

# TURNER'S PUBLIC SPIRIT.

Forty-Eighth Year

Ayer, Mass., Saturday, January 8, 1916

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## AYER

### News Items.

The fourth quarterly conference of the M. E. church of the Federated church, will be held at 2:30 in the afternoon on January 16.

The subject of the Sunday morning service at the Federated church will be "Gideon, the warrior of Jehovah." Sunday school at noon. Meeting of the C. E. society at six o'clock; topic, "Why join the church?" Evening service at seven o'clock; subject, "The awakening of the boy Jesus." Mid-week service on Thursday evening at 7:30 in the vestry.

The new year's eve party given for St. Andrew's choir and their friends was voted a great success. The hostesses devoted themselves to seeing that the young people had a good time. There were many out-of-town guests coming from Providence, Boston, Pittsfield, Leominster, Harvard and Littleton. Music for dancing was furnished by Mudgett's orchestra of Shirley and was very pleasing to the dancers.

The pastor of the Baptist church will speak on Sunday morning on "What is it to be a Christian?" Sunday school at twelve. Service of song at seven in the evening; subject of sermon, "The importance of watchfulness." E. V. U. meeting on Tuesday evening at 7:30, led by the pastor; subject, "Why join the church?"

The Ayer Branch Alliance will meet in the Unitarian vestry on Friday afternoon, January 14, at 2:30 o'clock, and will be entertained by Mrs. Susan Barker, Mrs. Loretta Graves, Mrs. D. W. Fletcher and Mrs. Almida Lawton.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Federated church will serve a supper in the church parlors on Tuesday evening, January 11, at 6:30 o'clock. Social evening after supper. As this is the first supper of the Federated church it is hoped that a people of the parish will endeavor to be present.

Div. 7, A. O. H., will hold their annual concert and ball on March 17.

Miss Gertrude Carrigan returned to her duties as teacher at Langdon, N. H., last Sunday. Paul W. Carrigan left Monday for Dartmouth college to resume his studies.

Ayer lodge, A. F. of R. W., have elected and installed the following officers for the ensuing year: E. E. Lewis, pres.; John Craig, v.p.; Joseph Little, fin. sec.; C. L. Washburn, sec. and treas.; H. Davenport and Henry Picard, trustees; Joseph Kyle and E. E. Lewis, representatives to system council.

Allan MacDonald was given a birthday party by friends at his home on Pleasant street Tuesday evening, the occasion being his seventeenth birthday. Refreshments were served and a very pleasant evening spent. Those present were Miss Marion Farnsworth, Miss Helen and Llewellyn Savage, Miss Elizabeth Bennett, Miss Charlotte Sanderson, Percy and Everett Fowler, Miss Herta Phelps and Reginald and Allan MacDonald.

Miss S. A. Hood, Mrs. S. M. Barker, Mrs. Edith Blossom, Miss Blanche Livingston and Mrs. Blanche Whitney from the Woman's club attended reciprocity day with the Pepperell Women's club on Tuesday. Mrs. Barker represented the Ayer club with a reading.

A special convocation of Bancroft Royal Arch chapter will be held on Tuesday evening, January 11, at 7:30 o'clock. Work—Mark Master degree.

**Installation.**  
The annual installation of Caleb Butler lodge of Masons took place in Masonic hall on Monday evening. This is one of the brilliant events of the

illustrated in the history of the government of this country from articles of confederation adopted by the thirteen original colonies down to the present time. During that time many changes had been made in our fundamental form of government, the constitution, which after the articles of confederation became the basic law of the nation, being amended many times to meet the desires of certain factions in the country in the interest of justice to all. One of the quickest and most radical swings of the governmental pendulum occurred a couple of years after the Civil war broke out when the political rights of foreign born citizens, which had a few years before been curtailed, were restored to them in full.

The reason for this action was that the foreigners showed such indisputable loyalty to the country in the war as to effectually remove any suspicion of distrust which had been prevalent among the native born citizens prior to the great conflict.

Governments are established to protect the minority; the majority can always take care of itself.

Referring to the three latest proposed amendments to the constitution—the initiative, referendum and recall—the speaker said that there is no danger in the initiative and recall unless they were intelligently and carefully used, which would not be probable. The referendum has been used and is now used to good advantage, but there is also some danger in this.

At the conclusion of his remarks Mr. Maloney was given the thanks of the members. Lunch was served.

**Horses For Europe.**  
The beginning of the shipment of 80,000 western horses over the Fitchburg division of Boston and Maine, for shipment from Boston by steamer for the allies in Europe, is expected to begin in the immediate future, the latest report being that entire train loads of valuable horses, destined for the European battlefields, will begin passing through this town before the end of the present week.

The current report is that the legal department of the railroad has finally succeeded in adjusting the difficulties encountered with the town authorities in Watertown and that the new padlocks and shelters recently erected in that town covering twenty-eight acres of ground, may now be used for the purpose for which they were directed. These have capacity for 3000 horses, it being planned to keep the others waiting the sailing schedules of the transports which are to take them to Europe. It is said that agents of the allies have been authorized to purchase horses and arranged to have them shipped over this route, and that continuation of the war will result in further purchases and continuous traffic of this nature as long as the war may last.

**Annual Parish Meeting.**  
The annual parish meeting of the Unitarian church was held in the vestry on Wednesday evening. It was preceded by a fine supper served to eighty people in charge of these members of the Girls' club, Mrs. Callie P. Murphy, Mrs. Paul Fillebrown, Mrs. Fairchild, Mrs. Margaret Cushing, Miss Elinor Clark, assisted by Misses Alice Sanderson, Doris Fletcher, Lily Baker, Lacey Wyman, Lily Wright, Grace Murphy.

Immediately following the supper the parish meeting was called by Howard M. Beverly, clerk, who read the warrant. Dr. H. B. Priest was chosen moderator. Six people united with the parish, after which the officers for the coming year were elected: Howard M. Beverly, clerk; George H. Hill, treas.; Dr. H. B. Priest, G. Dwinell and Herbert L. Farnsworth, parish com.; Miss Alice Sanderson, col.; Miss Nettie B. Roe, asst.; Miss Elinor Clark, Mrs. Daisy Lockford and Miss Mona Kittredge, music com.

It was voted to ask the Alliance and Girls' club to choose two members each from their number to be assessors.

The pastor, Rev. Frank B. Crandall, read several letters announcing gifts to the church, and outlined his plan of work for the coming year.

The meeting was very enthusiastic and the spirit of harmony and energy was very contagious. The outlook for the coming year is very bright and promising; the reports of the various officers showed a sound and satisfactory condition of affairs.

**A. W. C.**  
The next regular meeting of the Woman's club will be held in Hardy's hall and will be an open meeting under the auspices of the public health committee. The speaker will be Mrs. W. M. Brown, local health officer, who will discuss the social problems of mental hygiene. Dr. Frankwood E. Williams, music in charge of Mrs. Helen Reynolds.

The music study class will meet with Mrs. Rachel Barry on Wednesday afternoon, January 12, at 2:30 o'clock. The subject will be "Russian and Italian music." All interested are cordially invited.

Those interested in the formation of a chorus of club members will meet at the home of Mrs. Nellie Kittredge on Friday evening, January 14, at 7:30 o'clock. The rehearsal will be devoted to music for the club meeting, February 2.

The concert given at the Congregational church on Tuesday, under the direction of J. Vernon Butler, of Worcester, assisted by Mrs. Butler, pianist, Miss Anita Charron, violinist, Cliff Perry, baritone, and Miss Jane Prendeville, soprano, afforded the members of the club and their friends an unusual musical treat.

The literature committee will hold the first meeting of the club year at the home of the chairman, Mrs. Clara Hill, on Wednesday afternoon, January 12, at three o'clock. All interested are cordially invited.

**Closed Its Year.**  
The sewing school conducted by the Woman's club closed its sixteenth year of work last Saturday with the annual party to the children given in the town hall. Several things have joined to make the year one of great interest. Mrs. Carrie B. Bigelow has been superintendent. She has been thoroughly devoted to the interests of the school and succeeded in securing a very efficient company of teachers. The work of this school has this year for the first time been coordinated with that of the public schools and its sessions held during regular school time on Friday afternoons, an arrangement that has worked to the disadvantage of both teachers and pupils, making the school larger, pupils more regular in attendance and securing the

services of teachers who could not be here on Saturdays. There have been ninety-nine pupils, sixteen regular teachers and half as many substitutes. The closing exercises on Saturday were attended by a large number of friends of the school. The work was on exhibition and was carefully examined. A brief program was arranged by Mrs. Bigelow, which included remarks of appreciation from Frank S. Johnson, superintendent of schools, and Geo. H. Brown, chairman of the school committee. There were also selections by the Mandolin club and musical parts by several of the children.

The year has been a fine success and has greatly encouraged the friends of the school.

**PASTORAL LETTER**  
To My People:

Dear Friends—In the hope of reaching at once the largest possible number of our members I shall from time to time make use of space in the public press. It is your right to know what your minister's policies are and why he adopts them.

Many of you have no doubt heard christians dispute about the relative merits of liturgical and free prayer. Those who oppose the use of the former are accused of being cold and soulless utterance while the opponents of free prayer denounce the same as undignified or sentimental. We have all heard liturgical prayers chanted or murmured or otherwise uttered in a manner most execrable. On the other hand we have heard free prayer uttered with a familiarity so flagrant or a sentimentality so aggravated that we must wish that some men would indeed pray in secret.

Some of the high-salaried and professional evangelists are chief among those who are against this prayer. Manifestly the fault lies in both instances not in the form of prayer used, but with the individual himself or with his religious inclinations. All the great prayers that have come down to us in liturgy were no doubt originally spoken under inspiration and were free prayers. Occasionally in our own times the human soul finds in free prayer the very loftiest expression. There are, however, certain general and fundamental needs that are common to all men, and which need aid and guidance, the fidelity of rulers, the zeal and nobility of the clergy, the welfare of all people. In the public office of prayer the clergyman must have the noblest meditations of the heart expressed in the most glorious English. Frank B. Crandall.

**SHIRLEY**  
News Items.  
Mrs. Hattie Shearer and sister, Mrs. Laura Ware, are as comfortable as can be expected under the circumstances. Mrs. Crockett, of Ayer, is caring for them.

Mrs. Julia F. Kilburn and Miss Grace M. Kilburn, also, Miss Eva Kilburn, of Harvard, are all confined to their home with the grippe. Mrs. Fernald, the nurse, is caring for them.

Mrs. Thomas L. Hazen is confined to her home by illness.

The Ladies' Aid society of the Unitarian church will hold a social and supper in the church on Wednesday evening, January 12, at seven o'clock, followed by an entertainment.

The Altruistic club met in the Congregational vestry on Thursday afternoon. The president, Miss Grace M. Kilburn, being absent on account of illness, the vice president, Mrs. Mary E. Lilly, presided. After a short business meeting Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead, secretary of the National Peace League, was introduced. Mrs. Mead is a very talented lady and gave an excellent address on "Preparedness," not for war, but for the needs in other usual directions for our country. She held the subject well in hand and gave many statistics of the war and of our resources. Close attention was given her and also a ringing vote of thanks. All were much pleased with her discourse. The program was in charge of the educational committee, Mrs. Mary C. Park and Mrs. Emma S. Horton. The meeting closed with the singing of "America." Mrs. Horton at the piano.

**New Advertisement.**  
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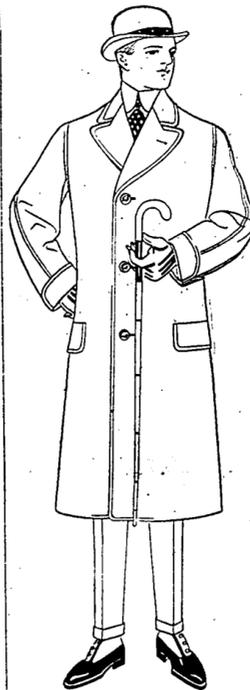
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Come in and look them over as that is the only way you can ever fully appreciate their real value.

Prices are extremely low when you consider quality of garments offered you.

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A splendid assortment and all at extremely low prices—no advance in price on present stock. Bought at low prices—sell at low prices. Dogskins, Horseskins, Calf Skins and Galowsays, with heavy quilted linings and large Storm Collars.

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Men's Heavy, Double-breasted, Fleece-lined, celebrated High Rock make 50¢

Men's Heavy, Derby-ribbed 50¢

Men's Heavy Cotton and Wool 50¢

Men's Heavy Wool, well-known Glastonbury make \$1.00 and \$1.25

Wright's Health Underwear, known everywhere 75¢ and 95¢

Men's Union Suits in several well-known makes \$1.00 to \$3.00

Boys' Heavy Fleece 25¢ to 50¢

Boys' Wool 50¢

Boys' Union Suits 50¢ to \$1.25

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Gold Seal, Red Seal and Goodyear Glove

the very highest grades of Rubber Footwear to be found in the market—the acknowledged leaders in the rubber world. The best in Rubber Goods is always the cheapest in the long run. We charge no more for our superior makes of footwear than you usually pay for the ordinary kinds carried in most places.

Everything you need in Footwear—Satisfactory Guaranteed

## CALENDAR WEEK—A CALENDAR FREE

We shall present to every customer who makes a purchase at our store a beautiful Art Calendar for the year 1916. These Calendars are reproductions of high class paintings, very artistically mounted. We are sure you will be delighted and find one well worth having and taking home to keep.

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We publish the following papers: Turner's Public Spirit, Ayer, Mass.

- The Groton Landmark The Peppercorn Advertiser The Littleton Courier The Westford Wardsman The Harvard Hillside The Shirley Oracle The Townsend Tocsin The Brookline (N. H.) Beacon The Hollis (N. H.) Homestead

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Ayer, Mass.

Saturday, January 8, 1916.

WESTFORD

Center.

The annual appraisal and dinner for the town officers took place at the town farm last Saturday, new year's day. Those in charge of the appraisal...

The severe snowstorm coming the first Sunday of the new year made attendance at church very limited. At the Congregational church there were thirty-one present...

A very pleasant new year's party took place at the home of Misses Beecher and Lillian Sutherland last week Friday evening...

Gould Buckle, of Wilmington, was a week-end guest of Bertram Sutherland.

Mrs. Charles H. Wright was a guest of Dr. and Mrs. Henry L. McCluskey at their home in Worcester on Monday and Tuesday last week...

Members of the Sunday school of the Congregational church had a supper and entertainment at the vestry last week Friday evening.

Mrs. Sarah T. Harris, who suffered a stroke of paralysis at her home last Saturday, is resting as comfortable as can be expected.

The annual meeting and dinner of the members of the Congregational church will be held on Monday, January 10.

A great deal of sickness is prevalent in the village. Mrs. Frances B. Prescott is sick and under the doctor's care.

"Gentlemen's night," or guest night in the Tadmuck club will be observed next Tuesday evening at the Congregational church.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Wright and Livingston were Christmas visitors at E. L. Wright's.

Death. The community mourns the loss this week of one of its best residents, Mrs. Mary E. Heywood.

7 mos. 7 days. Mrs. Heywood was the widow of the late George W. Heywood and for many years lived in the Westford depot neighborhood.

Mrs. Heywood (Mary Cushing) was born in Roxbury, but at the time of her marriage to Mr. Heywood was the widow of Capt. Melvin, her home being in Medford.

Mrs. Heywood is survived by an only son, Albert Whitney, of Medford, and an only daughter, Mrs. Charles L. Hildreth, also, three grandchildren.

Among those substantial and much missed forms residents of Westford who were visiting in town and present at the Unitarian church, were Mrs. John William Abbot and Mrs. Katherine Keeler.

Read the large posters and the small programs telling all about the large things that is coming to undo some of our small doings and set up better and larger house-keeping and better and larger house-keeping.

Harry A. Whitney and Miss Sadie A. McMaster were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. McMaster, last Saturday afternoon by Rev. David Wallace, pastor of the Unitarian church.

The bride was dressed in white satin, overlaid with lace, and veil caught up with ribbons-of-the-valley. The bridesmaid was costumed in yellow.

Alden Fletcher Osgood, for the past seven years an inmate of the New England Home for Deaf Mutes in Everett, died at the home of his sister, Mrs. W. H. Brown, in Natick last week.

Mr. Osgood was highly educated and his nature typical of the Westford Osgoods of high-grade intellectuality.

Mr. Osgood learned the trade of leather cutter and for more than thirty years he worked in Boston, Natick, Ashland and Hudson.

Nature almost invariably balances her accounts and Mr. Osgood, shut off by nature by nature's telephone and megaphone, was compensated by a highly intellectual nature, optimistic, cheerful and happy.

Col. Edwin D. Metcalf, who died at his home in Auburn, N. Y., last week Friday, was well-known to Westford people, having lived here in his boyhood days and attended Westford academy and the public schools.

He was born in Smithfield, R. I., March 4, 1818. He married Carrie W. Flint in Fall River on September 14, 1873, and their children were born to them.

After spending his boyhood days in Westford he removed to Springfield, where he served as mayor two terms. He was a member of the Massachusetts house of representatives two years and the senate two years, and a member of the staff of Gov. George D. Robinson and assistant quartermaster general of the Massachusetts volunteers.

After all these years away from his boyhood Westford, his mind began to revert to these early scenes, and on May 21, 1910, he presented to the town the substantial monument that adorns with memory the village green and the memory of the soldiers of Westford in the civil war; also, in memory of Col. Metcalf's father, William Metcalf, who enlisted from Westford in Company C, 16th Massachusetts regiment at the outbreak of the civil war.

At the dedication of this monument the ever-to-be lamented ex-Gov. John D. Long was orator of the day and Hon. Charles S. Hamlin followed in an appropriate yet seconding the oration.

In his boyhood days Col. Metcalf, with his parents, was an attendant at the Unitarian church, and in memory of this and in memory of his mother and the old First Parish church, he presented a beautiful memorial window to the church.

The W. C. T. U. held their monthly meeting at the Congregational church Wednesday afternoon with representatives from Ayer, Lowell and Granitoville. The weather was rainy and damp, which made it contagious for attendance.

The W. C. T. U. held their monthly meeting at the Congregational church Wednesday afternoon with representatives from Ayer, Lowell and Granitoville. The weather was rainy and damp, which made it contagious for attendance.

Westford union. Refreshments were served at the social hour and other refreshments were served during the meeting. Mr. Carr, of Long-Sought pond temperance wickham, refreshed with violin, accompanied by Miss Edith Wright on the piano.

Over half the newspapers published in the world are printed in the English language.

OSTEOPATHY AT HOME

Spasmodic Attacks of Hay Fever May Be Relieved—Distressing Feature of Head Colds Helped by Pressure.

By DR. R. KENDRICK SMITH.

ANYBODY can prevent a sneeze by the simplest possible application of home osteopathic treatment. There is always a little warning preceding one of these annoying spasms, and it is sufficient to give one time to apply this treatment and avert the explosion.

An Act of Nature.

The act of sneezing is an effort of nature to expel some invader from the nose or to stimulate head circulation of blood, or to increase the secretions of mucus.

This treatment is so simple that it can be administered by the patient just as well as by an osteopathic practitioner, although not until one acquires a certain deftness as a result of repeated experiment.

Hay fever, nose cold and other recurrent afflictions associated with certain seasons of the year make the nose a conspicuous portion of the face, so the intense embarrassment of it is owner and the annoyance of those within hearing.

HOW TO STOP A SNEEZE.



Hold forefinger firmly and steadily on the upper lip for two minutes.

For the best results, and particularly to avert repetitions, the pressure should be continued for two minutes, not what you think is two minutes, but what the clock tells you is two minutes.

Excessive nasal discharge will sometimes be considerably lessened by repetitions of this treatment. The same pressure may also be used for nosebleed, in which case the finger is nosed clear across the upper lip and curved so as to press over a greater area.

You've hit the right tobacco

when you fire-up some Prince Albert in your old jimmy pipe or in a makin's cigarette. And you know it! Can't get in wrong with P. A. for it is made right; made to spread-smoke-sunshine among men who have suffered with scorched tongues and parched throats!



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SHIRLEY

News Items. D. Chester Parsons, who has been confined to his home with sickness for the past two weeks, is improving a little each day and is planning to go out to business about the first of next week.

many hundreds of dollars and a similar sum of money has been saved by the total number from Shirley who have been inmates at the Clinton hospital at various times within the past two years.

Mrs. Julia Holden, Lester G. Holden, Mrs. Elsie Evans, reception; Mrs. Gertrude W. Farnsworth, Mrs. Inez Lynch, Mrs. Josie Dunn, music; T. H. Evans, H. C. Harris, current events; T. H. Evans, master of men's degree staff; Mrs. Margaret E. Harris, master of ladies' degree staff.

Miss Cecile Bonchons, of Fitchburg, was the guest of last week of her sister, Mrs. Alexander Sawyer. Miss Mary Reagan enjoyed a week's vacation at home last week from her business college in Nashua.

BERKSHIRES FOR SALE. We must sell our entire stock of Pigs this winter—good bargain the result. Come early and get the pick of the herd. All Pigs from registered parents.

BREAD BOXES. CAKE BOXES. PASTRY CLOSETS. 65c to \$1.50 each. SERVING TRAYS. 10c to 25c each. These Closets and Trays are Black Japanned, with gilt decoration.

SHIRLEY GASH MARKET. DRAKE'S CAKE. Sultana Chocolate, Gold Fruited Spice, Silver Maple Nut. Sold in 10c Boxes. Sponge Cake 10c and 20c sizes.

WESTFORD

Grantville. Commencing Monday, January 3, the machine shop of the C. G. Sargent Sons corporation will run on a fifty-hour week.

Notices have been posted in the Abbot Worsted Company's mills here stating that there would be an advance in wages commencing Monday, January 3.

Miss Della Dudevour, of Manchester, N. H., has been a recent guest of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Dudevour.

James Daley, who has been ill with an attack of pneumonia at the home of his son John in Forge Village, is slowly improving in health.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McLenna, of Norton, have been recent guests of Mrs. Lillian McLenna.

Miss Helen Furbush has been ill at her home during the past few days.

W. Carroll Furbush left on Wednesday to join his ship, the U. S. S. Commodore Rodgers, at Boston.

The board of selectmen have a meeting in town this Saturday evening at which they will close all the bills and accounts for the year of 1915.

Quite a number of the young people of the town accompanied the L. A. A. and the hockey basketball team to Ashburnham last Saturday evening.

LUNENBURG

News Items. Small changes and repairs have been made as recommended by state inspectors at the schools during the Christmas vacation.

Rev. James Chalmers entered upon his duties as supply for the Congregational church and preached his first sermon in that capacity on the first Sunday of the new year.

The latest real estate transactions for Lunenburg are Charles J. Tapley, land on Hollis road; John E. Gungl, land on Mulpus road; Sullivan Stone to Pauline H. Woodward, land on Massachusetts avenue.

The Lunenburg Military band are planning to hold a calendar kermess at the town hall on Thursday afternoon, January 20.

Charles B. Lonzley is very sick at his home with pneumonia and is in the care of a trained nurse.

Charles S. Alexander, director in the practical arts department of the Fitchburg Normal school, and for years a teacher in other schools, died at his home in Fitchburg last week.

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HOLLIS, N. H.

News Items. There was a very good attendance at the annual meeting of the church on last week Thursday.

Mrs. Sarah E. Gilman, of Nashua, N. H., spent the Christmas holidays in town and attended the annual church meeting.

Mrs. Fred E. Dudley, of Reed's Ferry, was a visitor in town on last week Thursday.

Rev. Mr. Crutcher was the speaker last Sunday at the church and brought with him the painting of Christ by the artist Joseph, of the Holy Land.

At the meeting of the Grange on Tuesday last week, the officers for the ensuing year were installed by Fred W. Dudley, of Thornton Grange.

Miss Edith Lawrence, who has been with her sister, Mrs. Walter Corey, since last May, left last week for Chicago.

Fred Farnsworth, with his family and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Farnsworth left last week for Florida, where they are to spend the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. George Noy entertained their son Ernest and family of Sandown Christmas and last week, and Misses Anna and Josephine Sylvan, of Dorchester, Mass.

Mrs. Victor Maxwell, as lecturer of the Congregational church, preached on Monday last week Wednesday.

BROOKLINE, N. H.

News Items. Prayer meetings have been held at the Congregational church, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings in observance of the week of prayer.

Miss Edith Lawrence, who has been with her sister, Mrs. Walter Corey, since last May, left last week for Chicago.

Fred Farnsworth, with his family and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Farnsworth left last week for Florida, where they are to spend the winter.

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Mrs. Victor Maxwell, as lecturer of the Congregational church, preached on Monday last week Wednesday.

One of the beautiful large elms which stood on the grounds of the Elmwood hotel had to be cut down recently as the elm had become completely destroyed.

Cards announcing the engagement of Blanche Evelyn Fessenden and Clarence Andrew Morse have been sent out. Congratulations and good wishes from the many friends of this popular young couple are pouring in upon them.

Alberta, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Elliot, last week scalded her chest quite badly by upsetting some hot tea.

There is an epidemic of colds and gripe sweeping through the town that is claiming many victims.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We desire every household in this vicinity to have one of our Calendars—Call at the Store and receive one.

No Calendars Given to Children

WILLIAM BROWN DRUGGIST. Main Street Ayer, Mass.

COMMUNWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Middlesex, ss. Probate Court.

Wanted—A Second-hand Bookcase, and a large one, give dimensions and number of book shelves. Lock Box 50, Ayer, Mass.

Luther G. Robbins. Successor to D. W. FLETCHER. Fire Insurance of All Kinds: State, County and Town Official Bonds.

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ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

GEORGE H. B. TURNER, Publisher JOHN H. TURNER, Editor Saturday, January 8, 1916.

GROTON

Rev. Endicott Peabody was among those having table parties for the supper dance at the Homestead, Virginia...

Albert P. Warren left last week Friday, going to take the ten-weeks' course at Amherst Agricultural college.

The Alliance meets with Miss Boutwell on Thursday afternoon, January 13, at 2.30 o'clock.

The village improvement section of the Woman's club meets on Monday afternoon, January 10, at 3.30 o'clock with Mrs. F. W. Woods. This is the annual meeting.

The meeting at Mrs. Shaw's on Monday afternoon for soldiers' relief work was attended by only thirteen. Probably the storm prevented a larger attendance...

Lewis H. Sheedy is starting in the grain business here this week.

A number of children in town have been ill, thought to have symptoms of the new disease known as influenza, which has caused considerable alarm.

Among the premiums awarded this week at the meeting of the State Board of Agriculture at Horticultural hall, Boston, were the following on plate exhibits to George S. Knapp...

Groton School will reopen on Tuesday.

Mrs. Needham closed her house on Thursday and is at the Groton Inn for the winter.

The body of little Helen Hope Lounsbury was brought from Swampscott for burial in Groton cemetery on Thursday. She was the only child of Ralph and Helen Lounsbury, and was 2 years and 6 months old.

Mrs. Needham closed her house on Thursday and is at the Groton Inn for the winter.

The officers of the Middlesex Rebeccah lodge were installed by Mrs. Susan W. Dorr and suite of Peppercorn on Tuesday evening.

The little boy of S. W. Sturgis, whom report has had attacked with acidosis, really had a sharp attack of influenza, with intestinal indigestion, and is recovering.

"The lonesome pine" of Mt. Lebanon, Peppercorn, which went down in the storm and furious gale of Sunday, December 26, is missed by the people. The whole pine was cut away, leaving a stump in the ground...

A workman for J. F. Culver, whose name has not been learned, suffered a shock a few days ago and was taken to the Groton hospital.

The Oddfellows' hall building association give a play "The woman who" in the hall next week Thursday and Friday evenings, January 13 and 14. Tickets on sale and exchanged after nine o'clock at Bruce's Monday, January 10. All seats reserved.

The next meeting of the Groton Woman's club will be next week Friday afternoon. This is Federation day. Mrs. J. Harry Poole of Brockton will be present and address the meeting. Music and tea.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Balcom were over from Harvard to attend the E. S. Clark post and W. R. C. installation on Tuesday.

Thomas Gilson took his part in the installation exercises Tuesday. This is the first time he has been out to any public function since his fall.

Richard Lawrence, son of Mrs. James Lawrence, has been chosen by Gov. McCall to be a member of his staff with the rank of captain.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Torrey of Concord, members of the post and corps respectively, were missed by the other members on Tuesday. They were both ill with an attack of grippe.

Grant W. Shattuck, whose health has lately been improving, left by steamer, sailing from New York Wednesday for a voyage first to New Orleans, thence to Panama and then to Jamaica. The whole trip covering a month. He was accompanied by his brother, Dr. Albert M. Shattuck of Worcester.

Born Tuesday morning, January 4, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Willard Tolles. Hazel Randall is a patient at the Groton hospital recovering from an operation for appendicitis.

Mrs. C. L. Wood came up this week for a visit with her mother, Mrs. Moseley Gilson, and was joined by her husband on Thursday, both returning to their home in Wolvryn on Friday.

Robert Lloyd Smith, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Smith of North Groton, died Tuesday night, January 4, at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Maitland A. Johnson of Chicopee row. The little child would have been two years old.

On January 12. He had been staying with his grandparents, because they wanted him and was a great comfort to them. He seemed taken only a little ill on Monday, January 3, but grew no better and a physician was called, who found he was suffering from influenza complicated with intestinal indigestion, resulting in convulsions. He died the next night.

The funeral was held on Thursday, Rev. G. M. Howe officiating. The little casket was surrounded with beautiful flowers from relatives and neighbors and from the Grange. The interment was in Groton cemetery. There are other children in Mr. Smith's family who will miss this baby brother. Mrs. Agnes Johnson Evans and the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Smith, are among those who are saddened by the baby's sudden death.

Roll Call.

The annual dinner, roll call and business meeting of the Congregational church was held on Wednesday, January 5. The meeting was most harmonious and in every way enjoyable with an attendance of fully seventy. This was a very good attendance considering the weather and the fact that other more serious illness and necessary duties which enforced the absence of many members.

After short social recess came the business meeting. The reports printed in pamphlet had been distributed among the members. The officers elected were the same, with the exception that George S. Knapp was elected trustee in place of H. G. Gay, whose term of office expired and who did not wish to serve again.

Baptist Church.

The subject of the Sunday morning sermon will be "The sentinels of the soul." The subject of the evening praise service will be "A full priced religion." The subject for the prayer meeting on Wednesday evening will be "Enthusiasm."

The regular Fireside gathering for the boys was held on Monday evening with fourteen boys present. Musical riches were worked out and games were played, after which stories were told. During the evening starlight sparklers illuminated the room. The evening closed with a heart-to-heart talk by Mr. Tucker on the subject "The kidnapped boy." The subject for the next gathering will be "The best boy in Groton, who is he?" Arrangements were made to send greetings to the members of Camp Idlewild, who live in Malden.

The regular meeting of the Girls' club was held at the parlance on Tuesday afternoon. Games were played and a general social time was enjoyed.

The annual business meeting and roll call was held on Wednesday, a full account of which will be given next week.

Death.

Walter James Culver, born in Groton on September 29, 1877, the eldest in the family, died at his parents' home early Sunday morning, January 2. In February of last year he passed through an illness of pneumonia, but did not recover. He was a very successful farmer and was very generous in his giving time he came from his own home to Groton, as it was hoped the change might prove beneficial. His illness began on Sunday, and he died unexpectedly in his relatives, who thought he would linger longer. The cause of death was phthisis pulmonaris.

Funeral services were held at the parental home on Tuesday forenoon at ten o'clock. Rev. Williston M. Ford, of St. Andrew's Episcopal church in Ayer, officiating. There were beautiful floral tributes. The interment was in Bedford.

Besides his parents he is survived by his widow, Mrs. Lillian E. Culver, and their one child, also, three brothers and one sister.

Joint Installation.

The E. S. Clark post and W. R. C. had largely attended and in every way a successful joint installation on Tuesday afternoon, G. G. Tarbell, of Peppercorn, being the efficient installing officer for the post. Accompanying him was a number of ladies, including Mrs. Anna Shattuck, of Peppercorn, who was the very able installing officer for the W. R. C. taking the place of the expected officer, Mrs. Nina Lovejoy, of Ayer, who was hindered from coming by illness in her family. Mrs. Williston M. Ford, was a most pleasing and able conductor of the ceremony.

After the installing exercises were over five-minute talks by different ones were greatly enjoyed. All joined in singing and in the evening the place of the Masonic installation and banquet of the Caleb Butler lodge, Ayer, on Monday evening, G. H. Bixby retired as treasurer of the lodge after eleven years of service.

The Ladies' Aid society will hold its annual business meeting on Thursday afternoon, January 13, with Mrs. H. Spaulding.

At the regular meeting of Squannacook lodge, L. O. O. F. M. U. on Thursday evening, C. R. Dudley was initiated into the order. Installation of officers was deferred, owing to the enforced absence of the deputy, A. F. Bates. An oyster supper was served by a special committee. The following are officers-elect: G. W. Wheaton, master; John Robinson, n. e. c.; Fred Reid, E. K. Harrington, ect. minor officers will be filled later.

Permanent officers are H. Spaulding, Jr., sec., and F. E. Harrington, warden.

Electric lights are being installed in the home of Patrick Kane by J. M. Wallace, of Ayer.

Roll Call Supper.

The roll call supper of the Christian Union church, held on Wednesday evening in charge of the L. A. society, Mrs. F. E. Harrington, chairman, was a most enjoyable one and was enjoyed by seventy-five people. The number present at the roll call service was much smaller than usual, owing largely to illness in the village. The customary opening service, including appropriate and interesting remarks by the pastor, was followed by satisfactory and cheering reports from the various secretaries. The treasurer of the L. A. and C. U. societies, also, of the Sunday school, reported a balance on hand, while the church treasurer reported a deficit of \$95.41.

F. H. Bixby was elected moderator and the following officers were elected: G. H. Bixby, vice pres. and treas.; C. L. Roy, clerk; A. H. Thompson, col.; Messrs. Thompson, Lamb and Roy,

on private property, or else of allowing the chief timber tree of the north-east to be virtually exterminated. Some persons have expressed doubt as to the probable destructiveness of the blister rust in this country. Very few trained scientists share this doubt. Within a few weeks to have heard the opinion expressed by several of them that it is likely to become even more destructive here than in Europe. There we know that the chestnut bark disease has been introduced from America white pine impossible in many sections and very difficult in others. In this country we know that it has already completely killed trees eight to ten feet in height. Furthermore, the position of this pest in the United States is analogous to the chestnut bark disease or blight. Normally it is a parasite on the European tree known as Pinus Cembra, which has developed a high degree of resistance to its attacks. Just as the Chinese and Japanese chestnuts have developed a high degree of resistance to the chestnut bark disease. The rust became transferred to our American white pine and proved fatal to it in the same way that the chestnut became transferred to the European chestnut, with results which are well known. The only difference in the two cases lies in the fact that the chestnut bark disease was probably introduced in this country on imported foreign chestnuts, while the blister rust was introduced on imported stock of American white pine, raised in Europe from seeds which were imported by scientists expecting a disease to prove far more virulent when transplanted from its natural habitat.

In view of the above facts it is apparent that immediate and drastic action is necessary. Next summer the spores of the disease will break out on many pines and currants, and will be blown by winds to other parts of the country. The Massachusetts Forestry association is working in hearty accord with the committee. When the bill is presented public opinion should demand its passage without reduction of the amount of money or material change, since any delay in the work or handicap placed upon it may mean a blow to the forestry interests of New England, from which they will take long to recover.

William P. Wharton, Five Oaks, Groton, Dec. 29, 1915.

West Groton.

Mrs. Charles Webber, of Ayer, was a recent guest at G. S. Knapp's.

Miss Carrie Cox, of Mattapan, has visited Mrs. W. P. Lane this week.

Farley Kibourn, of Idaho, coming on Thursday, is visiting his aunt, Mrs. H. Spaulding.

Scarlet fever has been reported at the home of C. R. Dudley, and later at E. P. Steeper's. The latter report has not been verified.

Little Francis Hallett has been in a physician's care with a very severe cold which for a few days threatened more serious trouble.

Born on Christmas eve, a son to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bixby and his wife, Joseph Church Cottrell passed away on Sunday evening, aged seven days. The little one seemed very strong and a perfectly normal baby in every way, with the exception of a slight emaciation and a rapid breathing, noticeable from the first. These troubles increased until the end. A simple private funeral service was held on Tuesday afternoon at the home of the parents. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Cottrell by their many friends.

Henry O'Connell, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Charles O'Connell of Mill street, died on Sunday evening, January 2, at the age of twenty-six years. The young man had been ill with tuberculosis of the lungs and gradually failing for many months. Funeral services were held at the Sacred Heart church in Groton on Tuesday morning. Interment was in St. Mary's cemetery, Ayer. Mr. and Mrs. O'Connell have lived here but a few years, but they have been very successful in their business and have the sympathy of the community in the loss of their only son.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford E. Bixby, the Misses Beatrice and Grace Bixby and Miss Esther Jarrett attended a banquet at the Hotel Thorndike in Groton on last Saturday evening. The guests of Fairview House, York Beach, have formed an association which meets annually. Names were given for the officers-elect. When they met on Saturday evening and greatly enjoyed the banquet and social hours that followed. Mr. Bixby was master of ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Bixby and Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Dudley, with Mrs. M. Trowbridge, as guests, attended the Masonic installation and banquet of the Caleb Butler lodge, Ayer, on Monday evening. G. H. Bixby retired as treasurer of the lodge after eleven years of service.

The Ladies' Aid society will hold its annual business meeting on Thursday afternoon, January 13, with Mrs. H. Spaulding.

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F. H. Bixby was elected moderator and the following officers were elected: G. H. Bixby, vice pres. and treas.; C. L. Roy, clerk; A. H. Thompson, col.; Messrs. Thompson, Lamb and Roy,

assessors; Messrs. Lamb, E. K. Harrington and Bixby, trustees; Mrs. J. P. Trowbridge, Sunday school supt. It was voted to use duplex envelopes in raising money for church expenses and missionary offerings.

Addressed those present, urging an even greater enthusiasm in church work a more generous giving that the church might be well supported in the new year. The speaker mentioned the fact that \$130,000 is scattered annually, in a prosperous time, among the people of West Groton. The speaker urged that the church should be well supported in the new year. He then urged that the deficit be wiped out "here and now," and in about three minutes it was done, the few present giving or pledging \$95.41, the needed amount. It was then voted to raise the pastor's salary \$100.

C. R. Dudley expressed appreciation of the work accomplished by the L. A. society and suggested that the men of their hand at a supper, to be given at the home of A. W. Adams, C. R. Dudley and George Lee Bixby.

All auxiliary societies were reported in a prosperous condition. The Sunday school has 103 members; the cradle roll 28 members from 21 families; Mrs. C. R. Dudley, shepherdess. Thirty-five responses were given in answer to the fifty names called by the church clerk, Mrs. M. E. Williams. Many of these were given by friends of absent members.

C. E. S. Reports from the C. E. society will hereafter be given under the heading of "Church Notes." The first meeting of the new year was very interesting and enthusiastic, about twenty-five being present in spite of bad weather and the enforced absence of several members on account of fever. A short installation service preceded the regular prayer meeting. The following officers were installed: Lee Bixby, pres.; Mian Seward, warden; Mrs. Doothy Thompson, sec.; Mrs. Florence Briggs, treas.; Miss Ruth Bixby, organist.

The new bulletin board was hung for the first time. It was well liked with it and felt that it filled a special need.

The society is engaged this year in an efficiency campaign, and although the percentage is rather low, it hopes to be very nearly 100 percent society before 1917.

The subject for Sunday evening is "Joy in the church." Leader, Lee Bixby. It will be an interesting and helpful meeting and it is hoped all will try to come, whether members or not.

The regular monthly business meeting was held on Friday evening, January 7, at the home of Miss Marian Mellich.

Center.

During the past year the circulation of books from the public library was 15,272, 1608 volumes were distributed through the delivery system in West Townsend, and 1461 at the Harbor delivery.

Mrs. Frank M. Warren attended the first of the week the local wedding of E. P. Steeper's daughter, in Ayer, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar P. Brooks.

The annual meeting of the Congregational Parish society will be held on Saturday afternoon at two o'clock in the church vestries.

Notwithstanding the slippery traveling conditions and the lack of prayer union services have been good and the various sermons by the local pastors on "Holiness," "Christianity," "Fruit bearing," and "Blessings" on "The Christian's life" and "The Christian's duty" for all at the beginning of the new year. The new upright piano presented by the Dorcas class of the Methodist church was used for the first time at the Wednesday evening meeting.

At the annual business meeting of the Squannacook steamship company, held Tuesday evening, the following officers were elected: Wm. W. French, capt. and steward; Joseph W. French, 1st lieut.; Edward E. Temple, 2d lieut.; John W. Livingston, clerk; George L. Eastman, treas.

It is read another item that the ladies of Townsend hill are deriving much knowledge and benefit from the study of "What one woman did."

Now it comes to our notice what one hen has done for the world. When a large white hen was hatched out one chicken on new year's day, "the first chicken of the new year."

Mrs. Hen has evidently caught the festive spirit, and has been in Townsend hill by beginning her spring work early.

On Monday evening, January 24, the installation of the new officers of the Ladies' Aid society will take place when Mrs. Margaret L. Sargent of Lowell, will be the installing officer, assisted by Mrs. Hattie E. Misner of the local Grange.

Birthday Club.

A very enjoyable meeting of the Birthday club was held in the vestries of the Congregational church Thursday afternoon. The business meeting the following officers were elected for the new year: Mrs. Annie N. Greenleaf, pres.; Mrs. Fannie Meade, n. e. c.; Mrs. Lilla Seaver, sec. and treas.; Mrs. M. L. L. Seaver, warden; Mrs. Brackett; Mrs. Gertrude Hodgman, ex. com.

After the business meeting the following pleasing program was given: Violin solo, Mrs. Gertrude Wilson; Mrs. Gertrude Hodgman, piano accompanist; song, Esther Bagley; piano duo, Mrs. Edith Tenney and Mrs. Hodgman; reading, "For the Love of Mary Ellen," Miss Alice Seaver; violin selection, Miss Wilson; piano duo, Mrs. Tenney and Mrs. Hodgman. Following the musical and literary program members had a jolly time engaging in contests and stunts. The first was a ribbon cutting contest, won by Mrs. Mary Spring; the second, a candlelight race, won by Miss Edith Tenney; the third, a clothing contest, the prize being awarded Mrs. Emma Lancy for handing articles, single-handed, on the line the quickest; in the hammer and nail contest, Mrs. Angie Lang won the prize; threading the needle and button sewing stunt, Miss Helen Higgins and Mrs. Fannie Meade proved the winners, Miss Higgins being the victor. For the love of Mary Ellen, Miss Alice Seaver, violin selection, Miss Wilson; piano duo, Mrs. Tenney and Mrs. Hodgman. Following the musical and literary program members had a jolly time engaging in contests and stunts. The first was a ribbon cutting contest, won by Mrs. Mary Spring; the second, a candlelight race, won by Miss Edith Tenney; the third, a clothing contest, the prize being awarded Mrs. Emma Lancy for handing articles, single-handed, on the line the quickest; in the hammer and nail contest, Mrs. Angie Lang won the prize; threading the needle and button sewing stunt, Miss Helen Higgins and Mrs. Fannie Meade proved the winners, Miss Higgins being the victor. For the love of Mary Ellen, Miss Alice Seaver, violin selection, Miss Wilson; piano duo, Mrs. Tenney and Mrs. Hodgman.

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esses of the afternoon were Mrs. Alice Marshall, Mrs. Mary Sherrin, Mrs. Hattie Spaulding and Mrs. Gertrude Hodgman. Upon the arrival of the guests the Misses Marshall presented with new year greeting cards for souvenirs of the occasion.

Joint Installation.

Phoebe Weston Farmer tent, D. of S. and Anson D. Fessenden county, S. of V. held a joint installation Tuesday evening. A hot oyster supper was served after the installation.

The officers of the Daughters of Veterans were installed by Mrs. Grant M. P. Brock, assisted by Miss Gates, of Leominster, as follows: Mrs. Pearl Woods, pres.; Mrs. Clara Watkins, s. v. p.; Miss Evelyn Sanders, j. v. p.; Mrs. Ellen Richards, chap.; Mrs. Elnora Smith, treas.; Mrs. Mary Taylor, 1st. inst.; Mrs. Flora Atwood, guard; Mrs. Alice Bowley, asst. guard; Mrs. Hattie Spaulding, asst. chap.; Mrs. Lillian Wilson, guide; Mrs. Hattie Cook, Mrs. Lillian Floyd, Mrs. Margaret Wilson, trustees; Mrs. Hattie O'Brien, Mrs. Roma Lavoire, Mrs. Hattie Spaulding, each Annie Love, color bearers.







ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

This Paper is Sold by W. A. Drummey, East Pepperell Kate E. Hazen, Shirley H. P. Talner, Gretchen Conant & Co., Littleton Common Co. W. Hilldrith, Townsend L. Sherwin & Co., Ayer

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Saturday, January 8, 1916.

PEPPERELL

News Items.

The annual reception to those at the town farm is postponed until Tuesday, January 11, by the committee of the W. R. C. E. U.

The Piquet Camp fire circle held a ceremonial meeting at their room on Friday evening of last week. The object of the meeting was also the making and sending out of new year cards to other circles and individuals.

The annual election of officers of Beacon lodge, I. O. O. F., was held on Thursday last week. The officers elected are as follows: Jonas E. Andrews, n. g.; William Reed, v. g.; L. A. Johnson, fin. sec.; L. G. Robbins, treas.; Elmer Mason, trustee; Donald E. Johnson, A. L. G. Robbins, representatives to grand lodge.

The installation of the newly-elected officers will probably take place on Thursday, January 13. Miss Edith Hatherly came from Fitchburg Friday to spend the weekend and Sunday in town.

Miss Harriet Dow has been spending the holiday vacation with her mother at the Pierce homestead, coming on Monday afternoon. She went to Westfield last week when the sad news came of the death of her sister's husband, George H. Cushing.

Mrs. Joseph Graham returned last week from a holiday visit with her daughter in Derry, N. H. While assisting at a Christmas tree for her little grandson she was taken acutely ill with pain in the stomach and distress and nausea.

The Fitchburg Normal school students returned to their studies Monday as every room in the building has been fumigated and the danger of diphtheria is past.

The meeting of the Nissittissit Bird club was necessarily postponed from Wednesday afternoon, January 6, to Friday afternoon, January 7.

The regular meeting of the Boy Scouts will be held Wednesday evening at 7.30. A large attendance of the members is requested as certain plans for work are to be laid before them.

George G. Tarbell, commander of Thomas Parker post, G. A. R., went to Groton Tuesday to install the officers of the G. A. R. post and of the W. R. C. The ceremony took place in the new Oddfellows hall.

Principal D. L. Whitmarsh of the high school spent part of the holiday vacation at his old home at Stratford Hill, Hillsdale, N. H.

Miss Anna Boynton returned to her home in New York last Saturday, and Miss Bayetta on Monday, after the holiday vacation.

George G. Tarbell is attending Bryant & Stratton's Commercial college in Boston.

Miss Anna Boynton returned to her home in New York last Saturday, and Miss Bayetta on Monday, after the holiday vacation.

Miss Emma Spaulding, of Hollis, N. H., is staying with Mrs. C. M. Pierce, Elm street, for awhile.

William Breen returned to Ithaca, N. Y., on Thursday, to resume his studies at Cornell university after a short holiday vacation in town.

Miss Ethel Wells returned to Peabody to resume her duties as teacher after a two-weeks' vacation.

Carl and Robert Downes are to take up their studies at Worcester academy this week.

A little daughter, the sixth child, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Beecher Cotton on Saturday, January 1.

One of the linemen, Joseph Gates, at work for the Shirley Electric Company, had a bad fall from a pole on Townsend street last Saturday by the breaking of a strap.

Prescott Grange held its regular meeting on last week Friday evening. Report of the State Grange meeting held in Springfield was given by the master, Walter Shattuck.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Parker, of Milford, N. H., were guests over Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Tarbell.

At the installation of the officers of Harvard Grange on Tuesday A. H. Wheelock, a former pastor in this town, as chaplain of the State Grange, assisted in the work.

A large asbestos booth was brought from Fitchburg last week Friday to be used by E. A. Johnson in his moving pictures at Lawrence hall.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Aid society occurred on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Elmer West, West street, on Monday.

Charles D. Robinson, who has been a holiday guest with his relatives at Bakersfield, left this week for his home in Newport, R. I., stopping in Wakefield for a short visit.

Mrs. Thomas Graham is reported as slightly improved from her critical illness of last week. A trained nurse is attending to her, and a special car from Nashua was called for a slight operation to relieve the condition of the ear and head.

The meeting of the Nissittissit Bird club was necessarily postponed from Wednesday afternoon, January 6, to Friday afternoon, January 7.

The East Village Social club will meet at the home of Mrs. Albert P. Parker, Brookline street, on Wednesday afternoon, January 12, at 7.30.

On Thursday evening George G. Tarbell, with other members of the post, went to Ayer to install the officers of the G. A. R. post and of the W. R. C. He was assisted in the work of the last by Mrs. Mary Shattuck, of Fitchburg.

Frederic Tarbell is attending Bryant & Stratton's Commercial college in Boston.

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band have been having a pronounced attack of the gripple, confining them to the house.

The town has received in the last week checks amounting to \$15,140 in settlement of the 1911 taxes and also for municipal electric lighting.

The committee of the W. C. T. U. who have been arranging the annual holiday remembrance of those at the town farm, have postponed the date until Tuesday, January 11.

Miss Marguerite Drury returned to the home of her uncle, Walter Drury, from her home in Piermont, N. H., this week, to resume her studies at our high school.

Fletcher Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Walter Smith, who has been at home during the holidays, returned to Harvard to resume his studies this week.

At a meeting of Thomas Parker post, G. A. R., held at Odd Fellows hall on Tuesday evening, the following officers were installed by H. C. Thurston, past commander, for the ensuing year: W. R. C. E. U. com. Henry P. Humes, s. v. c.; Russell C. Plummer, j. v. c.; C. G. Willey, surg.; Henry C. Thurston, com. C. G. Willey, v. c.; George L. Lakin, officer of the guard; M. Luther Boynton, adjt.

Negotiations are being made between B. A. Keith and parties in New York for the sale of his place on Oak hill. If they are completed, he will arrange to give them possession in the spring. The parties are relatives of Mrs. Ivan Parker, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Brown, who are purchasing for a summer home.

Mrs. Amos Mahoney and two children returned from Middleboro Wednesday, where they had been visiting since Christmas. Frank Mahoney and wife returned from the same place on Thursday.

Louis Parker met with quite an accident last week while working in the woodlot near the Pepperell Springs. Several trees were blown over during the Sunday gale and had lodged. One of these came down, cutting down a working man and pinned him down, injuring his back and leg.

At the meeting of the Men's club of the First Parish, held on Tuesday evening in the parlors of the church, E. S. Forbes, of Boston, delivered a most comprehensive and forcible talk on "Village improvements." If some of his ideas might be thought too different for achievement in an ordinary country village, that might be the fault of the listeners who had never attempted the plans. There was a very fair attendance, and a few ladies present, as it was an open house, and social time with the usual refreshments followed the address.

A merry company danced the "Old year out and the new year in" at Prescott hall Friday, December 31, the occasion being the dance held in honor of the anniversary of the Military band. There were just about present to make dancing agreeable and many spectators. The concert program rendered from eight to nine o'clock was of a social nature. The selections rendered were the march, "The emblem," overture, "Star of the sea," valse, "June," overture, "A hunt in the Ardennes," march, "The eagle's song," and "The march of the legion." Mr. Barrows, leader and instructor of the Shirley Industrial School band, Fred F. Robbins of Fitchburg and Fred E. Brown of Dunstable came to assist in the band, also on the evening.

At midnight, although no special plan had been made, there was a little dancing in the hall, and one took the occasion to be the first to wish another a "Happy new year." The dancing then continued until about one o'clock.

George H. Cushing, whose sudden death occurred at Westfield on December 29, was buried in the cemetery through his marriage with Miss Lucy Dow two years ago, December 31, and their visits at the Pierce homestead, his death being pneumonia, being ill only from Tuesday to Saturday.

Mr. Cushing was a native of Worcester, having been born there in 1850. He was graduated from the high school in Westfield, and attended Tech in 1884. A young man he held a responsible position at Seneca Falls, N. Y., and Montreal. He has been superintendent of the H. H. Smith Co., Westfield, for nearly ten years.

Mr. Cushing was president of the Y. M. C. A., a trustee of the Methodist church, a past master of Mr. Moriah Lodge, Masons, vice-president of the Aged People's Home, a director of the public library, a member of Mt. Tekoa Camp, Knights of Malta, and of the Woodmen of the World, in Worcester. He is survived by a wife, above referred to, and a son and daughter, Philip and Ruth Cushing, by a former marriage.

Services were held from his late home, 29 Broad street, Westfield, on Monday, January 3.

A fire, which destroyed two business blocks belonging to A. A. Tarbell and which threatened his residence on Main street, broke out about two o'clock Sunday morning. The fire originated in the fruit store of John Bartholomew and his brother-in-law, Charles Swasey, whose variety store is next door, had been left unattended late in the evening and was sleeping there the remainder of the night, as was his custom. He was awakened by an explosion, as of an oil stove, and the flames soon appeared in the next store when he reached the door. His shoes reached the gatekeeper at the Boston and Maine crossing, Mr. Hackett, who rung in an alarm. Three alarms were sounded, but the fire was not extinguished until about 2 1/2 hours, calling out every available fireman and many volunteers and citizens.

The small building was doomed from the first, as a mass of flames broke the alarm stopped. The heat broke the glass in the next building and it was soon on fire in a dozen places. The second story over Mr. Swasey's store was occupied by the two front rooms by the Pepperell band. The M. K. club had their furniture destroyed and the larger instruments of the band were also destroyed, being partially insured.

The firemen put in a hard hours' fight in this block, being successful only in saving the outer walls and thus preventing the fire from spreading and destroying the residence of A. A. Tarbell, which it was feared at

one time would go, standing within a few feet as it does.

The street block of Mr. Swasey is practically ruined as it consisted of china and other articles which the water would finish if they escaped the flames.

John Bartz, who occupied the basement of this block for his plumbing tools, claims quite a loss of tools and material, either spoiled or buried up, or taken away by some parties, as the street block was so badly damaged that afterward to whom the articles might have belonged.

Mr. Swasey values his stock at \$25,000, being insured only \$1,000. Mr. Tarbell's loss covered by insurance. The fruit men had a \$2,000 insurance on their stock.

It is doubtful if Mr. Tarbell rebuilds the small block, which was so badly demolished. The larger block, the walls of which, and the lower floor, were saved, may be rebuilt, although not at present.

The street lights came on immediately following the alarm, but went out inside of ten minutes, as the wires were broken. The telephone cable was put out of commission in a very few moments. Both were repaired before Sunday night.

Constable A. A. Lawrence rendered good assistance, securing coffee from Thurston, past commander, for the ensuing year. The officers of the post are: Henry P. Humes, s. v. c.; Russell C. Plummer, j. v. c.; C. G. Willey, surg.; Henry C. Thurston, com. C. G. Willey, v. c.; George L. Lakin, officer of the guard; M. Luther Boynton, adjt.

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her Lawrence, who formerly resided here, but is now located in that city.

When homeward bound they ran into a sandstorm just beyond Yuma, Arizona, with a decided drop in the temperature. Mr. Miller is still suffering from his investigation as to why a sandstorm might be like this. The choking dust of the sandstorm fall in a superstitious manner like a cold, giving him a hoarseness and bronchial trouble which kept him in the house for several days following his return.

At El Paso, Texas, they also encountered a snowstorm in progress. They took a short excursion down into Mexico, passing Friday, January 7, and returned to their hotel in El Paso. They took the Southern Pacific route home, coming to Kansas City, and from there to St. Louis, Chicago and Buffalo, then to Ayer and home, having enjoyed many of the most interesting incidents and full of wonderful scenes. They left town on November 11, making a stay of seven weeks.

The Center Bird club of the Junior Audubon class has been divided for the winter months. The first division consists of eight members, with Mrs. Addison Woodward as leader. The second division are the older girls to meet with Miss Merrill and the younger children comprise the third division with Miss Merrill as teacher. The meetings will be held on the second Monday afternoon of each month at four o'clock, the next one to be on January 10, No. 1 at Mrs. Woodward's, No. 2 at Miss Merrill's and No. 3 at the Townsend Street Schoolhouse. It is asked that all the finished leaflets be returned at the next meeting.

The Equal Suffrage met with Mrs. M. J. Lovejoy, president, presiding. Mrs. Lovejoy, the president, presided. The annual meeting will be February 3.

The L. S. C. Alliance Branch of the First Parish will hold its monthly all-day meeting on Friday, January 14, at 10.30 o'clock in the ladies' room of the church. The history of the National Alliance will be read during the morning session. Box lunch at 12.30. Business meeting at two o'clock.

On Friday afternoon, January 11, from 2.30 to 5 o'clock, the Cheerful Letter class will hold a candy sale in the ladies' room of the church. The purpose of the public is solicited to raise money for postage on reading matter sent to shut-ins and remote people.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Farley announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessie M. to the Rev. Mr. J. H. Johnson, New York, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Tarbell, of this town.

HARVARD

Dadman & Maynard are putting on some novelties in the way of pictures at their Saturday evening shows. Last Saturday Mr. Dadman gave a very interesting and instructive pool showing, what the savings bank life insurance is doing for the people. This week he has another industrial reel of special interest, the "armies"—D. Whiting & Son's milk system.

Miss Alice Cleaves is teaching in the first primary school for the present.

Mr. H. B. Royal and Miss Catherine Russell are both sick with the gripple. The doctor has a trained nurse caring for them.

Allen Hathaway returned to town Tuesday last, after a two weeks' vacation with relatives in Maine.

Henry F. Morse of Allstead, N. H., is with his son, E. Morse, and family here for a few days.

E. F. Corey returned this week after spending two weeks with the folks at Portland, Me.

H. W. Charles, R. Johnson of the State Board of Charity and Mr. Hardywell, state supervisor of the poor, were the speakers at the open meeting of the Epworth league held in the town hall last Monday evening.

Mr. Hardywell talked about the housing of the poor. He thoroughly believes that each citizen should care for his poor in his own infirmary or town farm. He called attention to the fact that the great expense to which the town is put, caring for our poor is not caused by the actual support of the inmates themselves, but by the cost of running the big farm and house.

It was suggested that it might be wise to sell the big place and buy a small house with two or three acres of land, installing a mattress and warden as well as a few other things. The garden would be left free to work out for any money needed. A portion of the present farm might be reserved for this purpose.

Mr. Hardywell is an expert in his business and is familiar with the houses and conditions in every town in the state. He spoke very highly of our substantial town farm house and said it is the best built one in the state.

The next club meeting occurs January 17. Lester W. Feezer of the State Board of Health will give an illustrated talk on "School hygiene," at two o'clock in the Congregational church auditorium. This meeting is open to parents of school children.

Stull River. Berry Sherman, who has lived in the little house at the cranberry bog, about half a mile from Still River railroad station, on the Lancaster side of the river, has disappeared. He lived alone and cared for a lot of hens and was last seen on December 24. Neighbors noticed his absence and his brother in Lowell was notified and came last week Friday, but no trace of him could be found and as yet no trace of him.

their duties: Warren H. Harrod at Worcester, Grace Farnsworth in Malden, Edith Farnsworth in Springfield, Ruth Willard in Lunenburg and Ethelyn Russell in Vermont.

Albert Harrod, of Pepperell, visited his mother, Mrs. Hannah D. Harrod, Tuesday.

WESTFORD

Gertrude Comey is attending Burdett Commercial college, Boston.

Frederic Davis has been confined to his home this week by illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Tindall and son Harold are now in their new home in Hudson, where Mr. Tindall has accepted a position as overseer of spinning in the mills of Abbot & Co.

The Ladies' Sewing circle held their regular meeting in Recreation hall on Thursday afternoon.

The Young People's Social club of Westford has had a most interesting meeting in Recreation hall on Thursday evening.

An increase of wages, the amount to be given out later, has been given the employees of Abbot & Co., the increase commencing Monday, January 3.

Miss Florence White was the guest of Miss Eleanor McLeod over the holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Weaver of Pond street entertained Mrs. M. A. DeLoach and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tyler and daughter, all of Worcester, over the holidays.

Among the holiday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Penimore Morton were Lawrence Taylor of Westford, Mrs. S. W. Brooks, George and John Taylor of Norwood, Mrs. Sarah Morton French of Nashua, N. H., and Mrs. Mary Morin of Westford.

Mrs. Carrie Morton of Bridgeport, Conn., is the guest of relatives here.

Miss Priscilla Bennett was entertained by her sister, Mrs. August Meyers, of Dorchester.

Among the many pleasant gatherings held on New Year's night was that of the Epworth League, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Baker in honor of their nephew, William Davis, of Amsterdam, N. Y., who is spending his holidays at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Davis. The evening was spent in music and a delightful program being given.

The piano duet was played by Misses Gladys and John Baker, drums, Misses Lillian Baker, John Baker, drums. The piano duet was played by Misses Gladys and John Baker, drums, and William Baker and John and James McMurray. Dainty refreshments were distributed during the evening by Mrs. Baker, assisted by Mrs. John Edwards.

A merry gathering was held on New Year's night at the home of Mrs. M. A. Lowther and twenty-one friends of former years were very enjoyably entertained.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Mountain of Westford road entertained Miss Bertha Mountain of Lowell on New Year's day.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McDonald were the guests of relatives in Tyngsboro on Sunday.

John Hobson of New Bedford has returned to that place after a most enjoyable visit at the home of his parents over the holidays.

Hazel Co.'s store was broken into on last Saturday night, when they attempted to break in. The occupants of the tenement over the store were awakened by the noise of breaking glass and an investigation found that the intruder had become frightened and escaped.

A sleigh ride party, which proved most enjoyable, was held on last Saturday evening by some of the village residents from Westford. The party, which numbered twenty young people, who had as their guests, was driven by John Cornell in his large sleigh and left here at six o'clock for Pepperell, where they attended the theatre. After the performance the merry party enjoyed supper and arrived home at midnight.

BOXBOROUGH

Clement, son of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Richardson, was badly burned on one side of his face and arm last week by accidentally upsetting some ground coffee. He was summoned as quickly as possible and taken to fellow bore his suffering with great courage.

John Cobbleigh and Simon Hazer are the two jurors from this town who heard the term last Monday.

Miss Mabel Wetherbee is substituting at No. 1 school this week for Miss Hazel Morse, who has had a severe attack of the gripple.

Miss Annie Sherry is teaching in Charlton.

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For the Children

F. C. Bradman, Jr., Youngest United States Marine.



Although his parents didn't raise him to be a soldier, Frederic C. Bradman, Jr., of Mare Island, Cal., aged seven years, has twice formally enlisted in the United States marine corps and is a corporal in his second "hitch," to use the sea soldier vernacular.

Corporal Bradman wears a service stripe and a good conduct medal as a reward for excellent service during his first enlistment and also sports a sharpshooter's badge that was won by proxy. The youngest marine has had two years' foreign service in Cuba, which will count as four years toward the thirty years necessary for retirement. And Corporal Bradman says he will re-enlist until he shall have served thirty years.

Major Frederic L. Bradman, U. S. M. C. father of the boy, is proud of the fact that the regularly enlisted marines have accepted his son as a comrade and obey his orders as corporal.

"French Roll." A good many children can play in this game. One player is called the buyer. The rest form a line in front of him and take hold of each other. The first in the line is called the baker, the last the French roll. Those between are supposed to be in the oven.

When they are in place the buyer says to the baker, "Give me my French roll." The baker replies, "It's at the back of the oven." The buyer goes to fetch it, when the French roll begins running from the back of the oven and comes up to the baker, calling all the while, "Who runs? Who runs?"

The buyer must run after him, but the French roll gets first to the top of the line he becomes baker, and the last in the line is French roll. If, however, the buyer catches the French roll the French roll becomes buyer, and the buyer takes the place of the baker.

An Alphabet Game. The best place to play this game is at the table. Somebody begins by saying, "I had for dinner an apple," the next person says, "I had for dinner an apple and a beet," the third declares he had for dinner an apple, a beet and some celery. Each player contributes the name of something to eat beginning with the next letter of the alphabet in order, and he must repeat everything that has been mentioned up to that point in the game. By the time the company has reached "Z" there are, of course, twenty-six names to remember, and it is quite likely that most of the players will have missed and have fallen out of the game.

A New Year's Jumble. The words have been jumbled to form other words. For example, No. 1 is New Year's day.

- 1. The next holiday after Christmas—Yes, you're right.
2. The time when Mr. New Year arrives—Dim thug.
3. An old man with a scythe—He trim fate.
4. What takes place when the new year comes—Ben gill grin.
5. The name of our century—Cute vry tenth ten.
Answer.—1, New Year's day; 2, midnight; 3, Father Time; 4, bell ringing; 5, twentieth century.

New Year's Long Ago. Way back in the days of the Romans the New Year celebration was a gala one. They decorated their houses and temples with wreaths of evergreen and presented each other with branches of trees as omens of good luck for the coming year. Also they feasted and made merry in the dance and in the masquerades, visited each other and exchanged gifts much as we now do on Christmas day.

New Year's Eve for fun. "For the New Year has begun, When it's everybody's plan To make all the noise they can. An' you take most anything—Horn to blow or bell to ring, Whirl a rattle hard an' quick, Found a dishpan with a stick. Any noisier in the street An' you join in with the crowd An' parade around the square, Makin' racket everywhere. To make all the noise they can. An' you take most anything—Happy New Year! If you do They will say, 'The same to you!'"

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