



## CHAPTER X.

*Ministers of the First Church:* William Morrell — Mr. Barnard — Joseph Hull — Thomas Jenner — Robert Lenthal — Samuel Newman — Thomas Thacher — Samuel Torrey — Peter Thacher — Thomas Paine — William Smith — Jacob Norton — Josiah Bent, Jr. — John C. Phillips — Joshua Emery, Jr. — Franklin P. Chapin.

*Second Church:* James Bayley — Simeon Williams.

**REV. WILLIAM MORRELL.** — Of Rev. William Morrell but little more is known than is recorded in the first chapter. His scholarship and mental ability are fully shown in the elegant Latin poem upon New England, which he published after his return to England. This is republished with an English translation by the Massachusetts Historical Society, First Series, Vol. I. p. 125.

It is unfortunate that no more is known of the succeeding ten years of Weymouth history. The evidence of the presence here of Rev. Mr. Barnard can hardly be doubted, from the fact that Rev. Thomas Prince, from whom comes the statement, was a student in the family of Rev. Samuel Torrey, who came to Weymouth in 1640, at the age of eight years, and resided there until his death in 1707. He was for forty-two years minister there, and could hardly have failed to be well informed in matters concerning its early history, knowing personally, as he did, many of the Gorges Company.

The following is the extract from "Prince's Annals" which has reference to the matter: —

"This year [1624] comes some addition to the few inhabitants of Wessagussett, from Weymouth, Eng., who are another sort of people than the former (MS.



letter), [and on whose account I conclude the town is since called Weymouth]. NOTE.—They have the Rev. Mr. Barnard their first non-conformist minister, who dies among them. But whether he comes before 1630, or when he dies, is yet unknown (MS. letter); nor do I anywhere find the least hint of him, but in the manuscript letter taken from some of the oldest people of Weymouth.”

The latter clause would seem to afford ample basis for the statement.

REV. JOSEPH HULL (parentage unknown) was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1594; matriculated at St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, May 12, 1612; took his first degree of A. B., Nov. 14, 1614; rector at Northleigh, Devon, April 4, 1621; resigned in 1632, and sailed for America, from Weymouth, Dorset, March 20, 1635; settled in Weymouth Mass., July 8, following; was made freeman on Sept. 2; received a grant of land there June 12, 1636, and was minister there at that time; the same year he was granted land in Hingham. In 1637 he was still in Weymouth, although he is mentioned on the list of settlers at Salem, and also as preaching at Beverly. He was deputy from Hingham in 1638, and the following year. Preached his farewell sermon (probably at Weymouth) May 5, 1639. Was at Barnstable the same month, where he received a grant of land June 4. Was made freeman in Plymouth Colony Dec. 3, 1639. In 1641 he accepted a call to Yarmouth, for which he and his wife were excommunicated, May 1, but afterwards restored. In 1641 he is reported as preaching at the Isle of Shoals. In 1642 and 1643 he was still at Barnstable or vicinity, as seen from the court records, being party in several suits. On May 10, 1643, he was recorded as minister at York, Me., having made his final removal from Plymouth Colony



that year. After some half a dozen years' residence there, he is not heard of again until his return to England in 1659, where he became rector at St. Buryan, Cornwall. In 1662 he was again recorded as minister at Oyster River (Cocheco), N. H., having been ejected from his English living under the St. Bartholomew Act. He died at the Isle of Shoals, Nov. 19, 1665, having been driven from Oyster River by the Quakers in 1662, says Bishop. He was a "man of worth and learning, but given to change," and was involved in many difficulties, perhaps from the force of circumstances. He was personally quite popular, his repeated election to important offices being proof; but he was not a favorite with the colonial authorities and the ministers; hence, perhaps, the larger part of his troubles. His first wife (name not ascertained) was the mother of seven children, born in England, where she died in 1633.

#### Children:

- I. JOANNA, born 1620; married *John Bursley*.
- II. JOSEPH, born 1622; history unknown.
- III. TRIETRAM, born 1624; ship master and owner, also merchant of Barnstable.
- IV. TEMPERANCE, born 1626.
- V. ELIZABETH, born 1628; married *Capt. John Heard*, of Dover.
- VI. GRIZZILL OR GRISELDA, born 1630.
- VII. DOROTHY, born 1632.

Mr. Hull married (2) *Agnes* (family unknown), born 1610, who survived her husband, and was the mother of three children, born in America.

#### Children:

- VIII. BENJAMIN (alias *Reuben*), baptized in Hingham, March 4, 1638-9; merchant of Portsmouth, N. H.
- IX. NAOMI, baptized at Barnstable, March 22, 1639-40.
- X. RUTH, baptized at Barnstable, May 9, 1641.

[From materials furnished by *Robert B. Hull, Esq., New York.*]



REV. THOMAS JENNER. — Not much is known of his history. He seems to have been in Roxbury as early as 1634–5, and was called to preach at Weymouth in 1636, soon after Mr. Hull commenced his work there; probably sent thither in the interest of the churches and authorities of the Bay Colony to retain the ascendancy for them. He took the freeman's oath in December of that year. On the following Jan. 9, a council met to "reconcile the differences between him and his people, and had good success"; but that success seems to have been short-lived, as difficulties did not cease. He remained there several years. During that time there were also Mr. Hull, Mr. Robert Lenthal, and Mr. Samuel Newman, all ministers in Weymouth. In May 13, 1640, Mr. Jenner was chosen deputy to the General Court, but seems to have left town soon after and went to Saco, Me. He must have been a man of good character and abilities, or he could hardly have received the support he had from the people who sustained him, the ministers of Boston and vicinity, and the colonial authorities.

REV. ROBERT LENTHAL came to Weymouth in 1637, upon the invitation of many of the inhabitants who had been his parishioners in England, who probably judged the time a favorable one to introduce their own man, in consequence of the troubles then existing. He does not seem to have been in favor with the authorities, for he was forbidden ordination by the governor. He was suspected with a leaning in favor of the views of Mrs. Hutchinson and her adherents, and in consequence was brought before a council, convened at the house of Capt. Israel Stoughton, in Dorchester, Feb. 10, 1639, the result of which left matters pretty much as it found them, Mr. Lenthal "being admonished." Upon this council were Rev. John Wilson and Rev. John Cotton,



of the church in Boston; Rev. Zechariah Symmes, of the Charlestown church; Rev. John Weld and Rev. John Eliot, from Roxbury; Rev. Samuel Newman, Rev. Thomas Jenner, Mr. Edward Bates, afterwards ruling elder, and Mr. Stephen French, both from the church in Weymouth; and one private individual, probably Capt. Robert Keayne (a brother-in-law of Mr. Wilson), who took notes of the proceedings, which have been preserved; also Capt. Stoughton, a magistrate and a prominent member of the church in Dorchester.

Mr. Lenthal brought from England a good reputation as a minister, and seems to have done nothing here worthy of censure. In 1640 he removed to Newport, R. I., where he taught school, and afterwards returned to England.

REV. SAMUEL NEWMAN was called to the church in Weymouth in 1639, where he remained four or five years, during which time Mr. Hull, Mr. Jenner and Mr. Lenthal left the town, and he remained master of the situation, which appears not to have been altogether a pleasant one, since he removed about the beginning of 1644-5 to Rehoboth, taking with him a large number of his people. Perhaps the selection of the name for the new town, "the Lord hath made room for us," may furnish a hint for the reason of his removal from Weymouth. He was born in Banbury, Oxfordshire, England, May 10, 1602, and was the son of *Richard Newman*; matriculate of Trinity College, Oxford, March 3, 1620; obtained his degree of A. B. on the 17th of October following, when he was said to be of St. Edmund's Hall. In 1625 he had a very small benefice at Midhope, a part of the parish of Ecclesfield, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, to which his successor was presented ten years later. He came to New England, where his name is found in 1636 among the members of



the church in Dorchester. He came over in the ship "James" from London in 1635, and died in Rehoboth, July 5, 1663. He was a man of excellent character and learning, a hard student, and an animated preacher, ardently beloved and long lamented by his people. He compiled a concordance of the Bible, the third at that time, and the best in the English language, and is the foundation of that now known as "Crudens." "While living he was defrauded of the profits of his work, and when dead he was robbed even of the name." He married, Dec. 25, 1623, at Banbury, England, *Sybil* —, born in that town, Nov. 21, 1604, and died in Rehoboth, Nov. 2, 1672.

They had:

- I. SAMUEL, born in England, July 6, 1625; married, Dec. 6, 1659, *Bathsheba Chickering*; lived in Rehoboth; was deacon of the church and also deputy to the General Court several times. He died in Rehoboth, Dec. 14, 1710.
- II. ANTIPAS, born in England, Oct. 15, 1627; married, in 1658, *Elizabeth*, daughter of Gov. Winthrop. He was minister at Wenham, Mass., and died in October, 1672. His widow afterwards married a son of Gov. Endicott.
- III. NOAH, born in England, Jan. 10, 1631; married *Joanna*, daughter of Rev. Henry and Margery (sister of Rev. Leonard Hoar, third president of Harvard College) *Flint*, minister of Braintree; succeeded his father as minister at Rehoboth, in which office he died, April 16, 1678.
- IV. HOPESTILL, born in Weymouth, May 29, 1641; married Rev. *George Shove*, of Dorchester, afterwards third pastor of the church at Taunton, Mass. She died March 7, 1674.

[*This family record is from the Reed Genealogy.*]

REV. THOMAS THACHER was the son of Rev. *Peter Thacher*, rector of St. Edmund's, Salisbury, County Wilts, England, born May 1, 1620, before his father was inducted into office. The family was probably originally from Somersetshire. He came to America in the ship "James" from Southampton, landing in Boston, June 4,



1635, with his uncle Anthony. He made his preparatory studies with Rev. Charles Chauncey, of Scituate, afterwards president of Harvard College. He was ordained as pastor over the church in Weymouth, Jan. 2, 1644-5, where he remained for about twenty years, when he removed to Boston, and was installed Feb. 16, 1670, as the first pastor of the Third Church (the Old South), in which position he remained until his death, Oct. 15, 1678. He was one of the most eminent scholars of his day, and, according to President Stiles, the best Arabic scholar in the country, a faithful pastor, and an interesting preacher. He was also a skilful physician; the author of a paper called "A Guide in the Small-Pox and Measles," the first medical publication issued in this country. "He was a man of prayer and an exemplary ministerial character," but particularly opposed to the Quakers; and whenever he found any of their books among his people he was careful to take possession of them. He married, first, May 11, 1643, *Elizabeth*, youngest daughter of *Rev. Ralph Partridge*, of Duxbury, Mass., by whom he had: THOMAS, RALPH or RODOLPHUS, PETER (born in Salem), baptized July 20, 1651 (graduate of Harvard College, 1671), PATIENCE, and ELIZABETH, who married, first, *Nathaniel Davenport*, the gallant captain killed in the Narragansett fight, Dec. 19, 1675. She afterwards married, in 1677, *Samuel Davis*. Mrs. Elizabeth Thacher died June 2, 1664, and soon after Rev. Thomas married, 1665, *Margaret*, widow of *Jacob Sheaffe*, of Boston, daughter of *Henry Webb*, and removed to that city, where he united with the First Church, Aug. 4, 1667; and when the Old South Church was formed, in consequence of troubles growing out of the bringing of Mr. Davenport from New Haven, he was called to be its pastor.



REV. SAMUEL TORREY, the successor of Rev. Mr. Thacher, in Weymouth, was the son of *Capt. William Torrey*, one of the early settlers of that town, and one of the most important names upon its records, who came to Weymouth from England with his family in 1640. Samuel was at that time eight years old, having been born in the old country in 1632. He was educated at Harvard College, entering that institution about 1650, but did not graduate on account of the lengthening of the term of study for one year, with which there was so much dissatisfaction that he, with several others, among whom were Rev. Josiah Winslow, Rev. Ichabod Wiswell, of Duxbury, agent for Plymouth Colony at the court of England, Rev. Samuel Waterman, of Fairfield, Rev. Mr. Brimsmead, of Marlborough, all afterwards men of distinction in the colonies, left the college without taking their degrees. The early record of his ministry is somewhat obscure; but he seems to have first preached at Hull, about 1656, where he remained for several years. It appears also that he preached for a time in Weymouth previous to his ordination, in the absence of the pastor, Rev. Mr. Thacher. He was ordained Feb. 14, 1664-5, and continued as pastor of this church until his death, which occurred April 21, 1707, at the age of seventy-five years, fifty-one of which he spent in the ministry. He was married, first, May 15, 1657, while residing at Hull, by Gov. Bellingham, to *Mary*, daughter of *Hon. Edward Rawson*. She died without issue, Sept. 10, 1692; and he married, second, July 30, 1699, *Mary*, widow of *William Symmes*, of Charlestown, who survived him until March 12, 1721. There were no children by this marriage.

Mr. Torrey had the reputation of being one of the ablest ministers of his day. He was of fine personal appearance, with excellent and thoroughly trained intel-



lectual powers, and a dignity of deportment singularly appropriate to his position as estimated by the requirements of that period, at the same time cheerful and agreeable in social intercourse. He was a leader, recognized and acknowledged by the greatest minds of his day. Twice he was elected president of Harvard College: first, in 1681, to succeed President Oakes; and second, in 1684, upon the death of President Rogers, but declined the position. Three times he preached the election sermon before the General Court, May 27, 1674, May 16, 1683, and May 29, 1695, all of which have been printed. During his ministry he was much sought after to assist in ordinations, at councils, and upon other public occasions; and it was during his term of service that the old meeting-house upon Burying Hill, having become from age and decay unfit for further use, was taken down, and a new one erected in 1682 on the site of the present house of worship.

REV. PETER THACHER was called to the pastorate of the church in Weymouth after the death of Rev. Mr. Torrey. He was son of *Thomas Thacher, Jr.*, and grandson of Rev. Thomas Thacher, former pastor at Weymouth; born 1678; graduated at Harvard College, 1696; and was ordained at Weymouth, Nov. 26, 1707. He was a man of excellent abilities and acquirements, of fine personal address, and soon became very popular. For a time his ministry gave promise of great usefulness and success; but after a few years, it becoming apparent that he might become colleague to Rev. Mr. Webb, of the North Church, Boston, the happy relations heretofore existing with his people at Weymouth became disturbed, and at the end of nearly twelve years he resigned his charge, and was dismissed in 1718, although as it appears in an irregular way, for the manner of it caused much ill feeling, not only in the church



at Weymouth, but also in the North Church, Boston, over which he was installed, Jan. 28, 1723, as colleague with Rev. Mr. Webb; and so great was the dissatisfaction in the latter church, that a disturbance occurred at the installation which nearly prevented the service, and resulted in the withdrawal of about fifty members, who formed a new church. Mr. Thacher remained pastor of the North Church, Boston, until his death, March 1, 1739, at the age of sixty-one years, or, as another account has it, sixty-three years. For a few years prior to his settlement at Weymouth, Mr. Thacher taught school in Hatfield, Mass.

REV. THOMAS PAINE, who was ordained as the successor of Rev. Peter Thacher over the church in Weymouth, was the son of *James* and *Berthia* (*Thacher-Paine*, and grandson of *Thomas Paine*, who was the first of the family in this country, and who settled in Eastham, in 1639. He was born in Yarmouth, April 9, 1695, O. S., in a house brought from England, and which is yet standing. He received a liberal education, graduating at Harvard College in 1717, having been prepared for that institution by Rev. Jonathan Russell, of Barnstable. In college he applied himself vigorously to his studies, particularly mathematics and astronomy, in which he excelled, pursuing them much beyond the usual college course of that day. In 1718 and 1719 he published almanacs in his own name. He calculated an eclipse of the sun, which was to occur in 1806, which was found to be in exact accord with later calculations. He also gave special attention to the study of Latin, Greek, Hebrew and French. In August, following his graduation, he commenced the study of divinity with Rev. Theophilus Barnard, of Andover, and after completing his theological studies he accepted a call to settle as pastor of the church at Weymouth, and was



ordained Aug. 19, 1719. Here he remained as long as he continued in the ministry, but the unfortunate financial condition of the parish, which had during his administration lost a large portion of its support in the setting-off of the second precinct in 1723, rendered his stay not always pleasant. Troubles were constantly arising from difficulty in raising his salary, and this, with ill health, compelled him in 1730 to ask his dismissal, which, however, was not granted until April 15, 1734, when his connection with the church and parish was formally terminated. During the later years of his pastorate he resided in Boston, although attending to the duties of his office in Weymouth. After retiring from the ministry he engaged in commercial pursuits and carried on a large domestic and foreign trade. He was also extensively engaged in iron manufactures, having foundries in Abington and Bridgewater. In his business transactions he accumulated considerable wealth, which was, however, lost subsequently by the perils of war and the fluctuations of the currency. He married, April 21, 1721, *Eunice*, daughter of *Rev. Samuel* and *Abigail (Willard-Treat)*, of Eastham, and grand-daughter of Col. Robert Treat, for thirty years governor of Connecticut, when she was but sixteen years of age, by whom he had three sons and two daughters, of whom the late *Hon. Robert Treat Paine*, of national reputation, was one. Mr. Paine was probably second in point of talent and education to none of his predecessors in the Weymouth pulpit, and his kindness of disposition and gentleness of manner were such that had it not been for the unfortunate financial position of the parish, he might probably have remained there during his life. He died in German-town, Quincy, Mass., May 31, 1757, and was buried in the Old North Cemetery, Weymouth. His wife died Oct. 17, 1747, aged forty-two years.



The following is the record of his family.

Children : —

- I. ABIGAIL, born March 6, 1725; married *Joseph Greenleaf*, Oct. 17, 1749; died Jan. 15, 1808.
- II. ROBERT TREAT, born Oct. 9, 1727; died Oct. 21, 1727.
- III. THOMAS, born July 3, 1729; died Aug. 19, 1730.
- IV. ROBERT TREAT, born in Boston, March 11, 1731; married *Sally Cobb*.
- V. EUNICE, born May 11, 1733; died Feb. 2, 1803; unmarried.

The first three children were probably born in Weymouth; the two latter in Boston.

REV. WILLIAM SMITH, of Charlestown, was the successor in the Weymouth pulpit [First Parish] of Rev. Thomas Paine. He was the son of *William* and *Abigail (Fowle-Smith)*, born in Charlestown, Mass., Jan. 29, 1706-7. He was educated for the ministry, graduating at Harvard College in 1725. He was called to the pastorate of the Weymouth church, and ordained to that office on the first Wednesday of December, 1734, in which position he continued until his death, Sept. 17, 1783, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, and the forty-ninth of his ministry. The charm of his manner and the conciliatoriness of his conduct soon won for him the hearts of his people, which he retained to the last. "He was loved and respected by them, especially the last generation, who grew up and were educated under his ministry." The following inscriptions are copied from the gravestones in the Old North Cemetery, Weymouth, where Mr. and Mrs. Smith lie buried: —

"In memory of | Rev<sup>d</sup>. WILLIAM SMITH, pastor of | the 1<sup>st</sup> ch<sup>h</sup> of  
C<sup>t</sup>. in Weymouth | Ob<sup>t</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1783, Æ. 77, in | the 49<sup>th</sup> year  
of his Ministry. | As a Divine he was eminent | As a Preacher of the  
Gospel | eloquent and devotional in life | he exhibited the Virtues  
of the | Religion which he had taught | in Death felt its Supports &  
| closed a long & useful life | with hopes full of Immortality."



“ Here lies the body of Mrs. | ELIZABETH SMITH, the amiable and  
| pious Consort of the Rev<sup>d</sup> William | Smith, pastor of the first church  
| of Christ in Weymouth, who died | October the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1775, in the  
| 54<sup>th</sup> year of her Age.”

“ Thus write the voice from heaven.  
Proclaims the virtuous dead are  
ever blest. Their works immortalize their  
Names. Their labors cease and here they rest  
till that bright morn shall wake the  
beauteous clay to bloom and sparkle in eternal day.”

Mr. Smith married (date of publishment, Aug. 3, 1740) *Elizabeth*, daughter of *Col. John* and *Elizabeth* (*Norton-Quincy*, born in 1722. [The Weymouth records say *Widow Elizabeth*.] They had the following children: —

- I. MARY, born in Weymouth, Dec. 9, 1741; married, Nov. 25, 1762, *Richard*, son of *John* and *Elizabeth* (*Pearse-Cranch*, born at Kingsbridge, Eng., November, 1726, and came to Boston in the ship “Wilmington,” in 1746. He was a distinguished man in his State, having been deputy to the General Court from Old Braintree, State senator and judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He resided in Quincy.
- II. ABIGAIL, born in Weymouth, Nov. 11, 1744; married, Oct. 25, 1764, *John*, son of *Dea. John* and *Susanna* (*Boylston-Adams*, born in Braintree (now Quincy), Oct. 9, 1735; one of the founders of the Republic, than whom none was more active and influential; second President of the United States. They were the parents of *John Quincy Adams*, the illustrious sixth President of his native country.
- III. WILLIAM, born in Weymouth, Dec. 1, 1746; married, Jan. 8, 1779, *Martha White*. [Wyman says he married *Catherine Louisa Salmon*, probably a second marriage.]
- IV. ELIZABETH, born in Weymouth, date not on record, baptized April 8, 1750; married, first (date of publication Aug. 23, 1777), *Rev. John Shaw*, of Haverhill; second, *Rev. S. Peabody*.

The following notice appeared in the *Boston Gazette* of Sept. 22, 1783: —



“ On Wednesday last departed this life at Weymouth, aged seventy-seven, the Reverend pious and venerable Mr. William Smith, Pastor of the first church in that Town. His remains were very respectfully interred on Saturday last.”

REV. JACOB NORTON, the twelfth pastor of the First Church at Weymouth, was the son of *Samuel* and *Mary* (*Porter-Norton*, born in Abington, Mass., Feb. 12, 1764. His father (son of *Capt. John* and *Elizabeth* (*Thaxter Norton*), was a native of Hingham, Mass., and his mother a descendant of *Richard Porter*, who settled in Weymouth in 1635. He also was a graduate of Harvard College of the class of 1785, and soon after received a call to settle as minister over the old church of his maternal ancestor in Weymouth, and was ordained Oct. 10, 1787, where he continued until July 10, 1824, when he was dismissed. This was his only pastorate. He was a man of fine talents and education and a scholar of high rank. He published many controversial works, and his discussions upon theological subjects were conducted with great ability and won for him a high reputation. The early years of his ministry were prosperous, but during the latter portion of his stay with that church his frequent doctrinal changes caused much trouble and perplexity and finally terminated his connection with it. The point of greatest difference being upon the question of baptism, changing from a strong pedobaptist to as decided an opponent, in which movement he failed to receive the sympathies and support of his people. He afterwards removed to Billerica, where he died Jan. 17, 1858, at the age of ninety-four years lacking twenty-six days, retaining his mental and physical faculties to a wonderful degree until the last. After retiring from the pastorate, he changed his religious views, first to the Unitarian, and later to the Universalist. He was, when settled, an extreme Calvinist.



He married, Feb. 11, 1789, *Elizabeth*, daughter of *Richard* and *Mary* (*Smith-Cranch* (baptized in Weymouth, Nov. 27, 1763, by Rev. William Smith, her grandfather), by whom he had the following children:—

- I. RICHARD CRANCH, born in Weymouth, March 12, 1790; a graduate of Harvard College of 1808; died at Alexandria, D. C., Oct. 13, 1821.
- II. WILLIAM SMITH, born in Weymouth, Dec. 29, 1791; a graduate of Harvard College of 1812; died at Portsmouth, N. H., July 19, 1827.
- III. JACOB PORTER, born in Weymouth, Dec. 16, 1793; married, Oct. 4, 1818, *Harriet*, daughter of *John* and *Hannah* (*Patterson-Holbrook*, born in Weymouth, April 26, 1796; resided in Boston.
- IV. EDWARD, born in Weymouth, Oct. 24, 1795; was captured during the war with England, and died in Dartmoor Prison, Sept. 29, 1814.
- V. THOMAS BOYLSTON ADAMS, born in Weymouth, Feb. 17, 1799; died at Fayetteville, N. C., July 23, 1831.
- VI. ELIZABETH, born in Weymouth, May 28, 1802.
- VII. MARY CRANCH, born in Weymouth, May 19, 1804.
- VIII. LUCY ANN, born in Weymouth, May 13, 1806.

Mrs. Norton died in Weymouth, Jan. 25, 1811; and Mr. Norton married, second (date of publishment in Weymouth, Feb. 20, 1813), *Hannah Bowers*, 2d, of Billerica.

Mr. Norton was a tall, erect, spare man of dignified appearance and pleasant address, and, notwithstanding his change of religious belief, the neighboring clergymen esteemed him highly, although they deplored his heresy.

REV. JOSIAH BENT, JR., of Milton, Mass., was the successor of Mr. Norton, at Weymouth. He was born in Milton, Mass., Oct. 1, 1797; graduated at Harvard University in 1822, and pursued his theological studies at Princeton Seminary, which he entered soon after his graduation at Cambridge. He remained, however, at



that institution but about a year and left, continuing his studies probably with a private teacher, as was formerly the custom. In 1824 he received a call to settle over the church and parish at North Weymouth, where he was ordained Oct. 13. He remained in this position until Oct. 10, 1833, when he was dismissed on account of trouble arising from the Masonic controversy. He soon after removed to Falmouth, Mass., and was installed as pastor over the church there Feb. 5, 1834, and continued as such until his dismissal, Feb. 22, 1837. On April 19, of the same year, he was installed as pastor over the First Church of Amherst, Mass., where he remained until his death Nov. 19, 1839. He was a remarkably successful pastor, and it is said, that in the fifteen years of his ministry over his three parishes, not less than five hundred persons were converted.

Upon the Weymouth Church records are found the following baptisms of children of Rev. Josiah and Paulina Bent:—

- I. JOSIAH, Oct. 2, 1825.
- II. PAULINA RICE, June 1, 1829.
- III. SAMUEL ADAMS, Aug. 16, 1829.
- IV. SUSAN SARAH, Nov. 13, 1830.
- V. HENRY K. W., April 1, 1832.
- VI. THACHER TUCKER, Oct. 6, 1833.

(The following sketch of Rev. John Charles Phillips, the fourteenth pastor of the church at North Weymouth, Mass., was furnished by his brother, Wendell Phillips, Esq. Mr. Phillips was a descendant of one of the oldest and most prominent families in Massachusetts, and one that has always borne an honorable record:—)

“REV. JOHN CHARLES PHILLIPS was born in Boston, Mass., Nov. 15, 1807, and was the son of *Hon. John Phillips*, the first mayor of that city. He was educated at the Boston Public Latin School, and after passing a year at the military academy of Capt. Partridge, at Norwich, Vt., was graduated at Harvard College with



the class of 1826. He studied law with the Hon. Samuel Hubbard, afterwards a judge of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. After completing a full course of legal study, his inclination drawing him strongly to the ministry, he passed three years at the Andover Theological Institution, and was ordained, Dec. 18, 1833, over the North Parish of Weymouth. There he remained about four years, respected and beloved by his people. He married, Dec. 24, 1833, *Harriet*, the daughter of *Francis Welch*, of Boston. On Dec. 26, 1839, he was installed over the First Congregational Church, of Methuen, Mass., and his pastorate there lasted more than twenty years, when the state of his health obliged him to resign and he was never afterwards able to preach.

An extract from the resolutions passed by the church at that time shows how he was valued by his people: —

‘ *Resolved*, That the length of his ministry, the uniform kindness of feeling between pastor and people, and between him and the people of other denominations, with the general prosperity of this church and society during that time, will indicate more clearly than language his great worth as a man and the value of his labors and example as a Christian minister.’

He returned to Boston and died there Dec. 5, 1878, having nearly completed his seventy-first year. He left a widow and four children: one son, *Mr. John C. Phillips*; *Margaret W.*, the wife of *A. B. Hall*; *Miriam W.*, the wife of *Dr. W. H. Rollins*; *Anna Dunn*, unmarried. His intellect was keenly logical; whatever truth he recognized he saw with marvellous clearness, stated it with rare precision, and defended it with quick, close argument, so exhaustive as to leave little to be added. United with this quality was a rare wit, lavish in illustrations, prompt at retort, and dispelling angry clouds with the lightning of a fine humor.



His preaching was conversational, he never thundered; short, terse sentences full of thought, epigrammatic; such as lodged everything securely in memory, and so direct as to reach every man's conscience; earnest, as of one who believed all he said and with a life behind it so consistent that men willingly listened and yielded cheerfully to its influence. As a disputant he never hurried or interrupted his opponent; was always serene and self-poised, waiting patiently until the other had ceased speaking, and ever ready to state his opponent's case for him even stronger than he could do it himself. His simple tastes made him prefer a settlement in the country, where he could come into closer communion and have a nearer and more direct influence on his hearers. He liked plain people and the manners of common life; always wishing to get close to his audience or companion. But such was his native dignity that neither playful wit nor familiar manners ever emboldened one to take any liberty with him. He was singularly free from ambition; anxious to *be*, careless what he *seemed*, and little heeding men's judgments. Intellectually fearless and independent; thoroughly convinced that *truth* could always defend itself without artificial aid, and hence uniformly tolerant and liberal; willing to waive dogmas if a man's purpose was right and his face Zionward.

At a time when some abolitionists were accustomed to interrupt Sunday services, he saw Stephen S. Foster seated before him in the pews. Mentioning the fact to his people, he invited Mr. Foster to come to the pulpit and give his testimony. The fearless and eloquent agitator rose to say, 'When I am *invited* to a pulpit, it is evidence that I have no occasion to go there.'

Mr. Phillips occasionally asked clergymen of other denominations to preach for him, saying, 'If I cannot hold my people with a hundred sermons a year against a



few from men of other views, they cannot be worth holding.' His prayers revealed the depth and sincerity of his nature. There are very few lips that God touches with fitness to utter for us our prayers. Only a life of peculiar simplicity and seriousness can give this grace. Those who knelt with him at the altar cannot fail to remember the simplicity and tenderness, the deep feeling and trembling pathos of his prayers, which seemed to lift us into the very presence of God; and one was sure that he who offered them must stand with familiar love at the very feet of the Father.

‘ Thrice blest whose lives are faithful prayers,  
Whose lives in higher love endure ;  
What souls possess themselves so pure,  
Or is their blessedness like theirs? ’ ”

REV. JOSHUA EMERY, JR., the successor of Rev. John C. Phillips in the pulpit of the First Church of Weymouth, was the son of *Joshua* and *Elizabeth (Welch-Emery)*, born in Newburyport, Mass., Aug. 5, 1807; was fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Andover; graduated at Amherst College in 1831, and pursued his theological studies at Andover Seminary, from which he graduated in 1834. He was ordained as pastor over the Orthodox Church at Fitchburg, Mass., May 13, 1835, where he remained but a short time, when he was called to the First Church at Weymouth, over which he was installed Jan. 25, 1838, and relieved from active service at his own request, Oct. 22, 1873, feeling the burden of years and the duties of his office to be too great for his strength. The remainder of his life was spent in quiet retirement. He died April 24, 1882, in his seventy-sixth year, at the residence of his son Charles F., in Kansas City, Mo., and his remains have since been removed for burial to Boxford, Mass.

“ In his home life he was the kindest of fathers, and



his spiritual life was such as to exert an influence for good, not easily forgotten, on all with whom he associated. Before his death and for the greater part of his retired life he was with his children, and he died knowing that *all* of his children were church members. I shall never forget the Sabbath previous to his death. I was with him, and the day was spent mostly in prayer and singing, in which, though very weak, he joined, and expressed himself as being so happy, as he should 'soon see Jesus.'" In person he was above the medium height, slenderly built, but of very erect carriage and brisk movement, thin of feature, with an aquiline nose, somewhat prominent, and of a pleasing countenance. He was highly valued as an associate and friend by his neighbors in the ministry. To strangers he had sometimes the appearance of reserve and austerity, but upon acquaintance he was found to be very genial and agreeable. He was forward in all the benevolent enterprises of the day, and diligently labored to promote their interests. He married, May 19, 1835, *Harriet*, daughter of *Jacob* and *Lucy* (*Manning-Peabody*), by whom he had the following children: —

- I. HARRIET PEABODY, born in Fitchburg, July 23, 1836.
  - II. JOSHUA, born in North Weymouth, June 1, 1840; a boot and shoe merchant, residing in Chicago.
  - III. CHARLES FRANCIS, born in North Weymouth, March 10, 1849; a boot and shoe merchant residing in Kansas City, Mo.
  - IV. MARGARET, born in North Weymouth, Sept. 2, 1850, and died there, Sept. 1, 1852.
- Harriet P. is married and yet living.

REV. FRANKLIN PERRY CHAPIN, the present pastor of the First Church in Weymouth, and the sixteenth since its organization, son of *Ebenezer* and *Sarah* (*Robinson-Chapin*), was born in Gill, Franklin Co., Mass., Aug. 14, 1827; pursued his preparatory studies at



Shelburne Falls Academy, and graduated at Amherst College in 1852. He studied theology at the Bangor Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1857. His first settlement as a minister of the gospel was over the Congregational Church in Camden, Me., where he was ordained Nov. 11, 1857, and where he remained for about ten years, being dismissed Sept. 3, 1867. Soon after this he received a call from the Second Church, East Street, Amherst, Mass., which he accepted, and was installed as its pastor, Jan. 21, 1868. He remained in this position for a little more than three years, when ill health compelled him to relinquish it, and he was dismissed March 27, 1871. During the two succeeding years he served as superintendent of schools of that town, at the end of which time he received a call from the First Church and Parish of Weymouth, Mass., which he accepted, and was installed as pastor, Oct. 22, 1873, which position he still retains. He married, first, Dec. 2, 1857, *Sarah Sumner*, daughter of *Addi* and *Margaret (Sumner-Wallace)*, born in Hadley, Mass., Sept. 2, 1830, and died in Amherst, Mass., Jan. 22, 1868.

Children: —

- I. FRANK SUMNER, born in Camden, Me., July 7, 1860.
- II. CHARLES EMMONS, born in Camden, Me., March 3, 1862.
- III. SARAH LOUISA, born in Camden, Me., Nov. 21, 1863.
- IV. EDWIN ROBINSON, born in Camden, Me., Aug. 29, 1865.

He married, second, Jan. 11, 1871, *Margaret*, daughter of *Robert* and *Elizabeth S. (Pendleton-McFarlane)*, born in Camden, Me., March 23, 1842, a missionary among the Esquimaux in Labrador, who died in Weymouth, Mass., Oct. 25, 1882. Child: —

- V. ROBERT MCFARLANE, born in Weymouth, Oct. 5, 1877.

REV. JAMES BAYLEY, the first pastor of the Second Church in Weymouth, was born in Roxbury, Mass., in



1698. He graduated at Harvard College in 1719, and was ordained at South Weymouth, Sept. 26, 1723. After his graduation, he appears to have lived in Andover for a time, where he taught school, and probably pursued at the same time his theological studies. The following entry is found upon the records of the First Church, Andover, Mass. (now North Andover), under date of Feb. 26, 1721-2: "Mr. James Bailey, schoolmaster, and Sarah Bayley, wife of Mr. J. Bailey, removed to Weymouth." He died Aug. 22, 1766, and was buried in the old graveyard on Pleasant Street. His gravestone bears the following inscription: —

"SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI."

"Here lies interred y<sup>e</sup> remains of y<sup>e</sup> Rev. James Bailey, born at Roxbury, took his 1<sup>st</sup> degree at Harvard College 1719, ordained 1<sup>st</sup> Pastor of y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> church of Christ in Weymouth Sept. 26, 1723. After a lingering indisposition, departed this life Aug. 22<sup>d</sup>, 1766, in y<sup>e</sup> 69<sup>th</sup> year of his age in y<sup>e</sup> firm, supporting belief of those doctrines of grace which he had for y<sup>e</sup> space of 43 years preached publickly and from house to house.

The sweet remembrance of y<sup>e</sup> just,  
Shall flourish when they sleep in dust."

The following is from the Weymouth town records.  
Children of Rev. James and Sarah Bayley: —

- I. JAMES, born probably in Andover, Jan. 15, 1722.
- II. SARAH, born in Weymouth, April 27, 1724.
- III. ELIZABETH, } born in Weymouth, July 22, 1725.
- IV. MARY, }
- V. JOSHUA, born in Weymouth, Nov. 24, 1726.
- VI. THOMAS, born in Weymouth, Oct. 10, 1728.
- VII. SAMUEL, born in Weymouth, March 27, 1730.
- VIII. *Deacon* NATHANIEL, born in Weymouth, Dec. 27, 1731.
- IX. DANIEL, born in Weymouth, April 1, 1734.
- X. SARAH, born in Weymouth, June 16, 1735.
- XI. JOHN, born in Weymouth, Feb. 2, 1737.
- XII. MARY, born in Weymouth, Oct. 17, 1742.
- XIII. BENJAMIN, born in Weymouth, Dec. 1, 1745.



REV. SIMEON WILLIAMS, the second pastor of the Second Church in Weymouth, Mass., was born in Easton, Mass., in 1743; graduated at New Jersey College in 1765, and was ordained at South Weymouth, Oct. 26, 1768, his first and only pastorate, where he died, May 31, 1819, and was buried in the cemetery on Main Street, with the following inscription upon his gravestone: —

“ This Monument is erected in Memory of the Rev. Simeon Williams, the 2<sup>d</sup> Pastor of the South Church in Weymouth. He was born in Easton, was graduated at N. J. College in 1765, was ordained Oct. 26, 1768, & died May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1819, in the 76<sup>th</sup> year of his age and the 51<sup>st</sup> of his ministry.

Though earthly shepherds dwell in dust,  
The aged and the young;  
The watchful eye in darkness closed,  
And mute the instructive tongue,  
The eternal Shepherd still survives,  
New comfort to impart;  
His eyes still guide us, and his voice  
Still animates our heart.”

His wife, who died Aug. 10, 1823, aged seventy-four years, lies buried by his side.

Rev. Simeon Williams was married (date of publication Sept. 1, 1770) to *Mrs. Anna Crocker*, of Eastham, Mass., by whom he had the following children: —

- I. ANNA, born in Weymouth, Aug. 31, 1771.
- II. SOPHIA, born in Weymouth, Dec. 29, 1772.
- III. SOPHIA, born in Weymouth, Oct. 7, 1776.
- IV. SIMEON, born in Weymouth, April 5, 1778.
- V. BETSEY, born in Weymouth, July 16, 1780.
- VI. JOSEPH CROCKER, born in Weymouth, Oct. 26, 1783.
- VII. THOMAS, born in Weymouth, March 11, 1787.