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for Twelve Full Score Years and Ten

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James N. Arnold, Editor



A Heritage Classic

when once this subject is shown the attention it deserves, the wonder will then be why so important and worthy a theme has been suffered to remain so long neglected and forgotten.

## THE VALLEY OF THE PAWTUXET.

*Its History and Development.*

By Noah J. Arnold.

**T**HE paper Mr. William B. Spencer prepared and which was published in the April ( 1888 ) number of the Register, on the " Valley of the Pawtuxet," related solely to the North-west Branch of that noble river. We now propose to write of the valleys of both branches and of the river when those branches unite and form the Pawtuxet, and the amount of business done on it and its branches. In the first place we will describe the river, both its branches and their tributaries.

The North-west Branch rises less than thirty miles in an air line from the place where it meets tide water in the village of Pawtuxet, but thirty-five miles by the travelled road or to follow the stream in its winding course. It rises in Ponagansett pond in the western part of the town of Gloucester, within two miles of the State line between Connecticut and Rhode Island. A stream rises about a mile east of this called Kelley's Brook and unites with the Ponagansett in the town of Foster. Another rises in the north-western part of Foster called Shippee's Brook and another rises near the central part of Foster called Hemlock Brook. Both of these run into the Ponagansett river, the last about on the town

line between Scituate and Foster. Another rises in the south-westerly part of Foster and runs into the Westconnaug Reservoir and unites with the Ponagansett river near Rockland in Scituate. Five other streams rise in Scituate and unites with the Ponagansett. Two streams rise in the eastern part of the town of Gloucester and run into Moswansicut pond or lake, one of the most beautiful sheets of water in the State. Two other streams rise in the south-eastern part of Gloucester and two others in the northern part of Scituate and unite with the stream running from Moswansicut pond and form the river bearing that name. The Ponagansett and Moswansicut rivers unite at South Scituate and form the North-west Branch of the Pawtuxet river which now becomes quite a large river and pursues its south course for four or five miles to Hope Factory; receiving in its course here, of some additional tributaries which I have not before mentioned. It then turns and runs easterly to Jackson factory, Fiskeville, Arkwright, Harrisville, Phenix, Lippitt, Clyde Print Works, a few rods below which it unites with the South-west Branch. In carrying the factories in these eight villages the river from Hope to Clyde village runs but about two miles, so one will suppose that these eight villages touch each other as they really do, thus making one continuous village though bearing eight different names.

Before proceeding further, I wish to do justice to one who has been dead some twenty-five years and was a former resident of Warwick. I refer to Henry Rousemaniere, who wrote a partial history of the South-west Branch of the Pawtuxet some thirty years ago and published what he wrote in the Providence Journal, from which I have gathered some of these notes. He gathered his facts at much pains and labor, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for what he did.

We will now write of the South-west Branch of the Pawtuxet, from its source to its mouth as we have of the North-west Branch; which is more especially the object of writing this article. This stream rises in the town of Foster, about one mile north of the little village of Mount Vernon near what is called Howard Hill. Another stream of about the same size rises in the southern part of Foster and unites with it in the town of Coventry, and the united streams assumes the name of Flat River. Two other small brooks rise in the central part of Coventry and empty their contents into Quidnick pond or what is now called Quidnick reservoir. A small river runs from that into Flat river about a mile east of Coventry Centre. These streams and several others make Flat river quite a large stream, which now pursues a southerly course to Washington village. Five other streams rise in the town of West Greenwich three others in Coventry and one in the town of Exeter, called Raccoon Brook. One of the five streams named above rises from Carr's Pond, a natural pond of water almost as handsome as Moswansicut pond or lake, as we have already said, is one of the handsomest sheets of water in Rhode Island. These united streams form in West Greenwich what is called Big River, which pursues a northerly course for about three miles and unites with Flat river about two miles west of Washington village and form what is called the South-west Branch of the Pawtuxet river. A large reservoir of one thousand acres was made some over thirty years ago just below the junction of these rivers by factory owners on the South-west Branch and at Natick to furnish their mills with water through the dry season. This reservoir and Tiog below and Quidnick a few miles above, have added greatly to the water power of the South-west Branch of the Pawtuxet and of the Pawtuxet after the union

of those streams, adding several thousand more looms to the factories with the accompanying machinery. Another stream rises in Mishnock pond, a small, but handsome natural pond of pure water in the north-easterly corner of West Greenwich about half a mile long by one quarter of a mile wide. This stream pursues a northerly course and unites with the South-west Branch about one mile west of the Washington village. The South-west Branch then runs easterly through Washington village, Anthony, Quidnick, Crompton, Centreville, Arctic, River Point, and a few rods below there the South-west Branch unites with the North-west Branch and these united streams form the beautiful and useful Pawtuxet, which now runs through Natick and Pontiac to tide water at Pawtuxet.

This is the famed stream that supplies the good city of Providence with water. This river and its branches covers the water shed of about one third of the land part of Rhode Island. Its tributaries rise from nine of its towns. It draws the water of nearly half of the town of Glocester, two thirds of the town of Foster, all of the towns of Scituate and Cranston, two thirds of the towns of Johnston and Coventry, more than half of the town of West Greenwich, half of the town of Warwick and a portion of the town of Exeter; comprising as before stated, about one third of the land portion of the State. Not a single tributary of it rises in Connecticut. It is therefore emphatically a Rhode Island river. This river and its branches has probably been the means of adding near one hundred thousand to the population of the State and with the noble and beautiful Blackstone, Pawcatuck and Woonasquatucket, have added to the population, wealth and enterprise of the State and made Rhode Island *what she is*; one of the *most populous* and *wealthy* States in this nation in proportion to its territory.

We will now begin at the Quidnick reservoir on the Southwest Branch and speak of each village and give something of their history and the amount of business done formerly and at present in each village on the river and its tributaries as we trace it downwards to tide water.

Quidnick reservoir is a natural pond that has been very much enlarged as a reservoir by the mill owners on the Southwest Branch. It is about twenty miles from Providence in an air line, but several miles further than that by the travelled roads or to follow the winding stream. One hundred and thirty years ago, there was a grist mill here and I believe a saw mill both in operation. It was sold in 1770, five years before the revolutionary war to Mr. Israel Wilson, with fourteen acres of land for four hundred dollars by Joseph Weaver. Wilson afterwards bought of Nathan Greene sixty-nine additional acres for one hundred dollars with two houses. He bought other land until his farm contained one hundred and twenty-three acres. He ran a grist mill and a fulling mill. In 1845, his grand-son Israel Wilson, sold the pond and the fourteen original acres to the Quidnick Reservoir Company for thirty-five hundred dollars, for what his grand-father paid seventy-five years before four hundred dollars. The reservoir covers about four hundred acres. The surface of the water is about four hundred and ninety feet above the tide water level. The length of the pond is one mile by half a mile wide. The two brooks that feed it rise from land some one hundred feet higher.

The river descends rapidly from the pond and in running one mile falls seventy feet and unites with another brook running from the south. The two run east to Coventry Centre, where there is another large reservoir overflowing what is called Maroon Swamp. The fall from Quidnick Reservoir to Coventry Centre is said to be one hundred and fifty feet.

At Coventry Centre is the "Peckham Manufacturing Company," which consists of Mr. Thomas C. Peckham at the mill and Hartwell, Richards & Co. wholesale dry goods dealers of this city. They run eleven sets of woolen machinery and manufacture about \$ 250,000, worth of woolen goods per annum. The village contains from 300 to 400 inhabitants. Sixty-five years ago, there was one small cotton factory of about 300 spindles and a population of from 60 to 70. Lowry Arnold was at this time the proprietor. A forge was in operation here over one hundred years ago which smelted bog iron dug in Maroon Swamp.

The town of Coventry was incorporated August 21, 1741. Its population at the commencement of the revolutionary war was 2300, and at present 4800. It contains 58 square miles.

Coventry Centre has been formerly known as the Central Factory, which was built in 1809. Previous to this a grist mill and a saw mill were running here. These were blown down in the great September gale of 1815. The fall here is twenty-six feet.

Benjamin Arnold was born in 1749. He was the father of Lowry, Elisha, Welcome, Thomas and Owen Arnold and great-grand-father of Hon. Warren O. Arnold, the member of Congress from the Western or Second District of this State.

Washington village, four or five miles south of Coventry Centre and fourteen miles from Providence by the travelled roads is a village of some 800 or 1000 inhabitants and did a few years ago contain six small factories, but I believe but four now and only three of these are now running. The Chase factory was burnt a few years ago. This village was formerly called "Braytontown," from Thomas Brayton, who owned what land is now covered by the village. The business that was done in it at that time was by the grist, saw

and fulling mills belonging to the Brayton's. Another fulling mill was built and run by Judge Stephen Potter, a man of much note in those times and did much in forming the good character of the village. He died Nov. 20, 1796, aged 75 years. Jonathan Brayton sold to Henry Whitman in 1797, for \$ 1100, a lot of land on which were two grist mills, one saw mill and one fulling mill, with one half of the water power at this village. The other half was owned by Judge Isaac Johnson and William F. Potter. Whitman sold the same in 1809, for \$ 500 and three acres of land with it, it being his half of the privilege, to Peleg Wilbur, Colonel George Arnold and others. The name of the concern was then called the "Washington Manufacturing Company." This gave the name to the village, which name it has since borne. The capital stock was divided into thirty-two shares. Among the share holders were Caleb Kilton and John Bissell. Mr. Bissell was a miller and a man of more than ordinary natural abilities, and for those times much of a mathematician. His opinion was much sought and his decisions were generally final. The first factory was built in 1812 and contained 1500 spindles, a large mill for those times. Col. Peleg Wilbur was chosen agent a position he held for three years and until 1815. The mill was burnt down in 1826, together with a saw mill, grist mill, a dwelling house which was a tavern and a calendering mill on the opposite side of the river. It was a great fire. The Washington Company owned twenty-four shares and John J. Kilton six shares. These thirty shares comprised the whole stock, two shares having been previously sunk. Col. Peleg Wilbur, Oliver C. Wilbur and Thomas B. Wilbur, three brothers, now constituted the Washington Company owning twenty-four shares of the original privilege. They erected a stone factory on the site of the one burnt, one hundred and twenty-five feet long

two stories in front and three stories on the river side, with a good attic room, and started it with one hundred and four looms and between 4000 and 5000 spindles.

John J. Kilton erected in 1832 a factory on the opposite side of the river, sixty by thirty-six feet, two story high and run thirty two looms and about thirteen hundred spindles. This John J. Kilton was the son of one bearing the same name, who was one of the party who went down the bay with Commodore Abraham Whipple and the celebrated John Brown and burnt the British Sloop of War Gaspee, in June 1775.

Hines & Arnold erected a machine shop about one hundred feet long and two story high, but a few rods below the Washington dam, with about six feet fall and made machinery for the factories in the valley of the Pawtuxet. They employed sixty men, which for those times was a large number. The factories and this machine shop, made the Washington one of the liveliest villages in Rhode Island. The Gazetteer of "Massachusetts Connecticut and Rhode Island," published about this time spoke of it as such. After a few years Hines & Arnold failed and their machine shop was turned into a factory. It was first owned by Russell Chace and Martin S. Whitman, but not prospering in their business, Mr. Whitman sold his half to John Greene of Centreville and a few years after the Chace family bought Greene's half and they run it themselves. The firm consisted of Russell Chace and his two sons Daniel and William Chace. They did not prosper. A few years afterwards it was sold to Mr. Tully Bowen. After his death it was sold to a Mr. Higgins and others, who run it a few years when it was burnt.

The mill on the opposite side of the river was owned by Col. Peleg Wilbur and Hon. Thomas Whipple, under the

firm of Wilbur & Whipple. This firm existed for many years. Their store and counting room was on the main street of the village and was a place of resort of the first men of the village and vicinity, and the political headquarters of the leading politicians in that section of the State.

Hon. Thomas Whipple, was elected several times one of the Senators under the Old Charter Government and the present Constitution and elected Lieutenant Governor of the State on the ticket with the Hon. Henry B. Anthony, from 1849 to 1851. He was an able man, a shrewd politician and a good statesman. A gentleman of great integrity and of noble principles. As a man of sound judgment he had few superiors in the state. He was the father of the somewhat famous Cromwell Whipple who for a few years figured so prominently in the politics of Kent County. His partner Col. Peleg Wilbur, was an able business man, a good politician, much a statesman, and a *perfect gentleman*. He represented the town of Coventry several years in the Legislature in the time of the old Republican and Federal parties. Once when, his party could choose the Speaker of the House of Representatives they offered the position to him; and he was strongly urged to take it. But he promptly declined. He was considered at the time one of the ablest legislators of that body. He was, at other times, urged to stand for Governor, and for Senator in Congress, when he could have been easily elected. But he declined both. Then the office of general of the State Militia was offered him; and he declined this honor also. He told me more than once, that he had no objection to being called Colonel, but could not endure the name of General or of Governor, saying, "the titles were too great for him." He had as nice a sense of propriety as any person I ever saw. He *abjured the use of all kinds of intoxicating liquors, and tobacco in all its forms.* And he

it spoken to the credit of Wilbur & Whipple, and most all of the leading business men in the valley of the Pawtuxet, they gave up drinking and selling of all kinds of intoxicating drinks, for the general good of the whole community.

Wilbur & Whipple sold in 1839, their factory to Joseph James, who at great expense made many improvements on it which the profits of the business would not warrant and in a few years he failed. He was a very enterprising young man and Washington village flourished during the period he owned and run this factory. He was one of the largest contributors. and principal manager in building what is called the "Knotty Oak Meeting House."

The Coventry Manufacturing Company is the next below, one mile from Washington. The Coventry Company bought their privilege of Mr. Jacob Greene, a brother of the celebrated Gen. Nathaniel Greene of the Revolutionary Army; for the sum of \$ 1500: October 14, 1805.

The stock of the Company was divided into sixteen shares. The following gentlemen composed the Company and owned the number of shares placed after their names.

James Burrell, three; Richard Jackson, John K. Pitman, William Valentine, Richard Anthony, William Anthony, Nathan Jackson, two each; Samuel Arnold, one.

Hon. James Burrell; by general consent, was classed among the first men of the State. He was chosen for seventeen years Attorney General of Rhode Island, for several years Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and afterwards Senator in Congress; a member of which, he sickened and died in the City of Washington, Dec, 25, 1820. He opposed the admission of Missouri as a slave State. It was thought at the time, that his ardent feeling in opposition to the further extension of slavery, hastened his death. There was universal sorrow all

through New England and the non slave-holding States at his death. Rhode Island has probably never sent an abler representative to Congress or one who exercised a greater influence in Washington; or one whose *virtues* and *memory* have been more *tenaciously* cherished. The Hon. Walter S. Burgess, married one of his accomplished daughters.

Hon. Richard Jackson, another of the proprietors of the Coventry Company, ably represented this State in Congress from Nov. 11, 1808, to 1815. He was President of the Washington Fire Insurance Company, from its organization to the time of his death. He was a gentleman of decided opinions, of sound judgment and at all times a reliable man. The late Governor, Hon. Charles Jackson, George Jackson, once Editor of the Providence Journal; and the Rev. Henry Jackson, D. D., were his sons. The late pious Miss. Phebe Jackson lately deceased, was his daughter.

Nathan Jackson, another owner, was a brother of Richard, and likewise a noted man. He held the office of Town Clerk of Providence for many years. Every official document that emanated from the town authorities was signed, "Nathan Jackson Town Clerk." He was an honored member of the Society of Friends.

Samuel Arnold, was an eminent merchant of Providence. He was the father of the late Hon. Samuel G. Arnold, and grand-father of Arnold Greene, Esq., of this City; a distinguished lawyer of this State.

William Valentine, another owner, was likewise an eminent merchant of Providence, and acquired a large fortune for those times. He was one of the founders of the Fall River Iron Works.

Richard and William Anthony, were sons of Daniel Anthony, a noted surveyor and mathematician of his day. He

too was a member of the Society of Friends. William Anthony was the father of the late General James G. Anthony, and of the late Senator Henry B. Anthony.

The men who composed the Coventry Company, were some of the Pioneers of cotton manufacturing in this country. This Company chose Samuel Arnold agent in Providence, Richard Anthony agent at the mill and William Anthony superintendent of the mill. The trench was dug in the autumn of 1805. The first mill was eighty feet long and thirty feet wide, and was finished in 1806. This is said to be the third cotton factory erected in this country.

Perez Peck, Cromwell Peck and Jonathan Tiffany, made the machinery in the old grist mill on the premises. These men were all mechanics, but knew nothing of the construction of machinery except what they learnt as they went along in its construction under the guidance and instruction of William Anthony, the then superintendent, who was a good mechanic and ingenious man. Besides he had made himself familiar with the construction and operation of machinery

There was an addition of thirty-one feet added to the length of the factory, making it one hundred and eleven feet long and it contained and run fifteen hundred spindles, a large mill for those early days of cotton spinning when it was in its infancy. Difficulties to overcome were great, but they were all conquered by the ingenuity and indomitable perseverance of these men. This mill was put in successful operation.

A great freshet occurred in the latter part of the winter of 1807. It raged in all the rivers over New England and has since been referred to as "the great freshet of 1807." Probably the rivers of New England and especially those of Rhode Island, have never been so high since. This freshet came near washing away the expensive works of the Coventry

Company. Richard and William Anthony, and Perez Peck and all the able bodied men of the village and vicinity, worked from sunset to sunrise to save the mill and the expensive works from being washed away. This they accomplished, but sometimes at the risk of their own lives. In March 1823, there was another great freshet. William Anthony the agent with what strong able bodied men he had in the village, thirty or more, were up all night to save the mill property, than probably worth some hundreds of thousands of dollars, and they succeeded in doing it. The cap-log of the bulk-head broke in the middle, but by great exertions they braced it with very strong timbers, thus preventing it from breaking in two pieces. This cap-log was of white oak eighteen inches square. This shows what a tremendous pressure was brought upon it by the ice and water. Had it broke clear in two, nothing could have saved one of the factories, the machine shop and the other buildings, even the men at work would have been carried down stream.

In the early days of cotton manufacturing the whipping machine for cleaning cotton had not been invented. It had to be cleaned by hand. Women and children took the cotton to their several homes in bundles of twelve pounds each and after picking and cleaning it, they would return it to the mill and receive fifty cents for the twelve pounds. Women and children could be seen daily, carrying cotton from, and returning with it to the mills.

The Coventry Company built their second or new factory in 1810. It was one hundred and twenty-five feet long and the south end was six stories high. This building for many years was the highest building in the State and was an object of attraction by all who saw it. This is the building that so excited the wonder and admiration of the late Tully Bowen when a boy. Many years after, when he was one of the

first business men in the State, and had become a millionaire; he was urged to travel in Europe, he made this reply, that he had arrived at that state of mind, that nothing he might see in Europe; not even Saint Peter's in Rome, could ever excite his wonder as the great Anthony factory did when a boy. Three of the first stories were of stone and the three top stories were of wood.

The war of 1812 was a great benefit to our young cotton manufacturers. They coined money during this war, but they with every body else, rejoiced when peace was declared. This was great all over the United States, but it was a sorry time for our young manufacturers. Most of the cotton factories had to stop, for the country was flooded with foreign goods. It was this occasion that induced Daniel Anthony uncle to the late Senator, Anthony to write his poem, entitled, the "Deserted Village." Coventry village was deserted.

The power loom was invented at this time and started in 1817. Previous to this, the yarn which was spun in the factories, was wove on hand looms. All cotton factories as soon as they could get them, put the power loom in their mills and they started again and once more commenced to make money.

The Coventry Company built a machine shop in 1810, and let it to Perez Peck, Cromwell Peck and John Trueman. In 1814, Cromwell Peck and Mr. Trueman sold out to Perez Peck and retired from the concern, and Perez Peck run it alone. He carried on the business of making machinery for many years, successfully, and acquired a handsome property. He was an honored and devoted member of the Society of Friends. He spent his days in the village living to be nearly ninety years old.

We now resume the history of the Coventry Company. Richard Anthony sold his right to the Company in 1816,



and removed to North Providence. William Anthony became the agent and sole manager at the mill in Coventry and remained such until his death, which occurred May 17, 1845, aged seventy years. He died a Christian in the full hope of a blessed immortality. Not one of the original owners or any of their descendants, own any part of this great property now. It passed into the hands of the late Tully Bowen and Cyrus and Stephen Harris. It is now owned by a corporation. Henry W. Gardiner is a large owner and Stephen Harris is agent. Both of the old factories were taken down and a new first class mill was built on the premises, a few rods south of the old ones, with a capacity of 33,132 spindles and 736 looms. The late Senator Anthony, was one of this Company when he died, and was the last of the descendants of the original proprietors.

The present population of the village is about one thousand

In the early part of June, 1822, the Coventry Manufacturing Company put a new wheel into their old factory and Mr. Russell Briggs was their foremost workman. At noon he blocked the wheel (as was supposed), in order to go inside of it after dinner to commence to take it to pieces to get it out of the way in order to put in the new wheel. All hands went to dinner. After dinner Mr. Briggs was among the first to arrive, with half a dozen others. He stepped on to one of the arms of the wheel, thinking (as was supposed), that it was blocked so that it could not turn; but as he stepped on to it, his weight started the wheel in motion and it was then too late for him to retreat, and the next arm of the wheel struck him on the head and crushed it between the arm of the wheel and the stone wall of the wheel pit. By this time most of the men had arrived. They turned the wheel back and took him out as soon as they possibly could and laid him on the ground, and put a bridle on the fleetest horse of the

company's and one of the hands was placed on its bare back, and he, bare footed and bare headed put the horse into a run for Dr. Sylvester Knight, at Centreville, one mile away. The Doctor arrived in less than thirty minutes; but Mr. Briggs barely breathed a few gasps after his arrival. Dreadful and shocking accidents are very common now, but then they were very rare. This was the only one that occurred in that region for many years. People talked about it for months and even years afterwards. This Mr. Russell Briggs was grand-father of Mr. Beriah Wall of this city, and was in general appearance, his model of a man.

In the early days of cotton manufacturing, there were but two holidays in a year. The help in the factories worked from sunrise to sunset in the longest days in summer, with only one half hour for breakfast and the same for dinner.

Some factories went to work fifteen minutes before sunrise and worked for fifteen minutes after sunset, making fourteen and one half hours labor for all. The smallest children had to work these hours with the other help. In winter they went to work as early as they could see in the morning and worked until eight o'clock in the evening. They had to work evenings six months in the year or one half of the time. In most factory villages there was great rejoicing on the 20th, of March when they got through working evenings. At Coventry Factory (now called Anthony), for several years; a procession was formed with marsh music. Each man and boy carried a lighted candle and they would march under officers chosen for the occasion to one of the neighboring villages and return. They were usually treated with crackers and cheese and some kind of warm drink. They always calculated on a rousing good time, and thought they had it.

Until within a few years there were but two holidays in Rhode Island. These were the 4th, of July and Thanksgiving. The 4th, of July was made a great deal of and the boys anticipated it weeks before it occurred, and made preparations for it. Most every 4th, from 1824 to 1830 the villages of Centreville, Coventry and Crompton, would unite in celebrating it. A committee of three or five, would be appointed from these villages. John Allen was chairman, and Oliver Johnson's hotel in Centreville was always the head quarters.

A procession would be formed in front of his hotel and march to the "Tin-top Meeting House," as it was called, a distance of over half a mile from Oliver Johnson's Hotel and listen to an oration, and then march back to Johnson's hotel to dine. I remember two of the orations on these occasions. Albert G. Greene of this city, delivered an oration that was very highly spoken of. He was the author of that popular poem "Old Grimes." The next year Welcome Burgess, oldest son of the celebrated Tristram Burgess; delivered the oration.

Oliver Johnson's hotel was always head-quarters, and Col. Rhodes Burke was always Marshall. On these occasions he usually rode his brother Horatio Burke's black horse, one of the handsomest horses in that region. These 4th of July celebrations were performed with a dignity and *sacred memento*, unknown in this present light and trifling age on the return of that Sacred *anniversary*. The music on the occasions consisted of a fife, a snare and a base drum; and richer or better marshall music was never heard. Washington's march was one of the tunes always played on these occasions. Everything done was emblematic of the Revolutionary period they were commemorating. The snare drum was usually

beat by Mr. Sheldon Burton, who had the reputation of being the best drummer in the State.

There was quite a brilliant company of forty or more of young people living in Coventry, Warwick and Cranston; who use to meet together many times a year and have very pleasant socials. This was one of the pleasantest associations of young people I ever saw assemble together. They were a virtuous and more than ordinary refined class of young people. Mr. Daniel Remington of this city, is the only gentleman now living, who was connected with this company. His first partner in business was Mr. Daniel R. Whitman, who died more than twenty years ago was a prominent leader in this company.

Mr. William Anthony, Jr., son of William Anthony agent of the Coventry Manufacturing Company, and an elder brother of the late Gen. James G. and Senator Henry B. Anthony, was one of this company. He was a young man of much ability, a graduate of the Friends School of this city, and perhaps was one of the most talented young men in the State. He was univrsally popular with all who knew him. Noble in his principles, but like other young men, he loved a good time, but being of rather a feeble constitution, and rather careless of himself as young people are apt to be, he went into consumption, and lingered for about a year and died in 1824; lamented by all, old and young; rich and poor. Eight of the young men he associated with were selected as bearers. He was carried to Centreville and buried in the family burial ground. There was a procession of chaise a third of a mile long that followed him to the grave. The Coventry Factory stopped the day of the funereal that all might have an opportunity to attend. There were few dry eyes in that great crowd. He met with a change of heart on his death bed and died a triumphant death. Mr. Sheldon Burton, his most

intimate friend, was one of his bearers. Soon after he went into a decline and within two years he died with consumption, and in about another year another of his bearers passed away with consumption. This was Mr. George Miller of Warwick.

The great Temperance Reformation was commenced in the valley of the Pawtuxet in 1827 and 1828. A Temperance Society was formed in every village on both branches of the Pawtuxet, and most of the respectable people joined them and did all they could to reform the people from the *pernicious habit of intemperance*, and they succeeded most gloriously! The smiles and approbation of heaven seemed to rest upon their efforts. Most all the foremost business men joined these societies, and great good was accomplished by them. The moral atmosphere was improved in the whole State.

The next mill, only a few rods below is Quidnick. The villages are connected.

Stephen Taft formerly owned this property. He had three factories and run about one hundred and twenty-five looms. Mr. James M. Kimball, now one of our leading and wealthy business men, in his younger days, was one of the overseers in Mr. Taft's factory. Previous to Mr. Taft's owning this property, it was a paper mill, but was altered into a cotton factory. Between this place and Anthony, there was previous to the Revolutionary War a Forge, in which it is said, that Gen. Nathaniel Greene worked when a boy. Mr. Stephen Taft at one time, *was the wealthiest man in Coventry* and was perhaps worth \$150,000; but he undertook the calico printing business, and it failed him. He went to California, and died there, poor. A remarkable instance of the reverse of fortune.

The property then was purchased by the firm of A. & W. Sprague; and Emanuel Rice became one of the Company. Two large factories were built containing 25,000, spindles and 600 looms. The old village was completely renovated, many new and larger dwelling houses were erected, and it became one of the handsomest villages in the valley of the Pawtuxet. Sprague named it Quidnick after the Quidnick Reservoir. After the failure of A. & W. Sprague, the mills fell into the hands of a corporation, of whom Mr. William D. Davis and Henry A. Hidden, are the largest owners. They run 31,460 spindles and 875 looms. It was near this village that the Baptist Denomination built a large Meeting House in 1808 to accommodate Coventry, Centreville, Crompton, and all the neighboring villages; as there was no other meeting house in any of these villages, and for a number of years afterwards. This house was a great blessing to all this region. The blessed seasons enjoyed there will never be forgotten. John Allen was a member here and died in hopes of a blessed immortality.

Mr. Emanuel Rice was a brother-in-law to Amasa and Hon. William Sprague. He superintended the Natick factories for over thirty years, and until his death, which occurred in 1861, at the commencement of the War of the Rebellion. He was a man of great energy and perseverance. Though often rough and severe in his manners, was with it all a kind hearted man. His influence was very marked in the community. His loss was deeply felt. He was a man that was generally feared, and yet was a great favorite and very highly respected by all classes.

The next village below Quidnick, less than a mile south of it, is Crompton, a village of about three thousand inhabitants.

The mills here run 40,000 spindles and 1,000 looms. Sixty-five years ago, there was but one factory here running

about 4,000 spindles. The yarn was wove on hand looms in a separate building. I do not know who were the original proprietors, but at this time Mr. Benjamin Cozzens was the principal proprietor, and John J. Wood was his agent and manager. Next Crawford Titus took the agency, but in one or two years he was taken sick and died, a triumphant death in the firm belief and expectation of a happy immortality. Mr. Sanford Durfee then took the agency and had it for several years. This village was always a stirring place. Since the first factory was built, the Company have been increasing their business until they have reached their present size. The agents, John J. Wood, Crawford Titus and Sanford Durfee; were members of the Baptist Church and gentlemen of the highest respectability.

The South-west Branch turns north in this valley. Half a mile north from here is Centreville. The first factory built here is said to be the Second factory built in this country. The first at Coventry was said to be the Third. The Centreville factory was called the "Warwick Manufacturing Company." It was composed of William Almy, James Greene, and John Allen. It was a small mill erected on the west side of the river about 1798 or 1799. In 1808 another factory was built on the east side of the river and John Greene and Gideon Greene were added to the company. The mill was painted green and two Greens were owners and it was called therefore the "Green Factory." They operated there about 6,000 spindles and 150 looms. Mr. John Greene became the sole owner for several years before he died, which took place in 1852. The property was bought by William D. Davis, who sold it to Benedict Lapham in 1852; who erected a large and handsome stone factory in 1871. It is one of the best mills in the State, and is now running 30,000 spindles and

650 looms. Mr. Lapham died a few years ago, and his brother, Hon. Enos Lapham, is now the proprietor.

The population of Centreville is over one thousand.

The next village on the river is Arctic, about one mile north of Centreville. This privilege was bought by A. & W. Sprague and they erected at the time one of the best modelled mills in the State. It is now owned by the successful and enterprising firm of B. B. & R. Knight, who have made many improvements on it and run 35,824 spindles and 1039 looms. The population here and at River Point, as they are connected, is about three thousand.

The River Point Mills, which are like-wise owned by B. B. & R. Knight, operate 15,904 spindles and 531 looms. The River Point Factory (formerly called "Frozen Point"), was built in 1812 by Dr. Stephen Harris, Dr. Sylvester Knight, and Resolved Slack. Dr. Knight was the father of Hon. Jabez C. Knight, Ex. Mayor of this city. He was settled in Centreville for many years and had an extensive practice. Dr. Knight and Mr Slack, sold their shares to Dr. Harris, who was sole owner until his sons, Cyrus and Stephen Harris became old enough to share it with him. This property remained in the Harris family for over sixty years.

We now come again to the junction of the two rivers, and will therefore, begin on the North-west Branch at the village of Rockland on the west, and Moswansicut pond on the north and trace it down to its junction with the South-west Branch.

The Ponagansett and the Steere factories, in the village of Rockland, run 15,000 spindles and 350 looms. Population probably 800.

All the mills in North Scituate, probably operate 8,600 spindles and 230 looms. Population probably 1,200.

Four miles south of this place is Ashland, where there is running 5,200 spindles and 100 looms.

Four miles further south we come to Hope village, which is now owned by the Brown & Ives Estate. The North-west Branch before it gets here receives all its tributaries and is a large river. The Hope Company, including the two Phenix mills, which like-wise belong to Brown & Ives, operate 44,320 spindles and 856 looms. The Hope Company manufacture 7,500,000 yards of cloth per annum. Population about one thousand.

One of the early owners of the Hope Factory, was Mr. Ephriam Talbot who run the mill there for a number of years. He lost a small fortune in the Providence and Worcester Canal, as did many others. Previous to the erection of the cotton factory there was a Forge and Furnace here, where, it is said, that many of the cannon, with which Commodore Perry gained the celebrated victory of Lake Erie had the Hope Foundery Stamp upon them.

The Jackson Factory, about one half mile east of Hope village, run about 5,000 spindles and 120 looms. Population five hundred. The Jackson Factory was built by George and Charles Jackson. The latter was Governor of the State from 1845 to 1846.

Fiskeville is about half a mile south-east of Jackson, runs 4,000 spindles and 100 looms. This is owned by B. B. & R. Knight. This mill was first built by Philip Fiske, a son of the celebrated Dr. Fiske, one of the ablest of the "Old School" physicians in the State.

The Arkright Factory is only a quarter of a mile south of Fiskeville. They run here 6,000 spindles and 140 looms. Population here and Fiskeville, as the villages are connected, is about fifteen hundred. The Arkright was built by Hon.

James DeWolf of Bristol. He was a Senator in Congress from 1821 to 1825. Mr. Isaac Congdon was agent of the Arkright Mills for Hon. James DeWolf for many years. He was a man well informed in the scientific management and operation of machinery. He raised a large family of children, and Mr. Edward Congdon who lives on Waterman street in this city is one of them.

The next mill on this river, is but half a mile east of Arkright, is the Harrisville factories, now operating 17,520 spindles and 408 looms. This mill and village was built by Hon. Elisha Harris and his brother John Clarke Harris. Hon. Elisha Harris represented the town of Coventry in both branches of the Legislature under the Old Charter Government, and was Governor of the State from 1847 to 1849. His brother, John Clarke, was a social and gentlemanly man, and was univrsally popular, and rose in the militia to be a Brigadier General. He was a great favorite with all. Hon. Elisha Harris accumulated a large fortune by manufacturing. Harrisville, Phenix and Lippitt villages are all connected and seem as one village, and contain thus united about four thousand inhabitants.

The most flourishing village on the North-west Branch is Phenix, which, as has already been said, is connected with Harrisville and Lippitt villages; which united contain about four thousand inhabitants. There are four Meeting Houses here for public worship, and a very enterprising weekly Newspaper, "The Pawtuxet Valley Gleaner," and one of the most enterprising weeklies published in the State. Phenix has had a steady growth ever since the two Phenix factories were built. They were built near the spot where the first factory, the "Roger Williams," was burnt in the spring of 1822. Phenix was the name given it, as it so well represented the

fabled bird in the Heathen Mythology, as rising from the ashes of its predecessor, more beautiful and glorious than its parent. Thus it truly was, for the two new mills far surpassed in every respect, the Old Roger Williams factory which was burnt. The business portion of this enterprising village has been burnt three times, and each time it has emerged from the disaster, better, and more beautiful than before; thus making still more appropriate the name of Phenix; rising like the fabled bird in the heathen mythology, from its own ashes.

Outside of the mill owners, no one has done so much to enlarge and beautify Phenix, as Hon. William B. Spencer, the gentleman who prepared the able paper on the "Valley of the Pawtuxet," to which I have before referred. He erected two of the largest and handsomest dwelling houses in the village, and two of the largest and handsomest business blocks here, and was the means of establishing the Bank located here, and was its first President, a position which he held for several years. He was chairman of the committee to build the Baptist Meeting House here, giving the lot on which it stands. This Meeting House is one of the most beautiful and convenient meeting houses to be found in the rural part of Rhode Island. Besides he laid out a commodious cemetery on the high lands half a mile south-west of the village, at his own expense. Such a man is a benefit to the community, by whatever motive he may have been actuated in doing it.

In the early history of Phenix, Daniel Gorham, a Mr. Newell, a Mr. Martin, and Cyril Babcock, made machinery in a building hired of the Phenix Company. They carried on this business successfully for several years. Mr. Gorham left the company and Cyril Babcock became agent. Mr.

Babcock went to Providence. Hon. Elisha Harris, Robert Levalley, Thomas P. Lamphear, Horatio Stone, and Edwin Johnson; formed a company under the name of "Levalley, Lamphear & Company." They soon erected a machine shop on the site where the little factory nick-named the "Dumping mould," stood. This company did a flourishing business for some thirty years. I do not know who built the two Phenix Mills, but soon after they were erected, Benjamin Harris owned one, and run it for several years; and General Reuben Whitman and his son David Whitman; hired and run the other for several years.

Mr. David Whitman was one of the most scientific planners and constructors, and operators of factories in the State, or nation. He had a great reputation for this business, and his services were in great demand, not only all over New England, but in the Middle States, and indeed, where-ever factories were running. He was sent for so much that he could not attend to all his calls. Some of the great factories in Lowell, Lawrence, Fall River and Maine; were planned or altered by him. His death was considered by manufacturers as a great public loss.

The Lippitt Mills is only one quarter of a mile below the Phenix and runs 10,640 spindles and 210 looms. This factory was first built by William and Warren Lippitt and I believe is still in the hands of their posterity.

The Clyde Print-works and Bleachery, are less than a half mile below the Lippitt, where a large business is done in bleaching cloth and calico printing. This was built by a Mr. Pike and Hon. Simon Henry Greene. Population is probably five hundred.

The North-west and the South-west Branches are now united and the first fall on it large enough for factories is at Natick,

about two miles east of their junction at River Point. The water power at Natick was originally owned by two different parties. Christopher Rhodes of Pawtuxet owned one half of the water power and William Sprague, senior, the other half. This William Sprague was the grand-father of the present William and Amasa Sprague. Mr. Sprague built a small wooden mill some 70 or 80 feet long, two stories high, and run about 2,000 spindles, in 1812. He kept increasing and building factories until he had five factories and about 26,000 spindles, and over 600 looms for making print cloths. Mr. Rhodes had two factories, and probably run 10,000 spindles and 250 looms. This was as far back as 1832. The firm of A. & W. Sprague, in after years, bought the mills and privilege belonging to Christopher Rhodes and increased the size and capacity of their mills here from time to time, until they operated 42,000 spindles and 1,050 looms.

After the failure of A. & W. Sprague, the enterprising firm of B. B. & R. Knight bought out the whole concern here, and connected the factories together by building between them, so that they make but one factory 1,350 feet long and running 85,000 spindles and 2,311 looms, making probably *one of the largest mills in the world*, and for any one who has a taste for such things, is well worth coming here to see it. Population is probably about 4,000.

The Meshantituck Brook is a respectable stream that rises in the westerly and northerly parts of the town of Cranston, and empties its waters into the Pawtuxet between Natick and Pontaic villages. There has been considerable business done in times past, on this stream; although a small stream, not running more than six miles from its source to where it empties into the Pawtuxet.

John Herrod was the first proprietor at and above the place where the Furnace was erected. The Hon. Stephen

Hopkins, one of the Rhode Island Representatives to the First Continental Congress, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence; surveyed much of the land in this region, being himself a large owner here.

Frederick Fuller built and operated a furnace on this stream and made castings for the machine shops and factories on both branches of the Pawtuxet river. It was called the Ore Bed or Cranston Furnace, for the first furnace here was erected expressly to smelt the iron ore taken from the mine just above the place where the furnace was built. This furnace was a great accommodation to the machine shops and manufacturing establishments all through the valley of the Pawtuxet.

After Mr. Fuller had ceased to use it, Mr. Lodowick Brayton bought and run this furnace for a number of years and until 1869. Here he laid the foundation for the handsome fortune which he made and left to his children. He was an enterprising man, with large business talents, and a sound judgment, which seldom failed him in his business calculations.

This furnace was near his native place. He removed his works to River Point in Warwick to get Rail-road accommodations, and since that time no furnace has been operated in Cranston. The works here have gone to decay. Mr. Brayton was the largest owner in the machine shop formerly owned and run by Perez Peck at Anthony village, and the tools of this shop were removed to River Point at the same time, and have been operated there together. They make power looms for weaving cotton cloth. The looms made by this firm stand deservedly high in the market.

A few rods above the furnace, in the early years of the century, there was a blue-dyeing establishment that was owned and operated by different parties for a number of years.

Spinning was done here for a while and fulling cloth. During the time of the late unpleasantness cocoon dippers and braids for dress goods was made by Mr. John B. Wood and he continued the business until the mill was burnt about the year 1870.

On Herrod's brook and also on the main stream above here, there has been located three saw mills at different points and one grist mill. Another grist mill was operated at the furnace at different times. Above the furnace there is now only one saw mill in operation winters.

Below the furnace but a short distance, Church's brook empties its waters into this stream, which flow but a short distance before it unites with its northern branch. Church's brook never boasted of but one manufacturing enterprise, a small turning shop which existed but a short time.

Just north of the junction of the two streams is a large cedar swamp, the only one in the town. In the centre of this swamp is a large pond known as "Ralph's."

North of this swamp a distance, in the early years of the century, the Turners erected a small factory about the year 1810, and spun yarn. Afterwards they made cotton bats. About 1830 this mill was burnt. When it was rebuilt it was placed, not upon the old site, but on the town road half a mile east and beside a small brook which empties its water into this stream at this point. This brook was ample to supply the water sufficient to make the steam needed to run the mill. This new mill made bats up to the time of its destruction by fire about 1850. The business was then removed to Olneyville and about 1865 was carried to Pawtucket. This company is now known as the "Union Wadding Company."

North of here the stream flows through a long entervale meadow noted for its fertility.

We have now reached the foot of what is known as Dugway Hill. Here we find considerable to interest us. At the foot of the hill about the year 1800, and for many years afterwards, Samuel F. Joy had a tan-yard. After his death his sons continued the business and down to near the year 1850. For the next fifteen years carriage work was done by several parties. Since this the privilege has remained idle.

Above here before the year 1800, Samuel Burlingame had a fulling mill, and did blue dyeing. Previously a grist and saw mill occupied the site. Mr. Burlingame sold out to Mr. Benjamin Hunt, and purchased the property known as the "Line Store," in the western part of Foster, where he died. Mr. Hunt attempted Block Printing. The next venture was printing Handkerchiefs, and finally calico. In none of these enterprises can it be said he was entirely successful; for the property was frequently changed from one son to another, and from father to hands of friends who managed to change it back so that it could be passed around once more. This continued to be the case so long as the enterprise was managed by this family. Succeeding parties continued printing. Some were successful, others not. The establishment was known as the "Rhode Island Print Works." This continued to be the history of the Works up to the year 1860. Since this time Mr. Abbott has made vinegar, a few years, a trial at starch making from potatoes, a hat factory, a soap works for wool scourers and printers, a cider mill, a grist mill, a saw mill; are but some of the uses to which this property has been fitted.

There has been no enterprise above here.

Below the union of the two branches of the Meshantituck we note but two enterprises, and both of these were owned by Mr. Ezekiel Sarle and his father before him. The first



was a grist mill at the crossing of the town road, and the other a tannery on a small brook which runs into this stream. The two enterprises were but a few rods apart. These have been discontinued many years.

The noble Pawtuxet pursues a north-easterly course for one and a half miles to Pontaic, which is owned by B. B. & R. Knight; where they operate 27,150 spindles and 678 looms. The population of the village is about one thousand. The Pontaic mill was formerly owned by the Hon. John H. Clarke, but it was a small affair then compared to what it is now since the enterprising firm of B. B. & R. Knight have owned it. When the Hon. John H. Clarke owned it, the popular name for the place was "Arnold's Bridge." Its name was changed many years ago, by the Knights to Pontaic.

Hon. John H. Clarke, was one of the four representatives of Providence under the Old Charter, and under our present Constitution, he was a Senator in Congress from 1847 to 1853.

Just before the Pawtuxet reaches the Pocasset, we find the celebrated Pettaconsett Pumping Station, which furnishes the water supply for the city of Providence. This has been writ en so much upon recently and has become so well known so that we shall but make this mention and pass on.

About three miles north-east of Pontaic, the Pocasset river which rises principally in the town of Johnston empties its contents into the Pawtuxet. There has been a large amount of business done on this *small river*. The cotton factories of the late Hon. James F. Simmons, were on this stream. He operated 8,000 spindles and 200 looms. Mr. Simmons represented the town of Johnston several years in the Legislature of the State. Was a Senator in Congress from 1841 to 1847; and from 1857 to 1862. On the subject of finance

and of the tariff was *one of the most influential men* in that body. He was a strong and ardent friend of the immortal Henry Clay. They were as intimate as brothers when they both were members of the Senate. When there was a convention of the business men of the nation on the subject of Banking or the Tariff; the business men of the State *would always send* Mr. Simmons as one of the delegates. *He was one of the ablest financiers and business men and tariff advocates*, that there was in Rhode Island; and *decidedly the ablest and most influential politician the State ever produced*. He was a member of the Convention that made our present State Constitution, and it contains many important features, which are the work of his hands. There ought to be a monument erected to his memory.

There has been carried on also in this vicinity other manufacturing enterprises than that of Mr. Simmons' and some of them very extensive establishments. We regret exceedingly, that we have no more definite information about them than we have and so are obliged to pass them by in this article.

About two miles below Simmonsville were the extensive Print Works of A. & W. Sprague.

They operated thirty Printing machines and printed 30,000,000 yards of calico per annum, worth at the time near \$2,000,000, and employed 4,500 hands of all grades. Population of the village about 6,500.

Hon. Amasa Sprague had the oversight of the Print-works during his life, as his son Amasa had after him to the year 1872. Mr. Sprague was a man generally beloved and was highly respected by all. His life was destroyed by a lawless company, the feud growing out of Mr. Sprague's objection before the Town Council to the granting of a certain petition

to sell intoxicating liquors to one Nicholas Gorton. His death was a great public loss and was felt materially all over the State.

A few rods below the Print-works, for many years, Benoni Harris owned and operated a thread factory, and did an extensive business. Some years after his death, the Spragues purchased the property and used it as a grist mill and a box factory for their extensive establishment.

A short distance above the mouth of the river, on the town road, is a place known as the "Burnt Mill." Deacon Benjamin Potter owned and operated the factory as a yarn mill and wove cotton cloth. Years since the Deacon's death an attempt was made to utilize the works as a rubber factory which proved not a success.

Above this place and near where the New London Turnpike crosses the river Mr. Harris erected a saw mill, the first in the town, and here it was that Toleration Harris was killed by the Indians in the time of Philip's War. The family have continued to use this saw mill to within the memory of persons now living.

The next village below the Pocasset is Bellefont. Manufacturing was early commenced here by C. & W. Rhodes, and continued for many years and until their death. It has been claimed, that the first broad-cloth' wove by power was made here; that enough of the same, for a suit of clothes was sent to the President of the United States, who sent the manufacturer a very flattering letter in return.

The "Turkey Red Dyeing Company," have occupied this privilege for business purposes for several years. Before them was a waste cleaning company and before this the mill had stood idle for a number of years.

At this place is the first ford on the Pawtuxet above the falls and here it was that the crossing was effected by our

earliest colonists. There are however, several places between here and Pontaic where this can be done on horse-back most of the year or rather there were, before the river was not so much effected by the many dams upon it. These fords were made great use of by the early colonists and the latter generations. The two most used however, were the ones at Bellefont and Pontaic.

Mashapaug brook empties its waters into the Pawtuxet at Bellefont. Upon this brook, at the crossing of the town road we find a village now called Elmdale. For a long term of years it was known as "Bowen and Battey's." Before that time as Cunleff's. Bowen and Battey run the factory many years on woolen goods and were very successful. After their death, other parties have run on woolen goods. They too were successful. The mill has been burnt a number of years and has not been rebuilt.

Before the firm above mentioned owned it, William Cunleff, who, we believe was the first proprietor here and who continued to run the mill until his death. He was moderately successful. The mill has been burnt at least three times in its history.

At the outlet of Mashapaug pond, a small cotton factory was erected about 1820. and spun cotton or wove for a short time. It was never a success.

At present the most successful business enterprises upon the stream is the housing in winter, of the ice by the two great ice companies of this city. Earl Carpenter and Sons from Mashapaug, and the Union Company from Cunleff's

The Pawtuxet has now no other village upon until it reaches the outlet into the Bay where we find a village of the same name as its own.

At this place manufacturing was very early attempted and successfully prosecuted up to about the year 1876. Since

this time the water power here has remained unemployed.

Brown and Ives, before they purchased Lonsdale in 1825, very much desired Pawtuxet and made a very liberal offer, which proposition was for sometime entertained, but was finally rejected. Had such a firm obtained such a privilege that is capable of so great an extension as this one certainly was, there is no end to the speculation about the extent of its development. At present, with the command of both land and water communication, could such a firm own the land needed on the river a village could be made here that would successfully compete with Olneyville or Westerly; if not with Pawtucket and Woonsocket.

A word here in regard to the manufacturing enterprises in the town of Cranston. While there has been a few firms that did successfully manufacture for a great many years; the plant finally failed. A great many others had nothing but disaster from the first. Not a place has escaped the disaster yet. Buildings erected for manufacturing purposes have stood idle for many years at a time. Probably no other town in the State, could write out such a singular history and certainly it does seem to lend color to the oft repeated remark of the old people there, that Cranston could not for any length of time manufacture.

This sketch would be very incomplete without some mention of William and Christopher Rhodes. These two men were very prominent in business circles and carried on extensive manufacturing establishments in various parts of the State. They were successful manufacturers and accumulated a handsome fortune. In agriculture they took a deep interest and did a great deal and far more than any other two men in their day and generation to improve the farming interests

of the State. The State Agricultural Society owes its start to them and both were at times its President. They were men that in many ways were far ahead of the times.

Hon. William Sprague, who lived many years at Natick, was another representative man. He represented Warwick many years in the Legislature, was chosen speaker from 1832 to 1835, Governor from 1838 to 1839, and Senator in Congress from 1842 to 1844. Previous to this he was a representative to Congress from 1835 to 1837. Hon. William Sprague was one of the ablest business men Rhode Island ever had. His nephew, the present Hon. William Sprague, was also Governor of the State from 1860 to 1863, and Senator in Congress from 1863 to 1875.

The valley of the Pawtuxet has produced seven Governors of Rhode Island, eight Senators in Congress, four Representatives in Congress, and four Lieutenant Governors of the State within the period we are writing of or since cotton factories began to be built in the valley of the Pawtuxet.

In thus reviewing the history of this valley, we find that some of the very ablest and best business men of the State were early settled here, and laid the solid foundations for the great super-structures which are now so flourishing in this thriving valley. Most of these men stood as high socially, morally and intellectually, as any in the State, and it is a pleasure to speak of them as such.

Thus we find on the North-west Branch of the Pawtuxet, and its tributaries, about 116,000 spindles and 2,511 looms. On the South-west Branch, about 505,000 spindles and 5,200 looms, and a woolen mill with 11 sets of machinery manufacturing woolen goods amounting to \$ 250,000 per annum.

This shows how much more business is done on the latter branch of the river than the former. In the whole valley of

the Pawtuxet, there are over 450,000 spindles and 11,000 looms in operation; weaving over 130,000,000 yards of cotton cloth per annum; worth, say \$7,500,000, and calico amounting to about \$4,000,000 more, besides a large amount of other business, making a sum total of over \$12,000,000 done annually in this valley. There are probably 50,000 bales of cotton annually manufactured into cloth and several thousands bags of wool, and sustaining a population of over 30,000. The North-west Branch has about one third of this population and the South-west Branch about two thirds.

In gathering these few statistics of the valley of the Pawtuxet, all can see what a wonderful improvement has been made during the past eighty years. What an important factor it has been in the history of, and in the business and politics of Rhode Island. It certainly has filled no mean position in these respects, and swaying a political and moral influence in the State. It early had some of the most talented and foremost men in the State for its pioneers in the manufacturing business and maintains that position still. The valleys of the Pawtuxet, the Blackstone, the Pawcatuck and Woonasquatucket, are destined to wield an important influence through its future history. The original proprietors have all passed away, and there are but few left even of the second generation of these talented and enterprising manufacturers. But the beautiful Pawtuxet, Blackstone, Pawcatuck and Woonasquatucket; still flow on as they are destined ever to do through all coming ages. The valleys of these four Rivers, are destined to raise men who will continue to mould the opinions and shape the destiny of the future, as they have in the past. These valleys may make as great improvements in the next hundred years as they have in the past. The business of these valleys has been trebled during

the last sixty-five years. The population has been increased in proportion. Fifty years ago, it was thought that all the water power was taken up on the Pawtuxet, and that there could be no more increase, yet it has been increased three fold since.

The enterprising firm of B. B. & R. Knight, probably today manufacture as many yards of cotton cloth per annum, as were manufactured in the whole State sixty years ago. That single firm operate in all their mills 330,320 spindles and 8,623 looms, and consume 38,000 bales of cotton per annum. In view of these facts, how can we help exclaiming "what hath the introduction of cotton and woolen manufacturing in this country, under the blessing of Heaven wrought?"

The population of the State in 1790, was only 68,825. Now it is 304,284. We are treading on the heels of Vermont and New Hampshire in point of population, and have as many Representatives in Congress, and as many electoral votes for President. If Roger Williams should rise from the dead and visit us, he would not be ashamed of the State which he planted.

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*The Democratic Vote 1860.* — Horace Greeley, James G. Blaine, Edward Stanwood, and all other writers on political history give the Democratic vote of this State (1860), as a vote for a coalition Electoral Ticket between the Bell, Douglass and Breckenridge interests. This is not the fact. The vote of Rhode Island, of that year, for the Democratic ticket, was a Douglass vote. The candidates for electors were: Alexander Duncan, of Providence; Amasa Sprague, of Cranston; Theodore P. Bogert, of Bristol; Samuel Rodman, of South Kingstown. The Convention nominating this ticket, unaniously, and passed Douglass Resolutions. Neither Bell, or Breckenridge factions had any support in that convention.

S. H. Allen.