

CHAPTER XXI.

FROM THE DORR WAR TO THE CIVIL WAR.

The liberation of Dorr weakened the coalition against the Whigs, as they regained by that act many Whig votes that had been cast against them in April, 1845. The Democrats, however, renominated Charles Jackson in 1846. Jesse L. Moss of Westerly was their candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. Ex-Governor Fenner was in feeble health,¹ and being no longer available as a candidate, Lieutenant-Governor Diman was nominated for Governor by the Whigs, while Elisha Harris of Coventry was named by them for Lieutenant-Governor. The Liberty (Abolition) party nominated Edward Harris of Woonsocket and Stephen Wilcox of Hopkinton, for Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, respectively, and although they received very few votes, their candidature prevented an election by the people. The vote stood, Diman, 7,477; Jackson, 7,389; Harris and scattering, 155. Diman and the other Whig candidates were elected in grand committee, Diman by a vote of 61 to 39.

The general assembly passed resolutions in opposition to tariff reduction at the January session in 1846, while it approved of the reduction of postage rates. The resolutions regarding the latter, as presented in the house, commended Senator Simmons for his successful efforts in behalf of cheap postage, but the senator was not yet forgiven for favoring the liberation of Dorr, and, as they were finally adopted, he was entirely eliminated from the resolutions. A committee was appointed at this session to inquire and report concerning the old registered state debt. The annual tinkering of the license law took the form this year of an amendment providing for the election, at the option of the individual municipalities, of officials to complain of violations of the law. At the June session resolutions passed the assembly congratulating General Taylor for the victories of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma over the Mexicans. The Providence and Fall River and Providence and Plainfield railroads were incorporated in 1846, and their charters authorized them to erect toll-houses and establish toll-gates on their respective roads.

John H. Clarke of Providence was elected on October 29, 1846, to the

¹ Governor Fenner died on April 17, 1846. He was born in 1771.

United States senate, to succeed John Brown Francis. He received 59 votes, while 34 Democratic assemblymen cast their ballots for Thomas W. Dorr.

Olney Ballou of Cumberland and John D. Austin of North Kingstown were the Democratic nominees for Governor and Lieutenant-Governor in 1847. The Whigs put Lieutenant-Governor Harris at the head of their ticket, with Edward W. Lawton of Newport in the second place. Edward Harris was again the candidate of the Liberty party, and a "License" party entered the field with Willard Hazard of South Kingstown, and Israel Crocker of Newport as its candidates. The Whigs had over 1,200 majority, and nearly 2,000 plurality over their Democratic opponents. The License, Liberty and scattering votes for Governor aggregated only 743. The Prohibitionists entered the political field in Providence this spring. They nominated Amos C. Barstow for mayor, in opposition to Mayor Burgess, and Benjamin Cowell, a Democrat, was also nominated. Burgess won easily over both opponents, and the city voted for license by a narrow margin. In the congressional elections Robert B. Cranston, Whig, was elected in the eastern district by 24 majority over Fenner Brown, Democrat, John Boyden, jr., Liberty, and the scattering vote. In the western district Wilkins Updike, Whig, received 2,035 votes; Benjamin B. Thurston, Democrat, 1,928; Lemuel H. Arnold, Whig, 451, and Lauriston Hall, Liberty, 172. There was no choice, but Thurston defeated Updike in August by a plurality of 65 votes.

An act authorizing justices of the peace to join persons in marriage was laid on the table in the house by a vote of 26 to 16 at the January session, 1847. Resolutions, condemning the reduction of tariff rates, the sub-treasury system, and the war with Mexico passed the house by a vote of 29 to 20, and the senate by 17 to 12. The assembly, however, appropriated \$2,500 to assist in the equipment of Captain Pitman's Providence company in Colonel Ramsay's regiment of New England Volunteers. An act was passed at this session giving probate courts jurisdiction over sales of real estate belonging to minors, and the Supreme Court was authorized, at its discretion, to dispense with the three years' residence requirement in divorce cases.

At the May session, in accordance with the recommendation of a committee of investigation, a radical change was made in the law regulating the management of the state prison. By its terms the prison inspectors were shorn of much of their authority, many of the officials and attendants were discharged, and the convict labor system was discontinued. There had been some complaint regarding prison management, and there was considerable agitation against prison labor. It does not appear that the complaints were well-founded, and it was charged that the investigating committee ignored the prison inspectors and did not make a thorough and impartial investigation; that their

report was hurriedly made and hurriedly acted upon by the assembly, and that the protests and statements of the inspectors and prison officials in answer to criticisms were ignored. The facts were pretty thoroughly ventilated in the newspapers in the interval between the May and June sessions, and the former law was practically restored at the latter sitting. An act granting Newport a city charter was submitted to the voters of that town on May 15, this year, and was rejected, the vote standing 339 to 388.

In June a general incorporation law was enacted. One of its salient features was the provision that owners should not be individually liable for more than the amount of their capital in incorporated companies. The first telegraph company organized in the state was incorporated this year. It was authorized to build and operate lines from Providence to connect with outside lines running to Boston, New York, Fall River and Newport.

The annual resolutions of the assembly regarding national affairs in 1848 were rather more elaborate than usual. While it acknowledged the principle of a tariff for revenue rather than protection—an unusual concession by a New England legislature—it believed that the duties should be levied upon articles that came into competition with home productions, and that articles of general consumption, particularly tea and coffee, which could not be produced at home, should be free of duty. Slavery was condemned in the District of Columbia, and President Polk was censured for not managing negotiations with Mexico so as to avoid war.

An act was passed at the January session forbidding the assistance of sheriffs and other state officials in the capture or detention of alleged fugitive slaves. An amendment of the law for the relief of poor debtors provided for their discharge if their creditors neglected to pay for their board. It also provided, after a debtor had been in jail over six months, for his being put to labor for the benefit of his creditor. An ineffectual attempt was made at this session to abolish capital punishment.

The Supreme and Common Pleas courts were reorganized in May. The side judgeships of the latter courts were abolished, and they were thereafter to be presided over by the justices of the Supreme Court. An attempt was made by the assembly to ameliorate the dryness of "no license" towns by an amendment authorizing the town councils in such cases to license one or more "discreet persons" to sell ardent spirits for "medicinal and artistical purposes." In prosecuting cases of violation of the license law exclusive jurisdiction was given to justice courts, without appeal. The constitutionality of this feature of the law was questioned. No attempt was made to enforce it, and it was repealed at a subsequent session. The general assembly at the May session thanked Rhode Island officers of the regular and volunteer

forces who served in the war with Mexico, and it congratulated France for its adoption of a republican form of government. The advocates of a city form of government in Newport procured the passage of another act of incorporation in May, and the people rejected it on October 16, 1848, only 230 voting for it, while its opponents numbered 325.

Harris and Lawton were re-elected in April by about 1,500 majority over Adnah Sackett of Providence and John D. Austin of North Kingstown, the Democratic candidates, and in November, Taylor easily secured the electoral vote of the state, the vote being Taylor, 6,779; Cass, 3,646; Van Buren, 730.

In 1849 the Whigs placed Henry B. Anthony, editor of the Providence Journal, in nomination for Governor, with Judge Thomas Whipple of Coventry for Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Anthony, who was then thirty-four years of age, had been editor of the Journal since 1838, and had made it one of the most frequently quoted of New England newspapers. The Democrats again nominated Sackett, with Thomas J. Hazard of West Greenwich, an influential member of the assembly, as their candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. Edward Harris and Jacob D. Babcock of Hopkinton were the Free Soil candidates. The campaign was a tame one, as the Democrats made little effort. The only real contest was over the office of secretary of state, which had been held continuously by Henry Bowen since 1819. He was defeated for renomination in the Whig state convention by Christopher E. Robbins, a representative in the general assembly from Newport, and then ran as an independent candidate. There was no choice by the people, but Robbins was chosen by the general assembly. George G. King, Whig, was elected to Congress in the eastern district, by 1,558 majority over Fenner Brown, Democrat, John Boyden, jr., Free Soil, and the scattering votes. There was no choice in the western district. Benjamin B. Thurston, the Democratic candidate, received twenty plurality over Sylvester G. Shearman, Whig, but the Free Soil party had a candidate in the person of Lauriston Hall, and his vote, although only 160, was sufficient to prevent a choice. A second trial took place in August, when Nathan F. Dixon of Westerly, the Whig candidate, Mr. Shearman having withdrawn, was elected by a plurality of 615.

An attempt was made at the January session in 1849 to do away with the October session. An act to that effect passed the senate by a large majority, but was laid on the table in the house. An important measure passed at this session, and made necessary by the completion of the Providence and Worcester railroad, was an act providing for the close of the Blackstone canal and the revocation of its charter. The canal had never been a paying venture, and the railroad would now deprive it of what little business it had been able to secure. Acts were

passed to prevent clandestine marriages; to tax machinery, lumber, tools, the stock in livery stables, and similar personal property in the towns in which such property was located; and to provide for the taking of a new estimate of property in the state. The general assembly expressed a desire for the abolition of ardent spirits and flogging in the navy, for the prohibition of slavery in the territory recently acquired from Mexico, and for the abolition of slave marts in the District of Columbia.

An elaborate school law, prepared mainly under the direction of the commissioners of public schools, and which was designed to revise and consolidate the whole system of public schools, was lost at the January session in 1850 by the disagreement of the two houses regarding the method of raising the necessary school revenue. The senate, by a vote of two to one, required the state to provide the whole amount, while the house, by a vote quite as emphatic, insisted upon retaining the existing system, which obliged the individual municipalities to appropriate a sum equal to one-third of the amount they were to receive from the state in behalf of the public schools. An elaborate militia law, retaining the features of the voluntary system, and containing stringent provisions regarding the collection of commutation money, passed the senate, but was lost in the house. The existing law, however, was amended by the adoption of the Massachusetts system of compensation for militia service. Acts were passed allowing Providence to establish a reform school; providing a more efficient system of registering births, marriages and deaths; and amending the license law by requiring complainants, other than regularly authorized officials, to give surety for the cost of prosecution, when making complaints of violations of the law. The act passed a few years before requiring the payment of fees upon petitions and memorials to the general assembly was repealed.

The State House at Providence, a building which had been in existence nearly a hundred years, and which had always been used for the courts, as well as for legislation, had become ridiculously inadequate to the state's requirements. The necessity for enlarged quarters was now universally recognized. The rapid growth of Providence had made the need of a new city building equally urgent. A committee was appointed at the January session of the general assembly this year to confer with the city officials, with the view of the erection conjointly by the state and city of a suitable building for the use of both governments. The committee made a report at an August session of the assembly, and presented a plan of and estimates for the proposed building. It was proposed to locate the structure upon filled land in the center of the "Cove." According to the plan a circular area four hundred feet in diameter was to be filled in. The structure, to be erected upon a foundation raised five feet above the remainder of the area, was to be

200 by 68 feet in length and breadth. It was to be of Anglo-Italian architecture, with exterior walls of Portland freestone and interior walls of brick, with a wooden dome, covered with copper. The western half of the building was to be the "State House," and the eastern half the "City Hall." The cost of filling the central area, including that of four suitable bridges, connecting with surrounding streets, was estimated at \$34,600, and that of the whole building, including the filling, at \$176,995.¹ An act was introduced in the house providing for the erection of a new State House in conjunction with the city of Providence, but it was postponed until the next session, and was never again brought forward. At the October session a resolution was adopted to build an addition to the old State House at a cost not to exceed \$7,500, and at the following January session, that sum proving inadequate, \$2,300 more was appropriated for the purpose.

At the August session of 1850, George H. Browne of Glocester, the Democratic leader in the house, introduced a secret ballot law, directing ballots to be cast in sealed envelopes. It was postponed. The charter granted by the assembly this year for the proposed Providence and Bristol railroad contained the old turnpike provision for the erection of toll gates and the collection of tolls. A resolution introduced at this session to remove the political disabilities incurred by participation in the insurrection of 1842, was defeated in the senate by an adverse vote of 17 to 14. An amendment to the election law repealing the section requiring voters to write their names upon the backs of their ballots, was laid on the table by a house vote of 35 to 22. As the two houses disagreed as to the day of adjournment at this session, Governor Anthony adjourned them on his own authority.

The Democrats did not contest the election of Governor Anthony in 1850. The latter's only opponent was Edward Harris, the Free Soil candidate, who received 753 votes in a total of 4,576. The great industrial development of the state between 1840 and 1850 was shown by the census figures of the latter year. The state had advanced in population during the decade from 108,830 to 147,545, and the city of Providence had gained about 80 per cent, or from 23,172 to 41,513. Smithfield now had 11,500 and Newport 9,563. North Providence and Cumberland, in which were portions of Pawtucket and Woonsocket, had gained handsomely, and Cranston's figures were beginning to show the overflow of Providence's population. The census showed that there were 10,275 persons of foreign birth in Providence, and 23,860 in the whole state. The immigration from Ireland had been large since 1848, in consequence of the famine on that island, and many of the people of Rhode Island viewed the advent of such a large non-

¹A quarter of a century later the city alone built a million-dollar edifice, which is now, after the lapse of another quarter of a century, too small for the city's use.

Protestant element with alarm. This large Irish infusion was also unwelcome to the Whigs from a political point of view. The Democrats, as the champions of free suffrage, had demanded that naturalized citizens should be granted the franchise upon the same conditions that it was enjoyed by the native voters. The Whig newspapers of the state, led by the Providence Journal—which, under the editorial management of Governor Anthony, had already attained to scriptural authority—now pointed to the statistics of the foreign born, and prophesied dire disaster if naturalized foreigners were admitted to the suffrage.

Although the Democrats had allowed the election of 1850 to go by default, they had not given up the struggle for political supremacy. The state, city and town committees toward the end of the year took an active interest in the registry of the voters, and early in January, 1851, the Providence Journal warned the Whigs that the Democrats were preparing to contest the spring election, and had beaten the Whigs in registering in the city of Providence. To add to the Whig alarm, they were outgeneraled and defeated in the election of a successor to Albert C. Greene in the United States senate. The election took place in grand committee on January 30, and although the Whigs had a majority of fully 25 on joint ballot, Charles T. James, who was supported by the Democrats and a dozen or more Whigs, was elected senator on the eighth ballot, by one majority, he receiving 50 of the 99 votes cast. The Whig vote was divided between John Whipple, ex-Senator Simons, Alfred Bosworth and George A. Brayton, the first two receiving, respectively, 20 and 19 votes. Considerable discussion took place as to the senator-elect's politics, which was finally settled by Mr. James's announcement that he was a Democrat. It may be said, parenthetically, that there were very few leading politicians of either party at this time who had not trained in different parties. Old men who had been rank Federalists of the Hartford convention stripe during the War of 1812, could now be found among the radical suffragists, and staid Whigs who had despised Jackson because of his democratic ideas, twenty years later could be seen marching in the mud, bearing "people's" banners, shoulder to shoulder with hard-handed workingmen; while so-called Jacobins and radical levellers of earlier years now helped to swell the conservative Whig majority.

The Democrats selected Philip Allen, a wealthy Providence manufacturer, as its candidate for Governor, and nominated the gifted William Beach Lawrence for Lieutenant-Governor. Judge Lawrence was the first wealthy New Yorker to come to Newport and seek preferment in the Rhode Island political field. He bought Ochre Point in 1845, and resided there summers until 1850, when he made it his permanent residence. Governor Anthony declined a third term, and the Whigs nominated Josiah Chapin of Providence for Governor, and

Rowse Babcock of Westerly for Lieutenant-Governor. Edward Harris was again supported by the Free Soilers, but received only 183 votes. Allen was elected by 628 majority and the whole Democratic ticket triumphed. That party also carried the senate by two majority, while the Whigs had a bare majority in the house. The Democrats had a majority of the grand committee, and were able to make such changes as they pleased among the state officials. The Whigs claimed that the triumph of the Democrats was obtained by wholesale bribery, and they declared that votes sold in some towns as high as \$80. At the time of the election of James to the United States senate, in the January previous, adherents of both parties made charges of bribery against their opponents, and during one session of the grand committee, Henry Y. Cranston, one of the Whig leaders of the house, in a moment of excitement charged Thomas Whipple, the Whig Lieutenant-Governor, with attempted bribery, although he afterward endeavored to explain away his words.

Among the important legislation effected at the session of January, 1851, were acts for the more effectual suppression of gaming; and an act prohibiting the infliction of corporal punishment and confinement in dark rooms and dungeons, in asylums and in houses for the poor. A new apportionment of representatives to conform to the changes in population, as shown by the census of 1850, was made. North Providence, Cumberland, Tiverton and Burrillville each gained a member, while Scituate lost one. The chamber, which had previously been limited to 69 members, now consisted of 72, the full constitutional number to which it was entitled. A lively debate took place over the fugitive slave law, and a resolution, directing the attorney-general to appear for any slave arrested under that law in the state, was rejected in the house by a decided vote. In May, Thomas W. Dorr and others, imprisoned under the treason act of 1842, were restored to citizenship privileges by votes of 18 to 11 in the senate and 39 to 32 in the house. Three Whigs in the senate and four in the house voted for the resolution.

The Democrats, having, with the aid of a few Whigs, a fair working majority in both chambers, succeeded in securing some of the legislation for which they had been contending. A secret ballot law, which George H. Browne of Gloucester, the Democratic leader of the house, had brought forward in January, was again introduced by him, and after a long debate, in which he, Fenner Brown of Cumberland, and Thomas Davis of North Providence, the Democratic champions of the bill, encountered Henry Y. Cranston of Newport, and Messrs. Curry and Potter of Providence in opposition, it passed the house by a vote of 38 to 28, and afterwards passed the senate. The act required voters to cast their ballots in sealed envelopes, which were to be furnished to the several municipalities by the secretary of state. Another act which

the Democrats succeeded in getting through was the extension of the time for paying registry taxes up to within three days of an election. The much-needed revision of the school law was effected at the June session, the two houses succeeding in agreeing upon the division of the support for the schools between the state and the individual municipalities, the state contributing the larger amount. A resolution was passed at the June session for the investigation of child labor in manufacturing establishments by a special committee. President Fillmore visited Newport in September, 1851, and was received with appropriate honors. He was entertained at the Bellevue House. The cotton manufacturers of the state were complaining of hard times early in the year. In January, according to the Providence Journal, over one-third of the cotton spindles in Rhode Island were idle.

In January, 1852, after a long discussion, a bill originated by Thomas R. Hazard of South Kingstown, for the abolition of capital punishment, and forbidding the pardon of long term convicts, except by vote of three-fourths of all the members of both houses and the approval of the Governor, passed the senate by a vote of 17 to 13, and the house by 41 to 20. A resolution, inviting Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, to visit the state was adopted by both houses.

The cause of temperance had been making steady progress for some time. Other states were adopting prohibitory legislation, and that of Rhode Island had been steadily leading up to it for some years. At the January session a prohibitory act was lost in the house by a vote of 31 to 37. It passed both houses in May, however, with the proviso that the question of its repeal should be submitted to the people at the next state election. A majority of the Whig members of the assembly favored the measure, and a majority of the Democrats opposed it, while most of the Whigs opposed referring the question to the people, and most of the Democratic members favored such reference. The law, which was to go into effect on the third Monday in July, provided for the appointment of one or two persons in each municipality to sell spirituous liquors for medicinal and mechanical purposes only.

The gubernatorial campaign of 1852 was a lively one. Both parties had registered heavily. The Democrats renominated the successful ticket of 1851, and the Whigs put ex-Governor Elisha Harris and Samuel G. Arnold of Providence at the head of their ticket. Early in the campaign Lieutenant-Governor Lawrence, in the course of a campaign speech, strongly opposed the proposed prohibitory law. In consequence of this speech a split ticket containing the name of Schuyler Fisher of Exeter for Lieutenant-Governor was circulated on election day, and received 813 votes, or sufficient to prevent any choice for Lieutenant-Governor by the people. Allen and the other Democratic candidates, aside from the Lieutenant-Governor, were elected,

but by reduced majorities. The Whigs had a majority of both houses, and Arnold was elected Lieutenant-Governor by a vote of 57 to 40 for Lawrence. The two parties were almost evenly divided in Providence, and the Democrats succeeded in electing one of the city's twelve representatives—Americus V. Potter—the first Democrat ever elected from that town in a straight contest between the two parties.

This election was the first one under the envelope law, and the Democrats, claiming that the provisions of the act had been grievously violated in the city of Providence, where the election officials were nearly or quite all Whigs, presented a lengthy memorial, contesting the seats of the Whig senator and representatives from the city. A committee of investigation was appointed, but the sitting members were not disturbed. The Democrats carried the state for Pierce in November, the vote being, Pierce, 8,735; Scott, 7,626; Hale, Free Soil, 644. The vote of Providence was Pierce, 2,172; Scott, 2,267; Hale, 229.

An act was passed at the January session in 1853 limiting the hours of labor in manufacturing establishments to ten hours unless otherwise agreed upon; forbidding the employment of children under twelve years of age in such establishments, and limiting the hours of labor for children under eighteen years of age. Senator Clarke's term in the United States senate was to expire on March 4, 1853, and on February 1, the house invited the senate to meet it in grand committee for the purpose of electing his successor. The Democrats were then in temporary control of the senate, and it refused the invitation. This prevented the election of a Whig to the senate, as Governor Allen was elected senator at the May session following.

The Whig candidates for Governor and Lieutenant-Governor in 1853 were William W. Hoppin of Providence and Samuel Rodman of South Kingstown. The Democrats renominated the old ticket, with the exception of Lieutenant-Governor Lawrence, who declined, and for whom Francis M. Dimond of Bristol was substituted. The Free Soil candidates were Edward Harris and Stephen Wilcox of Westerly. The Democratic candidates were elected by an average of over 1,500 majority, and that party secured a majority of both houses of the general assembly, all of the Providence assemblymen being Democrats. The popular vote on the question of repealing the prohibitory liquor law was, for repeal, 8,228, against repeal, 9,280. Providence voted against repeal by 377 majority. Thomas Davis and Benjamin B. Thurston, the Democratic candidates, were elected to Congress in the eastern and western districts, respectively, the latter practically without opposition. Davis's majority over Congressman King and John H. Willard, Free Soil, was only 175 in a total vote of 10,873.

The Democrats had now carried the state at three successive elections, and had finally obtained unquestioned control of both houses. They believed that the time had arrived for the adoption of measures

for which they had been long contending. At the May session acts were passed giving registry voters in Providence the privilege of voting for mayor. At the mayoralty election of that month, Walter R. Danforth, the Democratic candidate, was elected mayor. This was the first time the old Federal-Whig city had been lost to the opposition. On May 5 a resolution advocated by Senators Charles S. Bradley of North Providence and Nathan Porter of Cranston, requesting the freemen of the several municipalities on June 28 to vote for or against a constitutional convention, and at the same time to elect delegates to such convention, passed both houses without opposition. The proposition was defeated by the people, 4,570 voting for and 6,282 against a convention. At a special session of the assembly in September a resolution, introduced by Thomas Steere of Smithfield, calling together the delegates elected in June to consider three propositions—the abolition of the registry tax, the districting of cities and large towns for the election of members of the house of representatives, and the extension of time for the registration of voters—passed both houses by nearly strict party votes. It was submitted to the people November 21, 1853, and was rejected by more than two to one. At each of the two trials all of the Whig towns voted nay, while the Democratic towns were about evenly divided.

Newport voted in May, for the third time since 1847, on the proposition of adopting a city form of government, and accepted the charter by a vote of 460 to 328. At the September term of the assembly the house voted—43 to 22—to declare the seats of the Supreme Court justices vacant. In the senate a Democratic secret caucus revealed so much opposition to the measure, that it was concluded not to bring it to vote.

At the January session in 1854, nine proposed amendments to the constitution were adopted by both houses, and one—abolishing imprisonment for debt, was rejected. The new assembly—which had Whig majorities in both houses—at the May session adopted five of the propositions and rejected four. The proposed amendments were submitted to popular vote on November 7, 1854, and three of them were adopted, as follows: (1) Relieving town and ward clerks from the necessity of forwarding to the general assembly lists of persons voting at elections, adopted by a vote of 3,216 to 2,115; (2) granting the Governor the pardoning power, with the advice and consent of the senate, adopted, 3,928 to 1,405; (3) providing for one session of the general assembly in May at Newport, with an adjourned session at Providence in January, adopted, 3,701 to 1,729. A proposition to abolish the registry tax, and one allowing registration to within twelve days of elections were defeated, as they failed to receive three-fifths of the votes polled, although both received majorities.

The third amendment adopted at this time abolished the five-capital

system, which had been so long in vogue. The immediate effect of the change was the lengthening of the May session at Newport, but after a year or two the previous custom of adjourning at the end of election week was resumed. The January session had been for a long time the chief one of the year. The amendment made it more so than ever. The multiplication of railroads had made it easy for assemblymen to go to Providence and return to their homes the same day after attending the sessions of the legislature, and they had come to realize the folly of traveling around to each county at a needless expense to the state, and at considerable discomfort to themselves.

The Democratic majority in January, 1854, passed an act dividing the sixth ward of Providence and providing for the election of aldermen in that city by wards, instead of on a general ticket, and also a resolution repealing, reversing and annulling the judgment of the Supreme Court whereby Thomas Wilson Dorr of Providence, on the 25th day of June, 1844, was sentenced to imprisonment for life at hard labor in separate confinement. This resolution passed the house by a vote of 44 to 17.

Although the Democratic victory the preceding year had been a crushing one to the old Whig party, the course of events had greatly weakened the victors. They had lost strength by favoring a constitutional convention, and the enfranchisement of naturalized citizens who did not own real estate; and the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill—a Democratic measure—by Congress, added to their unpopularity. The Democratic state convention made choice of Francis M. Dimond of Bristol and Americus V. Potter for its leading candidates. The Whigs renominated Hoppin for Governor, and chose John J. Reynolds of North Kingstown as their candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. The Temperance party endorsed Hoppin's nomination, but made independent nominations for the other places on the ticket, including that of Schuyler Fisher of Exeter as its candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Hoppin was elected Governor by a vote of 9,216 to 6,523 for Dimond, but there was no choice for the other offices, the Whig vote ranging from 6,445 to 6,882, that of the Democrats from 6,425 to 6,596, and the Temperance total from 2,574 to 2,871. Both houses contained Whig majorities, and the Whig candidates were elected to the vacant offices.

Having obtained power once more the Whigs, at the May session of 1854, proceeded to undo some of the legislation enacted by the Democrats. The secret ballot law was amended so as to make the use of the envelopes optional with the voters; the registry men of Providence were deprived of the right to vote for mayor; and the Supreme Court was requested to pass upon the constitutionality of the vote in January annulling the action of the Supreme Court in the case of T. W. Dorr. The decision of the court, received at the June session, was to the effect

that the annulling resolutions were unconstitutional. A resolution was passed at this session forbidding state officials from aiding in the capture of fugitive slaves.

Thomas Wilson Dorr died on December 27, 1854. The Democratic masses looked upon him as a martyr, but many of his strongest opponents in 1842, by the fortune of politics, had become Democratic leaders ten or a dozen years later, and never allowed him to assume the leadership of the party after his restoration to citizenship privileges. He was still prominent in the counsels of the party, however, and was Lieutenant-Governor Dimond's chief competitor, as the party leader, at the Democratic state convention early in the year.

A score of years previous to this time Rhode Island had been extensively infected with the Anti-Masonic craze, which had proved to be a most disturbing element in politics. Now, as the Whig organization was going out of existence and the Republican party was forming, the Know Nothing movement came to the front, and for a brief time took political control of the state. The anti-foreign craze had been helped by the course of the Providence Journal and other Whig papers, which, in order to defeat Democratic schemes for a constitutional convention, had given great prominence to the dangers likely to result from the extensive enfranchisement of naturalized citizens. The Know Nothings worked secretly, but there were signs of their presence in the state in the fall of 1854.¹ At an election in Cumberland, a Democratic town, early in November, to fill a vacancy caused by the death of one of the representatives in the general assembly, Rev. John Boyden, the Know Nothing candidate, defeated Fenner Brown, one of the ablest and most popular Democrats in Rhode Island.

The Whigs, in March, 1855, renominated Governor Hoppin and the rest of their successful ticket of the previous year, and Hoppin was endorsed by the Temperance party and the Know Nothings. The latter party, however, nominated Anderson C. Rose of New Shoreham for Lieutenant-Governor, and made independent nominations for the other three state offices whose incumbents were chosen by popular vote.² The Democrats chose as their standard bearers Americus V. Potter of Providence and William Littlefield of Newport. The Know Nothings united with the Whigs in nominating Nathaniel B. Durfee for Congress in the eastern district, and endorsed the candidacy of Benjamin B. Thurston, who was renominated by the Democrats in the western district. The latter was elected almost without opposition.

¹The sudden rise of the Know-Nothing party to power has been traced by Charles Stickney in an excellent monograph on *Know-Nothingism in Rhode Island* (*R. I. Hist. Soc. Publ.*, 1, 248, and also in *Brown Univ. Hist. Sem. Papers*, no. 8).

²Secretary of state, attorney-general and general treasurer.

In the eastern district Durfee received 6,283 votes to 1,987 for Thomas Davis, the Democratic candidate. Hoppin's vote for Governor was 11,130, and Potter's only 2,729. The Know Nothing candidates for the other offices were all elected by more than two-thirds of the popular vote over both competitors. The relative strength of the three parties on the vote for Lieutenant-Governor was as follows: Know Nothing, 9,733; Democratic, 2,705; Whig, 1,309. The new party elected nearly all of the members of both houses of the general assembly.

Laws were passed in 1855 to prevent the issuance of free passes by railroads and regulating the management of the roads in their public relations; regulating the business of foreign insurance companies operating in Rhode Island; for the more effectual suppression of gambling houses and games of chance; providing for the taking a new valuation of the ratable property of the state; providing for the better and more effective assessment and collection of taxes; authorizing the city of Providence to establish a sinking fund; and raising the salary of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor to \$1,000 and \$500 respectively.

In the house, March 1, 1855, Mr. Borden, Whig, of Tiverton, proposed two amendments to the constitution, the first to allow the general assembly to regulate the compensation of its members, and the second to abolish the registry tax and substitute a poll tax. Both propositions failed to secure the necessary constitutional majority, the vote upon them being 33 to 16 for the first and 33 to 15 for the second proposition.

At the January session in 1856 four proposed articles of amendment to the constitution, proposed by Senators William A. Pirce of Johnston and Denison of Westerly, both American-Republicans, were adopted by both houses, and a fifth—instituting an educational qualification for voters—was rejected. The proposed amendments were: (1) Abolishing the registry tax; (2) assessing a poll tax; (3) requiring a residence of twenty-one years in this country of naturalized voters; (4) fixing the compensation of assemblymen at \$2 a day. The next assembly, in the June following, accepted all of the propositions but the third. The remaining three propositions were submitted to the people on the day of the presidential election, and were all defeated, none of them receiving even a majority.

The important legislation of 1856 consisted of an act creating a state auditor; an act concerning truant children; a new militia law, providing for the holding of an annual muster; an amendment to the prohibitory liquor law, allowing the appointment in each municipality of persons to sell intoxicating liquors for chemical, sacramental and culinary uses, as well as for medicinal and mechanical purposes; an amendment to the marriage laws, dispensing with the former requirement for the publication of the banns in religious meetings; and an

act dividing the town of Tiverton and incorporating the northern portion as the town of Fall River.¹

The general assembly expressed its opinion of national matters this year by appropriate resolutions regarding "Bleeding Kansas," and Brooks's dastardly assault upon Sumner. At a public meeting, called in Providence, to voice popular indignation against the latter act, Charles S. Bradley and other leading Democrats made speeches expressing their condemnation of club arguments, but they were not able to prevent many of the rank and file of their party from going over to the new anti-slavery party.²

The Know Nothings, now known as the American party, renominated Governor Hoppin, with Nicholas Brown of Warwick for Lieutenant-Governor. The Democratic candidates were Americus V. Potter and Duncan C. Pell of Newport. The Whigs were no longer in existence, but some of the remnant of that party together with certain Free Soilers and anti-slavery Democrats, who were opposed to the Know Nothings, formed a straight Republican organization and nominated Sylvester Robinson of South Kingstown for Lieutenant-Governor. Hoppin, who was endorsed by the Republicans, received 9,865 votes to 7,131 for Potter. The totals of the three parties, as shown by the vote for Lieutenant-Governor, were: American, 7,882; Democratic, 7,227; Republican, 1,306.

In the presidential campaign of 1856 most of the Americans joined the straight Republicans in supporting Fremont, although several influential members of the party—among whom may be mentioned Henry Y. Cranston, Charles C. Van Zandt, and ex-Governor William Sprague—favored Fillmore. The vote of the state was: Fremont, 11,467; Buchanan, 6,680; Fillmore, 1,675.

The "American Republicans" and the Republicans united on a state ticket, except for Lieutenant-Governor, in 1857. They renominated Governor Hoppin, and upon his declining named Elisha Dyer for first place. The Republicans nominated Thomas G. Turner of Warren for Lieutenant-Governor, while the American Republicans selected Stephen G. Mason of Smithfield for the position. Americus V. Potter and Isaac Hall of North Kingstown were the Democratic candidates. Dyer and the coalition ticket were elected by large majorities, Dyer's vote being 9,591, and Potter's, 5,323. There was no choice for Lieutenant-Governor. The Republican vote was 5,781, the Democratic, 5,126, and the American Republican, 3,816. Turner was elected by the general assembly. The Americans and Republicans united upon congressional candidates, Nathaniel B. Durfee being nom-

¹This year was the first in which a regular appropriation bill to cover the estimated expenses of the state government was passed.

²The proceedings of this meeting were printed, under the title of *The Outrage in the Senate*.

inated for re-election in the eastern district, while William D. Brayton of Warwick was their candidate in the other district. The Democratic candidates in the two districts were respectively Ambrose E. Burnside of Bristol and ex-Governor Jackson, then a resident of Scituate. Durfee was elected by a majority of 3,467, and Brayton by 632. On January 9, 1857, James F. Simmons was elected to the United States senate to succeed Senator James. He received 63 votes in grand committee. The Democrats supported ex-Governor Jackson, who received 21 votes.

The somewhat discordant elements in the composition of the American Republican coalition were brought to view in the mayoralty election in Providence in 1857. Stephen T. Olney was the nominee of the caucus, after several ballots, in which young Thomas A. Doyle was his leading competitor. There were some charges of unfairness, and, according to the Democratic organ, the Post, which delighted to expose the troubles of its opponents, the question of locality was a factor in the case, the westsiders believing that the eastsiders were monopolizing too many of the offices. Mr. Doyle, who lived on the west side, ran as an independent and prevented an election. A choice was not effected until the fifth trial, when William M. Rodman, the American Republican candidate, had a clear field against John N. Francis, the Democratic nominee. The fact that the Democratic vote increased in the course of this factional contest from 556 to 1,771 showed that there was a large element professing the principles of the Democratic party in the city, notwithstanding the smallness of the party vote in recent years.

A large portion of the legislative sessions in 1857 were consumed in the revision of the laws. In considering the criminal code the house voted to make murder punishable by death in all cases, but the change was rejected by the senate, the vote standing 12 to 14. Real estate was made liable for debts; grog shops and houses of ill-repute were to be proceeded against as common nuisances, unless abated within five days after complaint should be made against them; and the provision in the statute law, making drunkenness punishable as an offense, was stricken out. A motion by Mr. Knowles of Providence in the house to give widows with children one-half of their husbands' personal estate, and all of it where they were childless, was rejected. An act chartering the Woonasquatucket Railroad company, incorporated this year, contained the same phraseology regarding toll houses, toll gates, and the like, which was in evidence in the first railroad charter in 1832, and which was inherited from the old turnpike and plank-road charters.

The panic of 1857 was for a short time very seriously felt in Rhode Island. Towards the close of the year the Providence Journal pub-

lished long lists of the factories in and near Providence which were closed or were running on short time. Its statements showed that, about Christmas time, at least three-fourths of the machinery of the cotton factories was idle.

Representative George L. Clarke of Providence introduced a bill at the January session in 1858, to restrict the amount of bank issues and require banks to make weekly reports. As finally adopted the act required banks to make detailed reports of their condition semi-annually, and to report their general condition to the secretary of state for publication in Providence newspapers fortnightly. Banks were forbidden, under severe penalties, to charge directly or indirectly more than six per cent. annual interest. An act was passed providing that no railroad should be allowed to lay rails through any Providence streets until consent thereto had been given by vote of the property electors of the city. Acts were passed for the better enforcement of sanitary measures and for the prevention of the spreading of infectious and contagious diseases in the cities of Providence and Newport. A committee was appointed to make inquiry and report on the feasibility of erecting a new State House at Providence. The Republican legislature of 1854 had hurriedly repealed the act passed by the Democrats the year before, authorizing the election of aldermen in the city of Providence by wards, instead of on a general ticket. The act then repealed was re-enacted by the Republicans this year, with the added provision that both aldermen and councilmen should be elected by a plurality vote. The Providence city charter was also amended—in accordance with the result of a popular vote of the city, asking for such action—so as to provide for the election of the city clerk, city treasurer, assessors of taxes, city solicitor, collector of taxes, city marshal, harbor master, overseer of the poor and superintendent of health by popular vote. A resolution presented by Representative Ellis L. Blake of Cumberland to abolish separate schools in Providence for colored children, failed of passage. The proposition had been brought forward at nearly every regular session for several years, but public opinion did not yet demand the change.

The American Republicans and straight Republicans held separate conventions in 1858, but finally ran a coalition ticket which was elected with little opposition. They renominated the ticket of the year before with the exception of the candidate for attorney-general, for which office Jerome B. Kimball of Providence was named in place of Charles Hart, who had resigned the office in January, 1858. The Democrats nominated Alexander Duncan, a wealthy landholder of Providence, but he declined and Elisha R. Potter was nominated in his place, with Ariel Ballou as the candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. Dyer received 7,934 and Potter 3,572 votes. On May 28, 1858, ex-Governor Henry

B. Anthony was elected to the United States senate, receiving 92 out of 100 votes. George H. Browne, the Democratic candidate, had seven votes, and Elisha Dyer one. The Republicans and Americans clashed over the legislative ticket in Providence, and it required eight elections to elect a full quota of officers. The Democratic state convention gave a qualified endorsement to the Lecompton (Kansas) constitution in its resolutions this year. A short time before the convention met a resolution instructing and requesting Rhode Island Congressmen to oppose the admission of Kansas under that constitution—a resolution introduced by Senator Alfred Anthony of Johnston, a Douglas Democrat—passed both houses of the general assembly without opposition.

Lieutenant-Governor Turner was nominated by the American Republicans and the Republicans for Governor in 1859 and the two conventions agreed upon the same candidates for secretary of state and attorney-general. They made separate nominations for Lieutenant-Governor and general treasurer, the American Republicans naming Isaac Saunders of Scituate for the former office, while the Republicans named Thomas J. Hill of Warwick. Saunders received 5,570, Hill 3,317, and Fenner Brown, Democrat, 3,351 votes. Saunders and Samuel A. Parker, the American Republican candidate for general treasurer, were elected by the general assembly. Turner's majority for Governor was 5,378, Elisha R. Potter being the opposing candidate. Jerome B. Kimball, the coalition candidate for attorney-general, was elected by a majority of 4,430 votes. As it was shown, however, that he was not a qualified voter on the day of the state election, the grand committee decided that there was no election, and elected Charles Hart, one of the candidates who ran against him. Mr. Hart accepted the office, qualified and immediately resigned. Mr. Kimball was then elected by the general assembly to the office for which he was chosen by the people. William D. Brayton was re-elected to Congress in the western district by 1,349 majority over Alfred Anthony, Democrat. In the eastern district there was no choice on the first trial, Christopher Robinson, American Republican, receiving 3,846; Thomas Davis, Republican, 2,450; Olney Arnold, Democrat, 1,507. A second election was held in June, when, Mr. Arnold having withdrawn, Mr. Robinson was elected.

The mechanics' lien law was amended by making vessels as well as real estate and chattels attachable for labor and material in their construction and repair. Representatives William Sanford of Providence and Sullivan Ballou of Smithfield, both American Republicans, introduced resolutions, respectively, at the January session, for the appointment of a joint committee to consider the subject of amending the constitution, and for a constitutional convention. A joint special committee was appointed to consider and report what if any amendments might be submitted to the people in April. There is no record of any

report having been made. Mr. Sheffield of Newport introduced a bill in the house, which did not pass, to allow persons imprisoned for debt on actions for trover, to take the poor debtor's oath, after having been imprisoned for ninety days. A good deal of ill-feeling was exhibited in the assembly over the case of Ives against Hazard,¹ which had been decided in favor of the plaintiff some years before. The defendant, Charles T. Hazard, petitioned for a rehearing, and a resolution reversing the decision of the Supreme Court was finally laid on the table by a vote of 36 to 31. The chief justice of the Supreme Court, Samuel Ames, was also the reporter of the decisions of the court, and he was openly charged in the assembly and in the public press with having unfairly reported the case. He asked for an investigation, and a joint special committee, of which Speaker Van Zandt—the leader in the house of the attack on the Supreme Court—was chairman, made a report, declaring that the chief justice had not compiled the report "in such a manner as to subject him to the censure of this house." This celebrated case brought up the question of the constitutional right of the general assembly to reverse a decision of the Supreme Court. While the assembly was unquestionably the court of last resort under the charter, a majority of the legal talent in the assembly as well as of the other members of the Rhode Island bar, contended that the judicial functions of the assembly had been surrendered in framing the constitution. The Supreme Court was asked for its opinion upon the question, and it denied the right of the assembly to pass upon court decisions.

The John Brown raid, toward the close of the year 1859, caused great excitement in Rhode Island as elsewhere. Public meetings were held, and in some cases speeches of radical anti-slavery men were almost incendiary in character; but many of the Republicans feared the effect of the John Brown act, and of its endorsement at the North, upon the South, and were ready to unite with the Democrats in a constitutional union movement. Meetings were held with this view early in 1860. The Republicans held their convention January 4, 1860, and nominated Seth Padelford of Providence for Governor and Stephen N. Mason of Smithfield for Lieutenant-Governor. The nomination of Padelford was unsatisfactory to many Republicans, because of his supposed radicalism, and a convention of the "bolters" held in Providence on February 1, nominated Colonel William Sprague of Warwick

¹ From the testimony it appeared that Charles T. Hazard of Newport had been deputed to purchase certain real estate in that city at a stipulated price by Robert H. Ives of Providence; that he bought it for himself and agreed to sell it to Ives at about 50 per cent. advance, and afterwards pleaded his wife's refusal to sign the deed; that Ives, holding his written promise, insisted upon his keeping his agreement, and brought a suit in equity, which the Supreme Court decided in his favor. The numerous pamphlets relating to this case are listed in Bartlett's *Bibliography of R. I.*, p. 163.

for Governor, and endorsed the other nominees of the regular convention. Later in the month the Democratic state convention and a Young Men's convention met at Providence on the same day and nominated a "Union" ticket with Sprague for Governor, J. Russell Bullock of Bristol for Lieutenant-Governor, Walter Burges for attorney-general, and Bartlett and Parker, who had already held their offices for several years, for secretary of state and general treasurer. The combination was too strong for the Republicans, and the whole union ticket was elected, Sprague's vote being 12,278, and Padelford's 10,740. The Democrats and Union Conservatives elected a majority of both houses of the general assembly, including all of the Providence assemblymen. Sprague had large majorities in both Providence and Newport.

An interesting incident of this campaign was a campaign speech by Abraham Lincoln in Providence on March 30. He was not then looked upon as a probable candidate for President, but his speech was an able and impressive one, and attracted unusual attention, both in the Journal and the opposition press. Later in the year, on August 1, Senator Douglas, then a nominee for President, partook of clams and addressed an admiring throng of 10,000 people at Rocky Point. The day before he spent in Providence, where he was given a flattering reception by all parties. When the voters reached the ballot box, however, in November, the state went for Lincoln by a vote of 12,244 to 7,707 for Douglas.

In the senate, February 21, 1860, Mr. Burges, Democrat, of Cranston, in behalf of a joint special committee, reported four proposed constitutional amendments. They were: to repeal the registry tax and substitute a poll tax; to provide a regular salary for members of the general assembly, subject to deductions for non-attendance; to relieve the Governor from presiding in the senate and make the Lieutenant-Governor its presiding officer; and declaring that the general assembly continues to exercise the same power of granting new trials and rehearings that it possessed before the adoption of the constitution. The propositions were all rejected by the senate.

Acts were passed in 1860 to prevent the introduction of infectious and contagious disease among neat cattle; and submitting the question of the erection of a new State House to popular vote. The proposal was to erect a new structure in Providence at a cost of not more than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The proposition was overwhelmingly defeated, nearly every town outside of Providence, voting against it. An act for the abolition of colored schools in Providence was defeated in the house at the January session, by four majority. At the same session, Charles T. Hazard, the complaining litigant in the famous Ives vs. Hazard case, was given leave to withdraw by a vote of 35 to 28 in the house. Mr. Van Zandt, who had strongly



PAWTUXET COVE LOOKING TOWARD THE NORTH.

championed the petitioner's cause the previous year, favored the motion, declaring that he had been grossly deceived in the case. A proposed amendment to the laws governing the courts, by which the reportership was to be separated from the office of chief justice, was defeated in the house by a decisive vote.

The boundary dispute with Massachusetts, the mention of which carries us back to colonial days, was now in a fair way of settlement. For some twenty years or more proceedings in equity had been pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, during which time the state had from time to time employed some of its best legal talent to look after its interests. An agreement for an adjustment of the boundary was now made by the assembly in March, 1860, and was acceded to by Massachusetts in the following month. The change was consummated on March 1, 1862. The practical result was the cession of the town of Fall River, Rhode Island, to Massachusetts, in exchange for the greater portion of the town of Pawtucket, Massachusetts, and the western part of the town of Seekonk, in that state, which after its annexation became the town of East Providence. The inhabitants of the several towns subjected to the proposed transfer were generally in favor of the change.¹ Further action was taken regarding the boundary at the January session in 1861, as considerable legislation was required to adjust legal conditions in the annexed portions to Rhode Island laws.

The assembly at this session restored the charter of the "Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations," which had been surrendered to the state in 1834. The first charters for horse railroads were granted at this session. They were for a road from Central Falls through Pawtucket to Providence, and two lines from Olneyville to Providence, by the way of Broadway and High streets, respectively. According to the census of 1860, Providence had 50,666 inhabitants. Smithfield had increased to 13,283, and Newport to 10,508. The great gains of North Providence from 7,680 to 11,818, and of Cranston from 4,311 to 7,500 were chiefly due to their proximity to Providence.

¹ A singular circumstance connected with this boundary settlement was the apparent unfamiliarity with local geography shown by the boundary committee which rendered a report at the January session in 1860. In giving a detailed account of the accessions to or excisions from the various towns on the border in the adjustment of the line, no reference whatever was made to the town of Pawtucket, which it was proposed to transfer almost bodily to Rhode Island. The committee speak of the proposed a cessions of territory "from the towns of Westport, Swanzy and Seekonk." The Massachusetts town of Pawtucket was severed from Seekonk in 1828, and had been a separate town for thirty-two years when this report was made, but the committee had presumably taken its bearings from old surveys, and they evidently considered the term "Pawtucket" as only expressive of large twin villages in the towns of North Providence, Rhode Island, and Seekonk, Massachusetts, separated from each other by the Seekonk river.

The Republicans made a great effort to defeat the coalition against them in 1861. They nominated James Y. Smith of Providence for Governor, Simon Henry Greene of Warwick for Lieutenant-Governor, and Sullivan Ballou of Smithfield for attorney-general. The Democrats and Constitutional Unionists renominated Sprague and Burges and nominated Samuel G. Arnold of Middletown for Lieutenant-Governor. The coalition candidates were elected by majorities of from 1,506 to 1,661. The vote for Governor was Sprague, 12,005; Smith, 10,326. William P. Sheffield and George H. Browne, the coalition candidates for Congress, were elected by moderate majorities over Christopher Robinson and William D. Brayton respectively.

The representation of the several towns in the house of representatives was reapportioned at the January session in 1861, the step having become necessary in consequence of the changes of population, as shown by the census of 1860. North Providence, Cranston, Westerly and Fall River each gained a member, Warren, North Kingston and Glocester each lost one, and Tiverton lost two.¹

CHAPTER XXII.

THE LAST FOUR DECADES.

The part that the state of Rhode Island took in the suppression of the Rebellion of 1861 was alike creditable to her citizens and to her public men then in positions of authority. No half-hearted measures were pursued, but a quick response was made to all demands for troops or money. An active patriotism animated the people, which found vent in the rapid equipment of regiment after regiment, until in the end it was found that the state had sent into the field more than her quota of troops.

A peace convention was held at Washington from February 4 to February 27, at which ex-President John Tyler presided, and twenty-one states represented. The Rhode Island delegates were Samuel Ames, Alexander Duncan, William W. Hoppin, George H. Browne, and Samuel G. Arnold. In the interests of peace a compromise was adopted and presented to Congress, but no action was taken by the national legislature. The northern delegates to this convention willingly voted

¹Tiverton, which had three members by the apportionment of 1851, owed its third member to a large fraction. When a portion of the town was set off, in 1856, and made the town of Fall River, each town was given one member, and the third one was not apportioned to any town.