



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

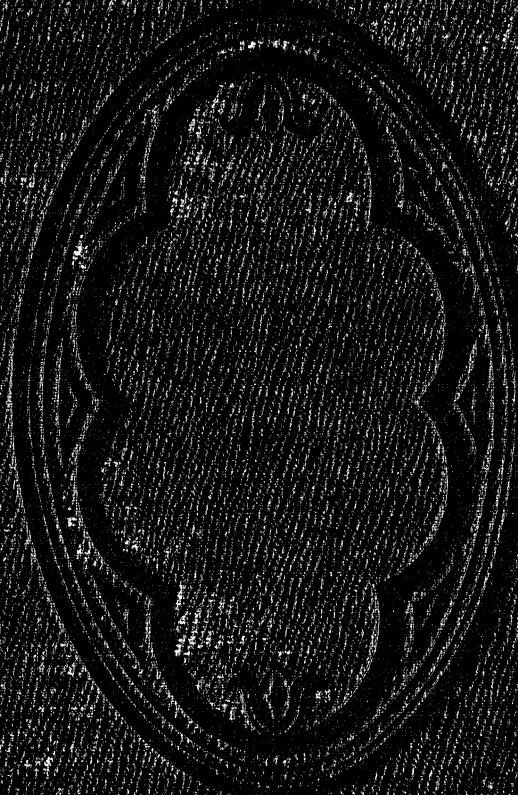
Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

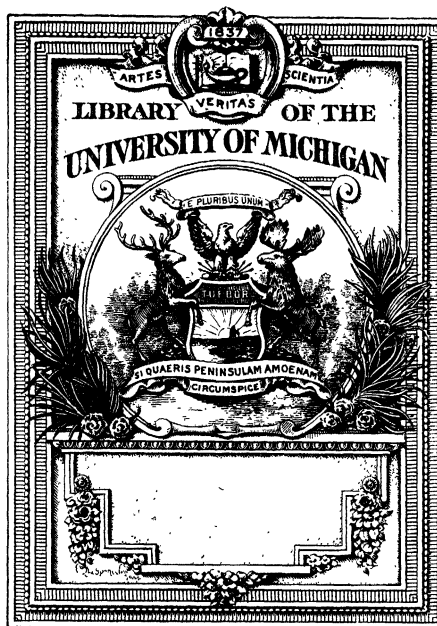
MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.

F
61
M4

COLLECTIONS
III-IV.

SECOND SERIES





F
61
M4

13-45-4

COLLECTIONS



OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. III.

OF THE SECOND SERIES.

BOSTON :

PRINTED MDCCCXV.

REPRINTED

CHARLES C. LITTLE AND JAMES BROWN.

MDCCCXLVI.

BOSTON,
PRINTED BY FREEMAN AND BOLLES,
DEVONSHIRE STREET.

CONTENTS.

<i>History.</i>	Page.
Article.	
I. Continuation of Johnson's Wonder-working Providence	123
II. Rise and Progress of the Bass and Mackerel Fishery at Cape Cod	220
III. Account of the Expedition against Canada, 1690	255
IV. Recantation of Confessors of Witchcraft	221
V. Number of Negro Slaves in Massachusetts, 1754	95
VI. Account of the Deaths at Kingschapel	290
VII. Expenses of Canada to Great Britain	122
VIII. Tons of Shipping in Massachusetts, 1806	122
 <i>Biography.</i>	
IX. Notices of the Life of Major General Benjamin Lincoln	233
 <i>Relating to the Indians.</i>	
X. State of the Indians in Mashpee and parts adjacent, 1767	
 <i>Topography and Local History.</i>	
XI. Note on Lancaster, N. H.	97
XII. Geographical Sketch of Bath, N. H.	105
XIII. Note on Plymouth, N. H.	109
XIV. Note on New Holderness	113
XV. Note on Wolfeborough	117
XVI. Note on Middletown, N. H.	120
XVII. Topographical and Historical Description of Waltham	261
XVIII. Note on the Historical Sketch of Brookline	284
XIX. Description of Kingston, Mass.	204
XX. Notes on Plymouth, Mass.	162
XXI. Notes on New Bedford	18
XXII. Description of Mashpee	1
XXIII. Description of Duke's County	38
XXIV. Notes on Nantucket	19
XXV. Note on Jamaica	285
 <i>Fine Arts.</i>	
XXVI. Criticism on the Landing of the Fathers, a picture by Henry Sargent, Esq.	225
XXVII. Another paper on the same subject	230
 <i>Relating to the Society.</i>	
XXVIII. Letters respecting Hubbard's History	286
XXIX. Donations to the Society	292

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF ARTICLES.

1602—1807	xxiii.	1761—1814	xiv.
1620—1815	xx.	1763—1814	xi. xiii.
1631—1636	i.	1765—1807	xxi.
1632—1815	xvii.	1766—1814	xii.
1635	xviii.	1767	x.
1650—1677	ii.	1770—1814	xv.
1660—1807	xxiv.	1776—1802	vii.
1690	iii.	1778—1814	xvi.
1692	iv.	1788—1814	vi.
1717—1815	xix.	1793	xxv.
1733—1810	ix.	1806	viii.
1747—1775	vi.	1814	xxviii.
1754	v.	1815	xxvi. xxvii. xxix.
1761—1802	xxii.		

for which purpose there are two ropewalks, and the manufacture of spermaceti candles, are advantageously pursued.

“In 1796, a company was incorporated to build a bridge across Acushnet River, to connect Bedford with the villages of Fair-haven and Oxford; which has since been accomplished, at the expense of about thirty thousand dollars. The bridge, including the abutments, and the space taken up by two islands which it crosses, is upwards of four thousand feet in length.”

Note added July 24th. 1807.

In Bedford there are seven wharves; between ninety and a hundred ships and brigs, containing each on an average two hundred and fifty tons; and between twenty and thirty small vessels: twelve of the ships are whalemen. In 1805 there were belonging to this place seventy-three ships and thirty-nine brigs. A lot of a quarter of an acre of land sells for five hundred dollars to two thousand dollars. Bedford contains a little short of three hundred dwelling houses; Fair-haven, about a hundred. There are three ropewalks in Bedford; and one, in Fair-haven. The depth of water in the harbour is from three to four fathoms. Common tides rise five feet. The light house, which stands on Clark's Point, shows one light. The bridge mentioned above was this year, in the month of March, swept away by the tide. It is now rebuilding; and will soon be finished.

NOTES ON NANTUCKET. AUGUST 1ST. 1807.

The County of Nantucket.

THE County of Nantucket is composed of five islands. Beginning west, the first is Muskeget, which is about six miles east from Washqua Point in Chappaquiddick Island. It is a low, sandy island, and is not used for sheep or cattle. South-east of it is Tuckanuck, an island containing thirteen hundred acres of land, which afford

pasture for eight hundred or a thousand sheep and forty head of horned cattle. Between Muskeget and Tuckanuck are two small islands, called Gravelly Islands, which are of no value. The only island of importance is the large island, Nantucket. According to the valuation of 1801, the county contains

652	Acres of English upland mowing,
138	Salt marsh,
14581	Pasturage,
40	Fresh meadow,
3360	Unimproved land,
5376	Unimprovable land,
300	in Roads,
1163	covered with Water,
1350	of Tillage land.

26960 Total, which are equal to 42½ square miles. Not much credit is in general due to valuations. There are however a few honourable exceptions; and this of Nantucket in particular is very little short of the truth.

ISLAND OF NANTUCKET. *Harbours. Coast.*

Two miles east from Tuckanuck is Eel Point, the north-west point of Nantucket. Smith's Point runs to the south of Tuckanuck. December 5th, 1786, the sea made a breach through the point; and the strait is now half a mile wide; but the breadth is continually varying. Twelve or fourteen years ago, the irruptions of the sea converted it into three islands. These two points and Tuckanuck Island form Matacut Harbour. The channel is crooked and narrow; and a vessel may carry into it nine or ten, some say twelve, feet of water. Within the harbour the water is four or five fathoms deep. Fish abound in it, particularly the bass, shad, and alewife; and a fishery might be carried on here to great advantage: at present four or five hundred barrels are taken annually.

From Eel Point to Sandy Point, the shore curves, and forms an extensive bay, in which there are from five to eight fathoms of water. The principal harbour, on

which the town is built, is at Wesko, within this bay. Its barrier against the sea is a long neck of sandy beach, which terminates in Coatue Point. Opposite to this point, at the distance of one third of a mile, is Brant Point, on the west side of the harbour. Brant Point, during the past thirty years, has gained ten or fifteen rods in length toward the south-east, by which the harbour is improved. Common tides rise about three feet. In entering this harbour from the sea, keep two miles from Sandy Point, on which stands Nantucket Light House, as a shoal runs E. by N. from the point. When the light bears N. N. E. run S. W. by S. until you bring the Harbour Light House on Brant Point to bear S. E. by S. Then run for it till the depth of water decreases; and follow the shore into the harbour, being careful to avoid a shoal, which runs from Coatue Point toward Brant Point. The head of the harbour is six or seven miles from the town. A branch of it, which runs half a mile from the east part of it, is called Podpis.*

There is no opening from the sea into the land either on the east or south sides of the island. The whole of the shore is a sandy beach, and resembles the beaches of Cape Cod, except at Siasconsit, where the sand appears to be composed of fragments of granite. The south side of the island is gaining slowly on the sea.

Ponds. Wells.

There are seventeen ponds; several of which are large. Five or six of them are well filled with excellent perch.—The wells in the upper part of the town are about forty feet deep, which is the height of land above the level of the sea. The water in them is generally hard.

State of the Thermometer.

The climate is like that of Martha's Vineyard. The following Table exhibits the state of Fahrenheit's thermometer, which is kept constantly in the shade, at the

* This word is sometimes written Palpus: but the L and R ought not to be introduced in spelling any word of the Indians of New England, as the natives could not pronounce either of those letters.

north side of the Marine Insurance Office, Nantucket, Lat. $41^{\circ} 16'$, as observed by Mr. Robert Barker, at 8 o'clock, A. M. for a year and seven months.

		<i>Mean Heat.</i>		
1806.	January	31°	67	Decimals.
	February	33	68	
	March	32	64	
	April	39	60	
	May	51	19	
	June	66	66	
	July	68	26	
	August	68	06	
	September	61	23	
	October	53	26	
	November	41	33	
	December	30	71	
		<hr/>		
		48	19	Mean of one year.
		<hr/>		
1807.	January	26	06	
	February	27	07	
	March	34		
	April	42	13	
	May	53	32	
	June	61	10	
	July	69	73	
		<hr/>		
		44	77	Mean of 7 months.

For the sake of instituting a comparison between the climate of Nantucket and that of Salem, the author of these Notes has procured from Dr. Holyoke the state of the thermometer at the latter of these places, during the same period of a year and seven months.

Observations of Fahrenheit's Thermometer suspended in the shade, at the door of Dr. Holyoke's house in Salem, Lat. $42^{\circ} 34'$ at 8 o'clock, A. M.

		<i>Mean Heat.</i>		
1806.	January	22°	77	Decimals.
	February	28	08	

1806.	March	28°	58	Decimals.
	April	36	60	
	May	58	35	
	June	65	63	
	July	69	74	
	August	69	03	
	September	59	16	
	October	46	22	
	November	36	46	
	December	26	41	

45	59	Mean of one year.
----	----	-------------------

1807.	January	18	61
	February	20	82
	March	29	45
	April	44	
	May	54	26
	June	64	63
	July	72	29

43	44	Mean of 7 months.
----	----	-------------------

Face of the Island. Soil.

The south part of the island is a plain, which is not more than twenty-five feet above the level of the sea. On the north part the land rises into hills, which are forty feet in height. Sankoty Head, the most elevated spot, in Lat. $41^{\circ} 16'$, Long. $69^{\circ} 58'$, is eighty feet high. Coatue Point and Sandy Point are a few feet only above the sea.—The soil in general is sandy. The best land is round the harbour, particularly on the south-east quarter of it, where there is a large tract of a good quality. This part of the island is private property, and is worth twenty-five dollars an acre. A tract of ground, four miles and a half from the town, S. S. E. stretching along the shore, and containing between a hundred and fifty and two hundred acres, is black, barren land, and resembles Hampstead Plain on Long Island.—Two kinds of

clay, one of which is of a yellow, and the other of a blue colour, are found on the island. Both of them, particularly the former, are excellent for the making of cisterns to hold whale oil. A particular sort of yellow sand of the island is the best in the world for the coopering of oil casks. As these two substances are not to be obtained elsewhere in such perfection, the whaling business, say some of the patriotick inhabitants, cannot be carried on in any other place to so much advantage as in Nantucket.—The island contains iron ore; but in one instance only has it ever been worked into iron.

Vegetable Productions.

The plants which grow on the beaches are beach grass, beach pea, beach ivy, rupture wort, and a fetid, poisonous plant, probably a species of orach. The common hardy prickly pear (*cactus opuntia*) grows on Coatue Beach and Sandy point: it flowers in July.—Other plants produced on the island are southern wood, wormwood, common sorrel, maiden hair, agremony, evergreen, vervain, ladies mantle, garlick, alder tree, chickweed, marsh mallows, smallage, tansy birthwort, mugwort, orach—several kinds, burdock, night shade, betony, borage, butcher's broom, calamint, motherwort, thistle—may kinds, centaury, ground pine, celandine, endive, hemlock, crane's bill, henbane, saint john's wort, flower de luce, juniper bush, and many others, the names of which are unknown.—The wild fruits are, whortleberries—three species, cranberries, beach plums—very good, gooseberries, strawberries—scarce, meal plums, grapes, box berries or ivy plums, choak berries, wild cherries—scarce, and hazel nuts. Other bushes are the bay berry, the hog craneberry, and the shrub oak, growing only a few inches in height.—The forest trees have been cut down (except at Cosskaty, where there were three hundred cords in 1780) for a hundred years or more. The natural growth was oak, beech, maple, white pine, and small red cedar. A few red cedars still remain at Cosskaty, which is at the head of the harbour: their branches, which straggle on the ground, do not rise more

than three feet in height. Rabbits have heretofore burrowed in these cedars. Though the island is destitute of forest trees, yet there are many swamps, from which peat can be dug; but very little of it is used by the inhabitants. Fire wood is brought chiefly from the south shore of Massachusetts, and sells for five or six dollars a cord.—There are a few fruit trees, such as apples, cherries, quinces, pears, and peaches. One apple tree, a greening, is remarkable for the size of its fruit, which frequently weighs above twenty ounces.

Cattle and Sheep.

Above four hundred cows are kept on the island in two herds. At sunset they are brought to the town by the herdsmen, and remain in it during the night. In the morning they are turned out; and the herdsmen take them to the pastures, which extend from one to four miles from the town. The pasture of a cow, during the summer, is worth about two dollars.—There are thirty or forty oxen, and three hundred and fifty horses.—Seven thousand sheep are fed on the common lands, and near five hundred at Quayz. One sixth of the lambs are killed every year. The sheep produce each about two pounds of wool annually. The greatest part of the wool is exported from the island.

Divisions of the Island.

Several parts of the island are distinguished by Indian names, which are in familiar use among the inhabitants. The first territory east of the town, where was formerly an Indian village, is Shimmoah. Adjoining it is Tetaukimmo; and then Shaukimmo; east of which is Quayz; and east of Quayz, Podpis, on the branch of the harbour mentioned above. At Podpis there are several dwelling houses, which are considered as belonging to the town, and are accordingly included in the enumeration given below. East of Podpis is Squam; adjoining which is Sasacacheh, on the ocean. At Sasacacheh is a village consisting of fifteen fishing houses; next to which is Siasconsit, where there is a village containing forty-two.

small houses, which with those of Sasacacheh are not included in the town. To these two villages, which are pleasantly situated at the east end of the island, many of the gentlemen of the town retire with their families during the heat of summer. Five hundred barrels of cod-fish are taken at them every autumn; and in the spring, three hundred quintals of table fish, which are esteemed superior to Isle of Shoal fish. South of the town is Miacomit, where another Indian village formerly stood. Other quarters of the island receive their denominations from the ponds and points of land, which are near them.

Huts of the Humane Society.

On two parts of the coast, which are remote from dwelling houses, the Humane Society have erected huts for the relief of shipwrecked seamen. One of them stands two miles and a half south of the light house on Sandy Point, six miles N. E. by E. from the tower of the Congregational meeting house, forty rods N. N. E. from Cosskaty Pond, and a mile and a half north of the head of the harbour, where there are three fishing houses. It is on a well chosen spot of the beach, being fifteen feet above the level of the sea. The other hut stands on the south shore, near the head of Hummock Pond, three miles S. E. from Smith's Point, and four miles and a half W. S. W. from the tower of the Congregational meeting house.

The Town.

The town stands on the west side of the harbour, and is a mile and a half in length, and a third of a mile in breadth. It contains eight hundred and fifty dwelling houses (including fifteen at Podpis, Quayz, Squam, &c.) sixty-three stores, a great number of shops, beside candle works, rope walks, &c. which will be more particularly mentioned under the head of Manufactures, five wharves, and five windmills. The town, with the exception of one or two houses, is built of wood. The houses are generally two stories in height; some of them have clapboards in front; but the greatest part of them

are covered with shingles. Several of them are painted green. They are convenient buildings, but there is not much elegance in their appearance. — The publick edifices are two meeting houses for the Friends, a Congregational meeting house,* a Methodist meeting house, a court house, a jail, Free Masons hall — an elegant building with Ionick pilasters in front, an academy — not at present in use, but employed as a private school. Each of the societies of the Friends has a school ; beside which there are seven other schools in the town, and a number kept by women. The Congregational meeting house has a tower, eighty feet in height, which commands a fine prospect of the town, the island, and the surrounding sea. Strangers fail not to visit this tower.

Another object to interest their curiosity is a museum, which has been begun by Mr. Matthews, an Englishman, and which promises soon to become respectable. It already contains many valuable articles ; among which are several pieces of amber, that have been picked up on the shore of the island ; and specimens of fishes, and parts of fishes, particularly those of the whale kind.

Another object, which deserves attention, is a clock constructed by Mr. Walter Folger, and of which the following is a description in his own words : “ The clock, beside what is usual in clocks, exhibits the rising and setting of the sun, which is represented by a flat plate moving behind the dial plate : the dial is open so far as to admit the sun’s being seen as long as it is above the horizon in Lat. $41^{\circ} 16'$. There are sliding plates, that close the opening on each side, and serve as an horizon : their motions are so regulated, as to cause the sun to make his appearance at the time he does in the heavens every day in the year, and set at the time the sun should set. The moon is represented by a silver ball, one half of which is made black : it appears, is seen, and disappears behind the dial in the same manner the sun does, rising at the time the moon does in the heavens, and setting at the time the moon sets. The moon turns on its

* Since the above was written, a second Congregational meeting house has been erected at Nantucket.

axis once in a lunation, and by that means appears with all the different phases the moon appears with. The motion given to the horizons, that regulate the rising and setting of the moon, is more complicated than that of the sun. It takes the time of eighteen years and two hundred and twenty-five days to perform a revolution of one of the wheels, which is continually in motion. The date of the year is shown by the clock: the date changes on the first day of the year: one wheel for the purpose of showing it will take a hundred years to turn once round. The motion of that wheel is not a continued motion, but rests for the space of ten years. The time the sun rose and set may be seen by the clock at any time of the day; also the sun's declination and place in the ecliptick; and the moon's declination."

The streets and lanes of the town are irregular, but of convenient breadths: they are not paved; and the soil being sandy, they are very heavy in dry weather. House lots in the town sell from a hundred to two hundred dollars a square rod. Rents are low: few exceed a hundred dollars a year. The greatest part of the houses are owned by those who live in them. There are three fire clubs and five engines. The number of inhabitants, which is fast increasing, may in the present month of August be estimated at six thousand seven hundred and thirty. In the month of March the qualified voters were twelve hundred and forty-six whites, and twenty-nine blacks. In number of houses, of inhabitants, and wealth, Nantucket may be classed as the fourth town in Massachusetts: it falls very little short of Newburyport.

Commerce and Shipping.

There are no importers in Nantucket; but the shopkeepers procure their goods from Boston and New York, chiefly from the former. Provisions for the vessels are obtained in Boston and Connecticut. Flour and Indian corn are brought in coasters from New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

The following is a list of the number of vessels belonging to Nantucket July 27th. 1807.

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>95ths.</i>
46 Ships containing	10,525	34
8 Brigs	1,036	68
24 Schooners	1,858	60
42 Sloops	2,387	63
<hr/>		
120 Total	15,808	25
<hr/>		

Fourteen of the vessels are employed in the cod fishery, viz. one brig, seven schooners, and six sloops. Seventeen schooners and thirty-six sloops are coasters to different parts of the United States. Five of the brigs are merchant-men ; and two of the ships, which are in the same service, sail to Canton.

Hunting of Seals. Whale fishery.

Two of the brigs go to Patagonia after sea elephant oil ; and three of the ships are engaged in killing seals at various islands of the Southern Ocean. The rest of the ships are employed in the whale fishery ; viz. eleven on the coast of Brazil ; eleven at the Cape of Good Hope ; one on the coast of New Holland ; and eighteen in the Pacifick Ocean. The sealing voyages to Patagonia last about a year ; and those to the Southern Ocean, three years. The whaling voyages to the coast of Brazil last about ten months ; to the Cape of Good Hope, fifteen months ; to the Pacifick Ocean, above two years ; and to New Holland, two years and a half. Ships in this service, with proper repairs, may be preserved twenty years. Whale oil is worth at Nantucket a hundred dollars a ton ; spermaceti oil, a hundred and fifty dollars ; and head matter, two hundred and seventy-five dollars. The oil is chiefly sold in the United States, from Boston to Charleston, South Carolina. Whale bone in a right whale, in the proportion of ten pounds to a barrel, is worth six cents a pound. The larger whalers have three boats and twenty-one men, of whom nine are commonly blacks ; and the smaller, two boats and sixteen men, of whom seven are blacks. The ship owners furnish the provisions of every sort, and every thing relating

to the voyage, and draw three fifths of the returns. The men draw different proportions of the returns, according to their stations : the captain draws one sixteenth, where there are sixteen men ; and one eighteenth where there are twenty-one men : the smallest boy, in the first instance, draws a hundredth ; and in the second instance, a hundred and twentieth. The following paper will show what each person drew, where there were twenty-one men ; and it will be easy to determine from it the shares where there are sixteen men.

Settlement of the Voyage of the Ship Lion : arrived in June, 1807 : was absent two years.

To Amount of Charge	\$362.75	By 37,358 Gallons Body	
To sundry Accounts, clearing Ship, &c. (no charge against Captain, Mate, and Boy)	- - 43.38	Oil - -	\$19766.14
		By 16,868 Gallons Head	
		Matter - -	17849.73
		By 150½ Gallons Black	
		Oil - - -	45.15
			<hr/> 37661.02

The share of the Captain	$\frac{1}{16}$	-	-	-	-	2072.13
Mate	$\frac{1}{27}$	-	-	-	-	1381.41
Second Mate	$\frac{1}{37}$	-	-	-	-	1008.06
2 Ends Men	$\frac{1}{48}$	each	-	-	-	1554.10
5 Men	$\frac{1}{75}$	each	-	-	-	2486.55
Cooper	$\frac{1}{80}$	-	-	-	-	621.64
Boy	$\frac{1}{120}$	-	-	-	-	310.82
5 Blacks	$\frac{1}{80}$	each	-	-	-	2331.14
1 do.	$\frac{1}{80}$	on 400 Barrels	-	-	-	108.36
1 do.	$\frac{1}{80}$	-	-	-	-	414.42
1 do.	$\frac{1}{85}$	-	-	-	-	438.80
1 do.	$\frac{1}{90}$	on all but 400 Barrels	-	-	-	318.10
						<hr/> Remainder 24252.74

Banks. Insurance Offices.

There are at Nantucket two banks and two insurance offices, each of which has a capital of a hundred thousand

dollars. The greatest part of the shares in the four are owned on the island. The banks divide five per cent. and the insurance offices, ten per cent. semiannually.

Manufactures.

There are nineteen sets of works for the manufacture of spermaceti candles, which are in operation from the beginning of October to the beginning of June. On a medium, they manufacture each fifty tons of oil in a year; and turn out about ten thousand pounds of candles, which are worth forty-eight cents a pound. They are sent to the various parts of the United States.

There are ten rope walks, which manufacture each about twenty tons of cordage in a year. There is also a twine manufactory; but it is small.

The great number of casks, which are used by the whalers and others, are all made in the town. The whale oil is generally put into hogsheads.

The whale boats also are all built at Nantucket. A whaleboat is twenty-seven feet long, is made of cedar boards half an inch thick, carries five men to row and one man to steer, is built by five or six workmen in three days, and costs fifty dollars: before the revolution the cost of it was thirty dollars.

The manufacture of marine salt was begun; but on account of the fogs, which are so prevalent at Nantucket, it was found to be unprofitable, and was therefore discontinued.

The other manufactures are those which are common in Massachusetts,* and are not of much importance.

Diseases. Longevity.

The diseases of the island are not very different from those of the Main. The pulmonary consumption is said not to be as common. This may perhaps proceed in part from the difference in dress, especially among the females: the fact is, that the women, during the chilly months, are more warmly clad than in other parts of New Eng-

* See Dickinson's Geographical and Statistical View of Massachusetts Proper, p. 66—75.

land.—There are many persons on the island above seventy years of age. Two women, Elizabeth Allen and Lydia Pinkham, are in their ninetieth year. Jethro Starbuck died 1769, æt. 99. Lydia Swain died about eight years ago, æt. 93. Mary Coff died about thirty years ago, æt. 97. Priscilla Colman died about forty years ago, æt. 95. Her husband, John Colman, died, æt. 97. There is no instance of any one on the island ever attaining the age of a hundred.

Religious Denominations.

The Quakers, of whom there are about four hundred families, constitute the largest body of the inhabitants. It was through the testimony of John Richardson, an Englishman, who came to Nantucket in June, 1701,* that the first society of Friends was gathered. Friends' monthly meetings were established at Nantucket in 1708. The number of the Quakers is probably diminishing; for many are driven from their society by the strictness of their discipline. Not more than one half of the males, and two thirds of the females, who attend the Friends' meetings, are members of the society.—The Congregationalists are more than two hundred families.—The Methodists are upwards of a hundred families: a hundred and twenty-four church members belong to their society. This denomination, which has lately been introduced, has been beneficial to the town, as many, who had formerly no religion, now attend the Methodist preachers.

Manners and Customs.

The Quakers, being the largest and most respectable body, have happily given a tone to the manners and customs of the other denominations. The same neatness and simplicity in dress, the same frugality, industry, and hospitality, which distinguish that excellent society of christians, prevail in a good degree among the rest of the inhabitants. The people, who breakfast at seven, and

* See Life of John Richardson. Philadelphia. 1783.

dine at twelve, are busily engaged the whole day in some useful employment; and hence there are few persons among them, who do not obtain a comfortable subsistence, and who do not appear cheerful and contented. Strangers, who visit the island, generally leave it with a favourable impression on their minds of the character of the inhabitants. It seems however to be universally allowed, that they no longer retain their former purity of morals; but that during the last twelve years in particular, a spirit of bitterness has been introduced among them; that the people no longer live together like a family of brothers; but that they hate, and revile, and persecute each other. The causes of this melancholy change ought not to be mentioned. It is hoped, that when the present generation, with their prejudices and rancour, shall have passed off the stage, the generation which succeeds will be restored to the sincerity, the good faith, the unsuspecting candour, and the brotherly affection of former times. There is reason for this hope, because the present inhabitants, notwithstanding their degeneracy in one branch of morals, still preserve most of the good habits of their fathers.

Historical Dates.

1660. May 10. Wanachmamak and Nickanoose, head sachems of Nantucket, sold to Thomas Mayhew and others the land lying from the west end of the island to a pond called by the Indians Wagutuquab, and from that pond upon a straight line unto a pond situate on Monumoy Harbour or Creek, and from the north-west corner of the pond to the sea. This territory includes the town.

1661. Jan. 3. Coatue Point was granted by the same sachems to Edward Starbuck.

1661. July 15. At a meeting of the proprietors held at Nantucket, it was determined that each man of the owners should have liberty to choose his house lot at any place not before taken up, and each house lot should contain sixty rods square.

1664. July 7. Pakapenessee sold to a company of proprietors Nanahumas Neck, north of Hummock Pond. Other parts of the island were purchased of inferior sachems.

Philip, being at Nantucket, declared that he had no claim to the land of Nantucket; but only power, in point of government, over some Indians not belonging to the island.

1671. June 28. A patent was granted by Francis Lovelace, Governour of New York, which recites, that Nantucket was first purchased of James Forett, agent to William Earl of Stirling, by Thomas Mayhew and Thomas his son, and by them, July 2d, 1659, conveyed to several of the inhabitants, who have likewise purchased the Indians' right to the lands; and which the Governour, in the said patent, confirms.

1678. June 1. The town at Wesko, that is, the present town, was laid out in five squadrons, to be each of them eight rods wide, and eighty rods in length, with convenient streets and high ways: each squadron contained four lots, being two rods wide each. From that time the town commenced.

1684. June 5. Nantucket, in a patent, was confirmed to the inhabitants freeholders by Thomas Dongan, Lieut. Gov. of New York under the Duke of York.

1687. June 7. Sherburne was incorporated into a town by Thomas Dongan, Gov. of New York.

The Indians.

When the English first came to Nantucket, it was well inhabited by Indians. There were two tribes on the island, one at the west, and the other at the east end. The western tribe is supposed to have found its way thither from the Main, by the way of Martha's Vineyard, Muskeget, and Tuckanuck Islands. The eastern tribe probably came directly across the Sound, which it might be induced to do, as in particular states of the air, Nantucket is visible from the southern shore of the county of Barnstable. But there was a tradition or fable among them, that an eagle having seized and carried off in his talons

a papoos, the parents followed him in their canoe till they came to Nantucket, where they found the bones of their child dropped by the eagle.*

The Indians of Nantucket were a people who were destitute of most of the arts of life. They were acquainted with roasting, but not with boiling. Though they had all the materials on the shore ; yet they could not, like the Narragansets, coin wompompeag. They cultivated no plants, except maize, beans, squashes, and tobacco. To each family was assigned a portion of land, equal to about a quarter of an acre, which they broke up as well as they could with the rude tools that they possessed, called in their language mattoks, assisting each other in a very friendly manner. They could now and then kill a bird ; and there were a few deer : goat skins, but not the animal itself, were found by the English on the island. Fish could be obtained in the harbours, and on the coast ; and shell fish were abundant. During the winter however, they frequently suffered the extremities of famine. Their clothes were sometimes skins, but for the most part coarse mats, made of grass.

The two tribes were hostile to each other. Tradition has preserved a pleasing instance of the force of love. The western tribe having determined to surprise and attack the eastern tribe, a young man of the former, whose mistress belonged to the latter, being anxious for her safety, as soon as he was concealed by the shades of night, ran to the beach, flew along the shore below the limit of high water, saw his mistress a moment, gave her the alarm, and returned by the same route before day-break : the rising tide washed away the traces of his feet. The next morning he accompanied the other warriors of the tribe to the attack : the enemy was found prepared ; and no impression could be made on them. He remained undetected, till several years after peace being restored between the two tribes, and the young man having married the girl, the truth came to light.

* Mr. Alden, in his *Memorabilia of Yarmouth*, gives an Indian fable, which differs somewhat from this. See *Coll. of Hist. Soc. V. 56. 1st Series.*

The first Englishman, who settled at Nantucket, was Thomas Macy. He was accompanied by two young men, who came for the sake of shooting the wild fowl, with which the island abounded. They found the land covered with wood. The Indians, who received them with kindness and hospitality, were astonished at the effect of the fire arms, by which more birds could be killed in a day, than they could destroy with their arrows in a month. Afterwards, when more Englishmen came, the land began to be ploughed. The Indians would with delight, for whole days together, follow the traces of the ploughshare ; and they earnestly intreated the English to plough their land for them. Their request was complied with. The Indians were religiously punctual in rewarding them for their labour. The first portion of corn collected in the autumn was laid by in baskets, to pay the English for their ploughing ; another parcel was reserved for seed. Neither of these portions would they touch in winter however severe the famine might be ; so honest and careful were they at that period. But in process of time, when their morals were corrupted by their commerce with the whites, they became thievish, negligent, and slothful. They would frequently steal from the English ; and their corn fields were overrun with weeds. The introduction of ardent spirits among them gradually thinned their numbers ; and at length the fever, which attacked them in 1763, almost entirely swept them away. At present there are only two Indian men and six Indian women left on the island.

After the whale-fishery was introduced, the Indians were employed in that service ; and they made excellent oarsmen, and some of them were good endsmen. So useful have men of this class been found in the whale-fishery, that the Indians having disappeared, negroes are now substituted in their place. Seamen of colour are more submissive than the whites ; but as they are more addicted to frolicking, it is difficult to get them aboard the ship, when it is about to sail, and to keep them aboard, after it has arrived. The negroes, though they are to be

prized for their habits of obedience, are not as intelligent as the Indians ; and none of them attain the rank of ends-men.

Soon after the English had settled on the island, attempts were made to convert the Indians to the faith of the gospel ; and in a course of years all of them became nominal christians.* But their morals do not appear to have been much improved by their conversion. They were however, during every period, generally friendly to the English, who, though they were sometimes alarmed, never experienced any thing from them really hostile. Those who made converts of the Indians were the Congregationalists and the Baptists : it does not appear that any of them became Quakers ; whose religion, being so simple and intellectual, without either ceremonies or music, had no attractions to a nation of savages.

Of former Descriptions of Nantucket.

These Notes are not given as a complete description of Nantucket, but only as a supplement to the accounts, which are already before the publick. The reader, who wishes for further information, is referred to the III^d. Vol. of these Collections, 1st. Series, where he will find four valuable papers, written by inhabitants of the island, and containing many things omitted in these Notes. He is also requested to procure, if he can, the Letters of an American Farmer, by Hector St. John de Creve Cœur, which afford the most interesting and entertaining account of this island. It is proper however to advertize him, that against the Letters of the American Farmer two objections may be made. One is, that his pictures, though striking likenesses, are always flattering likenesses : every face glows with the blush of sensibility, and is irradiated with the beams of happiness. The other objection is, that he is frequently erroneous in minute and unimportant circumstances : he gives the contour and character of the face exactly, though, as was said before, in too

* For an account of the progress of the gospel among the Indians of Nantucket, see 1st. III^d. and Xth. Vol. of Hist. Coll. and Matth. Mayhew's Narrative, p. 29.

favourable a light ; but he makes strange mistakes in the sleeve of a coat, or the strap of a shoe. If the reader has good nature enough to pardon these two faults, he will peruse the Letters of St. John with perpetual delight.*

A DESCRIPTION OF DUKE'S COUNTY. AUG. 13th, 1807.

DUKE'S COUNTY, a small county in the state of Massachusetts, is situate south of the county of Barnstable, south-east of the county of Bristol, and west of the county of Nantucket. Its distance from Boston is about eighty miles ; and the road, which leads to it, passes through Plymouth and Sandwich to Falmouth, whence a ferry boat conveys the traveller to Holmes's Hole. The county is composed of the islands of Martha's Vineyard, or Martin's Vineyard, and Chappaquiddick, which are separated from each other by a narrow strait, of the Elizabeth Islands, and of Noman's Land. It lies between the latitudes of $41^{\circ} 14'$ and $41^{\circ} 31'$, and between the longitudes of $70^{\circ} 22'$ and $70^{\circ} 55'$ W. from Greenwich.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD.

The principal island, where the courts are held, and which contains the meeting houses, school houses, and the greatest number of inhabitants, is Martha's Vineyard. I shall begin with this island ; and in describing it, there will be a necessity of mentioning several things which belong to the county in general.

Martha's Vineyard is nineteen miles in length from east to west. Its greatest breadth is ten miles, from the West Chop in Tisbury to the beach south of Oyster Pond : in the narrowest part it is two miles wide : its mean breadth may be about five miles.

* Since these Notes were collected, a Description of Nantucket, by Joseph Sansom, Esq. of Philadelphia, has been published in the Vth. Vol. of the Port Folio, p. 30. This Description is written in a popular style, and is an accurate, as well as an amusing paper. It has obliged the author of these Notes, in transcribing them for the press, to omit several things which he intended to have printed.