

and to cultivate harmony, that there may be a united voice with resolution throughout this land, that we may make a proper stand, and lift up our united prayers to almighty God to pity us, and vouchsafe to us his gracious protection, and direct us into such measures as he will please to prosper and succeed for our deliverance from the great difficulties and embarrassments we are under, and secure and save us from impending ruin, with which we are further threatened by some in power, who carry on their wicked designs as if by magic art assisted. We seriously recommend to all amongst us and the whole of North America to lay aside all contentions, broils, and even small quarrels, and to omit the practice of every thing that tends to disunite us as brethren, as neighbors, as countrymen, that are interested in one and the same cause, and must stand or fall together. Therefore resolved,

1. As the opinion of this district, that we have a just and lawful right to meet together, when and so often as we shall have occasion, to cultivate harmony and to transact our own town affairs; and that we will hold, use and improve our town affairs; and that we will hold, use and improve that privilege, and will never give it up, or quit the usual practice of meeting, or any mandate whatever.
2. That neither Lord North, nor any other British minister or person whatever, hath any right to trample America under his feet, nor to invade its privileges, either civil or religious.
3. We are resolved to do all in our power, by abstinence and every other lawful and proper way, to secure and preserve our charter rights and privileges, and that we will not tamely submit to the yoke of bondage.
4. That we will not have any hand in the consumption of teas, West India or British goods, wares or merchandize, imported after the last day of August next, nor deal with any persons that shall import or deal in such goods, wares, or merchandize, contrary to the general sense and agreement of the inhabitants of this much abused province.
5. We return our hearty thanks to our patriotic friends at Boston, for their firmness, care and vigilance the time past, for the good and safety of this country. And we desire you not to give over now, although your circumstances are very discouraging. We sympathize with you in this day of darkness, and bad situation of affairs, and will, when need be, attest our ability, administer our substance, and whatever may be beneficial to the cause, and are determined to exert ourselves in the cause, that so much concerns us. And we hope and pray, that the Lord of Hosts will direct us and you and all the colonies into the right way, that His blessing may be upon our united endeavors, and may success, with peace and harmony, crown the whole to the glory of God and the tranquility of the American colonies.

One more extract from the records of the district deserves to be remembered, as it anticipated the great and important step taken a year afterwards by the Continental Congress. It is a part of the instructions of the inhabitants to the representative in 1775.

We therefore instruct you, sir, that you, in our name and behalf, signify to the Great and General court, of which you are a member, that our opinion is, that independence is the only alternative for the safety of this oppressed land, and that if the honorable Congress should think it best for the safety of the United Colonies to declare them independent of Great Britain, we acquiesce heart and hand, and are determined at the risk of life and treasure to support the measure.

Soon the time arrives, which puts to the test of valor and the courage of Pepperell soldiery. It is soon to be known, whether their patriotism consisted of words only, and whether or not, when the crisis arrives, their actions would correspond with, and make good, their promises and resolutions. The sequel shows, that their intrepidity in action was in no wise inferior to their skill and pertinency in expressing their opinions.

William Prescott, a son of the Hn. Benjamin Prescott, though born in the centre of Groton, removed to that part of it called "Gore," which formed a part of the district of Pepperell, before he arrived at the age of twenty-one years. "He was a lieutenant in the provincial troops, which were sent to remove the neutral French from Nova Scotia," in 1755, and possibly a soldier in the expedition to Louisburg, two years before.

The following anecdote relating to Lieut. Prescott, when on the expedition to remove the French, is from good authority, and is unquestionably correct. "He was attacked by a fever. The surgeon of the army was very negligent in his attendance on him. One day on entering his chamber he found him so ill, that he brutally exclaimed, 'It's no use of my staying here, I can do nothing;' and turning his back on the patient walked out of the room. Lieut. Prescott was perfectly aware of what was said, and was filled with such rage by this unfeeling conduct, that he seized his sword, which hung near him, and springing out of bed, made after the doctor, who, as it may be believed, completed his exit with greater precipitation than he commenced it. This sally of passion had a most favorable effect, as it appeared, on the fever, which was then at its crisis, and the patient mended rapidly from that day.

After his return from the first named expedition, he was promoted to the office of Captain. "In 1774, he was appointed Colonel of a regiment of minute men," enrolled in Pepperell, Groton, Hollis, and other towns in their vicinity. On the morning of the memorable 19th of April, 1775, a messenger rode from Concord to Pepperell, alarming the inhabitants on his way with the intelligence that the "regulars" had come out from Boston, had killed eight men at Lexington, and were fighting at Concord. He arrived at Pepperell about nine or ten o'clock, A.M. "Col. Prescott immediately gave order to the company in Pepperell, and the company in Hollis, to march to Groton, and there join the Groton companies, and proceeded himself to Groton." So expeditiously were the Pepperell company armed, equipped, and on their march, that although five miles farther from the point whence the messenger started, and consequently proportionally later in receiving the alarm, than the Groton companies, they arrived at Groton parade ground before the companies were in readiness to accompany them.

It is said that Dr. Oliver Prescott, a brother of the Colonel, and chairman of the selectmen of Groton, who were then together delivering out arms and ammunition to the soldiers, on hearing the martial music and seeing the Pepperell company marching to the common in full ranks, exclaimed to his brethren, "This is a disgrace to us," alluding to the greater promptitude of the Pepperell soldiers than of their own."

After a halt for a few minutes they again marched on in advance of the Groton companies.

One of the Pepperell company, (Abel Parker, since Judge of Probate in the county of Cheshire, N.H.) ploughing in a distant field, did not receive the alarm

in season to start with the rest; but on hearing it, left his oxen in the field unyoked, ran home, seized his gun in one hand, his Sunday coat in the other, sat out upon a run, and slacked not till having passed the Groton companies, he overtook his fellows at Groton ridges.

Col. Prescott hastened on, with as many of his regiment as he could collect, "to Concord, and thence to Cambridge, but did not overtake the British detachment on their retreat. He and most of his officers and men enlisted for eight months, the period of the first enlistment, and which it was then hoped, would be as long as troops would be wanted."

The patriotism of the women in those times, "which tried men's souls," must not be passed over in silence. After the departure of Col. Prescott's regiment of "minute men," Mrs. David Wright of Pepperell, Mrs. Job Shattuck of Groton, and the neighboring women, collected at what is now Jewett's bridge, over the Nashua, between Pepperell and Groton, clothed in their absent husbands' apparel, and armed with muskets, pitchforks, and such other weapons as they could find, and having elected Mrs. Wright their commander, resolutely determined, that no foe to freedom, foreign or domestic, should pass that bridge. For rumors were rife, that the regulars were approaching, and frightful stories of slaughter flew rapidly from place to place and from house to house.

Soon there appeared one on horseback, supposed to be treasonably engaged in conveying intelligence to the enemy.

Capt. Leonard Whiting, of Hollis, N.H., a noted tory. He was in reality the bearer of despatches from Canada to the British in Boston. An article was some time after inserted in a warrant for town meeting, "To see what the town will vote or order to be paid to Mr. Solomon Rogers, for entertaining Leonard Whiting and his guard." Not acted upon.

By the implicit command of Sergeant Wright, he is immediately arrested, unhorsed, searched, and the treasonable correspondence found concealed in his boots. He was detained prisoner and sent to Oliver Prescott, Esq., of Groton, and his despatches were sent to the Committee of Safety.

As Pepperell has the honor of being the residence of Col. William Prescott, and he being chief in command on the American side in the first battle of any considerable consequence, that was fought in the revolutionary war, a history of that town would be unpardonably incomplete without some account of that engagement and of that valiant officer. For the following narration, as well as for many other matters relating to Pepperell and to the Prescott family, the author is indebted to the courtesy of a distinguished descendant of the commander on Bunker Hill, for the use of a manuscript, penned at sundry times, and kept by sundry persons of that family, of the truth and correctness of which no doubt can exist.

On the 16th of June 1775, Gen. Ward, the commander-in-chief, issued an order for placing three Massachusetts regiments, (Col. Prescott's, Col. Frye's, and Col. Bridges,) and a detachment of one hundred and twenty men from a Connecticut regiment, (under the command of Capt. Knowlton, a brave officer,) about one thousand in all, under the command of Col. Prescott, directing him to proceed to Bunker Hill, and there erect a fortification; stating that the party should be relieved the next morning. They therefore

took only a small supply of provisions with them. Col. Gridley, an experienced engineer, was appointed to lay out the works. The detachment was drawn up on the common in Cambridge on the evening of that day, attended prayers by the Rev. Dr. Langdon, then President of Harvard college, and when daylight was gone, Col. Prescott led them silently down Charlestown road over the neck, and then halted, called around him the field officers, with Col. Gridley, and then first communicated to them his orders, and conferred with them respecting the place intended for the fortification.

The whole height at that time was popularly called 'Bunker Hill,' although the southern part was known as 'Breed's Hill,' by the neighbors. After some discussion, the southern part, now better known as Breed's Hill, was determined on. This caused some delay. The detachment proceeded to breed's Hill, and Col. Gridley laid out the works, a redoubt and entrenchment, which the troops immediately commenced building. This was about eleven o'clock. Col. Prescott was anxious lest they should be discovered and attacked in the night, or too early in the morning; and, to satisfy himself, went in person, accompanied by an officer, twice to the margin of the river, and much to his satisfaction found that they were not discovered. The sentinels on board the ships were drowsily calling out, 'All's well.' Daylight made the discovery. A heavy cannonade from the ships and Copp's Hill then commenced, which annoyed them, but did not materially retard their work.

One man was killed outside of the redoubt. Seeing the soldiers gathering around the body, Col. Prescott ordered them to cover it with earth immediately. They inquired if they might not have prayers over it. He told them, that might be done after the battle, but it must be covered with earth immediately. Finding the men still continued round the body, regardless of the danger, he ordered the body to be thrown into the trench and earth thrown over it.

About nine o'clock it became apparent that the British were preparing to cross the river to attack them. The officers then urged Col. Prescott to send a messenger to head quarters, and request the commander to relieve them according to his engagement, as they had brought on no provisions for a longer time, and had worked all night. This he refused, saying, the works should be defended by those who built them; their honor required it, and they could do it successfully; but he would send for reinforcements and refreshments. He accordingly despatched two messengers in the course of the morning; the last, Major, afterwards Governor Brooks. This last message produced an order to Col. Stark and Col. Reed, of New Hampshire troops, to march their regiments to his assistance. They arrived just at the commencement of the action, and posted their regiments at the rail fence, where they fought with great bravery.

One rail fence was pulled up and placed parallel to another left standing, and the intermediate space filled with grass, mown on the spot the day previous.

The Connecticut company, under Capt. Knowlton, were posted at the end of the rail fence nearest the breastwork, and the three Massachusetts regiments defended the redoubt.

Gen. Warren came up to the works a short time before the action was commenced, with a musket in his hand. Col. Prescott proposed to him that he should take the command, as he understood he had been appointed a major-general the day before. Gen. Warren replied, "I have no command here; I have

not received my commission. I come as a volunteer, and shall be happy to learn service from a soldier of your experience.

The action began between two and three o'clock. The redoubt was the great object of attack, and the principal force was directed against it, while three regiments advanced towards the rail fence, with intent to come on the rear of the redoubt and cut off the retreat of the Americans. The British were twice repulsed with great loss from the redoubt and from the fence.

The British officers were obliged to make great exertions to bring up their men a third time. They however succeeded, and made a third attack, with great spirit, on the redoubt and at the fence. The redoubt was entered on the southern or southeastern side, and at the same time the enemy advanced between the breast-work and the rail fence, to the rear of the redoubt. A few men were shot down as they mounted the breast-work; among others, Major Pitcairn; but the ammunition of the Americans was exhausted; a cartridge of one of the field pieces furnished powder to load the last muskets that were discharged. They had few bayonets, and were obliged to use the butts of their guns.

The enemy had entered the redoubt on one side, and were advancing to the rear of it, when Col. Prescott ordered the retreat. He was among the last that left the redoubt, and before leaving it, was surrounded by the enemy, and had several bayonets pushed at his body, which he parried with his sword, in the use of which he had some skill; they, however, pierced his Banyan and waistcoat, but he was not wounded.

Dr Oliver Prescott, the younger, who relates the fact, says, that soon after the battle, he was at Pepperell, and his uncle, Col. Prescott, showed him the Banyan and waistcoat, and the rents or holes made in them by the British bayonets.

Eight of the Pepperell soldiers were killed in this battle, and eight wounded. The names of the whole company are preserved in the town records.

Col. Prescott was always confident he could have maintained his position, with the handful of men under his command, if he had been supplied with ammunition. The British staggered before they entered the redoubt, and he thought would not have rallied, if they had been again repulsed.

On his return to Cambridge, he immediately repaired to head-quarters, where he found the commander-in-chief, Gen. Ward, in great distress, apprehensive that the enemy, encouraged by their success, might advance on Cambridge and attempt to penetrate into the country. Col. Prescott assured him, that the enemy's confidence would not be increased by the result of the action, and offered to retake the heights that night, or perish in the attempt, if the commander-in-chief would give him three regiments, with bayonets and sufficient ammunition. The commander-in-chief thought, perhaps justly, that the character and situation of his army would not justify so bold a measure. We afterwards saw, that this battle made a lasting impression on Gen. Howe's mind, and rendered him an over-cautious commander during the remainder of his command.

Col. Prescott continued in the service until the end of 1776. He was stationed at Governor's Island, New York, until the Americans were obliged to retire from the city.

The good order, in which he brought off his regiment, was noticed and publicly commended by Gen. Washington. At the end of this campaign, he returned to his farm and family in Pepperell, where he resided till his death. In the autumn of 1777, he went as a volunteer, accompanied by some of his former officers, to assist in the capture of the army under Gen. Burgoyne, which was his last military service. Perhaps his exertions and activity in the suppression of Shay's insurrection, and going to Concord with his side arms, to protect the courts, should be excepted in the last remark.

After his retirement from the army, he served his townsmen in the municipal offices of clerk and selectman, and represented the town in the General Court three years. He was an acting magistrate for the remainder of his life. He died October 13, 1795, aet. 69.

In his person he was tall, his frame large and muscular, but not corpulent, his features strong and intelligent. He possessed a strong mind, but had not the advantage of much education, a common town school being the only seminary he ever attended; so he was self-taught. Yet he was fond of reading, especially history, in which he spent much of his time, evenings and nights. His manners were plain but courteous; his disposition benevolent and kind; he was liberal even beyond his means; and was always ready to assist others in the affairs to the neglect of his own.

He married Abigail Hale of Sutton, by whom he had one son, the late Hon. William Prescott of Boston. She was a kind, prudent, amiable and excellent wife, such a companion for life as such a man as Col. Prescott ought to choose. Her extraordinary care and prudence, were not tinged in the least with selfishness or parsimony, were a salutary counterpart to his liberality and negligence of his own affairs. She survived him twenty-six years, continuing her residence on the Prescott estate in Pepperell, respected and beloved by all her neighbors and friends till her death, October 21, 1821, at the advanced age of 88 years.

CHAPTER XVII REMARKABLE PROVIDENCES

Under this title, in the church records made by the Rev. Mr. Emerson, are the following incidents, thought worthy of publication:

July 28, 1748. About one o'clock, afternoon, we had a terrible hurricane, accompanied with shocking thunder. The course of the whirlwind was from southwest to north-east, though often varying sometimes to the east, and sometimes to the west. It tore up a vast number of large trees by the roots, entirely demolished two or three buildings, shattered several dwelling-houses, carrying off the boards from the roof, sides, etc. It tore away a considerable part of the roof of the meeting-house. When it came with its violence, it threw down the fences, stone walls, and laid the corn even with the ground. One house, which it took in its way, was garrisoned, and one part of the garrison was stove with violence against the house, the other sides thrown to the ground, part of the roof of the house carried away, and some things in the chamber were afterwards found above a mile from the place. A woman and three small children being in the house, were wonderfully preserved; and what was very remarkable, the woman, when she heard the wind, took her children to go into the building, where she thought she should be more safe, but was hindered by the door being stopped by part of the garrison drove

up against it; and the building she was going to was entirely demolished, not so much as the sills remaining in their places. The air, for a quarter of an hour, which was near the time it was passing through the parish, was full of leaves, hay, pieces of timber and boughs of trees. It went quite through the parish, and stopped or lost its impetuosity at the line between New Hampshire and this province, which is a few rods from the bounds of the parish.

Notwithstanding all this desolation, through the goodness of God there was not one life lost, either of man or beast, though several persons were in imminent danger, and many creatures so enclosed with fallen trees, that they could not extricate themselves. The damage sustained was very considerable. One man, in the destruction of his buildings, corn, hay, fences, and apple trees, hath lost above £500.

September, 24, 1750. A child of William Spaulding drowned in a well, aet. One year three months.

July 15, 1752. Towards night, was heard distinctly, by some of the most credible people among us, in the air, the beat of a drum, a discharge of three guns, like a cannon.

Probably the bursting of a meteor, like that at Weathersfield Connecticut, some years since, accompanied with the fall of meteoric stones.

July 19, 1753. Abiel Richardson, a man above thirty years old, assisting at the raising of Dunstable meetinghouse, fell and died in a moment.

Nov. 10, 1755. About fifteen minutes past four o'clock in the morning, there was felt, through all New England, a most surprising earthquake, the most terrible that was ever known in this country. It lasted about three or four minutes. It shook down abundance of chimneys, in one part of the country and another, racked buildings, threw down stone walls. The shock was most terrible near the sea coast. From Boston we have the following account: 'Many chimneys, not much less than a hundred, are leveled with the roofs of the houses; many more, not fewer than 1,200 or 1,500 are shattered and thrown down in part, so that in some places the streets are almost covered with the bricks which are fallen. Some chimneys, though not thrown down, are dislocated or broken several feet from the top, and partly turned round, as upon a swivel; some are shoved on one side, horizontally, jutting over, and just nodding to the fall. The gable ends of several brick buildings, perhaps twelve or fifteen, are thrown down from the roofs, and the houses to the eaves. The roofs of some houses are quite broken in by the fall of some chimneys. Some pumps (wells) are sadly dried up. Many clocks stopped by being so violently agitated.

About an hour after, another shock was felt, not very hard, and several smaller ones in the week, especially on Saturday evening, between eight and nine o'clock, which was harder than any, except the first. But through the goodness of God, not one life lost anywhere, as we hear. The first shock was heard in the southern provinces.

The reader may be apprised, that the tremendous earthquake which sunk a great portion of the city of Lisbon, and shook all Europe, was on the first of November, seventeen days only previous to this New England earthquake. It can easily be conceived, that the same cause which produced the former, might be the preliminary one of the latter, or rather that the disturbance made in the

interior parts of the earth by the former, might cause a further disturbance at a distant part of the earth, which, however, might not take place for several days after.

In the latter part of summer and fall of 1756, we, of Pepperell, were visited with grievous sickness. From August 5, to the last of October, there were above 180 persons sick, of which number 18 died, chiefly of a burning ague. September 16, we kept a day of fasting and prayer, and December 13, as a day of thanksgiving, when the sickness seemed to be entirely removed.

We were visited again with grievous sickness in 1757, the same illness we had last year. From the beginning of July to the middle of October, there were 219 persons sick, of which number 25 died, 17 heads of families.

In 1758, we were again visited with the same grievous illness we have been for two years before. From the first of August to the middle of October, there were 96 persons sick of the fever, of which the number 11 died, 7 of whom were heads of families.

January 3, 1760, was set apart by Mr. Emerson, his church and congregation, as a day of thanksgiving, "to commemorate the goodness of God to them the year past, especially in the removal of sickness and the return of so many soldiers from the army." In the sermon preached on this occasion, Mr. Emerson says, "It pleased God, in the summer of 1755, to visit us with that grievous fever, by which we have suffered so much, and which hath, from its beginning with us, obtained the name of the Pepperell fever." The district contained about ninety families. After enumerating its ravages in four successive years, he sums up the whole thus: "In the four years abovementioned, there were above 540 persons sick; 103 died, of whom 16 were soldiers from home, or just after their return; no less than 48 heads of families; 64 grown persons. How great was our distress for two years, especially in the height of the sickness, and we, notwithstanding, obliged to find our quota for the war! I know not that we were eased more than a single man, excepting the time of the general alarm, when fort William Henry was besieged, in 1757, when our proportion was above twenty men, at which time there were not so many able to bear arms in the place, besides those who were necessarily taken up in attending on the sick in their own families, the field officers were so good as not to call for any. One of the years, there were near 200 confined at the same time. Your pastor at the point of death, and then confined from the house of God for four months. And of this large number who have been sick, I know not of ten persons who have been visited with the same distemper twice. Nor should we forget the bounty we received by order of authority, namely, fifty pounds, to be distributed amongst the greatest sufferers."

The proximate cause of this Pepperell fever has been thought to be the miasma arising from decayed vegetable matter. The swamp or meadow of John Shattuck, near Henry Jewett's, had been overgrown with bushes and various vegetables; and in order to kill them and bring the land into a state of cultivation, a dam was built and the swamp overflowed with water. When the water had been drawn off, and the vegetable matter exposed to a summer's sun, the stench was very offensive, and extended perceptibly for several miles

around. This, in the opinion of men learned in physiology, was a cause sufficient to produce the fever. It has been further said, that the shrub, commonly called white dog-wood, more properly poison sumach, abounded in the swamp; but whether this circumstance added to the deleterious property, is problematical. On the other hand it has been said, that a similar disease had been prevalent in New Hampshire, and the adjoining parts of Massachusetts, for two or three years previous, and that its cause was not confined to a small locality. Which of these suppositions is the correct one, or whether either be true, each reader may judge for himself.

January 5, 1757. The house inhabited by Benjamin Jewett was burned to the ground, and every thing in it; two small children narrowly escaped. The loss he sustained he imagines to be near L400, old tenor. The house was not his own. Collected for him, by public contribution, in money and other things, to the value of L60, old tenor.

May 24, 1757. The house of the widow Woods was struck with lightning, which came in near the chimney and went out at the door. Dr Franklin's discoveries and experiments in electric phenomena had not at this date been made. If they had been, and had come to Mr. Emerson's knowledge, he would not have told of the lightning's going out at the door.

March 20, 1760. A fire broke out in Boston, and raged in such a manner, as in a few hours to destroy one hundred and seventy-four dwelling houses, and as many warehouses, shops and other buildings; the loss whereof, the furniture and goods therein, was judged at a moderate computation, L100,000 sterling. Governor Pownall sent briefs through the province for a general contribution. Accordingly we had one here, and collected L64 12s old tenor.

January 17, 1762. The wife of Josiah Nutting was delivered of a monstrous birth; the child had no eyes, no ears, no nose, a large mouth, very large tongue, which hung out; no neck, no proper distinction of sex, a monstrous large belly, had on one hand six fingers and a thumb, on the other five fingers and a thumb, seven toes on one foot and six on the other. The midwife said it died in the birth.

June 15, 1764 P.M. A remarkable thunder shower with hail. The shower was narrow as to width, perhaps not above a mile and a half to two miles, its length from the middle of Pepperell to Merrimack river in Dunstable. The hailstones very large; in Dunstable near as big as hen's eggs, but not round; the shape very various, some oval, others long, like hard pieces of ice, two or three inches long; some almost flat, near as big as a dollar; one near Pepperell meeting-house, measured better than three and one half inches round. It did considerable damage, breaking windows, beating down and cutting of the rye, etc. It lasted but a few minutes. In some places the ground was covered. When these hailstones were put together, they would freeze, though the weather was very hot before and after the shower.

July 19, 1763. Jonathan, son of Deacon Blood, almost twenty-one years of age, driving a cart loaded with boards, fell; the cart wheel ran over his stomach. He died in about an hour and a half.

September 18, 1767. In the night the house of Eleazer Gilson was entirely consumed by fire. They could save but very little of their household stuff.

January, 1768. In the night following, the house of David Shed was consumed by fire; his mother narrowly escaped by getting out a window.

June 24, 1769. Eleazer Chamberlin, son of Phinehas Chamberlin, a young man of about twenty-two years of age, going into Lancaster river to wash himself, was drowned.

April 11, 1772. Isaac Corey was drowned. The manner of it was something remarkable. The printed account in the paper was as follows:

Mr. Isaac Corey, a man near sixty years of age, having ferried over two men across Lancaster river, against his own house, and returned almost to the shore, from whence he had set off, by some accident the canoe filled, he was immediately carried down the current (the river being very high and the water running exceeding swift) near two miles, during which he was seen by several, standing at one end of the canoe, up to his armpits in water, the other end just out of the water; he was heard by many calling out for help, but none could get to him to relieve him. The canoe was seen to pass over the falls about a mile below where he was seen last, with the bottom up.

August 2, 1772. The above Mr. Corey was found floating upon the water in the river, about a mile below where he was last seen.

August 24, 1776. A child of Mr. John Bowers, in the fourth year of his age, was drowned by falling into a vat in his tan yard.

Lord's day, 1777. The dwelling house of Mr. Solomon Rogers was entirely consumed by fire.