

THE LIFE  
OF  
ABNER COBURN

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A REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAREER OF THE LATE  
EX-GOVERNOR OF MAINE

BY

CHARLES E. WILLIAMS  
AUTHOR OF "THE PENALTY OF RECKLESSNESS"

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ILLUSTRATED

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*"Untainted by the guilty bribe,  
Untarnished by the harpy tribe,  
No orphan's cry to wound my ear,  
My honor and my conscience clear—  
Thus may I calmly meet my end,  
And to the grave in peace descend."*

BANGOR, ME  
PRESS OF THOMAS W. BURR  
1885



*Ex-Gov. Abner Coburn.*

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## DEDICATION.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MAINE, ON WHOM  
ABNER COBURN  
BESTOWED HIS BOUNTY MOST LIBERALLY,  
AND TO ALL OTHERS, WHO WOULD  
EMULATE INTEGRITY, GENIUS,  
AND PHILANTHROPY,  
THESE PAGES ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

## PREFACE.

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Every civilized age has preserved a record of the public and private qualities of its great men.

From the primitive stage of the ancients, down to the present time, there have been those especially admired and remembered for some peculiar characteristic that ranked them above their fellows. Some personal quality entitled them to prominence and won for them the respect of mankind.

On a page of the history of every tongue is inscribed the deeds of some departed genius, whose acts have lent a charm to the annals of his time, and bestowed upon the human family imperishable honors. There are, however, many varieties of genius, any of whom may have been endowed by nature with attractions peculiar to himself. It is essential that the memory of all such should be preserved.

The achievements of the soldier are never to be forgotten ; these are cherished as an example for posterity. The name of the eminent jurist is preserved as an especial honor to the realm in which he lived. The historian, poet, scientist, and inventor, are to be ever kept in familiar view as an evidence of man's progression.

A genius is not necessarily confined to the classes we have cited. He may be found among those who perform lesser things. Acts of kindness, noble deeds of charity, and a strict observance of the Golden Rule ; the one who unselfishly practices any of these may be properly termed a genius.

Man has been clothed by nature with a faculty which entitles him to supremacy. His ability to decide between right and wrong has given him a wonderful power. That this preeminent advantage over the lesser creation is often abused we are convinced by indisputable evidences, but, among nature's noblemen, no such abuse exists.

It is for us to present the name of one who may be justly styled a genius ; to preserve to posterity a lasting monument of the life of him who has left to the future a most noble record. By his own exertions he arose from the humbler walks of life, to a position of wealth and prominence, and

died in the fullness of his years, without a pang of regret for either commission or neglect, to disturb his peaceful rest.

Called from the walks of private life, at a time when the nation trembled on the verge of dissolution, to preside over the destinies of his native commonwealth, he bore his honors with becoming modesty and unflinchingly performed the important duties of his office.

The same purpose of character he had displayed in private life clung to him during his executive career, while the simplicity of his manner and the honesty of his unassuming methods, in dealing with public affairs, won for him the confidence and esteem of all with whom he became associated.

Not in the Executive chamber alone was he famous, however; there a certain restriction was thrown around him from which he could not escape. In the humbler walks of private life were to be found the greater deeds of the man whose memory shall be kindly cherished by the people of his time.

In perpetuating his name it is not to be presumed that we depend on our personal knowledge for the essential elements which are contained in the biography of one who was in the prime of life at date of our birth. We have, however, derived

our information from trustworthy sources; from those who knew him from his early boyhood, and from another source more reliable even than the treacherous memory of man,—the public records.

It shall be our purpose to portray a simple, yet truthful history of the public and private life of the late Abner Coburn, beginning with his birth and following his footsteps to the hour of his death.

It has been remarked that no eulogy can be pronounced which can do justice to the memory of a charitable mind. Deeds, not words, Acts, not measured sentences, are weighed in the scales of justice. “By their fruits ye shall know them.” Hence we prefer that the journal of his earthly sojourn shall alone speak of his manly nature and philanthropic instincts.

THE AUTHOR.

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## CHAPTER I.

Ancestry and Parentage. A Chronological Record of the Coburn Family. Where Abner was born. When He was Born. Where He resided during most of His Life. "Squire" Weston. How He lost His Life. Duties Imposed upon Abner during His Boyhood. Where He went to School. How He attained Knowledge. Where He taught School. An Incident of His Youthful Sagacity.

We have been favored with a perusal of the record of the Coburn family as preserved by the subject of this Biography, and, at the outset, reproduce the same chronologically, not that it has been found to be of especial importance, but simply as a matter of curiosity.

It will be observed that the average difference in the ages of any two of the children, taken in the order of their birth, is just about two years; a remarkable coincidence certainly. To this prolific couple there were born nine sons and five daughters, the last two being twins—a boy and a girl. Although Abner had one brother older and

seven younger than himself, yet he outlived all of them. Another peculiarity will be noticed in the fact that only the last three children born were given two christian names each.

To Eleazar, and Polly Weston Coburn were born,

Nahum	Coburn,	born	Oct. 28th,	1801
Abner	"	"	Mar. 22d,	1803
Fidelia	"	"	Feb. 2d,	1805
Philander	"	"	Feb. 19th,	1807
Eliza	"	"	Feb. 6th,	1809
Elvira	"	"	Feb. 5th,	1811
Alonzo	"	"	Dec. 6th,	1812
Samuel	"	"	July 14th,	1815
Stephen	"	"	Nov. 11th,	1817
Eleazar	"	"	Feb. 9th,	1820
Charles	"	"	Mar. 5th,	1822
Mary W.	"	"	Sept. 30th,	1824
Sylvanus P.	"	"	Mar. 5th,	1827
Sarah P.	"	"	Mar. 5th,	1827

Of this large family of children not a male member survives to perpetuate the name, the last to die being Abner.

Abner Coburn, the second son of Eleazar and Polly Weston Coburn, was born in that part of the town of Canaan which is now embraced in Skowhegan, March 22, 1803, and resided, during the greater part of his busy and eventful life, within a few miles of his birthplace. His ances-

tors, on both sides were of Puritan origin, and were noted for their force of character, industry and public spirit.

Among the hardy pioneers that extended the outposts of civilization into the wilderness, they were leaders. God-fearing men and women, they have stamped their character upon succeeding generations. Industrious, frugal, self-reliant, intelligent, and possessing the lofty Puritan character, they founded towns, and transmitted to communities their excellent customs and their sturdy virtues.

During the year 1792, and when but fifteen years of age, the father, Eleazar immigrated from that section of Massachusetts now known as Dra-cut, and, with his father's family, settled in Canaan. For forty years Eleazar Coburn was one of the foremost men of that section. There was not a public position which he was not called to fill. In 1811 he first represented his section in the General Court of Massachusetts, and several times thereafter his name appears as a representative or senator in the legislatures of Massachusetts and Maine. He served for the last time in 1830. He died in 1845, full of years, and widely lamented.

The maternal ancestors of Abner Coburn were

equally prominent. His great-grandfather, Joseph Weston, was one of the first settlers of Somerset County, going thither from Massachusetts in 1772. A patriot, he died from exposure in piloting Benedict Arnold's expedition through the wilderness to Quebec. Of Samuel Weston, his grandfather, a chronicler of early times says "Squire Weston was a very active and energetic man, and stood conspicuous in the early annals of Canaan. He filled many offices, and died lamented." In every succeeding generation the name of Weston has been borne by men worthy of such illustrious ancestors.

Such in brief is an imperfect sketch of the history of the progenitors of Abner Coburn. He inherited their sound, practical sense; he was taught their industry and integrity, and has practiced their positive virtues.

In the earlier days of Abner Coburn's life, every one who was able to work was expected to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. To labor was an imperative duty imposed on all who were old enough to perform it. Luxuries were things unknown, and even a sufficiency of the real necessities of life were not always forthcoming. Existence itself might be said to have involved a constant hand to hand struggle with the physical

forces of nature. As soon as Abner was old enough to be made useful on his father's farm, he was put to work, and from that day to that of his death he was an intensely industrious man. Although he was compelled to do manual labor during much of his boyhood, yet he managed to devote himself partially to study. Having been taught the rudiments of his native language by piece meal, he eventually entered Bloomfield Academy, and, for several terms, managed to pursue his studies. At an early age he performed a man's labor on the farm in summer, and before he reached his majority he had taught school during several winters at \$10 per month, and "boarded around."

The following incident affords one a good idea of the early sagacity and thrift of Abner Coburn. When he was about fourteen years of age, his father collected a drove of cattle in the new country to drive to Brighton market. The son was one of the drovers, and in that capacity he trudged afoot from Skowhegan to Boston. This was his first journey to the Hub. When Squire Coburn arrived at the now great cattle mart, the demand was light, for Boston was not at that time eating hundreds of oxen a day. Rather than sacrifice his stock by forced sales, Mr. Coburn drove his

herd out into the country a few miles, and, hiring a pasture, retailed his cattle.

Abner had among the drove a pair of steers which he drove in yoke. A farmer seeing how "handy" they were, offered a good price, and the sale was made. The next day he took a fresh pair, and, by skillful training, had them so "handy" that they attracted passers-by. Another purchaser appeared, and another sale was the result. This operation was repeated several times in the two weeks required to dispose of the herd. In this simple incident, one gets a clew to the secret of Abner Coburn's subsequent success—industry, perseverance, and forethought.



On the opposite page is presented a very handsome view of the State College of Agriculture, located at Orono, Maine. This institution has been most liberally endowed by the terms of the Will of Ex-Gov. Coburn—One Hundred Thousand Dollars being bequeathed to the College.

Among the many friends of the College, there has not been a more devoted one than the first President of the Board of Trustees (Ex-Gov. Coburn) who was appointed in 1867. Retaining his official connection until 1879, when he was retired by the law forbidding a Trustee to be appointed after he shall have attained the age of seventy years, his time when needed was at the disposal of the College; and although often called upon, he always responded most liberally.





## CHAPTER II.

Abner assists his Father as a Surveyor. At the age of 22 years he begins Business for Himself. Becomes a Member of the Firm of E. Coburn and Sons. Death of E. Coburn in 1845. Forms the Firm of A. & P. Coburn. Makes rapid strides in the Business World. His Method of doing Business. His Popularity. How A. & P. Coburn befriended Men. When the Firm became interested in Railroads. Abner is made President of the Kennebec & Portland Railroad. The War between Roads in the Legislature. The Result. The Eastern Railroad Company. Abner becomes President of the Maine Central Railroad. His Management of the Road. An Incident of His Economy. His Humor. Abner as a Bank Director. Is chosen President of two Banks. His Politics.

The father of Abner Coburn was one of the most extensive land surveyors of his day. This gave him a knowledge of timber lands, and finally led him into the lumber business. Abner was his assistant while a boy, and in 1825, when but 22 years of age, he began surveying on his own

account, and for a number of years was an expert surveyor.

In 1830, Eleazar Coburn and his sons, Abner and Philander, began their lumbering operations on the Kennebec River. At that date they made their first purchase of timber lands. Under the firm name of E. Coburn & Sons the business was continued until 1845, when the father died; at that date the firm of A. & P. Coburn was formed.

Few business firms in Maine have been so widely known, or have done so much business. It may be safely added that no firm has been more successful or won a more enviable reputation for sagacity, persistence, and sterling business integrity. They did not achieve success by sharp practices, by resorting to unworthy methods, or by engaging in wild speculations, but by a legitimate and honorable policy through industry and forethought.

For more than half a century the Coburn Brothers were known as business men from the source to the mouth of the Kennebec. Many men along the line of the upper Kennebec began to work for the Coburns and have grown gray in their employ. Clansmen were never more loyal to a chieftain than were these hardy, intelligent lumbermen to the Coburns. Employers were

never more worthy of loyal service. There have been scores of men in that region, of all ways of thinking and of all sorts of habits, yet all of whom, after thirty years' experience as employes or otherwise, are unanimous in the belief that "better men than the Coburns ain't needed." One grizzly veteran remarked that he had "never gone back on the Democratic ticket but twice in his life, and then to vote for the Coburns, and he would do it every time."

Many men who began as boys in their employ, are men of property now, passing through all grades of the lumber service to become independent operators. In fifty years the firm has been in straight places, but by prudence and perseverance they have outrode financial storms, and not only reached the harbor in safety, but have buoyed up hundreds of others who would otherwise have been ruined. When they befriended a man they had a way of seeing him through the fight. They have carried hundreds over dangerous places, possibly some bummers, but meantime have saved the State a great many valuable business men by timely assistance.

The Messrs. Coburn first became interested in railroad enterprises in 1854. The Kennebec and Portland railroad had been completed to Augusta,

and another Company, the Somerset and Kennebec, undertook at that time to extend the line to Skowhegan. It had to be built by the people along the line in their individual capacity, for the method of building railroads by municipal loans and the sale of bonds had not then been discovered. When the original subscriptions were exhausted the road was not more than half completed. The Coburns led in the raising of the balance of the funds, and to them more than any others the success of the enterprise was due and a large country and thrifty population were thereby brought into nearer relations with the commercial world.

From the first, one or the other of the brothers was a Director, and for several years previous to its perpetual lease to the Portland and Kennebec, Abner Coburn was its President, and thereafter a prominent Director of the consolidated line. By excellent management the Portland and Kennebec became financially stronger than the Maine Central proper. The old Maine Central, however, was much stronger in the Legislature—particularly in the lobby—and was able to prevent the Portland and Kennebec from extending its lines into Somerset County.

After several years of conflict, in 1870, the two

interests—the one because it was cut off by hostile legislation, and the other because it had weakened by reckless management—consolidated by a perpetual lease and took the name of the Maine Central. Abner Coburn became a Director in the Company. A scheme was undertaken for the funding of all the debts of the two lines which was accomplished, the Coburns being the most prominent men in this financial undertaking.

In 1875, the Eastern Railroad Company having secured a majority of the Maine Central stock was able to dictate the selection of the Board of Directors, but in order not to provoke local hostility elected Abner Coburn and subsequently made him President. This was evidently done under the conviction that he would be able to give little attention to the duties of the position, and would be dictated by those who intended to use the Maine Central to avert the impending collapse of the Eastern. They were mistaken. Abner Coburn was President *de facto* in the fullest sense. He managed the road in the interest of its stockholders, and resisted successfully those who desired to use the line for other purposes. The conflict was sharp until the collapse of the Eastern.

His management of the Maine Central was a

model of economy and efficiency. With declining revenues consequent upon the business depression, he maintained the efficiency of the service, made many permanent improvements and at the same time so reduced the expenses as to show an increase of net earnings.

The result was largely due to his remarkable administrative ability and tact, which, when displayed by statesmen or military commanders, is styled genius.

Of many incidents related to show his carefulness of detail, the following will serve as an illustration of his methods as well as his humor. Through some defect at a crossing, a horse and sleigh were damaged. The President directed the Company's Attorney to negotiate an adjustment. The next day Mr. Coburn called upon the solicitor for the facts. That official began with a statement which appeared to the matter-of-fact business man rather as a plea of the plaintiff's counsel than the solicitor of the defendant. After he had proceeded for a time, the President stopped him with the following observation: "Before we go any further, let me clearly understand whether you are the solicitor of the Maine Central, or the lawyer of the man whose horse we injured."

The President took the case in hand and satisfied the claimant with a sum about a third as large as the solicitor advised paying. Mr. Coburn declined to serve longer as President, in 1878, having filled the position three years. In connection with their land enterprises the Coburns were interested in several Western railroads, among them the Northern Pacific.

Many years ago Mr. Coburn became a Director of the Skowhegan Bank, then a State institution, and subsequently its President. When it reorganized under the National Banking Act as the First National Bank of Skowhegan, he was made President, which position he has since held. He was also President of the Skowhegan Savings Bank.

#### HIS POLITICS.

Mr. Coburn took a deep interest in political matters. Born a Federalist, he gave his first vote, in 1824, when 21 years of age, for John Quincy Adams. Afterwards Mr. Coburn found his political affinity in the Whig party—almost always in a decided minority in Maine in point of numbers, but always embracing a majority of the ablest men who have honored the history of Maine with their public services and high character. Edward Kent, Geo. Evans, Luther Severance, Wm. Pitt

Fessenden, and E. L. Hamlin, were leaders to be proud of. Abner Coburn was first a member of the Maine House in 1838. This was the first House in which the Whigs had a majority. Elisha H. Allen, of Bangor, was Speaker. He was again in the House in 1840, when Hon. Hannibal Hamlin was Speaker, and again in 1844, when David Dunn, of Poland, was Speaker. In those legislatures were such men as Wm. Pitt Fessenden, Hannibal Hamlin, Freeman H. Morse of Bath, Ezekiel Holmes of Winthrop, Luther Severance of Augusta, John W. Dana of Fryeburg, Anson P. Morrill of Madison, Shepard Cary of Houlton, S. C. Foster of Machias, S. H. Blake of Bangor, and Phineas Barnes of Portland. One of the perplexing questions was that relating to the North-eastern Boundaries. In Houses embracing so many able men in both parties, Mr. Coburn served on the following leading committees: Finance, North-eastern Boundary, Banks and Banking, State Lands, and State Valuation. In 1852, when Gen. Scott was the Whig Candidate for President, Mr. Coburn was on the Electoral ticket.

Upon the breaking up of the Whig party, Mr. Coburn naturally adhered to the Republican party. He did not wait but was in the organization at the

beginning—one of its founders. In 1855 he was a member of Gov. A. P. Morrill's Council, and in 1857 a member of Governors Hamlin and Williams' Council. In 1860 he was an Elector on the Lincoln ticket. In 1862 he was the Republican candidate for Governor and was elected, receiving 42,744 votes to 32,108 for Bion Bradbury, Democrat, and 6764 for Gen. Jameson, War Democrat. Governor Coburn filled the office during the most trying year of 1863—a year when many were wearying of the war, when several Northern States had fallen into Democratic control; when the peace element at home became mischievous and a source of apprehension, and a year when no apparent progress was made towards suppressing the Rebellion. At no time were the duties of the Executive more delicate and arduous. Abner Coburn was Governor. There was no power behind the throne. He brought to the discharge of the arduous duties of that office large experience in business; a rare perception of the value of men; prodigious industry; the courage which comes of deep conviction; that rare faculty of grasping subjects which appears a marvelous power of intuition in some men; and, above all and surpassing every other attribute, that unswerving integrity which ennobled his whole life. Of that

contemptible trickery and those indirect methods which are admired by a class of politicians as evidences of rare political sagacity, he was utterly incapable. The business of the State was to be conducted on strict business principles. At a time when hundreds of men were pressing for positions in the army for which they were unfit, and hundreds assailed the treasury from every point, it required all of his nerve and diligence to carry out his purpose. This course caused dissatisfaction among the politicians who believe that "spoils" are principles, and their clamors led excellent men to hesitate about running the risk of renominating a man whose only fault was his devotion to the true interest of the State. Consequently he was set aside. Some men would have felt such a sense of wrong at this implied want of confidence that they would have faltered in their devotion to party. Not so with Abner Coburn. National existence was at stake; that vast issue overshadowed personal considerations; his duty as a patriot left no place for personal pique. He labored as earnestly for the election of his successor as he could had he been the party standard bearer.

In the years which have followed, men who then thought that the success of the Union party

would be endangered were Mr. Coburn again nominated, have frankly declared that Maine never had a more efficient administration than that of Governor Coburn. In the years which have followed, his patriotism, wisdom and integrity, as evinced in that year, have been so thoroughly vindicated that he who would take upon himself the task of excusing any official act of Governor Coburn, would be guilty of an act of super-serviceable impertinence. No act of Abner Coburn's, public or private, needs explanation.

The Waterville Classical Institute, which appears opposite, is one of the finest architectural buildings in the State, and one that is well calculated to perpetuate the memory of its chief benefactor, the late Abner Coburn. By the terms of his Will, the Institute receives a fund, together with that bestowed on it prior to his death, sufficient to amount to \$100,000.

Its efficient management, by the Rev. J. H. Hanson, Principal of the Institute, adds much to the popularity of this classical school. Located on the line of the Maine Central Railroad it offers most favorable advantages to those desiring an abundant opportunity to derive a thorough classical education.





### CHAPTER III.

Is chosen Governor of Maine. His Career as an Executive. His Message to the Legislature. His Communication to the Senate and House of Representatives. His Stirring Address to the Citizens of Maine. His Appeal in behalf of the Union.

We deem it just and proper to devote a portion of this work to the public acts of Mr. Coburn. We have gleaned from the State Department such matter as pertains to him while Governor of Maine, and present the most prominent features thereof in the very language in which his views were expressed.

His message to the Legislature, and other communications of equal importance to that body and the people, at that time, may be found of much interest to the reader of this biography. We have no words of comment to offer respecting this chapter. The manly expressions found herein speak for themselves in stronger terms than any we might devise. The patriotic tone of

Governor Coburn's communications loudly proclaim his loyalty to and unabiding faith in the Union.

MESSAGES OF GOVERNOR COBURN.

*Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:*

The political year which has just closed, and the one on which we have entered, will be recorded as the most important and critical in the history of this State and nation. A war of gigantic proportions has been raging for a period of twenty-one months, with varying fortune, with combatants constantly increasing in number, and with a stake at issue whose decision may affect for weal or woe, not only ourselves and the unborn generations of our people, but popular rights and free institutions throughout Christendom.

In a contest of such magnitude, involving such momentous results, our own State has participated to the full extent demanded by her patriotism and her duty. From the hour that troops were first summoned by the Federal executive for the defence of the national life, down to the present moment, our State has been zealously engaged in filling the ranks of the Union Army. Within the entire period we have enlisted and sent

to the field twenty-eight Regiments of Infantry, one Regiment of Cavalry, six Batteries of Light Artillery, and one Company of Sharpshooters, besides furnishing four Companies of Heavy Artillerists to man and guard the principal forts on our extended seaboard. These several regiments and companies, including the recruits that have been raised for them since they entered upon active service, present an aggregate of 33,137 men as Maine's direct contribution in defence of the Union. In addition to this large body of volunteers, our citizens have enlisted in the regiments of other States and in the Regular Army to the number of 2,947 men, accurately estimated from the returns made by towns in answering the demands made upon them under the late calls of the President for troops.

The total quota of troops demanded of Maine up to this time by the War Department, amounts to something less than the number we have actually furnished. The patriotism of our State has even surpassed the demands which the national exigency has made upon it. We have not only sent all the men asked of us, but we have sent good men and brave men. In a contest where all the loyal States have responded so nobly, it would be invidious and indeed positively offensive

for any one to arrogate peculiar and superior merit. We only claim with others to have done our part, and we recur with undisguised pride to the fact that on every battle field where Maine troops have been called to participate, they have acquitted themselves with valor and with honor—making a record of patriotic heroism which it will be alike the pride and duty of the State to cherish and perpetuate.

In addition to the men that Maine has furnished to the army of Volunteers, we have contributed to the Naval and Marine service more largely in proportion to our population than any other State. The habits and occupation of a considerable number of our people fit them pre-eminently for this service, and it is gratifying to know that our shipping ports and coast towns have sent forth swarms of hardy and well trained seamen to maintain the honor of our flag upon the ocean. It is greatly to be regretted that the mode of enlistment in the Navy Department does not accurately, if at all, exhibit the nativity and citizenship of those who enter its service. If it did, we should find, according to our best estimates, the names of at least 4,000 Maine men enrolled in the Regular and Volunteer Navy since the war commenced. For this large con-

tribution the State has received no credit in any of the calls for volunteers for the army, and the result has been that in our maritime towns the call for troops has operated with peculiar hardship, though in almost every instance it has been responded to with the most patriotic readiness. Should the vicissitudes of war necessitate a farther call for troops, it is respectfully suggested that in apportioning the quotas of the various States, an allowance should be made to Maine for the number of men she has contributed to the Naval service.

Very full and satisfactory details of all that relates to our troops, the mode of their enlistment, their numbers, their condition and their achievements, will be furnished in the forthcoming report of the Adjutant General. Among the most gratifying facts exhibited is, that the immense host which has gone from Maine, amounting in the aggregate for all branches of the service, to 40,084 men, is literally an army of volunteers. The men have been raised without resorting in any appreciable degree, to the draft. Indeed it may be said with truth that every soldier from Maine is a volunteer; for in the few towns where a draft was ordered, a bounty was given to those who were selected with which to

procure substitutes, if they were reluctant to enter the service. The fact that our quotas have thus been filled, is an honorable proof of the patriotism of our citizens, and will ever form one of the proudest chapters in the history of the State.

In several of our sister States provision has been made for allowing those absent as soldiers in the Union Army to vote at the general election. I think this practice is wise, expedient and just. It would seem absolutely unfair and unequal that those who are periling so much for the common weal should be deprived in the slightest degree of the common benefits and common privileges of the citizen. We all owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to those who are battling in the field for our civil rights and our nationality; and it certainly becomes us to manifest our appreciation of their heroic devotion and patriotism, not by mere words of eulogy or thanks, but by substantial tokens of our sympathy and our regard. I recommend therefore, that adequate provision be made for allowing our soldiers to vote while in service; and if the extension of this privilege should even require a change in our State Constitution, it would, I think, be wise to make it. This necessity might

involve delay, but it would have a compensating advantage in the fact that the change, when made, would embody the direct will of the people and would have the stability of organic law.

The condition of the State Finances will be fully exhibited in the Report of the Treasurer, soon to be laid before you. Our expenditures have been increased in various ways by the existence of the war, but not in such a manner as to embarrass the Treasury, oppress the people, or affect our credit. Indeed, at no previous period have our State bonds commanded so high a premium in the market as they have during the past year. Let it be our constant aim, by prudence and economy in our expenditures, and by the most rigid observance of public faith, to maintain our State credit untarnished through all the mutations and trials to which we may be subjected.

At the outbreak of the rebellion, our State debt amounted to \$699,000; of this sum \$250,000 was on account of the Massachusetts lands, purchased in 1853, and the remainder was incurred during the Aroostook war and in the years anterior thereto. During the year 1861, war loans were negotiated to the gross amount of \$800,000, while in March last the maturing installment of

the old debt, amounting to \$30,000 was paid. The precise bonded debt of the State at this time, therefore, is \$1,469,000.

The total outlay from the Treasury on account of the war, up to the close of the past year, amounts to \$1,127,767.52. It is confidently asserted that these expenditures have been characterized by the most judicious economy, and the accounts have been kept with accuracy and perspicuity, sustained throughout by the most amply authenticated vouchers. Primarily the whole sum thus expended constitutes a claim against the United States, and up to this time accounts in detail, to the amount of \$1,091,069.61, have been presented to the Federal Treasury for auditing and liquidation, leaving a balance of \$36,697.91 yet to be presented. On these accounts the Secretary of the Treasury has paid \$320,000. He has further ordered our State to be credited with the payment of its share of the direct tax under the twenty million bill of August 5, 1861. This tax, after the deduction of 15 per centum for the State's assumption of its payment, amounted to \$357,702.10, and its credit to us, together with the \$320,000 just named, make an aggregate payment to us, from the Federal Treasury, of \$677,702.10 on account—leaving

still a balance in our favor of \$450,065.42, to be farther increased, as just mentioned, by the sum of \$36,697.91. Of this sum it is entirely probable that the amount paid as bounties to the first ten regiments, viz., \$196,897.41, will not be allowed, and hence the amount to be expected from the General Government is \$289,865.92. This will doubtless be paid to us in cash or its equivalent, as soon as the accounts shall have been audited by the proper bureau in the Treasury Department. The latest information we have, as to the accounts, however, does not lead us to expect their payment in season to have the money used for any of the appropriations you may be called on to make at this session.

The exigencies of the past year, in enlisting additional troops, under the calls from the President, compelled the raising of large sums of money for the payment of bounties, which it seemed not only expedient, but absolutely necessary to give. The amount desired was advanced by various banks, on the request of my predecessor, in the full faith that you would legalize the transaction and assume payment of whatever is due. I take it for granted that there will be no hesitation in adopting this course. The action of my predecessor, was, doubtless, in accordance

with the wishes of a very large majority of our people ; it was dictated by the highest patriotism, and it was done when the exigency was so pressing that it was deemed impracticable to assemble the Legislature for seasonable co-operation in procuring a loan. The total sum thus negotiated, with the interest accrued, amounts to some \$340,000, and the details of its expenditure will be fully exhibited in the report of the Adjutant General. I respectfully urge that you provide promptly for its payment.

A further use of the State credit will be called for, in carrying out the provisions of "an act in aid of the families of volunteers," passed by the last Legislature. The act contemplates the assumption by the State, within certain prescribed limits, of whatever expenditures towns may make, to aid the families of those who are in the ranks of the Union army. Its object is just and beneficent, and its effect has been very marked in inducing men to enlist, who would have been loth to go, had they not seen this provision made for those dependent on them for support. In this view, the act constitutes a species of contract on the part of the State, with the soldiers, and we thus stand pledged to its faithful observance. Its repeal, or any mod-

ification which would render it less beneficial to those for whose advantage it was intended, would be a breach of faith on the part of the State. The maintenance of the act in its full spirit and effect has, therefore, passed from a question of legislative expediency, to one of public honor.

There is a change, however, which may be made in it, entirely consistent with the views just expressed. By the 4th section of the act, it is directed that the amounts found due to the several towns shall, on the first day of March, be passed to their credit by the State Treasurer "in a book kept for the purpose, and shall draw interest on and after that date. And on the said first day of March the Treasurer shall issue to such city, town or plantation, in his capacity of Treasurer, his scrip for the amount found due to each, respectively, made payable to the order of such city, town or plantation, at the State Treasurer's office, at the pleasure of the State, with annual interest."

I think this mode of paying the towns, is unsatisfactory and for many reasons, objectionable. It will prove inconvenient to the towns, to have running accounts with the State and settlements by small due bills, while it will increase the labor of the Treasurer and be de-

rogatory to the State, to have its obligations floating about for small sums which ought at once to be liquidated by cash payment. I recommend, therefore, that the section be so amended, as to direct the Treasurer to pay the ascertained dues to these towns in cash, on the first day of March; and if the current funds in the Treasury are insufficient therefor, that he be authorized to negotiate a loan for the purpose. Not the least advantage to the State, in this arrangement, is the saving of interest on all payments made with current funds, and the gain of the premium by negotiating a regular loan, when extra funds become necessary.

The total receipts into the Treasury, from all sources, for the year 1862, amounted to \$659,-812.03, and the expenditures were \$633,893.12, leaving a balance of \$94,353.54 in the Treasury, on the 1st of the present month. Full details, under these heads, will be found in the Treasurer's Report. The State Tax was increased by the last Legislature, to \$413,074.41, in view of the extraordinary expenditures entailed by the times. As compared with a large majority of the States in the Union, our tax is still a very moderate one, and indeed, of the total tax paid by our own people, it constitutes a

much smaller proportion than is generally supposed. It is now at the rate of two and a half mills to the dollar, whereas the tax actually assessed for all purposes, in the various towns and cities, ranges from 9 to 13 mills; very few towns being under the first named figure. It will thus be seen that the burdens imposed by the State Government, are in no sense oppressive. Indeed, considering the duties of the State Government, its large and beneficent field of usefulness, in its Executive, Judicial and Legislative functions, it may well be affirmed that no other form of civil administration was ever maintained, at once so effective and so cheap.

I have already alluded to the fact that within the past year the sum of \$30,000 of the State debt was paid. During the present year \$50,000 more will mature, and I earnestly recommend that it be paid, instead of being renewed, as has too frequently been our custom in the past. The policy of liquidation, in my judgment, is the true, safe and wisely economical one for the State to adopt. Whatever may be the theory or the truth in regard to the advantages of a national debt, I do not think that a State debt should remain unpaid a day longer than the time when the people can discharge it without specially or

unduly burdening themselves with taxation.

Our debt, other than that contracted on account of the war, all falls due between this and the close of the year 1877, in annual sums varying in amount from \$30,000 to 81,000, averaging precisely \$44,600 per year. It will be evidently the part of wisdom to pay these sums as they mature. The annual payment will be easy, and the aggregate relief will be great. The whole of the war loan thus far negotiated, (800,000) matures in 1871. At present therefore, we cannot do anything directly towards its payment, but a wise provision may be made for meeting a large portion of it when it falls due, by making a Sinking fund of whatever sum may be reimbursed to us by the Federal Government on account of war expenditures. To this sinking fund, in itself a stimulant to economy, might be profitably added any surplus which a rigid care in the administration of our affairs may leave at the close of each year. Keeping the policy of liquidation steadily in view, and providing for it by such means as your wisdom may suggest, we shall not only decrease the State expenditures with certainty and rapidity, but shall maintain our State credit in so enviable a condition that we shall find it available whenever

an unforeseen exigency may require us to use it.

In authorizing the Treasurer to negotiate such loans as may be necessary, I would suggest whether it be not expedient to fix the rate of interest at five per cent. In the present surplus of money seeking investment, State stocks of such high character as ours are regarded as specially desirable. I do not doubt that a five per cent. stock will be taken at par, and if negotiated, as will be expedient, for a long period, this rate will be more advantageous to us than a six per cent. stock at the highest premium we could hope to realize. I submit the matter to your most attentive consideration.

The appropriation for military purposes the past year was not sufficient to meet the legitimate drafts upon it, and there is hence a small deficit which it will devolve on you to supply. So long as we have troops in the field, especially in such large numbers, the State will have duties to discharge in regard to them, on the score of humanity and of that watchful interest and solicitude which Maine will always cherish for her sons. The health and comfort of the troops can be greatly promoted by this care on the part of the State, and to enable it to be exercised with promptness and efficiency the means must be

supplied by an appropriation, which I am sure you will not hesitate to make.

I cannot leave the subject of our State finances without adverting to the necessity, and enjoining upon you the duty, of rigid care in all your appropriations. Public economy, always expedient, has become now a sacred obligation upon us all. I ask you, therefore, to curtail expenditure in every practicable way; to infuse a spirit of thrift and rigid accountability in all the departments of our government, and to do everything that enlightened experience may suggest to ease the burdens of the people and advance the general prosperity. In all measures having these great objects in view, it will be no less my pleasure than my highest public duty to co-operate.

The general suspension of specie payments in the country more than a year ago, included of necessity the banking institutions in our own State, and such suspension was temporarily legalized by the act of the Legislature, approved February 10th, 1862. The operation of the act expires by express limitation on the 10th of this month, and it may be necessary for you to take some further action in order to avoid the complications and troubles that might arise from

any attempt to enforce the provisions of the 47th chapter of the Revised Statutes, which impose certain penalties upon banking corporations for refusing to redeem their bills, checks and drafts in specie. The question is of course affected, if not radically changed, by the law of Congress making Treasury notes a legal tender for debts—applying, of course, to debts of banks as well as debts of individuals—but it may at the same time be prudent, so long as actual payment of specie is not practicable, to make our own statutes correspond in letter to the supreme enactment of Congress, and the equally imperious law of necessity.

The specie suspension has not been followed in our State by any of those evil results which so many feared and anticipated. Indeed, our banks were rarely, if ever, in a sounder condition than they are to-day. As compared with last year, their circulation has, indeed, increased nearly two millions, but the balances to their credit at the point of redemption have increased by nearly the same sum, while their aggregate amount of specie, notwithstanding the great temptation to sell presented by the high premium, has decreased by only some \$40,000. They hold moreover nearly two millions of dollars in

Government securities. The healthful and prosperous condition of the community is also seen in the fact that deposits have increased by more than a million and a half of dollars, while individual indebtedness to the banks has decreased by a still larger sum. The Savings Banks of the State exhibit an aggregate increase in deposits of more than \$250,000, while the total amount of their deposits is well nigh \$2,000,000. These facts, together with many others, which will be presented in faithful detail in the Report of the Bank Commissioners, are highly gratifying and encouraging. They assure us that our financial institutions are conducted with prudence and honesty; and they prove that notwithstanding the many fears and predictions to the contrary, our State has rarely had a year of sounder prosperity in business affairs than the one which has just closed.

The Report of the Land Agent will present to you the condition of that Department. The proceeds in cash paid into the Treasury the past year amount to \$25,777.27.

The State owns at the present time about two million acres of land, of which only about one-fourth, at the most, can with any propriety

be called timber lands. The other three-fourths pass under the name of "settling lands," though a considerable portion thereof is rocky, sterile, and uninviting. The best portion of the public lands, including those sections in the counties of Penobscot and Aroostook, were with certain specified reservations, granted to aid the construction of the Aroostook Railroad, by act of the Legislature of March 8th, 1861. The grant was made, however, by the terms of the act, to "take effect and be in force after the city of Bangor shall have voted to loan the credit of said city, in conformity with the act of March 20, 1860, and not before."

On the 19th of March last, the question of loaning the city credit in aid of the enterprise was submitted to the voters of Bangor, according to the terms of the act referred to, and it was decided adversely to the loan. As the act ceased to be operative by its own terms, on the succeeding day, the lands immediately reverted to the State, and are now in the same condition as to ownership that they were before the Aroostook Railroad bill was passed.

It is greatly to be hoped that the effort to construct this important line of Railroad will not be permanently abandoned. The enterprise

has not yet had a fair trial, for contemporaneous with its inception came our unhappy civil troubles, deranging most seriously our channels of business, and putting an effectual check upon all enterprises that involved time, labor and the outlay of money. But while the disturbed condition of the country has postponed the effort to construct the railroad, it has developed and demonstrated a necessity for it in a larger sense than was claimed when it secured the favorable countenance of our State Government. For it cannot be denied that the experience of the past year has shown that while the road may be highly desirable and advantageous to Maine, as an avenue of business, it is absolutely essential to the nation as a great line of military defence. With the road finished to the eastern line of the State, tapping the valley of the St. John, our government could easily and effectually prevent the hostile and dangerous movement of troops by the only nation that possesses any special power to menace or injure. Distant be the day when we shall be at open war with Great Britain! And distant it will be, if we have the safeguards which the exigencies of the times and the nature of our position admonish us so urgently to provide. I shall esteem it a privilege to co-

operate with you in all measures that shall tend to bring this very important subject to the attention and appreciation of the General Government.

In the last annual address of my honorable predecessor, he presented with eloquence and force the great national advantages to be derived from the establishment of a naval and military station at Portland, on a scale proportioned to the possible requirements of the future. I can add nothing to what was so well said on that occasion, and beg only to repeat the suggestion, and to urge upon you the propriety of exerting whatever influence the State may bring to bear, morally and materially, to accomplish an object so desirable. The commanding position of Portland, the experience, and still more, the menaces of the past, to say nothing of the possible if not probable dangers of the future, conspire to urge this measure upon our State and upon our Nation with the most impressive earnestness.

Whatever may have been the differing opinions among us prior to the present war, in regard to the necessity of an efficient military system, it may be safely affirmed that our late experience has produced a very general feeling in its favor.

A movement in the right direction for re-

organizing our forces was made by the last Legislature, in the passage of "an act to enroll the militia of the State." How far and how perfectly the details of that act have been carried out, you will learn from the Report of the Adjutant General. How far beyond the provisions of that act it may be expedient to go at this time, I do not myself feel prepared to say, but respectfully leave the subject to your discretion. It may be worth your while, however, to consider whether, if you should complete the organization of the militia at this time, you will not lose the valuable counsel of those who are acquiring military knowledge in the best of all schools, and at the same time ignore the claims of those who have the highest title to whatever military honors the State may have the power to bestow. How far considerations of public prudence and personal justice may strengthen these suggestions, I leave to your unbiased judgment.

The Legislature of 1861 passed a resolve providing for a Scientific Survey of the State, and appropriated three thousand dollars in aid of the object. A similar amount was appropriated by the last Legislature for the continuance of the work. The practical value of what has been done can be judged by you from the Reports

of those who conduct the survey, shortly to be laid before you. It is understood that another year's work will complete the undertaking as originally designed, and I respectfully recommend that the amount be granted for the purpose.

Whatever tends to develop a knowledge of the capacities of the State, is certainly worthy of our highest encouragement. With our immense area, our varied resources, our unparalleled advantages for commerce, and our boundless facilities for manufacturing of all kinds, our State should take rank for wealth and prosperity with the foremost of the Union. But we are as yet comparatively in our infancy. Of our 22,000,000 acres of land, not more than one-fifth has been brought under even nominal cultivation. Our mineral resources remain almost untouched, while our manufacturing advantages have been improved just enough to show their unrivalled excellence and unlimited capacity. Wise legislation may do much to promote these various interests, while unwise laws may fatally retard their development.

During the past year the Agricultural interest, the most important and rapidly increasing one of our State, has secured a very valuable recognition in the establishment of a Department of

Agriculture by the National Government, and also in the passage by Congress of an act making donations of public lands to the several States, for the purpose of founding Agricultural colleges. The amount of land given is thirty thousand acres for each United States Senator, and the same quantity for each Representative, under the apportionment made in pursuance of the census of 1860. The aggregate grant to this State, therefore, is 210,000 acres. An authentic copy of the act is herewith transmitted, as it contains many details proper for your examination. There can be no doubt, I think, that vast benefits will flow from this act, and I have no hesitation in urging upon you the prompt acceptance of its terms and conditions. As none of the proceeds arising from a sale of the lands can be devoted to the erection of buildings, it may be expedient and indeed absolutely necessary, to allow some of our existing institutions to avail themselves of the benefit of the grant, provided satisfactory guaranties can be given that its design will be faithfully carried out. The amount to be realized in cash from the grant will of course be very considerable, though from various causes, not necessary to enumerate, it will be very far below the estimates which many have

been led to indulge. It is rare that a question of more immediate or more far-reaching consequence is submitted to the action of a Legislature. The acceptance of the act imposes very considerable responsibilities on the State, and I am justified in assuming that you will exercise the soundest discretion in any disposition you may make of the munificent gift now placed under your control.

On the eleventh day of September, 1854, our Government entered into a commercial arrangement with Great Britain, in relation to the trade of her North American Provinces, which arrangement is generally known as the Reciprocity Treaty. It was part of the agreement that it should remain in force for ten years, "and further until the expiration of twelve months after either of the high contracting parties shall have given notice to the other, of its wish to terminate the same; each of the said high contracting parties being at liberty to give such notice to the other, at the end of said term of ten years, or at any time afterwards."

The last Legislature, by joint resolution, expressed the opinion that this treaty should be terminated, with a view of securing a more just and equitable accommodation of trade with the

British Provinces. I recommend that you give expression to similar views in some formal and emphatic way, with the object of bringing whatever influence we can, to bear on Congress, for the accomplishment of the desired result. We have, of course, no direct legislative power over the question, but the deliberate and repeated expressions of the Government of a State, whose people are peculiarly and largely interested in the question, cannot fail to have a marked influence in settling the issue. It is neither my purpose nor, indeed, my province, to present any lengthy detail of the injurious workings of the treaty. Elaborate investigations, made within the past two years, under the direction of Congress, clearly establish the fact that the spirit of reciprocal trade, which was the basis of the Treaty, has not only been ignored by our Provincial neighbors, but oppressive duties, with stringent and hurtful discriminations, have been laid upon the products of our industry. Indeed, the treaty seems precisely adapted to the free admission of all the products of the Provinces which come into injurious competition with similar products of our own; while all the articles which we might profitably export, are met at the Provincial line

with customs charges, which strip us of all possible advantage in their markets.

The educational interests of the State are fully and ably set forth in the Report of the Superintendent of Schools. It is one of our chief glories, that we provide, at the public expense, for the education of all the children of the State. Our fathers wisely imposed it as a constitutional duty, and we are reaping the rich advantages of their foresight and their wisdom. While we may not be in a condition to make any extraordinary expenditure for educational purposes, it will be one of our highest duties to see that our schools are maintained in full vigor and usefulness, and that while other interests may suffer from the inevitable effects of war, the culture of the young, shall in no wise be neglected or abated.

The annual Reports concerning our public institutions, will be promptly laid before you, and will exhibit to you their condition and progress.

The Hospital for the Insane, is in all respects, answering its beneficent designs, and its affairs are managed in the most satisfactory manner, by its able Board of Trustees and its faithful and skillful Superintendent. It is not believed

that any similar institution in the country, is conducted with more devoted philanthropy or with more eminent success.

The State Reform School, is undoubtedly doing a good work, in the discipline and reformation of juvenile offenders. Its annual expense has been very considerably reduced, as compared with a few years since, and its burdens on the Treasury, are certainly outweighed by its benefits. Those who have officially visited and inspected the institution during the past year, speak in the highest terms of its discipline, its general management, and its beneficent influence on those who are consigned to its care.

The affairs of the State Prison, are given in more than ordinary detail in the Reports of the Inspectors and the Warden, and I respectfully ask your most attentive consideration of the facts presented. At no time, since the Prison was founded, has it reached a condition of self-support. The annual deficit has, of course, to be made up from the Treasury, and is, to that extent, a burden upon the people. Very strenuous efforts should be made to change this condition of affairs, and so organize the industry of the convicts, as to make it pay all the expenses of the Prison. To this end, I deem it absolutely necessary that

the labor of the convicts be leased to contractors, instead of the State itself attempting the business of manufacturing, as is now the case. It will be my earnest endeavor, aided by your valuable co-operation, to devise some method which shall permanently improve the financial condition of the Prison.

The term of one of the Senators in Congress from this State expires on the 3rd of March next. It will be your duty to elect a successor.

While our immediate sphere of action is in the administration of the State Government, I cannot close without adverting for a moment to our condition as a nation—our hopes, our prospects, our duties. We are well advanced in the second year of a war involving issues of the gravest moment to all of us. The contest was precipitated by those, who no longer able to *rule*, were determined to *ruin*, the government of the United States. The ostensible reason for secession was one which, if admitted to have any force, would forthwith destroy every element of Democratic Republicanism which exists in our institutions—for if a constitutional majority of the people cannot have the right to elect the President of their choice, our form of Government is at an end, and its attempted perpetuation

is a farce. From the day the Southern conspirators made open war on the United States by assaulting Fort Sumter, the question passed to the arbitrament of the sword, and not to have accepted the issue would have been to basely surrender the life of the Nation.

Thus far we have, with patriotic unanimity, sustained the President in all his efforts to subdue the rebellion. The people of the loyal States have poured out their treasure and their blood in unstinted measure, and in their devotion to country men have forgotten the prejudices of party. Upon a continuance of this cordial co-operation of all loyal men hangs the fate of the Nation, and hence with all earnestness I exhort the people of this State to maintain a patriotic unity in support of the Government.

To the most superficial observer, it has been evident from the beginning of the war that the insurgent States derived great strength from the labor of their slaves. It is their work that furnishes the Rebel Army with food and clothing, and indirectly with all other supplies—leaving the white population, with trifling exceptions, free to enlist as soldiers. Any policy which can detach the slaves from the rebels and make them a source of weakness rather than of

strength, will prove a vital and decisive gain to the loyal side. It is with this view, as a military measure, clearly derived from the war power of the Constitution, that the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, issued on the first of the present month a Proclamation, declaring all the slaves in insurgent districts to be free.

The object of the war ever has been, still is, and of right ought to be, as the President has well declared, the "*restoration of the constitutional relations between the United States and each of the States.*" It is for this that the loyal States contend, and with nothing less will they ever be satisfied. The nature or severity of the means necessary to accomplish this end must of course be determined by the extent and the character of the resistance offered by the rebels. It was hoped at the beginning of the war that the National authority might be reasserted within a brief period, and with little disturbance to the mass of society in the revolted States. The conspiracy, however, was too formidable to admit this result, and the contest has steadily waxed more desperate. It is now deemed necessary, as a means of speedily and permanently regaining the ascendancy of National authority, to de-

tach the slaves from the service of those who use them to promote rebellion. Whoever disputes the right of the government to do this, raises to the extent of his influence, a potent defence for the rebels. The alleged unconstitutionality of the proceeding implies the gross absurdity that the rebels in arms, trying to destroy our whole fabric of Government, are yet entitled to the most precious immunities of person and the most perfect rights of property which our constitution can guarantee. Such an assumption as this needs only to be mentioned to be refuted. The rebels are entitled at our hands during the war to nothing more and nothing less than the treatment prescribed by the laws of war, and we can and ought and will seize every legitimate weapon to conquer their military power and reduce them to obedience to the Constitution of the United States.

It is on this ground that loyal men can rally with enthusiasm to the support of the President. And it will not abate the force of the new policy that its result is to give freedom to a race long oppressed, and to abolish an institution which has been the source of evil dissension at home, and the cause of shame and reproach to us abroad. It will be clearly within the dispensa-

tion of God's justice that a system of oppression which violates the natural rights of man, which has always stirred up strife and contention, and which was the direct cause of our present troubles, should wither and perish in the wrathful storm which in its rage it dared to provoke.

The enlistment of the negroes for armed service, in holding Southern "forts, positions and stations," will be an immeasurable relief to the population of the North, as it will remove the necessity in any contingency, of a further call for troops to serve in the malarious climate of the Gulf States. To oppose this policy is to wantonly sacrifice the precious lives of our young men, by exposing them to an extra-hazardous service, which negroes can perform without any risk. The testimony of our revolutionary Generals, and of Jackson and Harrison in the last war with Great Britain, conclusively establishes the fact that under good discipline negroes make good soldiers. Let us give them a generous opportunity to prove themselves. The war is one which, in its incidents, is to result in their enfranchisement, and they will be far better prepared to enjoy their freedom rationally and profitably, by having participated in the contest which results in its acquirement. No other

nation would have hesitated so long to use this potential weapon, and we have endangered our cause abroad, if not at home, by the inexplicable timidity which has marked our course in regard to it. Let us now give it a vigorous trial. Those among us who have no sympathy with the result which this policy brings to the slave, may at least congratulate themselves that its firm enforcement will save the lives of thousands of white men, who might otherwise be exposed to disease, destitution and death.

As a loyal man, anxious only to do my duty as a citizen and a Magistrate, I can see no line of patriotism or of safety, except in a cordial, unreserved support of the policy enunciated by the President. To resist, or combine against it, is to run all the hazards of anarchy. If, as a people, we stand firmly by that policy, we shall conquer; and the Nation will come forth from the fiery ordeal through which we are passing, purified, strengthened, invincible. But if we divide into hostile factions, and spend our energies in fruitless, petty contests with each other, it needs no prophet to foretell the result of the pending issue, or to write the deep humiliation and disgrace to be forever associated with a degenerate people, who had neither the spirit nor

the patriotism to maintain the nationality bequeathed to them by a heroic ancestry.

We enter upon public duty, Gentlemen, at a time of unusual responsibility, when human wisdom alone may well be distrusted. But relying upon the guidance of that Gracious Being who hath so bountifully blessed us as a nation, and who chastiseth but in mercy, let us, in humility and yet in confidence, address ourselves to the conscientious discharge of the trusts committed to us by the people of our beloved State.

ABNER COBURN.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives :*

I herewith transmit for your consideration the report of John A. Poor, Commissioner appointed to confer with the United States Government in relation to the defences of Maine.

ABNER COBURN.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
 January 14, 1863. }

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*To the House of Representatives :*

In response to an order of the House passed January 22d, inst., requesting the Governor to communicate to the House what sum of money it has cost to do the State printing for the year

1862, and also to whom the same has been paid, I have to say that the printing for the year 1862 is not yet completed and the bills for the same have not been presented for settlement; no appropriation has been made for the same and no payments have been made thereon.

ABNER COBURN.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
 January 24, 1863. }

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

I herewith transmit to the Legislature an authenticated copy of an act of Congress entitled "an act donating public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts," together with a letter from Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State, relating thereto.

ABNER COBURN.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
 January 26, 1863. }

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

In response to your order asking for information "relating to the establishment and maintenance of the Military Agency at Washington,

and also the amounts of money already paid for its support," I have the honor to lay before you such information as I possess.

This agency was established by my predecessor, on or about the first day of October last, under the provisions of "an act authorizing the expenditure of moneys for war purposes," approved February 4, 1862, and by virtue of a "resolve providing for the safe transportation and delivery of hospital stores to Maine regiments," approved January 7, 1862.

There are now connected with this agency, four gentlemen and several ladies, a portion of whom are paid for their services, and the remainder have no pay, but their expenses are defrayed by the State.

There has been paid by the State on account of this agency the sum of \$201.16. There are also bills rendered and not paid amounting to the sum of \$525.25. There is due, for which bills have not been rendered, the estimated sum of \$300.

All of these amounts are for services and expenses prior to the first day of January current. The expense of the agency for the month of January is estimated at the sum of \$400. The whole expense, known and estimated, of this agency,

from its establishment to this time, may be assumed to reach the sum of \$1500.

I deem it proper to add, that Maine, in association with other States, has maintained for several months agencies at New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, sharing with the associate States her proportion of the expense. This State's proportion of such expense is estimated to range from \$50 to \$75 per month in each of the cities named.

It may be proper to add, that prior to the establishment of the agency at Washington, that portion of its duties connected with Washington exclusively, had been performed, without expense to the State, by the "Maine Soldiers' Aid Association," composed of our own citizens resident at the capital.

I believe that an agency at Washington is indispensable, but it is my impression that the condition of the hospitals in and around Washington is so excellent that but little oversight is required there. The assistance and succor of the State is needed at the front, among the regiments in the field and in regimental hospitals, and for the transportation of hospital and other beneficial supplies from Washington to the several camps.

For such purposes, the agency at Washington should be maintained as the central point. The agencies in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore serve valuable, and perhaps indispensable purposes toward the State, and should be maintained.

As the law at present does not seem sufficiently definite, I respectfully recommend the passage of some act or resolve, which shall give to the Governor requisite authority to maintain proper and essential agencies, and provide means for their support.

ABNER COBURN.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
January 29, 1863. }

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

In answer to your order requesting me to communicate to the Legislature whatever facts may be within my knowledge, and to lay before the Legislature whatever papers may be under my control, relating to the non-commissioning of the officers of the ununiformed militia, I have the honor to reply.

The militia of Maine were enrolled under the orders of the respective Major Generals during the months of April and May last, in conformity

with the provisions of an act of Legislature approved March 19, 1862. These enrolled men were during the months of July and August last organized into companies under existing laws by the choice of five officers to each company. These companies numbered six hundred and forty-three (643) and comprised sixty-nine thousand one hundred and seventy-two (69,172) enrolled men of whom, however, several thousand were at that time in actual service in the field.

The officers elected by these companies at the date before mentioned, numbered three thousand two hundred and fifteen (3,215.)

The organization of these companies had been hastily made without uniformity as to strength of numbers, the companies varying from one hundred and sixty (160) to as few as forty (40) enrolled men. About one-half of their enrolled numbers may be assumed to represent the number of effective men in each company at that time. After the organization had been made some twelve thousand (12,000) of the best of this militia enlisted in the service of the United States, reducing the effective strength of companies about one third part, upon an average of the whole and taking away a considerable number of their most active and competent officers.

In addition to these facts, which I submit as giving some information upon the subject of your enquiry, I have the honor to lay before you a communication from ex-Governor Washburn, dated at Orono, January 31, 1863.

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The precautionary measure which Mr. Coburn adopted in laying before the House of Representatives the communication from his predecessor, relative to the good standing and loyalty of those therein directly interested, suggests the carefulness with which he treated all matters pertaining to the common weal, that came under his observation. By prudent forethought he very wisely enjoyed the confidence and wisdom of those who acted directly as the representatives of the loyal citizens over whom he presided.

We give in full the communication referred to, believing that it will throw appreciable light on the subject under consideration.

EX. GOV. WASHBURN'S COMMUNICATION.

ORONO, January 31, 1863.

His Excellency Governor COBURN :

*My Dear Sir:*—I think you will find the papers that Senator Wiggin asks for among the files in your room. The fact that there were such remonstrances as have been referred to in debate in

the Senate, had I am sure. very little, if any influence upon the decision to which the Governor and Council of last year arrived in reference to commissioning the officers of the militia. That some disloyal men might have been elected was not regarded by me as a sufficient reason for withholding commissions from the true as well as the treasonable. But the almost certainty that important changes in the militia laws would be made the present winter either by Congress or the State Legislature, or by both rendered it expedient, as we believed, and in this opinion the Adjutant General concurred, to *postpone* the issuing of commissions until after the sessions of 1863. No practical harm could possibly come from the postponement, but great inconvenience, embarrassment and expense might be occasioned if the commissions should be issued at that time, and so the Governor and Council deemed it wise and prudent to wait the action of the Legislature on this question and I cannot help thinking that these considerations will be favorably regarded by true and loyal men who have nothing at heart but the good of the state and country.

Very truly yours,

ISRAEL WASHBURN, JR.

I find upon the files of this department papers alluded to by ex-Governor Washburn which upon examination are found to relate to the issue of commissions to certain officers elect in each of thirty-six (36) militia companies.

As regards eighteen (18) of these companies the complaint is the want of loyalty to the government in one or more of the officers elect in each company. In ten (10) of these companies it is charged that the elections were illegal. In five (5) companies the complaint is of the unfitness for duty of one or more officers in each by reason of infirmity, bad temper or defective education.

In one (1) company it is said that the officers are not citizens. Another company is simply dissatisfied without alleging reasons. In the remaining company it is objected to one of the officers that he has been sentenced to the State Prison.

These papers which are all of every description on file touching the matter do not in my judgment present any reason why the officers elect of the militia were not generally commissioned. I presume that they are not such papers as are contemplated in your order and for that

reason with other good reasons I do not lay them before the Legislature.

ABNER COBURN.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
February 2, 1863. }

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

In compliance with a legislative order of the Legislature of the 7th inst., I herewith transmit the annual reports of the Indian Agents for the year eighteen hundred sixty-two.

ABNER CORURN.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
February 11, 1863. }

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

I herewith transmit a letter which I have received from the Hon. S. Brannan, of San Francisco, California, in which is presented to the State of Maine a portrait of Sir William Pepperell.

The painting, which arrived before the letter of presentation, already hangs upon the north wall of the rotunda of our capitol, and fixes the admiration of all who enter.

Sir William Pepperell is identified with the early history of this State as a citizen spotless

in reputation; as a merchant, successful yet honest; as Chief Justice, pure and blameless; as a soldier, of such good conduct that he received from the sovereign the first title ever bestowed upon a native North American. He was for more than a quarter of a century the most prominent man of that territory which is now the State of Maine.

It is due to his native State, which he honored with such long and brilliant service, that she should preserve his lineaments as one of her chief ornaments, and as a token of her honest pride.

This graceful gift, coming from a native of this State, who, although he has transferred his residence to the Pacific, still proudly turns his affectionate regard towards his early home, merits from your hands a grateful acceptance and a befitting expression of thanks.

ABNER COBURN.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
Augusta, Februrary 12, 1863. }

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*Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:*

I have the honor, in answer to the order of the House of Representatives communicated to me yesterday "requesting a delay of action upon

the nomination of Hon. W. G. Barrows to fill the vacancy existing upon the bench of the Supreme Court," to reply that it will give me great pleasure to grant the request, and that accordingly there will be a delay of action as desired.

I wish however to inform the House that a delay extending beyond Wednesday next will be inconvenient, as it will detain the Executive Council one week longer than would otherwise be necessary.

ABNER COBURN.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
 March 18, 1863. }

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }  
 Augusta, October 24, 1863. }

*Fellow Citizens:*

The President has called for 300,000 additional volunteers, to meet the present and prospective exigencies of the war.

Of this additional force Maine is expected to furnish her quota, and she will not disappoint that expectation. Now, as heretofore, her patriotic men will respond to the call, and promptly furnish her full share of the force necessary to vindicate the integrity of our Gov-

ernment, and maintain the supremacy of the laws of the Union.

Our people, with almost entire unanimity, have determined that the present rebellion shall be suppressed, and that the Union which it was designed to destroy, shall be maintained. For this purpose they entered upon the contest, and to this end they will persevere until the object be accomplished, and until the world shall be satisfied that free men can endure more, and persevere longer, for the preservation of free government, than can the most desperate and determined traitors for its destruction.

The length of the conflict is not to be measured by years, but by events. *Treason is to be put down*, and to that end should all the measures of the Government be subservient. Great progress has already been made. Two years ago rebellion was bold, defiant, and apparently successful in half the territory of the Union, and our National Capital was literally besieged by armed traitors. Since that time, by the valor of our arms, they have been expelled from the greater part of this territory, and the banners of the Union now float in triumph over more than half the States which were then claimed as component parts of their boasted Confederacy.

They now find themselves on the point of strangulation by the closeness with which the arms of the Union are pressed upon them. Thousands of loyal men in the South who have been awed into submission by their despotism, are now flocking to our standards. A little more pressure, a few more vigorous blows, and the work of suppression will be accomplished, and our Union will stand forth in all its former glory, not reconstructed, because not destroyed, but stronger for the assault which has been made upon it. These are encouraging omens.

But the work accomplished has cost immense labor, and has required immense resources in both men and money. To sustain our armies who have struggled so heroically and successfully, to fill their ranks which have been reduced by the return of those whose term of service has expired, and thinned by the casualties of the field, and to enable them to hold the vast territory which has been conquered by their valor, and to bring the war to a successful and speedy termination, more men are now wanted. Will those men be forthcoming? Who that knows anything of the past, or the patriotism of our people, can doubt on this point? I cannot. Our people will not wait for any coer-

cive power to call them to duty ; all they desire to know is, how much additional aid is desired of them, and I feel full assurance that such aid will be rendered. I therefore, with great confidence, call upon the citizens of this State, as with one mind they have resolved to suppress the rebellion, with united hearts to provide the means necessary to accomplish this object.

The provision for the soldier is most ample. With liberal wages and a bounty of hundreds of dollars, he can go forth with the assurance that those dependent upon him will receive all needed support in his absence, and with the consciousness that his efforts will contribute to the perpetuity of our free institutions, the glory of our country, and the honor of her brave defenders. I summon, therefore, the loyal men of this State to aid in the speedy accomplishment of this work. I call upon the representatives of every class to contribute of their numbers and their means. Personal efforts and personal sacrifices are unworthy considerations, in comparison with the immense issue at stake. Let not these be imperilled through our inactivity. I believe that a proper appreciation of the necessities of the Government on the part of the people of this State would render but a few days necessary to

answer the call of the President upon us. I am too well acquainted with the results of determined effort in the past, to doubt this.

ABNER COBURN,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }  
Augusta, Nov. 14, 1863, }

I deem it proper to make public the following communication from the Provost Marshal General:

"If a State furnishes her full quota of Volunteers under the President's Call of October 17, 1863, for 300,000, the draft ordered for the 5th of January, 1864, will not take place in that State.

JAMES P. FRY,

Provost Marshal General.

Washington, November 5, 1863."

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The quota referred to for this State is 7,581 men, and each city and town has already been advised of its specific proportion thereof. Nothing more than this is asked, and nothing less will be accepted by the War Department. Whatever doubts or differences of opinion may have existed as to the contingency in which a

draft would be ordered, the above communication makes it perfectly clear, and places the duty of all loyal men plainly and unmistakeably before them. Each city and town that fills its quota within the time prescribed will avoid a draft, whereas the delinquent towns will of necessity have to submit to one.

In view of the vast importance of the struggle in which we are engaged, and of the imperious necessity of promptly re-enforcing our legions in the field, in order that Peace may be attained through Victory, I do urge upon all of the municipal authorities of our cities and towns, as well as upon the good people thereof, the duty of devoting themselves with promptitude and energy to the great work in hand. Large bounties are offered for volunteers by the National and State Governments, and the authority to proceed in the premises is ample. The quotas in all the towns must be filled within forty days from this date, or the alternative of a draft accepted by those that fail.

The Government prefers the volunteer to the conscript. It prefers to pay liberally for patriotic service, rather than to exact it by force of law. Let loyal citizens respond to this generous sentiment, and let there be a rivalry among

our towns as to which shall be most prompt in tendering renewed aid to the cause of the Union and of Liberty. Thus far in our great civil contest, Maine has borne a proud part. Her sons have upheld the national banner on the fiercest battlefields, and have earned a fame which we cannot too proudly cherish, and which we should strive to emulate. Let us, in the brief season allowed us, prove that our patriotism is as sincere, our enthusiasm as warm, and our faith in the national cause as firm, as at any hour since the contest began. Whoever else shall falter or fail, let the men of Maine prove themselves fully equal to the demands now made on their heroism and their love of country.

ABNER COBURN,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.



On the opposite page we present a very attractive view of Colby University and kindred buildings situated at Waterville, Maine.

Among the latter buildings may be seen Coburn Hall, so named in acknowledgment of benefactions from one of the most liberal friends of the University, Abner Coburn. For many years Mr. Coburn held the position of Vice President of the University, also that of Chairman of the Board of Trustees. At the time of his death he held both of these responsible positions.

This University has well earned a National renown. Under the efficient management of Rev. G. D. B. Pepper, its learned president, a most flattering future awaits it. Notwithstanding the many benefits the University had derived from his generous donations during his lifetime, by the terms of Mr. Coburn's Will it receives an additional endowment of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars.





## CHAPTER IV.

Abner Coburn as a Private Citizen. The Bloomfield Academy. Is made Trustee and Vice President of Colby University. Coburn Hall. His Timely aid to the University. The Court House of Somerset County. His Private Charities. His Religious Preferences. His wonderful Business Tact. His Personal Character. Reminiscences of His Life. Why He never Married. Miss Kellogg.

One would think that the multiplicity and extent of Governor Coburn's business interests would preclude the possibility of his attending to those general duties which make a man useful to society. Such, however, was not the case. Abner Coburn was pre-eminently a public spirited man,—one who did not consider his duty done when he had contributed liberally to educational or charitable purposes. Few men in Maine have done so much for the establishment of the higher educational institutions.

To the skillful management of Mr. Coburn and his associates, the old Bloomfield Academy fund was so increased that in the Skowhegan High School, one of the best in the State, generations will realize the benefits of opportunities for higher education. For years Abner Coburn has been a Trustee and Vice President of Colby University. To his liberality on many occasions, to his business tact, and potent influence, this institution owes much of its present prosperity and well assured future.

The Trustees have recognized his services by naming one of the buildings Coburn Hall.

#### HIS TIMELY AID.

In a stirring communication to the Zion's Advocate, Rev. F. W. Bakeman, formerly of Auburn, recalls the Commencement of 1864, "when the dawning of day for Waterville suddenly lit up the sky." At dinner on that day, by the side of President Champlin sat a short, plump man with a benevolent face, who was known to few. After dinner, some speeches were made, and a well fed, sleek pastor of a rich church complained of the meagreness of the board. He said he wanted a better dinner when he returned to his *alma mater*. This unkindness increased the painful impression that Colby University was poor.

President Champlin then arose and with pale face and trembling voice announced that the gentleman by his side had made the definite and formal proposition to give the college the sum of fifty thousand dollars as a permanent fund, on condition that the friends of the institution should add one hundred thousand. It was a surprise. It was dramatic. And thus Mr. Bakeman vividly describes the exciting scene which followed.

“For a moment there was stillness, as in the hush before the breaking of the tempest—and then—there was a tempest—a wild demonstration of joy and glad surprise, such as I have never since witnessed. Hands, feet, voices, knives and forks rapping on the tables, all bore a part in the concert of applause. Men shook hands and fairly hugged each other in their transports of joy. The hall rang again and again to their cheers. It seemed as if they would never stop.

“Meanwhile through all this storm of applause, the cheerable brother, who was its beneficent cause, sat blushing. To the clamorous calls of his name he made a brief response, no word of which can I recall. The facts of that day crowded out words. What Mr. Colby felt on that occasion no man can know. I have often

thought that ten years of life would be a small price for the experience of so blissful an hour. Finally the doxology was sung, and the Commencement of 1864, was over; the night-time in the history of Waterville College was ended, and *morning had come to Colby University!*"

Mr. Coburn became identified with the College of Agriculture and Mechanics Arts, and for years was President of the Board of Managers. In the interest of this institution he displayed the same zeal which characterized his life, whether engaged in private business or public affairs.

On the dark days of the institution, it always had his earnest support which secured it friends, which no other man could have brought to its assistance. To those institutions and several others he contributed liberally. To his liberality Somerset County is indebted for an elegant Court House; and largely to the same generous donor the town of Skowhegan is indebted for one of the best public halls in the State.

Although not a member, Governor Coburn was a constant attendant of the Baptist Church, to which he was evidently much attached. He doubtless contributed more money for the building of churches and forwarding the interest of

that connection than any other man in the State. His private charities may be said to be almost numberless, and his kindly deeds were done so unostentatiously and so much in the spirit of christian charity, that very few of them were ever known, or ever will be. In this he was a man of deeds rather than words. Neither Abner Coburn nor his brother Philander were ever married.

The amount of work which Abner Coburn has been accustomed to do is simply incredible. He always attended to his business correspondence, writing all his letters in a clear, round hand. Even up to 1872, he did much of the routine work in connection with his business. Most wonderful of all is that with all his cares and responsibilities, private and public, he found time to acquaint himself thoroughly upon all current reports of importance.

No topic of importance was discussed in the public press which he did not understand. In this particular he displayed a remarkable power of grasping salient points and retaining them. On all leading questions relating to the finances and prosperity of the country, Abner Coburn might well be regarded as an authority. But prominent as is Mr. Coburn, measured by his

success as a business man, by his capacity as a financier and in the management of great enterprises, and his usefulness as a private citizen and a public servant, his crowning glory will be found in his exalted personal character.

His life was singularly simple and conspicuously pure. Indeed, he was so far removed from the appearance of human frailty, and his life so open and so spotless, that idle gossip never trifled with his name. Wealth and great success did not make him arrogant. His habits and manner of living were simple even to frugality. He detested that show best known as shoddyism. He respected men for what they were rather than for what they possessed. Slow to promise but prompt to fulfil, he was one of those rarest of men, who perform better than they promise. In every relation of life, whether as a business man, a private citizen, a neighbor or public servant, he was a true man. All these high attributes so harmoniously blended and so conspicuously displayed throughout a long life, affords in Abner Coburn a grandeur of character that may be held up as an illustrious example pre-eminently worthy of imitation, and justly entitled to the homage of the people of a State for which he has done so much.

We have been fortunate in procuring the following interesting anecdotes of Governor Coburn :

The death of Governor Coburn has made his life and characteristics the chief topic of conversation, wherever he was known, and by people of all callings, by men who have lived in the lumber woods as well as of men who have known him in State occupations which have made him known as a capitalist. The anecdotes which have been told to illustrate his character, methods and habits, would make a volume. By no class of men was he appreciated more than the men in the lumber business, who had known him all their lives. It is rare that men have been able to command the confidence, and regard of such sturdy men as the late William Parker, Joseph Clark and the living Heman Whipple, of Solon. These named, are but samples of the men of sterling worth, and ability, who were connected with him while they were yet young men or boys, and have passed their lives either in his employ or in close business connections; their confidence and regard, increasing with years. He retained the same hold upon the esteem of the business men with whom he associated for years; the John B.

Browns, the George Patteus, Judge Rices, who have passed away, and the Morrills, the Aldens, the Jacksons, the Joses who yet live. While he was living, they spoke of him in terms of the highest regard, as a man, and of the highest appreciation of his rare business sagacity. Since his death the writer has recalled a few of the incidents which give an insight into some phases of character, and his characteristics.

"I knew the Coburns," said a Boston millionaire, "nearly forty years ago, when I was selling goods to traders in the Kennebec valley. At that time there was very little money in this country, scarcely a dollar, but Coburn notes of all denominations, were held by people of means. Indeed, I think they were used as currency. Everybody had confidence in them. It seemed that everybody who had hay, grain, or cattle to sell, were satisfied to exchange them for paper signed, A. & P. Coburn." It is said, that when Abner Coburn was Governor, he was so accustomed to sign the firm name, that on more than one instance, he affixed, "A. & P. Coburn," to State warrants and in one instance to a bill which the Legislature had enacted. There was a time during the war, when the firm name was in higher credit than that of many States.

Speaking of Governor Coburn's financial standing, courage, and the confidence which those who knew him best had in him: Soon after the consolidation of the railroads now making up the Maine Central, the hard times came on. The business fell off and the company had a floating debt which those who held it were very clamorous to have paid. Things were daily getting into a worse condition. It was agreed to have the President and one or two Directors go to Skowhegan to see Governor Coburn, who was at that time recovering from a severe illness. The President laid the case before him and ended with the somewhat startling statement that there was no way out of the embarrassments but for him to endorse the company's notes for \$200,000 at once and \$500,000 more during the next 60 days, if necessary. "The Governor's face was as impressive as marble," said some of those present, and he said not a word, and asked not a question, until the speaker had finished. Then he simply asked them to make the notes for \$200,000 which he signed. I have forgotten whether the other notes were called for, but the confidence which he inspired quieted the anxiety of many creditors. One savings bank held \$50,000 of the

paper of the corporation. The manager was nervous. He wanted his money, if the company was in a hard place, but he wanted these corporations to keep it if it was sound. "Give me Governor Coburn's endorsement and you can have the money and more as long as you wish." It was given and the savings bank man was happy. The Maine Central has outrode that storm, and is now a strong corporation; but its best friends will say to-day that Abner Coburn was their sheet anchor. "We spend the money," said Judge Rice, when President, "Governor Coburn pays it."

Years ago Mr. Blaine told in his inimitable manner several anecdotes of Governor Coburn, one of which we now recall. During the time the Morrill tariff was being revised and the continuance of the reciprocity treaty with Canada was an issue, Governor Coburn and Friend John D. Lang, then Mr. Blaine's constituents, went before the Ways and Means Committee of the National House of which the renowned Thaddeus Stevens was chairman. Mr. Stevens was very favorably impressed with the practical suggestions of the two Kennebec business men and expressed his admiration to Mr. Blaine, who was then a young member. "There are many

like able men in my district," said Mr. Blaine. Stevens looked at him and remarked: "Why the devil don't they send one of them to Congress." Mr. Blaine's attachment to Governor Coburn for years has been of the strongest nature. "Abner Coburn is pure gold," he once exclaimed.

Governor Coburn's methods when Governor did not always please the politicians. He always believed that the right thing to do was the best thing—the only thing. He judged men for the State's service just as he did for the lumber woods—for what they were worth. One of Maine's best regiments in the field was well nigh demoralized by reason of the desertion of two or three officers, some of whom had to be promoted if custom was observed. He listened to the complaints of all the wranglers but said nothing. In a few days two officers of lower rank were announced as the officers for the places over which there were quarrels. "I know these men and know that they will fill the bill," was his reply to the indignant protests. And he was right; the wrangling ceased and the regiment became one of the most famous from the State. The public welfare before individuals was his rule.

On one occasion, the Governor gave his views on the sources of National prosperity. "The nation whose individuals spend the most money, that is their own, will be most prosperous, because liberal expenditure means large consumption and large consumptions mean general industrial activity. Individuals may amass more wealth for a season by hoarding, but it must soon come to pass that the general hoarding of every cent will leave nothing in circulation from which to hoard. If the people who are able would begin to buy as liberally now as they do when times are flush, there would be a partial business revival at once." That bit of practical sense has more in it than all of Stuart Mill's works on political economy. On the currency, the tariff and business questions generally, his views were sound and many of his opinions original.

There was a vein of humor in Governor Coburn's make-up, that showed itself frequently. One of the most ludicrous scenes ever witnessed before a Legislative committee, was on the occasion of the investigation of the sales of the Agricultural College land scrip. Governor Coburn was summoned as a witness. One of the members of the committee was a young Dem-

ocratic lawyer from a rural village, who took it upon himself to examine the venerable ex-Governor. The Governor sized up the limb of the law in an instant and the opportunity was one he could not let pass. "What is your occupation?" asked the bantam. "That would be difficult to tell," quietly remarked the Governor, with ponderous gravity, and yet with a twinkle in his eye. "Have you ever been interested in lands?" pursued the inquisitor. "I have been," was the quiet remark of the man who once owned 700 square miles in his own State and large patches in the West. "Good judge of lands?" pursued the Solon. "I have sometimes thought I was not," was the quiet reply. "Own lands in the West?" put the lawyer. "Yes," was the answer. "How much?" "I can't tell with any degree of accuracy." "Well, tell us somewhere near?" "I cannot." "You cannot? Have you 5,000 acres?" "I think somewhat more." "How much?" "I prefer not to say." "Do you own 50,000 acres?" "I should say as much as that?" About this time the Governor's face began to beam with the fun, and the auditors began to titter. "Did you have any of the Agricultural College scrip?" continued the lawyer. "No," replied the Governor slowly. "Did you

want any?" "Yes," was the answer. "Why didn't you get it?" "Because," answered the witness, "I thought the sale was to take place at 11 o'clock, and it took place at 10. It was all sold when I got there." "You would have paid more for the scrip than the price for which it was sold?" "No; not if I could have got it for less." By this time committee and audience, except the young inquisitor and the witness were convulsed with laughter. As a matter of course, the situation afforded much of the amusement, and there was enough of it until Hon. Frederick A. Pike, of Calais, interposed out of regard both for Governor Coburn and the committee.

Governor Coburn always had a good deal of State pride. This was wont to appear in the railroad contests when efforts were made by outside companies and capitalists to make the Maine Central tributary to Boston lines. Of late, quite a number of Massachusetts men have been directors of the Maine Central. At a meeting held in Portland within three years, one of these men suggested that it would be more convenient to have future meetings held in Boston. "For once," says my informant, "the Governor seemed touched; one and another spoke, but the matter was ended by the Gov-

ernor, who said: "I have yet to learn that the distance from Portland to Boston is less than that from Boston to Portland." The rather previous Boston man had no more to say, and the meeting of the directors of Maine's great railroad continues to be held in Portland.

Governor Coburn was not what would be called a brilliant conversationalist, but he was to a grown man, an interesting and instructive talker. He knew the foremost men of Maine for nearly half a century, and from him one could get a better idea of their characteristics than from any other source. His recollections of his early life were vivid. He never sowed wild oats, or painted the town red. Of such things he could not tell, but of the struggles of two generations ago, of the manner of living, of the peculiarities of men of that time and of his experiences, he could speak in the most entertaining manner. He never made the pronoun "I" do extra service. If he had egotism, it was concealed. He was very charitable in his judgment of men and rarely spoke in condemnation of individuals. He did once say of an adroit gentleman: "If you want to track him sure, go in the opposite direction from that which his toes point." Of a Maine officer during the

war, he said: "He wrote so many letters urging his own promotion, that he couldn't have done any fighting." When the greenback craze swept over Maine, some one remarked to the Governor that———had turned an advocate of fiat money. "That is proper," he replied; "that man always maintained that he had paid a debt when he gave his note for it." I never heard him say more than such things as the above about a man, and such as those not often. He liked direct men. "Brown, (meaning the late John B., of Portland,) he once said, "is a man who says what he means, so that you can understand him." "Payson Tucker," he said, a little more than a year ago, "is a man of wonderful tact in getting along with people. He is the best railroad man I ever met. "Josiah Drummond is a man you can always believe." Such were his judgments of men with whom he was associated. Governor Coburn was a man who was kindly disposed. When he could and when he thought it would do, he aided those who went to him. He was cautious but often was deceived. He never gave advice and nothing else. Talk was not cheap with him. Those who knew him will remember him as a poor promiser but an excel-

lent performer. He never reminded a man of a favor. He did not trade in the thing as a commodity. To men whom he had a right to ask service, he rarely made the demand. He was no boss. If he had made the obligations he placed men under, a means of promoting his interests, he would have been one of the most powerful men in the State.

He was nearly the last of that score of able and vigorous men who did so much to develop the resources of Maine by building its railroad system. Ruel Williams, of Augusta, W. B. S., and Daniel Moor, of Waterville, John D. Lang, of Vassalboro, George F. Patten, of Bath, John B. Brown, of Portland, were on the list. He had many sincere friends and there were many who knew him intimately who admired his sturdy character, his strength of purpose, his kindness and his real manhood.

A gentleman who was very intimate with ex-Governor Coburn, contributes the following incidents which illustrate the way in which adventurers succeeded in imposing on the noble old man, notwithstanding the caution which in justice to himself and deserving objects of charity, he usually exercised.

"One day," said this gentleman, "an unusually

large number of beggars came in succession. One pretended to be blind and was led by another man. Another was on crutches and seemed to be very lame. All of them had some ail or other. The most of them were given something by the ex-Governor. Afterwards, we found out they were a gang of bummers who met in a neighboring back yard and put up the job. They were seen to disguise themselves and the lame man after he came out was no lamer than I am. There were nine of them in this gang and it is probable that they divided the plunder.

“Another time it was reported a man’s house had been burned in Embden. A day or two after this report, a man claiming to be the owner of the burned house, called on the ex-Governor and told a pitiful story of having lost his home and his all. Mr. Coburn gave him \$25. A few days later on, it turned out that this man was an imposter. They came around with a subscription for the real sufferer and the ex-Governor gave them \$50.

“One day, two women and a boy who also claimed to hail from Embden, called on the ex-Governor. One of the women had called before and had been given five dollars. I will name

her Mrs. A. Well, Mrs. A. and Mrs. B., and the boy told their stories. They were poor and sick and helpless and so on. The ex-Governor heard them and gave Mrs. B. and the boy \$5 each and \$3 to Mrs. A.

"'Why!' exclaimed she, looking at the money. 'Here's only \$3. That will only pay for the team.

"She had hired a team and paid \$3 for it, to come here and beg!

"On a certain evening, a boy called at the house and saw the ex-Governor. He said his mother and sister were very sick and he had a physician's prescriptions for them, but had no money and could not get them filled. The Governor thought it was a hard case and gave the boy \$5. I was in the house at the time and happened to see the same boy, whom I followed out of doors, coming out of a candy shop, ten minutes afterwards. I went in and learned that the youngster had spent nearly all the money for candy.

"One day while Philander was alive, a woman who seemed to be a little cranky called.

"'I must see Mr. Coburn' she said.

"She was told that he was very busy and she could not see him.

“‘But I must see him and he must help me,’ said she. I’m in want of bread and I must live.’

“Philander spoke up and said drily, ‘I don’t see any special need of it.’

“That’s the only joke I ever heard him get off.

“The letters from impudent beggars, received by the ex-Governor, were innumerable. They came not only from every State in the Union, but from foreign countries. I remember he received a letter from a crank in Edinburgh, Scotland, who said that \$50,000 would do for him at that time but he might need some more bye and bye !”

That, while thus vexed and abused, the ex-Governor did not stint his giving, is remarkable. This comes pretty near being genuine Christianity.

#### HOW MR. COBURN WAS SWINDLED.

Mr. Coburn owned a large amount of valuable timber land in Wisconsin. A man from Maine who was a distant relative of the ex-Governor, made a contract to go on it with a crew and work it at the halves. This arrangement continued for fifteen years, a term which expired two years ago. By an accident, Mr. Coburn discovered that his agent and partner was re-

turning about half the amount cut. He had reported a cut of eleven millions for one winter.

The next summer a man who had been employed as a scaler by the operator, came to Skowhegan and Mr. Coburn saw him.

“How much did you scale, last winter?” asked the ex-Governor.

“I came out before the winter was half over and I had scaled about eleven millions, then,” he replied. “I guess they cut a little more than eleven millions after I came out.”

The ex-Governor is believed to have been bled to the amount of \$200,000 in this operation. His partner, and a number of fellows associated with him, made money hand over fist.

There is no doubt but if the ex-Governor had lived to operate on his extensive timber land in the West, he could have realized a great deal more from them than his executors can. They cannot be sold for any where near what an experienced lumberman can get out of them by going on and working them.

Ex-Governor Coburn was lumbering extensively in the Maine woods, at the time of his death, one hundred men being employed under his faithful superintendent, Heman Whipple.

It was one of the ex-Governor's peculiarities

that he rarely made a settlement in full with anybody. He kept about square with the world, but seldom exchanged receipts. This will make a lot of trouble for the executors. A great many claims will be presented and they will have hard work to sift them. Some claims of a doubtful nature have been heard of, already. It is likely that not a few of these matters will be settled in the courts. The executors see a twenty-five years' task before them—for which 5 *per centum* on the property, divided among five men, will not prove a very large remuneration. A source of trouble is that the ex-Governor was so reticent about his affairs and so little is known about them at the start, that a great deal of digging must be done. Had the Governor employed a confidential clerk during the last five years of his life, his estate would be \$300,000 better off.

#### WHY ABNER COBURN NEVER MARRIED.

It is not generally known that Governor Coburn, at one time, had very serious intentions of marriage. Such we are informed was really the case, and no better illustration of the adage "There is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip" can be presented than that which produced a rupture between the Ex-Governor and his lady love.

At one time during his earlier life, not until Mr. Coburn had accumulated a large property, however, he paid devoted attention to a very prepossessing and accomplished lady. With a single exception, she possessed the many insinuating charms for which a large majority of her sex are noted. Her family were financially poor. This misfortune had little to do with the Governor's feelings, but on being informed of the prospective union of the daughter with the rich land owner, the parents, brothers and sisters, became so elated over the social advancement in store for them that they could not restrain their joy nor govern their tongues. They boasted of the rich catch the daughter had made. This gossip finally reached the ear of Mr. Coburn who became so disgusted at the weakness displayed, that he withdrew from any further attention to the girl. Thus ended his dream of wedlock.

Governor Coburn took a deep interest in the State College and always attended its commencements. On one occasion at the commencement concert one of the artists was Miss Kellogg, the prima donna. The drinking water at the hotel was not pleasing to her taste, it is related, and she did not hesitate to complain of it. Mr. Coburn, who was characterized by a carelessness

of dress, was wandering about the hotel, when he heard of the distress of the singer. He immediately offered to relieve her of her trouble, saying he knew of a spring of good, fresh water and offered to bring her some if she wished. She, taking him for some attendant about the hotel, gladly accepted the offer, and was so much pleased with the draught he brought that she engaged him to furnish her with drinking water during her stay.

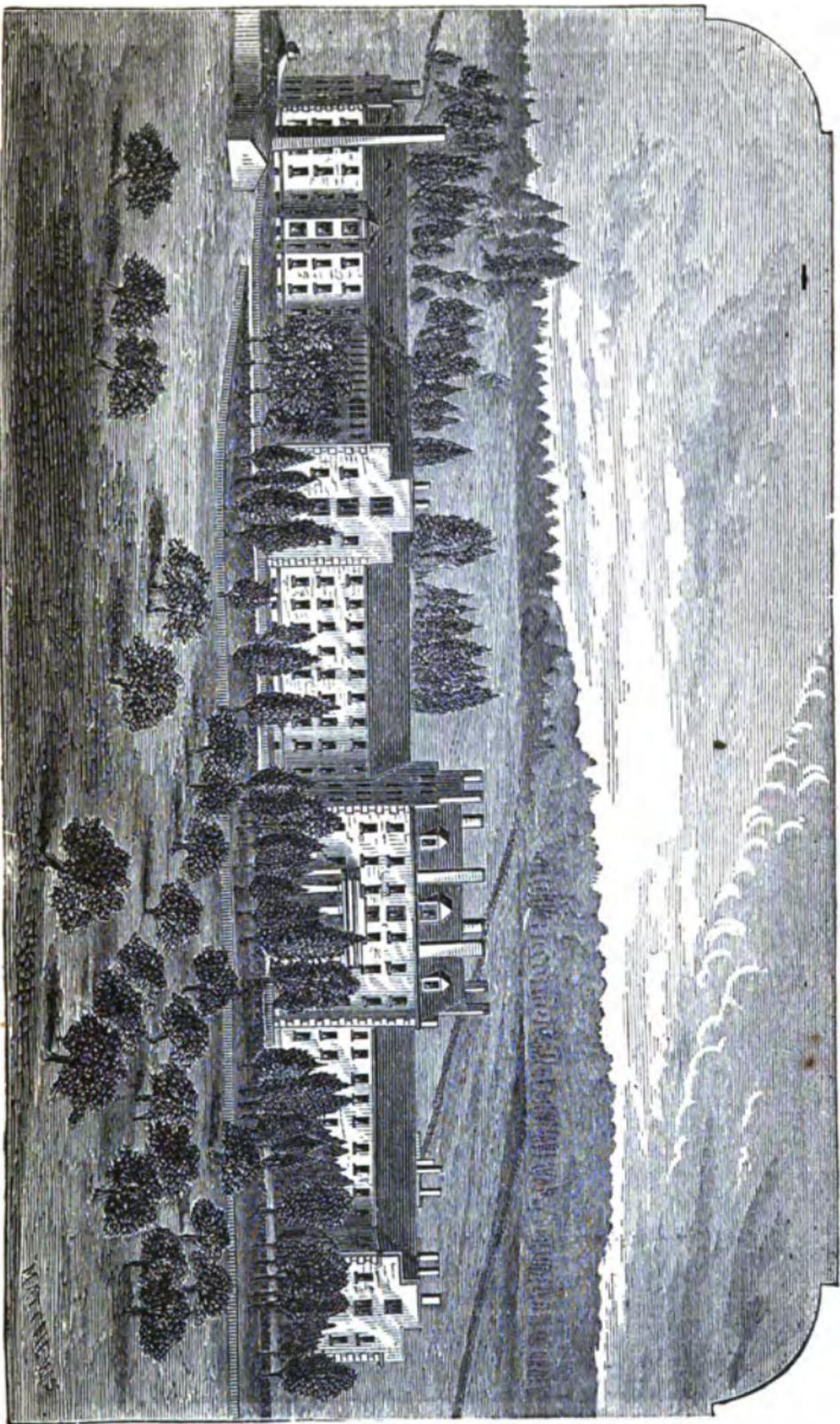
Upon her departure she expressed her thanks to her attendant, and, much to the amusement of the by-standers, offered him money. This he gallantly refused, telling her that the carrying of the water had been a pleasure to him. When she boarded the train, one of her companions asked her if she knew to whom she had been speaking. "Why, no," said she; "some servant at the hotel, I suppose." Her amazement can be imagined when told that it was none other than the Governor of the State.



On the opposite page appears a handsome cut of the Maine Insane Hospital. This very useful institution was established during the year 1840, and is under the direct supervision of the Executive officers of the State. The Hospital is conducted under the management of Doctor Bigelow T. Sanborn who is aided by two assistant superintendents and other subordinate officers.

During the last few years, many improvements have been made in the Hospital, designed to ameliorate the condition and minister to the comforts of its inmates. The grounds have also been greatly beautified, and are very attractive.

By the Will of the late Ex-Gov. Coburn, this institution receives Fifty Thousand Dollars from his estate.





## CHAPTER V.

His Last Hours. His Death. A Meeting of the Citizens of his Native Town. Governor Robie. The Governor's Council and Members of the Legislature attend the Funeral. The President and Directors of the Maine Central Railroad. Many other Officials in Attendance. The Resolutions of the Directors of the Maine Central Railroad. Remarks of the Hon. Augustus G. Lebroke in the Senate, January 8th, 1885. Order from the Senate to the House. Remarks of Representative Walton of Skowhegan.

The Rev. Dr. E. A. Wyman, a native of Skowhegan, a year ago, contributed the following lines to the *Watchman* of Boston, addressed to ex-Governor Coburn :

Your star is setting peacefully to rest,  
Not hid or obscured by a darkened west,  
But brightly glowing as the colors seven,  
Melting away into the light of Heaven.

You ope your coffers with a heart most kind,  
That your rich treasures may fit issue find,  
"To lead in wisdom's ways the mighty mind,"  
And through college and church to bless mankind.

A long noble life ! and with no heart pained,  
No one made poorer for the wealth you've gained !  
You have taught the world how modest to live,  
How patient to gain, how freely to give.

In public and in private worth the same,  
No hypocrisy blots a well earned name.  
"To sordid souls the token of their shame,  
With nobler spirits a perpetual fame."

#### HIS LAST HOURS.

Although for many months it had been known that Hon. Abner Coburn was in ill health, and it was feared that he could not long survive, yet his death caused almost as much surprise as though he had been stricken down, in the vigor of manhood. He had only been able to be about attending to his accustomed business, a few days before he went to Augusta, as a member of the Electoral College, to cast his ballot for Mr. Blaine for President. There he had a severe attack of illness and was brought home by special train, under the care of physicians. He rallied slowly from numerous pull backs, and for weeks before his death, it was hard to tell whether he was gaining or losing in

his fierce fight for life, against many odds. Latterly he took more nourishment, and was really beginning to pick up a good deal. The Thursday before his death, he attended to several matters of business, and even in the evening had a consultation with his attorney in regard to a business matter. After the interview, he appeared little if any fatigued, and after conversing with his attendants retired. About midnight he had a severe chill. Dr. Wilbur his regular physician, was summoned and strove for a long time before he could relieve his patient. This was the beginning of the end. The next day, Friday, he rallied a good deal, and conversed very freely with all who called, but with night came a severe attack of his old enemy, dyspepsia. Dr. Wilbur was again summoned and was with him several hours before relief came. Saturday he was in a stupor a large part of the time, although he responded when addressed. He took nourishment several times, but it was quite evident that his end was nearing. Thus he continued to slowly decline, till he passed quietly away at 5 A. M. Sunday, January 4th, 1885.

Thus ended a noble life. The deceased had not been free from attacks of dyspepsia since

his illness ten years ago. At times he had been a great but patient sufferer from this terrible disease.

A meeting of the citizens was held at Morrison's Hall, and it was decided to close all places of business, and to attend the funeral in a body. A committee consisting of Col. Isaac Dyer, E. F. Fairbrother, W. H. Fuller, J. P. Blunt and O. R. Bacheller was appointed to make all the arrangements for the funeral. Col. A. W. Wildes, L. H. Webb and J. B. Dascomb were appointed a committee to draft resolutions on the loss the town had met with in the decease of ex-Gov. Coburn.

In his message to the Legislature, January 8. 1885, Gvernor Robie paid the following high tribute to the memory of Mr. Coburn. "Another man upon whom the people have wisely conferred their highest honors has passed away. Hon. Abner Coburn, the representative man of of the best characteristics of New England simplicity, integrity and economy, is no more. Cradled in the adversities of earlier times, he has left a record of bright examples which the young men of our State may well follow. His life is a monument of great usefulness, of high public spirit and patriotism. To his financial ability,

indomitable courage and high executive attainments, more than to those of any other one man, Maine owns her central system of railroads. To his liberal endowments many of our educational and charitable institutions owe their developed power of enlarged usefulness. Called to the office of Governor during the most trying period of the late war—in 1863—he displayed firmness, sagacity and patriotism, of the highest order. His life, character and achievements are an honor to Maine, and proud is the State that can claim the birth and citizenship of such a man.”

The funeral took place at 2 P. M. January 7th, under the charge of Judge J. B. Dascomb. All places of business were closed from 1 till 4 o'clock. Citizens met at Coburn Hall at one o'clock and proceeded to the Baptist Church to attend the services. A special train arrived soon after noon, bringing the Governor and Council, several members of the Legislature, the President and Directors of the Maine Central, and other former associates and friends of the deceased. They assembled at Coburn Hall, and under the direction of Col. Dyer, the column proceeded to the church in the following order, to take part in the solemn obsequies, out of respect for the distinguished dead:

Governor and Council.

President and Directors of Maine Central Railroad.  
Railroad Commissioners.

President and Faculty of Colby University.

President and Faculty of Maine State Agricultural  
College.

Members of Coburn Classical Institute.

Clergymen of Town and Vicinity.

The Supreme Judicial Court.

Members of the Bar and Officers of Somerset County.

Members of different trades.

Citizens generally.

The services at the church were conducted by Rev. Dr. Pepper, assisted by Rev. Dr. Ricker, Prof. Smith and the pastor, Rev. Mr. Harwood. After the services the remains were taken to the family burial lot in the cemetery on the South side.

Mr. W. G. Keene, senior member of the firm of Keene Bros., paid his respects to his departed friend. Mr. Keene had always been an ardent admirer of Gov. Coburn, and in his death he feels that he has lost a friend indeed. As a slight token of the appreciation his firm felt for the deceased, he brought with him three magnificent floral pieces to be placed upon the casket in the church. One, an open book, formed of japonicas, white roses, carnations, Roman hyacinths and other rare exotics. The

whole on a ground of fern and maiden hair fern and smilax sprinkled in. On a ground of carnations was the word "Character," in immortelles. The word reached clear across the two pages of the book. The second piece was a large pillow made up of carefully selected flowers, also on a background of fern. At the foot was the word "Manhood," in raised letters. The third piece was a floral star, the centre of which was formed of Easter lillies. On this was the word "Honor."

The relatives of the deceased made a most profuse display of flowers at the church.

#### RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

At a meeting of the directors of the Maine Central railroad held Monday the following resolutions on the death of Hon. Abner Coburn were adopted:

*Resolved*, That in the death of Hon. Abner Coburn, this board and the Maine Central Railroad Company have met with a loss such as rarely happens to men associated together in business relations. Connected with the Somerset & Kennebec R. R. Company at its inception more than thirty years ago, he was the main pillar of the enterprise and from that time forward until his death he was among the foremost in developing the resources of the State by the

building up and extension of our railroad system. In his thirty years service as a director, and three years service as president of this company, he exercised that wonderful sagacity which led to the embarking in enterprises of real merit, and avoiding any which have led to disastrous or unfortunate results. In the dark days through which the company has passed he had never lost its confidence in its ultimate success and to that end he had given his able services, his sound judgment and even the pledge of his private fortune in a crisis, in which nothing else saved it from most serious embarrassment. In the judgment of the board, the success which this company has attained is largely due to Gov. Coburn, and they desire to put on record this expression of their appreciation of the obligation this company is under to him.

*Resolved,* That while this company has lost one of its oldest, ablest and most devoted friends, the members of this board have lost an associate whom they had learned to regard in the highest degree for his sound judgment, his courteous bearing and his unswerving integrity; the State has lost a most valuable citizen, and the community a public spirited, benevolent and large hearted man.

*Resolved*, That as a token of our respect to his memory this board will attend his funeral in a body.

REMARKS OF THE HON. AUGUSTUS G. LEBROKE,  
OF FOXCROFT, IN THE SENATE, JANUARY 8TH,  
1885.

“*Mr. President*: Profoundly moved as I am, and as I have no doubt the members of the Senate, as well as the people of the State of Maine, are at the reception of the news of the decease of Hon. Abner Coburn, I thought it not unfitting that his death should be noticed in this body. In the character of Abner Coburn were well epitomized the elements of the true American citizen. Born within the borders of our own State, educated in our common schools, dwelling among the people, and early seeking his fortune in the sturdy forests of the North, he arose step by step to well and honestly earned wealth, and to high distinction among his fellow citizens, until he became chief magistrate of the State of Maine. His munificence, known and well understood in the State, was not and has not been extended to institutions of learning alone; not alone has it been extended to build up solid columns and permanent structures for the public benefit; but the poor, the lowly,

the humble in life, the toiling boy and toiling girl struggling in penury, the father and mother who needed aid in the care of their children, have never, when worthy, called upon him in vain. With an integrity as fixed as his native hills, with an honor which was unbending in his transactions with his fellow men, he has earned a name and a fame which well might be emulated by those who would rise to distinction in our State hereafter. He has developed the fact that upon our soil and in our vast forests by the advantages of our mighty rivers which grandly roll on to the sea, there is an opportunity for the accumulation of wealth in the State of Maine, an opportunity to rear homes here, and that our own soil and abundant resources will not suffer in comparison with those regions which have been considered more highly by those who have hastily left our borders.

I feel but feebly competent, with no previous notice of this opportunity in the hurried moments of this morning, to do anything like justice to the memory of that good man who has recently departed. I am glad that a committee of this Legislature is to attend his funeral rites, and out of respect to his memory and as a matter of duty on my part and the duty of the

Senate, I move, Mr. President, that the Senate do now adjourn."

The Senate then adjourned.

THE FOLLOWING ORDER WAS RECEIVED FROM THE SENATE, JANUARY 8TH, 1885.

Ordered, that a committee of three, on the part of the Senate, with such as the House may join, be appointed to attend the funeral of Hon. Abner Coburn, ex-Governor of this State, as a mark of respect to the memory of one of our most distinguished and philanthropic citizens. The committee appointed by the Senate was, Young of Cumberland, Heath of Kennebec, and Allen of Knox.

REMARKS OF MR. WALTON OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. Walton of Skowhegan, said: As a member of the House from Somerset county, and Skowhegan, the home of the Hon. Abner Coburn, I have to say that last Sunday morning at seven o'clock, Hon. Abner Coburn passed away from earth. In view of his eminently high character and benevolence, which was not bounded by County or State lines, I believe that some expression of this House should be made, and I move that a committee of eight be appointed by the Speaker to attend the last testimonials of respect to be given him before he is

laid away in the silent earth, his last resting place. I understand that the funeral will take place at Skowhegan at two o'clock this afternoon. I also move, Mr. Speaker, that when this House adjourn, that it adjourn in respect to his memory until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

On motion of Mr. Dickey of Fort Kent, it was voted to amend so that the adjournment should be until 10 A. M. tomorrow instead of 9 o'clock.

The Speaker joined to the committee from the Senate, Messrs. Walton of Skowhegan, Rackliff of Corinna, Stillings of Berwick, Thayer of Waterville, Ames of Portland, Kaler of Scarborough, Brown of Milton Plantation, Hobart of Edmunds, and Sprague of Monson.

## CHAPTER VI.

The Last Rites. Impressive Services over the Deceased. Eloquent Address of Rev. Dr. G. D. B. Pepper, President of Colby University. Governor Coburn's Monument.

### THE LAST RITES.

"Where lives the man in this State, whose death would call together such a distinguished body of representative men as assembled in Skowhegan, to pay their respects to the memory of Ex-Governor Coburn? The visitors arrived by special train. In the party were President Sewall, General Manager Payson Tucker, Directors Wm. G. Davis and Gen. Hyde, General Passenger Agent F. E. Boothby, Treasurer J. A. Linscott, Paymaster Thos. P. Shaw, Chief Engineer W. A. Allen, Agent C. O. Baker, Detective John S. Heald, of the Maine Central

Railroad; Ex-President of the Eastern, Geo. E. B. Jackson, of Portland; Superintendent L. L. Lincoln, of the Rumford Falls and Buckfield; Judge Percival Bonney, Treasurer; Revs. A. K. P. Small, D. D., and A. S. Burrage, Trustees of Colby University; Hon. W. F. Milliken, C. F. Jose, Esq., Lewis Pierce, W. H. Baxter and Thos. H. Weston, Esqs., Portland; Isaac T. Hobson, a prominent lumber dealer, of Wiscasset. C. A. Coombs, Esq., Superintendent of the Knox & Lincoln; Ex-Director Geo. M. Patten, Hon. Wm. Rogers, M. G. Shaw, N. Stiles, Rev. S. F. Dyke, D. D., of Bath; the Lawrence Bros., and S. Ward, of South Gardiner; S. W. Jewett, J. H. Gray and J. S. Maxey, of Gardiner. There was a large party from Augusta, including Gov. Robie and Messrs. Bolster, Cornish, Crockett and Swazey, of his Council; Hon. Joseph O. Smith, Secretary of State; Messrs. Young, Heath, and Allen, committee from the Senate; Messrs. Ames, Walton, Hobart, Rackliff, Sprague, Stillings, Brown and Kaler, committee from the House; Hon. J. H. Drummond, of Portland, Clerk of the Maine Central Railroad Company; Hon. Artemas Libbey and Hon. Orville D. Baker, of Augusta; Hon. Edmund Wilson, of Thomaston; U.

S. Marshal Geo. D. Bisbee, of Portland; F. A. Wilson, Esq., Bangor; E. W. Shaw, Newport; President M. C. Fernald, of the State College of Agriculture at Orono; Hon. J. R. Bodwell, of Hallowell; Col. J. W. Porter, of Bangor; and D. G. Bean, Esq., of East Wilton, Prison Inspector; Hon. Clark H. Barker, Postmaster of Portland; J. H. Bigelow, Esq., of Boston, U. S. Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service; Hon. Joshua Nye of Augusta, and Ira Sturgis, Esq.

From Waterville came, Director John Ware of the Maine Central; President G. D. B. Pepper, Profs. Hall, Capen, Smith, Foster, Taylor, Elder and Small, also delegates from the several classes—all of Colby University; Dr. J. H. Hanson and Rev. A. S. Lane, of the Coburn Classical Institute; Moses Giddings, Esq., Pres. Bangor & Piscataquis, of Bangor; Rev. Joseph Ricker, D. D., of Augusta; Rev. B. F. Shaw, D. D., and Hon. E. F. Webb of Waterville, Trustees of Colby; Rev. W. H. Spencer, Prof. Moses Lyford, J. W. Philbrick, Esq., G. A. Phillips, Esq., together with a committee from the Lockwood Mills Co., consisting of Treasurer J. W. Danielson, Directors R. B. and R. W. Dunn, and Agent C. B. Abbott, all of Waterville.

From Fairfield came, N. Totman, W. W. Rice and wife, C. G. Totman, A. H. Totman, A. H. Duren, T. G. Heald, C. E. Duren, F. H. Totman, A. E. Lawrence, H. W. L. Lovejoy, Lyman Fish, Winfield Cross, C. G. Flood, A. W. Clarke.

The visitors were driven to the hotels on their arrival, where they took dinner; after which they road to the church followed by several hundred citizens, who had met at Coburn hall. The body of the church was reserved for the visitors, but the seats were filled before nearly all of them were accommodated. After prayers at the residence of the late Governor the remains were brought to the church. The casket was a handsome broadcloth with satin trimmings and four heavy silver handles. On the neat silver plate were these words,

Abner Coburn,

Died Jan. 4, 1885.

Aged 81 years 9 mos. 14 days.

The front of the altar was tastefully trimmed with smilax, and two vases filled with fragrant tea roses ornamented the sacred desk.

The pall bearers were, David Sanders of Greenville, H. S. Steward, F. A. Williams,

and Omar Clark. Judge Dascomb had charge of the arrangements.

After an organ voluntary the services were conducted as below, Rev. R. M. G. Harwood, pastor, Rev. Dr. Pepper of Colby University, and Rev. Dr. Joseph Ricker of Augusta, occupying the pulpit :

Singing—"There is a calm for those who weep,"

W. F. Sudds

Quartette Choir,

Selections of Scripture, read by the Pastor.

Address by Rev. G. D. B. Pepper, LL.D., Colby University.

#### DR. PEPPER'S ADDRESS.

*My Friends:* I am to speak for you rather than to you. One event has drawn us together. A common sentiment binds us together. We have to-day one mind and one heart, one thought and one feeling. We are about to bear away, to commit to the bosom of Mother Earth, to bury out of our sight, the familiar form of our venerated friend, Abner Coburn; to bury this body of his, now pulseless, breathless, senseless, silent, motionless, cold, dead,—dead, and yet even in death lovely and beloved. We shall see it no more. None on earth shall see it till the morning of the resurrection. And now thus together in this last tender, solemn

hour, here where it was his wont and his joy to worship Sabbath by Sabbath, we would fain give to our thought of him some expression, however inadequate, would at least make the endeavor, however unsuccessfully. It is not to praise him. He is beyond our praise or blame. It is to speak out the word which the heart prompts.

That of him which is here with us today, to be seen and touched, is his body. Of some men the body is the major part. Of any man it is in this life an important, and essential part. Abner Coburn inherited a sound, well-wrought, and well-compacted body, and for this inheritance he wisely cared. He neither neglected nor abused it. He never by dissipation sowed in it the seeds of corruption. Some of you, whose heads are white, doubtless saw him in his boyhood and youth, and can recall the vigor of his physical life at school, on the farm, in society. More of you knew him in mature manhood when that same body served as the sure, steady, solid framework for the unresting; un-hasting, powerful, efficient, mental machinery within, organ and instrument most fit for such a soul. And even when with stealthy step old age came on, bleaching and blanching the hair, tracing wrinkles on face and forehead, insensibly

abstracting vigor and elasticity; even when in addition, one attack after another of disease, which foresight could not avert nor care prevent, had done its worst, through it all, even to the end, as we all have seen him and known him, how still did that manly form serve its master within right loyally, right royally; the eye scarcely dimmed, the ear as quick and ready to hear even to the last minute, as in life's morning. Oh! what a blessing is such a body! What cause of thankfulness is its possession! What shame, what pity, the misuse, the abuse, the causeless maiming and marring of the body! So, to-day, we are glad and grateful as we have these thoughts and take this backward view. We take home anew an ever needed lesson for ourselves.

We recall also the intelligence that dwelt within, making the body luminous, and streaming out into the lives of others. His was an alert, attentive, watchful, active mind, always awake, quick to see, to hear—to see and hear everything. He not only looked at and on things and persons, but around them, and into them and through them. He was exact in his observation. He saw that very thing which he did see; knew that very thing which he did

know ; and knew that he saw and knew that very thing which he did see and did know. There was no blur before his eyes ; no smoke in his eyes ; no fog in or around his head. There was that in him which scattered fog banks as he neared them, and made the air as clear as crystal, pure transparency. His words were few, but always to the point. He hit the mark every time. There was not a grain of wasted powder. He used a rifle, never a shot-gun. Scattering was to him an abomination. Whether in pleasantry or in earnestness, he was equally apt and pat. He could see the exact point at which to prick conceit, and one touch of his bodkin was enough. The experiment never needed to be repeated, at least by him. As for flattery, did it even venture into his presence ? I know not, but of this I am sure, if it did the venture was a failure, to itself a disaster.

His mind, though thus alert, exact, clear, had an equable, easy action. However swift the current, it scarcely seemed a current so smooth was its surface, so even its flow, so without noise of rush and tumble ; also so very clear and almost invisible like the air. You knew the movement afterward by its effects ; by finding what it had moved, or at least what

movements of execution, his own or others', it had guided or attended. Accustomed, as we have been, to see his placid features, restful eye, perpetual poise, constant calm, everywhere, always, as though every year and every day of every year were a Sabbath, a genuine New England Puritan Sabbath, such as he loved, it requires effort to believe that he was at any time watching the gathering and swift coming of storms, listening to the in-rushing, from every point of the compass, of turgid, mighty, mad streams, threatening him and his with wreck and ruin; that he was, with the swiftness and power of lightning, sending thought all ways to search out all possibilities of good or ill and to decide where was weal and how to win it. To believe this requires effort, is incredible, and yet is simple fact. This, we all know, was done again and again in his own business, so immense and yet so quietly mastered and managed—managed with mastery—as noiselessly as gravitation manages the motions of worlds; was done also in the State's business in the whirlwind and whirlpool of our civil war, when, by the will of the people, it became his official duty to make his own the business of the State. Who ever saw Abner Coburn

in a bluster or fluster? For what minutes of what day did he lose his head? Where was the place? What the cause? News has been broken to him suddenly of the loss of tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars at one stroke. I have been assured that the bearer of the news could not detect in the tone of the voice, the look of the eye, or the expression of the face perplexity of mind or ruffle of sensibility.

This calm and even movement in a mind so active and exact implies extraordinary comprehensiveness of view, and the clear consciousness of such comprehensiveness. Not indeed as though temperament had nothing, had not much to do with it. It surely had. With him it was an important part, but not the main part. His was not so much the quiet of inertia as of intelligent assurance. It was not indifference. He could not be indifferent. It was not blindness. Blind he was not. His intellect relied upon itself and he relied upon his intellect, because the intellect had been found by itself and by him to be reliable; had been, in all affairs falling to its care, compelled so to act as to be worthy of trust—to leave nothing out of the account that should be taken into the account, to clear the fog and dust away from the

whole horizon so as to have a fair view all around. Besides we have abundant evidence of another sort, and more direct, to this comprehensiveness. He did not account himself and is not by others accounted as having been "liberally" educated. He never went to college; never fitted for college, even; had no professional or technical training of any sort; grew up largely in the woods, wholly in the country; was not a book man, had no time to be, with a business like his own to care for. And yet he was keen-eyed, clear-eyed, broad-eyed, far-eyed enough to see the worth of all kinds and degrees of genuine education—the lower, the higher, technical, professional, all. He saw clearly and recognized with the emphasis of ample gifts—gifts of time, of thought, of counsel, and of money,—the value of all kinds and grades of educational institutions. He was not by profession a politician, or through special training a statesman. And yet he gave ample evidence that the underlying principles of government, State and National, had engaged his attention. His convictions were clear and positive. And when placed in the halls of legislation, the seat of a councillor, or the governor's chair, he was not at sea, but very much at home,—perhaps,

as governor, a little too much the master of the situation to suit the notion of such as would fain have done the business of the government in their own interest. He was not by profession a theologian, never even united with a church. But he was the owner of a Bible, had laid his mind, so clear and calm, to the mind of God as there revealed, had taken up into himself much of that book's truth, had looked into society near and far away and into individual life, and had marked how the book fitted life and what it had done and will do for life. And so few men were better listeners at church, few had sympathies with religious work more profound and intelligent. His open hand has a thousand times been proof of this—his testimony to those with whom at times he spoke in confidence on such themes is to the same effect. What cause has not been brought to his attention for material aid? What good cause ever failed to gain his aid, which with him was the infallible sign that it had won first his approval—for he could no more give at random than talk at random.

Citizens of Skowhegan, you know full well and love to testify, that along with all the vast interests, private and public, that engaged his thought there was not an interest, great or small,

of his town and yours which did not command his intelligent consideration and his generous support. All this, with how much more of the same sort, gives evidence, is evidence of intelligence of high order, of wide compass.

What kind of a heart was in him? Was there any? This man whom we saw and knew, without wife and children, so much alone and apart, so marble and statue like when in view, no flush of emotion on his cheek, no flash of passion in his eye, no gush of song ever escaping his lips, or gleeful laugh or shout of joy—this imperturbable, immobile man—is there in him heart, feeling, sensibility? Who shall dare to say yes? Nay, rather, who shall dare *not* to say yes. There is no magnet of hearts save heart, and what heart is here that was not drawn to him? When we call him friend, the name is not mere name. He gave how widely, never from cold policy. His heart moved his hand as his mind guided both. Look again upon that passionless face. Look upon it as it was in life, as it is even now and here in death, and see there benevolence, sweetness, sympathy, philanthropy. They who knew him best speak most emphatically and lovingly of his heart. How near did it come to breaking when brother and nephew,

stay and hope of his life, went up together before him to their God and his! Yet who that looked upon him, as a stranger might, could have dreamed of what was passing within? No sign of that great sorrow. No sign saved to the practised eye. No sensibility in him forsooth? And yet I am assured by one who knows, that such was his attachment to his recent pastor that after his removal to another State the bare mention of his name would start the unbidden tear. His home, being without wife and children, was thus not completely home, and yet his home, how large, how loved, even here below,—his family circle not bounded by lines of blood relationship or of territorial limitation. His true home above—wide enough, genial enough, that home. Doubtless he could feel and retain indignation. His sense of justice, of injustice also, was keen and strong. He was sensitive, could resent,—resent, though quietly, yet effectually. Doubtless, too, he had ambitions—strong, permanent, controlling. Why not? Would he have been good for anything without them! Who is? All this was not because he had not, but because he had, heart. Heart is not mere softness, sweetness, gentleness. It is these, but it is also strength, force,

fire. It is something terrible when it masters reason; something contemptible when there is no reason which may either master it or be mastered by it. But the forces of the heart acting under and in and for reason, appearing through motive in wise achievement and wide benefaction, in harmony among themselves and duly adjusted to all the other life forces, give to a life the beauty of dignity with sweetness and make a strong and lovely character.

That he was eminent, pre-eminent, conspicuous in power of will, in executive ability, is universally known—*could* not be questioned. We measure it by its achievements, and yet so measured it seems *almost* beyond measure, *quite* beyond the measure that most of us can use. To know what is required for such achievements, so vast, so diversified, so complicated, stretching continuously over so many decades, one must himself have had large experience in affairs kindred in nature and amount,—experience not only large but successful. Had he done nothing but conduct his own private affairs, in such fashion as he did conduct them, his efficiency, his work power, had been something egregious. We must remember that what he did he *himself* did. He put himself in no man's

hand. In so far as the nature of the case would allow, he put his *business* in no man's hands, never let it slip from his grasp. Even the infinite details of it, which, we would think, another, or others (for not *one* other adequate could well have been found), might have performed, he chose not only to watch, but to execute, and this not merely in the vigor of early and mature manhood, when there was great reserve or surplus of physical strength, but to the last. These details seemed rather to rest than to worry or weary him. It was perhaps because of a change from the effort, if we may properly speak of *any* action of his as *effort*,—from the effort of regarding and controlling the major affairs.

All this, I say, holds even if we think only of his own private affairs. But our thought will not stop there. We must think of his relations to other interests, to civil government, to educational institutions, to railroad corporations, and to how much besides that was kindred in importance. But in none of these was he a mere name. If he was anywhere a silent partner or member, the silence was not that of inefficiency. He had a judgment and a will and he used both. This cannot be stated too strongly and its signifi-

cance on our estimate of the man is obvious.

But his power of will had still higher though less obtrusive expression. He could and did "rule his own spirit." With insight into men and things such as his, often dealt with in ways which might well vex, harass, and hurry to passion and wrong, how yet could he and did he bear. He gave to others their rights; he would not reciprocate wrongs. He knew his own rights, and "knowing dared maintain." He always *dared* but not always *did* maintain, for he valued peace and the common good more than his own rights. His simple, unostentatious, quiet, dignified life, so well aware as he was of the consideration which money and official position command, was the manifestation of self-rule. While he could well measure the worth of all such things, he well knew that a man's true worth is what he is rather than what he has, in his manhood and not his money.

I cannot doubt, from all that I have learned, that the crowning triumph of will had long ago been achieved by him in the submission of that will to the will of God, as revealed in Holy Scripture and in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. For reasons known, perhaps, to himself, certainly to God, his confession of faith was

not by uniting with a church and observing its ordinances. It came in other ways and in most express assertion by his own lips. I can imagine what might have operated powerfully to keep back such an one as he from church membership. I cannot imagine him as making confession of a faith which was not genuine.

So has his rounded and balanced life completed itself. He inherited much from his parents. We may say that his opportunities were rare.

He was not wholly self-made. No man is. Freely did he receive. Many and divers were the talents committed to him. He was a steward. I now that in his later years at least he felt himself to be God's steward. He meant to be faithful. May we not say he was faithful? Perhaps not; that is not ours to say authoritatively and with full assurance of any man. This, however, we may say, that we have and cherish the confident hope that last Sabbath morning in the unseen world his Lord and ours meeting and greeting him said, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

His work here is ended. He leaves a vast void. Yet he still lives on earth, still works, how widely in the untraceable lines of perpetuated influence, as also in those which can be

traced back to him. He abides with us in the record of his life's work, in the memory of his character. You most nearly related to him as his kindred will fondly cherish this memory and its power in your lives. But we all, and how many thousands besides, will share with you this good. We shall especially cherish and carry this lesson, "The worth of man is in his manhood." Well has he taught it. May we well learn and live it.

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An impressive prayer by Rev. Joseph Ricker, D D., followed. Another hymn was sung by the choir, and President Pepper pronounced the benediction.

The casket was then opened and an opportunity was given to all who wished to look for the last time on the familiar features of the deceased. For more than half an hour men, women, and children filled past the casket. The remains were then removed to the family burial place, not far from the church, and there laid away in the spot which Gov. Coburn had himself selected as his last resting place.

#### GOVERNOR COBURN'S MONUMENT.

Anticipating his early decease, Governor Coburn, prior to his death, had prepared a suitable

monument to mark his earthly resting place.

This shaft, designed by Judge James B. Dascomb, who had entire supervision of the work, was completed May 30th, 1884, at a cost of six thousand dollars.

A most beautiful piece of handiwork, it will stand for ages to indicate the spot where lies the dust of the great good man.

Conspicuously free from verbiage, this shaft, in its beautiful simplicity, is an eternal reminder of the purity of the life of him whose memory it commemorates. It suggests the lines,

“Praises on tomb-stones are words but idly spent ;  
A man’s *good name* is his best monument.”

## CHAPTER VII.

The last Will and Testament of Abner Coburn. Full Text of the Document. Over One Million Dollars bestowed on Public Institutions. The Generous Gifts of a Generous Giver. Private Bequests. Incidents.

Below is presented the Full Text of the Will of the late Ex-Governor Abner Coburn. By its terms over a million dollars are bequeathed to Public Institutions, besides many private bequests. The thoughtful spirit that impelled Mr. Coburn to give so liberally to public charities; to the endowment of institutions of learning, to the missions of Christianity and to the poor of his native town, is but a fair illustration of the character of the man. Long will the name of this philanthropic donor be kindly remembered by the citizens of Somerset County, —particularly those of Skowhegan. The Court

House of Somerset County, located at Skowhegan, is a munificent gift to the County by Mr. Coburn. The actual cost of this handsome edifice amounted to \$40,000.00.

Although Mr. Coburn was exceedingly liberal to the public, yet he did not neglect his family connections. Those who had the right to expect from him a recognition have been most generously provided for :

#### THE WILL.

Be it known that I, Abner Coburn of Skowhegan, County of Somerset and State of Maine, being of sound disposing mind and memory, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament, as follows, viz :—

*First*—I give and bequeath to the Maine Insane Hospital at Augusta, Fifty Thousand Dollars, the same to be funded and the income only to be expended annually.

*Second*—I give and bequeath to the Maine General Hospital at Portland, One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

*Third*—I give and bequeath to the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, One Hundred Thousand Dollars—the same to be funded and the income only expended annually.

*Fourth*—I give and bequeath to Colby Uni-

versity Two Hundred Thousand Dollars—One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars of which to be funded and the income only to be expended annually.

*Fifth*—I give and bequeath to the American Baptist Home Mission Society, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars—one-half of which to be applied in aid of Freedmen's Schools, (other than Wayland Seminary.)

*Sixth*—I give and bequeath to the Wayland Seminary, at Washington, D. C., in memory of my deceased sister, Fidelia C. Brooks, late missionary to Africa, and Mary A. Howe, late teacher in the Seminary, Fifty Thousand Dollars.

*Seventh*—I give and bequeath to the American Baptist Missionary Union, for a Judson Memorial Fund, One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

*Eighth*—I give and bequeath to the Maine Baptist Convention, for Missionary and Religious Work in the State, One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

*Ninth*—I give and bequeath to the Waterville Classical Institute, in addition to what I have already donated, as much as will amount in the whole, to One Hundred Thousand Dollars—one-half of which to be funded and the income only to be expended annually.

*Tenth*—I give and bequeath to Houlton Academy, to increase its Endowment Fund, Five Thousand Dollars.

*Eleventh*—I give and bequeath to The Maine Industrial School for Girls, at Hallowell, Five Thousand Dollars.

*Twelfth*—I give and bequeath to the Baptist Church and Society in Skowhegan, for a permanent fund, Eighteen Thousand Dollars.

*Thirteenth*—I give and bequeath to Bloomfield Academy to open the same free of tuition, to the public, Seven Thousand Dollars.

*Fourteenth*—I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Bloomfield Academy, to be appropriated at their discretion in funding a Free Public Library in the Town of Skowhegan, Thirty Thousand Dollars.

*Fifteenth*—I give and bequeath to the Town of Skowhegan, for the worthy and unfortunate Poor, and to save them from pauperism, to be funded, and one-half of the income of the same to be expended by a Ladies' Aid Society, formed for that purpose, Twenty Thousand Dollars.

*Sixteenth*—I give and devise to the town of Skowhegan, all that part of the Russell Lot, that lies South of Water Street, in said Skow-

hegan, for a Public Park, to have and to hold the same, to the said Town forever, for that purpose.

*Seventeenth*—I give and bequeath to the Skowhegan Hall Association, in part to secure a liberal policy in respect to the use of the Hall for objects of public interest, Fifteen Thousand Dollars.

*Eighteenth*—I give and bequeath to Sarah B. Coburn, Five Thousand Dollars.

*Nineteenth*—I give and bequeath to Eleanor L. Turner, Five Thousand Dollars.

*Twentieth*—I give and bequeath to Helen S. Coburn, Five Thousand Dollars.

*Twenty-first*—I give and bequeath to George H. Ray, Three Thousand Dollars.

*Twenty-second*—I give and bequeath to Aaron Parker, One Thousand Dollars.

*Twenty-third*—I give and bequeath to Payson Tucker, George H. Ray, Z. A. Smith, Charles F. Weston, Greenlief A. Wilbur, George N. Page and James B. Dascomb, One Thousand Dollars each, as a token of regard and friendly feeling toward them.

The residue of my Estate, of whatever kind, and wherever situate, I give and devise to my kindred as follows, viz :

To the children of my deceased sister, Eliza C. Marston, the children of my deceased brother, Samuel W. Coburn, and the children of my deceased brother, Stephen Coburn, in equal parts—provided that the share of Alonzo C. Marston shall be held in trust by him for his son, Abner Paul Marston, and that said Alonzo C. Marston shall have full power to sell, convey and reinvest for the benefit of the said son, during his minority, on giving Bonds as testamentary trustee.

I will and direct that all the above legacies and bequests shall be paid within five years from the Probate of this Will, and that interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum shall be computed on said specified legacies and bequests, in two years from said Probate.

And that upon whatever payments are made previous to the said two years, a discount at the same rate shall be made.

I hereby authorize and empower my Executors to operate upon, manage, sell and convey such portions of my Estate, as they may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this Will.

And lastly, I do constitute and appoint James B. Dascomb, Russel B. Shepherd, George N. Page, Charles Danforth and Levi W. Weston,

Executors of this my last Will and Testament—  
hereby revoking all former Wills by me made—  
and I further direct that the Executors of this  
my last Will and Testament give their personal  
Bond without Sureties.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my  
hand and seal, this twelfth day of December  
A. D. 1882.

ABNER COBURN.

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An examination of Gov. Coburn's effects by  
the executors brought out some of his peculiar-  
ities more clearly than anything else could, and  
emphasized his natural shrewdness. Among his  
effects are very many interest-bearing notes for  
small sums of money against as many different  
persons. At first thought one would look upon  
these as an evidence of a grasping rather than a  
benevolent disposition, but when it is recollect-  
ed that he was beset by beggars of every quality  
it is easy to see that this plan was adopted to  
free himself from further importunities by the  
same individuals. So long as he held an over-  
due note against an impecunious person it is  
safe to say he hardly ever sought any further  
favors. There were, however, people around  
him whom one would have supposed he would

have been sure to have remembered because of the care taken for his personal comfort, but whose names were unmentioned in his Will. Had he believed he was so soon to pass away from the scenes of this world he would doubtless have personally remembered their services before it was too late.

The amount of the estate left by Gov. Coburn it is impossible to determine because of the character of the investments. The value of his lands, which constitute the bulk of his property, depends almost entirely upon the manner of their conversion.

A glance at the foregoing Instrument, will demonstrate the fact that Abner Coburn's intention was to give his great wealth to the most commendable cause known to man—charity. Charity for the poor, charity for the sick; charity for the ignorant and unfortunate. The helpless orphan comes in for a share of his bounty, while even the untutored heathen is not forgotten. Church and school are most liberally endowed; opening a way to high mental and moral training for thousands yet to come.

Although it is not definitely certain that Mr. Coburn heartily sympathized with the early agitators of abolitionism, yet it is to be inferred

that his sympathy for the emancipated race was deep and sincere. The very large amount of money bequeathed to their interests is an indisputable evidence of his desire to see the Freedmen elevated to a proper standard of citizenship through the medium of mental and moral training.

The Missionary Society that he so liberally endowed will, doubtless, long remember the name and revere the memory of their departed friend. All other institutions mentioned in his Will, no doubt will unceasingly enjoy the blessings bestowed upon them by Abner Coburn.

The Maine General Hospital has been a recipient of his especial bounty. This institution is an honor to humanity, and an honor to the State of Maine, and the city of Portland in which it is located; a haven of rest to the invalid and needy, and, like similar institutions in other sections of the country, an honor to the Union. Two Hundred Thousand Dollars has been bestowed on this Hospital. Could any gift have been more wisely bestowed? Should the name and fame of any man be held in higher esteem than that of the good Samaritan whose sympathy for his fellow man led him to perform such noble deeds in the interest of

humanity? As we review the long list of charitable bequests contained in the Will of Mr. Coburn, we are stricken with admiration for the man whose noble soul preferred the common weal, rather than that a few should enjoy the blessings of his toil.

The great bulk of Mr. Coburn's wealth was found to consist in real estate, a very large percentage of which is situate in his native State. This is soon to be so disposed of as to enable the legatees of the Will to enjoy the blessings conferred upon them.

With no children of his own to inherit his vast accumulations; with no descendant bearing his honored name to share his wealth and perpetuate his memory, Mr. Coburn gave back to the people of his nativity the temporary blessings which he had derived from and enjoyed in their midst.

We refrain from further comment upon the disposition of his immense fortune, feeling that we are utterly incompetent to do justice to the motives which prompted him to so dispose of his fortune. It is, however, a pleasing thought that perchance the subject of our commentary, from a higher sphere, looks down approvingly upon the past and reflects the smiles of nature's

nobleman upon those who commend the worthy course which he thought proper to pursue. To those whose selfish instincts debar them from enjoying a thorough appreciation of his philanthropy, we suggest the familiar lines :

“Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.”

## CHAPTER VIII.

Peculiarities of Abner Coburn. The Coburn House. Its History. A Friend to the Poor. The Skowhegan Park. The Maine Insane Asylum. Governor Coburn's munificent gift to the Institution. Incidents and Reminiscences of Mr. Coburn. Is chosen President of the Electors from Maine to the National Electoral College of 1884. Hon. John S. Case.—His Tribute. Eulogistic Contributions by Hon. Daniel F. Davis, Professor M. C. Fernald and other distinguished personages.

### PECULIARITIES OF THE EX-GOVERNOR.

It is believed that the late **EX-Governor** Coburn had done more for various societies of the Baptist persuasion than any other one man in Maine. More than twenty different churches have been the recipients of his bounty. Whenever any society of the above denomination was in want of means to conduct its affairs successfully, an appeal was invariably made to Abner Coburn. Seldom, if ever, did he refuse to render the re-

quired assistance. Before his death, it is stated, he gave outright over \$20,000 towards defraying the obligations of as many churches.

One marked peculiarity of Mr. Coburn was the studied reticence he invariably assumed. Whatever he did, from a standpoint of charity, no one ever knew from his lips. By this means he enjoyed the full confidence of many. When a deserving suppliant went to Abner Coburn and poured into his ever attentive ear the fullness of grief or misfortune, it was with an assurance that the world would never learn of the secret woe.

So guarded in fact was Mr. Coburn, even about his own affairs, that his most intimate friends were never taken into his confidence. Although the weight of years hung heavily upon him, and he must have realized that his journey was well nigh ended, still he failed to enlighten those who were to represent him after he had gone.

His most intimate friend, Judge James B. Dascomb, knew no more of the affairs of Governor Coburn, at the hour of his death, than any one of those with whom the Governor had a mere speaking acquaintance. Two years prior to his death, he made his Will. Judge Dascomb was appointed one of his executors, yet, from Mr. Coburn's lips, he never knew it. Only after the

death of the Governor he became cognizant of the confidence his old friend had placed in him. When Judge Dascomb entered upon the duties of his executorship, the only knowledge of the affairs of the estate he could derive came from the officers of the Bank, whose President Mr. Coburn had been.

#### HOW THE COBURN HOUSE CAME TO BE BUILT.

Several years ago Mr. Haines, the present proprietor of the above named hotel—which by the way is an ornament to the town and an honor to its surroundings—kept a small Hotel in Skowhegan, known as the Skowhegan House. This was a very old and unattractive inn. Mr. Haines decided to remodel the old house, make some slight addition to it, and continue business there. Not very far from this site, was a fine unoccupied location, which offered every advantage for the erection of a large and commodious building. Such an edifice would enhance the value of the adjacent property and greatly beautify the street.

When Abner Coburn learned of the intention of Mr. Haines to remodel the old house, which was in an unsightly neighborhood, he divined the idea of persuading him to abandon the project.

He knew that the landlord's means were limited and therefore made the following flattering

proposal: The handsome lot on which the Coburn House now stands was valued at Five Thousand Dollars. He declared that he would pay one-half of the above sum for the lot, provided the citizens would subscribe the other half, and present it to Mr. Haines as a special inducement to build upon the site. His proposition was accepted by both the citizens and Mr. Haines. The lot was purchased and the present commanding structure erected. It bears the generous philanthropist's name in honor of that act. It is said that Abner Coburn took as much interest in every detail, concerning the plans and building of this hotel, as if it were his own. In reality he had no interest whatever in it, save the general advancement of his fellow citizen who was worthy of his kindly esteem and confidence.

The Coburn House is one of the finest contrived hotels in Maine. It is an ornament to the town of Skowhegan and an honor to its projector.

#### A FRIEND TO THE POOR.

Can any act be more touchingly thoughtful than the generous donation of \$20,000 to provide for the deserving poor of Skowhegan, in the event any one of his fellow citizens should become financially reduced and be compelled to appeal to the town for aid?

To be poor is not a crime, but to become a pauper invariably engenders social ostracism and weaves about the name of the unfortunate victim an inferiority which is difficult to overcome ever afterwards. It opens the avenue of that neglect from which many a superior man has suffered social death. It gives to any who may not be pecuniarily embarrassed, yet whose morals may be of the lowest cast, a license to shun, and even insult the innocent offspring of its victim. Many a sensitive mind through the adversities of poverty has been driven to the verge of despair,—wretchedness. The tenderer feelings of the intelligent poor are not unfrequently lacerated by the vicissitudes which poverty breeds; and many a crime has been bred through the influence of hunger and neglect.

Few people are born criminals or with a disposition tending toward degradation, yet poverty and hunger have dragged the lofty minds of noble men and women down to the very dust, and stamped upon their once happy brow deep traces of despair. Scorn and neglect have joined forces to produce a desperation foreign to the natural instinct of man, causing the victim to perpetrate deeds of darkness and disgrace which make him infamous in the eyes of all.

Thousands have felt the gnawing pangs of hunger; multitude is the name of those who have shivered in their tattered garments, shoeless and homeless, preferring to beg from door to door, rather than call upon the guardians of the poor for succor. And why? Because the moment the appeal is made social ostracism commands its sway and the helpless victim is shunned,—disgraced.

Many an immoral act has been the offshoot of poverty. Many a deserving woman's honor has been sacrificed, simply to provide the necessary means of sustenance and to escape the horror of being branded *a pauper*.

Against any in his native Town ever being brought to this stress, in the kindness of his heart, this man has provided. He knew how to sympathize with those in humble circumstances; how to arouse the sympathy and endear the hearts of an honest yeomanry to principles of right and philanthropy. The giving to this and succeeding generations the magnificent sum of \$20,000, to keep them upon an equal footing with all men, has drawn about his memory an undying appreciation. The little ones of today, in years to come, will tell of the good man's deeds, to their children, and thus succeeding generations shall

keep ever fresh and green the memory of Abner Coburn, the poor man's friend.

#### THE SKOWHEGAN PARK.

By the terms of Governor Coburn's Will the Town of Skowhegan is bequeathed a lot of land to be converted into a Public Park. By some it is claimed that the locality of the land designed for this purpose is so remote from the central interests of the village that it may be found inexpedient to improve it; that it is unfitted for the purpose for which it has been devised.

When Abner Coburn was a boy the present flourishing village of Skowhegan—the sitely and thrifty infant city on the upper Kennebec—was unknown. Now it is of commanding influence; the seat of one of the most flourishing shoe manufacturing establishments in the State; two banks; two of the finest hotels in Maine, printing presses, and various public edifices of beauty and fame, besides many elegant private residences. Among the public buildings are the Court House of Somerset county, and Coburn Hall, the former a gift to the county by Mr. Coburn.

If in the course of years, within the recollection of the present inhabitants, Skowhegan has been developed as above intimated, it is not unnatural to presume that in the course of a few more dec-

ades it will have extended its limits far beyond the bounds of the district devised by Mr. Coburn, for a park. The observations of the donor, doubtless, led him to this conclusion, and prompted him to designate the plot in the locality named in the Will.

#### THE MAINE INSANE ASYLUM.

Of all the unfortunate stages of human existence, the most harrowing to mankind is that occupied by any who may have been, from whatever cause, bereft of the sense of reason.

In the bloom of manhood, and in the flower of maidenly beauty; in the maturer years of appreciation, without warning, men and women are stricken down with a malady that robs them of the power of exercising their mental faculties.

Any who are thus afflicted are totally helpless to care for themselves, and the dictates of humanity impel society to care for the wants of such unfortunate victims. That this may be humanely accomplished, Asylums have been erected in every civilized community.

The State of Maine is not behind its sisters in this respect, and its citizens are deservedly proud of their humane institution. Abner Coburn, in his sympathetic heart, was among the

number who pointed with pride to this haven of refuge for those whose lives have been obscured by the foul hand of this terrible monster. He looked also into the future, and seeing the possibility of an increase in the number of those who may be touched by this leprosy, gave freely of his worldly store to make comfortable its victims. Fifty thousand dollars is especially set apart by Mr. Coburn as an endowment fund to be expended upon this Hospital. The helpless inmates; the men and women of Maine who occupy a living tomb, could they appreciate the gift of the man, would, in tones of appreciative sincerity, bless the name of him who has thus remembered them.

#### DIDN'T WANT IT.

Mr. Coburn at one time had in his employ a contractor who was a poor manager. Fully equipped, Mr. Coburn sent him in the woods one winter to get logs. He had a large crew under him that Mr. Coburn had supplied for the season's work.

When the men broke camp in the spring and the manager came to Mr. Coburn for final adjustment of his accounts, it was found that he was over \$500.00 in debt to his employer.

Mr. Coburn was obliged to take his note in settlement.

When the next season came around the same contractor applied to Mr. Coburn for another job. This he declined to give, but remarked, "You have been unfortunate and have a large family to support, I will help you. Here is the note I hold against you, I make you a present of it." "No I thank you," responded the debtor, "I don't want it. I had rather *owe* you and get another job, that will carry me through the winter." It is needless to say he got it.

#### MR. COBURN'S LAST OFFICIAL ACT.

Mr. Coburn was a great personal friend and admirer of the Hon. James G. Blaine. Having been an ardent Republican from the inception of the party principle, he was named as one of the electors to be voted for at the national election of 1884.

Maine having chosen Republican electors, Mr. Coburn was made chairman of the college. Arriving at Augusta the Board proceeded with its duties. Very soon after the members assembled, Mr. Coburn was taken suddenly sick and had to be borne to his hotel. This was the last public service he ever rendered. Hon. John S. Case, of Rockland, being elected to

fill the vacancy, upon assuming the duties of this distinguished position, said :

*Gentlemen of the Electoral College:*

For the honor you have extended me I thank you most cordially and sincerely. Through your generosity and kindness I have been assigned to a most pleasant duty, that of presiding over the deliberations of the Electoral College of our State, and though I regard it as a very great personal compliment, yet I regarded it a much greater honor to join yesterday in extending the same courtesy to the venerable ex-Gov. Coburn, who has been suddenly stricken and now lies dangerously ill at his hotel in this city. It is hoped he may be restored to his usual health and spared yet awhile longer to the people of our State who have known him so long, and who have loved him so well for his many noble and generous traits of character.

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The foregoing testimonial, from the Hon. Daniel F. Davis, Ex-Governor of Maine will be read with much interest by the many friends of the late Ex-Governor Coburn and himself. The reference made to Mr. Coburn's loyalty to the

Union cause, during the late war, will at once interest the reader and arouse a sympathetic respect for the memory of the man who loved his common country as well as his native State.

For his prompt response to our appeal, asking that he add a word of tribute to the name of the dead Ex-Governor, Gov. Davis has our sincere thanks.

GOVERNOR DAVIS' COMMUNICATION.

BANGOR, March 30, 1885.

MR. CHAS. E. WILLIAMS.

*Dear Sir:*—I knew the late Gov. Coburn during the last years of his life and from my acquaintance with him was strongly impressed with his native force of character. His mind was active and eminently practical. His knowledge of human nature was excellent and through a long life he rarely made mistakes in his estimates of men.

He was well informed on the leading questions in our national political history, and kept well abreast of the progress of events.

He took much pleasure in discussing all questions that stirred the public mind.

He had great faith in the stability of our Government and was a patriot in the fullest sense of the word.

No conversation was more pleasing to him than that which pertained to the success of the Union cause in the Great War of the Rebellion, and he took pride in the part which his native State acted in the contest.

On one occasion when a guest at his house I remember of listening with much interest while he recounted to me his feelings as he sat behind President Lincoln when he delivered the immortal oration at Gettysburg.

He seemed deeply moved by the memories of that event and in his quiet way feelingly told me the impressions made upon his mind on that occasion.

He earnestly spoke of the dead President, of the crowd of people assembled and of the eagerness with which all listened to the President's words.

He then referred to the Battle of Gettysburg and especially dwelt upon the part which the soldiers of Maine took in that struggle.

On other occasions, at his home, and as I met him from time to time, I could but note his anxiety in regard to the questions growing out of the War and his solicitude for the public welfare.

His deep interest in Education has long been

known to the people of this State but it remained for his Will, made public since his death, to show how deep and real that interest was.

Rarely has any State had a better friend to the cause of Education and for all time the people of Maine, blessed by his munificence, will hold in pleasant and grateful remembrance the name of Abner Coburn.

Mr. Coburn was a man who under all circumstances, acted himself. He hated shams in every form and as his own acts were prompted by honest motives he could not tolerate deceit in others.

His mode of dealing was direct and to the point and his judgment was the very best.

Plain common sense characterized his whole course in life.

As a business man he ranked among the first in the State and in his death Maine loses one of her best and foremost citizens.

Very Respectfully,

DANIEL F. DAVIS.

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Below will be found a very pleasing communication from President M. C. Fernald of the Agricultural College. Perhaps President Fernald was as intimate with many of the kindly

traits of Mr. Coburn's character as any other gentleman in the State who held, at the time of the death of Mr. Coburn, a prominent position in any one of the institutions over which the Ex-Governor had a kindly eye and a watchful guardianship.

PRESIDENT FERNALD'S COMMUNICATION.

STATE COLLEGE,

ORONO, Me. Feb. 24, 1885.

CHAS. E. WILLIAMS, ESQ.

*My Dear Sir:*—A pressure of other duties has prevented an earlier reply to your favor of the 14th inst. It gives me pleasure, however, to respond to it, by referring, although but briefly, to ex-Gov. Coburn's relations to this College.

My acquaintance with him began in 1868 when the College was opened to students, at which time he was President of the Board of Trustees. He came into the Board in 1867 by appointment of the Governor and served as its President for twelve consecutive years, retiring from it in 1879 after serving out, in full, the record term of his appointment. A statute limitation of age stood in the way of a subsequent appointment.

His steadfastness and devotion to the inter-

ests of the College were shown by the fact that, however urgent the demands of his private business, he did not fail to attend any important meeting of the Board during this period of twelve years. It is almost needless to say that his counsel, in all matters of moment pertaining to the College, was eagerly sought and that it was always found to be wise and helpful.

I hazard nothing in saying that those who had the honor to be associated with him in the Board would bear ready testimony to the statement that, at all times, he had their fullest confidence and that he was regarded by them, and by all friends of the College as a steady and uplifting force in its interest, throughout the State.

His fidelity to this Institution was exhibited not only by prompt attendance upon the meetings of the Board and due attention to the local affairs of the College, but also by his presence before Legislative committees when appropriations were sought and by the most timely contributions from his own resources. His generosity was directed not more to worthy objects than to those special channels of benevolence in which his money would be productive of the largest good, and it was characteristic of him

that his gifts were always bestowed in the most quiet and unassuming manner. A single incident may serve for illustration. In 1876, he was present during the exercises of Commencement day at Orono. At the concert in the evening, soon after my arrival in the Hall, I was informed that Gov. Coburn desired to speak with me. On responding to his summons, he drew from his pocket a roll of bank-bills and selecting one of one hundred dollars, then another of the same value and then a third of fifty dollars, placed the three in my hands, remarking at the same time, "you may put that amount into the Library." He had previously sent checks to the amount of fifteen hundred dollars for the College Library, and he continued to give it aid to the time of his death.

He regarded money expended for this purpose as especially well devoted. In a letter which I received from him Dec. 30, 1882, enclosing a check for books, he indicated his recognition of the value of frequent additions to the Library by writing "I think well of keeping this branch of the College in fair running order."

From the income which may be derived from his munificent gift, recently made by Will, to

the College, it would seem only fitting that a certain sum should be set apart and be devoted annually to replenishing the Library, and thus in his own words to "keeping this branch of the College in fair running order."

It should not be understood that his interest in the college was limited to any one department. He believed in it as a whole, in its full sense and scope. He especially appreciated the practical features of the Institution and gave them his most hearty endorsement.

It was his money which at the time rendered the introduction of the system of shop instruction, possible. He clearly foresaw what has since transpired, that, with the system once fairly started, its merits would so commend it, that the State would come to its aid and enable the college to develop it in a fairly liberal measure.

Other departments of the college have, from the first, likewise profited from his thoughtfulness and liberality; not so much from the gift of large sums as from timely aid so judiciously rendered as to bridge the difficulties which seemed to beset them.

His last visit to the college was in 1879, after his retirement from the Board of Trustees.

He came to attend commencement exercises in redemption of a partial promise made months before; although the visit involved the deferring of a railroad meeting in Portland, at which his presence was of importance and which was to have occurred on the same day.

His relations to the college from its organization were so kindly and I may add, perhaps, without impropriety, to myself personally, so cordial, that all my remembrances of him are of the most pleasant character. On the evening of July 29, 1884, I made a brief call upon him at his home in Skowhegan. It was the last time I saw him alive. He made special inquiry in regard to all those who had been associated with him in the Board of Trustees, in regard to the members of the Faculty and their families, also in regard to all departments of the college, and evinced the same interest in its welfare which he was wont to manifest when more actively associated with it.

In closing this brief and imperfect note of reference to one so worthy and so honorable, I desire to say that it is with a grateful appreciation of his generous and philanthropic nature that I recall his munificence not only to this Institution but to many others, in this State and

in others, in which he has established for himself the most enduring memorials.

With kindest regards I am,

Yours very truly,

M. C. FERNALD,

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The life of Abner Coburn affords ample opportunity for illustration. To the youth of Maine it is a living example from which they may copy. There are thousands of young men in the State today who, with as many advantages as possessed by Mr. Coburn, are idling away the precious hours of their youth, vainly hoping that some good fortune may be thrown in their path without a personal effort on their own part to bring it about.

Abner Coburn did not tarry by the wayside of life, neither did he allow the weeds of idle pleasure to distract his mind from the obligation enjoined upon man to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. With a heart for any fate; with a determined and invincible will to conquer misfortune; with a humane smile of sympathy for all, he hammered away at obdurate misfortune until at last, victorious, he showed to the world what energy, perseverance, and persistence could accomplish.

The business tact displayed by Mr. Coburn was very remarkable. When disappointment checked any plan which he had matured, and cast to the winds some scheme by which he might have averted a financial crisis, Abner Coburn did not falter, as numbers had done before him. The effect of disaster was only stronger stimulant, which proved to be an incentive through which he could contrive some other avenue of escape. "It is a little singular," says one commentator, "that business defeat was invariably turned to financial advantage by Abner Coburn."

Many active self-made men who climb so high up the ladder of fame as did Governor Coburn are apt to display a weakness. He did not. The modest retirement of his nature clung to him even when he occupied the highest gift in the province of the people of his native State to bestow. The humblest citizen could approach him with the same confidence that the most exalted might assume. There was no arrogance about the man, but simplicity of nature characterized his every action, adding to his popularity as well as to the ease of others while in his presence.

Fully appreciating the lack of a thorough

business and classical education, which knowledge he derived from sad experience, Mr. Coburn turned his attention chiefly to Schools and Colleges. An article from the gifted pen of President M. C. Fernald of the State Agricultural College in which he mentions an illustrative instance of Mr. Coburn's idea of keeping the library well stocked with books, fully verifies the conclusion that Abner Coburn had made up his mind to assist others in the enjoyment of useful information, although deprived in his own youth of such an advantage.

Not only did he believe in a thorough classical training, but a thorough moral training as well. If the exact figures could be produced, it would be astonishing to enumerate the number of thousands of dollars he bestowed upon various christian denominations. Prior to his death Mr. Coburn had given with a liberal hand, and by the terms of his Will nearly FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS have been left as legacies to various organizations engaged in Christian work. There are several fine structures in Maine that were built at the expense of Mr. Coburn, and presented to the public. Among these we recall the Baptist Church, in his native Town of Skowhegan; for the erection

of which he subscribed eighteen thousand dollars; also Coburn Hall, a large and commodious building. This hall, the Court House of Somerset County and a similar hall at Waterville, are all gifts to the people by this generous donor.

Some men have expressed the opinion that in the giving of such munificent sums of money, Mr. Coburn hoped to gain public notoriety and the homage of the people; but, when is coupled with his public gifts, the fact that he gave most liberally to the worthy poor, where the world never knew of his bounty, the theory set up by any who fain would criticise his motive falls to the ground.

If has been hinted that Abner Coburn became the victim of influence; that a certain christian denomination wielded over him such power as to lead him to devise a large proportion of his vast estate to the interest of that sect. This, it is claimed, shows an unphilanthropic spirit. The facts and optional privileges of a freeman do not bear out the truth of the charge. In the first place, Mr. Coburn had the indisputable right to dispose of his property in any manner he deemed wise. This paramount pre-

rogative, in itself, is a sufficient defense against any criticism that may be made.

But when the actual disposition of his property by Will, and his liberality before his death, is taken into account a showing is made that should forever silence every one. His gifts to the State Insane Asylum, the Children's Home for Girls, at Hallowell, the Court House of Somerset County, the splendid bequest of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS to the Maine General Hospital, and many more endowments of a most liberal nature all refute the criticisms of those who are inclined to stricturize his motives. In a word, it is our belief, that Abner Coburn gave wisely, and well.

That Mr. Coburn thought proper to further the interests of Christian humanity, through the medium of that faith which he mostly admired, was only his right, and natural inclination. His entrusting to the Baptist Society the distribution of half a million dollars for the purpose of disseminating the teachings of the Bible, and for the purposes of maintaining institutions of learning was an indisputable privilege which none have a right to gainsay.

It has been also remarked with surprise by many, that he failed to remember his friends

as perchance some others might have done. On this point many arguments might be adduced to silence the disappointment of those who looked forward to the enjoyment of the spoils of a long life's accumulation.

Perhaps, as has been suggested, had Mr. Coburn have realized the shortness of time intervening between himself and the grave, he might have made some provision for those who seem to be disappointed, but it is not probable. If a man is to measure friendship from a standpoint of dollars and cents; and enjoy only the kindly esteem of those, for whose good will he pays a price, then it is better not to enjoy friendship. Where a sinister, or mercenary motive prompts us to look after the interest of our friends, poor indeed is the friendship.

For any who had a right, by the ties of blood, or others whom he held in high regard, Abner Coburn made ample provision to convince the most skeptical, that he was not unmindful of his obligations. No one else had the shadow of right upon which to base a claim upon his bounty.

His public bequests, through whatever medium he thought proper to bestow them, are monu-

ments to his credit which will long remain an honor to his memory.

A partial description of the many conveniences attached to some of the Literary and Humane Institutions of the State in which Abner Coburn always displayed great interest and most liberally gave of his wealth, are deemed worthy of honorable mention in this biography.

It had been long conceded that the Maine General Hospital would be much improved by an addition to its commodious apartments as the growing number of applications from year to year indicated that many unfortunates would seek shelter and care beneath its roof.

It was therefore decided to build an additional compartment to the Hospital, and the able corps of officers at once issued an appeal to the friends of the Institution for means wherewith to carry on the work. Among those who promptly responded to the demand, was Governor Coburn, who subscribed one thousand dollars.

The following extract from the report of the Board of Managers may be found of interest to our readers :

"The amphitheatre building is placed thirty

feet back of the wing of the hospital, and is connected with it by a corridor. It projects some thirty feet beyond the wing to the east. It is a plain, substantial structure of brick, fifty feet square, and three stories in height, with slated roof and metallic gutters. The basement story, nine feet high, contains seven rooms, which are so arranged as to be available in the treatment of out-patients, whenever the time comes for us to occupy that field of charity. In the meantime they can be used, and will be indispensable, in connection with the training school for nurses, which we expect soon to have in operation.

The amphitheatre proper occupies the greater part of the second and third stories, being thirty-five feet in height to the skylight in the roof. It is well lighted and ventilated, conveniently arranged, and will seat comfortably at least two hundred persons. Adjoining it, in the second story, are bath rooms for patients, an etherizing room, and other offices usually appurtenant to an amphitheatre. On this floor there is also a smaller operating-room for use, where students are not admitted. Above these, in the third story, are additional chambers, one of which will probably be devoted to a patho-

logical museum, the apartment designed for that purpose in the central building having long since been required for other uses.

In our expenditures upon this building, we have endeavored to consult a wise economy. Solidity and permanence of structure have been insisted upon and attained. Unnecessary outlay has been avoided, for our means would not allow of any approach to extravagance. Yet its exterior is in harmony with the surroundings, and we feel assured that its interior arrangements will prove satisfactory.

To the generous friends, whose contributions to the building fund have given us these various improvements, we are deeply indebted.

#### COLBY UNIVERSITY.

This institution was incorporated, with collegiate powers, by the first Legislature of Maine in 1820, under the name of Waterville College. It had received from Massachusetts in 1803, a charter as a literary and theological institution, and went into operation as such in 1818. The original corporators were all Baptists of the District of Maine. The first president of the corporation was Rev. Jeremiah Chaplin, D. D., who served the college in that position until 1833. Prior to 1866 the college had no endow-

ment. By the generous gift at that time of \$50,000 from Mr. Gardner Colby of Boston, the friends of the institution and the denomination in the State were prompted to establish an endowment fund of \$200,000. This fund has been increased by several gifts and legacies, including a bequest of \$120,000 from Mr. Colby. The present name of the institution was adopted by vote of the Board of Trustees and ratified by the Legislature in 1867.

The first class was graduated from the college in 1822. The whole number of the Alumni as given in the General Catalogue for 1882, was 730, of whom 536 were then living. A large proportion of these were engaged in literary pursuits and profession life. The number of ordained clergymen is 219, the number of lawyers 158, of physicians 44. The profession of teaching has employed 120, including 7 Presidents of colleges and 34 Professors. In the war of the Rebellion, 65 of the Alumni entered the service, and the Tablet in Memorial Hall records the names of 20 Alumni and undergraduates who fell in that war. In 1874 it was voted to admit young women to the courses of study, and eleven were graduated between 1878 and 1883.

## LOCATION.

The University is located at Waterville, on the Kennebec River, nineteen miles above the State capital. The college buildings occupy an extensive campus in the northern part of the village between College Street and the river. Directly opposite is the station of the Maine Central Railroad, two of whose principal branches cross here, making Waterville easily accessible by rail. The town has long enjoyed the reputation of being one of the pleasantest and healthiest places of residence in the State.

## THE BUILDINGS.

*Chaplin Hall*, so named in memory of the venerated first President, REV. JEREMIAH CHAPLIN, D. D., and *South College* have recently been so thoroughly renovated as to be substantially new buildings. They furnish the dormitories for the students. *Chaplin Hall* is heated throughout with steam.

*Champlin Hall*, so named in recognition of the distinguished services of the late President, REV. J. T. CHAMPLIN, D.D., LL.D., supplies the large, well ventilated, and cheerful recitation rooms.

*Coburn Hall*, so named in acknowledgement of benefactions from one of the most liberal

friends of the college, HON. ABNER COBURN, is entirely devoted to the use of the Department of Chemistry and Natural History. The building is of rough quarry stone, with granite trimmings, the walls being 56x48 feet, and 41 feet high. On the first floor are the Lecture room, Laboratories, and Apparatus rooms. On the second floor are work rooms for students in Natural History, and a Hall supplied with elegant cases for the exhibition of specimens. A gallery, more spacious than the main floor, surrounds the Hall.

*Memorial Hall*, so named in honor of the Alumni of the college who fell in the service of their country during the late civil war, is built of stone and surmounted by a tower eighty feet in height. The eastern wing of the building contains the University Library, 44 feet by 54, and 20 feet high, furnished with double alcoves and shelves for 30,000 volumes. The wing contains, on the first floor, the College Chapel, 40 by 58 feet in dimensions. Above this is the Hall of the Alumni, in which is the Memorial Tablet, surmounted by a copy, in marble, of Thorwaldsen's Lion of Lucerne.

*The Gymnasium* is conveniently located on the college grounds, and is admirably adapted

to the purpose for which it was designed. It is furnished with suitable apparatus for gymnastic exercise and physical training, and is open to all upon subscribing to the regulations which have been adopted by an Association of the students.

#### OBSERVATORY.

*The Observatory* stands on an eminence near the college grounds, and consists of a central building with revolving dome, and two wings. The main part contains an equatorial telescope, mounted upon a granite pillar supported by a pier of solid masonry. The telescope is five feet in focal length, with an object-glass of about five inches, and was made by Troughton & Simms of London. It is furnished with finder, circles, position filar micrometer and eyepieces, with magnifying powers ranging from twenty-five to six hundred diameters. The declination circle reads by verniers to one minute of arc, and the hour circle to one second of time. The west wing contains a transit instrument, also mounted upon a granite pillar. It has a focal distance of about three feet, and the diaphragm carries five vertical and two horizontal wires. The Observatory is also furnished with a chronometer, sextant, celestial globes, and planispheres.

## PHYSICAL LABORATORY.

The supply of apparatus permits of a great variety of experiments for illustrating and establishing physical laws. The collection includes a Kew uni-filar magnetometer, Barrows' circle, Holtz's electrical machine, plate frictional machine, batteries, Ruhmkorff's induction coils, Clark's magneto-electric machine, Morse's telegraph apparatus, Page's revolving electro-magnet, a large collection of Crookes' tubes, electrometer, spectroscope, compound microscope, oxy-hydrogen lantern, camera obscura, camera lucida, porte lumiere, a fine set of apparatus for illustrating polarized light, Lissajous' forks, sonometer, Koenig's apparatus for comparison of vibrations by manometric flames, a great variety of wave apparatus, hydraulic press, Attwood's machine, and much beside not herein enumerated.

## CABINET OF NATURAL HISTORY.

The Cabinet of Natural History, which occupies nearly the whole of the second floor of Coburn Hall, contains collections of great value, mounted and arranged for study. Most important among these are the following: *The Birds of Maine*; *Birds of Eastern Asia*, collected by Prof. Bickmore, presented by Hon.

J. Warren Merrill; *Fossils*, illustrating the life of the different geological ages; *Rocks and Minerals*; *Recent Shells*, a very fine collection, classified and arranged by Prof. C. E. Hamlin.

The gifts of greatest value received within a few years are those from Paymaster J. Q. Barton, U. S. N., and Charles M. Coburn. The first consists of antiquities from Egypt and Ephesus, and fossil fishes from Lebanon; the second is a set of corals from Bermuda.

Ward's College collection of minerals has been added to the above, and over 1,500 specimens prepared for class use.

#### ART COLLECTION.

Through the liberality of the trustees, alumni, and private friends of the University a collection of portraits and other works of art has been begun. For the present these are placed in Memorial Hall. The following list embraces the more important works, with the names of the donors:

Portrait of Rev. Thomas Baldwin, D.D., presented by Mrs. Baldwin.

Portrait of Rev. Adam Wilson, D.D., presented by Mrs. Wilson.

Portrait of Rev. George Knox, A.M., presented by Mr. William Pierce.

Portrait of Prof. George Washington Keely, LL.D., presented by Mrs. Keely.

Portrait of Rev. Prof. Avery Briggs, A.M., presented by R. W. Wood, M.D., class of 1829; Hon. H. W. Paine, LL.D., class of 1830; Prof. William Matthews, LL.D., class of 1835, and A. H. Briggs, Esq., class of 1839.

Portrait of Christopher Columbus, a copy of the portrait in the Naval Museum at Madrid, Spain, presented by Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, LL.D.

Portrait of Rev. Rufus Babcock, D.D., President 1833-1836, presented by Hon. Jackson S. Schultz.

Portrait of Rev. James Tift Champlin, D.D., President 1857-1873, presented by Mrs. Champlin.

Portrait of Rev. Erastus Willard, A.M., presented by his daughter, Mrs. Barrows.

Portrait of David Sawyer True, Esq., presented by Mrs. True.

The *Lion of Lucerne*, surmounting the Memorial Tablet, sculptured by Milmore, after Thorwaldsen, presented by the Alumni.

A marble bust of John Milton, by Paul Akers, presented by Hon. Henry W. Paine,

LL.D., class of 1830, and twelve others of the Alumni.

A cast of the Apollo Belvedere, presented by the class of 1884.

Casts of the Venus de Milo, the Minerva Giustigniani, the Discobolus of Miron, the Sophocles of the Lateran, the Hermes of Praxiteles, Jupiter Otricoli, and Head of Juno, furnished by the Trustees.

The model of the "Signing of the Compact," Plymouth Monument, from designs by Hammett Billings, sculptor John M. Moffitt, presented by Hon. William Wilson.

The model of the Statue of Roger Williams in the capitol at Washington, presented by the artist, Mr. Franklin Simmons.

A collection of two hundred Photographs, Heliotypes, and other representations of art subjects, furnished by the Trustees.

A collection of Illustrated Books, presented by Rev. E. L. Magoon, D.D.

A collection of Books and a Portfolio of Engravings and Heliotypes, presented by Mr. G. D. B. Blanchard.

#### THE LIBRARY.

The Library of the University contains 19,000 volumes and 9,500 pamphlets. It is open

for daily consultation and delivery of books from 9 to 10 A. M., and on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 3 to 5 P. M. Members of all the classes have free access to the Library under the usual rules. A card catalogue has been prepared, with an index to periodicals, which is brought down to date. Personal assistance is given to those desiring to investigate special topics.

Additions are made from the income of the Library Fund, supplemented by annual appropriations, and from the Keely Memorial Fund established by the Alumni.

Donations to the Library Funds, and gifts of books or pamphlets are earnestly solicited from the Alumni and from other friends.

#### READING ROOM.

A commodious Reading Room, supplied with daily and weekly newspapers, and with the leading monthly magazines, is maintained by the students.

#### PUBLIC WORSHIP.

A religious service of singing, reading of the Scriptures, and prayer, is held in the College Chapel every morning at nine o'clock, and all the students are required to be present.

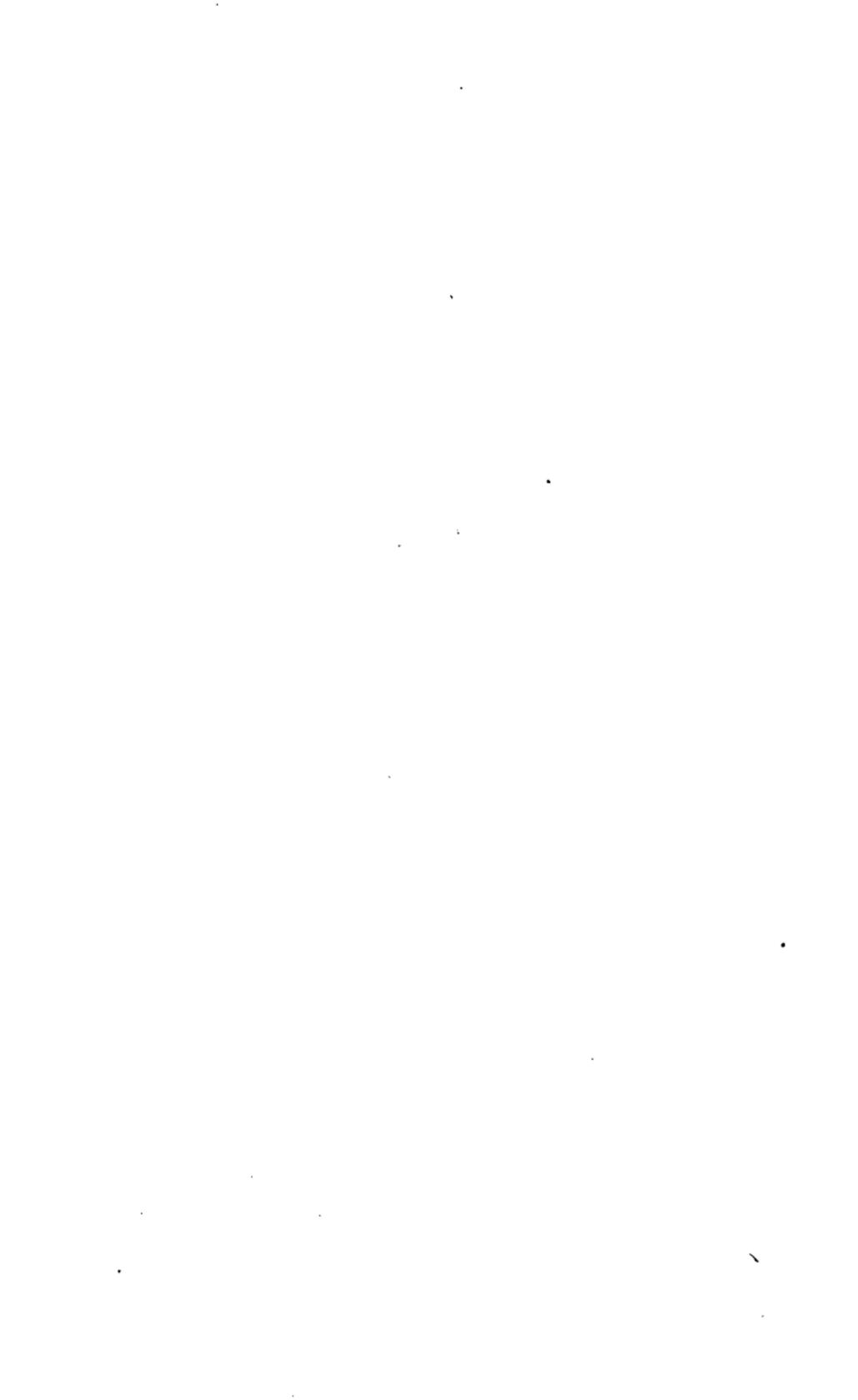
All undergraduates are required to observe

reverently the Sabbath, and to attend public worship. Where they shall attend shall be determined by the election of each one, if of age; if under age, by the election of parent or guardian.

#### THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

This association is organized on the same plan with those in most other colleges of the country and is affiliated with them. It has for its members the Christian students of the college, and is designed to help them to Christian growth and manhood and to furnish them with facilities for helping others. It conducts a weekly prayer and conference meeting which once a month takes the form of a Missionary Concert, holds a special conference meeting the first Sabbath morning of each month, provides for occasional sermons from eminent preachers, and seeks and uses opportunities for Christian work, both in college and in the neighboring communities. It thus in important respects takes the place of a living church. The President of the college co-operates heartily with the Association and the weekly Conference of which he has charge is practically its meeting.





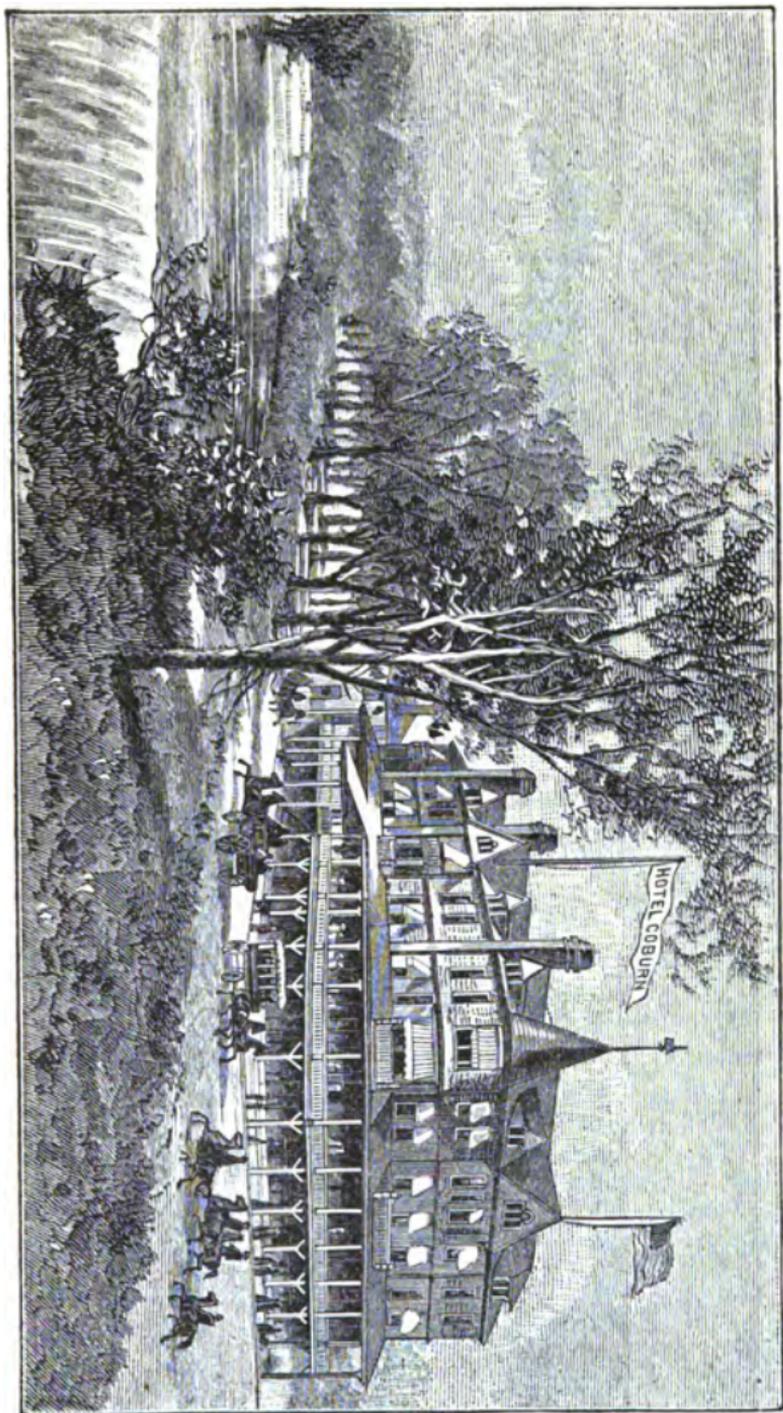
### HOTEL COBURN.

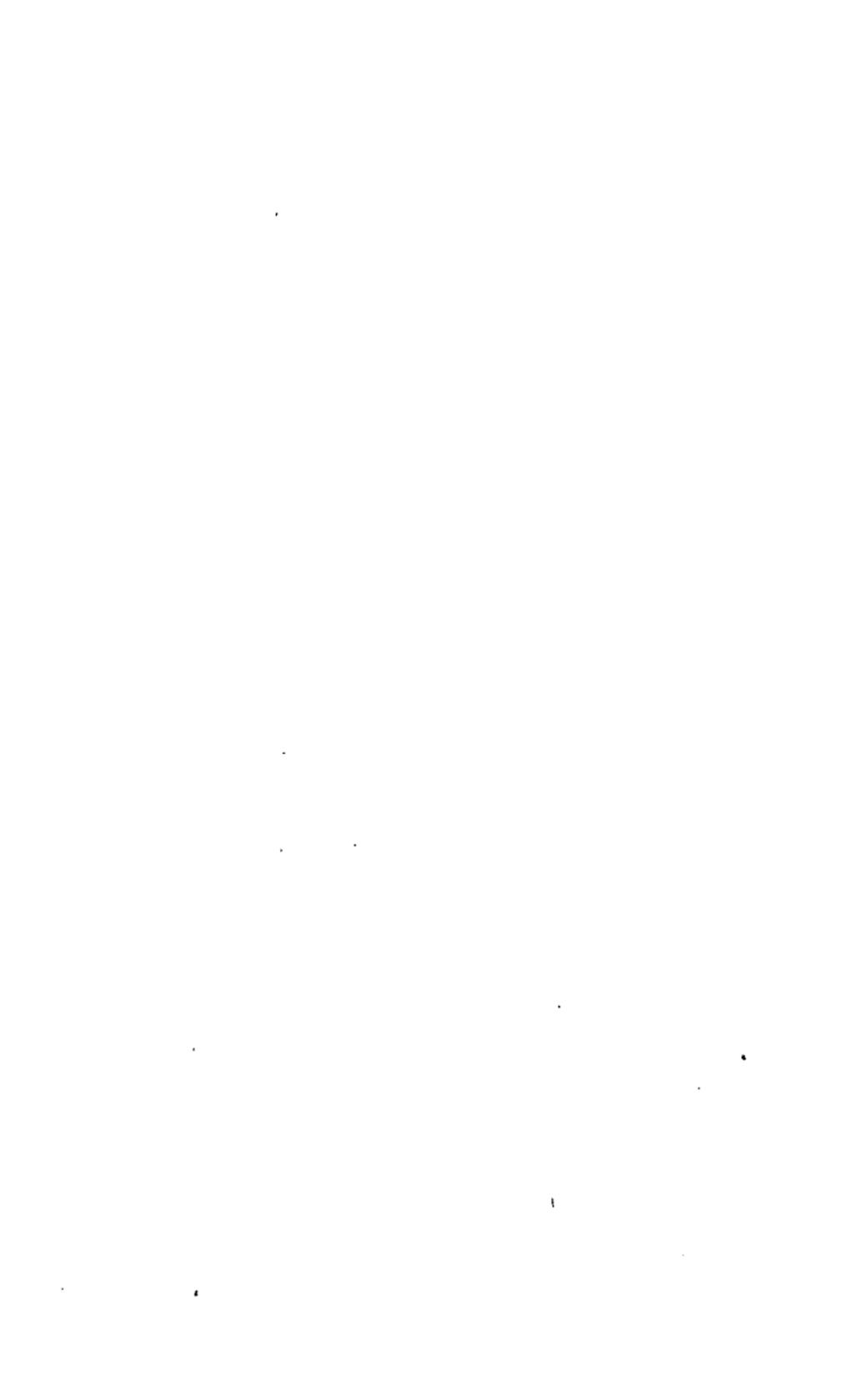
We cannot refrain from calling especial attention to the cut of the building which appears on the page opposite, and of which a more extended notice is elsewhere made.

This handsome and expensive work of art most accurately portrays the structure it is designed to represent.

This building is but one of the many public attractions which stands as a monument to the memory of Abner Coburn.

An ornament to Skowhegan it is likewise an honor to its projector.





## RETROSPECTIVE.

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The motive that has impelled us to preserve, in the foregoing pages, a record of the subject under consideration, has not been prompted by a mere desire to write or the more sordid inclination to profit by the task. Our aim, to a marked degree, has been of a more lofty character.

There are few men in Maine, in fact anywhere in the Union, whose life offers a more worthy illustration of what a man is capable of achieving than that of Mr. Coburn. Should the reader attentively follow the narrative of his life; his early struggle amidst the many obstacles which surrounded him in his boyhood; the story of how he gained a common education and then remember the courage and pluck which

he displayed in early manhood amid the many barriers that arose on every hand in the new and undeveloped country in which he lived, it is with admiration and surprise that we reflect upon the indomitable will and eager fortitude that he possessed.

Untutored amid the luxuries of more modern times; unaccustomed to the advantages of latter day inventions and conveniences; unaided by the facilities that have so abundantly arisen in the lives of thousands of young men at a more recent date than that through which he toiled in early life; with contracted opportunities to acquire a start in business; with no friend to buoy him up on the tide of adventure, he worked, most determinedly worked himself up from the lower rung of fortune and fame to the financial pinnacle of worldly ease and the respectful admiration of his fellow men.

Few indeed are they who have excelled Abner Coburn in the race of life; fewer still are numbered amongst those whose life star sank to rest more highly respected. Respected for the many good qualities that were innate in the man; respected for the unassuming characteristics which he cultivated and practised; revered for the kindly interest that he always entertained

for the welfare of his friends, his neighbors, his State and his Country's weal.

The citizens of Maine possess the pardonable right to point with pride to his munificent benefactions so thoughtfully bestowed upon them. The leading members of the community in which he dwelt, who are familiar with the beneficial results of Mr. Coburn's business qualifications, may well point with pride to the course he pursued and emulate his example, nor fear the criticism of any.

As our mind reverts to the potential aid he rendered the Maine Central Railroad in the hour of its critical trial; at the time when financial ruin stared its directors in the face, threatening to engulf not only the corporation in utter ruin but hundreds and thousands of others who were dependent upon its prosperity for food and raiment, admirably expressive is the thought that arises in our mind, nor are we able to divine language adequate to the expression of our admiration for the man who, like Robert Morris of Revolutionary fame, took upon himself the embarrassing responsibility of sustaining, single handed, the public faith by lending to the people his fortune and his fame

that his country might survive the shock of impending disaster.

Where is there today in Maine to be found a man who, having surrounded himself with every wordly ease and luxury, by the incessant struggle with fortune, would have risked that accomplishment for the sake of the good of others?

At a time when Constitutional liberty was endangered and the Union threatened with dissolution, by the fanaticism that swept over parts of the country twenty-five years ago, bringing sorrow to every section, none were found who were more loyal to the cause of the Government under which he had been reared, or took greater pride in lending every possible advantage to it, than Abner Coburn.

When amid the trials and vicissitudes of that lamentable fratricidal struggle, it fell to his lot to occupy the Executive chair of Maine, he did it with an earnest desire and determination to be of whatever service, in whatever position; his State and the cause of liberty demanded of him.

At the most trying period of the war Mr. Coburn presided over the destinies of Maine. This was the hour when gloom and sadness pervaded the land; when upon the threshold of dismay and ruin the Nation trembled in its

bloody agony and its Statesmen, small and great, shrank from the impending doom that threatened to engulf it.

Surrounded by a dissatisfied faction at home more dangerous than the enemy in the field, which had to be combatted; a faction whose lukewarmness and often openly expressed sympathy for the foe sent terror to the hearts of the loyal sons of Maine; at a time when a depreciated currency had weakened the confidence of thousands in the ultimate success of the National cause; when a depleted quota told plainly that patriotism had met with hopeless discouragement and needed something stimulating to arouse the waning fires of two years previous, Abner Coburn, calm, deliberate and collectedly, issued an appeal to the people of Maine which acted like magic.

This appeal was not only such an one as would be calculated to stir the blood and arouse the dormant fire, but such an one as carried conviction with it. It plainly and practically appealed to the pride of every citizen; it demonstrated the result of defeat and foreshadowed the horror of disaster. It told of the probable emancipation of thousands of men and women and pointed with pride to the duty of every free

American whose country had the right to claim a forfeiture of his life in behalf of its honor and integrity.

Not only was Abner Coburn strong in an Executive capacity. To him more than to any other one man, is Maine indebted for many of its vast developments; moral, intellectual, religious and financial. The timely assistance rendered Colby University—Maine's much noted seat of learning—an institution from which many have gone forth splendidly equipped to battle with the uncertainties of life; the Alma Mater which has produced men of talents second to none, conferred on his native Commonwealth an advantage possessed by few of her sister States.

The great blessing he bequeathed in the interest of the black race, through the policy of open purse strings in its behalf, adds undying laurels to his fame, and a star to humanity's crown.

The State College likewise found in Mr. Coburn a devoted friend. One who was ever ready to lend his time and give to it his money; to speak in its behalf an encouraging word, and to uphold and sustain its officers in the discharge of their duties. By this means he

won the respect of a grateful faculty and the admiration of his fellow citizens.

But the crowning glory of his life was to be found in the domestic walks of his daily existence. Unostentatious and kind; with a sympathetic ear ever turned to the cry of distress, he gave to the worthy of his abundance, freely, humanely, and with no expectation of reward.

The peculiar position we occupied towards Mr. Coburn debarred us from being familiar with the personal details of his life, therefore much of our work is derived from the contributions of others. To any who recognize matter with which they are familiar, we say that we know of no language more expressive of the ideas we hoped to convey, nor authority equal to that used, and have been pleased to insert the full text of quite a number of contributions.

We hope to be exonerated from plagiarism, as it is our intention to give credit where credit is due. To the Somerset Reporter, Lewiston Journal, Boston Journal, Zion's Advocate and the Reports of the State Department we are under especial obligations. We also acknowledge our indebtedness to the President of the Agricultural College of Maine for valuable assistance. Abner Coburn is dead; his memory, and the many ev-

idences of his philanthropy, shall live on. Should the foregoing pages preserve the details of his career fresh in the minds of an admiring public, until some more thorough pen shall have done full justice to his character, we shall rest perfectly contented with this humble work.

In his death, Maine has lost one of its most exalted, self-made citizens; his native County has been bereft of its most potential pillar; his neighbors have been called upon to mourn the loss of a devoted and upright friend and his kindred to lament over a place made void by his departure.

Should our endeavor to portray the early life and final success of Mr. Coburn stimulate any one to emulate his example, or point out to that class of young men who are struggling with adversity the sure road to success, we shall consider that our work has not been in vain; that we are amply rewarded for our undertaking and shall rest contented with our task.

Thus we close this imperfect biography of Abner Coburn, feeling confident of having neglected many important factors which tend to make up a complete history of so distinguished a personage. We are repaid for the loss, however, in the belief that at some future day, a more able

biographer shall undertake the task and do full justice to the subject.

Although Mr. Coburn has past away, still posterity shall enjoy the many blessings which he bequeathed to it, and in grateful remembrance of his deeds shall honor his undying name and memory.

## EPIGRAM.

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Like the gentle fading of a summer's twilight  
    'Mid the gloamings of a western sky,  
Unannoyed by flitting memories,  
    He calmly laid him down to die.

His earthly race had triumphantly ended  
    In the consciousness of a life well spent,  
The eternal past and the future blended  
    In this one grand accomplishment.

Well had he fought life's fitful battle ;  
    Well had he e'er maintained the right  
'Til, perched upon his mortal banner,  
    Victory dispelled the night.

No shade of sadness o'er him came  
    To writhe his brow or joys to sever ;  
But hope lit up the mortal frame—  
    That hope which shall endure forever.

Thus passed from earth the generous soul  
    Of him whose task was nobly done,  
Whose burdens all were laid aside  
    To taste the fruits of victory won.