



South-eastern view of Hubbardston.

The above is a south-eastern view in the central part of Hubbardston, showing the two hotels, and some other buildings in the vicinity. The village, which consists of two churches and about 50 dwelling-houses, has a flourishing appearance.

It is stated in Whitney's History of Worcester "that for a considerable way around Little *As-na-con-com-ick* pond there is every appearance that once a stone wall was built or building. In some places it was then two and a half feet in height, in others entirely thrown down. When, by whom, and for what purpose this wall was built, will probably ever remain a mystery." In the village are two Congregational churches, 1 of which is Unitarian. Distance, 17 miles from Worcester, 7 from Barre and Princeton, and 53 W. of Boston. Population, 1,780. In 1837, there were 5,300 pairs of boots and 1,100 pairs of shoes manufactured; value, \$14,562. Value of chairs and cabinet ware manufactured, \$5,941. There were 35,122 palm-leaf hats manufactured; value, \$5,405.

LANCASTER.

THE settlement of this town goes far back into the early history of Massachusetts. According to Winthrop, the plantation of Nashaway was undertaken in 1643. The whole territory around was in subjection to *Sholan* or *Shaumay*, sachem of the Nashaways, and whose residence was at *Wausnacum*, now Sterling. *Sholan* occasionally visited Watertown for the purpose of trading with Mr. Thomas King, who resided there. He recommended Nashawogg to King as a place well suited for a plantation, and invited the English to come and dwell near him. Accordingly King, united with a number of others, purchased the land of *Sholan*, and procured a deed for 10 miles in length and 8 in breadth, stipulating that the English should not molest the Indians in their

hunting, fishing, or planting places. This deed was confirmed by the general court.

The precise time of the removal to Lancaster is not known. The first building was a "trucking house," erected by Symonds and King, about a mile south-west of the church. Mr. King sold all his interest in this grant to his associates, who, having given lots of land to Richard Linton, Lawrence Waters and John Ball, sent them up to make preparation for the general coming of the proprietors, and these were the first inhabitants. Others by the name of Prescott, Atherton, and Sawyer, soon followed. For the space of seven years little was done to forward the settlement of the plantation; nevertheless, there being nine families in the place, they petitioned the general court to be incorporated as a town, which was granted on the 18th of May, 1653, (O. S.) by the name of Lancaster. The first town meeting on record was held in the summer of 1654, probably soon after the petition just mentioned was granted. At the next meeting it was voted not to take into the town above 35 families, and the names of 25 individuals are signed who are to be considered as townsmen. They are as follows, viz.

Edward Breek,	John Whitcomb,	Thomas James,	John Smith,
Mr. Jos. Rowlandson,	John Whitcomb, jr.	Edmund Parker,	Lawrence Waters,
John Prescott,	Richard Linton,	James Atherton,	John White,
William Kerley, sen.	John Johnson,	Henry Kerley,	John Farrar,
Ralph Houghton,	John Moore,	Richard Smith,	Jacob Farrar,
Thomas Sawyer,	Wm. and John Lewis,	William Kerley, jr.	John Rugg,

Many of these names still abound in Lancaster and the vicinity. In 1659 the town repealed the impolitic order limiting the settlers to 35, and after this the population rapidly increased. The affairs of the town appear to have proceeded in tolerable quiet for more than 20 years from the first settlement, till 1674. The Indians were inclined to peace, and in various ways were of service to the inhabitants. But this happy state of things was not destined to continue. The day of deep and long-continued distress was at hand. The natives, with whom they had lived on terms of mutual good will, became their bitter enemies; desolation was to spread over the fair inheritance; fire and the tomahawk, torture and death, were soon to be busy in destroying all the comforts of domestic life. On the 22d of August, 1675, eight persons were killed in different parts of Lancaster. On the 10th (O. S.) of February following, early in the morning, the Wampanoags, led by Philip, accompanied by the Narragansetts, his allies, and also by the Nipmucks and the Nashaways, whom his artful eloquence had persuaded to join with him, made a desperate attack upon Lancaster. His forces consisted of 1,500 men, who assaulted the town in five distinct bodies and places. There were at that time more than fifty families in Lancaster. After killing a number of persons in different parts of the town, and burning a number of houses, they directed their course to the house of Mr. Rowlandson, the minister of the place. This house at the time was occupied by soldiers and inhabitants to the number of 42, and was defended with determined bravery for upwards of two hours. The enemy, after a number of unsuccessful attempts to set fire to the building, succeeded by pushing a cart filled with combustible materials against it in the rear. In this way the house was soon enveloped in flame, and to avoid perishing in the ruins the inhabitants were compelled to surrender. Only one man escaped. The rest, twelve in number, were either killed on the spot or reserved for torture.

Different accounts vary in the number of the slain and captives. At least there were fifty persons, and one account says fifty-five. Nearly half of these suffered death. No less than seventeen of Rev. Mr. Rowlandson's family and connexions were put to death or taken prisoners. He at the time, with Capt. Kerley, was at Boston, soliciting military aid from Gov. Leverett and the council. The anguish they felt at their return is not to be described. The Indians made great plunder in various parts of the town. They were forced, however, to retreat on the appearance of Capt. Wadsworth, who, hearing of the distressed situation of the people, immediately marched from Marlborough, where he was stationed, with forty men. He quartered his soldiers in various parts of the town, and remained there some time; but before his departure one of his men was killed by the Indians. But the alarm of the inhabitants was so great, and such was the general insecurity of the border towns, that when the troops withdrew, about six weeks afterwards, the rest of the inhabitants left, under their protection. Immediately after this desertion of the place all the buildings were reduced to ashes but two. For more than three years after this, Lancaster remained without an inhabitant. During this time Mr. Rowlandson preached in Wethersfield, Conn., and there he died before the resettlement of the town. His wife and two of his children were restored to him after three months' captivity. Most of the women and children taken at this incursion of the Indians returned. From 1680 to 1692 the inhabitants were not molested in the resettlement of the town. But upon the breaking out of King William's war, the colonies were again involved in a war with the Canadians, both French and Indians, in the calamities of which this town had a large share. On the 18th of July, (O. S.) 1692, a party of the Indians attacked the house of Peter Joslyn, and murdered his wife and three children, and a widow Whitcomb. Elizabeth How, his wife's sister, was taken captive, but afterwards returned. Another child of his was killed by the enemy in the wilderness. At the time of the assault, Joslyn was at work in the field. In 1695, on a Sunday morning, Mr. Abraham Wheeler was shot by the enemy lying in ambush. No further injury was done till 1697, when they entered the town under five leaders, with an intention to commence their attack upon Thomas Sawyer's garrison. It was by the merest accident that they were deterred from their plan. The gates of Sawyer's garrison were open. A Mr. Jacob Fairbanks, who lived at half a mile's distance, mounted his horse, which came running to him much frightened, and rode rapidly to the garrison, though without suspicion, for the purpose of taking his son who was there. The enemy, supposing they were discovered, being just ready to rush into the garrison, relinquished their design, and on retreating fired upon the inhabitants at work in the fields. At no time, however, excepting when the town was destroyed, was there so much injury done, or so many lives lost. They met the minister, Rev. John Whiting, at a distance from his garrison, and offered him quarter, which he rejected with boldness, and fought to the last against the cruel foe. After this they killed twenty others, wounded two, who afterwards recovered, and took six captives, five of whom in the end returned to Lancaster. The restoration of peace in Europe brought a short season of repose. In 1702, war between England and France was renewed, and again reached the colonies. In 1704, 700 French and Indians proceeded against Northampton, but finding the inhabitants prepared for an attack, they turned their course toward Lancaster, except 200 of them, who for some reason returned. On the 31st of July they commenced a sudden and violent attack in the morning, in the west part of the town, and killed Lieut. Nathaniel Wilder near the gate of his own garrison. Near the same place in the course of the day they killed three other persons. The inhabitants were much inferior to the French and Indians in number. Capt. Tyng at this time happened to be in Lancaster with a party of soldiers; and Capt. How gathered in haste what men he was able, and marched with them from Marlborough to the relief of the town. They fought with bravery, but the large number of the enemy forced the inhabitants to retreat into garrison. Upon this the enemy burnt the meeting-house and six other buildings, and destroyed much of the live stock of the town. Before night such numbers came to the relief of the town, that the enemy retreated, and with such success that they were not overtaken by our soldiers. What number of the enemy was killed at this time is uncertain, but it was supposed to be considerable. A French officer of some distinction was mortally wounded, which greatly exasperated them.

"On the 26th of October, the same year, 1704, a party of the enemy having been discovered at Still river, the soldiers and inhabitants belonging to Mr. Gardiner's garrison, with divers others, went in quest of them, and returned in the evening, much fatigued with the service of the day. Mr. Gardiner, (who had been preaching several years with the people of Lancaster, and was now their pastor elect,) in compassion to the soldiery, took the watch that night upon himself; and coming out of the box late

in the night, upon some occasion, was heard by one Samuel Prescott in the house, between sleeping and waking, who, supposing him an enemy, seized the first gun which came to hand, and shot him through the body in the parade. But the fatal mistake immediately appeared; and he, being carried into the house, forgave the person who shot him, and in an hour or two expired, to the great grief not only of his consort, but of his people, who had an high esteem of him.

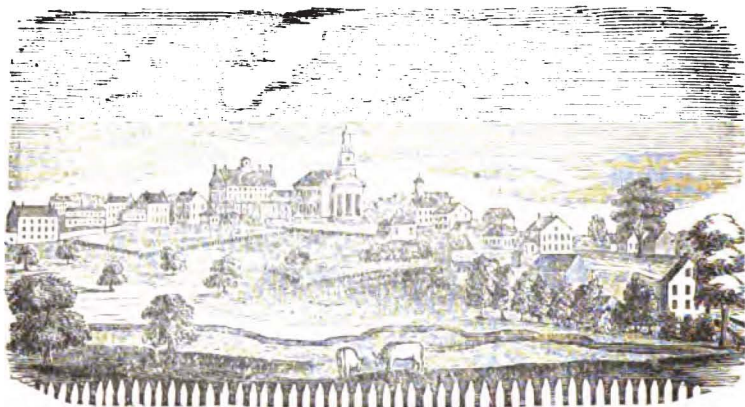
"On the 15th of October, 1705, Mr. Thomas Sawyer, with his son, Elias Sawyer, and John Biglow, were captivated at his garrisoned house about the dawn of day. Mr. Sawyer's youngest son, about fourteen years of age, escaped through a back window of the house.

"The Indians treated Mr. Sawyer with much cruelty, but at length they arrived at Montreal. There Mr. Sawyer observed to the French governor that on the river Chamblee there was a fine seat for mills; and that he would build a saw-mill for him, provided he would procure a ransom for himself, his son, and Biglow. The governor readily closed with the proposal, as at that time there was no saw-mill in all Canada, nor artificer capable of building one. He accordingly applied to the Indians, and obtained the ransom of young Sawyer and Biglow without the least difficulty, but no sum would purchase Mr. Sawyer's redemption. Him (being distinguished for his bravery, which had proved fatal to a number of their brethren) they were determined to immolate. The victim was accordingly led forth and actually fastened to the stake, environed with materials so disposed as to effect a lingering death. The savages, surrounding the unfortunate prisoner, began to anticipate the horrid pleasure of beholding their captive writhing in tortures amidst the rising flames, and of rending the air with their dismal yells. On a sudden a friar appeared, and with great solemnity held forth what he declared to be the key to the gates of purgatory, and told them unless they immediately released their prisoner he would instantly unlock those gates and send them headlong therewith. Superstition prevailed, and wrought the deliverance of Mr. Sawyer, for they at once unbound him, and gave him up to the governor. In one year he completed a mill, when he and Biglow were discharged. They detained his son Elias one year longer, to instruct them in the art of sawing and keeping the mill in order; when he was amply rewarded and sent home to his friends, where his father and he both lived to a good old age, and were gathered to their graves in peace.

"On August 5th, 1710, a party of the enemy coming by advantage of the bushes very near to Mr. Nathaniel and Mr. Oliver Wilder, and an Indian servant, at their labor in the field, the servant was killed, but the men escaped to the garrison. And this was the *last mischief* done by the enemy in Lancaster."

The year following the incorporation of the town, Rev. Joseph Rowlandson preached among the people, and continuing with them, he was ordained in 1658, at which time it is probable the church was gathered, though not certainly known, as the records were destroyed at the burning of Mr. Rowlandson's house. After the resettlement of the town, Rev. John Whiting was settled in the pastoral office, in November, 1690. He continued but a few years, being killed, as already related, in 1697. In May, 1701, Rev. Andrew Gardner began to preach at Lancaster, and the day of his ordination was fixed in the fall of 1704; but before the time came, a sudden and surprising death arrested him. He was succeeded by Rev. John Prentice, who was ordained March 29, 1708. His successor was Rev. Timothy Harrington, who was installed in 1748. Rev. Nathaniel Thayer, D. D., the next pastor, was settled in 1793. From the close of the last Indian war the population increased rapidly. The first meeting-house, as already stated, was burned by the Indians in 1704. Another was raised the next year, and completed in 1706. The third was built in 1743. The present elegant brick meeting-house was built in 1816, and was dedicated on the 1st of January following. Within the present bounds of the town there has never been but one incorporated religious society.

Lancaster is beautifully situated on the Nashua river, whose north and south branches meet near the center of the town. This stream annually overflows the extensive intervals on its banks, and enriches their already productive soil. There are ten ponds in different parts of the town. Interesting specimens of minerals are found here, and a large slate quarry was once worked for the supply of the Boston market, but has for some time been neglected.



South-western view of the central part of Lancaster.

The above engraving shows the appearance of the central part of Lancaster from the road a few rods north of the burying-ground. The prominent building in the center, with a spire, is the Congregational (Unitarian) church. The building with a small spire, to the right, is the academy. The Lancaster House, with a turret, is seen to the left of the church; the bridge seen below the meeting-house is that on which the principal road crosses the Nashua. The Lancaster Bank is in this village. Mr. Rowlandson's house, which was burnt by the Indians, was located at the spot where the cattle are seen feeding. In the central village there are about 75 houses. In this place there are many large elms. There are two other villages in this town, the south or New Boston, and the North village. Population, 1,903. Distance, 16 miles from Worcester, about 25 from Lowell, and 35 from Boston. In 1837 there were 1 woollen and 3 small cotton mills. There were 6 comb manufactories; value of combs manufactured, \$35,000; males employed, 40; females, 9. Engraving in its various branches, printing, and book-binding have been carried on to some extent in the central village.

LEICESTER.

This township was purchased of the Indians on the 7th of June, 1686-7, by Joshua Lamb, Richard Draper, Samuel Ruggles, and others. The natives called the place *Towtaid*, but by the English,