

PILGRIM MEMORIALS,

AND

GUIDE TO PLYMOUTH.

WITH A

59789

Lithographic Map,

AND

EIGHT COPPERPLATE ENGRAVINGS.

BY

WM. S. RUSSELL,

REGISTER OF DEEDS, AND KEEPER OF THE PLYMOUTH COLONY RECORDS

Yea, when the frowning bulwarks
That guard this holy strand
Have sunk beneath the trampling surge
In beds of sparkling sand,
While in the waste of ocean
One hoary rock shall stand,
Be this its latest legend —

HERE WAS THE PILGRIM'S LAND.

Oliver Wendell Holmes.

FIFTH EDITION.

BOSTON:

CROSBY & DAMRELL,

100 WASHINGTON STREET.

1870.

one tub-engine with forty young men, a hose-carriage with three hundred feet of hose, and a bucket-carriage, with fifty-five buckets. There are two hydrants of force pump; one at the Arch bridge, and the other at the dam of the Robbins Cordage Company, with three hundred feet of hose, and a company of eight men to each hydrant; and a hook and ladder carriage, with a company of sixteen men; all of which are in good working condition.

George Simmons, Chief Engineer; Charles Raymond, Clerk.

PLYMOUTH WATER WORKS. — By an act of the General Court, passed Feb. 15, 1797, Joshua Thomas and others were constituted a corporation for the purpose of conveying water by subterranean pipes into the town, by the name of the Plymouth Aqueduct. The first recorded preliminary meeting on the subject was held July 27th, 1796. By an agreement executed Sept. 14th, 1796, between the Company and Mr. Caleb Leach, the main pipe was to be of cedar logs, one-third thereof to be ten, one-third, nine, and one-third eight inches, the bore to be two and five-eighth inches, commencing near the bridge at the foot of Deep Water Pond, to extend about six hundred rods, the trench to be three feet deep; the whole to be completed on the first day of July, 1797, to be paid four dollars per rod. On the 5th of June, 1797, it was voted "to write Mr. Leach, at Boston, to expedite the finishing of the cross-pipes;" and the water was probably introduced in the autumn of that year.

The late Samuel Davis, Esq., writing on this subject in 1815, observes, "This work was performed by Mr. Caleb Leach, who then lived in Plymouth, now of Oswego, New York, whose talents, as a self-taught mechanic, are of the

very first order ; to these talents it is that Boston, and the city of New York, etc., are in a degree indebted for the like convenience."

Mr. Leach, as we learn from Mr. David Turner, a son of the late Capt. Lothrop Turner, invented the first screw-bit for boring pumps ; previous to which the common pod-auger had been used for that purpose. The first auger of this kind made by Mr. Leach is now in possession of Mr. Turner, and measures twenty inches pod, bore two and five-eighth inches, with a shank of five and a half inches.

Mr. Leach was a native of Halifax, served in the revolution ; and, returning home for a while, removed to Plymouth about the year 1790. After leaving Plymouth, his eminent mechanical skill found a more enlarged sphere of action in the State of New York, proving highly beneficial to the community, and honorable to himself.

For a more particular description of the works, now in process of construction, see Appendix G.

GEN. WOLFE AND LORD NELSON. — The two following incidents of our early history, connected with the distinguished names of Wolfe and Nelson, are here inserted as deserving attention ; the first of which is copied from the Notes on Plymouth, by the late Samuel Davis, Esq.

"1745. This year a full company was raised in Plymouth for the expedition against Louisbourg ; and it is remarked they were the first for that service who appeared at Boston, whence they embarked and served with credit on that memorable occasion.

"The captain of this company, Sylvanus Cobb, continued in Nova Scotia, where he had the command of a government sloop ; and in 1758, was selected by General Monckton to

F.

STANDISH'S SWORD.

THE sword of Standish has recently attracted much attention from many scientific and antiquarian gentlemen, who have visited Pilgrim Hall, on account of the peculiar and yet undeciphered inscriptions on its blade, none of whom, however, seem able to determine the place of its manufacture, or the significance of the figures. With a view, if possible, to ascertain the matter, a fac-simile of the sword was lately taken, plainly indicating the inscriptions, which was sent to a young gentleman of this town, now at the University of Gottingen, in Germany. It was submitted to the inspection of several distinguished scientific men in that quarter, and, among others, to the celebrated Baron Humboldt, of Berlin, in Prussia; but, thus far, no interpreter has appeared to expound the mysterious characters of this antique memorial of the military chieftain of 1620.

The whole length of the sword is $39\frac{1}{4}$ inches; the average width, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches; the hilt or handle, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; the cross at the hilt, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and the cross and guard are of brass. It has but one edge, the blade being slightly curved, and nearly through its whole length is fluted, having three rather narrow and shallow channels. Within the space of ten inches from the hilt, on both sides of the blade, several inscriptions appear, among which the figures 1149 are perfectly distinct.

G.

WATER WORKS.

FOR many years past the citizens of Plymouth have felt the importance of procuring a supply of pure water, the old aqueduct being in a decayed condition, and no longer adequate to supply the increased demand of a growing population. This consideration, in connection with another, of perhaps equal importance, that of guarding against the emergencies of fire, led to an application by the town to the Legislature for authority to construct suitable water works. This application was

successful; and the town, by an act passed in 1854, and another in 1855, was duly authorized to proceed in the matter. The statement below, furnished by Charles O. Churchill, Esq., one of the Water Commissioners, gives a brief view of the works which are now in process of construction:

"The water is to be brought from Little South Pond, a distance of 13,065 feet, or about two and a half miles.

"Ground was first broken May 19th.

"The contract for laying pipe is made with the Jersey City Water and Gas Pipe Co.

"Main pipe, ten inches; pipe through Main-street, eight inches; other streets, from six to two inches. To extend to Kingston line on the north, and to Wellingsly village at the south.

"There are to be thirty fire-hydrants; and the facilities for extinguishment of fires will be equal, if not superior, to any place of the same size as Plymouth.

"The head of water will be about one hundred and ten feet above Water-street, and sixty-one above Main-street.

"A reservoir, capable of holding one million of gallons, will be built on the hill north of the Episcopal church.

"The route for the main pipe from South Pond to the village is graded, so that there is a gradual descent from the pond to the point of distribution.

"Cost of the works, completed, not far from \$85,000."

H.

TABLE OF LONGEVITY.

THE following list, exhibiting the longevity of some of the first planters of the Old Colony, is mostly copied from the Old Colony and Church Records:

Those having an asterisk prefixed arrived in some one of the first four ships, namely, the *Mayflower*, *Fortune*, *Ann*, or *Little James*. The rest mostly arrived before the year 1632; and John Rogers and Hope Nelson were native-born.