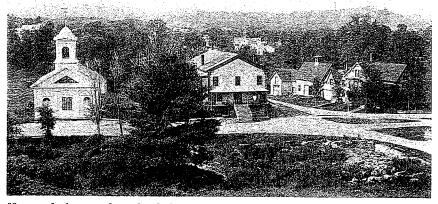
DIVISION OF THE TOWN OF GILMANTON

In the 1850's every man took his politics seriously. A man born a Republican or Whig, or a man born a Democrat usually remained loyal to his father's political party for life. It took an event as important as a revolution or civil war to change a man's loyalties. In those days Belmont was inhabited by men who were for the most part loyal Democrats, while at the same time the Whigs and later the Republicans were the majority in the remainder of Gilmanton. This situation created considerable friction between the two sections of the town, and undoubtedly the annual town meeting at the Academy was marked by violent political battles. At this time the town of Gilmanton had three representatives in the legislature, all of whom were Democrats much to the consternation of the Republicans who were not represented at all even though the town as a whole was almost evenly divided politically. This came about through the heavy majority of Democratic votes in the Upper Parish (Belmont) combined with a more scattered, but significant Democratic vote in the remainder of the town (Gilmanton) These Democratic votes when added together were more than enough to out vote the Republicans. A division of the town would result in two additional Republican seats in the legislature. This would come about when the votes of the Upper Parish were not tabulated with the remainder of the town. The Upper Parish would then elect only one Democrat as its representative. While this situation hardly seems grounds for the division of a town it is nevertheless the only apparent reason.

It is not clear now whether the move for division of the town started in the town, or whether it was done purely outside the town by the Republican party for its own political advantage. We do know that the bill for division of the town was submitted to the house by A. H. Craig of Lebanon and that all three Democratic representatives from Gilmanton were opposed to the division. The bill, however, was passed 174 to 100 in the house after serious



View of the north end of the village showing South Church, Hall's store and the Reuben Hoyt residence. The remains of the old store building which burned around 1890 are seen in the right foreground. It was in the hall over this store that the 1859 and 1869 town meetings were held.

debate and filibuster by the Democratic minority. Equally serious opposition was met in the Senate, but the bill was again approved along partisan lines, and on June 28, 1859 the bill was signed by Governor Ichabod Goodwin. The act of division read thusly:

"That all that part of the town of Gilmanton contained within the following described lines, to wit: Beginning at the northeasterly corner of said town where its easterly line is met and intersected by southerly line of the town of Gilford, thence running in northwesterly direction following the division line between said towns of Gilford and Gilmanton until said division line is met by the parish line, so called, as the same is laid out and described upon the original plan of lots in said town of Gilmanton, thence running southwesterly following said parish line until said line meets and intersects northwesterly line of said town of Gilmanton as the same now is: Thence southerly on said westerly line of said town of Gilmanton to its southwesterly corner; thence northerly on the easterly line of said town of Gilmanton as said line now runs until it arrives at the point begun at; be and the same is hereby severed from the town of Gilmanton and made a new body politic and corporate by the name of Gilmanton and that all the territory remaining, which with the part severed constituted the town of Gilmanton as the same was before the passage of this act shall be called by the name of Upper Gilmanton."

The act also provided for the division of town funds and for the calling of the first town meeting of Upper Gilmanton. John L. Kezar, John E. Page and Isaiah Piper, or any two of them were authorized to call a town meeting for the town of Upper Gilmanton.

As may be seen from the reading of the act, the town of Gilmanton was separated from the remainder of the town, and the remaining part of the town was renamed Upper Gilmanton, indicating that the town of Upper Gilmanton was the original town. This is why to this day all old Gilmanton records as well as the 1727 incorporation date belong to the town of Belmont.

The act of division was silent on the subject as to who were the legal town officers during the period between when the act became effective and the calling of town meetings to elect officers in the two towns. This eventually required a supreme court decision as to whether jurors chosen by the old town officers could legally serve.

At the time of division Upper Gilmanton had a population of around 1200, while the town of Gilmanton had about twice that number of inhabitants.

On August 6, 1859 the first town meeting of the town of Upper Gilmanton was called at the hall over Nicholas Garman's store, and the following town officers were elected:

Selectmen

Selectmen

John L. Kezar
Lyman B. Fellows
Jeduthan Farrar

Moderator

Clerk

Treasurer

Auditors

Nathaniel Rowe
John C. Foster
Loseph Badger

Fence Viewers

Joseph Badger

John W. Wells

Jessie L. Towle

Andrew Sanborn

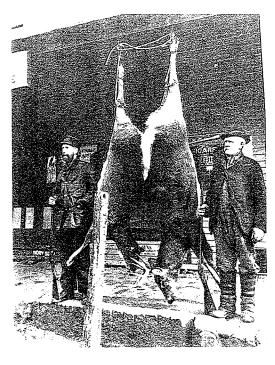
Superintending School

S. Lowell French

Committee

It was not long after the division of Gilmanton that some of the residents of Upper Gilmanton began to agitate for a change in the town's name to make the split with the name Gilmanton complete. It is not now known who first suggested the name Belmont, although one source suggests that Moses Sargent Jr. was instrumental in the choice. The town warrant of 1869 contained the following article:

Art. 16 To see if the town will vote to change the name of Upper Gilmanton and substitute therefor the name of Belmont, on petition of Isaiah Piper and others. Proponents of the change used the argument that since there



Two successful hunters, Fred Piper and Thomas Fuller, standing on the steps of Hall's store.

were three posts offices in existence using the name Gilmanton, there was much confusion with the mails, and anyway, the name Upper Gilmanton was just too much to write. There was apparently no great opposition to the name change and at the town meeting the proponents carried the day so that the legislature was requested to change the town's name to Belmont. The act was approved on June 24, 1869 and became effective July 5, 1869. It is reported that on this day a picnic of the town's residents was held at Sawyer's Cove (Gardner's Grove) on Silver Lake to celebrate the rechristening of the town.

It is perhaps to be regretted that the name Belmont was chosen over a name of local significance. August Belmont was born in Alzei, Germany in 1816. At an early age he entered the Rothschild's banking house in Frankfurt-am-Maine. On behalf of his employers he was sent to Havana, and shortly thereafter to New York where he established himself in business a representative of the Rothschild interests. He soon accumulated considerable wealth and became prominent in the Democratic party.

It is reported that he was sent notification of a town being named in his honor. Belmont residents then patiently waited for him to express his gratification, hopefully in a financial way. Unfortunately, he never even acknowledged the notification.

GILMANTON.

Granted May 20, 1727, to Nicholas Gilman and others. The grant was confirmed by the Masonian Proprietors, June 30, 1752. Governor's Island was annexed Dec. 30, 1799. Gilford was set off and incorporated June 16, 1812. A tract of land was severed and annexed to Gilford July 5, 1851. Belmont was set off and

Gillmanton

L:P:S:

incorporated as Upper Gilmanton, June 28, 1859.

See Masonian Papers in following volumes; IX, Bouton Town Papers, 302, 456; XII, Hammond Town Papers, 1; Index to Laws, 207; papers under title Kingswood; History, by Daniel Lancaster, 1845, pp. 304; sketch by S. S. N. Greeley, Hurd's History of Belknap County, 1885, p. 785; Glimpses of the History of Old Gilmanton, by J. E. Fullerton, 3, Granite Monthly, 304; Sketch of History, Geology, etc., by William Prescott, 1, Farmer and Moore's Historical Collections, 72; Stewart's History of the Free Baptists, 1862, pp. 162, 302; Baptist Churches in N. H., by E. E. Cummings, 1836, p. 8; The Badger Homestead, by F. M. Colby, 6, Granite Monthly, 76; Bills of Mortality, 1825–50, by Daniel Lancaster, 6, Collections of N. H. Historical Society, 244; Biographical Notices of Physicians in, by Daniel Lancaster, 1, N. H. Repository, 65; Lawrence's N. H. Churches, 1856, pp. 490, 494, 496.]

[GILMANTON CHARTER, 1727.]

*George by the Grace of God of *I-I03 Great Brittain France & Ireland King Defender of the faith &ca-

To all People to whom these Presents Shall Come Greeting—

Know YE that we of our Especial Know-

led & mere motion for the Due Encouragment of Settling A New Plantation By & with the Advice & Consent of our Council have given & Granted and by these Presents as far as in us lies do give & Grant in Equal Shares unto Sundry of our beloved Subjects whose names Are Entred in A Schedule hereunto Annexed that Inhabid or Shall Inhabit within the Said Grant within our Province of New Hampshire all that Tract of Land within the following Bounds (Viz) to begin on the head of the Town of Barnstead at the Corner of Said Town & next to the Town of Chichester And running from thence on a North West Line to Winnipisiockee Pond or the River that runs out of the Said Pond And from the first Place where it began to run North East Six Miles on the head of the Afore Said Town of Barnstead then North West Two Miles then West to Winnipissiockee Pond then on the Said Pond & river to meet the first Line (Provided it do not intrench on Any former Legal Grant:)

and that the Same be a Town Corporate by the Name of GILL-MANTON to the Persons afore Said and Such associates as they Shall admit for Ever To have & to hold the Said Land to the Said Grantees & thier Associates & thier heirs And Assignes forever upon the Conditions following—

1) That the Proprietors within three Years build Seventy Dwelling Houses & Settle a family in Each or Cause the Same to be don and Clear three Acres of Ground fit for Planting or mowing and that Each Proprietor pay his Proportion of the Town Charges

when & So often as Occassion Shall require the Same

2^{dly} That A meeting house be built for the Publick Worship of

God within the Term of four Years—

3^{dly} That upon Default of Any Perticular Proprietor in Complying with the Conditions of this Charter upon his Part Such Delinquent Proprietor Shall forfiet upon his Share of the Said *1-104 Land to the other *Proprietors which Shall be Disposed

of According to the Major Vote of the Said Proprietors at

a Legal Meeting-

4) That a Proprietors Share be reserved for the first Minister of the Gospell that Shall be there Settled & Ordained And Another for a Parsonage—and another Proprietors Share for the benefit of a School in the Said Town-Provided nevertheless that the Peace with the Indians Continue for the Space of three Years But if it Shall happen A Warr with the Indians do break out before the Expiration of the afore Said Three Years that then the Said Term of three years Shall be Allowd the Proprietors After the Expiration of the War for the Performance of the afore Said Conditions rendring & Paying therefor to us our hiers & Successors or Such officer or officers as Shall be Appointed to receive the Same the Annual Quitrent or Acknowledgment of one Pound of flax in the Said Town on the Last Thursday in March Yearly forever (if Demanded) reserving also unto us our hiers & Successors all mast Trees (Growing on Said Land According to Acts of Parliament in that case made & Provided And for the Better order rule & Government of the Said Town We Do by these Presents for our Selves our hiers & Successors Grant unto the Said men & Inhabitants or those that Shall Inhabit Said Town That Yearly & every Year upon the Second Thursday in March for ever Shall meet to Elect & Choose by the Major Part of the Proprietors then Present Constables Select men & other Town officers According to the Laws & usages of our afore Said Province with all the Power Previledges & Authoritys as other Towns & Town officers within our aforesaid

Province have & Enjoy: And for the Notifying And Calling of the first Town Meeting We do hereby Appoint Major John Gillman Cap' John Gillman & Barthol Thing to be Select men for the Said Town of Gillmanton & they to Continue in Said respective office as Select men until the Second thursday in the month of March which Shall be in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred & Twenty Eight & until Other *Select *1-105 men Shall be Chosen & Appointed in their Stead in Such manner as is in thse Presents Expressed In Testimony whereof we have Caused the Seal of our Said Province to be hereunto affixed Wittness John Wentworth Esq our Lieutenant Governour & Commander in Chieff in & over our Said Province of New Hamp' at our Town of Portsmouth in our Said Province the Twentieth day of May in the thirteenth Year of our reign Anno Domini 1727—

I Wentworth

By order of his Hon^r the L^t Governour with the Advice of the Council Rich^d Waldron Cler: Con: Entred & recorded According to the Original under the Province Seal this 13th July 1752—

P Theodore Atkinson Se"

In Council December 17th 1729

Ordered That whereas in the Charter of Gilmanton it is Expressed that the Bounds of Said Town Shall run from the head of Barnstead norwest two miles then West to Winnipiseockee Pond which Last Point of (West) Should have been Expressed North to the Pond the Same being So Intended by the Grantors & is hereby So Explained & Declared—

Vera Copia

Richd Waldron Cler Con
Richd Waldron Cler Con

Copyd & Entred from the Back of the Original Charter above recorded this 13th of July 1752—

Theodore Atkinson Sery

A Schedule of the names of the Proprietors of the Town of Gillmanton—

Nicholas Gillman
Samuel Thing
Bartholmy Thing
Jeremiah Conner
Peter Gillman
Nicho Gorden
John Robinson

John Cohen
Fenry
Jonath
Henry
Jonath
Henry
Jonath
Henry
Jonath
Thos V

John Gillman
Henry Rust
Jonathan Wadley
Benja Thing
James Sinclare
*Phillip Conner
Thos Webster

John Odlin
James Levit
Nicholas Dudley
Eph' Philbrick
Eliphalet Coffin
Daniel Gilman *1–106
Nich^o Gillman ju'

Nathaniel Webster John Foulsam Humphr Willson James Jeffry William Doran Sam¹¹ Gillman Sam^{II} Norris James Levit jun^r Benja Rollins Edward Gillman Robert Smart Caleb Kimball Samuel Gilman 3d Timo Levit John Mudget Samuel Norris Edward Fifield Joseph Hall John Perkins jun Theoph Hardy Theoph Smith jun' Joseph Sinckler Benja Hillton Michael Bowden Nath" Gillman jun' Jeremh Bean Samuel Sinclare Oliver Smith Andrew Glidden Jerem^b Calef Dudley Levit Thos Webster Jung Nehemiah Gillman Richard Sinclare William Moore Alexander Gorden Richa Dolloff Clement Hughes Benning Wentworth Rich^d Waldron jun^r William Wentworth James Davis

Paul Hall Zebulon Giddins Nicho Gillman 3d Richard Clark Joseph Thing Edward Colcord Ward Clark Jonathan Colcord Josiah Gillman Richard Smith Joseph Smart Ephra Levit Ebenez' Wear Leut John Gillman John Odlin jun^r Benja Levit Henry Hale Joseph Robinson James Dudley Theoph Smith Iosiah Hall Richa Hilton Edward Hillton Stephen Sewall John Clark Cornelius Drisco Jona Folsam Abraham ffoulsam Richard Glidden jun' Cornelius Conner Moses Norris Abraham Sanborn Robert Gillman Eph' Foulsam Jona Hilton Jun Nath" Bartlet R⁴ Nath Ladd Thomas Willson Eleazer Russell Thomas Peirce Hunking Wentworth Peter Wear Andrew Wiggin

Andrew Gilman Thomas Gillman John Chipman Jethrô Pearson Jona Young Walter Neale Nath^{ll} Gillman Samuel Elkins John Gillman jun Treworthy Dudley Joseph Dudley Coffin Thing James Jeffry jun John Scribner jun' Treworgy Gilman Joseph Scribner Edward Gillman jun' Jonathan Conner John Roberts Jere^m Gillman Edward Hall Samuel Hillton William Hillton Daniel Thing James Norris Stephen Lyford Jona Robbinson jung Benja ffoulsam John Lord Caleb Gillman Moses Leavit Edward Foulsam Joseph Glidden Cyprian Jaffry Jona Gillman Benja Gamblin Capt Henry Sherburn Jabez Fitch John Wentworth jung John Plaisted Capt John Downing

William Fellows Paul Gerrish John Sandburn John Redman Theodore Atkinson Ephra Dennit Ebenez' Stephens Richard Wibird jun' Richard Jennes Capt Samuel Tibbets Mathew Plant George Jaffrey jun' Benja Clark Cap' John Gillman Ephra Dennet jun Andrew Frost Jotham Odiorne jun' Benja Walton William Odiorn Robert Auchmuty Samⁿ Shute Esq \ Each 500: Acres John Wentworth \ & a home Lot Coll Mark Hunking George George Jaffrey Esq Richard Wibird Shadrach Walton Esq. Jotham Odiorne Thos Westbrook Archd Macphedris John Frost The Schedule Annexed to Gillmanton Certify'd Entred And recorded According to the Original this 13th July 7752 Theodore Atkinson Sec"

CHAPTER 2229.

AN ACT to divide the town of Gilmanton.

SECTION 1. Town of Gilmanton divid- | Sec. 5. Provisions relative to support of - ed into towns of Gilmanton and Upper Gilmanton.

SEC. 2. Provisions for division of present town property; appointment of committee to divide, if the towns cannot agree.

SEC. 3. All taxes already assessed to be collected as if this act had not passed. SEC. 4. All existing debts and liabilities, and all municipal expenses, since March last, to be paid in same proportion that property is divided.

paupers.

SEC. 6. Apportionment of state and county taxes to each town.

SEC. 7. Provision for calling first meeting of town of Gilmanton.

SEC. 8. Councillor, Senatorial and Congressional Districts of which Gilmanton shall form part.

SEC. 9. Provision for calling first meeting of town of Upper Gilmanton. SEC. 10. Act takes effect on its passage.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court convened:

Section 1. That all that part of the town of Gilmanton, contained within the following described lines, to wit: Beginning at the north-easterly corner of said town, where its easterly line is met and intersected by the southerly line of the town of Gilford; thence running in a north-westerly direction, following the division line between said towns of Gilford and Gilmanton, until said division line is met by the Parish line, so called, as the same is laid out and described upon the original plan of lots in said town of Gilmanton; thence running south-westerly, following said Parish line, until said Parish line meets and intersects with the westerly line of said town of Gilmanton, as the same now is; thence southerly on said westerly boundary line of said town of Gilmanton, to its south-westerly corner; thence easterly on the southerly line of said town of Gilmanton to its south-easterly corner; thence northerly on the easterly line of said town of Gilmanton, as said line now runs, until it arrives at the point begun at, be and the same hereby is severed from said town of Gilmanton, and made a new body politic and corporate by the name of Gilmanton; and that all the territory remaining, which, with the part severed constituted the town of Gilmanton, as the same was before the passage of this act, shall be called by the name of Upper Gilmanton.

Sec. 2. All real and personal estate, including all dues and demands of every kind, now owned by and belonging to the town of Gilmanton, as the same was before the passage of this act; all school and other funds, owned by said town, and the proportion of the literary fund, which, until a new apportionment of State taxes, shall be payable to said town, shall be divided between said towns in the proportion of six dollars and fifty cents to the town of Gilmanton, as hereby constituted, and three dollars and fifty cents to the town of Upper Gilmanton; and if said towns cannot agree upon the division of any such property, James Tilton of Sanbornton, Reuben Edgerly of Barnstead, and Andrew Taylor of Loudon, upon the request of either town, may make a division of the same, or assign the same, or any part thereof, to either of said towns, and may order the town to which such property may be assigned to pay over such sums of money to the other town as in their opinion is equitable, according to the foregoing proportion, and may fix the time of payment.

SEC. 3. All taxes assessed since March last upon the polls and estates of persons residing within the limits of the new town of Gilmanton, as hereby made, and all non-resident taxes assessed since March last, on property within said limits, shall be collected by the collector to whom the same has been committed for that purpose, and the balance, after deducting therefrom its proportion of the State and county taxes, shall be paid by him over to the town of Gilmanton, as hereby constituted, in the same manner in which he is directed to pay the same over to the former town of Gilmanton before the division; and the treasurer of the new town of Gilmanton, when chosen and legally qualified, shall have the same power to issue an extent against such collector, for neglect to comply with the provisions of this act, that he would have if such collector had

been chosen by the new town of Gilmanton.

SEC. 4. All debts and liabilities, heretofore incurred by and now outstanding against the former town of Gilmanton, and all municipal expenses of said town since the eighth day of March last, shall be paid by said towns in the same proportion in which the property is to be divided.

SEC. 5. All paupers now supported by the town of Gilmanton shall be supported by the towns of Gilmanton and Upper Gilmanton, each of said towns contributing to their support in the same proportion that the property of said towns is to be divided, until such time as either of said towns shall call for a division of said paupers; and if the said towns do not agree upon a division, the said referees, upon the request of either of said towns, shall determine and assign to each of said towns their proportion of said paupers, upon the same basis, as near as practicable, as that adopted for a division of the town property, and determine which of said paupers shall be supported by each of

said towns: Provided, however, that no person who is not, at the time of the passage of this act, in actual receipt of assistance

from said former town of Gilmanton, and supported by the same, shall be considered a pauper within the meaning of this act.

SEC. 6. In all assessments of State and county taxes, until the Legislature shall otherwise order, the new town of Gilmanton shall pay seven-tenths of the old apportionment on the dollar, and the town of Upper Gilmanton three-tenths on the dollar, and the State and county treasurers shall issue their respective warrants accordingly.

Sec. 7. Isaac E. Smith, Cyrus Gilman and Moses Price, or any two of them, may call the first meeting of said town of Gilmanton, as hereby constituted, by posting up a warrant for that purpose as the law directs, at which meeting either of said persons may preside until a moderator shall be chosen, and at such meeting all necessary officers for said town may be chosen.

SEC. 8. The town of Gilmanton shall form a part of Councillor District number two, Senatorial District number six, and

Congressional District number one.

SEC. 9. John S. Kezer, John E. Page and Isaiah Piper, or any two of them, may call a meeting of the town of Upper Gilmanton, as the same is hereby constituted, by posting up a warrant for that purpose as the law directs, at which meeting either of said persons may preside until a moderator shall be chosen, and at such meeting all necessary officers for said town may be elected.

SEC. 10. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved June 28, 1859.

CHAPTER 2230.

AN ACT giving boarding-house keepers a lien in certain cases.

SECTION 1. Boarding-house keepers to have a lien upon baggage and effects

of boarders and guests, except seamen and mariners.

SEC. 2. Act takes effect on its passage.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court convened:

Section 1. All boarding-house keepers shall have a lien upon the baggage and effects of their guests and boarders, except seamen and mariners, brought to their respective boarding-houses, until all the proper charges due to such keepers for the fare and board of all such guests and boarders shall be paid.

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect on its passage.

Approved June 27, 1859.



CHAPTER LIX.

ACT TO CHANGE THE NAME OF UPPER GILMANTON.

SECTION

- 1. Upper Gilmanton changed to Belmont.
- 2. Belmont to be cutifled to all the rights and subject to all the duties of Upper Gilman-

SECTION 3. Act takes effect July 5, 1869.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

Upper Gilman-ton changed to Belmont. Belmont to be

Section 1. The town of Upper Gilmanton shall be hereafter known and called by the name of Belmont.

SECT. 2. Said town of Belmont shall possess all the rights and be subject to all the liabilities of said Upper Gilmanton, as provided duties of Upper in chapter two thousand two hundred and twenty-nine of the Gilmanton. Act takes effect pamphlet laws.
July 5, 1869.

Secr. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force on and after July 5, 1869. [Approved June 24, 1869.]

CHAPTER LX.

AN ACT TO CHANGE THE NAMES OF CERTAIN PERSONS.

SECTION

1. Names of certain persons changed.

SECTION

2. Act takes effect on its passage.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

Names of certain persons changed.

Section 1. That Samuel A. Blackstock, of Chester, may take the name of Samuel A. Blackstone; Lidia E. Blackstock, of Chester, may take the name of Lidia E. Blackstone; Luclla E. Haines may take the name of Luella E. Carroll: Annie M. Fall, of Farmington, may take the name of Annie M. Hayes; Melvin Wright, of Hanover, may take the name of Walter M. Wright; Leona Amanda Reed, of Keene, may take the name of Leona Estella Matthews; John Page, of Holderness, may take the name of John L. Page; Marrietta Carey, of Claremont, may take the name of Mary Etta Colby; Pannie Van Duzen, of Juffrey, may take the name of Fannie Stevens: Nellie Efta Hansell, of Pelham, may take the name of Nellie Etta Woodbury: Luclia Josephine Hansell, of Pelham, may take the name of Lawlin Josephine Woodbury; Miranda Hamlin, of Gilford, may take the name of Miranda Hackett; Hannah P. Sylvester, of Sharen may take the mane of Hannah P. Wilson; David W. Sylvester, of Sharon, may take the mame of David W. Wilson: Isabell Augusta Allen, of Keene, new take the name of Isabell Augusta Trask: Fred Andrew Allen, of Keene, may take the name of Fred Andrew Trask; Sarah L. Lyford, of Exeter, may

In the year of our Lord, One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sifty Kine.

An act to change the name of lipper Gilmontow.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened.

Section. 1. The rown of Upper Gilmanton shall be hereafter Known and called by the name of Belmont

Said town of Belmont shall possess all the rights, and be subject to all the liabilities of said lepper Gilmanton, as provided in Chapter 2229 of the Pamphlet Laws.

Jorce on and after July 5th 1849.

Sam'm While Speaker of the Hause of Representatives Colum. Mugudge

President of the Sinate.

Opproved June 24th 1869-Ourlow Steams Governor.