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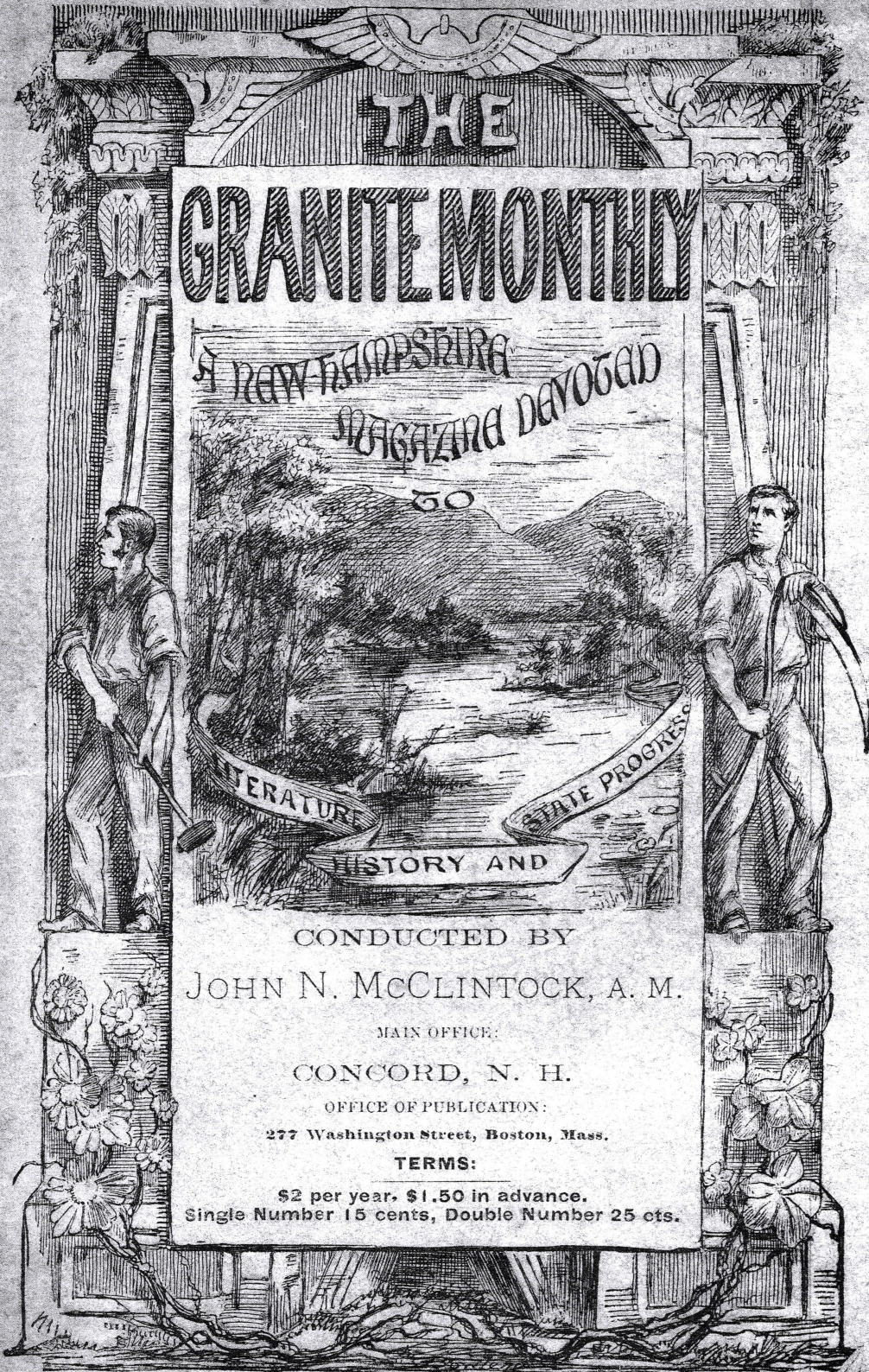
July, 1886.

No. 7.

Vol. IX.

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THE GRANITE MONTHLY

A NEW HAMPSHIRE
MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO

50

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HISTORY AND
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Thomas Cogswell

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JULY, 1886.

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HON. THOMAS COGSWELL.

BY JOHN N. MCLINTOCK, A. M.

It has been suggested that Colonel of a man's ancestors be reflected in Thomas Cogswell, the Democratic candidate for Governor of New Hampshire, is a blue-blooded aristocrat. If having a long line of honorable, Christian ancestors, the record of whom extends back to the old country, to the days when the Stuarts ruled England and Cromwell was unheard of, if pious, patriotic, and sagacious forefathers give a man blue blood, the Colonel is really afflicted with blue blood. If being a hard working and practical lawyer, a farmer who personally superintends the cultivation of five hundred acres of land, a scholar who tries to keep up with the literature of the period, a kind and considerate neighbor, a citizen always at the command of his fellow-citizens, a brave soldier in the late war, an easy and graceful public speaker, a man with a multitude of personal friends, if these are the characteristics of an aristocrat, then is Colonel Cogswell an aristocrat. If in his veins flows the best New England blood, if his character for honor and integrity is as established as the granite hills which hem in his paternal farm, there is no doubt that his ancestors are in part responsible. If a man's sins will live after him for generations so also will the noble actions

him and help him in the race. The Colonel's ancestors were among the first settlers who planted the Massachusetts Bay Colony early in the seventeenth century. In every generation they have been law-abiding, God-fearing, and patriotic citizens, ready to serve their country in war or peace.

BOYHOOD.

HON. THOMAS COGSWELL, son of Hon. Thomas and Mary (Noyes) Cogswell, was born February 8, 1841, in Gilmanton, in the house which in the early part of this century was the homestead of his great grandfather, General Joseph Badger, and which stood a few rods east of the Colonel's present residence, under the shade of a great elm tree lately injured by lightning. The frame of the old house was taken and used in the construction of the residence of James W. Cogswell, another son of Hon. Thomas and Mary (Noyes) Cogswell, who lives a quarter of a mile away on the main highway from Gilmanton Iron Works to Laconia. The present residence was built in 1784 by Colonel Thomas Cogswell, of the Continental Army, his father's uncle, and came into his father's possession over forty years

ago, reuniting the old General Badger estate. It is a large, square, two-story, old-fashioned mansion, built in the substantial manner in vogue about the time of the American Revolution, and as serviceable to-day as when erected by the old patriot. Here was passed the boyhood and youth of our friend, Colonel Cogswell. Here on his father's farm of a thousand acres he acquired a practical knowledge of farming, of stock raising, and of the many duties and obligations of a successful farmer's career. Here he was surrounded by scenery unsurpassed in the hill country of New Hampshire. The farm occupies the summit and sides of a hill; and the house, not far from the highest ground, commands a very extended view of hill and mountain, valley, stream and lake, woodland and cultivated field, reaching to the horizon formed by distant elevations.

EDUCATION.

With the boys of the neighborhood he received the first rudiments of an education at the little red school-house of the district. Here he developed a fondness not only for boyish sports but for books, and at an early age determined to acquire a classical education with a view to becoming a lawyer. He entered Gilmanton Academy in 1857, and continued his studies there two years under the instruction of Professor Chase Parsons and of Professor Andrew Marshall. The Cogswell family have always been actively interested in maintaining this venerable institution, founded in 1794; and it is a noteworthy fact that in its board of directors the name of Thomas Cogswell has appeared every year since its charter was granted. It is also remarkable that since 1794 Gilmanton Academy has never missed a

term of school. Here young Cogswell formed a close friendship with his roommate and classmate, John B. Peaslee, with whom he went to Hanover in 1859, and entered the Freshman class of Dartmouth College. Of that class of eighty-nine members, forty-eight were living three years ago who graduated with their class in 1863. The class has given to the world fourteen lawyers, ten physicians, seven clergymen, ten teachers, besides nine patriots who laid down their lives for the good of their country. In his class was Alfred K. Hamilton, of Milwaukee, Charles C. Pearson, of Concord, Charles A. Pillsbury, of Minneapolis, John Scales, of Dover, Isaac Walker, of Pembroke, Evarts W. Farr, of Littleton, Stephen B. Kenrick, of Fort Madison, Iowa, and Hon. W. H. Clement, of Brooklyn, New York. Young Cogswell was a good scholar, ranking well in his class, and excelling as a speaker and debater. He was out all of the Senior year but graduated with his class. Before and during his college course young Cogswell taught school, first in Alton, when he was sixteen years of age, and afterwards in Deerfield, East Concord, and Laconia. Frequently he had scholars older than himself, and during one term of school he "boarded round."

ARMY LIFE.

At the end of his Junior year in Dartmouth College the fate of the Republic was in doubt. Those were the darkest days of the Great Rebellion. More soldiers were needed to fill the ranks of veteran regiments, and new regiments were needed at the front. The herculean task of suppressing treason began to be realized by the loyal North, and in the summer of 1862 300,000 more volunteers were called

for. Twenty boys from the class of 1863 responded to the call, among whom was Thomas Cogswell. He enlisted in that summer as a private in Company A, Fifteenth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, a company recruited in Gilmanton, Guilford, Alton, and Belmont, and entered the service for nine months. He was chosen by his company first lieutenant and was presented by his command with sword and equipments. For the ensuing year his history and that of the regiment are identical.

In October, 1862, the regiment was in camp in Concord, going to Long Island, New York, in November of the same year. The regiment was destined to join the expedition of General Banks and proceeded to Louisiana, where in the following spring Lieutenant Cogswell was taken sick with the chills and fever. He lost twenty-five pounds in weight in one week. He recovered sufficiently to join his company, of which he was commissioned captain April 8, 1863, before Port Hudson, and participated in the memorable attack. For a day and a half during the siege his command were without food. His weakened constitution could not withstand such exposure and deprivation, and again he was sent to the hospital. When the regiment was embarking to return north, after their term of service had expired, the physicians forbade his being moved, but he ordered four of his men, who came to see him, to carry him upon the boat with the regiment. This they did and he was brought home with them almost a physical wreck. When he entered the service he was a strong, rugged, healthy boy of twenty-one, weighing one hundred and eighty-five pounds; he weighed one hundred and six when he arrived at Gass' hotel

in Concord, August 8, 1863. He was then twenty-two years old and wore the epaulets of a captain gained by gallant service before the enemy.

It is unnecessary to add that Captain Cogswell was a brave soldier. He left a sick bed to join his regiment on the eve of a great battle. He was a good executive officer, kind and considerate to his men, and thoughtful of their needs and interests. When the regiment was ordered from Long Island to embark on a transport for the Gulf of Mexico, he joined with his captain in refusing to march his company on board of a boat manifestly unsafe and overloaded. This refusal led to a court-martial, by which the young officers were exonerated from blame. He never wanted his men exposed to danger in which he could not share, and looked after them like younger brothers. For a year after his return from the south he was recuperating and regaining his lost health, six months of the time being confined to his house and room. In the fall of 1864 Captain Cogswell was employed as a clerk in the commissary department and reported to Captain John R. Hynes, but saw no more active service.

LAW.

Mr. Cogswell commenced to read law in the office of Stevens & Vaughan, of Laconia, and afterwards studied at the Harvard Law School. He was admitted to the Belknap County bar during the September term, 1866. In December of the same year he opened a law office in the village of Gilmanton Iron Works, where no lawyer had been settled for the previous twenty years. Formerly some noted lawyers had practiced law there, among whom may be mentioned James Bell, George Minot,

Arthur St. Loe Livermore and his brother, William Butterfield, George G. Fogg, and O. A. J. Vaughan. Here for twenty years has Mr. Cogswell practiced law, doing the legal business for all the country round. He enjoys an excellent standing at the bar, not only with his clients and the people generally, but with his brother lawyers and with the court. It has always been his policy to discourage litigation, and many a promising lawsuit has been nipped in the bud by his advice. He has had the confidence of his neighbors and townsmen, and has done a large probate business, written many wills, settled many estates and accepted many fiduciary trusts. He has had no specialty but has done a general law business in Belknap and in Strafford counties, and in the United States Courts, to which he has been admitted to practice. He is bold and aggressive in the trial of causes and is a strong advocate before a jury. He is generally considered a well educated, well read, and safe lawyer, careful in giving advice, and careful not to be drawn into a suit when his client is in the wrong. A compromise with him is a very common and effective mode of procedure. Possibly had he been more dependent upon his profession for a livelihood, he might have been more industrious, but he could not have been more conscientious or more careful of the interests of his clients.

In 1884 he was elected solicitor of Belknap County, running ahead of his party ticket, which office he now holds.

POLITICS.

The town of Gilmanton was divided in 1859, when Belmont was set off; but as it was against the will of the people of that section, they retained the old

organization and the records, while the new town kept the old name. Of Gilmanton Mr. Cogswell was chosen representative to the General Court in 1871 and 1872, although the town was Republican. (The first office to which he was elected was that of superintending school committee, which office he held for one year.) During the latter term he received the nomination of his party for speaker of the House of Representatives. He was elected Senator from the old district, Number Six, in 1878, and was the candidate the following year for re-election in the new district, Number Six. In this election there was no choice by the people and he lost his election in the Senate. In 1880 he was candidate for councillor in the Second Councillor District, but found it impossible to overcome a Republican majority of from sixteen to eighteen hundred. In June, 1886, he received of the Democratic State Convention the nomination for Governor.

Mr. Cogswell is a Democrat. His father before him was a Democrat, a loyal supporter of the administration during the Rebellion, and a firm believer in the great underlying principles of the Democratic party. He believes in the sacredness of the Constitution which forms the union of the States, in maintaining our national honor at home and abroad, in the equality of American citizens, and, with President Cleveland, heartily endorses the doctrine that public office is a public trust. He is, and has always been, a conservative Democrat. Although he was defeated for councillor in 1880, that was the year he was elected by his fellow-citizens of Gilmanton to the office of selectman, succeeding in raising that most important office out of the realm of party politics and inaugurating a non-partisan board, which

the town has continued to this day. At that time the town was then, as it is now, strongly Republican, and this overturn was only accomplished after a hard fight. He was re-elected in 1881, and 1882, during both of which years he served as chairman of the board. During his term of office the financial affairs of the town were straightened out and a system of reform inaugurated which saved money to the town and benefited everybody. For many years he has been a delegate to the State Conventions and other conventions of his party, and has always been ready and willing to serve his party on the stump. His own nomination in June, 1886, although given by a very large majority on the first ballot, came unsolicited and apparently spontaneously. This result was brought about by his very large circle of personal friends, men who know him, who believe in him, who want to vote for him and who hope to elect him. They know his strength as a speaker, as an executive, as a man of affairs, and his great personal popularity.

EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS.

For many years Mr. Cogswell has been interested in educational affairs. Mention has been made of his service one year as superintending school committee of Gilmanton. Since 1868 he has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Gilmanton Academy. He has been President of the Board since the death of Judge Eastman, and is now its Treasurer. To the affairs of the institution he has given a great deal of time and attention. In no small degree is its increasing reputation owing to his interest in it. At all times he has

been generous in helping students who are seeking an education.

FARM.

Since the death of his father in 1868 he has had the charge of a farm of over four hundred acres, now increased to five hundred acres, and this he has steadily improved, not only in its capacity for yielding crops, but in its buildings, fences, and orchards. Its chief crop is hay, of which he cuts from seventy-five to one hundred tons annually. He winters from forty to sixty head of cattle, and keeps from six to ten horses. His cattle are Durham and Devon grades, well adapted to his hillside farm. His horses are of the Wilkes stock. Only a few sheep remain at present of what was formerly a large flock. For sixty-five years the farm has produced a crop of wheat, sometimes amounting to one hundred bushels; and in 1869 he received a silver medal for the best wheat from the New Hampshire Agricultural Society. Corn, beans, potatoes, and vegetables enough are raised on the farm for home consumption. There is much valuable wood and timber land on the estate. Mr. Cogswell requires the services of two assistants through the whole year, and during the haying and harvest seasons of as many as are available. There is a system in all his farm operations, and for the last ten years that of calling ten hours' labor a day's work on his farm has been in force. This is true even in haying weather. His men are always well treated, and, as a matter of course, it is considered very desirable to obtain work on the Cogswell farm.

Mr. Cogswell was one of the first members of the Board of Agriculture,

and served two years, and as his successor named Professor Jeremiah W. Sanborn, who has since done so much to elevate the farm and the farmer. He was President of the Belknap County Agricultural Society in 1883 and in 1884, and was a charter member of Crystal Lake Grange, number one hundred and one, Patrons of Husbandry, of Gilmanton Iron Works, and has been its Lecturer since its formation. He takes especial pride in his horses, for one of which he took the first prize at the New England Fair a few years since. His farm, as a whole, is one of the best in the town of Gilmanton, and is excelled by only a few in the State. It is good, strong land, and is very carefully cultivated.

CITIZEN.

Mr. Cogswell was commissioned colonel by Governor Weston. His fighting rank was captain, won on the field of battle at the age of twenty-two years, and very acceptable to him when used in addressing him by an old comrade of army days. The Colonel is a very generous man to his needy townsmen. Many good men are ready to help the "Lord's poor;" Colonel Cogswell always has a kind word and a helping hand and purse for that other kind of poor not so often in high favor. A ten-dollar bill, given or loaned at times by him, has saved many a poor fellow from trouble and distress of a serious nature. The Colonel is public-spirited. He supports all measures calculated to better his immediate locality, his native town, the State, or the nation. The village at the Iron Works has been improved and the value of property enhanced by his efforts with others in erecting there a shoe factory, which

gives employment to above one hundred operatives. His large house is the home for the whole family of Cogswells wherever scattered, and his many personal friends are there hospitably entertained. For many years he has been a liberal supporter of the Congregational Church of Gilmanton Iron Works, of which society he is a member, and he attends meeting regularly every Sunday. He is a member of the executive committee, which has charge of a fund of some \$3500. He is not bigoted in his religious views, however, but contributes to the support of the gospel in all the neighboring churches. He is a member of the John L. Perley, Jr., Post, No. 37, G. A. R., of Laconia, and has frequently been called upon to deliver Memorial Day addresses. He is a member of the Winnipisseogee Lodge, F. and A. Masons, of Alton, and for two years was Master of the Lodge. He possesses a retentive memory and is an eloquent speaker, his off-hand addresses being especially pleasing to his audiences. He is a storehouse of facts relating to the early history of Gilmanton and its pioneers, and is especially interested in genealogies and subjects of antiquarian interest. He is a man of large frame, large head, large heart, popular with all who know him and with all who can appreciate a thoroughly good fellow. In the entertainment of company at his hospitable home he is ably seconded by his bright and vivacious wife, who heartily enters into all plans and aspirations of the Colonel's life.

ANCESTRY.*

The Cogswell family of America can trace their descent from John Cogswell, —*Largely compiled from "The Cogswells of America," by E. O. Jameson.

the emigrant ancestor, who came to this country with his wife and family in 1635 and settled in Ipswich, Massachusetts.

I. JOHN COGSWELL, son of Edward and Alice Cogswell, and grandson of Robert and Alicia Cogswell, was born in 1592 in Westbury Leigh, County of Wilts, England. His father and his grandfather and his ancestors for generations had been engaged in the manufacture of woollen cloths in the neighborhood of his birthplace; and members of the Cogswell family continue to this day making cloth in the same locality. He married, September 10, 1615, Elizabeth Thompson, daughter of Rev. William and Phillis Thompson, and settled down in the old homestead. His parents died soon after his marriage, and he succeeded to the business. This business he carried on successfully for a score of years, when he was impelled to migrate with his family. Those were troublesome times, in the mother country, and the tide of emigration had already commenced to flow towards the New England coast. With his wife, the daughter of the parish vicar of Westbury Leigh, and eight of their nine children, he embarked May 23, 1635, at Bristol, England, on the ship Angel Gabriel, to find the home of religious freedom in the new world. He had previously disposed of his "mylls," his houses, his land, and his business, and took with him several farm and household servants, an amount of valuable furniture, farming implements, house-keeping utensils, and a considerable sum of money. After a very long passage the vessel approached the harbor of Pemaquid, on the coast of Maine, when, within sight of their haven, they were overtaken by a fearful gale, which made a wreck of the Angel Gabriel and caused the loss of much of Mr. Cogs-

well's property. The whole family, however, reached the shore in safety. Mr. Cogswell soon after settled in Ipswich, where he became a leading citizen, and died full of years and honors, November 29, 1869. Mrs. Cogswell, who "was a woman of sterling qualities and dearly beloved by all who knew her," died, June 2, 1676.

II. WILLIAM COGSWELL, eldest son of John and Elizabeth (Thompson) Cogswell, was baptized in March, 1619, and came with his parents to America. He settled on the home place in Ipswich, now in the town of Essex, Massachusetts, and was an influential and highly respected citizen. He married, in 1649, Susanna Hawkes, daughter of Adam and Mrs. Anne (Hutchinson) Hawkes. She was born in 1633, in Charlestown, Massachusetts, and died in 1696. He died December 15, 1700.

III. LIEUTENANT JOHN COGSWELL, son of William and Susanna (Hawkes) Cogswell, was born May 12, 1665, in Chebacco, Ipswich, where he lived until his death. He was called to fill various public offices in the town and was a member of the church. He married before 1693 Hannah Goodhue, daughter of Deacon William, Jr., and Hannah (Dane) Goodhue. He died in 1710. Mrs. Cogswell, born July 4, 1673, after the death of her first husband married in 1713 Lieutenant Thomas Perley. She died December 25, 1742.

IV. NATHANIEL COGSWELL, son of Lieutenant John and Hannah (Goodhue) Cogswell, was born January 19, 1707, in Chebacco Parish, Ipswich. He was three years old when his father died and in early boyhood entered a store in Haverhill, Massachusetts. He became a leading merchant and a prominent citizen of the town. He was a

man of integrity and business capacity, and was a devoted and efficient member of the church. He married January 31, 1740, Judith Badger, daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Peaslee) Badger. Mrs. Cogswell was the only surviving daughter of her father, who was a merchant of Haverhill. She was born February 3, 1724, and died May 7, 1810. After a successful business life, Mr. Cogswell retired in 1766, and settled upon a farm in Atkinson, New Hampshire. He at once became active in religious and educational matters in the town. During the Revolutionary War his patriotism was declared by large loans of money to provide equipments and provisions for the soldiers. These loans of money, by reason of a depreciated currency, proved almost a total loss. Besides providing money Mr. Cogswell gave eight sons to the army who served with distinction and fulfilled an aggregate term of service of more than thirty-eight years. The aggregate height of these eight brothers was about fifty feet. They all survived the war and became prominent in professional and civil life. Mr. Cogswell died March 23, 1783.

V. DR. WILLIAM COGSWELL, son of Nathaniel and Judith (Badger) Cogswell, was born July 11, 1760, in Haverhill, Massachusetts. At the breaking out of the Revolution he entered the army at the age of fifteen years, enlisting in the company commanded by his older brother, Captain Thomas Cogswell, in Colonel Baldwin's regiment. He served through the year 1776. For the next year he studied medicine and surgery with Dr. Nathaniel Peabody, at Atkinson. In 1778 he served with General Sullivan in Rhode Island. Having completed his medical studies, he was appointed, July 19, 1781, surgeon's

mate in the Military Hospital at West Point. January 5, 1784, he was promoted to the position of surgeon-in-chief of the hospital, and chief medical officer of the United States Army, June 20, 1784. Dr. Cogswell resigned September 1, 1785, after five years' service, married, and settled in Atkinson, where he continued in the practice of his profession until his death, nearly half a century later. He was one of the original members of the New Hampshire Medical Society, which was incorporated in 1791, and was appointed one of its nineteen Fellows by the General Court. Many medical students were under his instruction. He was one of the founders of Atkinson Academy, and a member and President of its Board of Trustees for many years. He gave the land on which the Academy was erected. He married, July 22, 1786, Judith Badger, daughter of General Joseph and Hannah (Pearson) Badger, of Gilmanton. She was born May 15, 1766, and died September 30, 1859. Dr. Cogswell died January 1, 1831, leaving behind him a distinguished family of children. One of his daughters was the wife of Governor William Badger.

VI. HONORABLE THOMAS COGSWELL, son of Dr. William and Judith (Badger) Cogswell, and father of Honorable Thomas Cogswell, of Gilmanton, the subject of this sketch, was born December 7, 1798, in Atkinson. He married, February 25, 1820, Mary Noyes, daughter of James and Mary (Weston) Noyes, and settled and resided in Gilmanton until his death, nearly fifty years later. He was an extensive farmer, owning the homestead of his maternal grandfather, General Joseph Badger, which he increased to one thousand acres. He was a man of great influ-

ence in the town and State. Mr. Cogswell was justice of the peace some forty years, county treasurer, deputy sheriff, selectman, representative, judge of Court of Common Pleas, 1841-1855, of Belknap county, member of the Governor's Council in 1856, trustee of Gilmanton Academy and Theological Seminary, and deacon of the Congregational Church in Gilmanton Iron Works. For many years he was moderator of that stormy legislative assembly, the annual town-meeting, and his voice always commanded the attention and respect of that critical and exacting body of citizens.

Mrs. Cogswell was born in Plaistow, April 25, 1801. She died May 3, 1886. Mr. Cogswell died August 8, 1868.

VII. HON. THOMAS COGSWELL, son of Hon. Thomas and Mary. (Noyes) Cogswell, was born February 8, 1841, in Gilmanton. He married, October 8, 1873, Florence Mooers, daughter of Reuben D. and Betsey S. (Currier) Mooers. She was born July 21, 1851, in Manchester, N. H.

CHILDREN.

- Anna Mooers, born Sept. 17, 1874.
- Thomas, born November 23, 1875.
- Clarence Noyes, born Nov. 3, 1877.

The firm of James R. Hill & Co. have lately been obliged to enlarge their accommodations in the city of Concord for the manufacture of their Concord Harness, so much has their business increased. This is no doubt owing to their judicious advertising in the pages

of the GRANITE MONTHLY. The addition to their premises is a two story brick block, already fully occupied by their skilled workmen making harness for every land and every people the sun shines upon.

HON. LYCURGUS PITMAN.

BY F. B. OSGOOD, ESQUIRE.

Hon. Lycurgus Pitman, of North Conway, the Democratic candidate for Senator in the Grafton District, Number 2, is a young man of great business ability, always ready to forward any enterprise that may be beneficial to the town or to the State. He is the son of G. W. M. Pitman, a lawyer of northern New Hampshire, and Emeline Pitman, and was born in Bartlett April 9, 1848. He received his education at the common schools of his native town and North Conway, and as a young man was for several terms a successful

teacher of youth. He finally embarked in business in 1870 as a pharmacist and settled in North Conway. He is an earnest Democrat, prominent in his party and ready to promote its interests in all legitimate ways. As a neighbor and townsman he is open handed and generous; no one, irrespective of party, ever called on him for assistance in vain. His circle of acquaintances, both in and out of the State, is large; and no one in this section is better or more favorably known than he to the many tourists who annually visit the White