

civilization and culture of many centuries. As William Hayden's family was already housed somewhere in Windsor, we may presume he was able to secure a framed house, at first (though his nearest neighbor, Thomas Gilbert, who bought his lot the same day, sold it soon after with both a cellar and a house on it), and this first house stood a few feet southeast of the one now before us.

Here William Hayden made his home for twenty years. Here he reared his family,—his children deprived of many privileges their parents had known, but still educated to hold respectable positions among their generation. For many years this was the outpost of civilization; no neighbor on the north nearer than Springfield. In times of Indian alarms and before his boys were grown, he was sometimes exempt from watching and warding with the military patrol of the town, that he might protect his own family from a night attack by the Indians.* His name appears on the list of a company of troop-

*The danger from Indian attacks was principally from those living at a distance. There was a little settlement of Indians at Poquonock, two or three miles west through the woods, and beyond the Tunxis River, and there were a few on the opposite side of the Connecticut River, a mile above, and so far as known they never committed any murderous assaults upon the whites; but Indian tramps were evidently troublesome. A general order of court in 1640 says: "Forasmuch as our lenity and gentleness toward Indians hath made them grow bold and insolent to enter into Englishmen's houses, and unadvisedly handle swords and pieces and other instruments, . . . and also to steal divers goods out of such houses where they resort; for the preventing of such mischief it is ordered that whatsoever Indian shall meddle with or handle any Englishman's weapons of any sort, . . . shall forfeit for every default half a fathom of wampum, and if any hurt or injury shall thereupon follow to any person's life or limb (though accidental) they shall pay life for life, limb for limb . . . ; for everything they steal they shall pay double."

The laws were also strict against white tramps. "A young man without a wife or servant" might not live alone, and no family might entertain him without consent of the town. There was one John Bennett frequently before the courts for some misdemeanor. In 1648 it was on complaint of John Drake "for saying he had enticed and drawn away the affections of his daughter." At the next meeting of the court he appeared to answer the complaint, "and expressing his repentance, and promising better carriage for the future, the court is willing once more to pass by his corporeal punishment; a friend, Wil-