

1805, and written by Octavia Southgate and addressed to Mrs. Dr. Benj. J. Porter, her aunt, at Topsham, furnishes a clue to the time when the Richard King, Jr., residence on Scottow's Hill, as now seen, was erected. The original, in the hand of Miss Octavia S., who became the wife of William Browne, is in the possession of a gentleman in New York city. It commenced thus:

"Scarboro."

"My dear Aunt Porter:

"Uncle Richard King is very sick of a fever. He has been confined to the house a week. He wishes if possible that Mamma King would come up. [William's Mother]. We are in hopes he is not dangerous and feel less alarmed about him because we have often seen him attacked thus violently. Mamma Southgate wishes me to mention that you may inform Uncle William that Uncle Richard is considerably embarrassed in his affairs. He has gone on very well with his building thus far, but he can't discharge his obligations to his workmen without disposing of some of his real estate and he thinks of selling his marsh. Papa thinks if this can be avoided it would be a seasonable relief to him. If uncle William could assist him in his affairs it might contribute to his restoration of health."

* * * * *

From a letter written by Hon. Cyrus King—a brother to William and Richard, Jr.—it appears that Richard, Jr., constructed his residence upon a piece of his father's estate, and William advanced his brother, Richard, Jr., \$1,000, the heirs securing William by a mortgage deed upon the premises. So the King residence on Scottow's Hill, in the door yard of which Richard, Jr., built the vessel that caused Mr. Joseph Emerson so much pain—the historical residence so plainly seen by the patrons of the new electric railway—is but a year or so younger than the old turnpike road, the amended charter for which was obtained just a century ago.

Upon page 81, Vol. IV, Series II, Collections of the Maine Historical Socie-

ty, under the caption of Rev. Joseph Emerson, may be seen a notice of the Emerson name of a very interesting nature, which closes as follows:

"Edward settled in York, Maine, had two wives—first, Miss Orven of Boston, Mass., second, Mrs. Bourne of Kennebunk. He had several sons: Edward, Bulkley, William, Samuel, Joseph, Joseph again, a Harvard College graduate, who settled in Scarboro, engaged in mercantile business on a large scale, and a worthy man. (Reverend Mr. Tilton.)"

The contributor of this item was evidently Rev. Nathan Tilton, a graduate of Harvard, settled over the Dunstan Congregational church society Dec. 10, 1800, where he labored twenty-seven years. He died there Oct. 4, 1851, aged 79 years. Mary, his wife, died, August 6, 1851, aged 85 years. Both have memorial slabs.

They had a son who was very odd in his ways, particularly in the school room, when he was "master," who taught the ideas of the young of Scarboro "how to shoot."

VAUGHN'S BRIDGE.

I cannot discover that any of the King family were interested in the movement to establish a bridge over Fore river at Portland, nor the exact time when the discussion commenced, can I state. Chroniclers are silent. The history of Portland lets in no light upon the matter which, a hundred years ago, both before and since, was an exciting theme of discussion, and the agitation has not yet ceased.

June 11, 1792, in compliance with a petition of Thomas Robinson and others the General Court of Massachusetts passed a resolve authorizing "Ichabod Goodwin, Josiah Thatcher and William Widgery, Esquires, to be a committee, by agreement of the parties, to view the harbor and river with the place proposed for building said bridge and report at the next session of the court."

The "place proposed for building said bridge" was from the end of Robinson's wharf to Cape Elizabeth, the wharf being located at the foot of what is now known as Park street, Portland—originally called Ann street—where Robinson resided, upon the westerly side of the way, where he had not only a wharf but large conveniences for piling and shipping lumber and the manufacture of rum that was retailed in large quantities at the public house that stood at the corner of Park and Congress streets, still in existence, but removed from its original foundation to a point "around the corner" on Congress street, now three story, formerly but two.

Before me as I write is a well preserved certificate of inspection of a thirty-two $\frac{3}{4}$ gallon barrel of "Old Stock Rum" distilled from "foreign materials in Portland" and "marked as per margin, August 8, 1791, Daniel Epes, Collector."

Mr. Epes was a Harvard college graduate whose wife was a Stroudwater village girl—daughter of Charles Frost, Esq.

An attempt was then being made to "boom" the west end of Portland, but the bridge project of Robinson and his co-partners failed.

The Robinson scheme having exploded a new move was made by others to bridge the river at another point, and—

"William Vaughn, Portland,
 "Capt. Jesse Partridge, Stroudwater,
 "Col. James Webb, "
 "Maj. Archelaus Lewis, "
 "Capt. John Quinby, "
 "Pelig Wardsworth, Portland,
 "Tristram Jordan,
 "Thomas Cutts, Saco,
 "Richworth Jordan, Jr.,
 "Samuel Calef,
 "Joseph McLellan, Portland,
 "Joshua Fayben, Scarboro,
 "Jeremiah Hill,
 "Samuel Scammon, Saco,
 "Nathaniel Scammon, Saco,
 "Mathias Rice,
 "Joshiah Libby,

"Seth Libby,
 "Domicus Goodwin and
 "Isaac Skillin, Cape Elizabeth,
 "be and are constituted a corporation," by the General Court, "for the purpose of building a toll bridge over Fore river between Portland and Cape Elizabeth," upon the location of the present bridge, soon to be replaced by an expensive stone structure. The charter stipulated that each single share holder should be entitled to one vote at corporation meetings, but no stock holder should cast more than ten votes. The rate of tolls was also established, and a draw to be twenty-eight feet wide was provided for, which tends to show the size of the numerous sailing crafts built at Stroudwater village.

March 4, 1800, the name of "Portland Bridge"—given the proposed structure by the General Court— was exchanged for that of "Vaughn's Bridge," by which the structure, that was made free to travel by the county commissioners in 1854, has ever since been known. It is "twenty-five hundred and sixty-four feet long."

Before the establishment of the Turnpike and Vaughn's bridge the mails were carried on horseback from Dunstan over Scottow's Hill, crossing the present electric railway where the way from Scottow's joins it, near Storer's brook, thence on easterly near Pleasant Hill in Scarboro, where the town fairs are held, to Ferry village in Cape Elizabeth, (now South Portland), over the river by boat to Portland.

I have never seen a list of the original, or any list of the stockholders' names of the ancient bridge, but Lieut. Gov. William Gray, of Salem, Mass., was one. He was interested in the West End "boom" of Portland, where he built a long rope-walk on the south-westerly side of Park street, and was a partner in ship building. Other interests called him here and to the eastward of Portland, so it was natural for him to interest himself in mak-

ing the way to Portland as easy and as short as possible. Then he had a relative residing here who was the wife of Capt. Thomas Browne, and Capt. Browne was a brother to William Browne whose wife was a daughter of Dr. Robert Southgate, both being sons of Rev. Thomas Browne of the Stroudwater parish of Falmouth, but the exact relationship between Gov. Gray and Capt. Browne's wife I have not established.

Between William King and William Gray, (the Lieut. Governor), there was evidently a strong social, business, and after Mr. Gray had become a Democrat—otherwise called Republican—political friendship existing.

Before me are several of Mr. Gray's manuscript letters, paid up notes of William King, and other memoranda of business dealings, the paper as clean and fresh, nearly, as of yesterday, though eighty years, yes, ninety-three in one case and a hundred and one in another, have come and gone since the hand made the records to which I now refer as being before me, some of which I propose to preserve by printing, as follows:

"Salem, April 29, 1802.

"Messrs. King & Porter,
Gentlemen."

"Mr. Hammet, the bearer hereof, goes to Bath to carry on Rope-making in the Walk which I have lately purchased. I have taken the liberty to recommend Mr. Hammet, who, I find, is a very decent & reputable young Gentleman from his general character. I have no doubt you will find him worthy your attention, and that he will be a very useful mechanic in your growing place. Any advice, or assistance, that you may be pleased to show him will be gratefully received by him & will be acknowledged as a favor conferred upon a Gentleman.

"Your most Ob't Ser.

"Wm. Gray."

"Camden, Aug. 8, 1810.

"Hon. William King,
Bath."

"Dear Sir: I have no acquaintance with His Honor, Lieut. Gov. Gray &

he, having no personal acquaintance with any gentleman of this place, I am therefore under the necessity of requesting you to name me to His Honor by letter. My object is to obtain from Mr. Gray sails & rigging for a brig which I am building and shall have off in September. It is true you are not personally acquainted with me, but I believe Erastus Foote, Esq., Dr. Stere(?) or any other gentleman of this place would satisfy you or any other gentleman as to my situation in life. I shall insure the vessel as soon as she is launched, therefore there can be no great risk in furnishing sails and rigging for her on credit. In getting my sails of His Honor I have two objects in view: first—to be connected in business with a good man, the other—I expect to build a large vessel every year, (or as long as there is any prospect of doing anything with vessels), and being connections with such a man as His Honor, William Gray, Esq., I conceive it may be of great service to me. I have His Honor's letter under date of the 3rd inst. wherein he says: 'Mr. King's introduction will be quite sufficient.' Should you conclude to give me a letter to His Honor, William Gray, Esq., please to inclose it in a letter to me by return mail, as I expect to go from here soon by water to Boston.

"Friend Stere(?) is with us, & I find, as far as I am able to judge, he is the correct Physician, Politician and gentleman & nothing on his friend's part will be lacking to insure him success. This however cannot be done immediately. It is to be done with moderation to insure permanent support.

"Your Ob't. servt,

"Farnham Hall."

The next in order of the material before me as to time are two letters from Lieut. Gov. Gray to Hon. William King, as follows:

"Boston, July 10, 1811.

"Hon. Wm. King,

"Bath.

"The bearer, Thomas English, Esq., American Counsel at Dublin, being on a tour to the Eastward, I have taken the liberty to introduce him to your civilities and attention as a reputable Gentleman of probity and civilities. Any attention to him will be consider-

ed as conferred upon the friends of your most

"Ob't Serv't,
"Wm. Gray."

"Boston, Oct. 14, 1815.

"Sir—I have this day been called upon for the payment of your note at the State Bank, indorsed by me, for \$2,700, which I have done, and now have to request that you will please to replace the amount to my credit in the bank.

"I am respectfully, your hum. ser'vt.
"Wm. Gray."

"To Hon. William King.
Bath."

Of course my memoranda does not include a record of all the transactions between Lieut. Gov. Gray and William King—only a small part—but a sufficient amount to show the various relationships existing between the two.

Here comes in a letter that tends to show Mr. Gray's interest in Vaughn's bridge, as follows:

"Boston, October 25, 1817.

"Gen. King, Sir.

"I find your note has been due some time. I wish you would remit me the amount as I really want it very much.

"I find that we, the proprietors of Vaughn's bridge & the proprietors of Doct. Southgate's Turnpike are losing the benefit of our interest by the great expense to the traveler, therefore, there is no prospect of our ever being remunerated for our great outlay on the bridge but by making the Turnpike free, and as I understand you are connected with the Turnpike road, I have to request, that you will consult with the proprietors and inform me the lowest amount you will accept per annum to be paid semi-annually to lay open the road free to the public.

"I am respectfully, Sir,
Yr. Most Ob't Ser.,
"Wm. Gray."

BANKING HOUSE BUSINESS.

I have shown that William King done a large banking house business, and while he was many years president of a Bath bank he was associated

with the managers of many others. The methods of doing business then in vogue must have been extremely perplexing. It indeed must have been an exhausting study how to float a bank's currency, but while I have many illustrations I will give but one now.

"Boston, June 4, 1822.

"\$7,000.

"For Value received, I promise to pay Hon. William Gray, or order, sixty days from date, Seven Thousand Dollars, with customary Grace.

"William King."

A receipt from Hon. William Gray reads as follows:

"Boston, June 4, 1822.

"Received of the Hon. William King, seven thousand dollars in Bath Bank Bills, which I am to keep as collateral security for the payment of his note of this date. Said Bills are to remain in my hands for sixty days, after which time I am authorized to pass, or sell them, for the payment of said note.

"Wm. Gray."

William King not only paid William Gray interest at the rate of six per cent on the \$7,000 but a discount of \$150 to make the Bath bank bills equal to Boston bank bills, and to keep the Bath currency out of circulation.

I have stated that on July 27, 1808, that Dr. Benjamin Jones Porter wrote William King while the latter was a member of the General Court that he had been requested to ask Mr. King's opinion upon the subject of making overtures to the Hon. William Gray in behalf of Bowdoin college—to wit: Gray to become a monied benefactor to the college and in consideration the name of the college to be changed to that of—

GRAY UNIVERSITY.

Upon the subject of the proposed change I have nothing additional to

present. Dr. Porter said in conclusion to Mr. King:

"Unless you think very favorable to something of this kind the idea will sleep to wake no more."

I opine the "idea" presented to William King for his consideration by Dr. Porter went to "sleep to wake no more."

Now, I want to connect a few genealogical gleanings and a few more historical facts in addition to what I have recorded to the name of Lieut. Gov. William Gray—William King's friend—who was interested in improvements in and about Portland.

Richard Derby of Salem, Mass., became by his mercantile operations a very rich man. Towards the close of his life he erected an \$80,000 palace for himself and family, but none of his children would accept it, so it was pulled down.

Lieut. Gov. William Gray, born in Lynn, June 27, 1750, the son of a shoe manufacturer, went into the counting house of Mr. Derby when he was a mere boy. He was so industrious and saving of his earnings that when the war of the Revolution came on he had sufficient money to help fit out a privateer, which proved to be a very successful business as well as patriotic venture. Then he invested in navigation and his ships brought him rich returns from China and other foreign ports.

His early school privileges were few as his manuscript letters before me plainly show, but he married well—Elizabeth, a daughter of John Chipman, Esq., a barrister-at-law of Marblehead, Mass., who often came to Portland in the prosecution of his business. He was a brother-in-law of Rev. Thomas Browne of the Stroudwater parish in Falmouth, who was of a very brainy family. July 1, 1768, Chipman fell in a fit in the Portland court house while making an argument and

soon expired. The members of the bar erected over his grave in the Eastern cemetery of Portland a monument now to be seen. Rev. Mr. Smith, and Deane also, notice the event in their diaries.

It is stated in print that William Gray owned at one time a half of the ship tonnage of Salem, Mass., consisting in part of fifteen ships; seven barques; thirteen brigs and one schooner.

His residence was in the central part of Salem, which became a hotel by the name of "Essex House," where I have stopped, but at my last visit, about ten years since, it was being altered for another kind of business.

His sons were college graduates and the daughters married into the same class of persons—the family being quite a large one, receiving probably their literary ability from their mother.

He was in politics a Federalist, but left to join the Jeffersonian Democrats, upholding the Embargo Act, however. This change in his political career produced much political persecution—so much in Salem that he left the city for Boston in 1809. As a reward for his change in political sentiment the Democrats made him their candidate for Lieut. Gov. and with Elbridge Gerry as a candidate for Gov. they were elected in 1810.

In Boston he lived in "princely style" and died there Nov. 3, 1825. The Portland Argus of Nov. 11, contains a short obituary notice. He left a will.

A list of the names of the original stockholders and number of shares each name represented, and gross amount of expense the enterprise consumed in construction I have not seen, but the following copy of an original letter addressed to "William King, Esq., merchant at Bath," lets some light upon the situation, as follows:

"Scarboro, May 5, 1804.

"Sir—You mention in yours of the 12 ult. that you would honor a bill drawn on you to the amount of the balance due on your shares in the Turnpike which is 400 dol's. I know of no opportunity how the matter could be transacted this way. My partner, (Mr. Wood,) has a draft on me as treasurer for more money than I have in my hands. If you can make it convenient to draw an order in favor of Jno. Wood or some of your correspondents at Boston it would answer all the purposes. Wish you would let me know whether the above stated proposition meets your approbation, as he will set out for Boston next week.

"Your, etc.,
"Saml. Haines."

JOSEPH EMERSON AGAIN.

I find that in my notice of Joseph Emerson I did not say all I might. On Nov. 7, 1809, at Scarboro, he addressed a letter to "Hon. William King, Esq.," informing him that he had bought into a certain brig and asked advice of Mr. King relative to wages of sea captains.

At Scarboro, June 2, 1813, he again writes "Gen. William King, Esq.," informing him that—

"I am about to remove from this place [Dunstan] to Limerick, about twenty-four miles from here, in the interior of the county, and have for sale an excellent tract of land of about nine acres which will pasture three cows and so adjoins your lot of sixty acres as would render your property far more valuable and saleable by connecting it with a delightful front, inclosed with a good post fence on the county road just beyond Lemuel Coolbroth's, and it would furnish an elegant and very pleasant situation for a dwelling house and store. I gave \$200 for the lot, put up the fence, cleared an acre and a half—overrun with bushes—which has added much to the value of the lot. As your front is very far from the great county road, I think it would add to your lot at least five dollars per acre by annexing my lot to yours, and the whole would command thereby a very ready sale. My price is \$250 for the lot but

would not take less than \$300 were I to continue in the place.

"Please address me at Portland.
"Your Ob't Servt,
"Jos. Emerson."

From Scarboro, June 26, 1815, the Rev. Nathan Tilton sent William King a "Bill of Exchange" for collection to the amount of \$157.56.

The parson states in closing his letter as follows: "Our sister at Gandeloupe informs us that she has sent us a piece of cambric muslin which has not been received."

July 11, 1815, the parson informs Mr. King he has receipted for some money from him. The postage between Dunstan and Bath was fifteen cents on a letter. He wrote a very easy and lady-like hand.

From Scarboro, Oct. 13, 1815, George Height informed William King that he thought more of Mr. King's verbal promise to pay than he did of twenty notes of some persons.

From Scarboro, July 9, 1821, Robert Hasty addressed "His Excellency, William King of Bath," in reference to a claim held by Hasty and others for a vessel condemned by order of the French government. She was, it seems, a brigantine, named "Freemason," and was captured by the French in July of 1797, carried into Pampail. (?)

"She sailed from Baltimore, Md., with a freight for Bermuda and had no contraband goods on board as you can inform yourself by seeing Hon. Berbert Smith, senator in Congress of the U. S., who was one of the freighters. [Bernard Smith, a Representative from New Jersey, is the nearest I can come to the name. L. B. C.] Mr. Whitman* informs me that all the spoilation made on commerce is released to the French by the Louisiana treaty. If this is the case can such a good government as ours

take private property to pay for public land?

"In 1799 our government called on those who had met with losses to send in their papers and claims which we did. I suppose they are now in the office of the Secretary of the General Government.

"She was a new brigantine, built in Scarboro, Capt. George Bunker was master, and she had been one voyage to Liverpool. When captured her bills were between eleven and twelve thousand dollars, [for freight on board.]

"I write you now as an old friend and neighbor although your station in life is now far above mine.

"From this loss I am reduced from affluence to indigent circumstance.

"The owners with me in the brigantine were Joseph Emerson, Jonathan Libby and Jeremiah Plummer.

"I close with sentiments of esteem.

"Robert Hasty."

*Ezekiel Whitman, lawyer, Portland, Representative in Congress, 1821.

From Scarboro, April 9, 1823, Ephraim Rice wrote William King, who was then at Washington, D. C., that he had "purchased the part of the Knight farm that was set off to William King's brother Cyrus from Mr. Bridge of Augusta [who married Hon. Cyrus King's daughter,] and requested that division lines be run, and fences divided as Dr. Southgate was disinclined to do anything but threatened to 'lay the lot common, which you know cannot be done at this season of the year.'"

COMMISSION PAPERS.

Several papers bearing official seals and signatures informing William King of his election to office are before me, as follows:

1807, May 11. Senator from Lincoln, Hancock and Washington counties.

Caleb Strong—Gov.
John L. Austin—Sec.

1808, May 9. Senator from the same counties as the preceding.

James Sullivan—Gov.

James L. Austin—Sec.

1818, May 11. Senator from the same counties as the preceding.

J. Brooks—Gov.

Alden Bradford—Sec.

1816, June 28. A notice that he had been elected a member of "The Maine Missionary Society."

D. Thurston, Ass't Sec.

1829, Sept. 29. Receipt for a \$1 annual dues as a member of the Maine Historical Society.

P. Mellen, Treas.

(Prentess Mellen, Judge of the Supreme court of Maine.)

1829, Jan. 31. Justice of the Peace.

Edward Russell—Sect. of State.

1829, April 21. Collector of the Port of Bath.

This paper contains the signature of "Andrew Jackson, President of the United States of America," and S. D. Ingham—Secretary of the Treasury, with the Seal of the Treasury Department.

The record made upon the back of the paper that the usual oath of office was administered is in the hand of William King and signed by David Shaw, Justice of the Peace.

FREE MASONRY.

I have heard it remarked that William King was up high in degrees in the order of Free-Masonry, but I fail to find anything showing his standing. The following scraps of information may interest somebody.

"Boston, May 19, 1800.

"Mr. King. Sir. Agreeable to promise I will now inform you there will be a special Meeting of the St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter tomorrow Evening at the Green Dragon, and if you are desirous of being proposed as a candidate by any of the Members it is necessary to fill and present the within petition addressed to the Officers & Members.

"I am respectfully,

Your humble serv't.,
"Jas. Harrison."

The following may be in "regular style" of Masonry, but whether it is or not, it is gotten up in quite a lively manner.

"Bucksport, Dec. 1, 1821.

"To the Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Other officers & Members of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

"Greeting:

"Whereas, a number of respectable brethren residing near Union River in Surry & Ellsworth in the State of Maine, have petitioned the Grand Lodge for a Charter to empower them to assemble in said Surry, near said Union River, as a regular lodge under the name and designation of 'Lygonia Lodge' to Institute Apprentices, pass Fellow crafts & raise Master Masons, also to do & perform all the duties & enjoy all the privileges belonging to all regular lodges agreeable to the laws & regulations of the said Grand Lodge & Ancient Usages; considering the remote distance from any regular lodge, the number & respectability of the petitioners and that the granting of the prayer of said petition would conduce to their convenience, the good of the craft & the advancement of Masonry generally, readily add my assent and approbation to the petition & recommend that the prayer be granted.

"Manly Hardy, D. D. G. M.
"5th Mason Dis. of Maine."

"Solar Lodge" of Masons of Bath, the adopted home place of William King, was organized in 1804.

In 1820, when the District of Maine was made into a State there were thirty-one Masonic lodges with Boston, Mass., as the nearest place where authority for organizing a local lodge could be obtained.

Vessels at that period and long before carried sometimes large amounts of specie which was required in trading. At the office of Asa R. Reed, Esq., of Waldoboro, a descendant of a successful sea captain of a century ago, may be seen a strong iron chest then used.

Among pirates there were Freema-

sons though plunderers of the ocean and as a precautionary measure of self-protection many sea captains became members of the Freemason craft, and as William King was largely engaged in navigation and having in his employ many sea captains it is readily seen one reason why he became a member of the order for the captain of a trading merchantman who fell into the hands of a pirate, fared much better if both were members of the same brotherhood.

Politicians, too, were Freemasons and as the most distant lodge of Maine was three hundred and seventy-five miles from Boston, and the politicians were unusually active in 1820, an additional evidence to what I have presented is observable why there was an early move made for a Grand Lodge of Freemasons hereabouts when the District became a State. For the purpose of forming such an organization a circular letter was circulated August 13, 1819, suggesting a meeting in Portland. The meeting was held Oct. 14, at which twenty-five lodges were represented by forty-four delegates.

June 1, 1820, twenty-five lodges by delegates met in convention with "William King in the chair who made a short speech," and proceeded to organize a Grand Lodge, June 24, the officers were installed at the meeting-house of Rev. Edward Payson. Prayer was offered by Mr. King's friend, Prof. Allen of Bowdoin college, and the consecration prayer was by the Rev. Mr. Tilton of Scarboro, whom I have briefly noticed.

William King, then Governor of Maine, was made Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the new state, not so much on account of his "degrees," or labors for the success of the order, but for his high political, social and business rating. John Hannibal Shepard of Wiscasset, A. M. and A. B., a graduate of Harvard college and

"Warren, July 15, 1811.

"Gen. King.

"Sir. I think it proper to premise that I now address you by desire of some of our Republican brethren, my own obscurity & insignificance precluding a personal right to protrude my opinion upon your notice.

"Republicanism having happily, after a long and arduous struggle, gained an ascendancy in the councils of the State it becomes the policy & duty of the friends of order & national union to preserve it—a temporary triumph would only render a subsequent defeat more mortifying in itself & more disastrous in its consequences & perhaps as great vigilance, activity and good management are necessary now to preserve as was required to gain our present station.

"Popular opinion which gives stability & efficiency to any form of government is, in democracies especially, very delicate, susceptible, irritable, fluctuating, by which, I mean, not to insinuate that the people are incompetent for self government, but it can't be denied that public sentiment is liable to be control'd by a thousand adventitious circumstances concerning which no human sagacity can make any positive calculations or even probable conjecture. Whether Republicanism shall become stationary in our State government depends upon European transactions & events—the state of commerce—the acts of Congress—the doings of our General Court—executive appointments—the official acts of public men—etc., etc.

"I am not aware the General Court in its late interesting sessions has passed any acts that will prejudice the 'good old cause,' or [Lt.] Gov. [William] Gray's banking will be questioned. The religious toleration act is popular and will have an effect. I conceive it to be perfectly consonant with the spirit & letter of the constitution and I am not trembling for our 'Ark' on this account—I mean the honor of religion & the respectability and standing of a learned clergy.

"Time & experience can only test the merits of the new system of courts; much, however, obviously depends on the selection of justices. The tenor & provisions of the law would lead us to contemplate them as on a higher grade, 'a size larger,' & 'some inches taller' than the old Judges of the Common Pleas. Their extended dis-

tricts, frequent terms and liberal emoluments of office point them out as men of cultured minds, possessing a very considerable share of Law—Knowledge, who are to detach themselves from all other occupations & devote their attentions to the duties of the station, that they may command the respect and confidence of the people.

"In the district to which we belong I don't know who are the most eligible characters but should it be deemed expedient to retain one of the two Federal justices of the late court of Common Pleas for this county there is no uncertainty in my mind as to which of them would best comport with the sentiments & wishes of Republicans in this quarter. I know not what are Judge Hill's scientific and jurisprudential qualifications. It is suggested that his politics will not be offensive in future, & so fair is his moral and religious character—such the smoothness of his exterior, his 'suaviter in modo,' as will render him very acceptable to the people. They view him as their friend & feel safe in committing their concerns & disputes to his care & decision. The reverse of this holds true with regard to Judge L. [Silas Lee, Esq., of Wiscasset.] He is believed to be an Aristocrat—ingrain & his blood to have been corrupted by the attainer of his family in the time of the Revolutionary war. He is suspected of being in heart averse and unfriendly to a government under which he holds an honorable and lucrative appointment, & are we to be restrained & gagged by the appointment of one of the most violent abusers of the powers that be?" His name to many is very forbidding & he is too apt to conceive & betray strong partialities which ought to be concealed and stifled.

"Be advised, Sir, that I am not divulging my own private sentiments. The Judge is my friend & I am under great obligations to him & I respect his abilities. I am only stating a popular prejudice which neither you nor I nor the subject of it can at once [if ever] do away, & if this prejudice is so deep-rooted and violent why his appointment? Under the present administration and existing circumstances his appointment would be received by true Republicans as a betrayal and abandonment of their cause & you, Sir, by aiding

Collections of the Maine Historical Society, an article filling seventeen pages relating to Peleg Tallman giving a very complete account of the very interesting character who was born at Tiverton, R. I., and last resided at Bath, this state, where he died March 8, 1841, aged nearly seventy-five. It seems that when he wrote the letter quoted he was a Member of Congress.

Comparatively but little is known of the early career of William Widgery.

He was born in 1753, in the state of Pennsylvania, and was a sailor. Some time during the war of the Revolution he was a privateersman, sailed from Portland, and served as a Lieutenant. He first appears on record as a real estate owner in New Gloucester in 1777, with a wife, "Elizabeth," obtained, it is conjectured, at Lewiston, or Poland, which is not far off, then called Bakerstown. In 1781 it appears he was a citizen of the last named place when he paid four hundred "Spanish milled dollars" for more land in New Gloucester.

In 1787 he was elected to a seat in the Massachusetts General Court and was re-elected several times as representative and senator.

In 1788 he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace and commenced the practice of law in spite of the provisions of law itself and bar rules, was appointed a judge and succeeded in having a court house built and courts held at New Gloucester. Besides a lawyer he was a merchant and politician, but the country town was too slow for his expanding views of public policy and he removed to Portland, and in 1811 was sent as a Representative to Congress.

In bank matters and in political schemes he was William King's advising friend though friendly to the war of 1812-15, to which King was hostile.

Before me are two of Widgery's let-

ters, clean and fresh in appearances. His views then on political party management are good today.

The first, dated at Portland, June 30, 1802, informs Mr. King that "the subscribers of the Maine Bank are determined to get under weigh with all possible speed, that advertisements will appear in tomorrow's issue of papers and it [the bank] appears to have many friends." The next, dated at Portland, April 16, 1809—a political letter—I give in full, as follows:

"Portland, April 16, 1809.

"Hon. William King.

"Bath.

"Dear Sir. The Federalists calculate on a gain of Representatives from your quarter this spring. Several towns have changed & it is thought they will be able to prevent others from sending. [Representatives.] The only way to prevent this is to write to every Republican town. Long speeches is of little consequence. Let the committees of each town have a meeting of their Republican friends previous to the May meeting. Choose committees to see that the Republicans attend elections and have ballots written beforehand. Unless this is attended to immediately we may lose our vote in the House of Representatives. I have received several letters from gentlemen to the westward and they say if we do our duty they are sure of the House. Let not a single town escape notice! Do what you can in Kennebec. I would spare no time, pen nor paper.

"I remain with friendship and esteem, Sir, your most obedient

"William Widgery."

This William Widgery was the ancestor of Hon. William Widgery Thomas of Portland, now U. S. Minister at Sweden, half-tone cuts of whom with the Crown Prince, shaking hands, have lately been received by mail by the general public with "greetings."

Rev. Thurston Whiting, born 1752, died 1829, was a clergyman at Warren. Following is a copy of a breezy letter of his addressed to Gen. William King:

plan so I can sell at some price so as to pay the two colleges so that you shall never have occasion to say that you lost money by the purchase, nor of upbraiding me for forgetting the favor of 1812.

"An 'honest settlement' with G. B. [Great Britain] is most ardently to be wished, and I am happy you can see prospects of its near approach.

"With great esteem and respect, I am, Honored Sir, your obliging friend and most humb. servant,
"Joseph E. Foxcroft."

"New Gloucester, May 10, 1821.
"Governor King.

"Dear Sir. On my way home yesterday I was musing on the subject of Roads, etc., and was thinking that if you send or take with you a copy of the Resolves & state that the Executive of this State had made arrangements to advance the money on the part of Maine for making the one & laying out & making the other road as far as the Government of Massachusetts shall make similar advances on her part, that you might think it necessary to name some person who had been appointed by the Executive of this State on her part to carry the objects of the Resolves into effect so far as relates to the Roads, and in doing thus will the Governor permit me to recommend Gen. Irish. I am sensible there is a possibility that Massachusetts may not make the appropriation of the money & proceed on her part, but even if she does not the appointment would probably prove very acceptable to him [Gen. Irish] and his friends, and do no injury to the State nor to our county elections. I pray you, give him this appointment if it does not militate your arrangements.

"While the Governor is in Boston I have no doubt you will be interrogated about Col. H.; may not your answers be very easy. You tried all in your power to save him and you got along very well with your own political friends, but the other side finding that he was likely to be retained came forward with such mighty power from all parts of the country that there was not a man in the Universe who could have longer withstood their united forces.

"I send this in a way to go safe to your hands and I will thank the Governor to burn it and believe me one among the many of his most obedient and very, very humble servants.

"Joseph E. Foxcroft."

This communication was addressed to—

"William King, Esq.,
"Gov. of the State of Maine,
"now at
"Portland."

It seems that Gov. King violated the request of his "very, very humble servant" in not destroying this "confidential" letter, and now, after the lapse of eighty-odd years, it is brought before the public.

Not long ago I stood by the graves of the Foxcrofts in the old cemetery at New Gloucester and read upon the stone tables names and epitaphs but I did not have at my command the necessary time to copy.

The town of Lewiston has been alluded to which was incorporated Feb. 18, 1795.

William King visited the place in 1810 but for what purpose does not appear. He may have made a political speech as certain people were "thunder-struck after the meeting he attended" there. It seems the place was a miniature political battle ground and the object of William King may have been to restore peace. The following lets on a light:

"Lewiston, May 17, 1810.
"Hon. William King, Esq.

"Sir. Having lately read that the Marshals are to take the census in this District, I now write to say, I should like to be appointed an assistant to take this part of the County of Lincoln to the west of the Kennebec river. You will therefore excuse me for requesting you to use your influence in my behalf with the Marshal so far as you conscientiously can, provided you are not engaged by some other person.

"At our meeting here for the choice of a candidate for Representative we were more prosperous than we have been for several years before although not so much so as I wish. As soon as the meeting was opened the Feds moved to dismiss the nomination and aided by some doubting Republicans carried the vote.

"They have appeared quite thunder-

struck since the meeting you attended here and altho' that increased the rage of a few yet I think in the course of another year their numbers will be small.

"I am, Sir, respectfully your obedient Servant,

"Oliver Herrick."

I know but little relative to Peleg Tallman other than the fact that he was a sea captain, was a Republican all's Democratic politician, and a very large owner in navigation.

May 19, 1804, at Woolwich he and seven others authorized William King to vote for them at the proposed meeting of the stockholders of the Hallowell & Augusta bank.

Feb. 8, 1811, at Bath, he informed William King that Dr. Jonathan Page "has a Demand on the Kennebec Insurance office for the total loss of the brig 'Isaac' amounting to \$2,021.77." He continues: "I have paid one half of the demand, and will you have the goodness to make him up the other half?"

(Signed) "Peleg Tallman."

At Boston, Mass., March 4, 1811, which seems to have been an exciting political year, he addressed William King a lengthy political letter as others did in the same strain of denunciation, Mr. King being in Boston, also, as follows:

"Hon. William King, Esq.

"Sir. I had the honor to address you on the 2nd inst. since which I have received your favor of the 1st. which is now before me, to which you request an answer. You say you have been waited on by a respectable Committee requesting you to stand as a candidate at the next senatorial election, and that your answer was in the affirmative, for which I must beg leave to express my regret, for it was generally understood that tho' named you would decline. If you persist you will probably be elected. Excuse me when I tell you that many of your friends have now altogether lost confidence in you and however painful it may be yet candor compels me to say that I am one of the number. 'I regret,' you say, 'that Mr. Carleton should hesitate to name to me he had wished to stand as a

candidate; that he never wished so, nor do I believe that he ever named it to any one.' Some of Mr. Carleton's friends requested me to name it to him and his language was consistent with his character, which has been so long and justly respected. You express a regret 'that our enemies should be successful in wrecking the Bonds of Friendship between us.' In this you are mistaken for it is mostly from my own observation & from a thorough conviction of your political instability, your ambitions, overbearing & selfishness that has induced me to believe it a duty I owe the public and myself thus freely to say and to declare to you that if our hitherto friendship would induce me my conscience will not suffer me to second the views of any man whose political integrity & public patriotism I have so much and so many reasons to doubt. I profess to be a Republican from principle and hope I shall in danger as well as in sunshine be found so. You name the subject of rivalry, but how it rests with you I am not prepared to say, and believe me, it is ungenerous in you to apply it to me, for I believe no man has wished to do more in times past than I have to aid you, and if I am not mistaken it would have been only to have consented and to have filled the public places that you have and now hold, you would have been beaten. I never did suffer my name to be used in public against you, and you will excuse my candor when I say that a want of confidence in you is the only reason why I now hold the public places I now do. I have warmly urged a gentleman now in town to stand as a candidate at the next April meeting and he is a man upon whom all can unite, and if he accepts I shall immediately retire. This I presume will prove to you that 'rivalship' is a thing I know nothing about.

"If you wish to correspond further on this subject I have no objection when I will give further reasons for my position towards you.

"I am with great respect, sir, your obt. and humble serv't.

"Peleg Tallman."

"P. S. You will please recollect this is political for in matters of business I feel towards you as heretofore.

"P. T."

Since preparing the foregoing I notice in Vol. X., Second Series of the

and put the opposition down. I have talked with him in regard to the part Mr. Tolman has taken and he is opposed to him though he was importuned to join with him. I would like to have him see that all his friends are against Tolman. Mr. Stone can have much influence in Brunswick, Harpswell and Durham if he has a mind to put it into operation. Now, all things considered, whither more advantage will not result to the public good from his appointment than any other gentleman, is a question I submit to your better judgment.

"I shall not mention this communication to you to any one but if it meets your approbation no doubt but he will learn you are in his interest.

"With the highest esteem

I am your cordial Friend."

(No name attached.)

"New Gloucester, Aug. 2, 1811.

"Hon. William King.

"Dear Sir. The bearer hereof is Francis Eaton, Esq., who is in the practice of law in this town. He studied with our friend Dana. I asked the favor of him to take a line to your honor.

"Office or no office, you know, is now the question, and each man wants one, and each man is the best, and all must be considered. You must have the strength of a Samson and the wisdom of a Solomon to bear the accumulating load, for every one seems to put on his ton, and then looks to you for direction. I would not add to your cares, but I know as his Honor, Mr. [William] Gray, said in Portland last week, that 'while Mr. Clapp is a fine man as to Gen. King, why, he is a host of himself,' therefore you will excuse an intrusion to serve a friend. 'But,' says your honor, 'my ships are waiting at the port, my friend.' Then I would inquire whether you will be in Boston next week when the council convenes? If so I have nothing further to say—your wish and mine will have been accomplished. The leading gentlemen in Portland have not signed in favor of Mr. Green, nor do they think he can or ought to receive the position. I hope no compromise will be made through misunderstandings to reappoint Col. Hunnewell nor to bring in a third person as has often been done in this county. I hope and believe no

one thinks of it, as of all things, it would be the most mortifying to your friend. It may not be amiss to guard against it. If you are not bound up yourself (but I hope in the name of God you are not) I would wish you to favor me with a letter to His Excellency that shall be conclusive with him and to some of your friends in the council—say Mr. Lincoln—as you know how matters were when you left Boston.

"I am sensible I am already under many obligations of gratitude to your Honor and I would not now trouble you but the object is an interesting one to me and I hope I shall never be unmindful of your kindness.

"With the highest esteem & respect, I remain, your devoted friend and ob't serv't.

"Joseph E. Foxcroft."

It appears that from 1809 to 1811 Richard Hunnewell was sheriff of Cumberland county at which time, and later, the office was filled by appointment by the Governor.

Joseph E. Foxcroft was appointed by Gov. Caleb Strong in 1811, who served one year, when Hunnewell took the position again and held it till 1821, when Gov. King appointed Foxcroft, who remained eight years, and then surrendered to Noah Hinkley, when the National Democrats beat the State Democrats, there being no other party in the field.

"New Gloucester, Dec. 12, 1812.

"Hon. William King.

"Dear Sir. Please accept my thanks my dear sir, for your favor of the 5th inst. I have no doubt that when business becomes brisk again land will be higher than it ever has been. What I propose selling is about half of what I have on my hands as my creditors are solicitous for payment. I see no way I can get along without selling a part; and believing that important events are before us I feel anxious to become unembarrassed that I may take some part in serving my friends and country. It is probable Maine will shortly become a State of the Union and I am willing to make any sacrifice to be free and active. When you see the gentleman I named if you will contrive some

may be seen on page 334 of the History of Cumberland county of 1879, furnishes proof of the correctness of the quotation here used. His father built the first two story house in New Gloucester which may be seen today and occupied by descendants.

Before me are several of Joseph E. Foxcroft's productions in the form of manuscript letters addressed to William King, upon which appear the same glow of cheerfulness that characterizes the picture and biographical notice to which I have called attention, and the first is as follows:

"New Gloucester, August 12, 1805.

"Wm. King, Esq."

"Sir. Knowing your attachment to Republicanism, I am of the opinion you will not be affronted if I trouble you with a few lines. I think the season of flattery in this quarter is over, and I am not without hope that our harvest in April next [spring elections] will be such as shall promote the interest of our Commonwealth. Esquire Prince of North Yarmouth is now engaged. I trust the great O—Dr. Mitchell—will not hereafter have so much to crack about. Lewiston, I think, will do well another year. Mr. Read has never liked the arbitrary measures of the Junto. The calumny & abuse with which Judge Sullivan has been loaded has had a good effect on him, though prudence, I think, prohibits our speaking of him at present. He may give Col. Thompson a little surprise by telling him he had seen things in Federalists he did not expect—that it appears their leaders are after a Monarchal Government. He is now enjoying the pleasures of contemplation, and doubtless inquiring in his mind for the evidences that they were pursuing measures which tend to wrench sovereignty from the hands of the people. A cloud of witnesses might be offered, but as people who have not been conversant with public men, nor measures, they are sometimes put to it to adduce such evidences of the fact as they would be glad to obtain, so that, I have sometimes thought an epistle sent to some people is preferable to personal conversation because it places arguments before their minds which, by reading,

they will remember, when, by conversation, they would forget. I hope, sir, you will be able to get Col. Thompson ardently engaged, for, in such a way there can be no doubt of Lewiston. I think Esquire Herrick will eventually favor Republicanism. In Pejepsco [Brunswick] I think there will be a very handsome majority. You will think, perhaps, sir, a more general attention should be paid to the subject; that one part of the Commonwealth is as important as another, but my means of observation are feeble and limited—yours are extensive and doubtless will continue to be well improved. Please to honor me with an Epistle.

"From your friend and servant,
"Joseph E. Foxcroft."

"New Gloucester, July 25, 1811.

"Hon. William King.

"Dear Sir. The 10th of Aug. is near at hand when the several appointments in the Commonwealth are to be made, and as my friends depend wholly on you I hope you will excuse my troubling you. There has been a county meeting here but I am informed there was division manifested and dissolution was the result without coming to an understanding only the voters of the county should petition for whom they please, and my friends are circulating petitions pretty generally. There is one in Brunswick, but I cannot anticipate the result as Doct. Page is zealous for Mr. David Green of Portland. Messrs. Mazzy & Jewett of Portland told my neighbor, Capt. Johnson, that if Mr. G. [Green] should obtain the name of every man in Portland the Governor would not appoint him, that he had failed in business & that his affairs remained too unsettled. This much I have said because I tho't you would like to know how things are going on here.

"We all feel the importance of the several appointments to be made so as shall best cement and strengthen the cause of our country. As respects the Court of Sessions I think it would be wise to have Jonathan Stone, Esq., one of the number, Col. Parsons, Chief Justice, and Major Hasty, Associate. Doct. Page is trying to make a little party with Butts & perhaps one or two more in your town. I think his appointment would animate him

further enquiry you feel disposed to interest yourself in one I shall be pleased to take a third part or a half with you. It would probably take four or five months to get one in operation, as I am informed it takes nearly three months to make the Still.

"I enclose you a copy of a communication respecting Domestic Manufactories penned by me a few days since, and altho' you may not approve of my anti-commercial disposition, I hope you will confess the principle correct. So little having been said in the newspapers respecting the importance of Domestic Manufactories I wish if possible to bring the matter into discussion. With the assurance of the most respectful regards in which my brother and Mrs. Wingate join towards yourself and Mrs. King,

"I am, Sir, most sincerely,
"Jos. F. Wingate."

"Hon. Wm. King,
"Boston."

I find nothing more relative to "Rum Distilling" participated in by Mr. King.

POLITICAL LETTERS.

Fifty years ago when the Whig and Democrat parties were broken, the members of the Whig party dispersed, the Democrat party reorganized upon a rum and slavery basis and the Republican party created from several factions in opposition to the Democrat party, it was a common assertion—"Politics were never before so corrupt as now." The saying of that time is now used. One hears it daily, but comparing the present with my knowledge of what transpired fifty years ago that came under my personal observation, and the present with what was done seventy-five and a hundred years ago—a knowledge gained from printed records, but more particularly from MSS letters, now before me, that have not seen the light of day for a period of many years—I must declare for the present as occupying a higher plane of political virtue.

Rev. Samuel Foxcroft was the first pastor of the First Congregational church of New Gloucester where he was settled in church work Jan. 16, 1765. He was a Harvard college graduate of 1754. Rev. Thomas Smith and Rev. Samuel Dean both notice the event in their diaries. Mr. Smith states "it was a jolly ordination; we lost sight of decorum. Mr. L. [Stephen Longfellow] kept us alert and merry." This character was the grandfather of the poet.

Joseph E. Foxcroft, his son, was born in New Gloucester March 10, 1773. The father was made an Overseer of Bowdoin college in 1794, serving till 1797, and Hon. Joseph Ellery Foxcroft, the same, by Gov. William King, in 1821, who served till 1834.

Joseph E. commenced his business career early. He purchased one of the five townships of land granted Bowdoin college by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, one of the conditions imposed by the college being that young Foxcroft should make a settlement of twenty-four families upon the lot within a stated period. The Town of Foxcroft, incorporated in 1812, located upon the purchase of ground by Foxcroft, is one of the enduring monuments to his name.

He was appointed postmaster of New Gloucester in 1806 and held the position till 1841.

In 1807 he was chosen to represent his town in the General Court at Boston, and was repeatedly elected to both the house and senate.

He was a delegate to the convention to prepare a State Constitution, and was appointed the first sheriff of Cumberland county when the District of Maine became a State. A biographer states that "he was ever genial and courteous and ever bore about him a halo of joyousness that reflected the sunshine of a happy disposition wherever he went." The expression upon the face of the eut of him which

honorary member of Bowdoin, class of 1820, delivered the oration.

The duties of Mr. King being so numerous, Deputy Grand Master, Simon Greenleaf, Esq., was chosen Grand Master at the meeting of January, 1822.

AN HISTORICAL LETTER.

I looked many times upon the Island of Grand Menan from Quaddy Head, while spending a summer in the town of Lubec, but I know nothing from a personal examination of the place other than that obtained from the high rocky shores of Lubec, opposite, where the waves lash the stern rocks most furiously during a southeasterly blow.

Between the island and the main land steamboats pass but vessels are cautious, at low water in a blow. Forty odd years ago when I was so situated as to look out upon the Island, the whole northern surface was a mass of scrub spruce without a house or wharf in sight. Why it is a British possession I cannot state.

William King had the Island in his mind in 1817, but his purpose I do not know. The manuscript letter before me which I propose to preserve by printing was penned in the winter of 1817 for "General William King, Bath." Of the writer I know nothing, but it must have been a person above the average in book education. It reads as follows:

"St. David, Jan. 20, 1817.

"My Dear Sir.

"With peculiar pleasure I embrace this opportunity to write you a few lines. I enjoy comfortable health and hope you and your family possess the same. Agreeable to promise I will now give you what information I have received respecting Grand Menan. The Island was first settled by three families who went from Machias during the time of the Revolutionary war. The Indians opposed the settlement and made complaint against them to the British government, and threatened to destroy their property, upon

which the chief commander of the military then stationed at Machias advised them to leave the Island. They left it accordingly and did not return. The next settlers were refugees with a family from Scotland. These remained upon the Island and held their property under the British protection from then till the present. Some of them say that if ever Grand Menan should be ceded to the States they shall leave the Island. Many of them, however, are friendly to our country. The Island now contains about seventy-five families besides ten or twelve families on the Island adjacent. It is problematical whether England itself contains so much hostility against the States as appears in this Province of Brunswick.

"That wars may cease and piety and philanthropy harmonize the nations is the prayer of yours in lively sentiments of esteem.

"Abram Cummings."

"P. S. My special regards to Mrs. King and the family whose kindness I remember. A. C.

"To General King."

A RUM DISTILL.

Joseph Wingate, Jr., who died in Portland, and whom I have noticed as a postmaster of the town from Feb. 20, 1805, till Aug. 8, of the same year, when he resigned, had a brother named James F. Wingate who was appointed immediately, and who served till May 31, 1815, a period of nearly ten years. From Bath, January 31, 1811, where his brother Joseph was then residing who was the collector of the port, James F., wrote "Hon. William King, Member of the Senate, Boston, Mass.," a letter, the closing part of which reads as follows:

"What you name in regard to Rum Distilling induced me to obtain what information I could respecting the profits, etc., etc., of an establishment of this kind and I am convinced that there is no business in which capital can be employed to so much advantage. A distillery that would cost 8000 dollars may safely be calculated upon to clear itself in sixteen or eighteen months if properly managed. I would therefore observe that if upon

his appointment will be stigmatized and denounced. Will it be wise and prudent that it shall take place?

"Your influence in the political councils of the state is confessedly great & it is generally confessed that hitherto it has uniformly been employed 'pro bono publico.' Political enemies you undoubtedly have for eminence always attracts envy & vents itself in calumny. This is a kind of involuntary, indirect homage with which little minds pay merit which transcends their capacity of emulating. Popularity and extensive influence is to be considered as an enlargement of the sphere of usefulness & the real patriot feels high responsibility to his God, his country and his conscience for the use he makes of it,—and he will not lightly or without unavoidable necessity risk the loss or diminution of it.

"You will certainly risk much by patronizing the gentleman in question as a Justice of the ancient court. There are those among us who wish to see the Ostracism of ancient Athens revived and exercised among us.

"When a community has been long struggling against an opposition & are at length relieved from common danger which united them they are very exposed & prone to fall out among themselves in the language of Scripture—'to bite and devour one another.' Something like this (& there can be nothing worse) is to be apprehended by the friends of popular government at this juncture.

"There is not a perfect unison and cordiality among the members of our political community in your part of the county—Bath, Wiscasset, etc. I enter not into these little animosities & cavils, neither know I 'who and who' are of a side or who is the 'shibboleth' of destination, but enough has transpired & is daily circulated to convince me there is 'something rotten in the State of Denmark.' You, Sir, must be sensible of the importance of speedy extinguishment of these petty feuds & jealousies & from the station you hold you can do much towards affecting so desirable an object. A chasm in our political church would be fatal to our cause. When our phalanxes are once broken & their weapons turned against each other I shall despair of ever seeing them again rallied and reunited.

"Suffice me to address you in the style of the commission that was given by the Senate and people of Rome to

a Dictator appointed in a great emergency: 'See that the Commonwealth receives no damage!'

"When you act as a dictator in quelling disturbances & keeping peace & good order in the political camp I shall be willing to officiate as your 'master of the house,' or in any other way you may please to assign me, i. e. I shall ever be ready to concur with you in my humble sphere in promoting the public welfare.

"I have now discharged an obligation which I suffered myself to be laid under by some patriotic friends. I need not tell you that if the contents of this letter is disagreeable to you burn it & forget it was ever written.

"With great respect, your humble servant,

"Thurston Whiting."

The name of the author of the following is not attached, and the manuscript is without date, but was written undoubtedly in 1821. During political campaigns, in common with the reading public, I have seen the same style of argument as is here used. I think the ideas expressed were those of Hon. Mark L. Hill, a character whom I have located at Phillipsburg, a merchant, and one of the first Representatives to Congress after the adoption of the State Constitution. I have noticed him at considerable length in former chapters. It was to him Rev. Thurston Whiting referred, whose interesting letter to William King has been presented: Messrs. King and Hill were warm political friends and Mr. Hill evidently placed his draft of a newspaper article in Mr. King's hands for inspection, who did not return it, which is now publicly used.

"The Policy of the South is to give their members a political education and keep them in their places long enough to become acquainted with the offices, with the several members of the committees, the officers of the government, and with the routine of business, the consequence of which is these persons are placed at the heads of all important committees, and hence, have an influence no new members can