereopticon views from pictures taken by the lecturer, furnished an entertainment equal in educational value and interest to anything given in this excellent course. The audience listened with the rapt attention that a talented speaker should always command, and all are loud in their praise of Mr. Underwood's able presentation of his subject.

Mr. and Mrs. Gardner W. Prouty entertained their children and grandson on Christmas day.

Miss Alice Wright spent Christmas with her sister, Miss Ella Wright, in Shirley. She is with Rev. and Mrs. George B. Frost in Andover for the week-end and Sunday.

Supt. and Mrs. F. H. Hill and daughter Rosa spent Christmas with relatives in Portland, Me.

Three automobile parties toured through the town on Christmas eve, stopping at the homes of all the shut-ins and singing Christmas carols and extending Christmas greetings—a very pretty English custom, greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all who were thus favored.

Order is heaven's first law. A place for everything and everything in its place.

Announcement

We take this time to thank the public for their liberal patronage during the Holidays. We have had an exceptionally good Christmas trade, and to show our appreciation we are to have a

One Week's Clearance Sale

BEGINNING

Saturday, Jan. 3, 1914

WATCH FOR BIG ADVERTISEMENT IN JANUARY 2 ISSUE OF THIS PAPER

CASH DISCOUNT CHECK WITH EVERY PURCHASE

A. H. LUCE

Page's Block AYER, MASS.

SHIRLEY CASH MARKET

Don't forget that our team is in Ayer every Tuesday and Saturday with a full supply of BEEF, PORK, LAMB, VEAL, PICKLED, FRESH AND SMOKED SHOULDERS, BACON, LIVER AND SAUSAGES of the first quality.

CART IN SHIRLEY EVERY DAY Your Patronage Solicited. CHAS. A. MCCARTHY, Proprietor.

A Nice Assortment of Democrat Wagons CONCORD BUGGIES

Carriages, Butcher Carts Harnesses A GOOD ASSORTMENT AND AT ALL PRICES CALL AND SEE THEM

Carriage Repairing in All Its Branches Promptly Done ALSO, HORSESHOEING AND GENERAL BLACKSMITHING

FREDERICK WHITNEY AYER, MASS. AUGUSTUS LOVEJOY Insurance Agent and Broker

Farm Property written; also, all kinds of Property placed in good, strong companies. 34 East Main Street, Ayer

L. SHERWIN & CO. AYER, MASS. Dealers in Groceries Hardware Paints, Etc.

We Endeavor to Keep FIRST-CLASS GROCERIES TRY OUR Butter, Cheese, Tea and Coffee Also, Honey in Comb

We Sell the Popular Line of JOHNSON'S EDUCATOR Crackers, Bran, Etc. TRY OUR SPECIAL One Pound Box Chocolates for 25c.

CUTFLOWERS, PLANTS, FLORAL DESIGNS, ETC. HARDY ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES

H. Huebner Florist Groton, Mass. Greenhouses near Groton School.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Middlesex ss. Probate Court. To the next of kin and all others interested in the estate of DANIEL F. DOW late of Pepperell in said County, deceased.

Whereas, JOHN L. BOYNTON the administrator of the estate not already administered of said deceased, has presented to said Court for allowance the second account of his administration on said estate and application has been made for a distribution of the balance in his hands among the widow and next of kin of said deceased.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the thirty-first day of December, A. D. 1913, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why said account should not be allowed and distribution made according to said application.

And the petitioner is ordered to serve this citation by publishing the same once in each week, for three successive weeks in the Pepperell Clarion-Advertiser, a newspaper published in said County, the last publication to be one day at least, before said Court, and by delivering or mailing post-paid a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate seven days at least before said Court.

Witness, Charles McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this tenth day of December in the year one thousand and nine hundred and thirteen. 314 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

HOLLIS, N. H.

About Town. Miss Lulu Sargent, of Hudson, N. H., spent a few days last week at the home of Miss Agnes Tenney. Henry Cameron has been in very poor health and under the doctor's care for some time past.

The ladies of the W. R. C. kindly remembered their sister member, Mrs. James Sleeper, of Chelsea, Mass., on Christmas. Mrs. Sleeper has been in poor health of late. Mr. and Mrs. Sleeper used to live near Russell's bridge and at that time she became a member of the Hollis W. R. C., and has always remained a member.

All of the veterans in town received their usual Christmas boxes sent them each year by the W. R. C., and the usual donation of money was sent to the Soldiers' home in Tilton, N. H., by the W. R. C.

Mrs. M. J. Powers returned home on last week Thursday after a lengthy visit with her daughter, Mrs. Howard Bullock.

Apples are not the only thing raised in abundance in Hollis. Frank E. Tills drove to Ayer on last Monday with a load of cabbages, weighing 2600 pounds and reported about as many more at home.

Daniel Goodwin is at home from Durham for the usual Christmas vacation.

Mrs. Helen Leighton and daughter Frances are visiting at the home of Charles J. Bell during the holiday vacation.

Miss Annie E. Newton went home last week Friday to spend the vacation with relatives in South Ashburnham.

Carl Shepardson went to his home last week for the Christmas vacation.

Miss Clara Smith returned from Michigan last Saturday, where she had been to attend the funeral of S. M. Spaulding's brother.

The pupils of Miss Read's and Miss Newton's schools held their Christmas exercises and tree together in Miss Read's room last week Friday afternoon. Warren Hall performed the duties of Santa Claus.

Miss Bertha Colburn is at home for the Christmas vacation.

Some of those who are at home from their school duties are Miss Helen Powers, Miss Bessie Robbins, Miss Louise Hardy, Harvey Powers, Charlie Spaulding and Harold Guethling.

Albert Wetmore has purchased a new horse.

The Woman's club holds their next meeting on January 7, at the home of Mrs. William Saunders.

Roscoe Robkirk, who has been employed at Henry Wilson's for some time, spent Christmas in the northern part of New York with relatives.

Fred Hardy spent Sunday at his home in town.

Miss Lena Ladd was at home on Sunday.

Mrs. Emma Goodwin returned home last week after spending a week with her son Otis and family in Saugus, Mass.

The Hollis Woman's club held its regular meeting at the home of the Misses Hardy on Wednesday afternoon, December 17. Mrs. Annie Colburn, Mrs. Florence Ladd and Miss Bertha Hayden sang two Christmas carols. Francis K. Sweetser gave a very fine paper on "South America and the Monroe Doctrine."

Obituary.

The funeral of Martin J. Spaulding was held at the town hall in Joyfield, Mich., December 11. For several years he had been in failing health, but during the last few months of his life, Last November he became confined to his bed from a needed operation and although it was very successful and he seemed to be recovering his strength daily, his heart was not strong enough to carry him back again to full health and he passed away very suddenly early Sunday morning, December 7.

Mr. Spaulding and his two brothers, Alvin J. and Silas M., were born in Hollis, N. H., at the Silas Spaulding homestead, now owned by Lester J. Hayden. In 1869 Martin went to Illinois and was married from that state to Miss Lucy E. Shattuck of Groton, Mass. In the same year they moved to Joyfield, Mich. Alvin J., the youngest brother located there also and together the two brothers bought a large tract of uncleared land containing 160 acres. Here the first frame house in that township was built.

As the result of much hard labor two very fine farms were cleared and a large orchard of apple trees set out.

Alvin J. passed away four years ago of pneumonia.

One child, Clara J., was born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Spaulding, but her life was a short one and in 1895 she passed away beyond to her "Heavenly home," leaving a daughter Stella, who has been tenderly and lovingly cared for by her grandparents since that time.

Martin Spaulding was a man of sterling Christian character and was honored and loved by a large circle of neighbors and friends. Always ready to lend a helping hand in whatever direction it was needed his daily life was ever an example of usefulness and devotion not only to his family but to the entire community.

Although he has passed beyond our vision to that "mansion not made with hands" yet the influence of his quiet, upright life can never be taken away from those who knew him.

Rev. Mr. Mills of Benzonla, Mich., attended the funeral and spoke words of comfort, sympathy and cheer not only to the relatives but to the many friends and neighbors who had gathered to pay their last respects to an honored townsman. There were several sprays of cut flowers, a wreath, given by the "Gleaners," an organization in which he had been able to take only a part of his usual duties.

A widow, a granddaughter, Stella Spaulding, and one brother, Silas M. Spaulding, are left to mourn his loss. Had he lived until December 13, he would have reached his seventy-seventh year.

News Items. The schools have closed for a two weeks' vacation. The various teachers have gone to their homes.

Ralph Lovejoy is home from Kingsport with a young friend for the vacation. Daniel Goodwin from Durham, Ralph Powers and sister Helen from Cambridge and Meriden, Conn., Harold Guethling and Charles Spaulding from Londonderry, Vt.

Mrs. Goodwin returned home on Thursday from Saugus, Mass., after a week's visit.

Allen Spaulding of Proctorville, Vt., paid a visit with his niece, Mrs. H. A. Leslie last week.

Christmas Sunday was observed by a concert held in the forenoon. The subject was "White gifts for the king." The members came in by classes and sat with their teachers. Responsive readings were read by the superintendent. There were gifts as follows: A book to the school and classes gave a table and dolls dressed to be sent to the mountain whites. The children there know nothing about Christmas so our children have dressed these dolls and will send them there. There was a very enjoyable concert and quite a good many were out to listen to it. There was a Christmas tree at the hall Wednesday evening in accordance of which will be given next week.

Mrs. Powers, who was with her daughter in Meriden, Conn., returned home last week Friday. She was there about five weeks.

John L. Woods went to Boston on business recently, going to Clinton to remain over night with his son Winfred and family and returned home the next day.

Mrs. Asa B. Eaton has been confined to the house with a severe cold. Henry A. Wilson has recently put in a bathroom.

It is reported that Franklin Worcester has bought the stationary saw mill formerly owned by Gilman P. Huff, and that he expects to operate it this winter.

Charles S. Spaulding, who has been in poor health lately is reported as better and able to walk out in the door-yard.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert MacMaster of Kingston Station, N. S., who are spending a few weeks with relatives in Nashua, spent the day Tuesday at Wm. T. MacMasters.

Richard Hardy went to Littleton last week Friday, where he is testing milk. He expects to be away the greater part of the winter and will be in several different places testing milk.

George Morrill's home was fumigated last Sunday and quarantine removed after being shut in for six weeks with scarlet fever.

Arthur Lund has been at home this week with a large boil on his neck.

Perley A. Lund was at home for Christmas, coming on Wednesday.

Miss Grace Marshall returned home this week after caring for Francis Morrill during his illness with scarlet fever.

Frank Scott has recently sold his grey horse and purchased another one to take its place.

Edson Hurd has just completed a new henhouse, 16x40, and filled it with pure blooded White Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks.

Hollis high school defeated Amherst town team at basketball in Hollis town hall last week Friday evening with a score of 53 to 5.

Joseph Richardson of Lowell is stopping at Frank Scott's for the present.

A telephone was installed at Herbert Patch's this week. Line 34 is rather heavily laden now, there being thirteen telephones on it.

Mrs. William Hardy of Arlington, Mass., was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Tenney the latter part of last week.

Frank MacMaster and wife of Nashua were callers at Wm. T. MacMasters' on Tuesday.

The Christmas concert given Sunday morning by the children of the Sunday school was very pleasingly rendered. The songs and recitations of the little folks were greatly appreciated by a large audience.

Last week Saturday Geo. A. Ladd, Wesley W. Ladd and Samuel A. Basson and son went fishing on Pennaschuck pond and brought home a fine string of pickerel.

Peabody united and had their exercises together. Among them was a little drama entitled "Christmas in many lands," in which the pupils taking part, appeared in costume. Some of them were very clever, others when combined with the antics of the puppets representing the characters, were very amusing, especially the colored people. A "Christmas pie" was also served, of which each pupil secured a "piece" by taking hold of one of the many strings outside and following it up until a present was found at the end. In the grammar school-room exercises were also held and in the North, East and West schools, each with their respective teachers, had a program of their own.

Woman's Club Meeting. On Saturday afternoon, December 20, the Woman's club met in the upper hall to listen to an illustrated lecture upon the Montessori system of teaching by Miss Alice Hopkin, a former Lunenburg girl, but now of Brookline, where she lives with her mother and sister, and where she is one of the successful teachers of the methods learned of Dr. Montessori herself. Miss Hopkins spent the greater part of last year in Rome and became very much enthused with the Montessori methods as exemplified and practiced there.

A large audience greeted Miss Hopkins on Saturday and listened with interest to the whole lecture and were much delighted with the pictures showing groups of happy children at work or at play or serving at social functions as systematically arranged and taught by the founder of the system and her assistants.

The Woman's clubs of Fitchburg, Shirley and Groton were invited and ever delegation from each were in attendance, some of whom were acquainted with Miss Hopkins when she was a school girl here. Her parents lived on the farm now owned and occupied by C. C. Lane.

At the conclusion of her lecture she was cordially welcomed by all former acquaintances and many new ones. While in town she was the guest of Mrs. Alice (Brown) Bigelow, who was once a class-mate, and also of Miss Fannie C. Graves, a former friend.

Appropriate Services. At the Methodist church on Sunday morning a Christmas concert was given by the Sunday school with special music by the choir and a Christmas story by the pastor, Rev. Alfred Noon. In the evening the Epworth League was led by Ernest Aker and the subject was "A glad Christmas." At the Congregational church there was special music by the choir, with Miss Fannie C. Graves at the organ. The special numbers were "The newborn king," "Hark, the herald angels sing" and "Rejoice O ye shepherds." In the evening Mrs. F. H. Barter led the C. P. service and the topic was "The Christmas spirit and how it may prevail." Nearly all the hymns sung were Christmas songs. Mrs. Alice Bigelow read "The other wise man" by Henry Van Dyke, a beautiful story, charming and interesting everyone who heard it.

Sudden Death. This whole community was shocked and grieved on Sunday morning by the sudden death of Mrs. Walter Burnap, a most estimable man, living with his husband and children on what is familiarly known here as the Cruickshank place. Mrs. Burnap had been ailing for only a little more than a day, but a severe throat trouble, known among medical men as angina ludvici, developed so rapidly that a physician was called and he in turn called another physician, and they, realizing the serious nature of the disease, thought best for her to go to the hospital. But there seemed to be no relief and she died there before morning.

The funeral was held in the First Methodist church, Fitchburg, Tuesday. Rev. Walter Healy conducting the service and interment was in the West cemetery, Ashby. Mrs. Burnap leaves her husband and nine children—Mrs. Grace M. Conway, Richmond, Va.; Lucy M., Arthur F., Mildred N., Jennie M., Evelyn, Rodney, Dora and Norma; and a daughter, Little Norma only seventeen months old. The family have the sincere sympathy of all who know them. Mrs. Burnap was a sister of Merrick D. Pillsbury, a long-time resident of Lunenburg. Mr. Burnap and family came here from Ashby about six years ago and purchased the Cruickshank farm, where they have since resided.

12c Per Hen - Per Year. It is all it costs to keep your hens in profitable condition on Pratt's Poultry Regulator. To prevent and cure roup, cold, catarrh, use regular Pratt's Roup Cure. Just put it in the drinking water, and these diseases will not attack your flock. Sold and Guaranteed by the dealers whose names are below.

A. E. Lawrence & Son, I. J. Rowell, Shattuck Store Co., Blxby-Webber Co., Conant Bros., Ayer, East Pepperell, Groton, West Shirley, Gale, Dickson & Co., Conant & Co., Clarence Stuckney, C. W. Lane, West Townsend, Westford, Harvard, Littleton, West Townsend, Townsend Harbor, Westford.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRICES. On All Trimmed and Untrimmed Hats for the Balance of December at the Millinery Parlors of ETHEL K. BRUCE MILLINER Phelps' Block AYER, MASS. Phone 96-2

Ford THE UNIVERSAL CAR. Gift! Why not a Ford? You couldn't make a better gift to the whole family. It's a pleasure car—a business car—an all around, serviceable car—an economical car. It's the family car the world over. Drive yours home today. \$500 is the new price of the Ford Runabout; the Touring Car is \$550; the Town Car \$750—f. o. b. Detroit, complete with equipment. Get catalog and particulars now. J. M. HARTWELL Dealer in Ford Cars and Supplies Telephone 21-5 LITTLETON, MASS.

GOOD FARM VALUES WILL SELL. Even in these quiet times, as all real estate men call this season, providing you can get the right men to see the right place. From August 23 to September 2, I sold three fine farms and received an offer on a fourth good place which looks like business. Am offering one of those choice, improved farms on the famous Oak Hill, Harvard, where a city man has spared no expense to get every modern convenience with electric lights and running water everywhere—60 acres, 250 fruit trees, high, sightly and near to the beautiful town center. Will sacrifice much on cost for quick sale. All kinds, from \$500 upwards. A real farm of 38 acres with good buildings for \$1600. They will never be any cheaper. Nineteen acres, pleasant buildings, all furnished for summer or all year, reduced to \$1600. EDWARD H. BLISS, Ayer, Mass. Phone 55-2

Mrs. E. F. Chandler MAKER OF DESIRABLE HATS Has Opened a New Millinery Parlor at EAST MAIN STREET AT ENTRANCE TO SUBWAY AYER, MASS. You are cordially invited to call and acquaint yourself with our prices which you will find exceedingly attractive ORDER WORK A SPECIALTY Phone 35-5

Great Reduction Sale OF THE Millinery Stock of the late George L. Davis The Entire Stock of Trimmed and Untrimmed Millinery is offered at One-half the usual prices. This is a great opportunity to secure High-class Millinery at a less price than you would pay for inferior goods as this stock must be sold. Geo. L. Davis 26 Main Street Ayer, Mass. TENEMENT WITH STEAM HEAT TO LET—Seven Rooms, Main Street, East Pepperell, Mass. Apply to MRS. N. S. PIKE, 1m14 RANGE FOR SALE—At DUNPHY'S LUNCH, Groton. Try their Oyster Stew. 14 WANTED—Housekeeper's position by middle-aged (Protestant) lady. Best of references. Address B. F. F., General Delivery, Shirley, Mass. 116

N. A. SPENCER & SON

Wish to call your attention to their stock of

GEMETERY MEMORIALS

which they would be pleased to have intending purchasers inspect and obtain prices.

Ayer, Mass.

FRANK S. BENNETT

Successor to ARTHUR FENNER
Insurance Agent and Broker
Main Street, Turner's Bldg.
AYER, MASS.

Miss G. M. Stone, Public Typewriter

Just One Trial



WILL DEMONSTRATE TO YOU

The Superior Quality of Napoleon Flour AND WHY IT IS RECOGNIZED AS THE BEST ON THE MARKET TODAY BY THE MOST EXACTING HOUSEWIFE WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU TRY ONE BAG AND COMPARE IT WITH WHAT YOU ARE USING

Mullin Bros.

AYER, MASS.

D. W. FLETCHER

Successor to John L. Boynton
INSURANCE AGENT AND BROKER
Conant Building, Main Street
East Peppercell, Mass.

STEPHEN SLAU

FIRST-CLASS SHOEMAKER
Main Street
Laundry Bldg. Ayer, Mass.
All Work Warranted

I use the best of Oak-Tanned Sole Leather. My prices are satisfactory. Come and see me before going elsewhere. If you come once you will always come to me.

Union Cash Market

Ayer, Mass.

LOOK OVER THESE PRICES

LEGS OF LAMB	18c. lb
FORES OF LAMB	11c. lb
LOINS OF LAMB	13c. lb
14 lb SWEET POTATOES	25c.
OYSTER CRACKERS	4 lb 27c.
CURRANTS	10c. Package
QUAKER OATS, Large Size	22c.
ACME SOAP	7 Cakes 25c.
MINCE MEAT	8c. Package

Remember the Place

UNION CASH MARKET, Main Street
Ayer, Mass.



Strong and Sturdy.

Horses are sure to be full of red blood and ginger when they use

Pratt's Animal Regulator

is used. It helps appetite, digestion and assimilation; insures regular, healthy action of the liver. 25c. pkg. to 25 lb. pack at \$5.00.
Guaranteed or Money Back.
Pratt's 1914 Almanac Free.

A. E. Lawrence & Son
I. J. Rowell
Shattuck Store Co.
Conant Bros.
Wright & Fletcher
Gale, Dickson & Co.
Conant & Co.
Clarence Stickney
C. W. Lane
Blaby-Webber Co.

"Just Watch Me!"



THOUGH the children call me Santa And I'm growing rather old, I am not too old for kisses, And my heart is never cold. I've long known about the meaning Of the sprig of mistletoe When a maiden's found beneath it With her lips all puckered—so. I have found the dainty maiden Just as sweet as a maid can be, And as I collect the tributes You may watch and envy me.

ORIGIN OF CHRISTMAS CARDS.

First One Was Designed Nearly Seventy Years Ago.

The Christmas card as we know it has an origin easily traceable, and it is now not quite seventy years ago since the first was designed.

The artist who claimed to be its originator and who was at any rate the first to see its possibilities was W. C. T. Dobson, R. A., an Englishman who when quite a young man in 1844 was prompted at Christmas to make a little sketch symbolic of the season's joys and festivities and to send it to a friend. It seemed to give great pleasure, and the next year Mr. Dobson determined to follow up the idea on a larger scale and by having his card lithographed was enabled to send copies to twenty-five or thirty friends.

The delight with which they were received was so great that Mr. Dobson was quick to perceive that he had found out a new pleasure for Christmas.

The Holy Hay.

There is a popular legend which tells how the very hay in which the Holy Babe was laid put forth living blossoms at midwinter at the touch of the Babe's body.

CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY.

A Day of Cheerfulness and Happiness Throughout the Fatherland. The German Christmas has local differences in various provinces. The Christmas tree is universal, for this is its home. At many places the whole family go to early service, at 5 or 6 o'clock, as the custom may be, and in some parts of the country every one carries a lighted candle. These candles, placed on the backs of the pews, sometimes make the only light in the church. At some places when the clock strikes 12 on Christmas eve the bells ring and every house and church is quickly lighted up.

Christmas is a day of cheerfulness and happiness throughout Germany. The presents are usually simple. Men and angels and many kinds of creatures are fashioned in gingerbread. It is twisted into many grotesque shapes, and sometimes it is gilded. Hans Christian Andersen's story of the "Honeybread Soldier" will be better understood by any one who has spent a Christmas in Germany.

In Hanover, just when the candles on the Christmas tree are dying out, there will be a mysterious rap on the door and a bundle will be thrown into the room. It contains a little present for every member of the family and comic verses for some of them.

In Oberammergau there is a more distinctly religious tone given to the whole holiday. The Christ Child is the guardian angel of the time. It is he, they say, who brings the Christmas tree. He comes down from heaven on Christmas eve, holding it in his hands. Two angels bearing presents fly before him and two behind. He puts the tree on the table, rings a bell and flies away. He brings a blessing to the children that have been obedient.

To the children of Oberammergau St. Nicholas is an angel in disguise. He goes about from house to house in ragged clothes and with a bag on his back. He gives a loud knock at the door and asks, "Are the children good?" If the answer is "Yes" he leaves fruits and candies. If the answer is "No" he leaves a stick.

A CHRISTMAS LETTER.

DEAREST PHYLLIS, pray remember when you're making up the list Of your presents for December (unless I am to be mislead)

That I've slippers, picture brackets, smoking sets of various types, Half a dozen smoking jackets, thirty-seven meerschaum pipes, Twenty patent "kid glove menders," collar boxes by the score, Of embroidered silk suspenders, forty-seven pairs or more; That each year since I was twenty I've received a paperweight, Have pen wipers, inkstands plenty, paper cutters—twenty-eight; That I've Browning and Longfellow by the hundred—every kind—Shakespeare—black and blue and yellow; Milton till I'm nearly blind;

So there's just one present only that I'm wanting in this year Of my bachelorship so lonely—that's yourself, my Phyllis, dear.

—James Courtney Challis.

Attractive Bed Sets.

Bed sets, consisting of spread, pillow covers and valance, are always a welcome addition to the nappy closet, and what color to select need not worry the donor, as the smart thing in these outfits is white scrim trimmed with eyelet embroidery or fillet insertion, edging and motif. Blankets may seem a homely gift to send at Christmas time, but any housekeeper will be glad to have one in thick, soft Australian wool, in pale blue, rose or mauve, and bound with satin ribbon.

One of the nicest things to send to a housekeeping friend is a set of towels. It is a happy idea to furnish a dozen of extra large sized and heavy Turkish bath towels; hemmed in the color of her room and marked with her individual initials.

LOVE IS BLIND



—Ketten in New York Evening World

TOWNSEND.

Center. Miss Carrie Walker, of Fitchburg, is at Mrs. Arthur Barber's. Mr. and Mrs. George Hartford had a large family party of sixteen or more relatives on Christmas, which party was planned in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Barnaby, who are at the home town for a short stay.

Miss Isabelle Morse, of Attleboro, is at home for the holiday vacation; also, Arthur Eastman and Miss Bessie Eastman, Clifford Lancy, Harold Morse, David Howard, Stella Farrar, Claude Hartford and other out-of-town students.

Misses Ethel and Forestine Hinds, of Portsmouth, N. H., and Boston, are enjoying a vacation at their home on Townsend hill.

Misses Ethel and Gertrude Rockwood returned from Baltimore this week, Miss Ethel for a vacation and Miss Gertrude from a visit there.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Streeter and little son, Nat. T. E. Flarity's for the holiday week.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Barber planned and enjoyed an elaborate Christmas party and dinner.

Marke Struthers, of Clarke college, is at home; also, Victor Swicker.

Sunday evening, at the Congregational church there was a very interesting meeting. Besides the usual program there was an organ recital by Prof. A. G. Seaver, prayer by the pastor, Rev. A. L. Struthers, selection from "Ben Hur" upon the birth of Christ, read by Mrs. Abbie Barber, and a selection "The Christmas spirit," read by Mrs. W. L. Bruce. There was also a double choir. Before church began there was a star which appeared in the belfry which was very neatly accomplished by the use of electric lights, and John Piper and Gary Gilchrist played from the balcony upon the cornet and horn several selections, among them "Holy night." The beautiful star and the music filled the listener with the Christmas spirit.

Richard Hargreaves is very ill as the result of a slight shock sustained on Saturday afternoon and another one on Monday morning. His daughter, Mrs. Mabel Merrill, who lives in the middle states, has been sent for.

The enjoyable entertainment prepared by Wilbur Scales for the ladies' fair of the N. E. church last week consisted of "The graduating exercises of the Bingville high school" and was greatly appreciated by the audience present. The motto upon the program was as curious as the rest of the affair and was "Look down—not up."

The following is a list of the newly-elected officers of Townsend grange: Mrs. Emma Seaver, m.; Frank Woods, o.; Mrs. Esther Scales, lec.; Mrs. Clara Heselton, stew.; Edgar E. Campbell, asst. stew.; Mrs. Mary Spring, chap.; George L. Whitcomb, treas.; Mrs. Flora I. Atwood, sec.; Charles Dix, g. k.; Mrs. Mary E. Taylor, Ceres; Mrs. Alice Brown, Pomona; Mrs. Agnes Woods, Flora; Miss May Parker, l. a. s.; Dr. A. J. Atwood, ex. com. 3 yrs.

There will be a double public installation of the Sons and Daughters of Veterans at Memorial hall on Monday evening, January 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Eldridge and children, of Plymouth, and Miss Hattie Miller, of Attleboro, were at H. J. Miller's for our Christmas.

Warren Green held a dancing party here the night before Christmas at Memorial hall and there was also a dance at the Harbor on Christmas night, several from here attending.

Walter F. Rockwood and Jennie E. Wallace were called to Brookline, N. H., this midweek by the death of their aunt, Mrs. E. Augusta Smith.

West. Miss Boss, who has been a guest of Miss M. Elinor Tower, has gone to Canada, where she will spend the winter with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Alden A. Sherwin and little daughter are spending the holidays with relatives in Quincy.

Miss Ruth Hayden, who teaches in Greenville, N. H., is enjoying the Christmas vacation at her home here.

Rev. Gorham Esterbrook, of New Bedford, will occupy the Baptist pulpit on Sunday as a candidate.

Mrs. Lucy Thompson has been quite ill for the past week and Mrs. James Bell has been caring for her.

The Ladies' Mission Circle met last week Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Lucy Lawrence. Although there were but three in an attendance a very interesting meeting was enjoyed and two papers were read, "Burmah, past and present," by Mrs. H. W. Lawrence, and "Where are the men for Burmah?" by Miss Alice Seaver.

Mrs. Fred A. Patch has returned from a few days' visit to relatives in Boston and vicinity.

Carl E. Willard joined his mother on Wednesday to spend the holidays with relatives in Dorchester.

Miss Hazel Forbush, who is stopping with Miss Emily Cutting, has returned to her home in Leominster for the holidays.

Mrs. Lettie Nickerson is spending a few weeks at the home of relatives in Cambridge.

Mrs. Charles E. Patch has been enjoying a few days' visit to friends and relatives in Boston and vicinity.

Mrs. A. J. Manchester, of Josselynville, has been on the sick list for the past week.

Richard McElligott has closed his tenement and gone south for the winter.

Miss Helen Marr is spending the Christmas vacation with her mother in Fitchburg.

Mrs. Warren Hadley, from Charlestown, has been a recent visitor with friends in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Winslow Reed spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Reed.

Rev. H. H. Rohrdash, of Boston, was entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hodgman over Sunday.

Rev. H. H. Rohrdash, a native of Berlin, Germany, who recently was graduated from Newton Theological seminary and was ordained last week in Somerville, occupied the Baptist pulpit last Sunday as a supply, and in the morning preached a very pleasing sermon on "The great gift," and in the evening his topic was "God's new creation." At the evening service he also very pleasingly rendered two solos which were greatly enjoyed. He spoke to the Sunday school and the Brotherhood at their meetings.

The Y. P. S. C. E. service was conducted by Ian Rusk with about twenty present.

The Ladies' Study club will meet on Monday evening at the Reading-room to conclude the study of James under the charge of Mrs. Fred Patch on the topic "Later history."

Suffering Humanity Finds

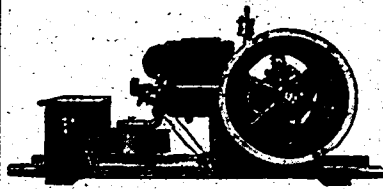
that relief must be found for the ills which may come any day, —else suffering is prolonged and there is danger that graver trouble will follow. Most serious sicknesses start in disorders of the organs of digestion and elimination. The best corrective and preventive, in such cases, is acknowledged to be

BEECHAM'S PILLS

This standard home remedy tones the stomach, stimulates the sluggish liver, regulates the inactive bowels. Taken whenever there is need, Beecham's Pills will spare you hours of suffering and so improve your general health and strength that you can better resist disease. Tested by time, Beecham's Pills have proved safe, certain, prompt, convenient and that they

Always Lead to Better Health

Sold everywhere. In boxes 10c., 25c. The directions with each box should be read by everyone—especially by women.



THE RAWLEIGH

Gasoline Engine

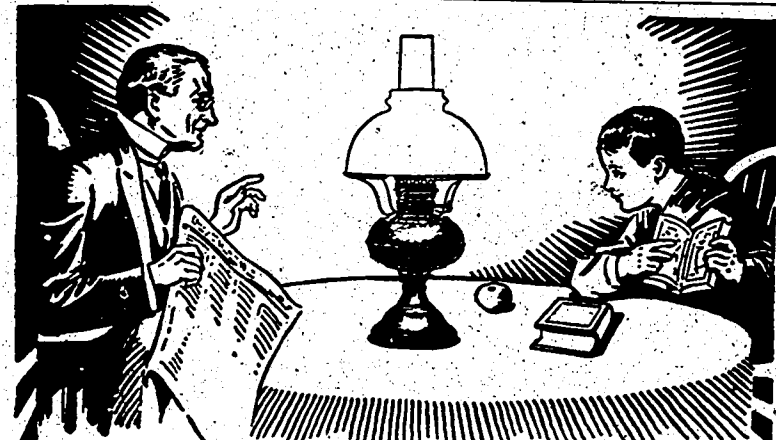
Highest Grade Correct Design
Smoothest Running Long Life
Minimum of Vibration

CHAS. E. PERRIN

PLUMBING AND HEATING

West Street

Ayer, Mass.



The Best Light On Any Subject

RAYO Lamps give the softest, steadiest light for work or play, for young or old.

Rayo Lamps

No straining of the eyes. A constant comfort to all the family.

Solid brass, nickel-plated. Handsome. Strong. Easy to clean and rewick. Lighted without removing chimney or shade.

At dealers everywhere, or write for descriptive circular.



STANDARD OIL COMPANY

New York of New York Buffalo Albany Boston

NOTICE.

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Townsend National Bank will be held at their Banking Rooms on Monday, January 5, 1914, at ten o'clock A. M., to choose a Board of directors for the year ensuing, and act upon any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

HENRY A. HILL, Cashier.
Townsend, Mass., Dec. 11, 1913. 4114

LIVE POULTRY WANTED

I can use any amount of Fowl, Roasters and Broilers for market, and of the American variety of pure bred pullets. Drop me a postal or telephone what you have and team will call.

O. B. OLSEN,
Townsend Harbor, Mass.
Telephone, 59-12 Peppercell.

Jas. P. Fitch

JEWELER

CARLEY'S BLOCK, MAIN STREET

Next door to Postoffice AYER

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex, ss. Probate Court. To the heirs-at-law and all other persons interested in the estate of SIDNEY H. WHITNEY late of Groton in said County, deceased.

Whereas MARY J. WHITNEY, administratrix of the estate of said deceased, has presented to said Court her petition for license to sell at a private sale, in accordance with the offer named in said petition, or upon such terms as may be adjudged best, the whole of two certain parcels of the real estate of said deceased for the payment of debts, the amount to which the payment of said debts is limited by the Statute and charges of administration, and for other reasons set forth in said petition.

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be held at Cambridge in said County, on the thirtieth day of December A. D. 1913, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be granted.

And said petitioner is ordered to serve this citation by delivering a copy thereof to each person interested in the estate fourteen days at least before said Court, or by publishing the same once in each week for three successive weeks in Turner's Public Spirit, a newspaper published in Ayer at the last publication to be on day, at least, before said Court.

Witness Charles J. McIntire, Esquire, First Judge of said Court this ninth day of December in the year one thousand and nine hundred and thirteen.

3114 W. E. ROGERS, Register.

COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF INSOLVENT ESTATE

Estate of CHARLES A. DENNEY, late of Peppercell, in the County of Middlesex, deceased, represented insolvent. The Subscribers, having been appointed by the Probate Court for said County Commissioners to receive and examine all claims of creditors against the estate of said Charles A. Denney, hereby give notice that six months from the Twentieth day of November A. D. 1913, are allowed to creditors to present and prove their claims against said estate, and that they will meet to examine the claims of creditors at the office of Charles F. Worcester, Ayer, Mass., on the 7th day of January next, and on the 2d day of May next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, on each of said days.

CHARLES F. WORCESTER,
FRANK A. TORREY,
Commissioners.
Ayer, Mass., Dec. 12, A. D. 1913. 3115

TREE SURGERY

I do all kinds of Tree Trimming, Scraping, Cutting off Moths; also, Cutting down Trees. Any Apple Orchards will be promptly attended to and satisfaction given. 3m11

ALFRED C. SMITH
Tel. 45-2 Ayer, Mass.

HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY to buy regardless of cost Concord, Democrat, Express and Farm Wagons—Top Buggy and Surrey. All kinds of Harness—Double Team Harness at \$6.00. Whips, Robes and Horse Goods, Plows, Harrows and Farm Implements of all kinds. Rogers and Hubbard's Bone Base Fertilizers. F. B. FELCH, Carriage, Harness and Implement Dealer, Ayer, Mass. Telephone 146-2.

FURS

Furs Repaired, Re-Dyed or New Ones made in Latest Styles. First-class work. Prices right. Fur Skins in Stock, also, in Eight Colors for Evening Dresses and Hats.

MADAM GREENWOOD
151 Myrtle Ave. Fitchburg, Mass.

E. D. STONE

Fire Insurance Agent

Automobile and Cord Wood Insurance. Esther A. Stone, Typewriter. Page's Block Ayer, Mass.

WANTED—Four Cords No. 1 Quality Birch Wood, fresh cut. ALLEN WOODS, Groton, Mass. 3115

