

for examination at Harvard and was admitted. He went through the course, and graduated well up in his class, with John Thornton Kirkland and Nahum Mitchell as classmates, with the latter of whom, afterwards member of Congress from Massachusetts, he performed the part assigned to them at Commencement, entitled "A Syllogistic Disputation upon the Thesis: *Gravitas non est essentialis materiae proprietas.*" Having graduated, the question arose, which so often troubles our alumni at the present day, What to do next? Having begun with study he must go on with it, *qualis ab incepto talis processerit.* He must attain the position of a lawyer: then, at least, one of distinction, and attained by comparatively few. His ambition could be contented with nothing less, and he achieved it. He somehow acquired the necessary knowledge of the books, and somehow picked up the necessary means of living while getting it, by teaching a little, by working a little at carpentering, by, we are told, even preaching a little. The latter business must have been rather abnormal, for his theology was always rather broad and liberal for the pulpit of 1790. He was favored with some tuition by the Hon. John Davis, and was duly admitted to the bar at Plymouth, on the 13th of August, A.D. 1793, at the age of twenty-eight. The old Boston Directory of 1805 shows him to have had his office at that date on Court street, Boston. About that time he came to Milton, and there commenced and continued the practice of law in Norfolk and Suffolk Counties to the time of his death. His first law office there was at the junction of what are now called Randolph and Canton avenues and Adams street, in a building formerly the property of the late Gen. Moses Whitney, his lifelong friend, an inducement to the occupancy of which, in his straitened circumstances, was the direct and abundant sunlight pouring through its windows, making a large saving in his fuel bill. He followed his professional labors and study with patient and persevering diligence and economy, and, as almost a necessary consequence, with a reasonable measure of material success and reputation.

At the age of forty-five he had purchased the large and beautiful place on Milton Hill known as the Governor Robbins estate, hardly surpassed in beauty or value by any in the country, and had married, May 5, 1810, Mary Gardner of Charlestown, whose personal beauty, upon her arrival in Milton, was said, by the good people of that generation, to have created a special sensation. He was recognized by his contemporaries as one of the ablest lawyers of the county, among whom were such men as the late Theron Metcalf of the Supreme Court