

THE HYDE PARK

HISTORICAL RECORD.

Vol. II.

JULY, 1892.

No. 2.

CONTENTS:

FRONTISPIECE, DR. HORATIO LESEUR	-	Facing page	21
DR. HORATIO LESEUR, <i>Dr. Jos. King Knight, D.D.S.</i> ,	-		21
THE OLD SUMNER HOMESTEAD, <i>Mrs. Anna H. Weld</i> ,	-		23
WHEN WAS READVILLE SO NAMED?	- - -		30
TEACHERS IN THE READVILLE SCHOOL	- - -		31
IRA LEWIS BENTON, <i>Charles G. Chick</i> ,	- - -		32
EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF DORCHESTER RELATING TO SCHOOLS NOW IN			
HYDE PARK	- - - - -		35
HYDE PARK BIRTHS (Continued), <i>Edwin C. Jenney</i> ,	-		37

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THE HYDE PARK HISTORICAL RECORD.

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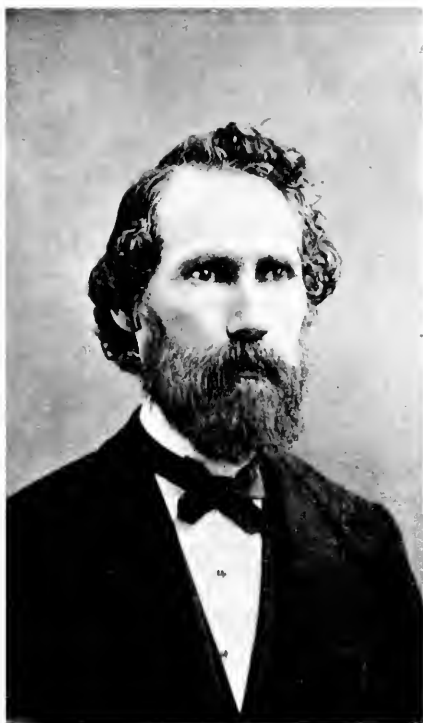
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HYDE PARK, MASS.



From photograph made about 1872.

Horatio Lessem

THE
HYDE PARK HISTORICAL RECORD.

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DR. HORATIO LESEUR.

BY JOS. KING KNIGHT, D.D.S.

DR. Horatio Leseur, the youngest son of William Frost and Elizabeth Carpenter Leseur, was born at Rehoboth, Mass., June 20, 1820. There were six sons and four daughters in the family, three of whom remain; Hannah F. Leseur and Mrs. Eliza Sheldon, of Rehoboth, and Benjamin F. Leseur, of Fairmount avenue, Hyde Park. They were descendants of the Huguenots, the grandfather coming from France to this country, and it is supposed that he lost his life on the return voyage. William Frost Leseur was an intelligent and cultured gentleman, and was schoolmaster and justice of the peace in Rehoboth.

In early life Horatio Leseur gave proof of his future career by his industrious habits and close application. School advantages were decidedly limited, but in the face of obstacles he obtained a good education and was well informed on the subjects of the day.

At the early age of twenty, he married Hannah Cook Waterman, and shortly afterward they decided to try their fortunes in the then "out west." Moving to the centre of New York state in 1842 was far different from traveling in our palatial cars of to-day. The journey was made to New York city in a sailing vessel, and from there by way of an Erie canal boat and stage coach, they reached their destination, the village of Homer, in Cortland county. After engaging in business here for a few years, during which time three daughters were born into the home, they returned to Massachusetts, and in 1852 Dr. Leseur entered the dental profession in Boston, and continued

in active practice until his final illness. Thoroughly upright and conscientious in all his dealings, he made friends of all with whom he came in contact, and thus by personal influence built up a business and a name.

In 1864, he bought the residence on Maple street, Mount Neponset, which has since been the family homestead. February 14, 1891, the place witnessed a scene of great rejoicing, for it was the celebration of the golden wedding, and also an expression of thankfulness that up to that time the family circle had remained unbroken.

Dr. Leseur was a man who, while taking no active part in politics, had the courage of his convictions and always endeavored to perform what he conceived to be a citizen's duty. He was greatly attached to the town of his adoption, and was always ready to do what he could for its welfare. He was a member of the Young Men's Christian Association, a vice-president of the Historical Society, connected with the Golden Cross and Five Year Benefit societies, and an active worker in the Congregational Church and Society, where he held many important offices. For nearly twenty-eight consecutive years he was a teacher in its Sabbath School, and dearly loved those to whom it was his duty to minister. From early childhood he was a lover of music, and many have been the occasions on which he has contributed to others' happiness, as well as his own, in this direction.

As Rev. Perley B. Davis has very fittingly said, "he possessed a rare goodness of heart which gave him a most winning influence wherever he was known. Everybody loved him. His unassuming benevolence found numerous channels for the bestowment of unheralded charities. His sympathies for those in trouble were tender and easily awakened. He loved to relieve suffering and assuage sorrow, whether of body or mind. He created a hopeful, restful atmosphere wherever he was; he was pre-eminently a peacemaker. It seemed impossible for him to speak other than loving words. His faith was strong and unfaltering, yet simple and trustful as a child."

Yes, though dead, he yet speaketh; and the community is better for the life which he has lived among us. The bereaved widow and three daughters, Hannah Elizabeth (Mrs. Edward W. Collins of Hyde Park), Mary Emily (Mrs. Dr. Robert R. Andrews of Cambridge), and Lucy Angeline (Mrs. Dr. Jos. King Knight of Hyde Park), still remain to revere and cherish his memory.

THE OLD SUMNER HOMESTEAD.

BY MRS. ANNA H. WELD.



OLD CLARK HOUSE.

For those familiar with the present aspect of the old Sumner House on East River street, it is not easy to picture it as it was in the long ago, brimming with young life and echoing the shouts of children who trooped through its broad hall, played hide and seek among its nooks and crannies or held high counsel in its spacious garret. Standing in the

midst of well kept grounds and fine orchards, Sumner Hall was one of the fine suburban residences of the time.

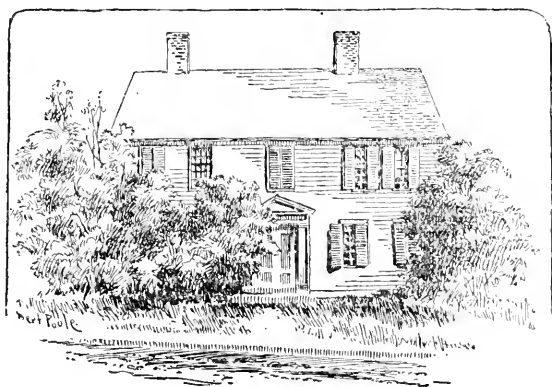
Enjoying social position and dispensing a large hospitality, the family drew around them a circle of cultivated people. Here "Father Ballou," the apostle of Universalism, loved to come and exchange views with his friend Mr. Sumner and occasionally preach in the little Butler School House, bringing annually his entire family to feast upon the cherries which grew so abundantly in the orchard. Here the well-known Dr. Thaxter, Judge Cushing and Judge Robbins were often entertained.

In the earlier days, no little degree of style was maintained by the family; the elder children remembered going to church in the yellow family coach with its driver and footman.

The house was built in 1790, Mr. Sumner living at the time of building it in the house a little further up River street, now long occupied by the family of Elihu Greenwood. The house was well built with staunch timbers and finished with panelled wainscoting and fluted cornices.

Mr. Sumner was married three times. He had fourteen children, the eldest, a boy, died in infancy and was buried at the "Barracks" in Dorchester where Mr. Sumner was stationed at the time; the remaining thirteen were reared in this house. Of his four sons two were paper makers, one a noted sea captain, and one a farmer on the land in Milton which has descended through six generations of Sumners. Of the nine daughters, all,

with one exception, spent their entire lives in the old house ; all died here and all are placed together in the family tomb in Milton. Two only, the oldest and youngest were married. The youngest, the wife of Col. Nathaniel Crane, continued to live at home, and the eldest returned to her father's home with her four children on the death of her husband, Mr. George Fessenden. Her two sons died early, one being lost at sea. Her two daughters grew up with Mr. Sumner's children and were as sisters with them. The oldest, Eliza Fessenden, was never absent from



FROM PHOTOGRAPH BY D. W. LEWIS.

OLD SUMNER HOMESTEAD.

the house during her life of eighty-six years, more than a few months at a time. The youngest married Capt. Friend Crane and had her home elsewhere many years, but returned to the sheltering roof to die in her old age. Mr. Sumner's last wife dying in 1805, the care of the entire family devolved upon his second daughter, Martha, or Patty, as she was called. She proved herself equal to the situation. Possessed of great energy of character, and executive qualities, she conducted the affairs of the family with marked ability. The children all loved her, though, in accordance with the manners of the time, her discipline was strict, and swift and sure was the retribution to follow upon an act of insubordination. Her chief aid was old Chloe, (a female slave liberated by the Massachusetts Eman-

cipation Act), whose devotion to the children, who were at once her pride and her torment, was touching. They ever cherished for her an affectionate remembrance. They were as a family possessed of great personal charms, uniting beauty with intelligence, wit and culture.

In the later years of her father's life, and after his death, his property being involved, the sisters united in earning with their needle and otherwise for the family needs and to clear off mortgages, working with untiring industry on embroidery, making gloves, fine linen, ruffled shirts, plaiting straw, etc.

They were noted for their fine needlework and the delicacy of its finish. They were among the first to cultivate strawberries for the market, and were the first to send cut flowers to Boston, really inaugurating the trade which has grown to such proportions. They erected greenhouses and cultivated the most rare and beautiful flowers, and their large garden was a special attraction to many visitors. The larger, stronger varieties, having crowded out the more delicate ones, now grow and bloom in a wild luxuriance; a striking instance of the "survival of the fittest." They did not permit their labor to stifle all social and intellectual life, or chill their hospitality. They sang and played the piano, their brothers played the flute and violin, and many were the scenes of revelry, of music and of dancing which the great hall extending through the house has witnessed. The late Edmund J. Baker, of Milton, said, "I often visited there, and it was a pleasant place to go. The ladies were well informed and agreeable; they would bring to the sitting-room their strawberries to hull, or their basket of flowers and weave their wreaths and boquets while they talked, and it was pleasant and social."

The never failing resources of the barn with its mows and swallows' nests and the woods, fields and river, together with the bright home life, made this a favorite place for children and a number, among them their cousin, the Hon. Charles Sumner, with his brother and sisters were in the habit of spending here each year many happy vacation hours.

The Misses Sumner found time for outside interests, being active in church and Sunday school, concerning themselves in the founding of the Milton library and other matters of the day.

Their father, William Sumner, was a descendant of William Sumner, of Dorchester, who came from Bicester, Eng., in 1636.

This ancestor was a prominent man in the town of Dorchester. He held the office of selectman for twenty-two years, and was for twelve years deputy to the General Court. We find him at one time appointed committee for "building a new meeting-house"; at another time to make a treaty with the Indians. Again, we find the following: "William Sumner and Deacon Drake are desired and appointed to enquire after a school-master. Some say that there may be one found at Bridgewater." It would seem that the profession was not crowded at that time.

There were eighteen of the descendants of this first William in the Revolutionary War. Six were in the unfortunate expedition to Canada, five of whom were lost. One of the descendants of William Sumner, of Bicester, was Gov. Increase Sumner, one of Massachusetts's early and most honored governors. He was appointed associate judge of the Supreme Court at the age of thirty-six years. He was elected governor of Massachusetts in 1797, 1798 and 1799, but died before entering upon the third term. Knapp in his *Biographies* says, "No death since, except Washington's, was more deeply deplored in the Commonwealth. His remains were interred with public honors and his funeral was attended by the president of the United States."

Mr. Sumner, the builder of the homestead, was born at Milton in 1748. He was a lieutenant in the army and belonged to the "Alarm List," and was called upon for service at any and all times. He helped build forts at Lovell's Point, Plowed Hill and Cobble Hill. He commanded one of the three boats sent at one time to destroy the light-house on Long Island in Boston Harbor.

The fascines used in fortifications at Dorchester Heights were cut from the portion of the Sumner estate called "Pine Garden," the spot being selected on account of its obscurity by General Washington, who more than once rode up the little lane "Back street," now Wood avenue. On the night when in dead silence, with the aid of three hundred teams, the drivers of which spoke no loud word to each other or their teams, these fascines were removed from their place of concealment to the "Heights," Mr. Sumner carried three loads. He remembered when an old man, that night's work with much satisfaction.

Mr. Sumner's brother, Job, was a major in the Revolution; his son was father to the Hon. Charles Sumner; Mr. Sumner's

brother, Enos, was a physician and the doses which, as revealed by his prescription book, he administered to the worthy inhabitants of Milton and the adjoining towns, were simply appalling; a grand nephew of Mr. Sumner, Edwin Vose Sumner, distinguished himself in the Mexican War and took a prominent part in the War of the Rebellion, being promoted to major-general.

After the close of the Revolution, Mr. Sumner engaged in paper making with Mr. Richard Clark, who lived in the quaint house under the elms, now owned by Mr. Samuel Roundy and Mr. Thomas Field and which had been brought up the river on the ice from its original site to where it now stands. Mr. Sumner soon after became sole owner of the mill and water privilege in Hyde Park now occupied by the Tileston & Hollingsworth Company.

In 1798, he built a new mill and continued in the business more than thirty years. He built also a cotton mill, a corn mill and a chocolate mill. He was beside a large land owner and was actively engaged in farming.

Mr. Sumner was a man of fine physique which had descended through generations. It is related of his kinsman, Increase, father of Governor Increase, that once while driving a loaded team up a long hill in Roxbury, the "ni-bow" broke and the ox escaped. The team beginning to go backward, he placed his shoulder under the yoke, and shouting "gee up" to the off ox, together they pulled the load up the hill.

Mr. Sumner took active interest in town affairs and educational matters. We find him signing petitions for school house and school fund. At one time he gave a stove to the school which did service for thirty years. He joined with others in his district in building and giving to the town a school house on the site of Butler School. This building was afterward moved up to the Sumner farm and mounted on four stone posts was used for a corn barn.

Mr. Sumner was blind during the last part of his life. He was a generous, warm-hearted man, though quick of speech as were his fathers before him, for we find in 1675 the original William, the recipient of so many town honors, "called upon to appear before the church to give satisfaction for offensive language against the militia," and one of his descendants, Judge Thomas

Sumner of Milton, was so outspoken with regard to his tory principles as to be obliged to leave the country.

In a letter written by his daughter, Clarissa Sumner, she says : "I believe my father to have been as Pope says 'The noblest work of God, an honest man.'"

At the time of the settlement of Hyde Park, two daughters only of Mr. Sumner, Miss Clarissa and Sally Sumner were, with a granddaughter, Eliza Fessenden, the sole representatives of the family left at the homestead. With them lived their brother-in-



WILLIAM SUMNER. BORN, 1748. DIED, 1836.

FROM A SILHOUETTE IN THE POSSESSION OF A GRANDDAUGHTER, MRS. ANDERSON E. HOLLINGSWORTH, OF BRAINTREE.

law, Col. Nathaniel Crane, a true-hearted old school gentleman, one loved and respected by all. The elder of these sisters, Miss Clarissa, was a woman of much practical energy and did most of the outside business of the family; she was well-known and respected by many of the merchants and business men of Boston.

The late Miss Sally Richards Sumner who was the last of this group and the youngest but one of Mr. Sumner's nine daughters was a woman of many rare qualities of mind and heart. She received, for those times, a liberal education in a private school in Boston. She boarded with a friend of her mother, in whose home she mingled with some of the elite of Boston. Among the

frequent guests of the house were the mayor of the city and the governor of the State. In this society her delicate beauty and gentle dignity made her a favorite. Miss Sumner was ever in the true sense a gentle woman, refined and ladylike in her tastes and in her conversation, and with a strong intellect. She taught school for a number of years in the Butler school-house, as had also two or three of her older sisters, and her pupils have pleasant associations with the time spent under her tuition. Miss Sumner was opposed to woman suffrage, but this did not prevent her from taking in common with her sisters, a lively interest in public affairs. She was a staunch Republican, and many a young man in whom she has detected symptoms of wavering has received from her the *Boston Journal* with marked passages, accompanied by letters of her own, which were often more vigorous and convincing than the printed columns.

She was a woman of tender sympathies, which, with her excellent judgment, made her ministrations at the sick bed invaluable, and from her youth, in case of sickness in the family and neighborhood all turned instinctively to her. Although with her New England training she was never demonstrative in her affections, yet she responded quickly to any expression of affection, giving back in two-fold measure. Her love for her father was deep and abiding; she devoted her young life to caring for and cheering him in his blindness and age. She solaced many a weary hour for him with her music, but she never played after his death. She held in tender love the remembrance of her sisters, and as the circle narrowed her interest in Spiritualism developed. To her it was a blessed assurance of immortality and gave a sense of the loving presence of her dear ones, which was most cheering and sustaining in the severe trials that were her portion in her later years. Her death in 1887 removed the last of those who for nearly a century had called this place home.

The house remains unchanged, except that the wasting hand of time has been laid heavily upon it. The original clapboards are upon its sides, the first window sashes, the old knocker, the great square locks, with their brass handles worn by the touch of many hands now turned to dust, remain; but its sanded floors, its wide-mouthed kitchen fireplace, with its snug chimney corner hung with poles of "crooknecks" and red peppers, are things of the past, together with the whirl of the spinning wheel, the clatter

of the loom, the dash of the churn, the use of the butter print, the cheese press, the carding comb, the flax switchell, the candle mould and the tinder box. The busy hands which occupied themselves with these industries, too, are folded to rest, and now the old house, a "silent witness" of the mysteries of life and death, which for a century have revealed themselves within its walls, stands a monument of the past, a reminder of the fleetness of man's days. "As for a man his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more."

WHEN WAS READVILLE SO NAMED?

THE locality now known as Readville was as early as 1655, called the "Low Plain" (1 *Dorch. Rec.* 103), and after it became a part of Dedham was for years known by the name of "Dedham Low Plain." When the school district was there established, it naturally came to be known as the Low Plain District. This name evidently became distasteful to its residents. Mr. Edmund Davis states in his excellent historical sketch that "about 1850, it was named by its inhabitants Readville, in honor of Mr. Read, who was the principal owner of the cotton mill there"

Does not the following extract taken from the school records fix the date of the adoption of the name beyond any reasonable doubt? October 8, 1847, "Voted that the name of Low Plain School District be changed to that of Readville."

The mill at that time was owned by a corporation called the Dedham Manufacturing Company, and the Mr. Read referred to was James Read of Boston, then of the firm of Read & Chadwick commission merchants, and largely interested in the mill and selling most of its products. Our late townsman, Henry Grew, was at one time associated in business with Mr. Read. (See Vol. I, page 17).

TEACHERS IN THE READVILLE SCHOOL.

THE following list is taken from the books and papers of the Readville school district now in the possession of the Hyde Park Historical Society and from the reports of the school committee of Dedham. The school was in existence for many years before the earliest date here given, but no complete record of teachers prior thereto is known to exist. The list closes with the year of the incorporation of Hyde Park.

1839.	Mary Colburn.	1854.	Martha M. Davis.
	Silas M. Blanchard.	1855.	" "
1840.	Mary Gardner.	1856.	" "
	Susan Thompson.		Frances E. Griggs.
1841.	" "		Benjamin L. Pease.
	Mary Gardner.	1857.	" "
1842.	Elmira Gardner.		Esther M. Nickerson.
	James P. Treadwell.		John O. W. Paine.
1843.	Almeria E. Fitts.	1858.	" "
1844.	" "		Mary A. Bullard.
1845.	" "	1859.	John O. W. Paine.
	Elbridge Clapp.		Mary J. Folsom.
	Ann E. Bullard.		Albert H. Essex.
1846.	Bethiah A. Holmes.	1860.	" "
	Elbridge Clapp.		Mary J. Folsom.
1847.	" "		Samuel H. Nichols.
	Almeria E. Fitts.	1861.	" "
1848.	" "		Mary J. Folsom.
1849.	" "		Joseph R. Draper.
	Mary Goodnough.	1862.	" "
1850.	Henry C. Nash.		Martha M. Davis.
	Martha A. Parker.	1863.	" "
1851.	Henry C. Nash.	1864.	John Nelson Stevens.
	Rebecca Bullard.		<i>Principal.</i>
	Joseph R. Draper.		Miss E. N. Gardner.
1852.	" "		<i>Assistant.</i>
	Miss E. T. Waterman.	1865.	John Nelson Stevens.
	Nathan H. Chamberlain.		<i>Principal.</i>
1853.	" "		Sarah H. Fish.
	Martha M. Davis.		<i>Assistant.</i>

1866. John Nelson Stevens.

Principal.

Sarah H. Fish.

Assistant.

1867. John Nelson Stevens.

Principal.

Sarah H. Fish.

Abbie L. Everett.

Anna J. Barton.

Assistants.

Almeria E. Fitts, who was a teacher six years and whose services were lost by reason of her death, is referred to as "eminently successful." In the latter years, at least, of her service, she not only taught the elementary branches but had a class in Latin. In 1846, Mr. Clapp kept an evening school. This was, however, a private enterprise. Mr. Nash was a student at Harvard and married an inhabitant of the district. He is now dead. Miss Rebecca Bullard is now the wife of Carlos Slafter, of Dedham. Mr. Chamberlain is a well-known episcopal clergyman of Cambridge and has also been eminently successful in the lecture field. Miss Martha M. Davis now resides at Readville with her uncle, David L. Davis. John O. W. Paine is a lawyer and is said to be following his profession in California. Miss Mary A. Bullard, a sister of Miss Rebecca Bullard, still resides in the family homestead at the corner of Readville and Milton streets. Mr. Stevens was born in Haverhill, Mass., and at the close of his services as a teacher, made his home in Readville and died there November 10, 1891, at the age of seventy-five. Miss Everett is now the wife of Frank F. Jaques and resides at Kansas City, Mo.

Nothing definite is known concerning the other names and additions and corrections to the list will be gladly received. Information as to any of these teachers is desired.

IRA LEWIS BENTON.

BY CHARLES G. CHICK.

THE subject of this sketch was born in Andover, Vt., Nov. 22, 1821. He was the son of Erastus and Nancy (Cram) Benton. Both of his parents were born in New Hampshire, his father at Jaffrey and his mother at Templeton; so that it can fairly be said that Mr. Benton came from New Hampshire stock.

In the early days of his life, and it might almost be said in his boyhood, he developed a taste for military matters, and such was his enthusiasm and skill that he became a captain of an artillery company comprised of boys and young men at Derry, Vt., when he was but fourteen years of age and was awarded a premium for his skill when about fifteen years of age.

In 1840, he left Vermont and went to Boston, where he studied music and devoted a greater part of his time to that profession, singing in concerts and church choirs. He was a member of the choir in the Old South, Park Street and other churches for a number of years; he was also a member of the Handel and Haydn society and taught singing. Although he gave a great part of his time to musical matters, Mr. Benton had not neglected to equip himself for the struggle of life in a more sturdy way, as we find him for several years as a blacksmith on Bridge street, Boston. He had evidently learned this trade with his father, who was a "village blacksmith" in Vermont.

Mr. Benton was married in Nashua, N. H., April 28, 1857, to Mrs. Martha Ann Farnham, a widow, and came to Hyde Park the same day. For seventeen years he lived on Fairmount, and was an active man during the early days of our town history. When the war broke out in 1861, he closed his Fairmount home and went to Springfield and was employed in the United States armory there for three years. A short time he lived upon a farm in Carlisle, in this State. With these exceptions Hyde Park has been the home of Mr. Benton since 1857. His face and form were familiar to our citizens. He was an active man, strongly built and of medium height. He had a pleasant face and cheery word for everyone. Two children were born to him, but neither survive him. He died at his residence on Hyde Park avenue, where the later years of his life were spent, on April 8, 1891. Mr. Benton was an active member of the Historical Society and contributed from time to time much valuable information connected with the early affairs of this town. He was one of the "Twenty Associates," and as one of that number must always be regarded as one of the founders of the town.

The following extracts from an appreciative notice in the Hyde Park Times of April 10, 1891, are well worthy of permanent preservation:

"Mr. Benton was a great help to the young community in a

musical line. He conducted the first singing school and led the choirs at different times at the union services and at the Baptist and Episcopal churches. His family was the seventh to settle on Fairmount, and they lived for a long time on Fairmount avenue, moving recently to Hyde Park avenue.

"In the early social history of the town Mr. Benton took a prominent part. His singing ability was brought into requisition at many religious services, as well as at the many concerts of which he was the chief promoter. His concert in the old Music hall, which was moved from Boston and stood on the lot at the rear of the building now occupied by Putnam & Worden on Hyde Park avenue, was a notable occasion. Many of the young people received their first instruction in singing from him. He also took great interest in the Fairmount lyceums in the old days before the war, and was associated with such well-known men as the late Daniel Warren, L. B. Hannaford, James Sumner of Brush Hill and William J. Stuart. He was always ready on such occasions and the times he answered calls for his vocal ability, frequently being accompanied by his step-daughter, Mrs. W. A. Blazo, an accomplished pianist, are without number. An enterprise remembered only by the older citizens, was his fleet of fifteen pleasure boats on the Neponset river, which he ran in connection with the old picnic grove on the hill (later removed by the Hartford and Erie railroad) near Pierce street.

"Mr. Benton erected a number of buildings in this town. He formerly owned, besides the old homestead on Fairmount avenue, the old school house at the corner of that avenue and Highland street, below Mr. Weld's residence. He was connected for a time with J. Secor Smith in the carriage and blacksmith business in a building which they erected on Bridge street, and which was later destroyed by fire. He also built four houses on Warren street in Boston. Like many other persons he had his trials and reverses, but one was always sure of a cheery word from him, and when he was no longer seen about our streets he was greatly missed by the old timers. During his illness since last October he has been a great sufferer, but he maintained a cheerfulness and patience that was remarkable, and which was reflected on his countenance as the writer saw it yesterday, stilled in death. One could but reflect on the remark which Mr. Benton made when the question of celebrating the town's twentieth anniversary was

being discussed three years ago in old G. A. R. hall. Some one had suggested waiting until the twenty-fifth anniversary. 'Don't do it,' said Mr. Benton, 'we are here now, but who can say how many of us old residents will live to see the twenty-fifth anniversary? Let us celebrate now.' His remarks did much toward carrying the vote and he took great interest in all the details of that celebration."

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE OF DORCHESTER RELATING
TO SCHOOLS NOW IN HYDE PARK.

THE school in the "western district (River street)" has been called by "the name of the Butler School, after a Mr. Butler, a teacher in the public schools of the town more than two hundred years ago." April 1, 1850.

"The Butler School, though not strictly coming under the head of Grammar Schools, we may here make mention of. It has done well under the accomplished teacher who has had charge of it the last six months. But the semi-annual change of teacher, to which, under existing arrangements it is subjected, is, in the opinion of the committee, a serious hindrance to its best success, and they would earnestly commend it to the consideration of those most interested in the school, whether a permanent female teacher of superior competency, would not secure for them a greater benefit than they now derive. The committee have entire confidence that it would do so. In the Winthrop, Everett, Mather, Norfolk and Butler Schools instruction is given in the Latin language, and the exercises, in several, were very satisfactory." April, 1851.

"BUTLER SCHOOL. Miss M. Crane, teacher; whole number of pupils, twenty-four; average attendance, eighteen. This school is well advanced and thorough in all the branches taught and in a prosperous condition. The examinations were quite satisfactory. Although the smallest school in town, the labors of the teacher are arduous, the great diversity in the age and attainments of the scholars making impossible anything like classification. Such a

school requires the best qualifications in its teacher, and this has them in its present one." April, 1853.

"The Butler School has suffered much of late from irregular attendance of pupils. The teacher is faithful and the appearance of the school good, considering the peculiar circumstances." "At the Butler School-house, some repairs have been made and a ventilator placed in the roof of the building." March 31, 1857.

"The Butler School-house has been cleansed and colored and the stove refitted. Cost \$23.38." April 1, 1858.

"The Butler School, though very small in numbers, is interesting in appearance; so unlike the other schools in the town with its great diversity in the age and studies of its pupils. It is subject, from peculiar circumstances, to great irregularity of attendance; but its order appears highly satisfactory and its lessons well learned." April 1, 1859.

"The number has been increased by the establishment of a new school at Hyde Park. This young and thriving village presented its claim for school accommodations in the early part of the autumn of 1859. After a thorough examination of the subject, the committee came to the unanimous conclusion that the claims were just and reasonable. They accordingly established a new Primary School in the village and hired a hall for its accommodation. It went into operation on the fifth of December under the care of Miss Sarah E. Johnson, who was elected to the place, November 29th. Miss Johnson has thus far proved herself faithful and successful in her new vocation."

"The Butler School has been—temporarily at least—somewhat injured by the establishment of the school at Hyde Park; but this, under the circumstances, could not be avoided. The only injury referred to is the diminution of the number of its pupils. In other respects the school is as flourishing as ever."

"It may be proper to suggest also that within a few years, a large school-house will probably be needed at Hyde Park. If the town can foresee what will be the appropriate location, it is respectfully suggested whether it may not be expedient for the town to secure, in advance, a lot of ample dimensions for the purpose." April 1, 1860.

"BUTLER SCHOOL. The *true stamp* here, also, and never brighter than now."

"HYDE PARK SCHOOL. Here, also, the committee express

their satisfaction with the condition of the school." April 1, 1861.

"BUTLER SCHOOL. This is a small school, having almost as many classes as there are pupils and having all the grades of study from those of the lowest Primary to those of the Grammar department. It has the same teacher that it had last year. The teaching is thorough, and, at the recent examination, the school appeared remarkably well.

"HYDE PARK SCHOOL. This school has been generally prosperous during the year. The building, however, in which the school was formerly kept, having been consumed by fire, a room in another building was immediately obtained and the regular sessions of the school were interrupted only for a short time. This school, too, is of a mixed character, containing scholars in various grades of study, from those grades belonging properly to the Primary School, to some belonging to the Grammar School." April, 1862.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

HYDE PARK BIRTHS.

COMMUNICATED BY EDWIN C. JENNEY.

1870.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20.]

- Dec. 5. Robert E. Crosby, s. William and Caroline, both b. England.
- " 8. — Hathaway, d. Edward, b. Boston, and Henrietta, b. Providence, R. I.
- " 14. Ella Nash, d. James and Eliza, both b. Ireland.
- " 14. Catherine T. Kennedy, d. Hugh and Mary, both b. Ireland.
- " 21. — Wilson, d. Hosea, b. Maine, and Emma, b. St. Stephens, N. B.
- " 21. Wallace L. Collins, s. Edward W., b. Portland, Me., and Hannah E. (Leseur), b. Homer, N. Y.
- " 22. Charles Stack, s. John and Catherine, both b. Ireland.
- " 23. — Tower, s. Charles B., b. Boston, and Harriet I., b. Vermont.
- " 26. — Williams, s. Rinaldo, b. Maine, and Susie, b. Harvard.

- Dec. 26. Daniel B. McGorman, s. William and Mary, both b. Ireland.
 “ 31. Thomas F. Maloney, s. Thomas and Margaret, both b. Ireland.
 “ — Clara Measte, d. W. — and —, both b. Canada.

1871.

- Jan. 11. Frances W. White, s. William, b. Dorchester, and Mary A., b. Lowell.
 “ 12. William P. Brown, s. I. John and Harriet D., both b. Vermont.
 “ 18. Ellen C. Knibbs, b. Boston, d. James H., b. England, and Mary C., b. Nova Scotia.
 “ 22. Catherine A. Elliott, d. Joseph W. and Margaret, both b. Nova Scotia.
 “ 22. Florence G. Hoogs, d. William H. and Hanna M., both b. Canada.
 “ 24. Ida F. Barney, d. James E., b. East Providence, R. I., and Amanda M., b. St. Louis, Mo.
 “ 25. Mary E. Curran, d. Bernard and Mary, both b. Ireland.
 “ 26. Mary J. Sweeney, d. Thomas and Jane F., both b. Ireland.
 Feb. 2. Nellie J. Annis, d. James L., b. Maine, and Clara McE., b. England.
 “ 5. — Cheney, d. Horace R., b. Maine, and Virginia P., b. Ohio.
 “ 6. Hannah J. Dolan, d. Thomas and Hannah, both b. Ireland.
 “ 6. Silas A. Perkins, s. Almon, b. Jackson, N. H., and Hannah J., b. China, Me.
 “ 11. Christina Turnbull, d. John and Jane H., both b. Scotland.
 “ 13. Ann E. Mahoney, d. Cornelius and Johanna, both b. Ireland.
 “ 14. Flora Nilson, b. Boston, d. Alfred and Josephine, both b. Sweden.
 “ 16. James W. Holland, b. Assebeth, s. Michael and Mary, both b. Ireland.
 “ 17. Charlotte R. Briggs, b. England, d. James J. and Eliza, both b. England.
 “ 17. Margaret Barrett, d. Patrick and Sarah, both b. Ireland.
 “ 17. George R. Lewis, s. James A. and Clara, both b. Walpole.
 “ 21. George H. Clark, s. T. Emery, b. Waterford, Vt., and Nellie, b. Sunenburg.
 “ 22. John E. Rooney, s. Edward and Bridget, both b. Ireland.
 “ 27. Eliza F. Whitcroft, d. George H., both b. England, and Emma J., b. Gloucester.

- Feb. — Asa P. Collins, b. Boston, s. Samuel A., b. Conn., and Laura, b. Waltham.
- “ — Patrick Gill, s. John and Bridget, both b. Ireland.
- “ — Enez Dora, b. Dedham, d. — and Ida, both b. Ireland.
- Mar. 4. Robert Sampson, s. Solomon J., b. South America, and Betsey, b. France.
- “ 7. Hugh T. Williams, s. Francis C., b. Boston, and Mary, b. Bolton, Mass.
- “ 8. Elizabeth W. Butler, d. George H., b. Charlestown and Harriet P. W., b. Nantucket.
- “ 8. William Balfoul, b. Boston, s. James and Margaret, both b. Scotland.
- “ 10. Winnafred Cripps, d. George, b. New Brunswick and Catherine, b. Ireland.
- “ 10. Anna F. Holtham, d. Henry S., b. England, and Georgianna F., b. Roxbury.
- “ 14. Florence Keltie, d. James and Magdalen, both b. Scotland.
- “ 16. Ida R. Haskell, d. Besture B. and Caledonia B., both b. Deer Isle, Me.
- “ 17. James P. Dolan, s. Michael, b. Ireland, and Catherine, b. Boston.
- “ 17. John and Patrick Hickey, (twins), ss. David and Ann, both b. Ireland.
- “ 18. Michael Manning, b. Boston, s. John and Mary, both b. Ireland.
- “ 21. Willie A. Ham, s. Augustine D., b. Wolfboro, N. H., and Annie W., b. South Abington.
- “ 22. Harry S. Merrill, s. Charles H., b. —, N. H., and Elizabeth A., b. Ludlow, Vt.
- “ 22. — Shehan, d. Edward and Mary, both b. Ireland.
- “ 22. Fred W. Hill, s. Warren S., b. —, N. H., and Annie M., b. Maine.
- “ 26. Ada M. Mason, d. William A., b. Salem, and Amelia, b. Ohio.
- “ 26. Mary A. Henderson, d. William, b. Scotland and Mary, b. Ireland.
- “ 26. Mary C. Lyford, d. Byley and Addie, both b. Maine.
- “ 26. Fred H. Bryant, b. South Boston, s. Walter C., b. —, N. H., and Helen, b. Portsmouth, N. H.
- “ 27. — Cobb, s. Charles H. and Josephine, both b. Maine.
- “ 29. Catherine M. Crawford, b. Boston, d. William M., b. New Jersey, and Delia, b. Roxbury.
- “ 29. James A. Dalrymple, s. A. C. and Mary J., both b. Nova Scotia.
- “ 31. Bertie I. Potter, s. Thomas O., b. Gifford, N. H., and Laura A., b. Meredith, N. H.

- Mar. — Terrance McGowan, s. Andrew and Mary, both b. Ireland.
- April 3. Fred L. Luce, s. David W., Jr., b. New Bedford and Clara A., b. Boston.
- “ 8. Lucy W. Howard, d. George L. and Margaret D., b. Boston.
- “ 9. Catherine Rooney, d. Patrick and Ann, both b. Ireland.
- “ 9. Eldon M. G. Joubert, s. Ludger A., b. Canada, and Frances A., b. Brandon, Vt.
- “ 18. Janet Choate, d. George W., b. Ipswich, and Mary E., b. New Bedford.
- “ 18. Robert C. Sears, b. Medfield, s. Eben T., b. Dennis, and Susan E., b. England.
- “ 19. Elnora P. Simpson, b. Maine, d. Eben F., b. Deer Isle, and Julietta, b. Maine.
- “ 19. George P. Elwell, s. Isaac W. and Maria L. (Gould), both b. Boston.
- “ 20. Annie Rooney, d. Edward and Bridget, both b. Ireland.
- “ 20. Bessie Lincoln, d. Silas S., b. Norton and Eunora R., b. Winthrop, Me.
- “ 22. Carrie B. Thompson, b. Boston, d. George W., b. New York, and Mary E., b. —, N. H.
- “ 22. Margaret Dolan, d. John F., and Rosanna, both b. Ireland.
- “ 23. Clara A. Rollins, d. George F., and Clara, both b. Hamilton, N. H.
- May 1. Eliza Burns, d. John B., b. Ireland, and Catherine, b. Malone, N. Y.
- “ 3. Alice M. Mooar, d. James F. and Melissa, both b. Maine.
- “ 6. James Galvin, s. John, b. Ireland, and Catherine, b. Boston.
- “ 8. Arthur A. Prentice, b. Worcester, s. Adrastus A. and Helen M., both b. Northbridge.
- “ 10. Mary A. McDonough, b. Canton, d. Peter, b. Ireland, and Ann, b. Boston.
- “ 10. John Monahan, s. Martin and Mary, both b. Ireland.
- “ 13. Thomas J. Relley, s. Thomas and Ellen, both b. Ireland.
- “ 20. Norman H. Schofield, s. John L. and Huldah, both b. Nova Scotia.
- “ 23. Charles L. Wilson, s. Frank L., b. Maine, and Hattie E., b. Mass.
- “ 23. Agnes Curran, d. John and Catherine, both b. Ireland.
- “ 27. Minnie E. Crocker, d. James and Mary, both b. Nova Scotia.
- “ 29. Annie L. Sweeney, d. Patrick, and Catherine, both b. Ireland.
- “ — — O'Mealey, d. Michael and Elizabeth, both b. Ireland.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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